



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Minerals, Mining and Metallurgy in South Asia : Historical Perspectives

Two days International Conference on "Minerals, Mining, and Metallurgy in South Asia : Historical Perspectives" by the Department of History, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, is proposed to be held on **11th and 12th January, 2024** at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India.

CONCEPT NOTE

South Asia is rich in precious minerals and mining has been carried out for thousands of years. India which is an ancient land has been known to produce minerals like gold, copper, iron, zinc, lead and precious stones. Ancient India's contribution to the world in the field of science and technology is historic and well-known. Not only the native Indians possessed the knowledge of extracting minerals but also had the expertise in metallurgical skills as evidenced by thousands of metals and alloy samples collected from excavations done by the archaeologist in different parts of India. Such activities were prevalent in the whole sub-continent. Indians had a deep knowledge of geology, minerals and ores, the chemistry of minerals and metals, physics of high-temperature processing, technology of the kiln and furnace making, technical know-how of the knowledge of handling the molten metals together with making of different ornaments, weapons, vehicles, agricultural tools, etc.

There are references in the Shukla Yajurveda that enumerates the list of metals like gold, iron, lead, tin, and copper in the Atharva Veda the cosmic personality is described as having different colours making the metals; Wherein the flesh, blood, body, and the smell are compared to iron, copper, tin, and lead. Knowing about metals, procurement of metals and the use of metals by man for different purposes was a great step forward in the progress of civilization. Bronze and Iron age have gained their name from the use of metal or alloys.

The forging of wrought iron seems to have reached its zenith in early India. The earliest large forging is the famous iron pillar with a height of over 7 m and weight of about 6 tons at Mehrauli, New Delhi, ascribed to Chandragupta II. Even to this day, the pillar stands without corrosion having withstood the

ravages of nature like rains, floods, and storms. Scientists are unable to demystify the secret of this iron pillar.

Greek accounts report the manufacture of steel in India by the crucible process. Wootz is the anglicized version of *ukku* in the languages of the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, a term denoting steel. Literary accounts suggest that steel from the southern part of the Indian subcontinent was exported to Europe, China, Arab, and the Middle East. Konasamudram in Telangana was a major centre for steel production, centuries before Sheffield, Pittsburg, and Jamshedpur emerged.

Indian metallurgy in medieval times flourished with excellent small firearms, which were stronger and more accurate than those of European countries. Regional Kingdoms, Cholas, Vijaynagar, Maratha, Mewar, etc., paid attention to mining, and especially in Mewar, Zawar mines was the world known for zinc extraction.

India was the only major producer of diamonds until the discovery of diamonds in South Africa in 1866. Diamond was first found in India during the 4th century B.C.E. India's diamonds were recognized by many people because of their big size and beauty. Among all diamonds in India, the diamonds of Golconda were the most recognized.

The development of mining and metallurgy in India hindered during the colonial period. British were aware that metalworking played a considerable role in supporting indigenous power in the past through the production of firearms and ammunition. Therefore, the British took a step to limit Indian metallurgy and mining to prevent future wars and rebellions. So, by the 19th century, once flourished mines of Rajasthan and other regions were mostly abandoned and miners became almost extinct.

In recent years the process of mining has undergone huge technological changes making it an essential part of modern development. Well-endowed with industrial minerals, India's leading industries include steel, cement, mining, petroleum, and gems. Among these, jewellery comprises the country's second-leading export commodity. Indian minerals industry produces more than 80 minerals such as ores, metals, industrial minerals, and mineral fuels. It is indeed among the world's leading producers of iron ore, bituminous coal, zinc, and bauxite, with 10% of world deposits. The Rare Earth (RE) resources in India are reported to be the fifth largest in the world. Its potential is yet to be determined.

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR ARTICLES :

- **Historical places of mining and metallurgy.**
- **Traditional techniques of mining and metallurgy.**
- **Role of metal in the expansion of kingdom.**
- **Objects, ornaments, tools, weapons, etc., of metals.**
- **Wars related to obtain the possession of mining places.**
- **Socio-economic dimensions related to mining and metallurgy; state support for it.**

- **Export and import of metals.**
- **Prospects of making ancient mining sites as Geo heritage sites.**
- **Mining of precious and semi-precious stones and export-import related to it.**
- **Colonial policies related to mining and metallurgy and its impact.**
- **Development of mining and metallurgy after independence; socio-economic aspects of it.**
- **Metallurgy in Aerospace, Ships, Arms, Ammunition, etc.**

The sub themes are indicative in nature. Research paper relevant to the main conference theme may be submitted.

Events	Date
Last date of abstract submission	15 October, 2023
Notification of abstract acceptance	20 October, 2023
Submission of full paper	15 November, 2023

The abstract should be a 250 words summary of the intended paper with 5-6 keywords at the end. The abstract should include the title of the paper, name and affiliation of the author and contact details. Full paper of around 3500-4000 words has to be submitted till prescribed date. The abstract and paper should be sent in MS Word (12 font, Times New Roman in English or 14 font krutidev in Hindi; Articles in English will be appreciated) through email to historymlsu2023@gmail.com

There is Registration Fees :

For Faculty Member	2000/- rs.
For Research Scholar	1500/- rs.

Accommodation will be free for two days. T.A. will be given to selected persons as per their article content. We will also organize field trip to Zawar Mines area. We may also provide facility for Udaipur and surrounding sightseeing on next two days as per our situation.

- ❖ Please do payment only after calling **Dr. Peeyush Bhadviya, Organizing Secretary**
- ❖ **Mob. 9001291980, historymlsu2023@gmail.com**
- ❖ For payment : Recipient – Seminar Organizer
- ❖ **Account No. : 694201701478, IFSC Code : ICIC0006942**
- ❖ **Bank : ICICI, University Campus Branch, Udaipur.**
- ❖ Any problem, call to Mohit Shankar Sisodia, Mob. 7597638677
- ❖ An edited book of selected articles will be published.
- ❖ Certificate will be issued to participants.
- ❖ Dept. of History reserves the right to postpone the conference.

If any query please contact : **Dr. Peeyush Bhadviya, Organizing Secretary**

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ABOUT MOHANLAL SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY

Mohanlal Sukhadia University at Udaipur is a State University established by an act in the year 1962 to cater the needs of higher education in Southern Rajasthan with more than 2 lakh students, and 38 departments. The University is located in Aravalli Hill area largely dominated by tribal population. Ever since its inception, University has been striving to maintain excellence in teaching, research, and community service.

Creation of new knowledge through research is one of the major objectives of higher education. Realizing its role in creation of new knowledge, the University has not only made visible impact on national and international levels but also has attracted interest of other institutions for collaborative research.

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