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Earth Science Research in India - An Analysis of Projects Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India

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Earth Science research in India evolved over the years in tune with the trends in the global scenario from studying the geologic attributes and assessing the natural resources to addressing issues related to fundamental processes involving, for example, crustal evolution, geodynamics and other aspects of contemporary Earth Science problems. Apart from various Earth Science institutions the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India, has been sponsoring Earth Science research projects in the country and thus playing a catalytic role by providing extra-mural funding. Although the DST started funding Earth Science projects since 1985, the extent of such support increased in the 1990s and thereafter with sponsoring of a number of specialized thematic Earth Science programmes. As a result of these initiatives a prodigious amount of data has been generated that are contained in the Project Completion Reports (PCR). An analysis of the database prepared from 440 Project Completion Reports for the period 1993-2015 indicated that the projects dealing mainly with 17 themes increased almost steadily in number from 1993 to 2012 with a slight decreasing trend till 2015. A similar trend is exhibited by the yearly total project funding and the average cost per project. In addition to the above, various laboratory facilities like Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS), Stable Isotope Geochemistry, Laser Ablation Magnetic Multi-Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LAM-MC-ICP), Ar-Ar Geo-Thermochronology, Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometry (TIMS), Accelerated Mass Spectrometry (AMS), High Temperature-High Pressure Experimental facility, Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometer (IRMS), Palaeo-magnetic Laboratory, Fission track dating Laboratory etc., have been supported to different Universities/ Institutions to facilitate the earth science research in the country.

Biography:

Dr. Manoranjan Mohanty has completed his M Sc Tech degree in Applied Geology from Indian Institute of Technology (ISM), Dhanbad in 1996. He was also recipient of the Post Graduate Diploma Certificate in Seismology and Earthquake Engineering from International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering, Tsukuba, Japan. He has also been awarded PhD degree in Seismology from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra during 2011. Dr. Mohanty has been working in Department of Science and Technology as Scientist for the last two decades. He was looking after various earth science research related programme of the Government of India. He has also supported various National Facilities for carrying out research in Earth Sciences under Science and Engineering Research Board, a statutory body under DST, Government of India and New Delhi. Dr. Mohanty is currently working as Director in DST and looking after 26 Autonomous Organizations of DST.