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Geochemical and petrogenetic study of Proterozoic Sewariya and Govindgarh granitoids from South Delhi Fold Belt

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The present study reports the geochemical composition of Sewariya two-mica granites (SG) and Govindgarh granites (GG) intruding rocks of Delhi Supergroup along the western margin of South Delhi Fold Belt in Rajasthan, India. Both granite varieties are highly evolved possessing high SiO₂, Al₂O₃, low MgO, CaO, Fe₂O₃, Ni, Cr and V and are calc-alkaline in nature. In chondrite normalized REE diagrams, SG are characterized by highly fractionated REE patterns (avg La_N/Yb_N = 21.45) and sharp negative Eu anomaly (Eu/Eu* = 0.25), whereas GG do not show significant REE fractionated patterns (avg La_N/Yb_N = 3.31) and have variable Eu anomalies. From primitive mantle normalized multi-element diagrams, crustal signatures (low Nb, Ti and high Pb, U, Th) can be inferred for both the granitoid varieties. Also, strong peraluminous nature, high A/CNK, normative corundum and abundant mica content point towards a (meta)sedimentary protolith for them. An arc setting is indicated by their calc-alkaline nature; volcanic arc or syn-collisional affinities in tectonic discriminant diagrams (Nb versus Y; Rb versus Nb + Y). They are peraluminous leucogranites derived from crustal melts with little mantle contribution as is evident from their mineralogy and geochemical characteristics. The anatectic conditions prevalent during the formation of these granites differed with SG being formed under dehydration conditions, while the formation of GG involved fluid-present melting reactions.

Keywords: Geochemistry; granitoid magmatism, petrography, peraluminous leucogranites.

GRANITOIDS constitute the most abundant rock types in the continental crust and hence have been the subject of manifold discussions regarding their genesis and classification. Granitoid formation includes a variety of processes such as partial melting of crustal components, differentiation and evolution of mantle-derived melts or variable

degrees of interaction between them. Different geochemical characteristics of granitic rocks are often attributed to different source-rock compositions; the amount of residual minerals in the magma, varying anatectic conditions or stages of magmatic differentiation. The large varieties of granitoids and processes involved in their formation, compound the complexities associated with their classification and deciphering their origin. Frost *et al.*¹ presented a comprehensive fourfold classification of granitoids, viz. peraluminous leucogranites, Cordilleran granitoids, Caledonian post-orogenic granitoids and A-type granitoids. Most peraluminous leucogranites are considered to be pure crustal melts without any direct mantle contribution², or to be residual magmas in which separation of early crystallized phases has occurred³⁻⁶. Other granitoid varieties result from the hybrid magmas arising from the reaction of supracrustal rocks with mantle-derived melts. Thus, all granitoid magmatism with the exception of peraluminous leucogranites is associated with crustal growth rather than just recycling^{7,8}.

In the light of recent advances proposed for evolutionary processes responsible for the formation of varieties of granitoids, this study examines the geochemistry and evolution of Govindgarh granitoids (GG) and Sewariya granitoids (SG), which occur along the western margin of the South Delhi Fold Belt (SDFB), intruding rocks of the Delhi Supergroup. Previous geochemical studies of SG are basically confined to major elements and selected trace elements⁹⁻¹¹. Based on new data, the present study discusses the geochemical characterization of these rocks, classifies SG and GG, and presents better constraints on their genesis.

Geological setting and petrography

The Aravalli–Delhi Fold Belt comprises of supracrustal rocks of Paleoproterozoic Aravalli Supergroup and Mesozo–Neo-proterozoic Delhi Supergroup overlying the Archean Banded Gneissic Complex^{12,13} basement (~3.5–2.5 Ga), which is considered as the cratonic nucleus of

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the region^{14,15}. The Delhi Supergroup which forms the major lithostratigraphic unit of the Aravalli Range, consists mainly of deep-water to platform-type sediments¹⁶. Based on the age constraints of the granitoids intruding the Delhi Supergroup¹⁷ and the lithofacies association, Sinha Roy¹⁸ proposed diachronous development of the Delhi Fold Belt, thereby dividing the belt into North Delhi Fold Belt (NDFB) and SDFB. Subsequent geochronological studies suggest that rocks of the Mesoproterozoic NDFB are intruded by older granitoids of ~1.85–1.70 Ga (refs 19–21), whereas the Neoproterozoic SDFB is intruded by younger ~1.0–0.85 Ga granitoids^{22–24}. This geochronological division of the granitoids overruled Heron's²⁵ grouping of all granitoids intruding the Delhi Supergroup as 'Erinapura Granites'. Presently, the term 'Erinapura Granite', in general, refers to the younger granitoids occurring to the southwest of Ajmer city²⁶ or the granitic, batholithic body occupying Erinapura and neighbouring Sirohi district of Gujarat²⁷. Although there are no geochronological constraints on the Sewariya pluton, it is considered to be the largest northern equivalent of Erinapura intrusions²⁵.

