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## REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATURAL HAZARDS: ITS GEOLOGICAL IMPLICATION IN HILLY REGIONS

The Department of Geology, St Xavier's College, Ranchi (Jharkhand) organized a national seminar on the above theme during 21-23 November, 2002. The Seminar was inaugurated by His Excellency Rama Jois, Governor of Jharkhand, Sri Ravindra Kumar Rai, State Minister, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Jharkhand was the guest of Honour. Acting Vice-Chancellor and other officials of Ranchi University were also present on this occasion.

The Seminar was sponsored by University Grants Commission, Eastern Regional Office, Kolkata, and was co-sponsored by the Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi and Jharkhand/Bihar State Mineral Development Cooperation, Ranchi.

The National Seminar was a small effort from the Department of Geology to provide a common platform for scientific deliberation and group discussion among the delegates from the different parts of our country so that with improved knowledge base the adverse impact of environmental degradation and the hazard to life and property can be minimised to the benefit of the society.

The Seminar included five keynote lectures and 35 technical papers dealing with a wide range of natural hazards. The following keynote lectures were delivered at the Seminar: (1) An overview of Natural Disaster, Disaster Management and Post-disaster Trauma with special reference to the Indian scenario by Prof. O P Verma, Ex-Head, Dept of Applied Geology, ISM, Dhanbad, (2) Himalayan Mountain Building and Related Problems of Landslide Management by A K Sinha, Director, Birbal

Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, (3) Impact of Mineral Exploitation on the Ecosystem and the Environmental Hazard Management by S Das Gupta, Director (Geology), Dept of Mines and Geology, Govt of Jharkhand, Ranchi, (4) A General Approach to Landslides in Hilly Regions – Classification and Risk Assessment Technology by Arabinda Ghosh, Dept of Geological Sciences, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, (5) Landslides Management in the Himalayan Region by Akhouri Pramod Krishna, Acting Director, G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Sikkim Unit, Tadong, Gangtok.

All the technical papers were widely discussed. They related to natural disasters, landslides, industrial effluent, hazards etc., in different regions such as Himalayan area, Chotanagpur Plateau, Coal mining areas etc. More than 65 delegates including guest speakers attended the seminar. On the last day of the Seminar, a field trip to Rajrappa coalfield was organized.

In the concluding part of the Seminar, it was recommended that a Centre for Risk Management should be established in the Department of Geology of St Xavier's College, Ranchi to impart theoretical and practical knowledge to policy level personnel/planners, technocrats, academicians and NGOs.

*Department of Geology  
St Xavier's College  
Ranchi - 834 001  
Jharkhand  
Email: SXC@butsmart.com*

NAVIN KUMAR  
and  
JAYANT SINHA