Notes

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "INDIAN-ASIAN PLATES: HIMALAYAN MOUNTAIN BUILDING" HELD AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI (26th - 27th FEBRUARY, 1987) - A REPORT

A National Seminar on Himalayan Mountain Building was organised at the Department of Geology, University of Delhi. This Seminar was co-sponsored by the University Grants Commission, the Geological Society of India, the Geological Survey of India and the Oil India. The Seminar was well attended by earth scientists drawn from all the premier Survey Organisations, the Research Institutes and several University Departments.

In his inaugural address, Shri D. P. Dhoundial, Director-General, Geological Survey of India stressed that plate tectonic studies require an adequate multidisciplinary data base. He also pointed out the importance of initiating work in the palaeomagnetic history of the complete Tethyan Zone of Himalaya in Zanskar and Spiti. He called for integrated studies of the post-Eocene mountain building history of Himalaya and the depositional history of the Bengal Fan.

As part of the Inaugural Session, two interesting talks were given by Dr. Hari Narain (Hyderabad) and Prof. K. S. Valdiya (Naini Tal). Dr. Hari Narain built up the case for the northward movement of India and dwelt at length upon the case for a plate margin beyond Ladakh. Prof. Valdiya introduced the concept of the Himadri Thrust, a tectonic discontinuity separating the Central Crystalline Zone from the Tethyan succession. He spoke at length of the structural features in that belt and argued that the Central Crystalline Zone represents an upthrust block.

Apart from the Inaugural Session, Technical Sessions extended over 26th and 27th February, 1987. Several interesting presentations were made. G. Fuchs (Austria) highlighted the different kinds of thrusting in the Himalaya; S. K. Acharya (Calcutta) dealt with the evolution of the Himalaya in the light of India-Asia plate interactions; S. Sinha-Roy (Jaipur) summarised the data on Himalayan metamorphism in relation to intracontinental underthrusting; R. K. Verma (Dhanbad) reviewed and analysed the palaeomagnetic data from Himalaya, Hindukush and Baluchistan; K. K. Sharma (Naini Tal) dealt with various aspects including geochronological data of Late Mesozoic-Tertiary magmatism in the Himalaya.

The speakers attempted to present various facets of Himalayan Geology in the framework of Plate Tectonics; F. Ahmad (Jammu), however, denied that any large scale subduction took place.

Interesting presentations were also made by S. K. Shah (Jammu) on Palaeozoic diastrophism, A. K. Jain (Roorkee) on Neotectonism in the context of fission track dating, V. B. Bhanot (Chandigarh) on radiometric dating, V. C. Thakur (Dehra Dun) and A. K. Sinha (Dehra Dun) on tectonic evolution, N. S. Virdi (Dehra Dun) on subduction of the Indian Plate.

Ranga Rao (Dehra Dun) in a special lecture on the Himalayan Foreland Basin dealt with its structural evolution, particularly of the northwestern part.

Other highlights of the Seminar included a film show on 'India and the Sea' by the Department of Ocean Development, popular lectures by S. L. Bahuguna on 'Development and Environment', and by N. Kumar on 'Himalayan Mountaineering Expedition'.

Department of Geology
University of Delhi
Delhi 110007.

S. K. TANDON