Since our study area is confined to the northern part of SDFB, we follow the classification given by Gupta *et al.*²⁸, which divides the rocks of Delhi Supergroup of SDFB in its north central part into the Barotiya, Sendra, Bhim and Rajgarh Groups from west to east. The Barotiya and Sendra Groups occupying the western Sendra–Barotiya basin are separated from the Bhim and Rajgarh Groups in the eastern Bhim–Rajgarh basin by an inlier of older pre-Delhi rocks¹⁶. Based on the nature of volcanics and mineralization associated with them, the Barotiya Group is considered to be a back arc-related rift sequence, whereas the Sendra Group is considered to have origin in an arc-type setting^{9,29,30}. Evidence of convergent tectonics has been preserved in the form of the Phulad ophiolite suite and blueschist associations in the Basantgarh and Phulad areas of southern Rajasthan^{18,31–33}. Rocks with arc affinities have been identified along the length of the Delhi Fold Belt^{20,34–38}.

Sewariya pluton occurs along the western margin of SDFB and intrudes the Barotiya Group, separating it from the pre-Delhi gneisses (BGC) and overlying Ras Marble occurring in the west (Figure 1). Three phases of the Sewariya batholith, viz. hornblende–biotite granite, biotite–granite and a younger tourmaline leucogranite have been identified^{9,10}. The hornblende–biotite granite is considered to be deep level I-type granite, whereas biotite–granite and tourmaline leucogranite are considered as shallow-level orogenic, S-type granites formed by the partial melting of the same source, under different physico-chemical conditions. The biotite granite is volumetrically more abundant, whereas tourmaline leucogranite occurs as pod-like intrusions within the host Barotiya rocks of the Delhi Group¹⁰. Pandian and Dutta³⁹ mapped larger exposures of tourmaline leucogranite along the

Luni–Sagarmati River in the vicinity of Govindgarh and owing to its distinct characteristics designated it as the Govindgarh granite (Figure 1). Hereafter, we have used the terms Sewariya granites (SG) for the biotite–muscovite granites and Govindgarh granites (GG) for the biotite-absent granites sampled from the Sagarmati River section.

Major mineral assemblage of GG consists of quartz, K-feldspar, plagioclase and muscovite, while tourmaline and garnet occur as accessory phases (Figure 2 *a–d*). Quartz is generally coarse-grained, dominating the thin section and also occurs as fine-grained inclusions and at grain boundaries. A few thin sections also show perthitic texture. Mica occurs as scattered flakes and tourmaline grains are of the schorlite variety showing zoning (Figure 2 *a* and *b*). SG (Figure 2 *e–h*) show similar petrographic characteristics as GG with the difference being that biotite is present in the former and absent in the latter. Also, tourmaline in GG is much coarser-grained and abundant than in SG.

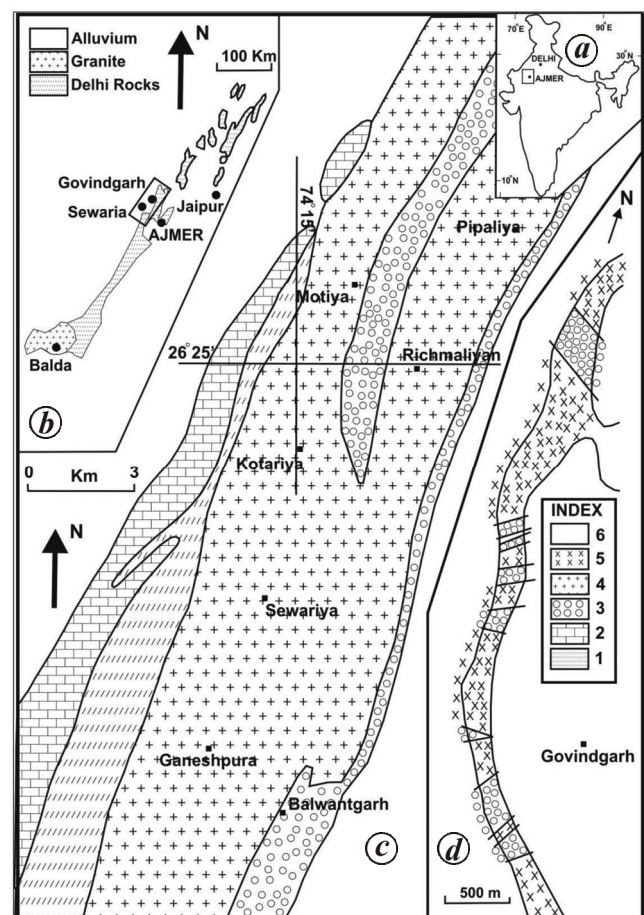


Figure 1. Geological map of the study area. *a*, Map of India showing the study area; *b*, Framework of Delhi Fold Belt; *c*, Geological map of Sewariya area after Bhattacharjee *et al.*⁹; *d*, Luni–Sagarmati river section near Govindgarh, after Pandian and Dutta³⁹. Index: 1, BGC; 2, Ras Marble; 3, Barotiya rocks; 4, Sewariya Granite (SG); 5, Govindgarh granite; 6, Alluvium.

