

Dar-es-Salaam. The economics and efficiency of this well was found to be better than the conventional bore wells and rig wells used for water supply in the region.

Prof. Deshpande returned from Tanzania to Pune in 1983 and began working on the subject of earthquake prediction. He was convinced that along with geological studies, it is possible to predict earthquakes by observing changes in animal behaviour. He visited China in 1987 to discuss the aspect of animal behaviour and earthquake prediction with scientists from Academia Sinica. His thorough study of this offbeat subject helped him write a valuable book entitled "Earthquake, Animal and Man". He also delivered several popular lectures on earthquakes with the intention of creating general awareness and sensitizing citizens and scientists alike, to this important subject. In addition to this book, he demystified the subject of petroleum geology by writing the book "World of Petroleum" for the common man.

Prof. Deshpande was closely associated with various institutions like National Geophysical Research Institute, Survey of India, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology etc. He was honoured with the Fellowship of the Indian Science Academy, New Delhi. He was also a founder member of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences. He worked also as Professor Emeritus in the Aghakar Research Institute, Pune.

Prof. Deshpande was equally active in social circles and contributed in his own way to various social causes. He was an enthusiastic and active member of the Rotary

Club, Pune, through which he spread his message of science for the society.

Prof. Deshpande was a very active person. He was constantly working at something constructive with an unflagging enthusiasm and indefatigable energy. These two qualities, combined with a sharp mind and clear imagination, enabled him to analytically perceive things before taking any decision. His great command over English, Hindi and Marathi made him an excellent communicator. His eloquence enabled him to speak on a wide variety of subjects, both scientific and social. Prof. Deshpande was a kind hearted gentleman with a pleasant personality. He was always ready to help and give guidance to anyone who came in contact with him. He had true leadership qualities and was respected widely. He had an immense following, not only amongst his students, colleagues, friends and family who loved him, but also within the larger geological fraternity all over India. His colleagues and students fondly called him "B.G. Sir". His passing away has created a large void in the field of Earth Sciences. However, his work and teaching will continue to inspire many people in the years to come. His wife Dr. Shashitai Deshpande, who provided the main inspiration to Prof. B.G. Deshpande's work, survives him.

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S.B. DEOLANKAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONTACT COURSE ON ADVANCED TRAINING IN PALAEOBOTANY, OCTOBER 2001. Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany will organize a Contact Course on Advanced Training in Palaeobotany from October 3rd to 19th, 2001. The course will be for 7 days (October 3-10) and include teaching and practical demonstration at Lucknow, one day (October 12) field workshop at Jabalpur (MP), and 6 days (October 13-18) field training around Jabalpur to cover Gondwana and Tertiary sequences. Experienced and eminent palaeobotanists, palynologists, palaeontologists, botanists and geologists will deliver talks on various disciplines of palaeobotany and allied subjects. The participants will be acquainted with the latest knowledge of palaeobotany in the Indian context. In the field trip they will be provided with relevant geological information and will also be entitled to collect fossil/samples from different sites. Interested candidates up to 35 years of age are required to send (before June 30th, 2001) application form with full bio-data and area of specialization along with a bank draft of Rs.4000/- through proper channel to: Professor A.K. Sinha, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, 53 University Road, Lucknow; **Phone:** 0522-381948/333620; **Fax:**0522-381948/374528; **Email:** director@bsip.res.in / rpcc@bsip.res.in

SYMPOSIUM ON APPLIED STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY. The Australian Institute of Geoscientists (AIG), as part of its 21st anniversary celebrations, is pleased to announce the international symposium on "Applied Structural Geology for Mineral Exploration and Mining" to be held in Kalgoorlie (Western Australia) from 22nd to 25th September 2002. The symposium will be accompanied by field trips, mine visits and short courses. The symposium will comprise the following

technical sessions: (a) Structural technologies, (b) Best practice in structural geology, (c) Reviews of controls on deposit types and (d) Case studies. The symposium will have substantial industry application and emphasis, with topics to suit industry, universities and government organizations alike. For details contact Julian Vearncombe at vearncom@inet.net.au or Jocelyn Thomson at aigwa@inet.net.au

