

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4 *January 2020*

OF 36th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (36th IGC)

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Dear colleagues,
Greetings from 36th International Geological Congress!

With the commencement of the New Year, we at 36th IGC have shifted gears with renewed vigour. In less than 30 days, our event will be live, and we are overwhelmed by the response we have received from every nook and corner of the world.

The heartening response to our Field Trips has led us to extend the booking deadline by a month. We believe the delegates should make the most of the opportunity to experience the geologically varied beauty of the Indian subcontinent. The Geoexpo booths are filling up fast by business concerns from all over the world. The registration has now moved on to the next phase allowing Standard Registration. Proposals for Business Meetings and registrations for workshops and short courses will close soon on 31 January 2020. We would urge you not to miss out on the opportunity to reserve your berth.

This newsletter primarily covers our outreach efforts internationally as well as in the country. Under the international outreach, important geoscientific events in the US, China and Germany were covered. In the Spotlight, we have the Lonar Lake, the earth's largest and only impact crater in basaltic rocks. Formed 52 thousand years ago due to a hyper-velocity chondritic meteoritic collision with the surface of the earth, the feature stands proudly as a visual treat.

The Reminiscences section features a fascinating account of the first meeting of the General Assembly, 22nd IGC, held in India in 1964, through the eyes of the widely acclaimed Indian stratigrapher Bikash C Poddar.

Hope you enjoy reading the issue!

Dr. Rasik Ravindra
Secretary General, 36th IGC

Important timelines of 36th IGC

31 January 2020	Field Trip Bookings Close
	Requests for Business Meetings Close
	Professional Development Workshops & Short Courses Close
	Standard Congress Registrations Close
01 March 2020	Late Registrations Close
02 March 2020	Onsite Registrations Commence

Mining Summit of Confederation of India Industry

A delegation led by Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General, 36th IGC, and Mr. Manish Kumar, 36th IGC Secretariat attended the Mining Summit hosted by the Confederation of India Industry on 27 December, 2019. The theme of the summit was 'Exploring the Un-explored - Powering India's Mineral Growth'. Secretary General gave an elaborate talk on the upcoming 36th IGC highlighting its attractions, benefits and the opportunities available. He also played a film on 36th IGC which was widely appreciated.



8th Asian Mining Congress



Shri Debasish Rout, Director, promoted the 36th IGC at the 8th Asian Mining Congress held in Kolkata. The promotion included a detailed presentation on the highlights of the 36th IGC and a film on the geological diversity and wealth of the Indian subcontinent. Brochures containing information on all programs of the Congress were distributed. The presentation evoked great interest among the participants of the conference.

53rd Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Mineral Industries

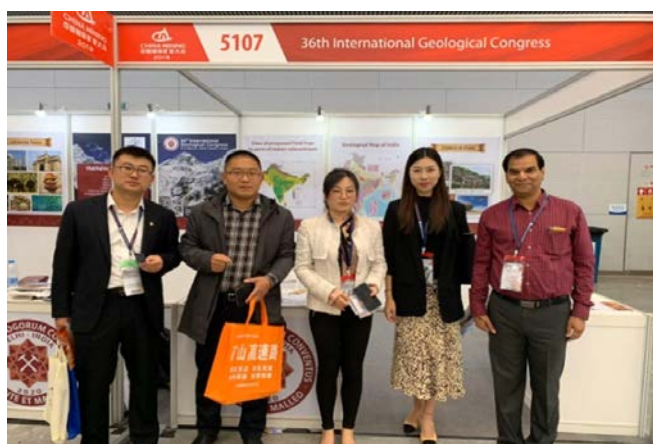
A team of officials from the 36th IGC Secretariat promoted the Congress in the 53rd Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Mineral Industries held in Delhi on 24 September 2019. A presentation detailing the various programs and attractions of 36th IGC was made. A stall informing all the opportunities that the event encompasses was also set up. The meeting was attended by all the major mining concerns of the country.



China Mining Conference & Exhibition 2019

A delegation comprising Shri A.K Gahlot and Ms. Charu Khanna from the PCO, 36th IGC participated in the georexhibition of the China Mining during 9-11 October 2019 to promote the 36th IGC. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources PRC and Tianjin Municipal People's Government at Tianjin Meijiang Convention Center, Tianjin, China.

The team had installed a booth to create awareness about the 36th IGC and encourage delegates from China to participate in large numbers. Visitors including geoscientists, academicians, researchers, and representatives from different business concerns expressed their keen interest to be part of 36th IGC.



