

Preface

The Indian subcontinent contains an unusually rich rock record covering much of geological history. India is a key part of all global tectonic schemes, and home to many world-class geological treasures. Among them are the granites of the Precambrian Indian Shield, the mafic dyke swarms intruding them, classical continental flood basalt provinces like the Deccan and Rajmahal Traps, and many carbonatite-alkaline complexes. These fabulous igneous rocks, formed at different times during the Earth's history, can provide valuable insights into how the Indian continental crust and the sub-Indian mantle have evolved physically and chemically over time.

We felt that a comprehensive research volume on the broad theme of magmatism in India over time would help in achieving a better understanding of India's long, complex and fascinating geological evolution, and would provide the global Earth Science community with a valuable and widely used information source. This special issue, 'Magmatism in India through Time', contains twenty-two peer-reviewed papers whose subject areas are petrology and geochemistry (papers 1–13), geochronology (14, 15), geophysics (16, 17), structural and regional geology (18, 19), and physical volcanology (20–22).

We thank all the contributors to this volume for sharing our enthusiasm and for publishing here research that they could have sent elsewhere. Our own research through the years has focussed on basalts, especially the Deccan basalts. Naturally, we cannot claim expertise in every subject area or familiarity with every geographic region represented in this volume. For papers which we were not ourselves capable of judging, we have (in most cases) gone by the recommendations of the reviewers. We are very grateful to seventy-four experts who served as reviewers and spent valuable time and effort in making recommendations on the manuscripts. This volume would never have materialized without their help.

We thank Dr. Satish Shetye, Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. D Shankar, Associate Editor, for their encouragement and advice, and Ms. Hema Wesley of the Editorial Office for her efficient handling of the final manuscripts. We also thank our family members for their affection and invaluable domestic support.

Hetu Sheth and Kanchan Pande
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