

BendreTirtha Report

'Hot water springs at Irde (BendreTirtha) of PutturTaluk and Bandaru of BeltangadiTaluk are unique natural phenomenon, providing a wonderful opportunity to students of science for practical field work. Some limited information was available about both these spots. However, detailed geological and scientific investigations had not been made. Vivekananda College, Puttur requested Shri V.V. Bhat, Secretary to Government of India, and Member Finance in Atomic Energy Commission and Shri G.N. Hegde, Scientist in Atomic Minerals Division, Bangalore (DAE) to commission a geological and scientific study of the hot water springs. We are grateful to them for responding to our request. Dr. A.K. Rai, Director and Shri G.N. Hegde, Scientist, Atomic Minerals Division at Bangalore constituted a field investigation team and conducted studies at both the locations. The faculty and the students of Vivekananda College were led by Dr. A.P. Radhakrishna. The report prepared by AMD is enclosed.

Such hot water springs in Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Bhakreshwar (West Bengal) and Baratang (Andaman Islands) have unique features specific to them. Some of them are believed to be beneficial in treatment of skin diseases due to the sulphur content. The mud volcano at Baratang (which is not far from the only volcano of India in Barren Island) and the hot water spring at Bhakreshwar are being studied and monitored by the Department of Atomic Energy, particularly with reference to the pattern of emission of Mithane.

The hot spring at Irde has lost its original charm in the recent years but the location as well as its neighborhood in Seere Hole are rich in geological diversity. The hot spring at Bandaru has a bubble - source in the vicinity. Further geological exploration may be necessary for coming to specific findings both the hot springs.

On behalf of Vivekananda College we thank Atomic Minerals Division for associating us with this study'.