CORRESPONDENCE

Geological Society of India @ 60 years

On 28th May 2018, the Geological Society of India will be completing 60 years. This is a moment to rejoice and reflect on its successful journey during these years. In tracing the history of the Society, I came to know that there was an organization called the Mysore Geologists' Association started in 1949 by Dr. C.S. Pichamuthu (as President) and Sri B.P. Radhakrishna (as Secretary). At that time Karnataka as a State was not formed. The main object of this Association was to revive interest in Mysore geology and to bring all Mysore geologists together in sharing their knowledge by way of frequent meetings and field trips. This small organization existed for about a decade or so and published a little over 100 Information Circulars, 23 Bulletins and 3 special publications. P.S. Narayana, a mine owner, was a major contributor towards the publication activity of this small organization apart from the membership fees. For an Association which was started with no funds and survived for nearly a decade, the credit of its success should go to these three individuals who toiled hard and achieved the objective.

The success of this small Association paved way for greater achievements and in the year 1958, a group of five enthusiastic geologists got together in Bangalore and resolved to form a Society with the object of 'promoting in a most effective manner the cause of advanced study and research in all branches of Indian geology'. Thus the Geological Society of India was registered on 28th May 1958 in Bangalore with Dr. D.N. Wadia as President and Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna and M.K. Roy Choudhury as Secretaries, Prof. L. Rama Rao as Editor and 14 members. The two main objectives of this Society were to hold scientific meetings in different parts of India and to publish a journal containing papers of current research in the field of geology in India. Once again the responsibilities of building this small Society fell mainly on the shoulders of B.P. Radhakrishna and he succeeded in achieving the objects of the Society amidst his official duties as Director of Mines and Geology Department. It was BPR all the way and he guided the young organization through many ups and downs for the first 25 years and charted the course of its development in the next 25 years with good support of leading earth scientists

of the country both from the academic and professional fields. Now the Society is 60 years old and looking back we can feel a sense of satisfaction that we have carried this far the torch lit by the founders.

Incidentally, this year is also of another significance that is the birth centenary of B.P. Radhakrishna. On 30 April 2018, we will be celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of BPR. Although I am tempted to trace the history of BPR legacy, it is far too complex and I will make this attempt at a later date. On more than one occasion BPR had said the growth of his success was in tandem with the growth of the Society and he derived greater satisfaction and a sense of fulfillment for the work he had done for the Society.

As we are all aware, BPR was at the centre of all the activities of the Society and he nurtured and created opportunities for young as well as senior geologists. For young geologists of the day, he guided them in their scientific advancements and for senior geologists he persuaded them to write books in their fields of interest or made them to hold seminars/symposia at their institutions and published the papers presented at the seminar as a Memoir of the Society.

The Geological Society of India has published three volumes – *Random Harvest* – containing editorials written by BPR in the Journal of the Geological Society of India from time to time. In these editorials BPR has discussed freely on topics of general interest and also the many problems that we face today like – environmental degradation, scarcity of water, rapid urbanization etc. The biographical sketches on individuals who had influenced his life and for the terms of endearment that these biographical notes capture shows how much BPR revered the association with these individuals.

This is the best opportunity for all the geologists of the country to share their experiences with BPR in particular and the Geological Society of India, in general, as we celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of BPR and also the completion of 60 years of the Society.

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B. R. KRISHNA

Birth Centenary Celebration of Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna

The Geological Society of India, Bengaluru, will be celebrating the Birth Centenary of Dr. B.P. Radhakrishna on 30th April 2018 at Satish Dhawan Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru. It is planned to release a Commemorative Volume as well as the revised edition of the book on 'Mineral Resources of Karnataka'. Fellows of the Society are requested to participate in the function.