1,500-1,400 °C and huge volumes of melt. It is also reckoned as the period of the greatest catastrophic event at the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary that caused the widespread extinction of fauna and flora.

Another feature of great interest is the eruptive link with the Reunion hotspot in the Indian Ocean. A large volume of lava appears to have been produced when the Indian plate passed over a stationary hotspot on its northward journey. The generation of the Maldives-Laccadives ridge is subsequent to Deccan volcanism when the Indian plate continued to move over the hotspot. In 1972, I first pointed out that the mantle source of the Indian Ocean Ridge basalts is distinct from the Atlantic and Pacific ridges, and also that the mantle beneath India underwent large ion lithophile element enrichment between the Archaean and Cretaceous melting events.

All these exciting results raise interesting questions of global interest. What really caused the volcanism and subsequent uplift resulting in elevated plateaus such as India's Western Ghats? What was the time taken for the development of the weathering profiles? And is it possible to trace the different climatic stages through which the Indian Peninsula has passed since it drifted from its Gondwanaland neighbours?

Announcements

SESSION ON ISOTOPE HYDROLOGY

A session on Isotope Hydrology under the convenorship of Dr. S.K. Gupta of PRL is being organised at the 2nd Annual Meeting of Asia Oceania Geosciences Society at Suntec, Singapore during 20-24 June, 2005. Interested scientists may obtain further details from: Dr. S.K. Gupta, Physical Research Laboratory, Box No.4218, Navrangpura P.O., Ahmedabad - 380 009, India. **Email:** skgupta@prl.ernet.in. Additional details about the meeting can also be obtained from: http://www.asiaoceania-conference.org/hs/shs3.htm

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON APPLIED GEOCHEMISTRY IN THE EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE GEO-RESOURCES

The Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG) is organising the above symposium at Hyderabad in the month of September, 2005. For further details, please contact: Prof. K. Surya Prakash Rao, Convener, Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG), P.B. No.706, Osmania University, 1-2-7/1, "ROJA", Kakatiyanagar, Habsiguda, Hyderabad - 500 007, India. **Phone:** 04-27176020 (O); 27170246 (R); **Fax:** 040-27176020; **Email:** ksprao@satyam.net.in

SERC SCHOOL ON CRUSTAL DEFORMATION AND TECTONIC GEOMORPHOLOGY

Applications are invited for the first SERC winter school on "Concepts in Quaternary Geology" as a part of the five year programme on "Crustal Deformation and Tectonic Geomorphology" sponsored by the Earth System Science Division of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The school is being organised at IIT Kanpur from 27 March to 16 April, 2005. Interested persons, particularly young researchers in this area, are encouraged to attend this school. Please contact for further details and application procedure: Prof. Rajiv Sinha, Engineering Geosciences Group, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Kanpur - 208 016. **Fax:** 0512-2597395. **Email:** rsinha@iitk.ac.in.