

such there was justification for the export of iron ore. Now that the domestic steel industry has picked up, export of iron ore may have to be phased out gradually and we should not enter into any new contracts

- It is the time for the Government to undertake a comprehensive review of the iron ore export policy.

India does not have vast iron ore resources and hence the need for rethinking about exports. These resources are just sufficient to meet the requirements of domestic steel industry for about 40-50 years. Our country should not lose sight of this important point. The author firmly believes that export of iron ore, on long term basis, is a short sighted

policy and it would be detrimental to the interest of the nation, if the same is continued.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS OF NATURAL AND HUMAN-INDUCED DISASTERS

A special session entitled "Archaeological and Geoarchaeological Records of Natural and Human Induced Disasters" that will be part of the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) held in Philadelphia, PA during October 22-25, 2006.

This session explores catastrophic events and disasters in human history recorded in geologic data, archaeological excavations, and historical sources including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, soil depletion, epidemics, floods, droughts, climate and environmental change, and crises of cultural origin.

Devastation from hurricane Katrina and 9/11 that has unfolded before our eyes has shown that catastrophes have natural and human causes. This session will explore

various types of disaster records and the effects of these events might have had on the course of human history. This topic is timely given widespread media attention on the flu pandemic, global warming, hurricane frequency, rapid environmental changes in coastal wetlands, tsunami damage, earthquakes and other disasters that have recently occurred. Our goal is to explore physical records that can place the modern change into a longer historical and archaeological context. With growing awareness of perceptible change in modern earth systems, we feel that this proposed interdisciplinary session will have wide international appeal.

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