NOTES

MAHADEVAN BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: MAY 4-10, 2001

The activities under the Mahadevan Centenary Celebrations are listed below chronologically:

1. Pre-symposium Workshop on "Hydrogeological approaches for the mitigation of adverse impacts of extreme weather events (floods and droughts)" held on 4 and 5 May. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. A.V.S. Reddy, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh who gave a keynote address on "Strategies to combat floods and droughts".

2. Guru Pooja (Homage to the Guru) on May 6, 2001.

3. International symposium on "Challenges of water resources management in the developing countries in the 21st century" on May 6, 2001. Prof. G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, inaugurated the Mahadevan Symposium. In the course of his address he dealt with the pressing need to address water problems in the developing world. He urged close linkage between atmosphere, hydrological and environmental sciences in all research and training activities in the university. The volume of abstracts was released by Mrs. Rajana Ramani, Mayor of Visakhapatnam.

A round table discussion was held on "International cooperation in water sciences" in which Professors Jochen Bundschuh (Argentina), Pedro Berliner (Israel), A. Ghosh Bobba (Canada), S.R. Patchineelam (Brazil) made presentations. Two priority areas under water resource management have been identified for cooperation with Mahadevan Centre for Water Resource Management (i) Augmentation, conservation and protection of water resources, and (ii) Waste water reuse.

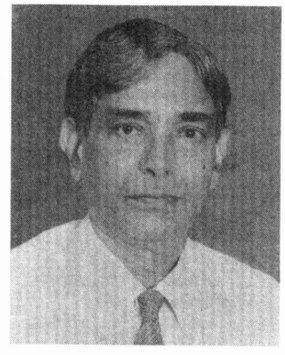
U. ASWATHANARAYANA

FIELD MEETING OF IGA NEAR PANCHKULA, HARYANA

The Indian Geologists' Association (IGA) held a Field Meeting at Nadah village, Panchkula, Haryana on 19 April, 2001 to study the newly formed fissures and cracks on flat ground of the western bank of Nadah Chol and adjoining hills. Fifty scientists from various geological organizations participated in the meeting. Suggestions were made for more detailed investigation of the local phenomena of newly formed fissures. Other suggestions included building better structures to withstand earthquakes and avoiding unstable area for construction by Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) as well as step up afforestation in the region.

Panjab University NARESH KOCHAR

OBITUARY



Professor C. Radhakrishnamurty
(1933-2001)

With profound sorrow we record the untimely death of our country's well-known researcher in the emerging

frontier field of Rock Magnetism and Palaeomagnetism, Prof. C. Radhakrishnamurty (affectionately addressed as 'CRK' by his students and well wishers), passed away on 2nd May 2001 at Navi Mumbai (New Bombay) after brief illness.

CRK was born in Ongole, Andhra Pradesh on the 14th November 1933. He lost his father at the tender age of six and against all odds he pursued his early education at Ongole and graduated at Guntur. He did his M.Sc. in Geophysics at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam and stood first in his batch. Later he joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), an institute started by Homi Bhaba at Mumbai.

CRK and his inseparable colleague P.W. Sahasrabudhe were initiated into Palaeomagnetism and Rock Magnetism by the English Nobel Laureate P.M.S.Blackett in 1955. Blackett at that time was interested in palaeomagnetic studies that could provide convincing evidence for the drift of continents. Sure enough the young pair provided confirmatory evidence through their work on the Deccan and Rajmahal Traps. The results of this research appeared in the Philosophical Magazine and Nature during 1958 and gave them their rightful and unenviable place in the international community of palaeomagnetists like Runcorn, Creer, Thellier, Chevallier and others. The Rajmahal work also earned CRK the DSc. degree from the Andhra University.

At the invitation of Blackett, CRK and Sahasrabudhe spent 10 months at the University of London for further studies. When the results were shown to their TIFR Research Supervisor Prof. Peters, his critical comment asking them to develop research on their own instruments rather than carrying out routine measurements on others equipment, was indeed a turning point in CRK's life. Within a few months (during 1958), he developed the first fully functional AC demagnetiser and isolated primary natural remanent magnetisation directions and reported reliable results. Before returning to India, CRK visited labs in France, Belgium and Holland to make sure that the newly established Paleomagnetic Lab Field Station at Khandala met all the stringent requirements and their results were also at par with the international standards.

CRK was very critical of paleaomagnetic results, which obviously made him to thoroughly understand the domain aspects of magnetic material. This also led him to develop and fabricate magnetic instruments for susceptibility and hysteresis measurements with his instrumentation colleague S.D. Likhite. He clearly demonstrated that rocks showing stable magnetic directions have clear signatures of Single Domain and Cation Deficient magnetic particles, in contrast to Multi Domain nature that characterises unstable directions. His discovery of "constricted low -field hysteresis loop" in basalts in 1966 indeed attracted the attention of the French Nobel Laureate L. Neel. CRK's book on "Magnetism, Rocks to Superconductors", brought out by the Geological Society of India, is considered as a treatise on Rock Magnetism.

It was always a treat to watch CRK's instrument demonstrations at international meetings. He used to mesmerize the audience using some of his critical basalt samples! He widely travelled across the world to collect geological samples and also for conducting real discussions face to face with the scientific community. CRK set up instruments designed by him in UK, Australia, USA, South America, Canada and Denmark. After retirement from TIFR in 1994, CRK was honoured as 'Institute Fellow' by the IIT Mumbai for his distinguished service to students and scientific community.

One of CRK's significant contributions was the establishment of more than a dozen rock magnetic labs in India for the benefit of students and professionals.

What is unique in CRK? Unselfish cooperation in teaching and research simplicity, cheerfulness and frankness. CRK had a quiet charm, which reflected in his profound sincerity and personal integrity. Students, teachers and research workers in the field of Magnetism and Palaeomagnetism all over the world will miss CRK. They all salute him for his scientific acumen and monumental contributions to the growth and development of palaeomagnetic studies in India.

Prof. CRK is survived by his wife Smt. Satyavathi, son Bhaskar and his wife Rama, daughters Shailaja, Bharathi and Vani, son-in-laws Venkatesh, Murali and Hemanth, and five grand children.

Indian Institute of Technology
Mumbai

K.V. SUBBARAO

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