NEWS AND NOTES

National Seminar on “Strategic Mineral Exploration for Sustainable Development: Emerging Trends and Challenges’ (SMEET-2019). M.B. Verma, Director, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Hyderabad - 500 016 (*E: addldir-op1.amd@gov.in*)

As part of the celebrations marking the seventy (70) glorious years of Exploration and Research for Atomic Minerals, AMD organised a National Seminar on “Strategic Mineral Exploration for Sustainable Development : Emerging Trends and Challenges’ (SMEET-2019) on 7-8 May, 2019 at AMD Complex, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri K. N. Vyas, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy in the newly constructed Nilgiri Auditorium. Dr. Dinesh Srivastava, Chairman and Chief Executive, Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) was also present on this occasion.

Shri M. B. Verma, Director, AMD, in his welcome address, narrated the history of AMD’s growth from eight (8) officers to the current strength of over 2,000 personnel. He also emphasized the quantum of uranium resource generation from a meagre few thousand tonnes in 1950 to over three (3) lakh tonnes besides identifying substantial resources of rare earth and rare metals.

The Chief Guest, Shri Vyas, after releasing the abstract volume of the seminar addressed the gathering and stressed the need to become self-sufficient in strategic mineral resources. Dr. Dinesh Srivastava, Chairman and Chief Executive, NFC Hyderabad also addressed the gathering and appreciated efforts in augmentation of strategic mineral resources.

The Seminar was conducted in twelve (12) technical sessions, comprising (1) Crustal growth, tectonics and metallogeny in Indian shield, (2) Tectonics and sedimentation (3) Uranium exploration in India: known geological domains (3) Uranium exploration in India: emerging areas and future prospects (5) Physical analytical techniques (6) Chemical analytical techniques (7) Geophysical exploration tools (8) Geophysical exploration: case history (9) Beach sands and off-shore investigations (10) Rare metal and REE mineral exploration (11) Petro-mineralogical aspects of strategic minerals and (12) Geochemical aspects of strategic mineral resources.

Key note addresses were delivered by Prof. T. K. Biswal, IIT, Mumbai on “Basin inversion, back thrust, and strike-slip tectonics: implication on the uranium mineralisation in Gogi-Ukinal areas of Proterozoic Bhima basin, Karnataka”, Dr. A. K. Rai, Raja Ramanna Fellow, on “Precambrian geodynamics, crustal evolution, uranium and rare metal-rare earth metallogeny in southern Indian shield”, Dr. V. M. Tiwary, Director, NGRI on “Geophysical exploration tools for atomic minerals”, Shri Deependra Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, IREL on “Mining and mineral beneficiation operations by IREL”, Dr. T. Sreenivas, Head, Min.D., BARC on “Beneficiation of rare earths from carbonatites of Ambadongar - challenges and approaches” and Dr. P. Krishnamurthy, former Regional Director, AMD on “Carbonatites and fenites: Petrogenetic and mineralising processes and their bearing on resource bases for REE, Nb and related strategic elements in India.”

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Inauguration of newly constructed Nilgiri auditorium by Shri K.N. Vyas, Chairman AEC & Secretary DAE

Releasing of abstract volume of SMEET-2019

A total of 72 papers were presented in parallel sessions respectively held at Nilgiri auditorium and Wadia hall of the AMD Southern Region. Presentations were from scientists, academicians and researchers from various organisations like BARC, IREL, IIT Mumbai, IIT Kharagpur and many other Universities and Institutes besides, AMD.

The seminar concluded with a panel discussion consisting of I. D. Ashiya, Dy. DG, GSI, P. Krishnamurthy, Regional Director (retired), Dr D. K. Sinha, Shri A. K. Bhatt and Shri K. Ramesh Kumar, Additional Directors, AMD and Shri B. Saravanan, Regional Director, AMD, Southern Region and Convenor, SMEET-2019. Shri D.K. Choudhury, Deputy Regional Director, Southern Region and Organizing Secretary extended the vote of thanks to all for their active participation and valuable interaction.