

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Rajendra Kumar

Scientist (Director)

Hon. Minister, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Dr. Altekar, Shri Jain, Mr. Sharma, Shri Chakavorty, Learned Authors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

As the inaugural session draws to a close, it falls on me to express, on behalf of the Scientists and other staff of the NML and also on behalf of the members of the Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers, our gratitude to Shri Patil for having come to the relatively inaccessible city of Jamshedpur to inaugurate this meeting of a professional body. In the Union Ministry, Shri Shivraj Patil has the onerous responsibility of representing all that is modern and has formed the basis of ensuring rapid economic and social growth of our society, and which are regarded harbingers of confidence for our ability to successfully meet the challenges of twenty first century to provide food, shelter, energy and employment to the growing multitudes of our population in order to bely the gloomy forecasts of Malthus. As Vice-President, CSIR, Sir, you represent us in the top echelons of the Government of India, and we are all very happy and privileged to hear your assurance of continued appraisal of cause and support to the national research programmes, be they in metallurgical scenerio or elsewhere. The scientific community in this laboratory particular, are very gratified to hear your words of encouragement.

The sphere of our R & D activities at the NML is large and like the terrestrial Globe having its highly developed areas co-existing with its least developed and economically backwards, ones, we have our own areas of strengths and weaknesses. Our range of activities covers exotic areas like extraction of metal values from the

poly-metallic ocean bed nodules, newly emerging areas of pollution abatement in metallurgical industry and of providing metallurgical inputs to the thermal power generation sector besides the already broad spectrum of conventional metallurgy with their emerging horizons.

The R & D activities of the Mineral Dressing Group at the NML constitute one of our strong areas. The work here starts from characterisation of minerals, studies on their beneficiation characteristics and development of process flow sheets in our pilot plant with a view to generate design data needed for the industrial scale operations. As you will go round the laboratory you will see the other areas of our strength which are many.

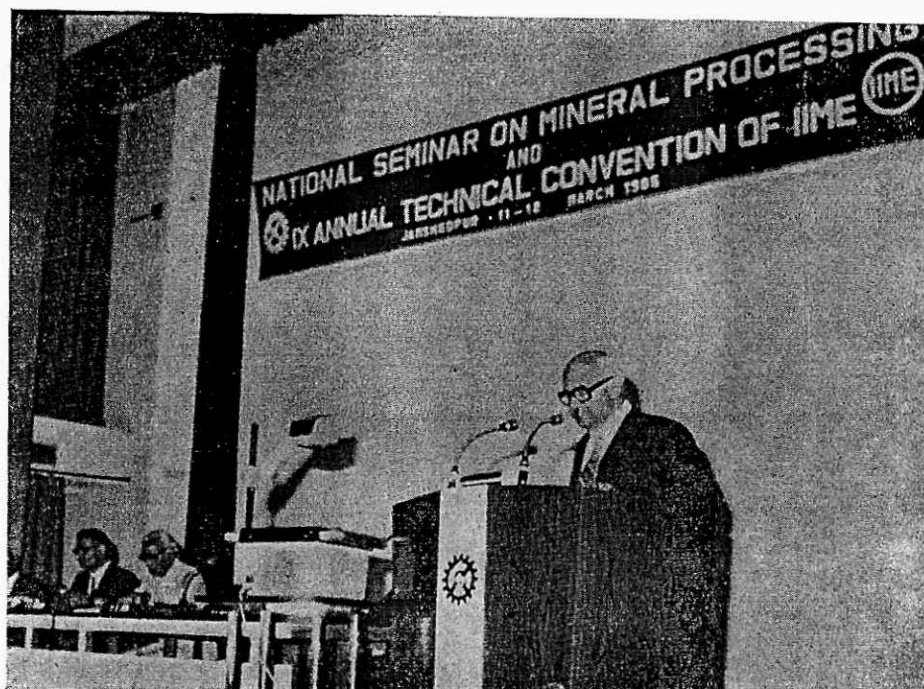
I have digressed a bit in proposing this vote of thanks to our distinguished Minister and Vice-President, CSIR.

We would like to say a special 'thank you' to the authors of special lectures and papers. We hope exchange of ideas amongst the delegates will advance the cause of mineral industry in India. Our grateful thanks to all of them.

