

**Brief Report on the Workshop 'Saraswati Palaeochannels'
29-30 August, 2017**

Two days' workshop on '*Utilisation of Saraswati Palaeochannel Maps for Ground Water Exploration*', has been organized jointly by Regional Remote Sensing Centre (RRSC-W), NRSC/ISRO, Dept. of Space, Jodhpur and Haryana Saraswati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB), Govt. of Haryana during 29-30 August, 2017.

Nearly 64 participants from 22 Organizations of Central and State Govt. have registered for the workshop from different parts of the country viz. Haryana (8), Punjab (2), Chandigarh (6), Rajasthan (40), Gujarat (4), Delhi (1), Bangalore (1) and Dehradun (2).

Shri Prashant Bharadwaj, Dy. Chairman, HSHDB was the Chief Guest of the Inaugural function. Shri Shrikant Walgad, Principal Secretary & Chief Executive Officer of HSHDB and Shri Suraj Bhan Singh, Chief Engineer, Ground Water Department, Govt. of Rajasthan were the Guests of Honour of the function. Dr. J. R. Sharma, Brahm Prakash Professor of ISRO, Jodhpur delivered the Key Note address. The entire programme was organised under the supervision of Dr. S. Srinivasa Rao, General Manager, RRSC-W, ISRO, Jodhpur. Dr. B. K. Bhadra, Sr. Scientist of RRSC-W was the Course Coordinator of the workshop.

The integrated map of Saraswati Palaeochannels from Mann Sarovar to Dwarka has been prepared by RRSC-W, NRSC/ISRO, Jodhpur. This map is being utilized for ground water exploration by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), State Govt. agencies and NGOs. Around 17 talks were delivered during technical sessions by the speakers of different disciplines like Remote Sensing, Ground water, Geophysics, Web GIS specialists as well as Experts of Vedic literatures.

Major Outcome of the workshop –

- It is agreed by most of the experts from different discipline that existence of Vedic Saraswati River in northwest India is now scientifically proved and the same has been accepted by the Union Government in 2009.
- Research on Saraswati palaeochannels is to be continued through inter-disciplinary approach and more and more scientific data to be generated using tools like remote sensing, geology, archaeology, ground water, geochronological dating, historical evidences etc.
- Modern technologies to be adopted in search of sub-surface palaeochannels viz. microwave remote sensing (C, S and L-band), multi-channel resistivity survey, ground penetrating radar survey, drilling etc.
- The framework of Web GIS module on 'Vedic Saraswati River' has been developed on Bhuvan platform which was demonstrated to the participants. All the participants have kindly agreed to share their data to put on Bhuvan portal.
- RRSC-W will take a lead role in compiling the information from stakeholders and MoU will be done with the participating agencies.
- The Saraswati palaeochannel maps to be utilized for ground water exploration and restoration of Indian cultural sites. Saraswati River may be treated as a national heritage of the country.



Dignitaries on the Dias (L to R): **Dr. B.K. Bhadra** (Course Coordinator), **Shri Suraj Bhan** (Chief Engineer, GWD), **Dr. J.R. Sharma** (Brahm Prakash Professor, ISRO), **Shri Prashant Bhardwaj** (Dy. Chairman, HSHDB), **Shri Shrikant Walgad** (Principal Secretary & Chief Executive Officer, HSHDB, Govt. of Haryana and **Dr. S.Srinivasa Rao**, General Manager, RRSC-W, NRSC/ISRO, Jodhpur.



Shri Shrikant Valgad, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Haryana sharing his views with the participants



Participants of the Saraswati Workshop

