

Valedictory Session was chaired by the Sri. K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt. of India who said that the country should look for strategic alliances with carefully planned imports and selected foreign investment aimed at technological upgradation of the mining sector. The Falun Lamp of the WMC was handed over to the delegates of Iran who will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress at Teheran in Nov 2005. The Congress Declaration highlights the need to focus on sustainable mining in harmony with environmental

concerns and the structural changes needed in the mining industry to face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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### GROUP MONITORING AND PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF DST AT BANARAS

The 15<sup>th</sup> Group Monitoring Meeting (GMM) and 10<sup>th</sup> Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India was held at the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University during 4-6 December, 2003. About 50 distinguished scientists from different organizations and universities attended this meeting. The meeting was coordinated by Dr. H. B. Srivastava of the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The three day meeting began with a popular lecture entitled "Dinosaurs of India: Dead but Alive" by Prof. Ashok Sahni of the Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Chandigarh. Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Professor Emeritus of Banaras Hindu University presided over the function. The

lecture was attended by about 400 children from different schools of the city beside the university community. The lecture evoked great excitement amongst the students who raised several questions to Prof. Sahni on different aspects of dinosaurs. To these school boys and girls the narration and commentary on dinosaurs by Prof. Sahni surpassed the Jurassic Park movie. Thus the keen interest of the school children in the geological history clearly demonstrates the need for improved geological education at school and college level.

The inauguration was held in the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2003. Dr. H. B. Srivastava welcomed the PAC members, expert members, scientists and guests. Prof. M. Joshi Head Department of Geology, BHU apprised the



Inaugural session of the DST meetings at BHU, Varanasi.

participants about the academic achievements of the department. Prof. Ashok Sahni, Chairman, Project Advisory Committee of Earth System Sciences, DST, inaugurated the meeting and in his address pointed out that the objective of meeting is not only to monitor the progress of research projects but more importantly to identify promising young scientists through this programme. Dr. K. R. Gupta, Advisor, Earth Science System, highlighted the following main objectives of the DST- PAC meetings: (1) to evaluate the research projects under the funding of the ESS of DST; (2) to evaluate and approve new research projects and (3) to promote the research work of young scientists.

The inaugural function ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anand Mohan of the Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University.

In accordance with the DST objectives, the first day (4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2003) and forenoon of second day was devoted to Group Monitoring Meeting of DST approved projects, in which 19 research projects from different branches were monitored. The PAC/expert members evaluated the research work of Principal Investigators funded by the DST and made suggestions for further improvement of their research projects.

In order to promote and inspire young scientists, the DST has decided last year to institute awards for bright

young scientists. In this session 11 young scientists from different universities and research institutes presented their research work on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2003. Among several applicants, these 11 young scientists were selected on the basis of their work and bio-data invited by the DST from different parts of the country. Based on the presentation of their research work, two promising young scientists were selected for the award. First Young Scientist's award of Rs. 5000/- was given to Dr. Gopal Krishna Agrawal of Department of Geology, Lucknow University, and the second Young Scientist's award of Rs. 3000/- was given to Dr. Sudesh Jadav, JNU, New Delhi. Such interactive lively meetings will indeed help in promoting the message of earth science activities across the country and infuse enthusiasm and confidence among the young earth scientists.

Third day of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of new research proposals on various aspects of Earth System Sciences for approval by the DST, which evoked interesting and animated discussions. The three days meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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## **Geological Society of India**

### **LAKSHMESWAR RAMA RAO BIRTH CENTENARY RESEARCH GRANTS: 2003-2004**

A sum of Rs.10,000 will be available under the above endowment during 2003-2004 for helping young research scholars. Grants will be available to graduate students engaged in research in the fields of Palaeontology and Stratigraphy for carrying out laboratory and field work.

Those interested in seeking assistance are requested to apply to the Society furnishing full particulars of their academic qualifications, details of the project they are engaged in and the extent and nature of assistance required by them. The application should be supported by their Guide and the Head of the Institution and should reach the Secretary, Geological Society of India, P.B. No.1922, Gaviipuram P.O., Bangalore - 560 019 by 20 February, 2004.