

Uraninite hitherto considered to be of detrital (placer) origin is also shown to be of hydrothermal origin, uraninite having grown after phyllosilicates. There is also a strong spatial association between carbon and uraninite. Uraninite-free carbon is uncommon in the Rand basin.

The new theory is very likely to open up possibilities for locating Witwatersrand - type gold mineralization in other parts of the world, though it appears that there is only a remote possibility of finding another deposit of the same magnitude. Conglomerate - quartzite and carbonaceous horizons in Late Archaean greenstone belts and Proterozoic basins have to be reexamined in the light of this new research.

*Bangalore*

V.N. VASUDEVA

## ASIA'S LONGEST SUBTERRANEAN CAVE IN INDIA

We are aware of the existence of limestone caverns in many parts of India, though a majority of them have not been mapped and published in detail on a large scale. In February 1997 an expedition led by B.D.Karpan Daly, General Secretary, Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA), was able to link up the earlier known four caves (Krem Um Lawn, Krem Kotsai, Krem Um Lawn II and Krem Um Shor) into one, extending about 19 km, located near Jowai in Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya (*Outlook*, December 15, 1997, p. 82). The one in Vietnam, supposedly 16 km long, was till recently thought to be the longest in Asia.

It is surmised that there are still many unexplored caves in Garo and Jaintia districts of Meghalaya. These are perhaps in the Sylhet Limestone Stage of Eocene. It is hoped that apart from the foreigners who have visited and are visiting these caves to study and map, the earth scientists from the nearby organizations and institutions will do the needful to bring to light the spectacular features like stalactites, stalagmites, drapes or curtains, helectites etc. that are bound to be present in such a long cave.

*Cuddalore - 607 001*

R. VAIDYANADHAN

## CORRESPONDENCE

### MEMORIAL TO JOB CHARNOCK

The editorial "Sad state of the memorial to Job Charnock founder of Calcutta" (Radhakrishna, December, 1997) in *Journal of the Geological Society of India* call for action. The fact that the tombstone of Job Charnock is the "type-stone" of Charnockite from a quarry near St. Thomas Mount, Chennai makes it imperative that the Tombstone of Job Charnock, the founder of Calcutta be protected as a National Geological Monument and an International heritage.

*Remote Sensing Applications Center,  
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh*

IQBALUDDIN and SAIF UD DIN