

their recharge to the ground water system. The pumping well data is assigned on the basis of pumping rate in each block in monsoon and non-monsoon for domestic and agricultural sector. The observation wells in phreatic and confined aquifer were utilized for calibration of this model.

The developed model was calibrated. Several runs were taken to calibrate the model parameters, initially at steady state and then in the transient state. Then several alternative scenarios were developed for management of water resources.

PLANET EARTH – FOCAL THEME FOR THE 94th SESSION OF INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS

The 94th session of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) was inaugurated by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh on 3rd January, 2007 at Annamalai University, Chidambaram. The focal theme of the 94th Science Congress was “Planet Earth” to highlight the importance of Earth Sciences in the 21st century, specifically considering the important role that India has to play as an emerging Economic Power. The focus was for integrative investigations of the Planet Earth in order to improve the quality of life with least adverse impact on the environment to achieve our goal of developing and sustaining a knowledge society. More than 5000 delegates including two Nobel Laureates and about 75 foreign delegates attended the Science Congress.

The Prime Minister in his inaugural address spoke “of

science and public policy to unitedly address this great challenge. Sri Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Science and Technology, in his address congratulated the ISCA for taking the Science Congress for the first time to salubrious environment away from the hustle and bustles of cities in the midst of countryside and selecting the theme “Planet Earth” as a holistic, all encompassing system. Prof. Harsh Gupta, General President of the 94th Indian Science Congress, in his inaugural speech emphasized the need to strengthen our R&D expertise in the vital areas of Monsoon Forecast and Climate change, Energy independence, Natural hazard mitigation and Desalination of sea water for providing drinking water in coastal regions. He thanked the Honorable Prime Minister for creating a new Ministry of Earth Sciences and stressed the need to



Sri R.H. Sawkar receiving the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award on behalf of Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna

the many challenges our planet is facing, three I consider are vital to the survival of life on earth. These are the availability of water, food and energy”. He expressed that it is the collective responsibility of both science and social

develop outreach programs for wider awareness of Earth Sciences.

Honorable President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam addressed the delegates on 5th January, 2007 during the

Science Congress. In his speech the President emphasized upon "India has to give the highest priority for science in providing resources, evolving good science teachers and evolving world class research institutions in the country". The President gave away the Young Scientist awards. The President inaugurated the International Year of Planet Earth by releasing a balloon depicting the logos of the focal theme as well as IYPE. The Children's Science Congress, which attracted students from various parts of the country, was inaugurated by the President.

The scientific program of the Science Congress was designed into three major categories: Public lectures, 21 Theme sessions related to Focal theme and 14 parallel sectional activities encompassing all branches of science. Public lectures were delivered by two Nobel

Laureates and seven eminent scientists of international repute.

The Honorable Prime Minister gave away ISCA and General President Awards to distinguished scientists. Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna was conferred with the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award for his outstanding contributions to Earth Sciences. Sri R.H. Sawkar received this award on his behalf.

Further details of the 94th Science Congress are available at www.sciencecongress.org and www.annamalauniversity.ac.in/isca.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TECHNIQUES TO CONSTRAIN PETROGENESIS OF IGNEOUS ROCKS

As a part of University of Calcutta, post-Centenary Golden Jubilee celebration, the Department of Geology, University of Calcutta had organized a National workshop cum training programme on "Recent Developments in Techniques to Constrain Petrogenesis of Igneous Rocks" from 26th December 2006 to 8th January 2007. The objective of this workshop was to train and interact with young researchers/teachers who were interested to build up their career in igneous petrology.

Prof. Asis Kumar Banerjee, Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta, formally inaugurated the workshop on 26th December 2006. Prof. P.N. Ghosh, Department of Physics, University of Calcutta explained the objectives of the Post-Centenary Golden Jubilee celebration and highlighted the glorious role of the Department of Geology, University of Calcutta, in propagating the knowledge of geological sciences in our country since long. Prof. D.J. Chattopadhyay, Dean of Sciences, University of Calcutta, appreciated the Department of Geology for organizing this workshop. Prof. Mihir K. Bose, Padmashree A.B. Dasgupta, Prof. D. Mukhopadhyay and Prof. A.K. Ghosh graced the

inaugural function.

Various fundamental and recent aspects of several sub-disciplines of igneous petrology were adequately covered through theoretical class-lectures and laboratory sessions. Prof. Mihir K. Bose, Prof. Somanath Dasgupta, Dr. Abhinaba Roy, Dr. Balaram Chattopadhyay, Dr. B.K. Chakraborti, Dr. M.M. Mukherjee, Jyotiskankar Ray and Dr. Manoj Maitra delivered lectures on topics related to their relevant specialization. Certificates were handed over to each participant during the concluding session. It was resolved that similar workshop-cum-training program on igneous petrology will be organized by this Department with the help of national funding agencies in near future to fulfill the need of the young teachers/researchers engaged in igneous petrology.

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