

Guest Editor's Column



Greetings!

This special issue of Geohorizons contains two papers on shale gas prospect studies in India. This is timely; we wish to publish many more reports on detailed investigations of shale gas prospects in India. We may recall that India is the fifth largest energy consumer in the world nearly 52% of energy comes from coal, 32% from oil and 6% from natural gas. Note also that Indian primary energy sector is also growing at a rate of nearly 5% per year. Like other developing nations, this has prompted us to look beyond conventional energy resources and thus there is a strong motivation towards exploring for other unconventional sources such as tight sand, shale gas, and coal bed methane. These prospects are regional in extent where hydrocarbon deposits are found in impermeable rock formations. These are generally produced by horizontal drilling and fracturing. The key question is 'can geoscience help in this process?' Of course, laboratory geochemical analysis of shale sample can provide us with initial indicators of hydrocarbons as demonstrated by the two papers published in this volume. However, I feel strongly that detailed geological and geophysical analysis can help in both exploration and production planning. We must make use of seismic data to investigate how well we can demarcate the so-called sweet spots. We should also investigate using pre-stack 3D seismic data for subsurface fracture mapping. Reports of such studies are scanty we encourage our members and the readers to provide us with reports of such studies for publication in Geohorizons in future.

Sincerely,

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