

increasingly relevant as people depend more and more on internet for information. Similarly, A B Anitha and J G Indu in their paper deal with the application of Artificial Neural Network (ANN) in rainfall run-off modeling with a case study in a sub-basin in Kerala.

The fourth section in the volume is under the head 'NRDMS Road Map'. The Natural Resource Database Management System (NRDMS) operates as a division under Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi with over 50 district centers providing guidelines to use spatial database and technological tools for planning and management of resources at various levels, mainly through projects. This section includes nine papers, most of them dealing with the results of projects carried out under NRDMS. The first article by Bhoop Singh and K R Murali Mohan provides an overview of the NRDMS objectives and activities highlighting the present status. There are three papers, one by SM Ramasamy et al, another by M S Nathawat et al, and the third by Arun Kumar and Dolan Meitei, all of them dealing with the case studies of GST based Spatial Decision Support Systems (SDSS), developed under NRDMS projects in Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Manipur respectively. K Venugopal et al and A Mohan Rao et al in their papers present the Environment Information Systems (EIS) developed for Vellore in Tamil Nadu and Dhumka district of Jharkhand respectively. On the other hand the paper by PC Tiwari outlines the national initiatives for capacity building for making use of geospatial data base in

resource management and the role of NRDMS Centre at Namital in Uttaranchal.

The volume is presented in a conveniently sized book form in paper back with an attractive cover and good print on good quality paper. But one conspicuous deficiency in the volume is that the satellite images and maps originally in colour are presented in black and white which hampers their easy reference while reading the papers. In a volume like this, colour plates of at least the satellite images and GIS output maps would have enhanced not only their visual impact but also the content value and thus the overall value of the book itself. There are also some errors and minor aberrations in the texts, which could have been avoided by a more rigorous editing. But one can understand the constraints of the editors when the proceedings volume is to be brought out at the time of the event itself, compelling them to race against time to meet the deadline. Nevertheless, this volume with papers covering a wide variety of topics, which include both the concepts and applications of geospatial technology in developmental planning and related fields would certainly serve as a good reference book and thus will be a valuable asset in any library.

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ELEMENTARY EXERCISES IN GEOLOGY by C.V.R K. Prasad Published by Universities Press, 2005, 198p Price: Rs 240

The book on Elementary Exercises in Geology written by Prof. C.V.R.K. Prasad (formerly of S.V. University, Tirupati) will be useful in exposing undergraduate students of geology to basic principles of geology. The author has included some exercises (1 to 3) which are not covered in the class room, as they do not find a place in the undergraduate syllabi. Nevertheless, information regarding the physical parameters of the Earth, its structure and as well as the origin of solar system are essential in understanding the processes that are responsible for the formation of the components of the earth, namely, the atmosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere. Another exercise which is usually not covered at the undergraduate level is geochronology. It is indeed essential to introduce the students at basic level to the techniques of dating of the

rocks. In this way the exercise on geochronology is very useful.

The exercises in petrology (6), though cover many aspects, some mention should have been made about the significance of mineral reactions in metamorphic rocks and usefulness of the same in evaluating the metamorphic processes. Further problems relating to the calculation of P-T conditions of metamorphism and magmatic crystallization using well established geothermobarometers should have been included. Similarly some aspects of heavy mineral analysis of sedimentary rocks and its usefulness in characterizing the provenance, should have found a place.

In economic geology (8), simple exercises on ore reserve estimations would have been useful.

Though mineralogy is taught at undergraduate level,

some aspects covering structural formulae calculation of minerals, would have given an idea of the importance of chemistry of minerals in their identification. This aspect is not included in the syllabus of undergraduate courses. Similarly aspects covering measurement of structural elements of rocks, like foliation, lineation and strain analysis would have given an idea about the deformation processes in different tectonic settings.

These second thoughts do not in any way reduce the importance of this book and the author needs to be complimented for his efforts. Another important feature of

the book is the inclusion of solutions to the problems which becomes a ready reckoner for the students who attempt to solve the exercises.

This book should find a place in the shelves of all undergraduate as well as post-graduate Geology Department libraries.

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Announcements

Prof. C. NAGANNA GOLD MEDAL

The above gold medal of the Mineralogical Society of India is to be awarded to a young Earth Scientist of Indian origin below the age of forty-five (45) years. The award shall be for the single author or the first of a joint paper published in any of the National and International Journals related to Earth Sciences. Papers published during the calendar years commencing from January 2003 to December 2005 will be considered for the award. The last date for receiving nominations will be 28 February 2006. Nominations should include: (1) The title of paper; (2) The issue of the Journal in which it was published; (3) Author(s) name(s) and address; (4) Two copies of the paper; (5) Full justification for nomination.

Nominations should be sent to: The Secretary, The Mineralogical Society of India, Department of Studies in Geology, University of Mysore, Mysore - 570 006, India. Email: msimys@eth.net.

NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL MINERAL AWARDS – 2005

The National Mineral Awards Scheme has been instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, with the purpose of honouring individual scientists and teams of scientists for their extraordinary achievements and contributions in fundamental or applied geosciences and thus, to provide an incentive for striving towards excellence. The awards are given annually in the field of Earth Sciences.

The nominations for the National Mineral Award for Excellence – 2005 and National Mineral Awards – 2005 are invited from scientific organizations dealing with Earth Sciences as detailed in the Regulations Governing National Mineral Awards – 2005. Detailed information on the regulations along with the Proforma can be downloaded from the website: www.mines.nic.in For further details, please contact: Shri K.P. Lall, Advisor, Technical Planning and Policy Committee, Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Block No.11, 5th Floor, C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003. Phone: 011-24363199, Fax: 011-24367641, Email: kpladvisor.mom@sb.nic.in