

## FORGING TIES WITH THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The visit of Prof. Richard Viljoen, President of the Geological Society of South Africa to the Geological Society of India during his Indian sojourn in October 1995 paved the way for establishing a fruitful bilateral exchange relationship. *The South African Journal of Geology* (v.98, 1995 onwards) is thus available for reference in the Geological Society of India's Library at Bangalore. This journal will be henceforth covered in the 'Interesting Papers in other Journals' column.

Prof. Viljoen has in one of the quarterly News Bulletins of the Geological Society of South Africa referred to his Bangalore visit in touching and gracious terms. We quote :

**“ One of the more interesting overseas visits (together with Rael Lipson), was to the headquarters of the Geological Society of India in Bangalore. Bangalore is a lovely garden city (dominated by Palm trees) and the Geological Society has bought a triple storied house with a good view over the tree tops. They have a couple of meeting rooms, offices, a map room and a good library, housing amongst other items, most of their publications, a variety of books and some very old editions of the Transactions of the Geological Society of South Africa.**

**The President of the Indian Geological Society and the undisputed doyen of Indian Geology, is a remarkable man by the name of B.P. Radhakrishna. Although well into his 80's, he is as bright and alert as a man half his age and very knowledgeable on all aspects of geology. He has been the President for a number of years and runs the Society almost single handedly.**

**In honour of our visit he had assembled some 60 to 70 local geologists to have a good debate about South African and Indian geology with particular emphasis on the cratonic areas, origin of granites, komatiites and a number of other topics. This informative discussion was followed by a most enjoyable tea party in the balmy atmosphere of a Bangalore sunset, on the flat roof of the Society's house.**

**Dr. Radhakrishna presented me, as President of the Geological Society of South Africa, with a garland of jasmine blossoms and a beautifully embroidered shawl. In turn I presented him with a centennial tie and a pledge to update their library with some of our more recent publications. We also agreed to get out forgotten exchange agreement going again.”**

It is hoped that this new beginning made in scientific exchange between the two fraternal geological societies will be further strengthened in the years to come for mutual benefit and in the advancement of Earth Science.

M.S. RAO