

Preface

Ultramafic and mafic complexes in differing tectonic settings have been known in India but they have not been studied for the location of economic concentrations of platinum group metals. The availability of modern instrumentation facilities in recent years by some of the Indian laboratories has revived interest in the study of the PGM ores. The lack of interest is possibly due to want of opportunities for examining world class deposits at first hand and also interaction with scientists of different countries specialized in the study of PGE.

The Geological Society of India, to the extent its limited resources permit, has taken initiative in inviting individual specialists in the field to visit India and give a course of lectures to a select group of workers and publish the proceedings in the form of a special issue of the Journal. Recently the Society organized a field workshop on kimberlites which proved highly successful bringing out several newer aspects of their exploration.

Platinum (along with related metals, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, osmium as well as gold), chromite, nickel, magnetite, vanadium and titanium are important metals associated with ultramafic complexes – Bushveld Complex in South Africa is a classic example.

Dr. Sisir K. Mondal, the guest editor of this special issue is a distinguished alumnus of the Jadavpur University and is presently a visiting scientist at NordCEE, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. When he visited the Society, he was requested by the Editor of the Journal whether he would undertake an assignment of bringing out a special issue on ore deposits related to ultramafic-mafic complexes. He kindly agreed to do so and has put in maximum effort in bringing together a number of review papers of interest to those engaged in the exploration of chromite, nickel and PG metals. It is expected that this special issue will inform the international group engaged in the study of this remarkable group of ore deposits. The compilation is enriched with an elegant foreword by Tony Naldrett, emphasizing the importance of such studies. An informative introduction is provided by Dr. Mondal.

Our grateful thanks are due specially to Dr. Mondal for the trouble he has taken in getting together and editing this fine collection of papers and to the contributors for their valuable papers enriching our knowledge of an important group of magmatic rocks and their associated economic metals.

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