Federation of Indian Geosciences Associations 2019

A delegation comprising Prof. V.P. Dimri, President, 36th IGC and Dr. Sangeeta Gupta, 36th IGC Secretariat, visited Hyderabad for the Triennial Congress event at CSIR-NGRI during 13 -16 October 2019. The congress was organized jointly by the Association of Exploration Geophysicists, National Geophysical Research Institute, and Indian Geophysical Union at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad, the focal theme of which was 'Geosciences for Sustainable Development Goals'.

36th IGC had set up a booth to showcase its activities, achievements and plans. A large number of delegates, including emeritus geoscientists, academicians, researchers, representatives from different business concerns expressed keen interest to be part of the event.



Annual Meeting of American Geophysical Union - 2019

A four-member delegation comprising Manish Kumar, 36th IGC Secretariat, Shashi Kant, Geological Survey of India and Yogesh Sharma, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited promoted the 36th IGC at the Annual Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union organized at Moscon Center, San Francisco during 9-13 December 2019.

As part of the outreach and program promotion, 36th IGC had set up a booth displaying the major attractions of the upcoming event. The delegation briefed the visitors about the various themes of the 36th IGC Science program, the field trips, Geoexpo and others. Brochures containing information about the 36th IGC was distributed to the visiting delegates and participants.



5th YES Congress at Berlin, Germany

The 5th Young Earth Scientist (YES) Congress held at the Friei University, Berlin during 9 - 15 September 2019 was a successful congress for the amalgamation of young Earth Scientists from 40 countries. In the congress, 36th IGC was promoted among various representatives of countries namely, Argentina, Panama, Namibia, China, DR Congo, Norway, Germany, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Uzbekistan etc. Wide ranging topics were discussed including the promotion techniques for 36 IGC in the countries of these representatives and also worldwide, and their expectations from the upcoming congress.



Interactive Workshop

With a view to involving the State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the corporate world of India in a large way in the 36th International Geological Congress, two workshops were held in New Delhi during 12-13 December 2019 in New Delhi.

The workshops were inaugurated by Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Secretary, Ministry of Coal & Mines, Government of India in the presence of Additional Secretary, Mines, and other senior officers of the Ministry of Mines, and Ministry of Earth Sciences. President, 36th IGC introduced the Congress and Secretary General, 36th IGC gave a presentation on the progress of the preparations in the workshops. A panel chaired by Additional Secretary, Mines addressed the queries of the participants regarding the event. The delegates evinced great interest about the various facets of the upcoming event.



Dr.M. Rajeevan,
Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India addressing the workshop



Mr. Anil Kumar Jain,
Secretary, Coal & Mines, Government of India addressing the workshop on 12th Dec 2019



Dr. K. Rajeswara Rao
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines addressing the workshop on 13th Dec 2019



Representatives of the State Governments who participated in the workshop on 12th Dec 2019



Representatives of PSUs and the Corporate Sector who participated in the workshop on 13th Dec 2019



22nd International Geological Congress 1964: A Palimpsest

If “poetry is emotion recollected in tranquility”, as famously articulated by Wordsworth, then palimpsest is an impressionistic reconstruct of the past with real events preserved here and erased there and something new added. Result is a collage of facts intertwined with strands of emotive feelings. Distance in time lends enchantment to the construct as one casts a ‘longing, lingering look behind’.

IGC XXII happened in India in 1964. IGC XXXVI is about to revisit us in 2020 after more than five and half decades. To one like me who had the good fortune to play an active role as a leader in pre - and post - Congress excursions centered in Udaipur, Rajasthan, recreating the

past is an overwhelmingly emotive issue. As me-now at mid-eighties looks back to me-then at late twenties, a tidal onrush of memorable events linked with the IGC excursions, in particular and my geological activity around Udaipur, in general during the entire decade of the sixties engulfs me. I am aware that it would be inappropriate to open the floodgate. I shall try to confine myself only to the events deeply etched in my memory.

I propose to present my story in two parts: Part One – Congress Session at New Delhi (December 14 to 22, 1964) and Part Two – Pre - and Post- Congress excursions (A9 and C7 in Rajasthan ;December 5 to 12 and December 24-31, 1964 respectively).