Geochemistry

Systematic sampling was done to collect the most fresh samples of SG and GG from the villages of Sewariya and Govindgarh respectively. A total of 15 samples were collected (8 from GG; 7 from SG) and their chemical analysis was carried out at the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad. Major elements were analysed using X-ray fluorescence spectrometry (Phillips MAGIX PRO model 2440) within 3% relative standard deviation⁴⁰. Trace elements (including REE) were determined using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (Perkin Elmer ELAN DRC II) and precision was better than 5% for majority of the trace elements and upto 10% for few HREE was achieved⁴¹. Table 1 gives the major and trace element data of the granitoid samples.

SG and GG show similar abundances of major elements with high SiO₂ (GG_{avg} – 71.3%; SG_{avg} – 72.6%), Al₂O₃ (GG_{avg} – 17.5%; SG_{avg} – 15.4%), low concentrations of MgO, CaO, Fe₂O₃ and high normative corundum.

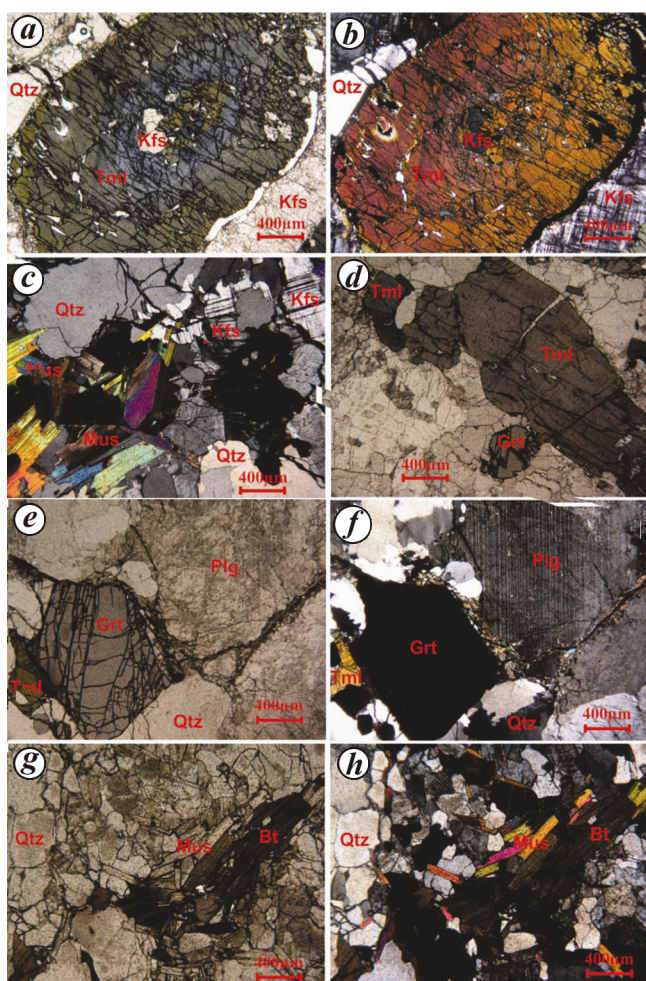


Figure 2. Photomicrographs of (a–d) GG and (e–h) SG. Qtz, Quartz; Kfs, K-feldspar; Plg, Plagioclase; Mus, Muscovite; Bt, Biotite; Tml, Tourmaline; Grt, Garnet.

Major elements do not show any well-defined trend with silica in Harker bivariate plots (not shown here), indicating the negligible effects of mineral fractionation on silica content. SG show consistent potassic character with average K₂O/Na₂O value of 1.82, whereas GG are predominantly sodic and have significantly lower TiO₂. In the Ab–An–Or diagram (Figure 3), SG plot within the granite field, whereas GG show granitic to trondhjemitic affinities. All samples are calc-alkaline, strongly peraluminous, predominantly ferroan when plotted in the FeO^I/(FeO^I + MgO) diagram (Figure 4a) and mostly range from calc-alkalic to alkali-calcic in the MALI versus SiO₂ diagram (Figure 4b) of Frost *et al.*¹.

