

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN HIMALAYAN GEOLOGY IN THE 20TH CENTURY: NEED FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN 21ST CENTURY.

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Present paper highlights major development in Himalayan geology in 20th century and need for interdisciplinary approach for sustainable overall development of nature & natural resources. Geology, geologists, geological resources and their development are the basis of future development of any country. On one hand where location and development of geological resources like water (hydropower, ground water for drinking etc), oil, gold, and other minerals can change the economy of the country. On the other various natural & manmade hazards related to global warming, landslides, flash-flooding, earthquakes, dams, and tunneling, etc, can save millions of lives besides protecting their valuable property. Thus leading to sustainable development of all resources for betterment of mankind in times to come. Case studies based on development of remote & backward areas into prosperous regions in northwest Himalayas, after location & development of geological resources and adoption of interdisciplinary approach with other fields (engineering, planning, management etc) are highlighted. For e.g. in Himachal Pradesh where limestone mining in Darlaghat and hydropower generation in Rampur have raised the standard of living. Groundwater resources development in cold deserts of Leh, Ladakh and development of Jawahar tunnel for better accessibility during winters in Jammu & Kashmir has helped to make life much simpler. All this shows the significance of major developments in Himalayan geology for sustainable development in 21st century