

6. For quarrying any raw material for industry is there any Government guideline not to go beyond a particular depth? Since hundreds of industrial raw materials are spread over large area in the two maps, continued exploitation may lead to environmental problems, groundwater depletion/pollution etc.
7. GSI has brought out these maps with valuable database support for all the industrial raw materials.
8. Comparable situation of similar rock types used as industrial raw materials, in India are seen around, Rajkot, Veeraval, Porbandar, Mangrol, Diu areas in the west coast where miliolite limestones (early to late

Pleistocene) are extensively exposed. These are used for chemical and cement industry.

9. Other geological surveys also should attempt in making such maps invariably accompanied by succinct explanatory notes/write-ups, which will be of immense societal value.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ROLE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN GEOSCIENCES, 19-20 FEBRUARY, 2002, BHUBANESWAR

Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been organizing symposia and seminars on various earth science related topics at different centers of the country to commemorate its 150 years of service to the nation. The National Seminar on the "Role of Information Technology in Geosciences" was organized by Operations Orissa, Eastern Region at Bhubaneswar on 19th and 20th February, 2002. This was preceded by a two day in-house workshop on Geoinformatics to assess the activities carried out by GSI in this regard.

The seminar was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor of Orissa, Shri M.M. Rajendran. The abstracts volume of the seminar and the souvenir were released on this occasion. Shri Rajendran in his inaugural speech lauded the role played by GSI in exploration of various minerals which in turn contributed to the economic development of the country. He hoped that information technology could help GSI in dissemination of geoscientific information for upliftment of society including the rural segment through the huge earth science database and trained personnel.

Shri S.C. Tripathy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal and Mines, who was the guest of honour, reiterated the role of GSI in providing vital inputs for industrial growth and urged the integration of geological, geophysical, geochemical and remote sensing data in a GIS format for exploration and management of natural resources, disaster mitigation and sustainable development. For the first time in the country the role and application of information technology in geoscientific studies were addressed by the experts in the field of IT and earth sciences in the seminar. The topic of the seminar generated overwhelming response among the earth scientists throughout the

country. More than 80 papers were received, out of which 53 were accepted for oral and poster presentation.

The seminar was divided into four technical sessions, based on the following themes:

- (i) General aspects of information technology in geoscientific studies.
- (ii) Utilization of IT in geological, geophysical and geochemical database.
- (iii) Exploration and management of natural resources.
- (iv) Disaster management.

In the keynote address delivered by Shri K. Krishnanunni, Director General (Retd.), GSI, emphasis was laid upon the induction of new technology related to IT in a progress oriented organization like GSI. Shri E.V.R. Parthasaradhi, Director, GSI in his presentation deliberated upon National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the role GSI can play in this project. The technical sessions were followed by a panel discussion comprising Chairman and Co-Chairman of different sessions and moderated by Shri Debashish Chatterji, Sr. Dy. D.G., GSI. Proceeding of each session was summed up by respective Chairman of each technical session. The moderator invited feedback and suggestions from distinguished guests and participants. The outcome of the deliberation in the seminar was summed up by the moderator as follows:

- (i) Major thrust to be given on imparting training to geoscientists of the country on recent developments in information technology, so that the earth science related information could be better managed and utilized for integrated societal development.

- (ii) The GSI, as a premier earth science organization of the country to take the lead in the digitization of the existing database on a time bound basis.
- (iii) All geoscientific organization to be geared up for IT adaptation for their data management on a uniform pattern in view of NSDI.
- (iv) A comprehensive policy for IT in GSI and ultimately switching over to e-governance through internet and e-business/commerce.

In the valedictory function Dr. R.N. Bohidar, Principal Secretary, Steel and Mines, Government of Orissa was the Chief Guest and Dr. R.N. Mishra, Dy. D.G. (Retd.), GSI

was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Bohidar complimented GSI for holding the seminar at Bhubaneswar and appreciated the role played by it in enhancing the status of Orissa in the mineral map of India. Shri D. Chatterji chaired this session. More than two hundred delegates from various organizations and universities of the country attended the seminar and showed keen interest in the deliberations.

From the technical content and the organizational point of view this seminar was considered one of the best conducted by the GSI in recent times.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ALKALINE-CARBONATITE MAGMATISM

The Department of Geology, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh organised a National Seminar on "Alkaline-Carbonatite Magmatic Activities – their Geological-Tectonic Settings and Associated Mineralization – the Indian Panorama" under the joint sponsorship of the UGC and the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Science and Technology (APCOST) during 30-31 March, 2002. The Seminar was inaugurated by Prof. ChandraKant Kokate, Vice-Chancellor, Kakatiya University. In his presidential address, the seminar director Prof. V. Madhavan of Kakatiya University, made an appeal to the Government of India to establish a Ministry of Natural Resources and Disaster Management on the lines of Human Resource Development Ministry. Prof. Madhavan emphasized the need for such a Ministry in view of the globalization of economy and the increasing frequency of natural disasters like earthquakes, floods etc.

Recent developments and progress of research on the Indian kimberlite, lamproite, carbonatite and other alkaline rock associations were deliberated with an emphasis on the future course of action. In his keynote address on Indian carbonatites, P. Krishnamurthy of the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Jamshedpur, traced the new approaches to carbonatite research during the last decade, especially with regard to stable (C and O) and radiogenic (Rb-Sr, Sm-Nd and Pb-Pb) isotopes. Mantle conditions and processes responsible for the generation of carbonatite magmas were also discussed in detail. Prof. S.G. Viladkar of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai discussed fenitization around carbonatites in general and Amba Dongar carbonatite in particular. He emphasized that nephelinitization, as commonly observed around ijolite complexes, is

"particularly absent around carbonatites". Saurabh Kumar Varma of National Geophysical Research Institute presented a paper on regional underplating and associated KCR volcanism in Central India. K. Gopalakrishnan, V. Subramaniam and R. Upendran presented the "tectonic domain" based classification of the alkaline-carbonatite complexes of the Southern Granulite Terrain (SGT) and discussed the same in detail. These workers together with Prof. Viladkar also presented another paper on fenitization associated with Tirupattur alkali syenite-carbonatite province in northern Tamil Nadu. Sri K.R.P. Rao, S.S. Nayak and Ravi of the Geological Survey of India presented their findings on the kimberlites and lamproites of southern India. Various aspects of alkaline rocks from Andhra Pradesh were presented and discussed by J. Ratnakar and M. Srinivas of Osmania University and David, Mallikarjun Reddy and Srinivas Reddy of the Kakatiya University.

In his concluding remarks, the seminar director Prof. Madhavan explained the tectono-magmatic framework of various alkaline provinces of India. In addition to Cuddapah intrusive province in the eastern Dharwar craton, five more alkaline provinces are now proposed: (1) The southern India Peninsular alkaline province, (2) The Deccan alkaline province, (3) The Vindhyan alkaline province (4) The Bastar alkaline province and (5) the Shillong alkaline province. Although the concept of alkaline province has recently been adopted in India, Prof. Madhavan reminded that it was in vogue in many parts of the world since more than a century.

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