

BOOK REVIEW

PRECAMBRIAN GEOLOGY AND MINERAL WEALTH OF CENTRAL INDIA.

Edited by V.K. Khanna. Hindustan Publishing Corporation (India), New Delhi, 4805/24, Bharat Ram Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi - 110 002, 2004, 213p.; Price: Rs.500/-.

South Asian Association of Economic Geologists (SAAEG), India Chapter, took the initiative and published the proceedings of the Seminar on 'Precambrian Geology and Mineral Wealth of Central India', held in January, 1999 under the aegis of the Department of Geology, Government Autonomous Science College, Jabalpur. The volume is dedicated to the memory of (Late) Prof. G. Subba Rao, Founder-Head of the Geology Department.

The volume contains 20 scientific papers covering a wide range of themes on the Precambrians of Central India, which extend over an area of 0.75 million sq. km in parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Highlights of these papers are as follows:

- Compilation of the metallogenic time frame (R.N. Mishra).
- Identification of strain markers in the Chhotanagpur Granite Gneiss near Son-Narmada south fault (Vaibhava Srivastava and V.K. Gairola)
- Recognition of strata-bound uranium mineralisation in Khairagarh Basin, Bhandara dist., Maharashtra (Rahul Banerjee et al.)
- Collation and synthesis of palaeontological data from the Vindhyan Supergroup (P.K. Kathal et al.)
- Advocating a broad shallow sea environment for the Chandi Formation, Chhattisgarh Supergroup (Rajeev Guhey)
- Locating diamondiferous kimberlites in the southern part of Raipur district using remote sensing techniques (J.L. Pandey et al.)
- Detailed petrography and petrochemistry of Kodamali kimberlite dyke in Raipur district indicating possibilities of diamond occurrences (Jayant Kumar Pashine and R. Shrikant Rao)
- Establishing suitability of Bastar granitoids as construction material based on their mineralogy, chemistry and mechanical properties (Rahul Verma et al.)
- Conceptual prognosis of the potential of gold mineralisation in Kotri Belt of Bastar Craton (S.K. Sarcar)
- Detailed geochemistry of Jabalpur Granites (V.K. Khanna and V. Gadgil)
- Geochemistry of the basic-ultrabasic rocks from Dongargarh Supergroup (R.A. Duraiswami et al.)
- Mineralogy of quartz sulphide reef of Malankhand copper deposit, Balaghat district, M.P. (B.K. Singh and S.K. Mohapatra)
- Locating target areas for kimberlite-lamproite search in Bastar Craton based on geotectonic set-up (K. Sashidharan et al.)
- Geochemistry of the metabasalts and metapelites of Mahakoshal Group, Sleemanabad district, Jabalpur, M.P. (M.W.Y. Khan)
- A general review of exploration for and exploitation of minerals in Central India (K.G. Bhoskar)
- Metamorphism of the pre-Vindhyan rocks of Narmada Valley in Jabalpur district, M.P. (A.P. Agrawal and P.S. Agarkar)
- An account of gold mineralisation in the Proterozoic Sakoli Group in Nagpur-Bhandara district of Maharashtra (S.N. Upadhye)
- Correlation of the Semri Group in the northern and southern margins of Son Valley against the backdrop of gas shows (V.S.B. Sanna et al.)
- Hydrocarbon exploration strategy in the Proterozoic and younger sedimentary basins of Central India (D.K. Trehan)
- Deep structure and metallogeny of the Pechenga Ore District: Kola Superdeep Borehole, Russia (Vadim Kazansky). Although outside the scope of the Precambrians of Central India, the paper provides valuable data on the structure and composition of ancient continental crust at previously inaccessible levels.

Overall, the volume contains a wealth of valuable information on the Precambrians of Central India. Special mention must be made of the papers dealing with hydrocarbon potential and uranium mineralisation, as they open new target areas for tapping fuel and nuclear mineral wealth.

The editor deserves to be complimented for bringing out this volume, which would prove useful to both students and scientists. The publishers have done a good job in

producing a handy book, although the price is a little on the higher side.

Despite the best efforts of the authors, editor and publisher, some errors are bound to creep in. For example, on page 6, the title of fourth reference appeared as 'Epirical metallogeny' instead of 'Empirical metallogeny'. Not giving details of the cover page photo is an omission that goes against the convention. A little more attention to

detail would have taken care of these minor mistakes and omissions.

*Plot-22, Flat #202, Naimisam
Srinagar Colony P.O.
Hyderabad - 500 073*

P.K.RAMAM

Email: seenukoneru@yahoo.co.in

K.S.RAO

AN INTRODUCTION TO MINERAL ECONOMICS by K.K. Chatterjee. Published by New Age International (P) Limited, 2nd Edition, 2004, 379p., Price: Rs.275.

This book was first published in 1993. After its publication there was a sea-change in Indian economy with liberalization, foreign investment in mineral exploration sector, Indian metallurgical sector investing outside India to obtain metallic ore concentrates and so on.

The book has 26 chapters covering a wide range of subjects — meaning of mineral deposits, prehistoric and historic review, mineral legislation, exploration and estimation of mineral reserves, classification of mineral reserves (international and Indian), processing, co-products and by-products, mineral inventory, taxation system, internal and external trade, mineral prices, monopoly and stockpile, consumption and substitution, demand and market survey, small mines and small deposits, conservation, environment, common heritage, mineral information system, national mineral policy and sustainable development. There are 24 figures and 48 tables.

Almost all chapters are well presented and are based on in-depth study of relevant literature. The chapters on mineral inventory, mineral reserves classification and small scale mining are quite interesting.

The author was employed in the Mineral Economics division of Indian Bureau of Mines for more than three

decades and retired as Chief Mineral Economist. Since he was involved day-to-day in the preparation of Indian Minerals yearbook, various market surveys and other publications of the IBM, he is very familiar with all the aspects of Indian mineral economics and has first hand knowledge.

I have no doubt that this book, which has served the student community and professionals with its first edition, will continue to do so with this revised 2nd edition. This book is a must for all libraries of earth science organizations, students and professionals. I congratulate Dr. Chatterjee for his fine effort.

While appreciating this good work I must add that it is appropriate that a book on Mineral Economics in India should provide a brief survey of Indian minerals and down-stream industries against the backdrop of the world situation and secondly, a bird's-eye view of the global scene of mining industry and trade. I hope these aspects will be covered in the next edition.

*114, 5th 'C' Cross, III Main
Girinagar
Bangalore - 560 085*

B.K. DHURVA RAO