

The Keynote Addresses were delivered by Prof. S.C. Sarkar of Jadavpur University and Shri K.K. Dwivedy of Atomic Minerals Division. Three technical sessions were held on the first day, two on the second followed by a special session on "*Sharing of Experience*" by foreign delegates in this area and a concluding/summing-up session.

Russian, Chinese, Finnish, French (BRGM) and Australian (CRA) experts took active part in the deliberations. They presented papers on various aspects of geology, exploration, laboratory techniques in the study and investigation of PGE, Rare Metal and REE occurrences citing examples from the Bushveld, Noril'sk, Mojang, Jianchaling and other deposits. The foreign participants included V.V. Distler, A.A. Kremenetsky, A.D. Genkin, Huang Wankang, Ran Hongyang, T.T. Alapieti, B. Teigler and Z. Johan.

Officers of the AMD gave detailed and lucid account of exploration for Li, Be, Nb, Ta, Cs, REE in the Indian context. Officers of GSI presented results of ongoing/current investigations at Baula-Nausahi, Sukinda, Sittampundi, North Kanara-Goa, Indus Ophiolite Belt (Ladakh), Sung Valley and Barren Island Volcanics. PGE/RM/REE occurrences in granitic/gneissic/volcanic/carbonatitic rocks of Raichur, Shankaragiri, Naupara, Karbi-Anglong, Alech-Osham Hills, Nakhal (Baroda), Ambaji-Deri, Malani Granites, Purulia, Marlagalla-Allapatna, Lingsugur were presented by GSI, AMD and University participants. High caesium in Puga Geothermal Fluids was also highlighted. Aspects of analytical methodologies, precision and accuracy in the determination of PGE/RM/REE were also discussed in the Workshop.

The consensus that emerged during the concluding session was that with the availability of modern high precision laboratory techniques for the analysis of PGE, RM and REE, the stage is set for an intensified exploration effort in appropriate geological milieu. The prospects are indeed bright for the discovery of economically significant occurrences/deposits of PGE, RM and REE in the country. It is hoped that the full texts of the papers presented at this Workshop will be brought out without too much of a time lag for benefit of the geological community.

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FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CARTOGRAPHY

The XV Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA) - International Congress, with the focal theme, "*Cartography - Emerging Technologies and Alliances*" was held at S.G.S. Institute of Technology and Science, Indore, M.P from 5-8, December 1995. The following topics were identified for deliberation in the congress:

- Impact of cartography in the national scene.
- Design, development and management of the cartographic databases.
- Remote sensing, resources, environment and disaster management.
- Advances in cartographic techniques and their representation and
- Educational, historical cartography and cartographic education - India and world scenario.

About 350 delegates with ten foreign participants (from the Netherlands, U.K., USA, Switzerland and Germany) took part in the Congress. In all, 82 papers on the varied themes of Cartography and multi-media technology of map making were accepted out of which only 53 could be presented and discussed in the congress.

The papers dealing with geological aspects were 14 in number (17%) whereas 30(37%) other papers dealt with disciplines like forestry, urban planning, navigational and coastal mapping, crime prone areas, tourism, geography including topological modelling, agriculture etc. The rest of the papers dealt with the computer aided techniques of map making, integrated remote sensing and GIS as well as GPS systems, i.e., 38 papers approximately constituting 46% of the total papers accepted for publication. It is thus evident that the major thrust in the congress was given to the recent advances made in the field of computer technology and GIS system for map making through multi-media approach. The vendors presentation on the capabilities of their products and systems along with practical demonstration of cartographic products was an eye-opener to the organisations that are still following the time consuming and cumbersome procedures of map making.

The application of space imagery in thematic map generation with case studies was presented. Authors also stressed that cartography could be best used for planning if the data is effectively coupled with spatial data. Few papers emphasized that key to modern cartography lies in the storage and retrieval of data.

The focal theme for this congress was well chosen to stress the importance of cartography, its applications and to create awareness about developments in modern cartography in India and abroad.

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XTH CONVENTION OF INDIAN GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS AND NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Xth Convention of the Indian Geological Congress alongwith a national Seminar on "Precambrian Crustal Evolution and Metallogenesis" was held during Feb. 1-3, 1996 at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. The Convention and the National Seminar were organised by the Department of Applied Geology at Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in co-operation with the Indian Geological Congress. The programme was sponsored by a number of government departments and public and private sector organisations of the country. The Convention was attended by about 200 delegates and invitees from India and abroad.

In the National Seminar, in-depth interaction among the young researchers and senior-level experts on various aspects of evolution of the Precambrian crust and related metallogenesis culminated in the formulation of many new ideas for exploration of mineral deposits in hitherto unexplored areas in different mineralised belts of the country. Important ideas for promoting interdisciplinary research in the country were also put forth with significant recommendations covering the interdisciplinary areas of geology, geochemistry, geophysics, mineral technology and mining engineering.

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