Special Lecture on Groundwater Management for Drinking Water Security in Rural Areas – P.T. Hanamgond, Geological Society of India (GSI), Regional Chapter Belgaum (E: hanamgondpt@gmail.com)

A virtual special lecture on “**Groundwater Management for Drinking Water Security in Rural Areas**” was organised by the Geological Society of India (GSI), Regional Chapter Belgaum, in association with Mining Engineers' Association of India, Belgaum Chapter and Department of Geology, G.S.S. College Belgaum on 18th July 2021, at 11.30am. Sudhindra Mohan Sharma, consultant geologist from Indore was the guest speaker. He elaborated on basic aspects of how groundwater is formed, what are the water crisis and compared the urban and rural water management. He discussed the key elements of drinking water security such as adequacy, equity, accessibility, quality, sustainability and usage. He also discussed on how groundwater sources are replenished and how we make use of excess groundwater for irrigation purpose giving examples with valid data. He explained key elements of drinking water security followed by eye opening data on Indian rainfall pattern, Indian dependency on rainfall and over usage of groundwater, exhibiting how India remains the biggest groundwater consumer in the world. Later he mentioned that as much as 54% of India faces high to extremely high water stress

with several examples and stressed on the need of groundwater management. He also suggested, to take up a detailed study of micro-basins towards watershed management, changing the mindset of the people towards over water usage, change in settlement pattern and water budgeting of every village. Further, he explained how society/community can be involved in water conservation and monitoring with simple techniques.

He concluded the lecture by giving an example of Bachchu Singh a villager and his conjunctive use of water for farming, who suggested “Go to water where it is! rather than making it come to you”. At the end, there was a fruitful discussion by participants including students.

Dr. N.D. Hegde, Principal GSS College, Belgaum welcomed the gathering. Mrs Priyanka Shinde, introduced the guest speaker. Shri S.R. Hegde, Chairman, MEAI, Belgaum chapter gave the presidential remarks. Dr. P.T. Hanamgond, Chairman, GSI regional center Belgaum proposed the vote of thanks. Over 35 participants including students, teachers, geologists, and mining engineers' from Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh attended the lecture.

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