

the key to good writing is to start with something familiar to the reader and end with an emphasis that is newsworthy while moving from the anxiety to anticipation phase of reading. He also provided good exercises and insights to tackle and simplify long and complex sentences. He stated that the important things to focus on to achieve cohesion in a paragraph were the topic at hand, the body of the text, good transitions, conclusion and coherence.

The participants took part in a mock editorial board meeting wherein they presented the scientific topic chosen for writing. Each participant presented the problem statement and the work carried out by the researchers in the chosen area. Questions were posed by the other participants and suggestions provided to improve the content of the article being written.

In the last session, K.P.M. ensured that the participants had established the title, target audience, communication channel and organization/body that would take action based on the article. This enabled the participants to address and argue their points in a better manner in their

respective articles. He concluded the session with the use of determinants, models, voice, tense, punctuation and language in writing.

Madhavan proposed a vote of thanks and distributed certificates to the participants. He also mentioned that the journal intends to organize many such workshops in other parts of the country as well and hoped that some of the participants would come forward to host such events under the auspices of the Current Science Association. This was followed by an on-line feedback session by the participants who rated the workshop from very good to excellent. The participants reported a marked improvement in areas such as accessing and managing scientific information, reading and understanding scientific papers, organizing and structuring scientific information, writing clearly and being able to edit better.

The participants of the workshop had this to say about the workshop:

The workshop has made me question the answers.

The workshop has improved my knowledge and my writing skills.

I have learnt more about science writing, editing, language, clarity, research papers, etc.

I will keep in mind who my audiences are and how to target them.

This workshop was a huge opportunity for me to learn about scientific writing. It will help me write research papers, articles, popular articles and blogs.

I will use the skills and knowledge gained for writing popular science articles and editing manuscripts.

I will use the skills and knowledge gained in scientific writing and popular science writing.

The output of the workshop in terms of articles written by the participants will appear in the 'Science Last Fortnight' section of the 10 September 2017 issue of *Current Science*.

Current Science plans to organize the next workshop from 4 to 9 December 2017 in Bengaluru.

S. Priya (*S. Ramaseshan Fellow*), Current Science Association, Bengaluru 560 080, India.
e-mail: priya@ias.ac.in

MEETING REPORT

Geochemistry, environmental and sedimentary geology*

One-day seminar on the 'Contemporary ameliorations in the field of geochemistry, environmental and sedimentary geology' was organized recently at Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh. J. N. Goswami (formerly with Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad) was the Chief Guest of the occasion. He delivered a keynote address on the formation and evolution of the solar system and its non-resemblance to any exo-solar sys-

tem. Further he also discussed how the age of the solar system has been redefined using isotopic elements as a tool. This was followed by another interesting lecture on tectonic framework and evolutionary history of the Bengal basin by A. B. Roy (M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur). He explained that this basin had its own evolutionary history that cannot be linked with any known crust-building process. Moreover, even before the Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers drained water from the Himalaya along with huge loads of sediments, the basin had its own antecedent drainage pattern. The session further proceeded with an informative talk by Somnath Dasgupta (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi) about growth and sustainability of metamorphic petrology in India during last four decades. Rajiv Nigam (National Institute of Oceanography, Goa) appreciated the uniqueness of the seminar in the sense that it encompassed a vast range of top-

ics, including evolution of the early solar system to the recent developments in geology till date. He talked about the application of foraminiferal studies for the reconstruction of Holocene sea-level fluctuation for a scientific explanation of the existence of ancient Indian coastal cities. Citing the examples from Lothal (a Harappan settlement near Ahmedabad), Gulf of Khambat and Dholavira (Gujarat), he explained that sea-level fluctuations played an imperative role in shaping their destinies. M. B. Verma (Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India) delivered a talk on the prospects of uranium exploration in Siwalik foreland basin of Northwestern Himalaya. Four principal potential uraniumiferous belts were suggested: Kheya–Asthota–Loharian and Galot–Loharkar in Hamirpur district, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Rajpura–Polian, in Una district, HP and Panav–Naugajiyā-

*A report on the 'National Seminar on Recent Advances and Challenges in Geochemistry, Environmental and Sedimentary Geology' held at Department of Geology, AMU, Aligarh on 27 February 2017 (under DRS-II, UGC Programme), coordinated and convened by L. A. K. Rao, AMU and A. H. M. Ahmad, AMU respectively. The event was sponsored by UGC, New Delhi, Oren Hydrocarbons and AMDER, Govt of India under the assistance of organizing secretary of the seminar, M. E. A. Mondal, AMU.

Sukambari in Dehradun sub-basin belt along the southwestern flanks of Tamil and Mohand range in Saharanpur district, Uttar Pradesh and Haridwar district, Uttarakhand. Verma also suggested that the use of advance drilling technology in these sites can help in drilling deeper boreholes of 300–400 m depth range that caters to an increased grade and thick mineralization. He also gave stress on the detailed study of tectonic events in the Siwaliks with respect to uranium mineralization.