Trace element data reveal a distinction between the rocks, wherein GG have lower Σ REE content (avg. 19.26 ppm) than SG (avg. 60.67 ppm). In chondrite normalized REE patterns (Figure 5), SG show somewhat uniform behaviour with highly fractionated REE patterns (avg. La_N/Yb_N = 21.45) and sharp negative Eu anomaly (Eu/Eu* = 0.25). On the other hand, GG do not show significant REE fractionated patterns (avg. La_N/Yb_N = 3.31) and have variable Eu anomaly. In the mantle normalized multi-element spidergram (Figure 6), GG show HREE enrichment, whereas SG show depletion of HREE. But both the granite groups show negative Nb, Ti and positive U, Th, Pb anomalies. Geochemical signatures of granitoids can be utilized in various discrimination diagrams to infer their tectonic setting and probable evolutionary history. In tectonic discrimination diagrams of Pearce *et al.*⁴² (Figure 7), SG and GG plot within volcanic arc granite (VAG) and syn-collisional granite (syn-COLG) fields.

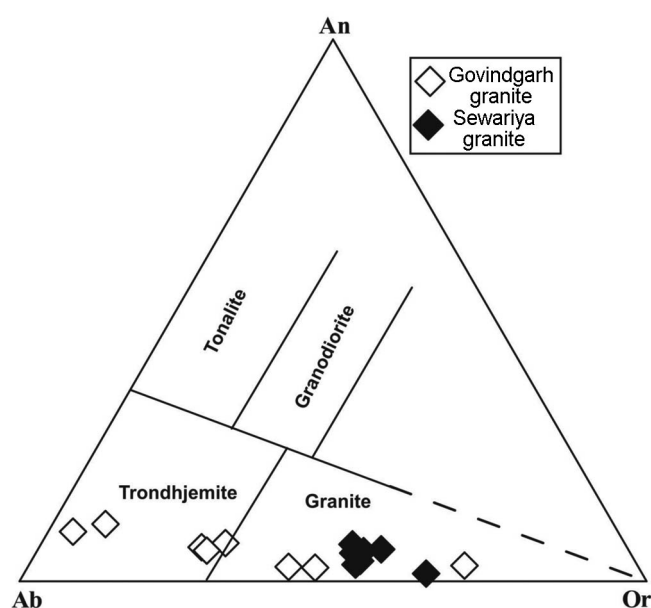


Figure 3. CIPW normative compositions of GG and SG in Ab–An–Or diagram of O'Connor⁵⁵ with fields after Barker⁵⁶. SG show exclusive granitic composition, whereas composition of GG ranges from granitic to trondhjemitic. The symbols for GG and SG used here remain same throughout the article.

