

## *Editorial*

The engineering knowledge on Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology essentially covers different areas related to Water resources development, Engineering Geology, Geotechnical Engineering, Mining Engineering, Geophysics, Petroleum Engineering, Railway, Metro and Highway Engineering. As in other project, the topics cover the area of project planning and layout, geotechnical site investigations, rock mass characterization, analysis, designs, blasting, construction, underground excavation, rock testing, instrumentation and maintenance & control.

Research in Rock Mechanics is important for the development of water resources projects, infrastructural projects, mining sector and other large scale civil engineering activities in hilly regions. In India, this acquires additional importance because a huge potential of hydro power lies untapped in the Himalayan region. Since the dam building activity was accelerated immediately after independence, the more obvious sites from the geological point of view were utilized first. What remains now is more complex and therefore challenging.

The recent development and advancement in Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology in India and abroad have played significant role to implement overall economy and safety of the Hydro-power structure and creating most eco-friendly electric power through harnessing the balance hydro electric potential. The study of Rock engineering has also assumed considerable importance because of appreciation of its wide application. In India, research on prediction of rock mass behavior, support pressure, tunnel closure etc has picked up considerable momentum. This is particularly so, because of unforeseen challenges faced by geotechnical engineers, while working in Himalayas and other unexplored regions. However, inspite of great progress made, there still remains a lot to be done, particularly in the field of non-competent rock formations which are found nearly in all parts of world. Many a times, conventional designs methods may not apply, as the true behaviour of structurally weak rock masses is difficult to predict. Mathematical Models based on extensive geotechnical investigations are required to be developed to predict the realistic behavior of complex rock mass.

It was with this view that the Journal of Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology (JRMTT) was launched one and half decades ago to include contributions from researchers , academicians, field engineers etc so that a rare spectrum of experiences of various experts in this area be formed and derives its inspiration from the ideas developed over the last few decades.

The each volume of JRMTT contains 8 to 10 papers covering different aspects of rock mechanics, underground space technology and tunnelling. We believe that the readers find this journal of immense value and pursue the course of progression of research and development, professional practice, education and knowledge in Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology.

*- S. Mitra  
R.K.Goel  
Editors, JRMTT*