



**Amar Nath Tandon  
(1912-2011)**

Born on April 10, 1912, Dr. Amar Nath Tandon played a pivotal role in the promotion and development of the field of Seismology in India. He joined the India Meteorological Department in 1942 and carried out pioneering work in various facets of Seismology. He was well known for his innovative ideas and guidance and had been a constant source of inspiration to his fellow colleagues. His areas of research contributions in Seismology include: Surface wave dispersion studies, Crust and Mantle structure of the earth, detailed investigations of significant earthquakes including the great Assam earthquake of 1950 and Koyna earthquake of 1967, design and indigenous development of electromagnetic and Wood-Anderson seismographs, micro-earthquake field investigations, microseisms associated with weather phenomena, focal mechanism solutions and earthquake source parameters. His research work is widely quoted by seismologists throughout the world in various journals and books.

His first attempt to prepare a seismic zoning map for India formed the basis for a detailed approach for seismic zoning of the country. Motivated by the need for indigenous development of seismological instrumentation in India towards cutting down the costs and dependence on the import of equipment, he ventured into the design and development of a simple 'torsion seismometer'. His major assignments include the setting up of a close network of stations around Bhakra, Pong and Pondoh dams in NW Himalaya. The Committee set up by the Planning Commission in 1974, under his chairmanship, proposed to establish a network of about 103 seismological stations in the country to monitor all earthquakes of magnitude 4.5 and above. At the fag-end of his active research career, he took up the very tedious

task of compiling a comprehensive catalog of earthquakes from historical times to 1971 for the Indian region. His contributions to Koyna tremors committee were well recognized in the understanding of the earthquake hazard potential of the region. Dr. Tandon had served as a member on several expert committees in India and abroad including UNESCO. He was one of the few persons to have worked in USA with Dr. C.F.Richter – the person known for the famous Richter's magnitude scale. Dr. Tandon had made valuable contributions through participation in international programs and symposia. He had guided several IMD officers for their Ph.D degrees. He was an elected fellow of the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Tandon had the distinction of being the first Director of a new Directorate of Seismology created in IMD in the year 1961.

Dr. Tandon superannuated in the year 1970 as Deputy Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department.

Dr. Tandon, as a person, was known for his cool temperament, broad outlook and excellent sense of humor. He was the most respected person amongst the seismological fraternity of India and his contributions in the field of seismology will be cherished and remembered for years to come.

The entire Earth Sciences community pays its' deep respects and homage to the great departed soul and convey its condolences to the members of his family. He is survived by four daughters and their families.

*Email: dattatrayam\_rs@  
hotmail.com*

R.S. DATTATRAYAM