The afternoon session of the seminar started with a brainstorming lecture by Jayanta Kumar Pati (National Centre of Experimental Mineralogy and Petrology, University of Allahabad) on the confirmation of meteoritic impact structures evidenced in Dhala, Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh. They were initially described as crypto-volcanic explosion structure, but are now confirmed to be complex meteoritic impact structure. Ramanathan Bhaskar (Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar) discussed a unique aspect of geology in the form of geomicrobiology. He cited examples from Indian caves in order to highlight the role of cave microbes as geochemical agents that contribute to mineral precipitation, diagenesis, lithification and sedimentation. The session also included the burning issue of sustainable water management for mining with the help of community engagement presented by Hishmi Jamil Husain (Rio Tinto, New Delhi). He presented a case study from the water-stressed Bun-

delkhand region. In consultation with the local communities, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) were set up after rigorous surveys at 250 sites in 15 villages every month for a year in order to maintain and sustainably manage the developed water resources. Md Sayad Rahaman (Presidency University, Kolkata) spoke about mantle wedge metasomatic event by citing the example of Neoproterozoic–Palaeoproterozoic sanukitoid magmatism of Aravalli craton. The combined results of the whole-rock major oxides trace element and Nd isotopic studies revealed that those sanukitoids were formed by the partial melting of metasomatized mantle wedge in which the latter experienced multiple metasomatic events.

The third technical session consisted of a poster session and four parallel oral sessions comprising 56 talks related to diverse geological fields. Some of them included the facies characterization of the Talchir succession, Gungutta River Section, Son–Mahanadi Gondwana Basin, Chhattisgarh by Meradul Islam (AMU) and geochemistry and stable carbon composition of soil from Nainital Kumaun Himalaya by Imran Khan (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur). Taufique Warsi (National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad) discussed the possibility of using carbon-based nanoparticles as groundwater tracers. S. M. Wasim (Dharm Samaj College, University of Agra) gave an overview of Callovian to Oxfordian benthic foraminiferal response to palaeo-environmental changes from the Patcham–Char formation, Jumara Dome, western Kutch, Gujarat. Syed Azharuddin (Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow) threw light on Holocene productivity collapse recorded from NE Arabian Sea, and also explained the mechanism of its teleconnection with the North Atlantic cold events. Asma Amjad Ghaznavi (AMU) gave an account of heavy mineral studies for the assessment of tectonic setting and provenance of Dhosa Sandstones, Ler Dome, Kachchh, western India. Niranjana Mohanty (NGRI) explained the chrome–spinel geochemistry of Madawara Igneous Complex, Bundelkhand Craton, Central India.

The seminar provided an opportunity to budding researchers of the country to present their research problem, debate issues related to the field as well as share their experiences and exchange perspectives regarding the recent scientific trends of geology. It was a good platform not only to pave the way for interactions among experts and researchers of various disciplines and institutions, but also to bring fresh perspectives to the current knowledge and latest changes occurring within the industry.

The seminar provided an opportunity to budding researchers of the country to present their research problem, debate issues related to the field as well as share their experiences and exchange perspectives regarding the recent scientific trends of geology. It was a good platform not only to pave the way for interactions among experts and researchers of various disciplines and institutions, but also to bring fresh perspectives to the current knowledge and latest changes occurring within the industry.

Asma Amjad Ghaznavi*, Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 002, India; **Syed Azharuddin**, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, 53 University Road, Lucknow 226 007, India.

*e-mail: ghaznavi.asma@gmail.com

MEETING REPORT

Urban meteorology and climate research in Asia*

A conference was held recently to discuss research on urban meteorology and climate in growing Asian cities, espe-

cially in relation to air pollution and land-use change and its impact on weather and climate, urban flooding and water availability. According to the United Nations, over half of the world's population has been residing in urban areas since 2008, and the percentage continues to increase. This is especially the case for most Asian countries. More than 50 participants attended the conference, which was a continuation of the previous Asian Network for Climate Science and Technology (ANCST) conference[†] held at Tsinghua University, China in July 2015.

J. C. R. Hunt (University College London, UK) reviewed the general dependence of urban environments on complex aspects of their built and natural forms, and also the external environment surrounding the cities and the effects of global climate change. He suggested that more research is needed on the effects of tropical and subtropical urban-scale environments on climate processes. Using 35-yr NCEP-Department of Energy (DOE) data, Fang *et al.* (National Central University, Taiwan) demonstrated that the observed surface wind fields have

*A report on the Asian Urban Meteorology and Climate Conference held at the City University of Hong Kong, China in May 2017 under the auspices of Asian Network for Climate Science and Technology (ANCST).

†A special topic study group on urban meteorology and environment has been initiated within ANCST which will organize further meetings and collaboration on data in Asia, under the chairmanship of J. C. L. Chan.