



---

## **Editorial – Celebrating Three Decades of Joyful Journey of JRMTT.....!!**

---

As we embark on the Pearl Jubilee Anniversary of the Journal of Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology (JRMTT), it is a momentous occasion to reflect on the remarkable journey that began in 1993 as a "sapling" with the formation of the editorial board headed by Late Prof. Bhawani Singh, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Roorkee (now IIT Roorkee) as the Chairman, Editorial Board (1993-2021) and Late Dr. V. K. Mehrotra, Director, IRI Roorkee, as its Chief Editor (1993-1999). The "seed" planted just one year before in the form of the first announcement about the publication of a journal featuring my name as its Editor through the News Bulletin (Vol. 1, No. 1, 1992) of the Indian Society for Rock Mechanics and Tunneling Technology (ISRMTT) has flourished into a robust tree of knowledge, nurturing the realms of rock engineering, tunnelling, and underground space technology.

Conceived with the vision to promote research and development in Rock Mechanics, JRMTT emerged as the first of its kind on the continent. The Himalayas, our unparalleled "field laboratory," became a focal point for those deeply engaged in developmental works, setting the stage for groundbreaking contributions to the field.

The tireless efforts of the editorial board comprising esteemed members from around the globe, including luminaries like Prof. J.A. Franklin, Canada; Prof. J.A. Hudson, Imperial College London; Prof. F. Rummel, Ruhr University, Germany; Dr. V. M. Sharma and Dr. A. K. Dhawan from CSMRS, New Delhi; Prof. S. Sakurai, Japan; Prof. B B. Dhar, ISM; Prof. K. G. Sharma, IIT Delhi; Dr. F. H. Cornet, France; Prof R. N Choudhary, Australia; Er. U. S. Rajvanshi, UPID; Dr. G. N. Pande, University of Swansea, UK; Dr. J. L. Jethwa, CIMFR; Dr. M. N. Viladkar, IIT Roorkee, and others laid the foundation for a journal that transcends borders and enriches the global discourse on rock mechanics.

In January 1995, the first issue (Vol.1, No.1) of JRMTT saw the light of day, graced by insightful four research papers, one each from Germany and Australia, and two from India. The inaugural issue of the bi-annual journal was formally launched in a grand ceremony at New Delhi by the chief guest Mr. K.C. Pant, the then Chairman of 10th Finance Commission (formerly Union Minister of education and Defence) Government of India, which marked the beginning of a legacy that has endured for three decades. Now, in January 2024, we proudly present the 59th "fruit" of our hard work (Vol. 30, No.1) showcasing contributions of experts from Norway and India.

The celebration of the Pearl Jubilee Anniversary of JRMTT started on November, 16-18; 2023 with the organization of 9th Indorock conference (an important yearly event of ISRMTT) at the auditorium of India's premier institute- CSMRS, New Delhi, which is also involved in R&D in rock mechanics for the last approx. five decades. Many technical programmes have been planned in the current year 2024. The 8th Indorock was organized in November 2019 and the 9th one was scheduled after one year but it became possible to organise it only after the gap of four years due to Covid -19 pandemic.

As we celebrate this milestone, we pay heartfelt tributes to the luminaries of the past, including Prof. Bhawani Singh, Dr. V. M. Sharma (One of the founder members of ISRMTT, LM-1), Dr. V. K. Mehrotra, Prof. John Hudson, Prof. F. Rummel, Prof. Cornet, Dr. J. L. Jethwa and others, who are unfortunately no more with us but their wisdom and contributions continue to inspire us. Their legacy lives on in the pages of JRMTT which is now a UGC Care listed journal.

My association with JRMTT since its inception, first as Editor (1993- 1999) and then as a Chief Editor (1999- till date), gained new dimensions with the additions of Dr. R. K. Goel in 1999 serving as Editor and Dr. R. D. Dwivedi in 2015 as Associate Editor. They along with entire editorial team have steered JRMTT towards excellence, fostering a community where ideas thrive and knowledge blossoms.

As we look to the future, we invite the Rock Mechanics fraternity to actively engage with JRMTT. Your suggestions, constructive criticism, and continuous contributions are the lifeblood that sustains our journal. Let us collectively shape the next chapter of rock engineering excellence, ensuring that JRMTT continues to be a beacon of knowledge for decades to come.

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year 2024.

***Dr. Subhash Mitra***  
*Chief Editor, JRMTT*