



## EXPLOITATION OF BASTAR GRANITOIDS-KEY TO REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

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The vastness of granites in the Earth crust has always attracted geoscientists for its academic and economic significance. In this context, the southern Bastar region, covering an area of around 1000 sq. kms. is of great economic potential. About half of this area is covered with Archaean granitoids which form the most prominent country rock. These granitoids are well exposed in the region as prominent hillocks and domical outcrops.

The petrographic, geochemical and physico-mechanical analyses of a few granite samples from Bastanar, adjoining Kodenar and Kilepal area is made to assess the economic viability of these granitoids.

The results of analyses reveal positive indications such as freshness of feldspars, low mica and high quartz content, evenly granular structure, average uniaxial compressive strength ( $\sigma_c$ ) 180 Mpa, average tensile strength ( $\sigma_t$ ) 22.5 Mpa and average shear strength ( $\sigma_s$ ) 36 Mpa. These properties correspondence with the specifications required for commercial granites. It is suggested that a systematic exploration and exploitation in this *hitherto* underdeveloped Bastar region, can prove to be a key to industrial growth.

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