

Editorial...

In order to provide a platform for sharing the latest developments related to Engineering Geology in India, with particular relevance to the Infrastructure Industry, ISEG has made best efforts to reach its members through Workshops, Brainstorming Sessions, Newsletters, Journals, and its hyperactive Website during the last few years. The Seminar on Challenges in Engineering Geology is another great step taken by ISEG for bringing all the eminent persons engaged in the engineering geological and geotechnical field at one place to interact, share ideas and their experience. I am sure, all concerned will be taking the benefit of this occasion in enriching their mind and profession.

When it was thought about organizing seminar and to bring out the journal on this theme, it was started with apprehension regarding the response from our members. But as the time went on, there was overwhelming response resulting in receipt of 145 abstracts on various interesting topics, followed by 104 full papers. By any standard, it is a huge turnout. Finally, however, by the time we took this journal to the composing stage for printing, it was possible to include only forty papers as the others needed the authors' input following editorial scrutiny and there wasn't enough time for the required interaction. The remaining papers are proposed to be included in the Proceedings Volume, viz Journal of Engineering Geology Vol XXXVI, following modifications by the authors. I hope, the authors will bear with us for this unavoidable delay in the publication of their papers.

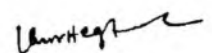
Challenges in Engineering Geology are indeed a subject to be pondered over deeply by all the concerned professionals in this era of infrastructure development. Evaluating geological set up and evolving suitable solutions within given time frame is really a challenging task. Capabilities are required to match new challenges.

The conventional geological mapping in many places is not possible or just sufficient to work out a geological model. Even the maps are required to be self explanatory and also should contain maximum information required to work out suitable design. Investigation techniques should be more precise with better equipments deployed by the agencies so that geological surprises are eliminated during the construction. The subsurface water and problems associated with geological weaknesses remain less understood even today. Some of the established geotechnical methods like probing by drilling or by geophysical methods remains highly inadequate because of their limitations to reach the greater depth or to really undertake those explorations for want of approaches in the remote and rugged mountain terrain. The directional drilling and tunnel seismic predictions are some of the advancements being practiced. There is a need for the developers to extend financial support to academicians in carrying out research as per their requirements.

It is also really heartening to know that there are some contributions from the international authors from the countries like Turkey, Croatia, Bangladesh, etc.

On behalf of ISEG, I sincerely thank the authors for their contributions and also the members of the Editorial Board for sparing their valuable time in editing the papers for bringing out this Pre-Seminar volume.

I also take this opportunity to extend Season's Greetings and wish all the readers of a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.



(U.V. Hegde)
Editor, ISEG