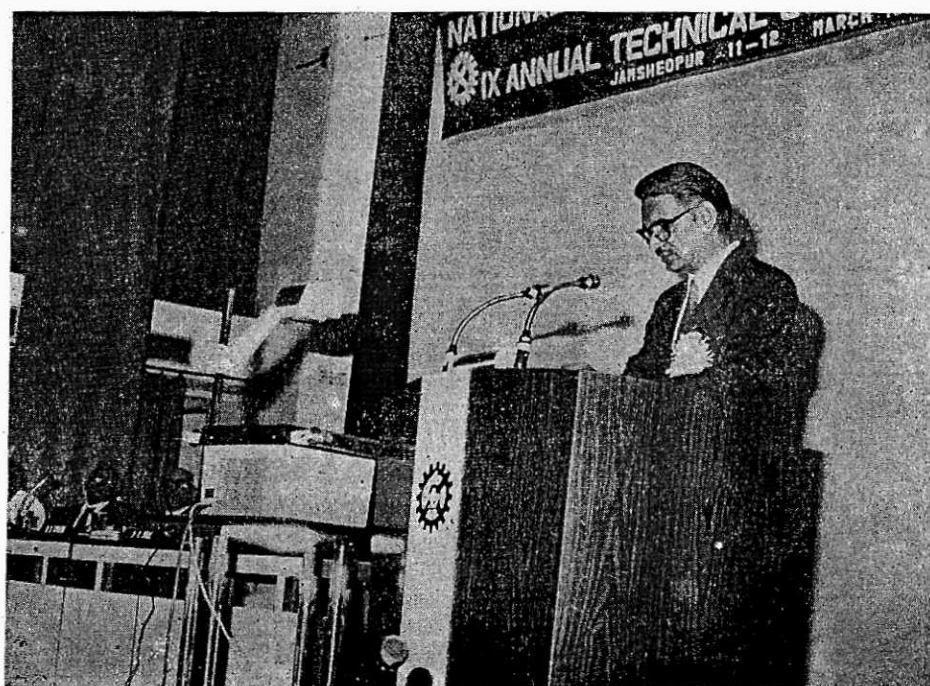
Finally, the seminar has received financial assistance from a number of organisations amongst them being the CSIR, SAIL, MECON, TISCO, DASTURCO, HZL, VISL, BSMDC, PPCL, NRDC, GMDC, MBE, HCL, UCIL, TRF, Belpahar Refractories, Paramount Sinters etc. etc.

Lastly, I should also mention the organisational work by the Scientists and staff of our Mineral Dressing Division who, despite having been deputed for election duties spared no pains towards the seminar.





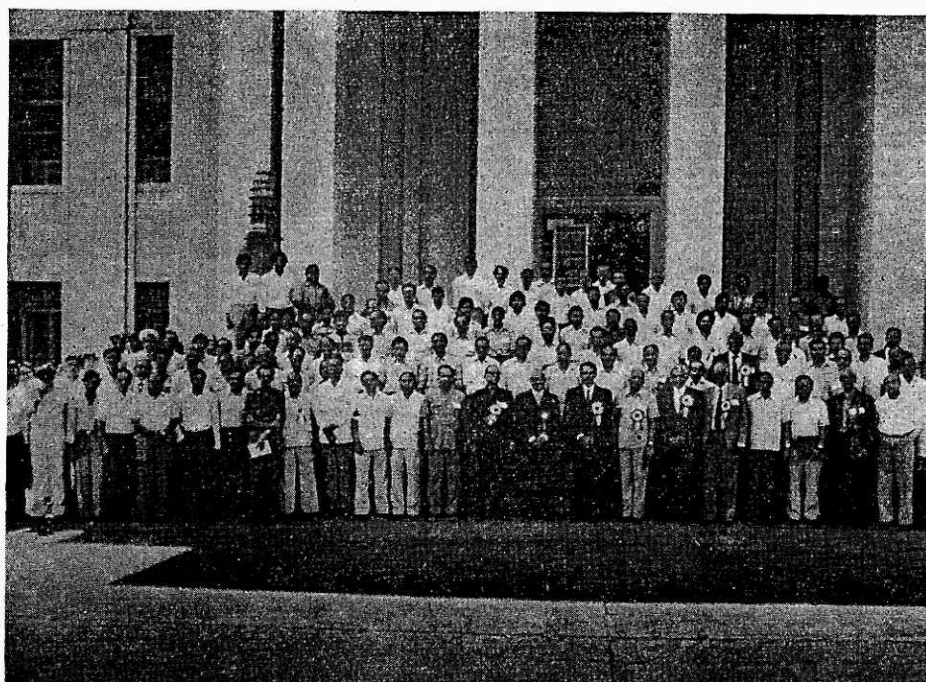
Prof. V. A. Altekar, Director, National Metallurgical Laboratory, and President, Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers, delivering the Presidential Address.



Chief Guest, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of State for Science & Technology, Ocean Development, Atomic Energy, Space & Electronics, delivering the Inaugural Address.



The Chief Guest, being apprised of NML's contribution in the field of Mineral Processing, during his visit to the Pilot Plants.



Group photograph of the guests and delegates to the Seminar.