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Dr. Gopal Dhawan, **Chairman cum Managing Director, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), India** and formerly **Executive Director (Geo-Tech & PID), NHPC Ltd. India** is a recipient of Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Research Award (2004) by CBIP, India and Outstanding Contribution Award (2008) by ISRMTT, India for his contributions in the fields of Engineering Geology, Rock Mechanics & Tunneling Technology.

In his 33 years long career, he was associated with engineering geological & geotechnical studies of numerous hydroelectric projects of NHPC in India and abroad. He was one of the pioneers in India in practicing applications of modern rock mass classifications (RMR & Q systems) in Engineering Geological Mapping. As Executive Director (Geo-Tech & PID), NHPC (Jan 2008-May, 2012), he headed Engg. Geology & Geotech and Project Investigation Divisions and the Survey & Investigation Projects of NHPC. Dr. Dhawan has published and presented around 30 technical papers/ keynote addresses in various National and International Journals, Symposia, Seminars etc.