

NOTES

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON GLOBAL CONTINENTAL PALAEOHYDROLOGY – (GLOCOPH-2002)

The 5th International Meeting on Global Continental Palaeohydrology (GLOCOPH) was held in Pune, between 2 and 7, December 2002. The meeting hosted by the Geological Society of India and INQUA Commission on Global Continental Palaeohydrology (GLOCOPH) comprised of – paper and poster presentations, and special lectures (2-4 December, 2002) and field excursion in the Deccan Traps region and Goa (5-7 December, 2002). Dr. Vishwas S. Kale, University of Pune was the Convener of the GLOCOPH-2002 meeting.

historical records, (5) Response to climatic and hydrological changes during late Quaternary in the monsoon regions, and (6) Hydro-geomorphological response to climate change in relation to human activity. Thirty-one research papers and eleven posters were presented during the conference.

Out of the thirty-one papers presented, about twenty-three were related to the focal theme of the conference. Four special lectures by eminent scholars from India and abroad were organized during the meeting. The conference



GLOCOPH-2002 meeting at Pune.

The meeting was attended by earth scientists with an interest in palaeohydrology, Quaternary studies and environmental change during the late Quaternary period. The focal theme of the symposium was: *Palaeohydrology and monsoons: Past records and future implications*. Other general themes were: (1) Palaeohydrological techniques and approaches, (2) Global climate changes and environmental changes during the last 20 Ka, (3) Palaeohydrological changes in the tropical, temperate and cold regions, (4) Flood reconstruction – geological and

was attended by 14 overseas delegates from UK, USA, Australia, Spain, Japan, Germany and Brazil. From India, the participants were from Delhi University, Lucknow University, IIT Kanpur, PRL Ahmedabad, M. S. University of Baroda, Anna University Chennai, Jammu University, University of Pune, IITM, Pune, Geological Survey of India and Deccan College. A cultural tour of Pune city was also arranged.

The papers and discussions brought out the variability in the behaviour of the hydrological conditions in the

monsoon-dominated regions such as the Indian sub-continent, Southeast Asia and Australia during the modern, historical and the late Quaternary period. The behaviour of the rivers to natural and human-induced changes also formed the theme of some papers. Some papers dealt with the analysis of the evidences of extreme hydrological events such as floods and techniques of reconstruction of palaeodischarges. The remaining papers were concerned with the palaeohydrological and the modern hydrological conditions in Brazil, Spain, Siberia and Namib desert. A special lecture on recent water-related activity on Mars was also presented.

The three-day post-conference field trip included visits to late Quaternary alluvial deposits and Toba ash deposits near Morgaon, colluvial deposits near Wai, the laterites and Ghat escarpment in Mahabaleshwar and coastal features and laterites in Goa. Thirty-two participants, including twelve foreign participants, attended the field trip.

Dr. Vishwas S. Kale with his vast experience and unique ability of organization, made the proceedings extremely smooth and flawless all through.

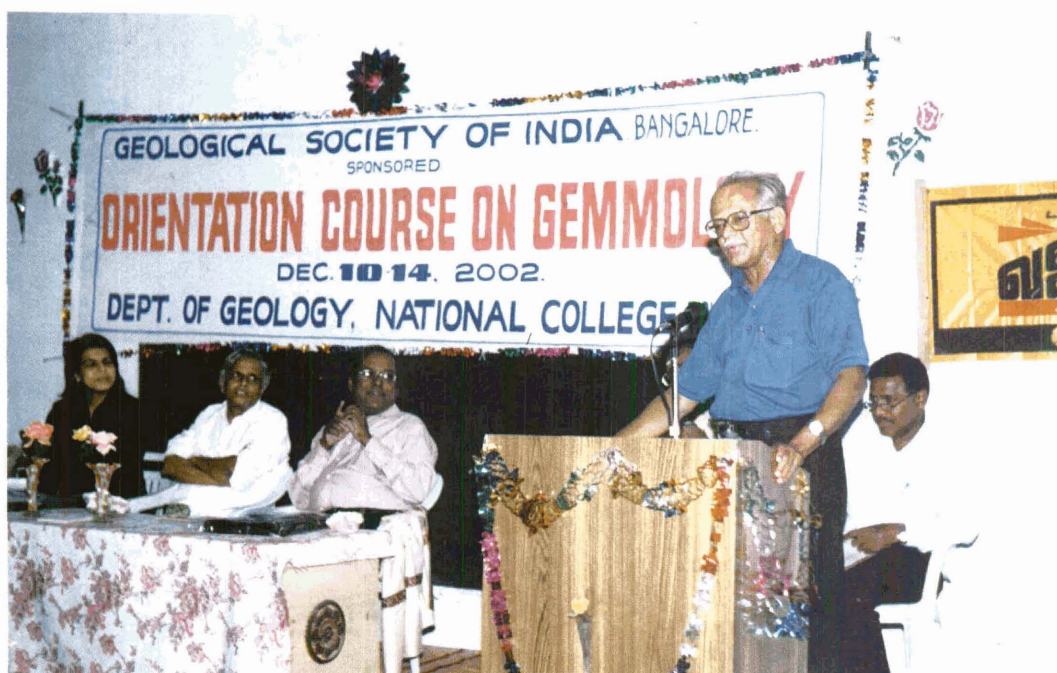
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REPORT ON THE GEMMOLOGY COURSE AT TRICHY

An orientation course on Gemmology co-sponsored by the Geological Society of India, Bangalore was conducted in the Department of Geology, National College, Tiruchirapalli during 10-14 December, 2002. Students, researchers, teachers, traders and businessmen from different states participated in the course. The inaugural function was presided over by Dr. N. Seshadri, Principal, National College, Tiruchirapalli who appreciated the inclusion of dealers and traders as participants in the course. In his inaugural address, Dr. Muthiah Mariappan, Vice-Chancellor,

Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli stressed the importance of the scientific approach in the study of gems. He made a suggestion to start a Certificate Course in Gemmology which can later on be upgraded to a Diploma level course. The Course Director, Professor R.V. Karanth of the Geology Department, M.S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat in his well-illustrated introductory address spoke about the role of geologists in locating new gem deposits and value enhancement of gemstones. The salient features of the potential of export of gems, trade opportunities,



Prof. R.V. Karanth, Course Director addressing the participants.