

REPORT ON THE XX INDIAN COLLOQUIUM ON MICROPALAEONTOLOGY AND STRATIGRAPHY (24th TO 26th OCTOBER, 2005)

The Indian micropalaeontologists initiated the organization of the Indian Colloquium on Micropalaeontology and Stratigraphy (ICMS) in 1971 at Bangalore to commemorate the 75th birth anniversary of Prof. L. Rama Rao, one of the founder micropalaeontologists of India. Thereafter, nineteen colloquia have been organized in various parts of our country (II, 1972, Lucknow; III, 1973, Chandigarh; IV, 1974, Dehradun; V, 1975, Aligarh; VI, 1976, Varanasi; VII, 1978, Chennai; VIII, 1980, Vadodara; IX, 1981, Udaipur; X, 1982, Pune; XI, 1984, Kolkatta; XII, 1986, Delhi; XIII, 1989, Lucknow; XIV, 1994, Chennai; XV, 1996, Dehradun; XVI, 1998, Goa; XVII, 2000, Ujjain; XVIII, 2002, Nagpur and XIX, 2003, Varanasi). The Department of Geology, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh organized the XX ICMS from 24 to 26 October, 2005 under the convenership of Prof. T.Y. Naidu. The Palm Beach Hotel, located along the coast of Visakhapatnam, was the venue of the colloquium.

The ICMS is a strong forum wherein Indian micropalaeontologists meet, interact, deliberate and present their research outcome and latest developments in different disciplines. The XX ICMS had various themes such as biostratigraphy, palaeoceanography, molecular micropalaeontology, palaeo-palynology, application of microfossils in solving environmental problems including monitoring coastal pollution, culture experiments on foraminifers serving as proxy indicators for diverse geological applications, emphasis on micropalaeontological studies of deltas of India, palaeoclimate of India and Indian Ocean, monsoonal studies, effects of tsunami on distribution of foraminifers, etc.

Prof. L. Venugopal Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, inaugurated the colloquium and in his inaugural address, he emphasized the significance of microfossils in hydrocarbon exploration. Dr. Anil Bhandari, President, XX ICMS and General Manager (Geology), KDM Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation,

Dehradun, gave a historic account and progress/development of various colloquia. Prof. P. Veerraju, Principal, College of Science & Technology, Andhra University presided over the inaugural function. Prof. M. Chandra Rao, Head, Department of Geology, Andhra University concisely briefed the academic achievements of the Department. Prof. T. Y. Naidu, Convener of the Colloquium, provided the details about the XX ICMS. Two Indian micropalaeontologists, namely, Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Professor Emeritus and INSA Senior Scientist, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Prof. M. Subha Rao, former Head, Dept. of Geology, Andhra University were felicitated for their outstanding contributions on micropalaeontology during inaugural function.

Dr. Anil Bhandari gave the presidential address on "Applications of Microfossils in Hydrocarbon Exploration"; giving umpteen examples of microfossils from different Indian Petroliferous basins, he exhibited how the microfossils are indispensable in search for petroleum.

More than 100 delegates from various Indian Universities/Institutions/ organizations (ONGC, NIO, BSIP, TIT, ISM, WIHG, RIL and various universities covering different parts of the country) attended the colloquium. Out of 101 abstract of papers included in the Abstract Volume, 60 research papers were presented in 6 Scientific Technical Sessions (STC) during three days. These sessions were chaired and co-chaired by different scientists of our country (STC-I, Chairman- Dr. Devesh Sinha, Varanasi, Co-Chairman- Dr. S. M. Hussain, Chennai; STC-II, Chairman- Dr. Anil Bhandari, Dehradun, Co-Chairman- Dr. D. R. S. Reddy, Visakhapatnam; STC-III, Chairman- Dr. Rajiv Nigam, Goa, Co-Chairman- Dr. N. Rajeshwara Rao, Chennai; STC-IV, Chairman- Dr. M. Chandra Rao, Visakhapatnam, Co-Chairman- Dr. Rahul Garg, Lucknow; STC-V, Chairman- Dr. A. Govindan, Chennai, Co-Chairman- Dr. M. Shanmukhappa, Vadodara; and STC- VI, Chairman- Dr. Pradeep Kundal, Nagpur, CoChairman- Dr. Joytsana Rai, Lucknow). The lucid presentation of 45



Photo showing ceremony of releasing the Abstract volume. (Left to Right): Prof. T. Y. Naidu, Prof. M. C. Rao, Prof. P. Veerraju, Principal, A. U. College of Science & Technology, Prof. L. Venugopal Reddy, V. C., A. U. and Dr. Anil Bhandari, President, XX ICMS.



Group photo showing participants of the XX ICMS held Visakhapatnam. A. P. on October 24-26, 2005.

out of 60 papers by the young research scholars from different parts of India were appreciated by veterans in Indian micropalaeontology.

Each scientific technical session was preceded either by special talk or by keynote address and, in all, the following 2 special talks and 3 keynote addresses were delivered:

- 1) "A journey through morphological micropalaeontology to molecular micropaleontology", special talk by Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, BHU, Varanasi. It is highly significant and commendable that Prof. M. S. Srinivasan published this special talk (pp. 1-45, 2005) immediately after the conclusion of XX ICMS. The abstract of this published special talk has been included on page 207, in vol. 67 (2), 2006 of Journal of the Geological Society of India, Bangalore. I strongly suggest that all Indian micropaleontologists, both young and veteran should read this article and they can get the same from Prof. Srinivasan, Professor Emeritus and INSA Senior Scientist, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005.
- 2) "Applications of foraminifers from shelf sediments of Kutch in deciphering palaeostorms/tsunami effects",

special talk by Dr. Rajiv, Nigam, NIO, Goa.

- 3) "Cretaceous foraminifers of the Cauvery Basin South India: a relook with remarks on biostratigraphy, palaeogeography and palaeoceanography", keynote address by Dr. A. Govindan, ABS, Chennai.
- 4) "Earliest Wetzliellid dinoflagellates as manifestation of early Palaeogene climate warming: evidence from South Shillong Plateau, Northeastern India", keynote address by Dr. Rabul Garg, BSIP, Lucknow.
- 5) "An overview of generic diagnostic characteristics, stratigraphic ranges and palaeoenvironmental significance of fossil corallines", keynote address by Dr. Pradeep Kundal, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Dehradun; National Institute of Oceanography, GOA; Andhra University (DGC-Un assigned grants); Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi and Gujarat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Govt. of Gujarat sponsored the XX ICMS. In the valedictory function, it was unanimously resolved that XXI ICMS would be held at Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany (BSIP), Lucknow under the convenership of Dr. Rabul Garg, Scientist in the Institute.

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