

Indian Geological for World Heritage List

MURTY, K.S., Nagpur, India

The Archaeological Survey of India protects over 5000 monuments of national importance while its counterparts in the various States look after another 4000 monuments. These have historical and cultural value. There are geological sites which need protection and management when one recognises that geologically India has a continuous record from the earliest time to the recent. The Geological Survey of India initiated a programme in the early seventies to establish national geological monuments and also conserve the geological sites like the Pillow Lavas and Pyroclastic rocks of the Kolar Gold Field, Peninsular gneiss at Lal Bagh, Charnockite at St. Thomas Mount which could now be added to the World Heritage List. Others who merit consideration are the khondalites of the east coast, the gondites in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the natural arch near Tirupati, the Lonar Crater lake in Buldana district, the rossilwood area at Tiruvakkarai, selected spots near Ajanta and Ellora and Elephanta caves which are mainly in Deccan Traps. A selected spot of the world largest Barytes deposit in Andhra Pradesh deserves to be added to this list. Their protection should be in the hands of the UNESCO and the Geological Survey of India, in cooperation with the Archaeological Survey of India.