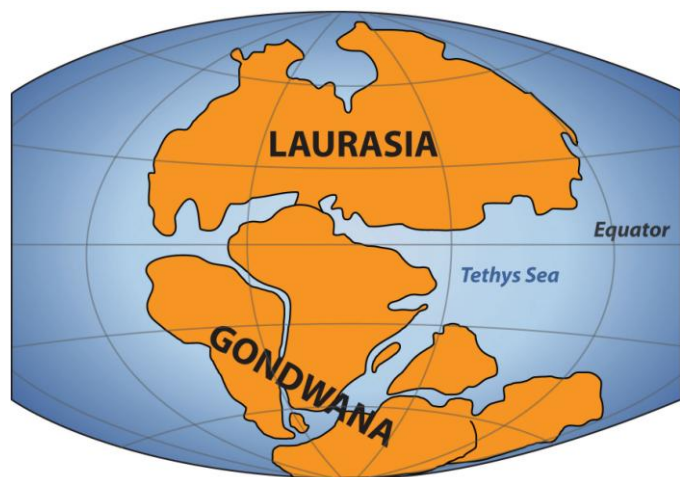




FIRST CIRCULAR

International Conference on Current perspectives and emerging issues in Gondwana evolution

19-20 February, 2015, Lucknow, India

ORGANIZED BY
BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEOBOTANY, LUCKNOW



CO-SPONSORED BY
THE SOCIETY OF EARTH SCIENTISTS



Introduction

The term “Gondwana” has its roots in India (‘Land of the Gonds’, a tribe of central India) and H.B. Medlicott (1872) was the first to introduce Gondwana System for the upper Palaeozoic (*Glossopteris*-bearing) and Mesozoic non-marine sedimentary rocks of the peninsular India, in an unpublished report to the Geological Survey of India. O. Feistmantel (1876) was first to bring Gondwana System into print. The classic Indian Gondwana sections have since become reference sections for the entire globe. The Gondwana lasted from the 650–500 Ma (late Neoproterozoic-Cambrian) amalgamation of African and South American terrains to Antarctica–Australia–India through 320 Ma (mid-Carboniferous), merging with Laurussia in Pangea to break up from 185 to 100 Ma (Jurassic and Early Cretaceous). Gondwana straddled the equator at 540 Ma, lay wholly in the Southern Hemisphere by 350 Ma, and then rotated clockwise so that at 250 Ma, Australia reached the south pole and Africa the equator. By initial breakup of Pangea at 185 Ma, Gondwana had moved northward such that North Africa reached 35°N. Besides the traditional approaches involving tectonics, stratigraphy, fossils and sedimentary facies; the palaeomagnetic, radiometric, geochemical, isotopic, mineralogical and sea-level data have led to a significant enhancement in our understanding of the Gondwana assembly and breakup, the patterns and causes of Permo-Triassic extinctions and the climate changes during Gondwana period. Recent investigations have also provided new perspectives on palaeobiodiversity, morphotaxonomy and biostratigraphy of the Gondwana flora and fauna. Studies on palaeowildfire are fast emerging as a significant tool for palaeoclimatic interpretation across the Gondwana.

The Gondwana-15 conference to be held at Madrid (Spain) will discuss aspects related to geology, palaeontology, palaeoclimate, and resources of Gondwana with field trips in regions of West Gondwana in Europe and northern Africa. We invite Gondwana geoscientists to visit classic East Gondwana sections of India and to deliberate upon advance issues on Gondwana “on the land of Gondwana” during International Conference and field workshop on “Current perspectives and emerging issues in Gondwana evolution” at Lucknow, India 19-20 February, 2015. This event, being organised jointly by Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), Lucknow, India and The Society of Earth Scientists (SES), is also intended to be a run-up to the 36th International Geological Congress, Delhi, India, 2020.

