

NEWS AND NOTES

Birth Centenary of B.N. Raghunatha Rao

The well-wishers and family members of the late Dr. B.N. Raghunatha Rao, Retd. Deputy Director of the Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka (formerly the Mysore Geological Department) met at the Century Club,

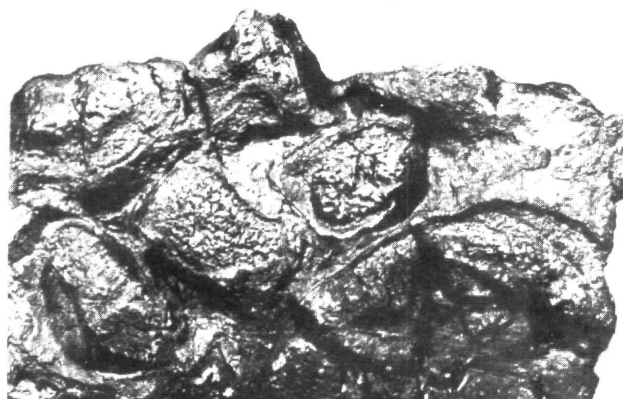


Bangalore to commemorate his birth centenary. The elite of the geological community in Bangalore including the senior officers of the Geological Survey of India, the Department of Mines and Geology, Fellows of the Geological Society of India were present. Rich tributes were paid by the colleagues and co-workers of Dr. Raghunatha Rao.

Karnataka, an important state of the Indian Union, largely forms part of the geologically well-known and well studied parts of the Dharwar craton. Raghunatha Rao is remembered for the contributions he has made for the study of a unique system of felsite and porphyry dykes cutting through the Closepet granite. They are well known for their colour and the coarse crystals of zoned feldspar. They are famous for their ornamental character and have been extensively used as an ornamental stone.

Dr. Raghunatha Rao has to his credit a detailed study of the arcuate flows to the south and east of Chitradurga. His

work brought out many significant structures in the lavas pointing to their evolution in a sub-marine environment. The most notable of his discovery was of the perfectly preserved pillow lavas of various sizes, shapes showing vesicular character still preserved in the interior of the pillows. Since its first discovery, the photograph of the pillow lava of Mardihalli have illustrated many a text book in Indian Geology. Since it is a perfectly preserved structure of a lava flow at the floor of the Chitradurga sea nearly 3000 million years ago, it is declared as a National Monument and steps taken to protect it.



Pillow lavas at Mardihalli

Raghunath Rao was awarded the doctorate of the Calcutta University for his thesis entitled "Some Studies on the Geology of the Chitradurga Schist Belt, Mysore State". Sri Ravindranath, son of Dr. Raghunatha Rao presented the surviving copy of this thesis to the Deputy Director General, AMSE Wing, Geological Survey of India who thankfully received and made a few appropriate remarks.

8th July, 2008