

ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89 OF BIRBAL SAHNI INSTITUTE OF PALAEO-BOTANY, LUCKNOW, INDIA. Director, Dr. B. S. Venkatachala. pp. 97.

We heartily welcome the receipt of the well got up Annual Report for 1988-89 of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow. Apart from the promptness with which it has been brought out, the elegant way in which it has been produced and the wealth of information it has sought to provide are worthy of emulation.

As far as we are aware the Palaeobotanical Institute at Lucknow is the only institute of its kind anywhere in the world and owes its existence to the foresightedness of that great son of India – Professor Birbal Sahni. It is good to find that this Institute has received full support from the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India.

We also note with satisfaction the progress made in the palaeobiological investigations of our oldest rocks with a view to tracing the evolutionary history of life from the earliest beginnings through fungi, algae and other higher forms. We look forward to important contributions on this interesting field in the coming months. The research on the identification of the earliest metazoans also promises to be one of great importance. Palaeobotanical research has great relevance during the present day in throwing light on the changing vegetational pattern through time and in understanding climatic changes in the past.

We congratulate all the scientists working in the Institute for the excellent work turned out fulfilling the dreams of its founder.

B. P. RADHAKRISHNA

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SCHEMES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES : GENERAL INFORMATION.

Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi 110016. 5th Edition 1989. 109 p.

This is a booklet of 108 pages giving details of the various R and D schemes of the Central Government like the Department of Coal, Atomic Energy, Environment, Ocean Development, Science and Technology and the University Grants Commission. Annexure gives information on the Regional Sophisticated Instrument Centres. Information on items like who can submit a proposal, areas of research, when and how to submit a proposal are furnished. Active researchers can have no excuse now. All the information they need for submitting viable proposals to the appropriate agencies are furnished. We must compliment the Director, Information Management Division for bringing out this timely and useful publication which can be expected to accelerate the tempo of research in the Country. Those interested can address Department of Science and Technology and get a copy.

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