fragments with Eurasia to form the great Himalayan mountain chain. These studies adopted a wide range of different approaches, from petrology, geochemistry and geochronology, to sedimentology and structural geology, heat flow, seismic studies and potential field geophysics. Recurrent conference themes included whether modern tectonic processes can be applied to Archaean cratons, the difficulty of identifying oceanic sutures in Proterozoic orogens, the lessons that Phanerozoic geology can have for the interpretation of Precambrian rocks, the value of geophysical datasets in adding a third dimension to geologic observations, and need for geologists and geophysicists to communicate and identify geological questions that might be addressed through targeted geophysical investigations.

The General Assembly of the International Association of Gondwana Research, hosted by Prof. M. Santosh, Secretary General of the IAGR, was held on the evening of 27 August and combined with the symposium banquet dinner. The IAGR is a non-profit organisation that promotes, conducts, and co-ordinates global research on Supercontinents, with particular emphasis on Gondwana, and the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the award for best 2010 paper in Gondwana Research, the Association’s international journal published by Elsevier. The award of a gold-plated medal and citation from IAGR was made to Prof. Yukio Isozaki and co-authors for their paper on “New insight into a subduction related orogen: a reappraisal of the geotectonic framework an evolution of the Japanese Islands”. Prof. Isozaki also gave a keynote presentation on this topic during the technical sessions.

Immediately following the symposium, about 30 delegates joined a two-day field excursion to the Eastern Dharwar Craton. The trip comprised a 150 km transect across the craton from Hyderabad to Nagarjunasagar, visiting representative outcrops of the Archaean granite-greenstone basement and its Mesoproterozoic sedimentary cover sequence in the Cuddapah Basin. In addition to the geological stops this trip also provided an opportunity to visit Asia’s largest masonry dam at Nagarjunasagar, and a number of archeological sites that make this one of India’s richest regions for ancient Buddhist culture.

Perhaps the most significant feature of this symposium is the way that it brought together geoscientists with a variety of different skills and interests. Such a multidisciplinary approach is rare in these times of increased specialisation, and the local organising committee, led by chief convenor J. Bhaskar Rao, Acting Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute, and his co-conveners Dr A.P. Singh and Dr E.V.S.S.K Babu, is to be congratulated on assembling such an interesting and varied scientific program. The meeting concluded with the best student poster award to D.P. Mohanty, who is undertaking doctoral studies at the NGRI under the guidance of Dr T.R.K. Chetty. This award illustrates the role that the IAGR plays in supporting and encouraging the next generation of geoscientists, and the quality of local students presenting at this meeting suggests that next fifty years of the NGRI will be as productive as the first.

This year, the 21st Annual V. M. Goldschmidt Conference was held at Prague, Czech Republic from 14th to 19th August. The Goldschmidt Conference is the premier international conference on geochemistry (http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/). This conference was organized and sponsored by The European Association of Geochemistry and The Geochemical Society (USA). This year the main theme of the conference was ‘Earth, Life and Fire’ under which there were 23 sub-themes in the conference. The different subjects that were covered under these themes include Cosmochemistry-Planet Formation, Primitive Earth: From Core to Atmosphere, Evolution and Dynamics of the Deep Earth, Mantle to Crust: Ocean Ridge and Intraplate Volcanism, Continental Crust Formation and Evolution, Recycling: Subduction, The Mantle Wedge and Arc Volcanism, Earth Resources: Energy, Earth’s Resources: Ores etc. There were 175 numbers of Sessions under the various themes in the conference. A total of 3800 abstracts were submitted in the conference by participants of more than hundred countries across the globe. There was an additional special plenary session focusing on the Fukushima accident (Japan) and its geochemical consequences. The plenary presentations in the conference were given by Samuel Mukasa (‘Volatiles in the Mantle: Impact on Intraplate Magmatism’), Marc Hirchmann (‘Deep Earth Volatile Cycles: From Ancient to Modern’), Edouard Bard (‘Geochemical Profiles to Study the Last Deglaciation and its impact on Rivers’), Frank Selsis (‘Exoplanet Atmospheres: From Hot to Habitable Worlds’) and Victoria Orphan (‘Microbial Partnerships and Methene-Oxidation in the Deep Sea’).

