

## WORKSHOP ON MINERAL RESOURCES UTILISATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES RELATED TO IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

A unique district level workshop on the mineral resources utilisation and environmental issues related to iron and steel industry and mining in Bellary-Hospet sector, where nearly 600 big and small industries are operating, was organised on 13th December, 1999 by the Department of Earth Sciences, Sandur P.G. Centre, Gulbarga University and Mining Engineers' Association, Bellary-Hospet Chapter, at the Nehru Hall of P.G. Centre, Krishnadevarayanagara, Sandur, Bellary district, Karnataka. The programme was convened by Dr. B.C. Prabhakar, Director, P.G. Centre, Sandur. The Workshop was inaugurated by Dr. A.M. Pathan, Vice-Chancellor of Karnatak University, Dharwar, who said that by the turn of the century, there will be growing demand for mineral resources because of globalisation and the earth scientists have to gear themselves up to meet with this demand in the coming years. Dr. M.V. Nadkarni, Vice-Chancellor, Gulbarga University, in his presidential address, stressed on adopting a holistic approach to mining and preserving the environment for the sake of balanced development. Sri G.S. Purohit, Executive Director of NMDC, Donimalai and Chairman of Mining Engineer's Association of India, Bellary-Hospet Chapter, called for networking between academic institutions and mineral industry for a better appreciation of common problems.

Three sessions were conducted after the inaugural session. In the pre-lunch session four technical papers were presented viz., association of gold with BIF, Conex process of iron making, new exploration and extraction strategies for the by-product metals and recovery of vanadium from titaniferous magnetite deposits.

In the afternoon session, four technical papers were presented, viz., Sandur greenstone belt and related metallogeny, modern trends in iron and steel manufacture, characteristics of Bellary-Hospet ores and their application for process design of pellet plant, and application of sediment source modelling for particulate pollution of iron ores.

In the last session, three general papers were presented, viz., implications of mining on environment, promoting geoscience education, and geoscience education perspectives for the next millennium. The need to introduce geology in school education was emphasised and as an outcome, Sri Medha Venkataiah of Baldota Iron Co. Ltd., announced his intention to introduce geology as a subject in their high school at Hospet. It is hoped that more and more schools adopt this fascinating subject in their curriculum.

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