Table 1. Major and trace element data of Govindgarh and Sewariya granites

	Govindgarh granite								Sewariya granite						
	D3S1	D3S3	D3S4	D3S9	D3S15	D3S16	D3LS	D3LG	D5S1	D5S3	D5S8	D7S4	D7S6	D7S10	D7S11
SiO ₂	67.7	66.9	72.9	72.4	71.6	72.7	73.4	72.9	70.6	73.0	70.5	71.7	75.7	72.5	74.2
TiO ₂	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.11	0.04	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.14	0.12
Al ₂ O ₃	16.6	21.0	16.9	16.8	17.9	17.0	16.9	16.9	15.9	16.9	15.5	15.5	13.9	15.6	14.4
Fe ₂ O ₃	0.31	0.18	0.48	2.83	1.07	0.69	0.24	0.28	1.68	0.48	2.06	1.92	1.26	1.92	1.41
MnO	0.02	0.06	0.06	0.33	0.05	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
MgO	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.02	0.05	0.22	0.02	0.11	0.36	0.14	0.38	0.34
CaO	0.73	1.82	0.86	1.04	0.93	0.8	0.53	0.44	0.94	0.34	0.67	0.76	0.55	0.78	0.88
Na ₂ O	2.75	7.18	4.38	4.95	4.18	4.23	3.49	3.45	2.9	2.18	3.43	2.95	2.51	2.62	2.71
K ₂ O	9.91	1.07	2.4	0.32	2.76	2.43	3.72	4.4	5.78	5.81	5.7	4.84	4.3	4.62	4.43
P ₂ O ₅	0.18	0.17	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.15	0.19	0.12	0.15	0.14	0.2	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.12
Sum	98.53	98.52	98.51	101.55	99.65	98.70	98.81	98.77	99.74	99.29	100.09	100.04	99.68	100.53	99.81
Rb	321	67	72	10	94	160	141	160	385	424	410	329	328	396	213
Ba	199	31	69	40	64	62	81	208	189	61	84	75	44	79	106
Th	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	1	15	9	15	10	9	15	7
U	1	1	2	3	3	3	1	2	5	6	2	3	3	6	2
Nb	1	9	3	1	1	1	9	2	6	8	1	7	7	10	4
Pb	144	61	84	69	73	97	78	137	56	51	47	54	29	33	47
Sr	84	67	48	39	31	37	35	69	46	23	19	17	13	22	22
Nd	2	4	3	7	3	2	2	1	15	5	20	8	7	12	8
Zr	22	10	29	88	30	25	10	25	45	32	35	42	27	57	23
V	4	3	3	6	6	5	4	3	5	3	6	7	4	9	5
Ni	4	8	8	9	8	7	8	7	6	3	4	6	4	8	4
Ga	10	14	10	9	10	14	10	9	17	15	18	14	13	16	10
Cs	13	7	4	2	8	13	13	18	25	28	32	25	23	36	16
La	2.26	5.23	3.57	8.34	3.68	2.63	1.97	1.67	16.23	4.69	22.72	8.43	6.69	13.09	9.41
Ce	4.56	10.78	7.23	16.10	7.70	5.94	3.87	2.99	36.79	11.47	44.96	19.96	15.57	29.86	19.22
Pr	0.50	1.09	0.72	1.79	0.83	0.65	0.42	0.32	3.93	1.33	5.61	2.17	1.70	3.26	2.17
Nd	1.80	3.94	2.61	6.56	2.81	2.23	1.51	1.03	15.31	4.96	20.14	8.27	6.50	12.46	8.11
Sm	0.51	0.99	0.67	1.75	0.75	0.67	0.40	0.27	3.98	1.85	4.82	2.37	1.99	3.25	2.04
Eu	0.47	0.34	0.22	0.27	0.18	0.11	0.21	0.42	0.45	0.18	0.19	0.16	0.10	0.22	0.23
Gd	0.41	0.61	0.53	1.51	0.61	0.60	0.31	0.23	3.33	1.83	3.54	1.99	1.65	2.87	1.63
Dy	0.59	0.64	0.87	2.26	0.92	0.93	0.68	0.50	3.66	2.68	3.77	2.27	2.11	3.37	1.68
Er	0.17	0.27	0.44	1.31	0.31	0.26	0.31	0.28	0.60	0.37	0.62	0.41	0.34	0.61	0.31
Yb	0.31	0.60	1.27	4.16	0.72	0.43	0.71	0.78	0.45	0.30	0.47	0.37	0.26	0.48	0.28
Lu	0.06	0.11	0.22	0.75	0.12	0.07	0.12	0.14	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.04
ΣREE	11.81	24.82	18.65	45.64	18.87	14.77	10.71	8.79	85.77	30.34	107.94	47.07	37.51	70.45	45.58
(La/Yb) _N	5.15	6.25	2.02	1.44	3.66	4.43	2.00	1.55	26.04	11.33	34.45	16.39	18.48	19.44	24.02
(Eu/Eu*)	3.06	1.23	1.08	0.49	0.81	0.50	1.77	5.02	0.37	0.29	0.14	0.22	0.16	0.21	0.37
(La/Sm) _N	2.85	3.41	3.42	3.07	3.17	2.54	3.203	4.08	2.63	1.64	3.04	2.30	2.18	2.60	2.98
A/CNK	1.00	1.29	1.48	1.62	1.55	1.54	1.57	1.50	1.24	1.60	1.19	1.35	1.42	1.46	1.32

Major oxides are in wt% and trace elements in ppm.

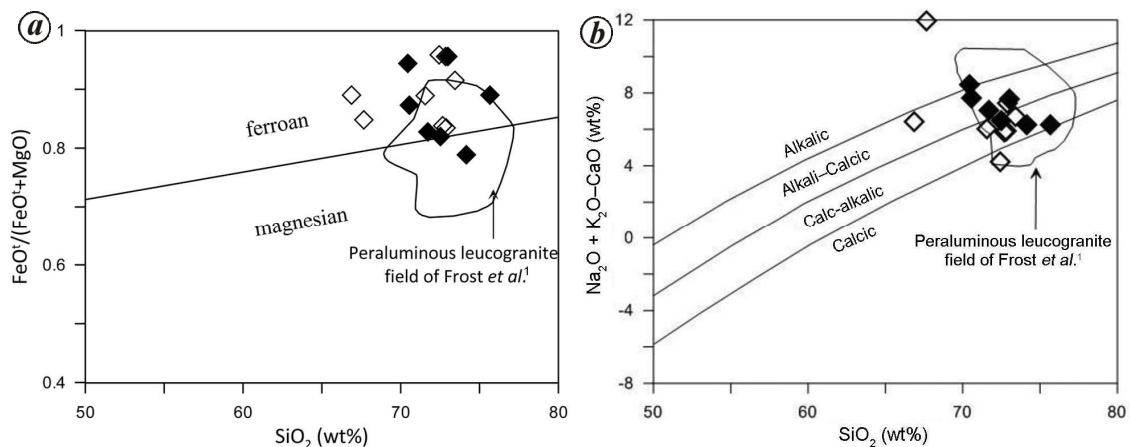


Figure 4. *a*, Fe number diagram. *b*, MALI versus SiO₂ diagram for GG and SG. The field denotes peraluminous leucogranites of Frost *et al.*¹. SG and GG plot well within or in close proximity to peraluminous leucogranites.