There were many new results presented in the conference, which were based on high impact research. Among these the Session 11b (‘Ore Deposits and the Role of the Lithospheric Mantle’), convened and chaired by me and other three (Prof. Wolfgang Maier, University of Oulu, Finland, Dr. Thomas Obertthur, BGR, Germany, and Dr. Marco Fierentini, University of Western Australia), highlighted the role of the lithospheric mantle in ore deposits. This particular scientific aspect is very much relevant with respect to fundamental issues in the Earth sciences as well as for the exploration group. There were at least 68 submissions in this session. This particular session became a very high-power session and promoted couple of most significant keynote and invited speakers such as Prof. Bill Griffin (GEMOC, Australia), Dr. Steve Barnes
The role of the lithospheric mantle in magma generation has been particularly controversial since the 1970s when evidence for strong and regionally homogenous crustal components was first found in certain flood-type basalt provinces (e.g. Karoo). Our session covered the current state of knowledge and understanding of the composition of the SCLM, processes of magma generation, and evidence for metal derivation in a range of magmatic and hydrothermal mineral deposits from the SCLM. There was a strong debate during this session between Prof. Bill Griffin and Prof. Nick Arndt on the aspect of metal source from the lithospheric mantle versus deeper mantle whereas, Prof. Edward M. Ripley emphasized on the role of timing of the sulfide saturation in the formation of magmatic Ni-sulfide deposits. There will be a special issue of the LITHOS based on this session 11b, which will be edited by me, Prof. Wolf Gang Maier and Prof. Bill Griffin.

There was an interesting research presented by Maya et al. (2011) of Pondicherry University, India in the Session 02b (‘Geology, Age and Origin of the Oldest Terrestrial Rocks and Minerals’). Maya et al. dated the komatiitic rocks of the Sargur Group from the Western Dharwar Craton that gives an age of 3.1Ga and indicate a depleted mantle source. This research is important because earlier workers dated this suite of komatiitic rocks, and the age is 3.4Ga. J. M. Maya presented this paper as one of the research scholar participants from India. There were few other participants from India who presented their significant research results in the conference such as Prof. N. V. Chalapathi Rao (Banaras Hindu University) and Prof. R. Bhutani (Pondicherry University). In addition, there were significant representations in the conference from the Physical Research Laboratory and National Geophysical Research Institute.

In the Session 04a (Chemical Geodynamics: 25 Years of Mantle Components) Dr. S. Hart (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, USA) presented the keynote on ‘The Mantle Zoo: New Species, Endangered Species, Extinct Species’ that described the several geochemical reservoirs of the mantle. This particular subject has the most significant role in understanding the Earth’s chemical differentiation process through time. There were many parallel sessions in the conference, which were based on the development in research on atmospheric science, climate change, weathering and surface processes, oceans atmosphere, biogeochemistry, and evolution of early Earth’s environment. In addition, the conference also emphasized on the aspects of frontiers in analytical techniques, computational geochemistry, mineralogy and mineral physics, and hydrogeochemistry and global water sustainability.

In addition to convening and chairing the session, I have presented a paper in the same session (Session 11b); the title of this paper was ‘Sulfide Mineralogy of West Greenland Kimberlitic Mantle Xenoliths’ coauthored by Dr. Stefan Bernstein and Prof. Minik Rosing of University of Copenhagen. Sulfides are common in mantle rocks and control the PGE budget along with PGE behavior during melting and thus can be used to trace the Earth’s differentiation processes. Our study on the kimberlitic xenoliths from west Greenland shows the presence of two types of sulfide populations: one variety is included in the primary silicate minerals and the other variety is interstitial to the silicate minerals. Our study suggests that the sulfide was initially monosulfide solid solution (mss) that re-equilibrated at low temperature. We have suggested that the effect of mantle melting as well as melt-rock interactions may be responsible for the initial sulfide mineral assemblage.

There were many short-courses and workshops organized before and during the conference. I had the opportunity to participate in one of the workshops (‘PGM from experimental to natural’) organized by Drs. Anna Vymazalova and Frederica Zaccarini and sponsored by the SGA and IMA-COM in the Czech Geological Survey. The notable speakers in this workshop were Dr. Steve Barnes of CSIRO, Australia (X-ray computed tomography of platinum group minerals in 2D and 3D) and Dr. Anna Vymazalova, Czech Geological Survey (Synthesis of platinum group minerals). Through this workshop the participants had received a first hand overview on the synthetic platinum group mineral studies in the laboratory.

Report on the National Field based Workshop FBW-2011 – N.K. Chauhan (Department of Geology, M. L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur-313 002; Email: nkcgeol54@yahoo.com)

The Geology Department of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan organised a National Field Based Workshop on, “Litho-tectonic controls of Mineralization”, FBW-2011 during September 17-19, 2011 as a sequel of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the University. Faculty members of the Department of Geology, MLS University, Udaipur, officers from the Directorate of Mines and Geology, participants from various universities and government organizations, research scholars and P.G. students of geology department actively participated. In all about 45 geoscientists from different parts of India participated.

The workshop was inaugurated in the morning of 17th September, 2011. Prof. N.K. Chauhan Convener, FBW-2011, welcomed the gathering and Dr. A.K. Vaish, Additional Director, Directorate of Mines and Geology, Govt. of Rajasthan was the chief guest. Dr. Vaish pointed out the importance of field and structural studies for prospecting and exploration of mineral deposit. Prof. A.B. Roy, Presidency University, Kolkata was the Guest of