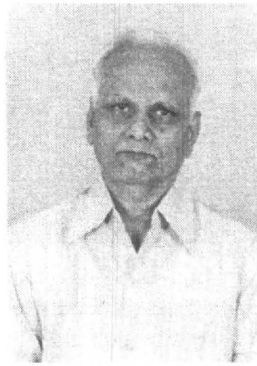


deformation in space and in time in the Singhbhum Precambrian terrain and in the Simla Himalaya, sedimentation and palaeogeography of eastern Singhbhum, basement-cover relations in the Indian Precambrians and a detailed analysis of the problem of near-coaxial folding in macroscopic scale.

Kshitindramohan Naha was a brilliant conversationalist with a keen sense of humour. He was an extremely warm hearted person, ever ready to help his students, former students, colleagues and friends. Prof. Naha's death is an immense loss to the community of geologists in India and elsewhere.

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SUBIR KUMAR GHOSH



S.R.N. Murthy
(1936-1996)

In the sudden demise of Dr. S.R.N. Murthy, due to cardiac arrest on the morning of 19th May, 1996, we have lost an active earth scientist of the country, a renowned Sanskrit Scholar and a Life Member of the Geological Society of India.

Dr. Sindhughatta Ramasastry Narasimha Murthy was born on 17th June, 1936 in a small hamlet – Sindhughatta near K.R.Pet in Mandya district, Karnataka. He had his schooling in Sharadavilas High School, Mysore (1949-54). He was introduced to Sanskrit in his boyhood days by his father Sri Ramasastry, a well known Palace Purohit and a vedic scholar in the Mysore palace. Dr. Murthy obtained his Honours degree in Geology from the University of Mysore (1956-57) bagging the Hanumappa Gold Medal and M.Sc. degree in 1958 also with distinction. In the same year, he joined the Geological Survey of India as Geological Assistant when the organisation was in the throes of rapid expansion. He was trained in various laboratories at Central Headquarters, Calcutta and posted to Bihar Circle. He significantly contributed in the field of Economic Geology and brought out many areas for detailed exploration for tin in Hazaribagh district. He then took up petrological studies of mafic - ultramafic rocks of Salem and Kimberlites of Vajrakarur. He was awarded a Norwegian Fellowship for advanced studies in Geology at Oslo during 1970-71. He had the unique distinction of attending the World Sanskrit Conference held at Paris in 1977, which he used to proudly recall as the first and the only occasion in which the GSI took part in an International Sanskrit Conference.

His long tenure in Hyderabad from 1967 to 1977 helped in the rejuvenation of the Geodata Centre meant for dissemination of geoscientific information. His work in Karnataka Circle (from 1978 to 1992) as a Project Leader and Co-ordinator of Gem Exploration in southern Karnataka brought many areas of ruby occurrences on the gem map. His advise was sought by gem cutters and marketing people alike. He visited Sri Lanka as a Specialist Member along with the late Sri.M.N.Vishwanatha, to study the gem industry of the Island in 1981. After his return from Sri Lanka he advocated the idea of floating a gem corporation for promoting the gem industry in India.

He was awarded the doctoral degree by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1983 for his work on 'Petrogenesis of Ultramafic rocks from Highgrade Terrains: the Chalk hills, Tamil Nadu, India and Jotunheim, Norway'.

Dr. Murthy has authored more than 40 research papers in Geology and dozen books dealing with geological concepts in ancient Sanskrit literature. Be it the *Brihatsamhita* of Varahamihira, identity of subterranean Saraswati river or *Rasa Sastra* of Vaghbata or *Arthasastra* of Kautilya or *Ramayana* of Valmiki, Dr. Murthy could quote verses and discuss with felicity. Scholars found great pleasure in exchanging thoughts with him.

With his ringing voice and hearty laughter one could feel his presence from a distance. Even after his voluntary retirement as Director in 1992, he continued to maintain intimate contacts with various organisations, particularly with the Mythic Society and Centre for Advanced Studies in Sanskrit, University of Poona, where he delivered a series of lectures on various geological concepts in *Vedas*, which appeared as a book entitled 'Ancient Indian Theories of the Earth' (1992). Among many books authored by him, 'Gemmological Studies in Sanskrit Texts' (Part-I, 1990, Part-II, 1993), 'The Integrated Theory of the Earth' (1987), '*Bharatiya Bhootathva Rahasyam*' (1994) have been popular. He had the distinction of guiding six postgraduate students of Indian Medicine on the medicinal use of gems. His book on 'Minerals of Indian Medicine - Ayurveda and Siddha' is acclaimed as the first of its kind.

In the last few years, Dr. Murthy developed deep interest in *Vasthu Sastra*. He delivered a key note address in the First All India Meet on *Vasthu Sastra* at Bangalore, in 1995. Nobody could have imagined that he would pass away while clarifying some doubts raised by one of the participants in the conference on *Vasthu* held on 19.5.1996.

His son and two daughters are well settled in life. The geological fraternity has lost not only an eminent scholar but a gentleman with a tender heart, who was liked both by elder and younger colleagues alike.

His popularity in Bangalore was reflected by the wide media coverage including on the TV, when rich homage was paid to him. His untimely demise has left a void difficult to fill and is mourned by all his close associates.

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T.R. ANANTHARAMU