Part One : Congress Session in New Delhi

First meeting of the General Assembly was held on December 14 in a spacious pandal inside the premises of the Vigyan Bhawan. It was scheduled to start at 11 A M . As advised, we took our seat at 10.45, ceremoniously wearing the Congress Badge and the nameplate. Dr. B.C.Roy, Secretary General introduced Dr. Anne Noe Nygaard, President of the XXI Session of the IGC at Copenhagen. After completing initial formalities, he requested Dr.D.N. Wadia, President of the XXII Session to take the Chair and address the Assembly. Dr. Wadia highlighted the fact that IGC XXII made history as it was the First Session of IGC in Asia since its inception in 1875. He dwelt briefly on the seminal contributions of India to the folk lore of global geology and then invited Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, President of the Republic of India to deliver his speech.

Dr. Radhakrishnan spoke in his inimitable style. The audience was mesmerized as he effortlessly led them in an engrossing guided tour from the Vedic Past to the nuclear Present. As he finished his discourse, there was spontaneous extended ovation from the audience. The delegate, seated by my side, leaned towards me and whispered “You are blessed. You have such a learned President”. Our President made us proud. And raised the bar for us - the *dramatis personae* – who were tasked to organize the excursions. The undertone of his speech was subtle but incisive.

While conducting the excursions, (1) the delegates have to be treated in a dignified manner without any slippage in hospitality never ever forgetting the dictum – atithi deba bhaba ,(2) we have to hold our head high as we belong to a civilization which reached excellence in realms - spiritual and material – in deep time and (3) we have to demonstrate that curiosity about the earth abides and geology is live and kicking in independent India after the colonial powers left the shores.

All of us were in a celebration mood at Delhi. The events which come to my mind are the scientific lectures in the R.S.G.H. School, the Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan, and visits to historical monuments in and around Delhi. One special event which made us ecstatic was the award of Spendiarov Prize to D.K.Roy of GSI for preparation of the Tectonic Map of India on 1:2 million scale which the Commission for the Spendiarov Prize unanimously adjudged as an “ excellent contribution to the knowledge of the tectonic history of India”.

The only gloomy thing was entrapment of the pre-Congress A-10 Kashmir excursion team due to extreme untimely snowfall in Srinagar. Dr. Wadia took up the matter at the highest level. The Ministry of Defense stepped in and all the delegates were brought back safely to New Delhi but only after the Congress sessions were over.



Part - 2 : Pre and Post Congress excursions will follow in the next volume of the Newsletter

Bikash C. Poddar was introduced to Geology in the classroom of Presidency College, Calcutta way back in 1951. Over nearly seven decades, he has remained devoted to this noble science. He walked the variegated ground from the Precambrian in Rajasthan to the Quaternary in Northeast India with passion as a member of GSI, and attempted to add a few lines to the beautiful folklore of Indian geology with humility. His curiosity about the earth we live with abides in the context of emergence of Man as a geological agent in the Anthropocene.



Spotlight Lonar Lake

The Lonar Lake, the earth's largest and only impact crater in basaltic rocks was formed 52 thousand years ago due to a hyper-velocity chondritic meteoritic collision with the surface of the earth.

Of the 205 natural impact structures discovered on earth, three have been found in India - Dhala in Madhya Pradesh, Ramgarh in Rajasthan and Lonar in Maharashtra. Lonar is the youngest and smallest of the three.

The Lonar impact structure is marked by a 135m deep near circular depression, which is the impact crater. The crater floor comprises of 30-100 m thick unconsolidated post-impact sediments, which are underlain by nearly 225 m of impact breccia. The crater is filled with a shallow brackish lake which is home to a wide range of flora and fauna, including numerous endemic species and microbial biodiversity, which is fed by a small stream entering the crater.

The rim of the crater has a steep inner slope and a gentle outer slope. The inner slope is made up of fractured flows of the Deccan basalt, exposing 6 different types having similar mineralogical composition and is separated from each other by thin layers of paleosols.

The outer slope of the crater rim has a continuous blanket of ejecta extending from the rim crust outward up to a distance of 1350m. The Lonar crater was recognised as a National Geological Monument in 1979 by the Geological Survey of India.

The archaeological importance of this monument is also noteworthy. There are about 15 temples around the Lonar crater belonging to the Hindu gods and deities built between the 6th and 12th century CE by different dynasties that give us an insight into its historical importance.



Lonar Lake

Write-up and photograph: courtesy Geography and You



Columnar Basalts at St.Mary's Island, India



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