

the various Governmental agencies involved to clear the hurdles and encourage diamond exploration activity which is currently on a diminishing path. Dr. Anjan Chaki (AMD), while presenting his paper on 'Uranium exploration in India' in one of the sessions, urged the need for augmenting uranium resources and utilization of thorium resources of the country to sustain the 8% growth rate. He assured that the 3-stage nuclear power programme of India would enable the utilization of uranium many fold and that the contribution of nuclear power is expected to grow to about 10% by 2020. Dr. S.S. Naik from the Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), Bhubaneswar made a presentation on the occurrence of platinum group of elements (PGE) in the Baula-Nuasahi ultramafic-mafic layered complex in Orissa and the exploration strategy being followed by OMC in exploiting these valuable metals.

An interactive panel discussion on "Global Considerations in Geology and Geochemistry towards Utilization of Earth Resources" with eminent personalities on stage was conducted at the end of the day long deliberations for the benefit of the participants with Dr. V.D. Rajagopal as moderator. Dr. Rajagopal expressed his happiness over inviting the Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and said that this will create a very positive impact on future mineral exploration and mining programmes. Dr. Kirwin said that India has an enormous potential in terms of minerals, especially diamonds. Shri Sawkar stressed on the need to protect the environment

during exploration and mining activities. He said that exploration activities are very weak in India and are being taken up on conceptual basis. He suggested that more investment should be made in exploration activities. Dr. Sreehari (AMD) stressed on the urgent need to search for deep seated concealed ore bodies (below 500 m) using geophysical methods of exploration. Dr. D.P. Rao, formerly of NRSA, told that though NRSA has provided digitized information on water resources to all the districts, these are not being properly utilized. He said that there was a looming mining hazard in Jharkhand, and suggested that geoscientists should venture into rural areas and make people understand the problems of uranium in groundwater. Dr. T.M. Babu felt that bureaucratic delays are hampering exploration activities in revenue, forest, agriculture and mining lands. Dr. M.L. Patil spoke on the strategies to be followed for sustainable mineral development and said that state-of-the-art techniques have to be adopted especially in deep drilling projects. He emphasized that R&D should be given importance. Dr. Anjan Chaki stressed the need for promoting scientific awareness among the general public particularly in allaying environmental concerns based on public perception.

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

The first National level conference organized at Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandal's College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Parbhani (Maharashtra) took place on 15th and 16th September 2006.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Anil Mohekar, the Regional officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad and presided by Adv. Ganeshraoji Dudhgaonkar, the President of Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandal, Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Dr. Prakash L. More, the Chief Organiser and Principal of Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandal's College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Parbhani explained the genesis of the conference and Dr. Shaikh Md. Babar, the Convener of the conference proposed the vote of thanks.

The inaugural function was followed by absorbing Scientific Programme that commenced at the main

Auditorium in the college Campus on the morning of 15th September and continued till 16th September 2006 evening.

Keynote Addresses

Prof. D.B. Yedekar, Vice-Chancellor, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded delivered the first keynote address on 'Disaster Management with reference to earthquake hazards in India'. He reminded the audience of the Killari earthquake of September 30th 1993, Gujarat earthquake Disaster of 2001 and Maharashtra floods of 2005 and 2006 and the steps taken by the government to stabilize the situations.

Dr. Baban Ingole, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography Goa in his keynote address on "Importance of Environmental impact assessment with special reference to Ecological Restoration of Chilika lake emphasized the

importance of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system, which ensures compliance of socio-economic development projects to environmental safety guidelines for sustainable economic development.

Dr. Mohan S. Kodarkar, Secretary, Indian Association of Aquatic Biologists, Hyderabad (AP) in his keynote address talked on "Environmental consideration and ecological consequences in relation to the inter-linking of rivers in India". According to him the Inter-Basin Transfers will be a tool for socio-economic development and poverty alleviation programs. But from environmental and ecological point of view, Dr. Kodarkar raised the question that "Ecological consequences are not given serious consideration in engineering solutions of water related issues. For example many proposed links run through protected, forest and tribal belts and will involve massive displacement and rehabilitation. The issue is very sensitive and going by past records of social conflicts, solutions appear to be very difficult".

Highlights of the Technical Sessions

The technical sessions includes the plenary and special lectures followed by paper presentations of delegates.

Technical Session I: Environmental Impact Assessment: This session was chaired by Dr. Baban Ingole and Co-chairman was Dr. M.S. Kodarkar. The lead lecture was delivered by Dr. R.D. Kaplay from School of Earth Sciences, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded on "Behaviour of Groundwater pollution at Tuppa, Nanded, Maharashtra - A Case Study".

Prof. B.N. Pande from Department of Environmental Science, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad delivered the second special lecture on 'Aeroallergens and Human Health'.

In her presentation Miss. Mousumi Chatterjee, a research scholar from Department of Marine Science, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, discussed 'the Distribution of heavy metals in Sediment cores in Sunderban mangrove wetland; Northeast part of Bay of Bengal'.

Technical Session - II: Environmental Protection: Dr. M.S. Kodarkar chaired the Session II on "Environmental Protection" and Co-Chairman was Dr. R.D. Kaplay. Prof. S.R. Dave, Head, Department of Microbiology, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad delivered the lead lecture on "Environmental Protection by Microbial Metal Remediation". He mentioned that 'the metal bioremediation technology can be effectively used for the environmental clean up of metallic pollutants, which provides sustainable

healthy environment'. Besides the lead lectures, there were paper presentations by delegates.

Technical Session - III : Disaster Management and Mitigation: This technical session on the day second (16-09-2006) in the morning on "Disaster Management and Mitigation" was chaired by Dr. P.S. Kulkarni, Head, Department of Geology, Maulana Azad College, Aurangabad (Maharashtra). Mrinal K. Ghose from Centre of Mining Environment, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad delivered the lead lecture on "Natural disasters in India: Mitigation and Management".

Dr. D.M. Maurya from Department of Geology, M.S. University, Baroda presented the second special lecture on 'Recent studies on Neotectonics of Kachchh with reference to earthquakes'. Dr. Maurya presented the data on detailed geomorphic and stratigraphic studies on Quaternary sediments occurring along these faults supplemented with state-of-art geophysical studies using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) are essential to precisely locate faults, determine their nature in the shallow subsurface for evaluating contemporary stress environment and reconstruct the chronology of neotectonic events. Besides the lead lecture, there were paper presentations by delegates.

Technical Session - IV: Applications of Remote Sensing and IT for Disaster Management and Environmental Pollution: Dr. M.K. Ghose chaired this Session and Dr. D.M. Maurya was the co-chairman. Dr. Baban Ingole, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa delivered the lead lecture on "A journey to the heart of tsunami" utilizing Remote Sensing Satellite Imageries highlighted the deep-sea ecosystem and behavioral changes on the marine organisms during tsunami.

Mr. J. Loveson Immanuel a research scholar from Centre for GeoTechnology, School of Technology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) in a special lecture presented 'the Application of Remote sensing and GIS in disaster management and mitigation'.

The concluding panel discussion included the topics of (1) Environmental Impact Assessment, (2) Pollution Hazards, (3) Natural Hazards and (4) Preparedness for Natural Disasters.

A valedictory function with Shri Manohar Bhagat, the District Collector of Parbhani as the chief guest concluded the conference.

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