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Imprints of diverse mantle deformational episodes in the Cauvery Suture Zone, South India

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8 Abstract

This study attempts to understand the upper mantle deformation pattern beneath the northern part of Southern Granulite Terrain (SGT), located to the south of Archean Dharwar craton in south India. The study region comprises the tectonic blocks - Nilgiri, Biligiri Rangan, Shevaroy and Madras blocks - separated from the northern part of Madurai block by the Cauvery Suture Zone (CSZ), associated with subduction-accretion-collision tectonics. Shear wave splitting observed on high quality XK(K)S (SKS, SKKS, PKS) waveforms from 119 teleseismic events recorded by 19 broadband seismic stations, mostly within the CSZ and the northern part of Madurai block, is utilized in this study. The 122 splitting measurements obtained, show an average delay time of 0.8 s between the fast and slow waves. Strong lateral variations in the fast polarization azimuths (FPA) are observed, with the splitting parameters at the majority of stations showing a dependence on back azimuth. Importantly, excluding the Madras block, a poor correlation between the FPA and the present day absolute plate motion (APM) direction is observed. This dominance of non-APM strain reflects complex anisotropy

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