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIAMOND AND GEMSTONES, AND GEMMOLOGICAL TRADE FAIR. The conference will be held on November 21-23, 2001 at Raipur, Madhya Pradesh. Major themes of the conference are (1) Geological setting, genesis and controls for mineralisation, (2) Exploration strategies and techniques, GIS/computer modelling, practices and problems, (3) Sustainable mining and gem-winning techniques, (4) Beneficiation techniques, practices and problems, (5) Marketing, trade and art and (6) Mineral/mining/environmental legislation and related policies. A professional course on "Diamond and Gemstones" will be held during November 10-13, 2001 at the Government Engineering College, Raipur. A Gemmological Trade Fair and Industrial Exhibition will be organized during November 21-23, 2001. Two field workshops, one on "Diamond and Kimberlites" and the other on "Gemstones" shall be organized in the known and potential geological fields during November 24-26, 2001. These workshops will comprise (a) Field visit to the promising diamond and/or gemstone field/deposit and (b) Interactive session on various aspects of potential of the field. For further details please contact: Datta Manikar, Conference Convenor and Deputy Director, Directorate of Geology and Mining, Madhya Pradesh, C-52, Gayatri Nagar, Shankar Nagar Post Office, Raipur - 492 007, M.P., India. **Phone:** 91-771-429931/610878 **or** Prabhat Diwan, Organising Secretary, Department of Applied Geology, Government Engineering College, Raipur - 492 010, M.P., India. **Phone:** 91-771-254500/253207. **Fax:** 91-771-610644/510510; **Email:** saaeg.ilgd@yahoo.com/ mankar@mantraonline.com

NATIONAL GEOPMEN-2001 SEMINAR: The P.G. Centre of the Department of Earth Sciences, Gulbarga University, Sandur - 583 119, Bellary District, Karnataka will host the IV Convention of Mineralogical Society of India and National Seminar on Geology, Processing and Metallurgy of Economic Minerals during 20-21 December, 2001. The last date for accepting extended abstracts of papers on the following themes is 15th September, 2001; (1) Geology and exploration of economic minerals, (2) Modern trends in mining, (3) Mineral processing and metallurgy of economic minerals, (4) Environmental issues related to mineral industry. For further details, contact Dr. S.M. Appanagoudar, Convenor of National Seminar and Director, P.G. Centre, Nandihalli, Sandur - 583 119, Bellary District, Karnataka.

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF INDIAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION AND NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT - ROLE OF EARTH SYSTEM SCIENTISTS. Indian Geophysical Union, Hyderabad will hold its 38th Annual Convention and Seminar during 18-20 December, 2001 at Visakhapatnam. Apart from the special theme, the convention will cover various other scientific topics viz. (1) Modelling of Earth and Ocean Processes System, (2) Role of Information Technology in Earth Sciences, (3) Imaging Techniques in Exploration, (4) New Strategies in Oil, Mineral and Groundwater Exploration, (5) Studies on Deep Continental Structure, (6) Theoretical and Experimental Geophysics, (7) Marine Geology and Geophysics, (8) Atmospheric, Space and Planetary Sciences. For further details contact: Dr. P.R. Reddy, Hon. Secretary, Indian Geophysical Union, NGRI Campus, Uppal Road, Hyderabad - 500 007, India. **Phone:** 040-7172911; **Fax:** 040-7171564; **Email:** nandula@eth.net / igu123@rediffmail.com **or** Dr. K.S.R. Murthy, Organising Convenor, National Institute of Oceanography, Regional Centre, 176, Lawson's Bay Colony, Visakhapatnam - 530 017. **Phone:** 0891-504570, 539180 (O); 0891-539992, 536731 (R); **Fax:** 0891-543595; **Email:** ksr@kadali.nio.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF MICROPALAEONTOLOGISTS, MICROBIOLOGISTS AND MEIOBENTHOLOGISTS (ISEMM, Canada) encourages the Indian members to hold meetings, symposia, workshops and publish newsletters, technical reports on the aspects defined in the constitution of the Society. The Society offers special discount in the membership to the Asian members. Those interested to become a member and participate in the activities to be organised within India or interested to attend the 3rd International Conference in 2002 at Vienna may contact Dr. P. Kathal, Reader, Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar - 470 003. **Email:** kathal@vsnl.com