Discussion

Granitoids from Sewariya are mainly granites, whereas those from Govindgarh range from granite to trondhjemite in composition according to the Ab–An–Or diagram. SG and GG do not seem to be related through fractional crystallization processes as suggested by lack of well-defined trends on Harker variation plots (not shown here). However, intra-group fractionation cannot

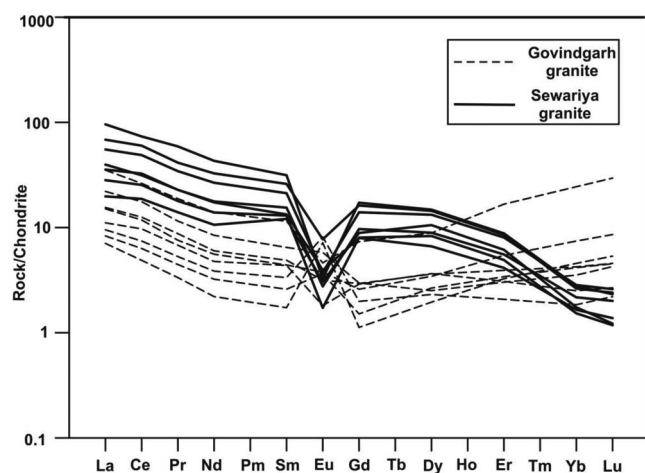


Figure 5. Chondrite normalized REE patterns for GG and SG. While SG are characterized by highly fractionated REE patterns and sharp negative Eu anomaly, GG show HREE enrichment and variable Eu anomalies (from weakly negative to positive). Chondrite elemental values are taken from Sun and McDonough⁵⁷.

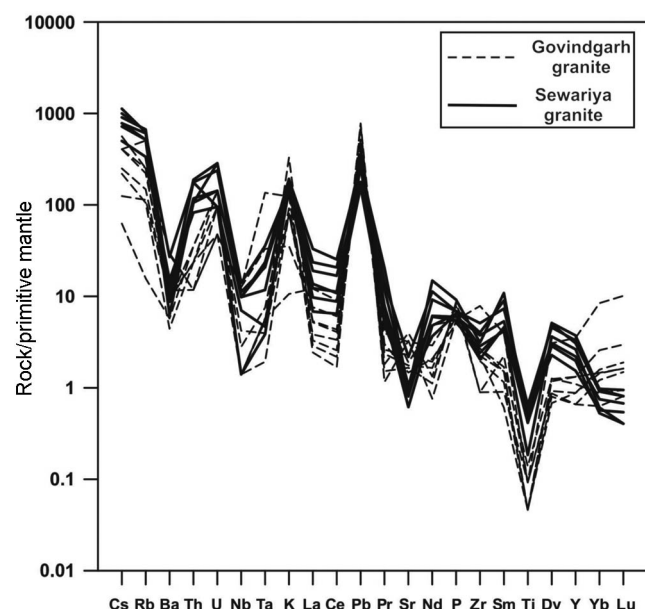


Figure 6. Primitive mantle normalized multi-element spidergrams for GG and SG. Enrichment of K, Rb, Pb, U and depletion of Nb, Ti indicate crustal signatures. High LILE/HFSE ratio and Nb depletion also indicate an arc setting. Primitive mantle elemental values are taken from Sun and McDonough⁵⁷.

be ruled out. The evolved major elemental composition, molar $A/CNK > 1.1$ (except one GG sample with $A/CNK = 1$), high normative corundum and abundant mica content indicate their S-type character^{43,44} and strongly suggest a (meta) sedimentary protolith. According to the classification of Frost *et al.*¹, these granitoids are peraluminous leucogranites owing to their strongly peraluminous nature, high silica content, ferroan and calc-alkalic to alkali-calcic character (Figure 4a and b) and are thus derived from the crust without any significant contribution from the mantle. This is also reflected in very low FeO, MgO, TiO₂, Ni, Cr, V content and absence of pyroxenes or amphiboles. Additionally, Ce/Pb and Nb/U ratios similar to upper continental crust⁴⁵ (UCC) and bulk continental crust⁴⁶ (BCC) indicate that they are formed from crustal melts (Figure 8).

