

NOTES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CHENNAI '97

Proceedings of the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Geological Society of India held on Friday the 7th November, 1997 at 5 P.M. at Koodal Hall, Anna University, Chennai.

Members Present: Hema Achyuthan, P.N. Ballukraya, M.N. Balasubramanyam, B.K. Bandyopadhyay, S.K. Bhat, S.K. Bhushan, L.P. Chourasia, S.V.P. Iyengar (Vice President), M.S. Jagatheesan, S. Jithendra Kumar (Hon. Treasurer), K.S. Misra, C. Mohan Dass, N.G.K. Murthy, R. Nagendra, P. Pazhamalai Nathan, K. Rama Mohan Rao, B.P. Radhakrishna (President), B. Ramachandran, R.H. Sawkar (Foreign Secretary), P. Sivasubramanian, S.G.D. Sridhar, S.V. Srikantia (Secretary), G.B. Sukumaran.

1. Notice calling the meeting was read by the Secretary
2. The Annual Report for the year 1996-97 was read by the Secretary and audited statement of accounts was presented and comments were invited from the Fellows present. N.G.K. Murthy proposed acceptance of the report and the audited statement of accounts which was seconded by S.K. Bhat. The Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 1996-97 were then adopted unanimously
3. General body accorded its approval for the continuation of M. Shankarnarayan, Chartered Accountant, Bangalore, as auditor for the year 1997-98

President in his remarks stressed on the need for financial self reliance for the Geological Society of India and in that regard he made an appeal to all Fellows, specially the Life Fellows to come forward with Donations and enlist themselves under new category of membership-Donors. There was a general approval to the suggestions of the President. Rules will be framed in this regard and an appeal will be shortly issued.

President then announced the names of earth scientists selected for the various awards for 1997 instituted by the Society.

L. Rama Rao Birth Centenary Award to Professor Indra Bir Singh of Lucknow University in recognition of his contributions to our knowledge of the sedimentary basins of India, the vexed Krol-Tal succession of Lesser Himalaya, elucidation of the Tethyan succession based on trace fossils and his studies on the Indo-Gangetic basin.

N. N. Chatterjee award for 1997 to Dr. T.C. Patra, A.K. Pandey and H.C. Dutta of the ONGC for their paper on "Potential Areas of Coal Seam Methane in India".

JGSI – Radhakrishna Prize to Dr. John K. Zachariah, presently working at the National Geophysical Research Institute, for the paper authored by him, Manoj K. Mohanta and V. Rajamani – "Accretionary Evolution of the Ramagiri Schist Belt, Eastern Dharwar Craton (JGSI, v.47, pp.279-291)". The geochemical study was considered a piece of innovative research presented in a crisp style throwing new light on gold mineralization and opening up new avenues of investigation.

Earlier, as a part of the programme of the Annual General Meeting, a National Symposium on "Sustainable Groundwater Development and Management" was held on the 6th, 7th and

8th November. Invited papers on groundwater exploration and exploitation; groundwater resources evaluation and recharge methods; groundwater development, management and modelling and groundwater quality were presented by earth scientists from different organizations. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri. L. Palamalai, Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board (TWAD), Chennai, who gave an overview of TWAD's projects and made a particular reference to the setting up of a desalination plant, with a capacity of 3.8 million litre per day in Naripeyyar in Ramanathapuram District next year. B.P. Radhakrishna, President of the Geological Society of India, delivered the special address and released the Abstract volume. The President in his address exhorted the earth scientists to address themselves to the societal problems pertaining to the availability of water, its conservation and its judicious use developing awareness among people. Dr. R.M. Vasagam, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University, who presided over the function, exhorted earth scientists to take up data collection, accurate assessment and periodic monitoring of valuable groundwater resource.

As introduced in the 37th Annual General Meeting, there was a Discussion Session on Earth Science on 7th November 1997, to enable Fellows to announce the results of their on-going research and for proposing new concepts and models. There were three presentations. On Bimodal Volcanism – Western Rajasthan (S.K. Bhushan), Basement Tectonics – Western India (K.S. Misra) and Sr and Nd isotopic evidence from Lamproites for ancient sub-continental lithospheric mantle along Cuddapah margin (N.V. Chalapathi Rao).

S.V. SRIKANTIA

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF HEAVY MINERAL RESOURCES OF CHAVARA

A one day workshop on '*Sustainable development of heavy mineral resources of Chavara*' was organised jointly by Centre for Earth Science Studies and State Committee on Science, Technology & Environment, Govt. of Kerala at Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Chavara on October 1, 1997. The main objective of the workshop was to bring the earth scientists and engineers to a common platform for a better interaction and to take stock of the total heavy mineral resources including their mining and related environmental aspects.

Three major themes viz., Resource Potential, Hydrodynamics of Placer deposits and Environment Impact Assessment were discussed. It was stressed that an integrated approach is needed in understanding the geological processes which have contributed to the formation of these deposits. The presence of a second cycle of heavy mineral concentration beyond 9 m depth was highlighted by AMD. It was demonstrated by NIO that geophysical surveys particularly shallow seismic and magnetic are useful for exploration of mineral-rich zones in the offshore areas. A detailed account on the inferred resources of heavy mineral resources was presented by GSI. The role of hydrodynamic processes such as waves and currents in the transport and concentration of placer minerals was elucidated by scientists from CESS. There was also a discussion on the impact of mining on the shallow water aquifer system. Discussion was also held on the very important issue of the impact of mining on coastal erosion. Majority of the participants expressed opinion in favour of a balanced approach to the issue of development and mining. It was also felt that an Integrated Coastal Zone Management need to cover not only the environmental part of it but also the socio-economic