

large part of the region is occupied by rocks of this age. However, looking at the renewed importance of neotectonic and palaeoseismic aspects in the light of 26 January, 2001 earthquake, these topics were also included.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. S.K. Tandon (former Chairman, PAC, DST-University of Delhi). Shri H.N. Chibber, Collector of Kachchh presided over the inaugural session. Prof. Tandon in his inaugural address stressed on the urgent need of the involvement of young geoscientists for taking up challenging research in the region, and hoped that they will contribute effectively to the developmental activities of the region, and ensure that the planners are made available with geoscientific data that will permit sustainable development and economic prosperity. Dr. K.R. Gupta, Adviser, ESS, DST, New Delhi in his address enlightened the participants with the activities of DST, and highlighted the thrust areas identified for challenging research in earth sciences. He hoped that the participants will be benefited from the course and will take up research on crucial aspects of the geology of Kachchh. The other faculty included eminent palaeontologist Prof. Jai Krishna of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. Bijai Prasad, Chief Palynologist, KDMIPE, ONGC Ltd., Dehra Dun and Prof. R.V. Karanth of Maharaja Sayajirao Univeristy of Baroda, Vadodara. All the lectures were delivered on the first day, which was followed by vigorous field work for the remaining days.

Dr. Biswas in his lecture briefed the participants on

various aspects of the geology of Kachchh such as lithostratigraphy, depositional environments, structure, tectonics and tectonosedimentary evolution. Prof. Jai Krishna enlightened the participants on the high resolution biostratigraphic and chronostratigraphic aspects of Mesozoic playnology of Kachchh. Dr. Bijai Prasad presented high resolution data on Cretaceous palaeoenvironments. Prof. R.V. Karanth covered the palaeoseismic aspects of Kachchh. The lecture notes submitted by the resource persons were compiled in the form of a well-documented volume. The volume encompasses ten chapters on different aspects of the geology of Kachchh spread over 196 pages with an exhaustive list of references. The volume may serve as a guide for young researchers who wish to undertake advanced research in the area. The field training was the most important part of the programme and the participants were actually shown all the type sections and almost every part of the Kachchh basin was covered. One full day was devoted towards independent traverse mapping. The feedback from participants reflected an urgent need for conducting many such field-oriented courses on varying aspects of geology including specialized topics.

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TRAINING COURSE ON TOPOSHEETS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

A four day course on "Geologic and Geomorphic Interpretation based on Toposheets and Aerial Photographs", was held at Mahabaleswar, *Sahyadri* between 7-10 April, 2002 under the auspices of the Geological Society of India. Fourteen participants from academic institutions and government departments attended the course. The participants were professionals, teachers and research scholars in the field of geology, geography and engineering from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The course was inaugurated by Sri A. B. Pawar, Secretary (Works), Govt. of Maharashtra, who dwelt on the importance of old and modern tools to understand the nature of landforms and their development. He also emphasized the importance of sound knowledge about the terrain for engineers to accomplish major public works projects.

Dr. J.C. Mohanty, Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh State Finance Corporation, highlighted the practical applications of Toposheets in rural sector by way of locating tanks, roads and other features of relevance in development planning.

The main emphasis of the course was to recognize different geomorphic features, such as glacial, fluvial, aeolian and coastal using Survey of India topographical maps representing different regions of the country. A similar exercise was also carried out for some American topographical maps. Aerial stereopairs of parts of some of the toposheets were also studied for recognition of landforms and geological structures. The participants were exposed to the utility of satellite imagery in the study of regional geomorphology *vis-a-vis* toposheets. The large amount of information that can be generated from the study



Course participants and faculty in a happy mood at Mahabaleswar.

of toposheets was convincingly demonstrated to the participants.

Several dozen topographical maps, aerial photos and satellite imageries were made available by Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, University of Pune, Andhra University, NRSA and Government of Andhra Pradesh for this course. There were special lectures on the following topics: (1) Introduction to recognition of landforms on toposheets and some aspects of Applied Geomorphology by Prof. R. Vaidyanadhan. (2) Deccan Traps by Prof. K.V. Subbarao. (3) Geomorphology of Deccan Province with special reference to Mahabaleswar plateau by Prof. Vishwas S. Kale and (4) Tips for Geological field work by Dr. M.S. Bodas.

Professor R. Vaidyanadhan, the Course Coordinator, simplified many of the complex concepts and ideas by giving analogies. During the four-day course, he shared his vast field experience and deep knowledge in the subject with the participants, in a most lucid manner. His perennial enthusiasm and deep interest proved to be a great source of inspiration for all.

The participants were briefed about the procedures to procure the topomaps, aerial photos and necessary

equipment. This was done to help teachers to strengthen their laboratory facilities.

The course organisers, Prof. K.V. Subbarao and Prof. Vishwas S. Kale conducted half-a-day field trip to parts of Mahabaleswar, which indeed provided an insight into the evolution of magnificent morphological features. This also gave an excellent opportunity to all the participants to verify some of the observations made through toposheets and imageries.

The participants while appreciative of the opportunity they had, to learn about the potential of the toposheets and aerial photographs in geomorphic studies, suggested that this crash course may be extended by at least one day for geomorphic mapping in the field in similar courses in the future. The valedictory function was held at Pratapgarh, a famous Maratha Fort, located about 20 km from Mahabaleswar. Prof. R. Vaidyanadhan gave away the certificates to all the participants on behalf of the Geological Society of India.

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