In chondrite normalized REE diagrams, sharp Eu anomalies for SG point towards plagioclase fractionation and retention of the same at the source. Consistent HREE enrichment in both chondrite normalized and mantle normalized element diagrams, lower La/Yb (average – 4.62) and Gd/Yb (average – 0.76) values for GG suggest lesser amount of residual garnet in its source than that of SG (HREE depletion; $(La/Yb)_{avg} = 29.90$; $(Gd/Yb)_{avg} = 6.37$). Crustal signatures are indicated by enrichment of K, Rb, Pb, U, Th and depletion of Nb, Ti (Figure 6). Pronounced Nb depletion could also reflect affinity to subduction zone granitoids and their emplacement in the volcanic arc^{37,47,48}. SG and GG show classical patterns for subduction-related rocks and are characterized by high LILE/HFSE ratios and conspicuous negative Nb, Sr (except few samples of GG) and Ti anomalies. Sr depletion could be ascribed to feldspar fractionation while Ti depletion is result of rutile and titanomagnetite fractionation. For GG, however, both Sr enrichment and slight depletion are in agreement with similar dual behaviour shown by Eu, indicating the role of feldspar which has high K_d for both elements. Calc-alkaline nature, subduction geochemical signatures (Figure 6) along with the VAG and syn-collisional signatures (Figure 7) of the granitoids thereby corroborate Sinha Roy's proposition²⁶ that the Sewariya batholith developed in response to subduction processes. It is absolutely imperative to note that geochemical signatures of granitoids indicate their source-rock compositions and do not circumscribe them to particular tectonic environments⁴². For example, a granitoid formed in a subduction setting may have similar geochemical characters to another granitoid whose protolith was originally derived in a similar setting but subsequently remobilized by crustal extension or rifting.

Crustal-derived melts are generally the products of incongruent melting of micas (especially muscovite) as they provide the lowest temperature conditions at which melts can be generated from a crustal source in fluid absent conditions⁴⁹. Fluid-present melting, on the other hand, consumes plagioclase in greater proportion as the

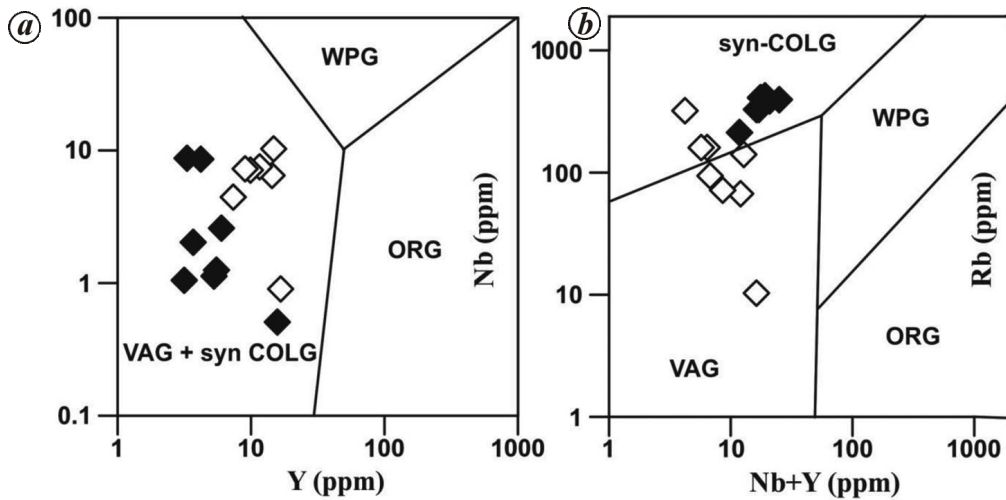


Figure 7. Tectonic discrimination diagrams of Pearce *et al.*⁴² for GG and SG. VAG, Volcanic Arc Granites; syn, COLG, Collisional granites; WPG, Within plate granites; ORG, Ocean ridge granites.

