

CORRESPONDENCE

L. N. KAILASAM – A TRIBUTE

L N Kailasam is no more. A very sad news indeed. His obituary by A G B Reddi is touching. AGB reminisced on Kailasam's rich contributions to geophysics at national and international levels. Seismic surveys in Cambay region and Cauvery basin and studies to unveil what lies below the Deccan volcanics were not only original brave attempts but imaginative, too. My first interaction with this giant was at IIT, Kharagpur in July 1964. He along with Professor R K Verma took my M Sc final viva after evaluating the dissertation entitled, 'Elastic wave propagation in limestones, Birmitrapur, Orissa by three-component seismograph'. Starting with initial nervousness and sweating, the viva continued for over an hour and ended with a warm handshake and a smile that injected into me deep satisfaction and a rare confidence, a confidence that remained a part of my life till this day. Three months later in October 1964 I had a second meeting with him. This time for an interview in GSI. He and Dr A G Jhingran, Director General, were the experts. No sooner I entered DG's chamber, Kailasam took my hand and introduced me to Dr Jhingran. I was taken aback. More surprises still to come, when Kailasam asked me to repeat all the questions he had asked me at Kharagpur

and give the corresponding answers. What a surprising interview! I am the expert and I am the candidate.

Once again in 1965 I appeared at the UPSC interview for the post of Assistant Geophysicist. After 40 minutes of interview by various experts, Kailasam asked me why I did not turn up for the interview the previous day for the post of Junior Geophysicist. Stunned, I mumbled, 'Sir, I didn't receive the interview call.' 'What do you mean?' he thundered and admonished me by advising, 'Do not play with your career.' In my disappointment of not receiving the call letter, I could fathom a deep concern for me on the face of Kailasam. I felt as if he was waiting to select me for the post! What a kindness!! Not accepting the post of Assistant Geophysicist in GSI, I joined NGRI and worked with Professor Amalendu Roy, an esteemed colleague and admirer of Kailasam, always remembering the sparks of confidence he ignited in me in all the three encounters. I pay my heartfelt tributes to this visionary.

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K MALLICK

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE - PERSPECTIVES, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

The above conference is being organised by the School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University during 1-4 February, 2006 at New Delhi. For further details please contact Dr A L Ramanathan, Organising Secretary, IGC-2006, Conference Secretariat, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, New Delhi - 110 067, India. **Phone:** 91 11-2670-4314, **Fax:** 91 11 26106501, **Email:** alr_jnu@yahoo.co.in, mthangarajan@hotmail.com, akeshari@hotmail.com, prosun@kth.se

TRAINING COURSE ON NUMERICAL SIMULATION OF GROUNDWATER FLOW AND MASS TRANSPORT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF AQUIFERS

Sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India under the programme of DST schools on mathematical modelling in Earth Sciences the above course is being organised by the Centre for Earth Science Studies (CESS), Trivandrum during 1-20 August, 2005. Candidates desirous of participation in the course are requested to send their applications through proper channel. For further details, please contact Dr D S Suresh Babu, Course Coordinator, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 031. **Phone:** 471-2442451-4, **Fax:** 0471-2442280, **Website:** www.cessind.org, **Email:** dssbabu@vsnl.com, dssbabu@gmail.com