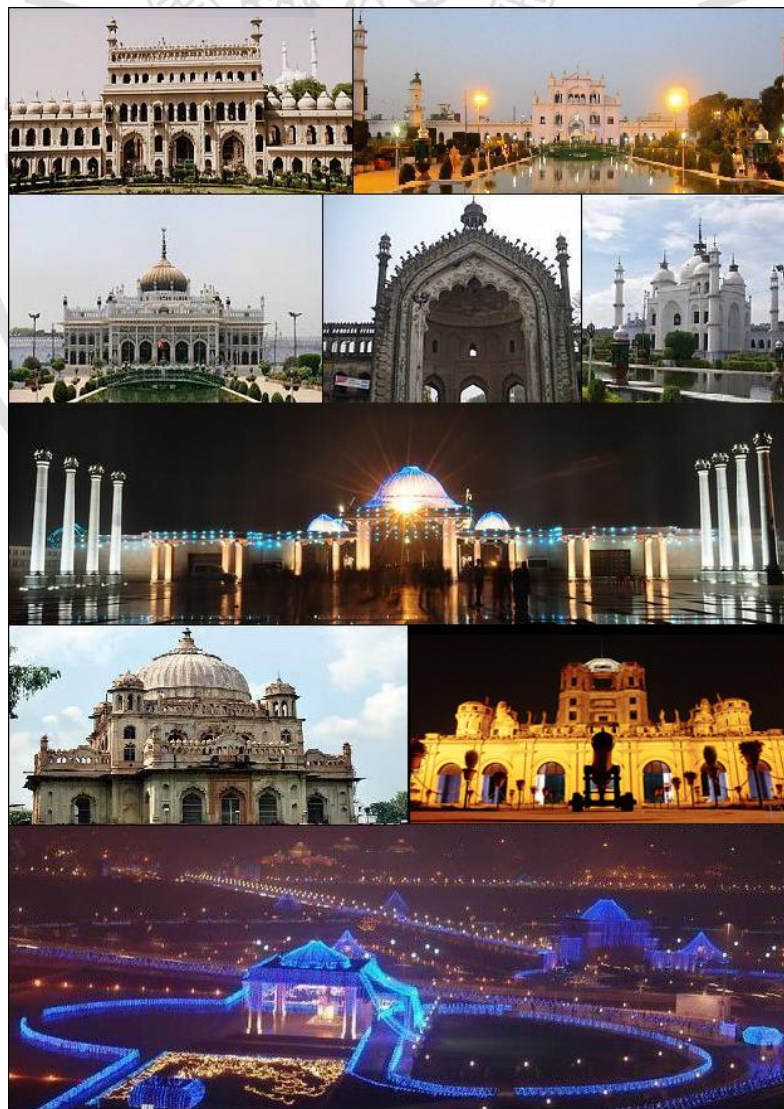
The Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), Lucknow, India is a premier institution focused on research pertaining to palaeobotany and allied disciplines, and on the Gondwana in particular. Since its inception in 1946, BSIP has pursued research on mega, meso and microflora from Gondwana including palynostratigraphy. Besides the Gondwana basins of peninsular India, ongoing projects at BSIP include sections in the Tethyan realm including Kashmir and Spiti. Comparative studies in fossil floras including mixed floras and palaeo wildfires of India, Antarctica and South America are also in progress. These comparative studies are globally the first initiative in Gondwana research. The proposed conference is expected to bring together a large number of Gondwana researchers and experts and will provide a platform for exchange of ideas, collaborative researches and for dissemination of current insights into the evolution of Gondwana.

Themes covered

1. **Geophysical evidence for Gondwana assembly and fragmentation**
2. **Global event markers during Gondwana evolution**
3. **Biodiversity during Gondwana period**
4. **Mixed floras: Gondwana-Laurasia biotic interchanges**
5. **Sedimentary record and sea level changes**
6. **Correlation and age constraints**
7. **Permian-Triassic boundary events**
8. **Palaeoclimatic events: biological, geochemical, sedimentological and isotopic proxies**
9. **Palaeofires in Gondwana**
10. **Energy resources**

Lucknow city

Lucknow, the “City of Nawabs”, is the capital city of the state of Uttar Pradesh, historically known as the Awadh region. Lucknow is the cultural nerve centre of



northern India and is traditionally known for its etiquette, culture and traditions which have attained a rare degree of sophistication. Lucknow is also known for its historical monuments, courtly manners, poetry, music and fine cuisine patronized by the Nawabs of the city. Many social and cultural institutions of national importance are located in Lucknow. Besides BSIP, Lucknow is home to a large number of research institutions and universities.

