

Report on the National Conference and Alumni reunion program organized as a part of Platinum jubilee year celebration of Geology Department, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur (Rajasthan), India

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Department of Geology, Udaipur is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee Year in 2024 – 2025. To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee Year, the Society of Alumni, Geology Department in association with the Department of Geology, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, organized a National Conference and Alumni Reunion Program at Udaipur (Rajasthan) during September 28 – 30, 2024. The theme of the National Conference was “*Geology, Mining and Mineral Resources: Advances, Challenges and Future Prospects*”. The main aim of the event was to provide a premier interdisciplinary platform to discuss the most recent advances, innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered and solutions adopted in the fields of Geology, Mining and Mineral Sector. The event was sponsored by Mohanlal Sukhadia University, National Thermal Power Corporation, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Northern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited, Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited, Damodar Valley Corporation, Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Mining Tech Consultancy Services Limited, Novoco Vistas Corporation and Wolkem India Limited. A total of 350 participants attended the conference, and 83 abstracts were received.

The Department of Geology, Udaipur was established in 1950 as the first postgraduate department in Rajasthan. Prof. K. P. Rode was the Founder Professor of the Department. This Department was a part of the University of Rajasthan up to December 1988. In the year 1988, the Government of Rajasthan restructured the various Universities in the state and this department was handed over to the Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

The department has developed its own culture and ethos. Because of its immense contribution in Teaching and Research, the Department received the support of University Grant Commission through COSIST and SAP and Department of Science & Technology through FIST. In last seven decades the Department has completed several research projects funded by National and International Agencies. The Department is proud on its 20 Alumni, who have received the very prestigious National Mineral Award (Now Geoscience Award). A large number of its Alumni have served/ are serving on very senior positions in GSI, ONGC, AMD, CGWB, GWD, IBM, MECL, DMG, RSMML, HZL etc.



Fig. 1. Address by the chief guest, Prof. K. L. Srivastava, VC, JNVU, Jodhpur



Fig. 2. Participants and guests in inaugural function

The Inaugural Function of the National Conference was held on 28th September 2024 at 10.30 am at the lawn of Department of Geology. Prof. K. L. Srivastava, Vice Chancellor, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur was the Chief Guest. Shri M. P. Singh, Principal Chief Engineer, Ministry of Power, Government of India; Shri B. P. Kalal, CMD, RSMML and Shri Arvind Singhal, Chairman, Wolkem India Limited were present as Guest of Honour. The function was presided by Shri P.K. Verdia, President Society of Alumni, Geology Department. Other dignitaries on the dais were Dr. Ritesh Purohit, Patron of Society of Alumni and Head of the Department; Dr. Vinod Agrawal, Convener of the event and Dr. Maya Chaudhary, Organizing Secretary. On this occasion, a Souvenir and Abstract volume were released by the guests. The souvenir was prepared by Dr. Ritesh Purohit, Dr. Vinod Agrawal and Dr. Harsh Bhu who summarise the history, outstanding academic achievements of the department, list of National Mineral awardees and distinguished Alumni, research facilities, articles on development in earth sciences in the last 25 years and a directory of Alumni.

The Inaugural Function of the Conference was followed by Technical Sessions. On the first day, two parallel pre – lunch sessions were conducted at different Halls namely Heron Hall and Diamond Jubilee Hall. At Heron Hall, the first session was chaired by Prof. Prakash Kataria and co – chaired by Prof. S.R. Jakhar. In this session total six papers were presented out of which three were “Invited Key Papers” presented by Dr. O. P. Pandey (CSIR-NGRI), Prof. A.V. Joshi (M.S. University, Baroda) and Dr. Gaurav Chouhan (Kuchchh University). At the Diamond Jubilee Hall, the session was chaired by Prof. S.C. Mathur and co – chaired by

Prof. K.K. Sharma. In this session total seven papers were presented out of which four were “Invited Key Papers” presented by Prof. G. K. Sharma (Delhi University), Prof. V.K. Parashar (MVM, Bhopal), Dr. Sanjay Das (Ex. Dy. DG, GSI) and Dr. Nandan Shastri (Varodara).

The post lunch session, were also two parallel sessions. At Heron Hall, the session was chaired by Prof. K.C. Tiwari (M.S. University, Baroda) and co – chaired by Prof. V.K. Parashar. In this session seven papers were presented out of which, six were “Invited Key Papers” presented by Mr. M.P. Singh (Ministry of Power, GOI), Dr. S.P. Prizomwala (Ahmedabad), Dr. Dines A. Pancholi (GMDC), Mr. V.K. Pandey (CMPDI Ranchi) and Shri S.P. Singh (Northern Coalfields Limited). At Diamond Jubilee Hall, the session was chaired by Prof. G.K. Sharma and co – chaired by Dr. N.N. Singh. In this session, eight papers were presented out of which one was “Invited Key Paper” presented by Prof. Debasis Das (University of Kalyani, WB).

