

data products and project formulation, its management, funding and procurement of satellite data products.

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MOLTEN ROCK EXTRUSIONS AND HIGH TENSION ELECTRIC LINES

Reference is invited to the correspondence by the first author (VKK) on the rock melt extrusion in Purulia district in April 1998 published in your esteemed Journal, v.54, p.98. Recently another rock extrusion occurred on 26th June 1999 in Badkuhi-Gajandoh area near Central School about four km from tehsil headquarters, Parasia in Chhindwara district, killing a buffalo. The second author (KLM) visited the site of extrusion and found that the extrusion was mainly close to a pole of high tension electric line and some from a vent 30 to 40 cm away from the pole. The extrusion covered an area of about 5 m x 5 m and the thickness of the extrusion was 5 cm to 8 cm. The extrusion followed sparking from the pole site. Water vapour emission continued even 3 days after the incident.

The rock melt extrusion is black in colour and full of cavities. It shows pitch like shine and is entirely made up of glass. Under the microscope it is brown in colour and completely isotropic. The extrusion has been derived by the melting of Deccan Trap which overlies Barakar Sandstone. The melting appears to have taken place at very shallow depth.

Rock melt extrusion due to high tension electric lines (H.T.E.L.) have occurred in recent past in various parts of India. The heating of the ground surface and electric shocks felt by people in some parts of Bihar during the last few months may be due to the presence of H.T.E.L. Measures to prevent such events by putting insulating material/refractory bricks around so many electric poles across the country will need plenty of money. It is suggested that remedial measures be worked out to check such events as these can at times be dangerous.

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