

Table 1. Earthquake (magnitude > 5.0) statistics from 19-25 May, 2005 for the region around Indonesia (*source:* <http://earthquake.usgs.gov>)

Earthquake Magnitude	Location		Epicenter Depth (km)	Region of Occurrence	UTC Time (h:m:s)	Date
	Latitude (degree)	Longitude (degree)				
5.2	0.854	97.362	24.7	Northern Sumatra	05:48:17	23 May, 2005
5.1	1.303	97.072	23.2	Northern Sumatra	23:09:06	21 May, 2005
5.0	1.303	97.072	23.0	Northern Sumatra	23:07:56	21 May, 2005
5.7	5.276	94.778	30.0	Northern Sumatra	23:01:13	21 May, 2005
5.0	1.427	97.202	30.0	Northern Sumatra	09:43:47	21 May, 2005
5.0	6.49	92.710	21.4	Nicobar Islands	16:50:58	20 May, 2005
5.2	0.373	97.243	17.9	Northern Sumatra	20:44:08	19 May, 2005
6.9	1.965	96.976	30.0	Northern Sumatra	01:54:53	19 May, 2005

time there were neither any local meteorological disturbances nor any strong wind activity consistent with pre-monsoon conditions. We surmise that these freak wave activities on 20th and 21st May to be a consequence of remotely forced events like the continuing seismic aftershocks in the Sumatra and Andaman-Nicobar regions as shown in Table 1, which gives an indication of the continuing aftershocks (> magnitude 5 only) from the vicinity of the epicenter of the 26 December 2004 earthquake. As is well known, the generation of high waves (tsunami) is dependent on the magnitude and shallowness of the focus of seismic event. It is our conjecture that the last three seismic events highlighted in Table 1 could be the cause for the high waves on the Kerala coast for the following reasons:

- i) During this time no local meteorological disturbances were present and no strong wind activity was reported.
- ii) The times of occurrences of high waves are consistent

with the travel times of waves from the epicenter (a few hours of time lag) to the Kerala coast.

- iii) The periodicity of high waves observed was of the order of 10 minutes, which is generally the case for tsunami and unlike the waves generated by meteorological disturbances which have a periodicity of the order of 10 seconds.
- iv) The significantly high wave amplitudes together with coastal inundation and run up following a natural selection of inlets seen more likely to be caused by remote seismic events.
- v) High waves during the same time were also reported from east coast of India.

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WORKSHOP ON GIS TECHNOLOGY

A week-long workshop on GIS Technology was organised by the Department of Geological Sciences, Gauhati University, during 13 - 19 May, 2005. The workshop was attended by 19 young geoscientists and research scholars from different parts of the Northeastern region. The workshop was inaugurated on the morning of 13 May, by Dr. G.N.Talukdar, Vice-Chancellor of the University. Dr. Parag Phukon, course coordinator, welcomed the participants and the guests. Prof. Amulya Ch. Mazumdar, Head, Department of Geological Sciences, gave a brief overview of the academic pursuits of the Department. This

was followed by a talk on "Space Technology for development: ISRO initiatives in North East India", by the guest of honour, Dr. K.C.Bhattacharya, Director, North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), Department of Space, Govt. of India.

The range of topics covered by the workshop centred right from the principles of remote sensing, photogeology, GIS and GPS applications, up to the customisation of GIS data and discussion on several case studies, undertaken by the various resource persons. The evening sessions mainly focussed on hands-on activities, at the DST-FIST

sponsored GIS Facility of the Department. The participants were exposed to various GIS applications like geo-referencing, on-screen digitisation, exporting and importing GIS data in different platforms, and the like. The resource persons were drawn from different organizations like NESAC, IIT (Guwahati), Jorhat Engineering College, Dibrugarh University, PCI Geomatics, EnGEO Consultancy and Research Centre and Patkai Labs.

On the penultimate day of the workshop, a field trip was organized to the NESAC headquarters, located at Barapani (Meghalaya). At the centre, the participants were welcomed and given a brief overview of the centre's activities, by the Deputy Director. The participants visited the RS and GIS lab of the centre, where the various scientists presented a brief outline of the several current ongoing projects. This

was followed by a field visit to the areas adjoining the centre, which was led by Ms. Kuntala Bhushan and Samarjit Singh of NESAC. In the field, the participants were given the opportunity to handle the portable GPS device, and were taught the procedure for undertaking field surveys with the aid of satellite imageries and GPS.

In the valedictory function, the participants gave valuable feedback and opinions on the workshop. During the same function certificates were distributed to the participants by the course coordinator.

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MANJIT KUMAR MAZUMDAR

Announcements

ARTICLES FOR *SHILALIPI*

Popular and review articles are invited from geoscientists and academicians of our country and abroad for the 2006 volume of *SHILALIPI* – A popular journal on Earth System Science and Technology being brought out annually by the Post Graduate Department of Geology, Khallikote Autonomous College, Berhampur. The sole objective of this journal is to popularize and promote Earth System Science and Technology among students and the public. For further details, please contact: Dr. B. Mishra, Editor, *Shilalipi*, P.G. Department of Geology, Khallikote Autonomous College, Berhampur - 760 001, Orissa. **Email:** mishrageol@rediffmail.com/shilalipi_essp@rediffmail.com **Phone:** 0680-2223966 (R).

SEDIMENTARY BASINS OF THE HIMALAYA: CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE AND XXII CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

Wadia institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun is organizing the above seminar and convention scheduled to be held during 21-23 December, 2005 including one day field trip. The major themes to be addressed are: Himalayan Sedimentary Basins, Foreland Basin Systems, Proterozoic Sedimentary Basins, Responses to Sedimentary Systems to South Asian Monsoonal Shifts, Applications of Sedimentology to Geohazards and Petroliferous Sedimentary Basins – Challenges. For further details, please contact: Dr. Sumit K. Ghosh, Convener, WIHG, 33, GMS Road, Dehra Dun – 248 001 (UA). **Phone:** 0135-2624806, Extn. 551 (O); 0135-2625773 (R); 09412381151 (M). **Email:** skghosh@wihg.res.in, skgesh@rediffmail.com