GEOYOUTH – 2014: 5th All India Students' Symposium on Geology – Harsh Bhu, Department of Geology, M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan (*Email: harsh_bhu2003@yahoo.com*)

The Department of Geology, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Rajasthan, has been organizing the annual academic event "All India Students' Symposium (GEOYOUTH)" for the Post-graduate students and Research Scholars of the colleges/universities since 2009. This year the 5th GEOYOUTH was organized during 11-12 February 2014.

The symposium was inaugurated by Chief Guest P.K. Verdia, Member of Project Advisory Committee, MOEF, Government of India and Ex. Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Rajasthan. In his inaugural address he advised the participants to do research which is helpful for economic growth and social benefits. He stressed the participants to work hard to compete with international standard in geosciences. Guest of Honour M. Bhatnagar, Dean, University College of Science, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur in his address stressed to undertake multi-disciplinary research. Vinod Agrawal, Chairman Faculty of Earth Sciences pointed out that many university departments are not organizing field training programs. This is not a right approach for geo-science teaching and learning. Since geology is basically a field science as such due attention is required for regular field training programs. The inaugural session was chaired by N.K. Chauhan, Head, Department of Geology, M.L. Sukhadia University, who emphasized the need and benefit of organizing such symposium for improving and inculcating learning, writing, communication, oratory skills and organizing abilities, and to foster brotherhood among students for better coordination of scientific work.

In the beginning, the coordinator Harsh Bhu, Department of Geology, M.L. Sukhadia University warmly welcomed the guests and participants in his welcome address and highlighted the aims and objectives of the symposium, mainly to

provide a platform for active interaction between young scientists to share their knowledge and to generate innovative ideas in the field of geology. P.K. Verdia and other honoured guests released the GEOYOUTH Symposium volume.

In all 165 delegates (post-graduate students and research scholars) from 32 universities and colleges participated which include jury members and faculty of the department. 62 participants were given an opportunity to present their work, which spread over 5 technical sessions covering various disciplines of geology. K.C. Tiwari from M.S. University Baroda, Vadodara, S.R. Jhakar from J.N.V. University, Jodhpur and Ritesh Purohit from Government College Sirohi were invited as "Jury Members" to evaluate the presentations of the participants.

Out of 62 presentations, the jury members selected 12 presentations for the award of "Best Presentation". These included paper presented by Rohit Pandey of M.S. University of Baroda on "First Report of Mafic Igneous Activity and Geological Characterization Around Narukot Village, Champaner Group, Gujarat"; "Physical Volcanology and Flow Mapping of Basaltic Lava flows: Revisiting Deccan Volcanic Province, India" by Shiladitya Mazumdar of University of Pune; "Late Permian (Raniganj) Palynoflora from Chintalapudi area, Godavari graben, South India" by Ms. Shreya Mishra of Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany; "Geothermal Energy and its Potential in India" by Rohit R. Kumar Gaur of Dugar College, Bikaner; "Petrogenesis of Varar Intrusive of central Kachchh Mainland, Western India" by Vanit Patel of Kachchh University; Narendra Singh Solanki of J.N.V. University, Jodhpur; "Palaeo-environmental Implications of Trace Fossils of Sir Edmund Lake Area, Southwest of Bhuj, Kachchh, Gujarat" by Darji Simone of M.G. Science Institute,

Ahmedabad; "Mesoscopic Features of Deccan Trap North of Nanded City - A Preliminary Study" by Tabrej Momin of S.R.T.M. University, Nanded; "Geological Field Observations in Nakora Area, Barmer district, Rajasthan by Akshay Verma of Kurukshetra University; "Milankovitch Cycles – Relevance to Earth's Climate" by George Lawrence of M.S. University of Baroda; "Magmatic Evolution of the Bundelkhand Granitoids, Central Indian Shield: Evidence from the Enclaves" by Mir Md. Ramiz of Aligarh Muslim University and "Metallic Mineral Deposits in Rajasthan" by Ronak Jain of M.L.S. University, Udaipur.

In the valedictory function the Chief Guest P.K. Yadav, Dy. Director General (Retd.) of Geological Survey of India insisted for "quality research". He pointed out that in the last few years the quality of research in geological sciences in India has been deteriorating which is a matter of great concern. Vinod Agrawal, Chairman Faculty of Earth Sciences in his address stated that there are plenty of mineral deposits available in Rajasthan and yet many deposits are to be discovered. Therefore, there is a need to promote extensive exploration work using advanced technologies. K.C. Tiwari, Jury Member from M.S. University Baroda, Vadodara expressed his view that every department should motivate their students by conducting such symposium so that students can participate in global competitions. He also gave some tips to participants for making good presentations. N.K. Chauhan, Head, Department of Geology, M.L. Sukhadia University in his address appreciated the whole-hearted support of the students of the host department in organizing the symposium. He also thanked the University administration and other sponsoring organization like Baldota Group Hospet and Associate Soapstone Distributing Co. Ltd., Udaipur.