

CORRESPONDENCE

APRIL 25, 2015 NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

The June '15 issue of the *JGSI* contained an article on the Nepal Earthquake giving valuable information and insight about that earthquake in particular and the Himalayan earthquakes in general. Based on an earlier paper (Gupta and Gehlaut, 2015) it is stated that presence of aseismic ridges causes segmentation of the Himalayan arc; restricting the rupture length and thus the possibility of great to large/major earthquakes may be remote. However, it seems that the central Himalaya (wherein a long quiescence has been evidenced) may not have major aseismic ridge to segment it. Earlier held view that the Faizabad ridge which was thought to be extending northward and hence in the central Himalaya (CH) appears to have changed on the basis of later gravity studies which indicate that this ridge seems to have taken an eastward turn and may not be entering the CH (approx. between 80° E to 85°-86° E). Thus the possibility of great earthquake ($M \sim 8-9$) may not be ruled out on this basis alone. For example even after the Nepal earthquake and from the measurement of strain

accumulation in the CH, Bilham (2015) has re-emphasized the thesis of his and his co-workers that the strain level has reached the threshold and CH may be 'in' for another big shock. One possible reason for the unusually long quiescence of the CH may however be that the strain build up all along the nearly 2500 km long Himalayan arc may not be uniform (Raval, 2000). Because as the in-depth seismic studies in Tibet have revealed that the underthrusting Indian continental lithosphere seems to have penetrated up to southern Tibet. This implies that the central Himalaya and region north of it under southern Tibet would be underlain by the central part of the north Indian shield – which is Bundelkhand craton. The strain build up in this cratonic region under the central Himalaya is likely to be much slower than in the relatively mobile parts of the Himalayan arc on its western and eastern flanks.

E: upen0106@gmail.com

U. RAVAL

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ANNOUNCEMENT

PETRO SCIENCE MEET – 2015

A national Seminar on Challenges and Strategies for Petroleum Exploration in India is being organised by Delta Studies Institute, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam during 23-25 November 2015. The main themes of the seminar are (1) Prospects of oil reserves in the sedimentary basins of India. (2) Subsidence (?) aspects in the KG-Basin. (3) Environmental implications of the exploration of oil resources. (4) Strategies to employ technological tools to recover hydrocarbons. For details, please contact: Prof. C.V. Raman, Convener, Delta Studies Institute, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. Email: petroscienceau@gmail.com. Mobile: 9885896620

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