NOTES

12th INDIAN GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

The 12th Convention of Indian Geological Congress (IGC) and National Seminar on Ground Water Resources was inaugurated by Prof. A.K. Singh, Vice Chancellor, M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur on Tuesday the 8th February 2000. Shri B.C. Bora, President, IGC and Chairman, ONGC, delivered the address on the "Role of Fossil Fuels as Future Energy Sources of India". Dr. P.S. Ranawat, Convenor of the 12th IGC welcomed the gathering. After the inauguration of Seminar and Exhibition, Dr. D.K. Chadha, Chairman, Central Groundwater Board delivered the keynote address on "Groundwater Management in Arid Zones in India". Prof. G.S. Roonwal, University of Delhi gave the invited lecture on "Volcanogenic Massive Sulfides (VMS) on Mid-Oceanic Ridges – Resources for the Future?" Subsequently, the technical sessions of the IGC and Seminar on Groundwater Resources were held concurrently. 175 abstracts were included in the abstract volume. Next day, the Sixth IGC Foundation Lecture by Prof. P.N. Agrawal, University of Roorkee on "Seismological Aspects of Earthquake Damage Reduction", was followed by the invited lecture by Prof. R.S. Sharma on "P-T-t Evolution of Orogenic Belts: A Case Study of the Aravalli Mobile Belt".

Report of Technical Sessions

Papers in the Technical Sessions of IGC covered five broad themes. The Petrology, Mineralogy and Geochemistry Session covered a wide spectrum including petrogenesis, migmatisation of granulitic anorthosite complex and granites, petrology of carbon phyllite and limestone, and computer programs. The Session on Mineral Resources, Mineral Exploration, Fossil Fuels and Mineral Industries covered case studies of various types of mineral resources, strategies for exploration and entrepreneurship and geotechnical studies. The scope of foreign investment and opening the gates for multinationals were debated at length. The Session on Precambrian Geology and Tectonics witnessed presentation on tectonic modelling of several areas. Stratigraphic position of ultramafic rocks in the Aravalli, the shear zones in Delhi and Aravalli rocks, and Asia-India collision using thermochronology, neotectonics and microtectonics were discussed. The Session on Phanerozoic Stratigraphy and Palaeontology concentrated on oil geology with papers covering petroleum exploration, erection of basin stratigraphy of Bombay High and Assam, stratigraphy using megafossils and new species of ostracodes. The invited lecture on "Petroleum Systems in the Indian Sedimentary Basins: Stratigraphic and Geochemical Perspectives" was presented by Dr. Anil Bhandari of ONGC. In the Session on Environmental Geology and Remote Sensing, papers on effects of mining, afforestation, watershed development using GIS techniques and assessment of groundwater pollution by remote sensing were presented.

The National Seminar on Groundwater Resources was covered under four sessions having 71 titles. The presentations laid stress on the study of groundwater, its recharge techniques, and improvement in quality and management of available groundwater resources of several groundwater regimes of India. The modelling of fractures, fissures in hard rock areas for fruitful targetting the sites for tube wells and electrical resistivity techniques in semi-arid and arid region were discussed. The chemical quality and fluoride content in groundwater were of great concern. Techniques for deflouridation were also discussed. Stress was laid on artificial recharge and management of groundwater in semi-arid and arid terrains. A *Group Discussion* on "Emerging Opportunities and Geological Curricula of the 21st Century" anchored by Prof. V.K.S. Dave of Roorkee, was

held in which a drastic change in the earth science education was discussed in the light of contemporary needs, specially in applied geology and entrepreneurship. Introduction of geology as one of the optional subjects at senior secondary school level was stressed by most of the participants. The Valedictory Address of Shri N.S. Bohra, Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan on "Five Decades of Mineral Resources Development in Rajasthan: An Overview" was followed by vote of thanks by Dr. Vinod Agrawal, Secretary 12th IGC.

The following recommendations were made at the Congress:

1. Groundwater should be considered as critically-renewable asset and there is need for its rational utilization. A national water policy based on this concept is called for.
2. Regional Mineral Quality Assessment Centre (RQAC) should be set up in every state of the country. The RQAC should have facility/equipment for characterization of chemical and physical properties of minerals/rocks, especially in relation to their industrial specifications.
3. There is a need for better coordination between university and industry and efforts should be made to achieve it for national development.
4. Society and industry-oriented research should be promoted and dispersal of its results should reach common man through the publications in popular magazines, newspapers, TV and the internet.
5. Drastic change in the curricula of earth science education is called for in light of contemporary needs and developments. Aspects of applied geology and entrepreneurship should be promoted. Introduction of geology as one of the optional subjects at senior secondary school level is recommended.

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XVII INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY (27-29 Jan. 2000)

The XVII Indian Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy (ICMS) was organised by the School of Studies in Geology, Vikram University, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh from 27 to 29 January 2000 under the Convernorship of Dr. Pramendra Dev, Professor and Head. In his inaugural address Prof. K.K. Singh, formerly Vice Chancellor of the Jiwaji University, Gwalior spoke on the multifarious uses of microfossils. Prof. P.S. Dubey, Vice Chancellor of Vikram University welcomed the delegates. Prof. S.N. Bhalla of Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, in his presidential address "Micropaleontology – what lies ahead" discussed what has been done and what is yet to be done in micropaleontology in India. He exhorted that the microfossils should be utilised to know sea level changes, environmental changes etc. during Quaternary and suggested that mysterious problems such as the disappearance of river Saraswati can be solved by studying microfossils.

The colloquium was attended by over 75 delegates from various Indian Universities/Institutions/ Organisations. As many as 90 abstracts were received and 46 research papers were presented in 12 technical sessions covering various fossil groups, viz., foraminifers, ostracodes, echinoides, belemnites, pteropods, calcareous algae, palynofossils, dinoflagellates, acritarchs, ichnofossils, etc. and on biostratigraphy and biofacies analyses. One session was exclusively devoted to the use of Hindi in scientific writing and Dr. Y.C. Sharma of the Commission for Scientific and Technical