

NEWS AND NOTES

National Seminar on Geology, Mining, Processing, Metallurgy and Environmental Issues of Economic Mineral Deposits (GEOPME) and XI Convention of the Mineralogical Society of India (MSI) – B.C. Prabhakar (bcprabhakar@rediffmail.com)

A two-day National Seminar on Geology, Mining, Processing, Metallurgy and Environmental Issues of Economic Mineral Deposits (GEOPME) and XI Convention of the Mineralogical Society of India (MSI) was held during 30th April and 1st May 2011 at the Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University's (VSKU) P.G. Centre, Nandihalli-Sandur. The Seminar was inaugurated by Prof. T.C. Rao (Former Chairman, Dept. of Mineral Engineering, ISM, Dhanbad and Former Director, RRL, Bhopal) and presided by Prof. Hosamane, Vice Chancellor, VSKU, Bellary. During the inaugural address, Prof. T.C. Rao, provided the glimpses of mineral beneficiation research in the country and emphasized that the success lies in self-indulgence with innovative ideas rather than machine dependence.

Dr. Vinod Nowal, Chief Guest of the Seminar briefed on Jindal Steel Works Ltd., (JSW), which has established country's biggest steel plant at Torangallu by taking recourse to modern technology and in situ resources. He added that JSW is ready to take up all the initiatives towards the development of local infrastructure facility and environmental care. He said that the JSW looks forward to have more interaction with the Dept. of Mineral Processing at Nandihalli in many ways for the mutual benefits. Prof. Yashavantha Dongre, Registrar, VSKU, Bellary while releasing the Abstract volume of the seminar appreciated the efforts of the Faculty of Mineral processing Department for their efforts in its recognition at National and international levels. He called upon the teaching and student community to work together to compete with the challenges of the fast changing world.

E. Tukaram, MLA of Sandur and an alumni of the Institute was the Guest of Honor. In his address he assured that he is committed for the overall growth of this



region. He also expressed his support to make this Institute as centre of excellence. Prof. C. Srikantapa, Secretary, MSI briefed the activities of the Mineralogical Society.

Prof. D. Hosamane, Vice-Chancellor of VSKU, in his presidential address appreciated the efforts of the Faculty in organizing the Seminar and assured the university support for all the academic activities. Earlier Prof. M.V. Rudramuniyappa, the Convener of the meet welcomed the gathering and Dr. S.J. Gopalakrishna, Organizing Secretary briefed the background and objectives of the Seminar.

During the technical sessions, five key note lectures were delivered on the themes of mineral beneficiation, iron ore consumption and production of steel in India, laboratory techniques of beneficiation, recycling the slimes, and sustainable mining.

Dr. T.C. Rao in his keynote address traced the growth of the science of mineral beneficiation in the country. In his view the growth was like a 'cosmetic process of mineral upgradation evolved into a full-

fledged mineral engineering discipline'. He enlightened the audience on the rapid strides achieved in the process of crushing, grinding, washing, concentrating and dewatering. He dwelled upon how blending of science and engineering together with the concerns on energy, economy and environment brought in revolution in mineral beneficiation.

R. Dhana Raju, in his keynote address dealt with advanced techniques of mineral characterization and their application in beneficiation. He emphasized the importance of traditional and advanced methods of study of minerals for adopting suitable techniques for beneficiation and hydrometallurgy.

G.N. Jadhav in his keynote address stressed the importance of ore petrography in mineral characterization, both during and after beneficiation. He critically evaluated the importance of ore microscopic techniques at various stages of mineral dressing, mineral separation and liberation of different ore assemblages, middlings, feed material etc. Its importance is extended to the study of processed ore or materials,