

EDITORIAL

The Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG) has been successfully conducting Annual General Body Meetings (AGM's) and National Seminars all over India since 2005 with the maiden event at National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa with the intention of spreading awareness about the importance of geochemistry and applied geochemistry and its application in mineral exploration, health, environment, lithosphere evolution, instrumentation etc. All the AGM's-cum-National Seminars have been sponsored by the local earth science institutions. Encouragement and active participation of research institutes and Universities in the AGM's have been important and crucial factors for the success of, and renewed motivation to conduct, the events for over a decade.

The ISAG's AGM-cum-National Seminar-2017 on "Multidisciplinary Research in Geo- Environmental Studies for Sustainable Development" (MRGESSD-2017) sponsored by the School of Earth Sciences (SES), Solapur University, Solapur, Maharashtra was a great success. The event was co-sponsored by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC, Solapur), Department of Science and Technology (DST, New Delhi), AIMIL Corporation (Mumbai), Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD, Hyderabad), Balaji Amines (Solapur) and Alumni of the School of Earth Sciences, Solapur University.

The MRGESSD-2017 has attracted 186 'Abstracts' and 100 delegates presented their research findings. The two day deliberations were star-studded with the presence of Dr. L. K. Nanda, Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad as the Chief Guest, Dr. M. B. Verma and Prof. N. N. Maldar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Solapur University, Solapur.

In all 136 research papers were presented in eight Technical Sessions. The delegates represented various research institutes, corporate organizations, NGO's, universities and government organizations. All the Technical Sessions were punctuated by Keynote Addresses by eminent scientists and academicians on topics relevant to the theme of the Seminar.

Dr. L. K. Nanda, Director, AMD, Hyderabad has delivered an inspiring keynote address on Uranium exploration for nuclear power programme of India. Prof. D. B. Panaskar, SRTM University, Nanded has explained the principles of Application of remote sensing and GIS Techniques for groundwater management. Dr. G. Ravishankar, National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad has narrated the usefulness of Geospatial technology for regional planning and governance. Dr. V. Balaram, NGRI, Hyderabad has narrated the inter-relationship between migration, transformation and bio-availability of anthropogenic PGE -A new threat to human health and environment. Prof. J. Ratnakar, Emeritus Professor, Osmania University, Hyderabad has inspired with a talk on Characterization of Precambrian alkaline rocks from Southern India. Prof. B. C. Prabhakar, Bangalore University has explained the nature and origin of Archaean banded iron formations of Kunigal schist belt, Dharwar craton. Dr. V. Keshav Rao, ONGC, Dehradun has focused on Geochemical surveys in oil and gas prospect evaluation. All these plenary speakers have received accolades from the delegates attending the MRGESSD 2017. Additionally, Prof. P. D. Raut, Shivaji University has presented important aspects on Besphenol A: Geotoxicity and Biodegradation and Prof. P.T. Hanamgond has provided inputs related to Coastal research methods, materials and field work components.

The Indian Society of Applied Geochemists (ISAG), Hyderabad has taken up the task of bringing out the Proceedings Volume of MRGESSD 2017. It is with proud privilege that we wish to state that research papers incorporated in the proceedings volume were rigorously reviewed by experts as well as the Editorial Board of the Indian Society of Applied Geochemists, Hyderabad. It is with keen interest that the Society has made this commitment and we hope researchers will find this Special Issue of Journal of Applied Geochemistry interesting and long lasting in areas of emerging geosciences.

The efforts taken by the Editor in bringing out this Volume amply testify the ever intensifying pledge of ISAG in strengthening the relevance of geochemistry and applied geochemistry in understanding and solving the problems related to the earth system science.

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