

Report of the National Seminar on Applications of Gemstone

The Seminar was jointly organized by Department of Geology, Maulana Azad College, Dr. Rafiq Zakaria Campus, Aurangabad, Maharashtra and Association of Geologists and Hydrogeologists (GEOFORUM) and sponsored by UGC, WR, Pune, during September 5 and 6, 2009.

In all 80 delegates from various fields of Gemmology including Professors, Ayurvedic Doctors, Jewellers, Astrologers, Museum Directors and Students participated. The participants hailed from different parts of Maharashtra and from Chennai, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. Over 12 lectures, spread over 5 technical Sessions, were delivered. The convener P.S. Kulkarni welcomed one and all to the seminar and he noted that the seminar was one of its own kind in India and a milestone in the field of Gemmology.

Principal Dr. Maqdoom M. Farooqui honoured the chief guest with a floral tribute. He stressed the importance of Gemstones in general and declared that he will take initiative and all efforts to start the Gemmological course in the Dr. Rafiq Zakaria Centre for Higher Learning.

At the inaugural address, chief guest Mr. Y.N. Maggirwar, a noted Astrologer, remarked that true gemstones have phenomenal applications in the field of Astrology. Every Astrologer should have knowledge about true gemstones and their imitation peers.

The first plenary lecture was on the "Occurrence of Gemstone" by Prof R.V. Karanth, writer of the book Gemstones published by Geological Society of India and a visiting faculty I.I.T. Mumbai. His second lecture was on "Emerald mining with case history of Zambia". The plenary lecture on 'Colour treatment in Diamond', was delivered by Mrs. Jayshree Panjekar a renowned diamond Grader from Pune. Her second lecture was on 'Important Tips and Tricks for Jewellers'.

In the final session, on the first day, Astropathist from Nagpur Dr. Sudhakar Janai explained with case histories as to how gemstones could cure various diseases like Diabetes, Gangrene and High / Low Blood Pressure.

On the Second day in the first session, Dr. Tanuja Marathe, a learned Gemmologist from Pune, delivered a lecture on 'Rare Gemstones'. This was followed by the lecture of Vaibhav Deshmukh on 'Applications of Gemstone in Vastu Shastra'.

In the Second Session three plenary lectures were arranged. One by Dr. Vyankatesh Kulkarni who emphasized the utility of Gemstones in Ayurvedic medicine. The second plenary lecture was by Dr. M.I. Iqbal of Maulana Azad College, on properties of Diamond, which make it the most valuable Gemstone. The third lecture was by K.D. Kawadkar, director Archeology Survey of India. He spoke about the Gemstones in the Archeological Monuments.

The dazzling highlight of the Seminar was the exhibition of gemmological material, gemstones and other curious freaks of nature by M.F. K. Makki from Pune, an amateur and collector of these natural gifts of nature.

In the valedictory session the participants demanded the exigency of one year Diploma course in Gemmology at Aurangabad. The Convener assured them to fulfill their demand posthaste. In a nutshell, the Seminar was a grand success both technically and academically.

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