On the second day of the conference, two parallel technical sessions were conducted during pre – lunch time. At Heron Hall, the session was chaired by Prof. M. S. Sisodia and co – chaired by Mr. K.S. Solanki. In this session ten papers were presented.

The notable presentations were of Dr. N.N. Singh on “Exploration Potentials on Indian Precambrian Terrains”, Dr. Pooja Sharma on “Iron Ore Deposits of Pur – Banera Belt”, Dr. Prakshal Mehta on “Exploration of Critical Minerals” etc. At the Diamond Jubilee Hall, the session was chaired by Dr. O.P. Pandey and co – chaired by Prof. Debsis Das. In this session, nine papers were presented.



Fig. 3. Presentation by invited speakers
(Dr. O. P. Pandey)



Fig. 4. Presentation by invited speakers
(Prof. M.G. Thakkar)

The remarkable presentations were of Prof. S.R. Jakhar on “Petroleum Deposits of Rajasthan”, Dr. K.K. Sharma on “Lithium Recovery from Saline Lakes from Rajasthan”, Dr. N.K. Chouhan on “Slope Stability along National Highways” etc.

The post – lunch session was dedicated to the “Alumni Reunion Program”, organized under the chairmanship of Shri P. K. Verdia, President Society of Alumni, Geology Department. Dr. Ritesh Purohit, Head and Patron of Society, Shri S. C. Agrawal, senior most alumni and Dr. S. K. Vashisth, Secretary, Society of Alumni were other Guests on the dais. The program was conducted by Dr. Prakash Kataria and Dr. Maya Chaudhary. The Alumni Reunion Program provided an opportunity for the old students of the Department of Geology, Udaipur to meet each other after so many years. It also offered a chance for every alumnus to meet their teachers and other staff members. It also helped the alumni to perceive the various changes through which this department has gone over the past few years. This reunion program gave an opportunity to recall the sweetest moments that they spent with their teachers, mentors and friends. The program was attended by more than 200 alumni, from distant places and even from abroad. During the program, the alumni members were also felicitated by the guests present on dais. Felicitations were done under following categories namely (i) Former Teachers of the Geology Department, (ii) Alumni members of 1974 (Pass Out) and Older Batches, (iii) Distinctive Alumni Members, (iv) Alumni who received National Mineral Award (Geoscience Award) and (v) Alumni Members Individually Contributed for the Program. Total 76 alumni were felicitated on this occasion. After the felicitation, there was an open session in which alumni have shared their old memories.



Fig. 5. Guests on the dais during Alumni Reunion Program

On the third day of the conference, one technical session was conducted before the Valedictory Function at Heron Hall. The session was chaired by Prof. M.G. Thakkar and co – chaired by Dr. Gaurav Chouhan. In this session, twelve papers were presented out of which one was “Invited Key Paper” presented by Prof. M. G. Thakkar (BSIP, Lucknow). Other important presentations were of Mr. S.N. Dodia (DMG, Rajasthan), Dr. M.K. Khandelwal (AMD), Dr. Harish Kapasya (MLSU) and Mr. Harish Mistri (GSI).

After the technical session, the Valedictory Function was held on 30th September 2024 at 12.30 pm at the Heron Hall of the Department of Geology. Shri Arun Mishra, CEO, Hindustan Zinc Limited was the Chief Guest. Shri S. K. Sharma, Regional Director AMD Jaipur and Prof. M. G. Thakkar, Director BSIP Lucknow were present as Guest of Honour. The function was presided by Prof. Sunita Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Mohanlal Sukhadia University Udaipur. Other dignitaries on the dais were Shri P. K. Verdia, President of Society of Alumni and Dr. Ritesh Purohit, Patron of Society of Alumni and Head of the Department.

The three days long National Conference and Alumni Reunion Program ended successfully. The conference was attended by former and in-service officials from different professional organizations and academic institutes across the country viz. Atomic Mineral Division, Geological Survey of India, Mineral Exploration Consultancy Limited, Indian Bureau of Mines, Central Ground Water Board, Coal India Limited, Directorate of Mines and Geology, Hindustan Zinc Limited, NTPC, CSIR-NGRI, GMDC, Faculty, research scholars and students of from Delhi University, Rajasthan University, Jai Narayan Vyas University (Jodhpur), B.N. University (Udaipur), Kuchchha University (Bhuj), Goa University, Pondichery University, Kalyani University etc.



Fig. 6. Alumni members



Fig. 7. Felicitation of National Mineral Awardees Alumni



Fig. 8. Guests during the valedictory function

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