

## Prof. V.C. Jha

**Professor (Dr.) Vibhash Chandra Jha**, Professor of Geography, born in 1958 and studied B.Sc. (Geography) at B. H. U. Varanasi, 1976, M.Sc. in Geography (First Class First) at B. H. U. Varanasi in 1978 and Ph.D. in Geography at B. H. U. Varanasi in 1983. P-1, HUSAC M1 in 1984 & 1985 & URW in 1995 (IIRS) in Remote Sensing Prof. Jha is a renowned Geographer and his area of Specialisation is Geomorphology, Cultural Geography, Geography of Buddhism, Geo-informatics and Geospatial Technology (Remote Sensing, GIS, & GPS).

Prof. Jha has recently completed his tenure of two years of **Principal (DEAN)** Vidya-Bhavana (Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Visva-Bharati (A Central University) SANTINIKETAN, West Bengal, INDIA and as Professor of Geography for 19 years. He is **Member of the Executive Council** of Visva-Bharati (2016-2017). Recently Prof. Jha has completed his tenure of Deputation for 3 years and 3 months as **Director** of National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India (ACC Approved Post), Kolkata, an organisation of National Importance during 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 to 8<sup>th</sup>



July 2015. Prof. Jha was also served as **Registrar**, Visva-Bharati. Prof. Jha is a **permanent faculty member** of the Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan since **July 1986**. Prior to joining Visva-Bharati University in 1986, he worked as a **Scientist/Engineer 'SD' (Geographer)** for the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, posted at IIRS Dehradun. He received the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Department of Atomic Energy) Research Fellowship in Geology for his doctorate degree in geomorphology. Dr. Jha was awarded second place in the International Photogeomorphological contest at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada in 1993. Prof. Jha has enormous experience in institution building and has served in various positions like **Co-ordinator** for the Project Team from India Side on *INDIA-ASEAN Archaeological Atlas from Satellite Data- "Connectivity of Regional Culture"* A Joint Venture between India and Thailand aiming at strengthening Bilateral relations between the ASEAN nations in the field of Science & Technology. Dr. Jha was **Member** of the Government of India, **National Delegation** of the Ministry of Science & Technology to Thailand December, 2012, 2013 & 2014. **Head** of the Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati University (Two terms), Registrar, Visva-Bharati (A Central University) Santiniketan, **Chairman XI Plan Task Force**, **Professor-in-Charge Planning and Development Board**, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. He received a Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (Department of Atomic Energy) Research Fellowship **Award** in Geology for his doctorate degree in geomorphology. He specialises in Himalayan geomorphology. Currently he is researching in Cultural Geography, Geography of Buddhism and tropical geomorphology from the land degradation and desertification point of view. Dr. Jha was awarded **second place** in the International Photogeomorphological contest at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada in 1993.

Prof. Jha is the **President** of Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) 2016 and **Vice-President** of the INCA 2012-2015. He was also **Member** of Executive Body of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), BIS and Natural Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Government of India.

Prof. Jha is the **President** of the Indian Institute of Geomorphologists( IGI-2009) Vice-President of the Institute of Indian Geographers (IIG-2001), and **Joint Secretary** (IIG-1997), a **Full Member** of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Land Degradation & Desertification. Dr.Jha visited the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy as a special participant at the Workshop/conference. Dr Jha also participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geomorphology at Bologna, Italy and Tokyo, Japan in in 1997 and 2001 as National Delegate respectively. Eighteen (18) Research Scholars have been awarded their Ph.D. degree under his supervision. He has more than 130 research papers to his credit, is author of a research monograph on **Himalayan Geomorphology** and edited books on **Geomorphology and Remote Sensing, Land Degradation and Desertification** and **Cartography and Climate Change**. He is well trained in Cartography, GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing and is **Co-ordinator** of the Remote Sensing Unit, Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati University. He is also **Member** of the Advisory Board of UGC DST, DRS/SAP programme in Kolkata, Burdwan University. **Expert Member** in various academic bodies of different Universities. Professor Jha has travelled widely to **Hungary, Italy, Vatican City, Austria, Germany, Kenya, Canada, USA, Thailand and Japan** for various seminars/conferences and workshops. His research interests are: spatio-temporal analysis and assessment of geomorphological hazards (e.g. soil erosion, rill erosion, gully erosion, landslides, earthquakes, floods, drought etc.) using RS & GIS, application of RS & GIS in Terrain Evaluation, morphometric analysis of drainage basins in relation to erosion survey, environmental impact assessment (mining area, lateritic terrain, and glacial region), land degradation and desertification in tropical lands, Engineering Geomorphology and Landscape Ecology.