CORRESPONDENCE

USAGE OF TERMS 'KHONDALITE' AND 'LEPTYNITE'

Please allow me the courtesy of some space in your valued journal to express my view of something that has bothered me for a long time.

Why do Indian geologists and others working on Indian geology persist in using the terms 'khondalite' and 'leptynite' in Indian and non-Indian publications? These terms are not used elsewhere and are often not understood by non-Indian readers. In fact, they have meaning only for Indian geologists.

In Sri Lanka, the late D. N. Wadia introduced the terms when he became Government Mineralogist in 1938, and he also introduced the term 'Type Khondalites for a 'khondalite' with large garnets. However, we gave up these terms a long time ago as they had little or no relevance to us here in Sri Lanka.

Is it not time that the terms are dropped in Indian geoscience usage and terminology, and the rocks referred to as 'garnet-sillimanite granulite/gneiss' and 'quartzo-feldspathic garnet gneiss'.

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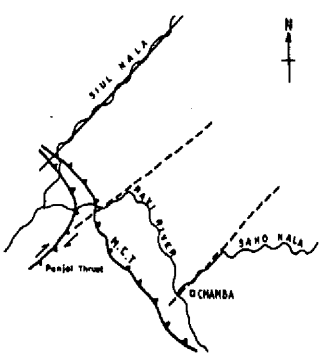
"THE 24th MARCH, 1995 CHAMBA EARTHQUAKE (NW HIMALAYA), FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND SEISMOTECTONICS" Jour. Geol. Soc. India v.51, pp. 227-232.

I read with interest the above paper. The author has concluded the above earthquake was caused due to slip along NW-SE trending features, without a discussion on other prominent features shown in Fig. 1, of the map on page 228.

I have sketched below some NE-SW features from Fig. 1 of the map on page 228. NE-SW trending lineaments along river courses have been shown by dashed lines. The inflexion of the Panjal Thrust shadows the NE-SW course of the Ravi River when extended in a NE direction. The Saho Nala follows a NE-SW directed course (perhaps along a lineament) before its confluence with the Ravi River at Chamba.

On a continental dimension all these were refered to as the NE-SW Dalhousie lineament (Fig. 2, page 324, in the paper entitled "Role of Pre-Cambrian Lineaments in the Evolution at Cenozoic Festoons of the Indian Sub-Continent" submitted under Section XI (Himalayan and Alpine Orogeny) at the XXII International Geological Congress, New Delhi, 1964).



How far these basement lineaments could have exercised their influence due to the northern underthrusting of the Indian subcontinent has not been touched upon. However, such a possibility was examined with regard to Uttarkasi Earthquake with reference to Tehri Dam.

These surface manifestations are but a reflection of adjustments due to Plate Tectonics and both the NW-SE as well as NE-SW tectonic features could have had a combined effect as well and they are not mutually exclusive. A thorough discussion of all aspects would have enhanced the value of the paper.

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