

Foreword

One of the main objects with which the Geological Society of India was started, more than fifty years ago, was to promote the cause of advanced study in all branches of the geology of India. This object was sought to be served by the publication of a Journal including the best work in geology and related fields. Early in its organization, special emphasis was needed to focus attention of readers on certain specialized fields where significant progress was happening. Earliest step in this direction was taken in 1967 by bringing together all active workers in the fields of geochemistry and geochronology and bring out a special issue of the Journal. This experiment worked quite successfully with a significant spurt in research in all aspects related to geochemistry, with laboratories taking up research, equipped with instruments and generating a large volume of data. The success of this attempt made us to take special interest in other branches of study like the Monsoon, the study of kimberlites, Platinum group minerals etc.

Structural geology is one of the most important branches of geological science which required special effort to promote. India for the size of the country is replete with different rocks ranging in age from the Archaean to the most Recent. Precambrian terrains show polyphase deformation. Rocks of the youngest, like the Himalaya, are dominated by folds and thrust belt geometry. Structural geological investigations play a significant role in understanding how rocks get deformed and the implication of such studies in regional tectonics.

Whilst mesoscopic scale fabrics provide data for classical structural analysis, data generated using various modern instruments and experimental and numerical methods help understand processes and mechanisms at various scales.

Jadavpur University and IIT, Kharagpur have earned a name for carrying out studies on structural geology. The Society has been fortunate in identifying one of the young researchers presently working in the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (since 1999) to take up the responsibility of identifying persons who are active and who can furnish authentic account of classical and modern aspects of this important branch of science.

Manish Mamtani, the Guest Editor of the present volume, had his early training at M.S. University Baroda, Vadodara and later migrated to Kharagpur and is at present Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology. He has wide exposure to the different aspects of structural geology and more especially on anisotropy of magnetic susceptibility of deformed rocks and microtectonics in which he had training in the University of Hiedelberg, Germany. It is appropriate that this issue is dedicated to Prof. Subir Kumar Ghosh an eminent and well-known structural geologist from Jadavpur University, India.

I sincerely hope that this compilation will be widely welcomed and read with interest by all those engaged in the study of this specialized branch of structural geology.

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