



Dr.V. Balaram

Dr. V. Balaram has made significant contributions in the areas of trace-element geochemistry, analytical geochemistry, marine geochemistry, mineral exploration, environmental geochemistry and standard reference materials.

He, alongwith his colleagues, has established a world-class Geochemistry Laboratory consisting of modern analytical instruments like F-AAS, GF-AAS, ICP-MS and EPMA, etc., at NGRI which are helping scientists from a host of R&D organizations/universities across the country. He developed methods for the estimation of REE, PGE, gold and several other trace elements at natural abundance levels in rocks, minerals, ores, water, soils, and other geological materials using these analytical techniques for use in geochemical, mineral exploration and environmental studies.

His studies on the genesis of banded iron-formations of greenstone belts of Karnataka, India, and the exploration work carried out along with his teammates in Central Madagascar led to the identification of promising gold mineralized areas for mining. The basemetal exploration work carried out by him and his colleagues in a few places of Rajasthan, India, led to the identification of some promising Zn-mineralized areas.

More than 170 research papers were published by him in reputed National and International Earth Science, Chemical and Multi-Disciplinary Journals. He has presented equal number of papers at various national/international conferences in India and abroad.

He is the recipient of the “National Mineral Award” in 2000 from the Ministry of Mines, Government of India for his contribution in the field of mineral exploration and Eminent Mass Spectroscopist Award from the Indian Society of Mass Spectrometry (ISMAS) in 2006 for outstanding contributions in the area of mass spectrometry.

Leader of the Regional Committee on the Central Working Group for India for IGCP 360, “International Geochemical Mapping Program” (1994-1998). Member, International Project IGCP 479 “Sustainable use of the PGE in the 21st century: Opportunities” (2204-07)

Won “Best Paper Merit Award” in 1998 (for paper published in Trends. Anal. Chem., 1996) from ISAS, Hyderabad Chapter (IICT, Hyderabad, India).

He visited Dept. of Chemistry, University of Surrey, UK (1988), Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK (1994, 2005) and British Geological Survey, UK (2001) as a Visiting Scientist.

He also visited several universities and R & D organizations in countries, such as UK, USA, France, Switzerland, Finland, China and Hong Kong.