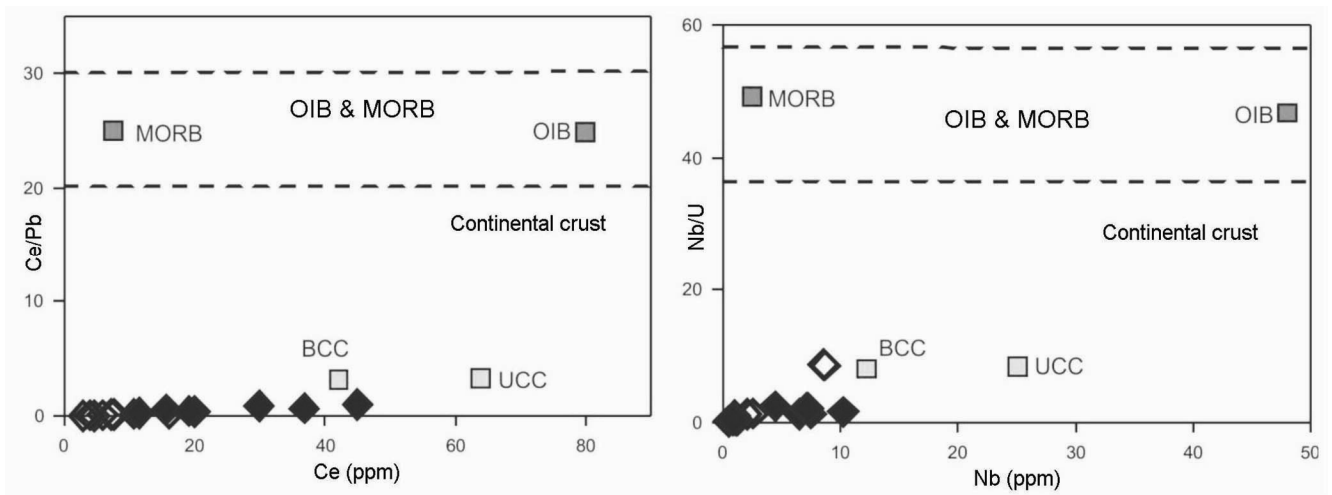


Figure 8. Ce/Pb versus Ce and Nb/U versus Nb plots (after Guo and Wilson⁵⁸). Data for MORB and OIB are from Sun and McDonough⁵⁷; upper continental crust (UCC) from Taylor and McLennan⁴⁵, and bulk continental crust (BCC) from Rudnick and Fountain⁴⁶. Similar Ce/Pb and Nb/U values of SG, GG and UCC, BCC imply the former to be crustal melts.

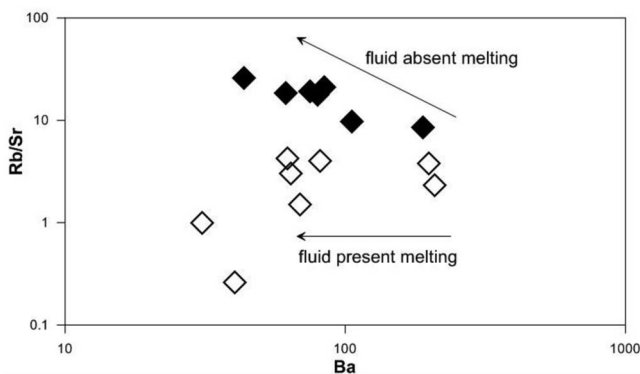


Figure 9. Rb/Sr versus Ba plot for SG and GG. Fluid-present and fluid-absent melting trends are from Inger and Harris⁵⁴. SG follow the fluid-absent melting trend, while GG formed under fluid-present conditions.

plagioclase + quartz solidus is depressed much more than mica solidus^{2,50,51} by fluid activity and forms near solidus melts of trondhjemitic composition² due to release of Na by plagioclase breakdown. Experimental studies have shown that biotite is a product of muscovite dehydration melting. As opposed to this, in fluid-present melting reactions², biotite stability is maximum at reduced fluid activity⁵² and low Ti contents in the melt stabilize tourmaline with respect to biotite⁵³. In Figure 9, increasing Rb/Sr for decreasing values of Ba in the case of SG could imply muscovite dehydration breakdown. Low melt fractions and restitic K-feldspar contribute to such trends, because low degrees of partial melting result in increasing Rb/Sr and the partition coefficient of K-feldspar for Ba is high⁵⁴. GG, however, could be generated under fluid-present

melting conditions, which explains the low Rb/Sr, absence of biotite, predominantly sodic character and consequent trondhjemitic composition (Figure 3) and positive or weakly negative Eu, Sr anomalies due to melting of source plagioclase. Considerably low Ti contents in GG may have also facilitated non-formation of biotite and presence of the coarser-grained tourmaline. The diverse composition of GG (viz. granitic to trondhjemitic composition and variable Eu, Sr anomalies) probably reflects variable fluid activities and higher melt fractions during anatexis.

Conclusion

Granitoids could be products of innumerable processes operating individually or in combination. Crustal remelting, subductional processes, mantle inputs and various other processes could result in a wide variety of granitoids. Geochemical signatures of rocks provide insights into the processes involved during rock formation. Based on their geochemical characteristics, SG and GG have been classified as peraluminous leucogranites generated by melting of metasedimentary source developed in an arc setting. As discussed, the lack of any differentiation trends on Harker plots (not shown here) obviates the process of fractional crystallization from a common parental melt. Thus, two mechanisms could account for the formation these granites, viz. (i) products of partial melting of different sedimentary protoliths, or (ii) different melt fractions of similar source rock under variable physico-chemical conditions. Whether or not they are derived from the same metasedimentary source has not been answered in this study solely on the basis of major and trace elements geochemistry and would require further deliberation. However, it is evident that the anatectic conditions prevalent during the origin of these granitoids were disparate.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We thank the Head, Department of Geology, University of Delhi for providing the necessary facilities, and scientists from the XRF and ICP-MS Laboratory, NGRI, Hyderabad for analysing the samples. Critical comments from Dr Esa Heilimo helped improve of the manuscript. We also thank the anonymous reviewer for useful suggestions. This is a contribution to IGCP-SIDA project number 599.

Received 12 November 2014; revised accepted 24 July 2015

doi: 10.18520/v109/i8/1458-1465