The nearest International Airport is New Delhi, approximately 500 km (309 miles) from Lucknow. Lucknow is well connected with New Delhi by air (flying time 45 minutes), rail and road.

Weather in Lucknow during February is pleasant with temperatures ranging between 25° and 27°C. Light warm clothes may be required during night.

Places of tourist interest near Lucknow: Agra (363km), Varanasi (282km), Sarnath (282km), Khajuraho (295km)

Language of the conference

The official language of the conference is English.

Registration

	Early bird (up to 30.11.2014)	After 30.11.2014
For Indian delegates	Rs. 6,000/-	Rs. 7,000/-
Accompanying member	Rs. 3,000/-	Rs. 3,000/-
Students	Rs. 2,000/-	Rs. 2,000/-
For foreign delegates	USD 120	USD 150
Accompanying member	USD 75	USD 75

Registration fee can be paid by demand draft in favour of '**Director, BSIP, Lucknow**' or in cash on site. The Registration fee can also be paid through online NEFT and SWIFT transfers in favour of 'Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow' in SB Account No: 18730 10000 01666, IFS Code: IOBA0001873, Indian Overseas Bank, BSIP Branch, 53 University Road, Lucknow - 226007, U.P., India.

Abstract submission

Abstracts for both oral and poster presentations should be sent to the Organizing Secretary before **15th November, 2014** (email: gondwanaconf.bsip@gmail.com or rajni_tewari@bsip.res.in). The abstracts should be informative, typed in 12 point Times New Roman font in double space, mentioning the title, name(s) of the author(s) with their affiliation(s) and e-mail ID(s). Extended abstract with relevant maps, figures and references are welcome.

Accommodation

The delegates will be provided accommodation on payment basis in hotels and guest houses. The hotels are within 5 km distance of the Institute. The tariff of various hotels in Lucknow ranges from Rs.2,500/- to Rs.10,000/-. Delegates are advised to send their accommodation requests and travel plans well in advance. Details of hotels/guest houses will be provided in the second circular.

Post-conference field trip

A post conference field trip to visit typical Indian Gondwana sections of Central India will be organised during February 21- 25, 2015. The details of the field trip including excursion fee will be communicated in the second circular.

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Organizing secretary

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Important Dates

Last date for submission of registration form : 30.08.2014

Last date for submission of abstract : 15.11.2014

Last date for payment of registration fee (early bird) : 30.11.2014

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and return **before 15 November 2014** to the Organizing Secretary
Email: gondwanaconf.bsip@gmail.com, rajni_tewari@bsip.res.in

Full Name (as in Passport) :

Passport No. (for foreign delegates) :

Designation :

Institution/ Organization :

Postal address :

Email :

Telephone no. : Fax No.

Title of the abstract :

Mode of presentation : ☐ Oral ☐ Poster

Whether research scholar/student ☐ Accompanying member ☐

Willing to participate in field excursion : Yes / No

Whether accommodation required: Yes / No (if yes duration of stay with travel itinerary)

Payment Mode: Cash ☐ Demand Draft ☐ Account Transfer (NEFT) ☐ SWIFT ☐

Amount :

Demand Draft No. Dated Bank

Place

Date

Signature

Registration fee is to be paid by Cash/Demand Draft drawn in favour of 'Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow' payable at Lucknow. The Registration Fee can also be paid through online NEFT and SWIFT transfers in favour of 'Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow' in SB Account No: 18730 10000 01666, IFS Code: IOBA0001873, Indian Overseas Bank, BSIP Branch, 53 University Road, Lucknow - 226007, U.P., India.