The above national seminar was organized under the joint auspices of the Geological Society of India, Bangalore, the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) and the Academy for Science, Technology and Communication (ASTC) on 20th October 2006 at the BM Birla Science Centre, Hyderabad, with the objective of highlighting the advancing frontiers in geochemistry and the prudent utilization of earth resources with special reference to gold, diamond, bauxite and uranium deposits.

Inaugurating the one-day seminar, Shri J. Harinarayana, Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, highlighted the need to educate the general public on the societal benefits of mineral exploration and mining and judged mining. He stressed the need for the geoscientist to become a good communicator so as to dispel the misconceptions pertaining to mining and its impact on the environment among the people. He said that the government is taking adequate care of the environmental issues before awarding mining licenses to different companies.

Earlier, Dr. V. Balaram of NGRI, welcomed the distinguished gathering and gave a brief account on how this seminar was conceived and its relevance under the present day scenario. He thanked various R&D Earth Science and Mining Organisations for their whole-hearted support in organizing this important event.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ADVANCING FRONTIERS IN GEOCHEMISTRY THROUGH UTILIZATION OF EARTH RESOURCES

Dr. B.G. Sidharth, Director, BM Birla Science Centre, presided over the function and stressed on the need to properly inform the public on the societal benefits of mineral exploration and mining to meet the ever increasing energy and other demands of the country and dispel the misconception and fears of the people. A souvenir containing the programme schedule and full papers of the invited speakers was released on this occasion by Dr. V.P. Dimri, Director, NGRI, Hyderabad.

Shri R. Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, Uranium Corporation of India Ltd., Dr. Anjan Chaki, Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research and Shri V.D. Rajagopal, Director, Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. Dr. Gupta spoke at length on the Tummalapalle Uranium Prospect in Cuddapah District, and the Lambapur Uranium prospect in Nalgonda District both in Andhra Pradesh, the various extraction techniques, their flow sheets and the mining methods to be employed. He also opined that alkali leaching is better than acid leaching. Dr. Anjan Chaki stressed the urgent need for discovering new Uranium deposits, using integrated geological, geochemical and geophysical tools to meet the increasing energy demands of the country, and highlighted the importance of mining strategic minerals.
and the relevance of nuclear energy under the present day geopolitical situation. Dr. V.D. Rajagopal, Director, Mines and Geology, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, while highlighting the premier position held by Andhra Pradesh in mineral wealth in the country, lamented on the hurdles put up by Environmental Groups and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the way of mineral exploration and mining in the State. He stressed on the need for the academia, R & D institutions and the mining companies to come together to dispel the misconceptions and fears raised by the NGOs and the local people. Shri M.N.V. Viswanath, Vice-President, Academy for Science, Technology and Communication (ASTC), proposed a vote of thanks.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Douglas J. Kirwin, Executive Vice-President (Exploration), Ivanhoe Mines, Mongolia, on "The Giant Oyu Tolgoi Porphyry Copper-Gold Deposit Discovery, History and Exploration implications, South Gobi" in which he shared his experiences/efforts and traced the history of the discovery of this world class Porphyry Copper-Gold deposit and explained the different stages of field geological exploration implemented in this project.

Sri R.H. Sawkar, Hon. Secretary, Geological Society of India and Technical Director, MSPL, spoke on the gold occurrence at Gadag (Karnataka) and diamonds in Krishna, Guntur, Nalgonda areas of Andhra Pradesh. He said that M/s. Ramgad Minerals and Mining Pvt. Ltd., Hospet, Karnataka, is carrying out investigations for gold in one RP (Reconnaissance Permit), 12 PLs (Prospecting Lease) and one ML (Mining Lease) areas in Gadag Schist Belt, where the gold reserves are assessed to be about 5.2 tonnes with an average recovery of 3.08 g/t. Exploration of diamonds, semiprecious stones and allied minerals are set to be taken up by M/s. RMMPL over an area of 4548 sq. km across Krishna, Guntur and Nalgonda districts in Andhra Pradesh. Dr. M.L. Patil from the Hutti Gold Mines Company Limited (HGML) in Karnataka, presented the profile and activities of HGML stating that it is the only producing mining company of primary gold at present in India. The Hutti deposit extends over a strike length of about 2.4 km with a width of about 2 km covering nine parallel loads with proved/probable ore reserve of 8.08 million tonnes at 6.19 g/t up to a mine depth of 781 m. He reported that HGML’s annual gold production was 2.85 tonnes of gold with a turnover of more than Rs.21,000 lakhs during 2005-06. Dr. P.K. Ramam (formerly of GSI) presented an overview of the bauxite occurrences in Andhra Pradesh. He made it clear that mining of bauxite and environmental management have to be carried out concurrently to conserve the finite resource on the one hand and to preempt any impact on environmental parameters on the other. Shri A.V.R. Murthy (GSI), spoke on the environmental aspects of iron ore mining near Mangalore. Dr. T.M. Babu, Consultant, Wardrop, Canada, spoke on the diamond wealth of India. He urged
the various Governmental agencies involved to clear the hurdles and encourage diamond exploration activity which is currently on a diminishing path. Dr. Anjan Chaki (AMD), while presenting his paper on ‘Uranium exploration in India’ in one of the sessions, urged the need for augmenting uranium resources and utilization of thorium resources of the country to sustain the 8% growth rate. He assured that the 3-stage nuclear power programme of India would enable the utilization of uranium many fold and that the contribution of nuclear power is expected to grow to about 10% by 2020. Dr. S.S. Naik from the Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), Bhubaneswar made a presentation on the occurrence of platinum group elements (PGE) in the Baula-Nuasahi ultramafic-mafic layered complex in Orissa and the exploration strategy being followed by OMC in exploiting these valuable metals.

An interactive panel discussion on “Global Considerations in Geology and Geochemistry towards Utilization of Earth Resources” with eminent personalities on stage was conducted at the end of the day long deliberations for the benefit of the participants with Dr. Y.D. Sawkar as moderator. Dr. Rajagopal expressed his happiness over inviting the Chief Guest, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and said that this will create a very positive happiness over inviting the Chief Guest, Government of Andhra Pradesh, and said that this will create a very positive

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION

The first National level conference organized at Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandals College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Parbhani (Maharashtra) took place on 15th and 16th September 2006.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. Anil Mohekar, the Regional officer, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Aurangabad and presided by Adv. Ganeshraoji Dudhgaonkar, the President of Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandals, Parbhani (Maharashtra).

Dr. Prakash L. More, the Chief Organiser and Principal of Dnyanopasak Shikshan Mandals College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Parbhani explained the genesis of the conference and Dr. Shaikh Md. Babar, the Convenor of the conference proposed the vote of thanks.

The inaugural function was followed by absorbing Scientific Programme that commenced at the main Auditorium in the college Campus on the morning of 15th September and continued till 16th September 2006 evening.

Keynote Addresses
Prof. D.B. Yadkar, Vice-Chancellor, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded delivered the first keynote address on ‘Disaster Management with reference to earthquake hazards in India’. He reminded the audience of the Killari earthquake of September 30th 1993, Gujrat earthquake Disaster of 2001 and Maharashtra Floods of 2005 and 2006 and the steps taken by the government to stabilize the situation.

Dr. Baban Ingole, Senior Scientist, National Institute of Oceanography Goa in his keynote address on ‘Importance of Environmental impact assessment with special reference to Ecological Restoration of Chilika lake emphasized the