

## THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

*We intend to start a regular feature on news about Indian scientists where we hope to publish short notices of awards and honours, appointments, transfers, retirements and obituaries. We shall also publish notices of election of Fellows and Associates to our Academies. Contributions to these columns are invited for consideration for publication.*

—Editor

### Awards and honours



The Liquid Crystal Laboratory of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, headed by Prof. S. Chandrasekhar, was among the 'most distinguished universities and scientific institutions in the world' honoured by the University of Bologna, Italy, on 10 June 1989, on the occasion of its 900th anniversary celebration.



Prof. Roddam Narasimha, Director, National Aeronautical Laboratory, Bangalore, has been elected (13 February 1989) Foreign Associate of the National Academy of Engineering, USA. It is stated that Dr Narasimha's election to the Academy 'signifies recognition of his distinguished contributions to the broad fields of engineering, engineering science and technology, and to the world in which we live'.

Prof. P. R. Pisharoty, Professor Emeritus, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, is to receive the International Meteorological Organization Prize. The announcement by the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, states, 'Throughout his long and active career, Prof. Pisharoty has promoted



the science of meteorology, particularly in furthering studies on monsoons and in the field of remote sensing, to the continuing benefit of the global community'.

Prof. C. N. R. Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, was awarded the Hevrovsky Gold Medal by the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences, on 29 May 1989. The medal was for the monumental contributions of Prof. Rao to chemical sciences, especially



for research contributions to spectroscopy and solid state chemistry. The recent work of his group on superconductors was also highlighted.

Prof. Rao has also been elected Foreign Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Dr P. K. Ray, Director, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow, has been elected Member of the New York Academy of Sciences. The election is in recognition of his contributions in immunotoxicology and cancer.

Dr R. K. Bhandari, Director, Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, was awarded the Om Prakash Bhasin Award for 1988 in the field of engineering and transport on 30 March 1989. Dr Bhandari is also Vice-President (1989-92) of the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation.

Dr M. R. Das, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and Prof. T. Ramasarma, Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, have been given the FICCI Award in life sciences for 1988.

Prof. D. Guptasarma, National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, has been selected as one of the recipients of the National Mineral Award for 1986-87.

Dr A. V. Rama Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, has been conferred the Ranbaxy Research Award for 1987 in pharmaceutical sciences.

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#### Indian Academy of Sciences—Associates 1989

Mr G. Athithan, Advanced Numerical Research and Analysis Group (ANURAG), DRDO, Hyderabad—Computer software

Dr B. Basu, Tata Research Development Design Centre, Pune—Thermal science and engineering

Dr S. K. Chakrabarti, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay—Theoretical astrophysics

Dr Rukhsana Chowdhury, Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Calcutta—Molecular biology

Dr A. A. Deshpande, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore—Observational radioastronomy

Dr G. Ganguly, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta—Optoelectronic materials

Dr U. Maitra, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—Organic reactions

Dr A. Mehra, University of Bombay, Bombay—Chemical reaction engineering

Dr S. Mohanty, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad—Structural geology

Dr N. Nitsure, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay—Algebraic geometry.

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#### INSA Young Scientist Medal 1989 Awardees

Dr Joyoti Basu, Research Associate (CSIR), Department of Chemistry, Bose Institute, Calcutta—for characterization of yeast lectin and spectrin aggregation in erythrocytes.

Dr Bhabatosh Chanda, Computer System Engineer, Electronics and Communication Sciences Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta—for development of mathematical models and methods for image processing and pattern recognition.

Dr V. Chandrasekhar, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur—for contributions towards the synthesis of novel phosphorus ring-compounds and their reactions.

Dr Debashish Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, School of Physical Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi—for work on the theory of spin glasses.

Dr V. K. Dadhwal, Scientist 'SD', Land Resources Division, RSA Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad—for work on modelling the effect of weather on growth and yield of wheat, and the application of satellite data and computer-based techniques for crop inventory.

Dr Deepti Deobagkar, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, University of Poona, Pune—for a sensitive assay for the detection of 5-methylcytosine in DNA and its application in studies of X-chromosome inactivation.

Dr Gautam Kumar Dey, Scientific Officer (E), Physical Metallurgy Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay—for contributions to the production, detailed characterization and property evaluation of reactive metal-metal glasses, quasi-crystalline phases and high-temperature alloys.

Dr Madhu Dikshit, Scientist 'B', Pharmacology Division, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow—for work on the identification of a new platelet pro-aggregatory protein factor in thrombotic mouse plasma.

Dr Biswapati Mandal, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani—for work on chemical transformation of applied zinc under submerged soil conditions.

Dr Anurag Mehra, Lecturer in Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemical Technology, University of Bombay, Bombay—for the formulation of a unified, comprehensive theory of microphase catalysis applicable to a variety of gas-liquid, liquid-liquid and solid-liquid reactions, and for the experimental verification of their salient features.

Dr Anand Mohan, Lecturer in Metamorphic Petrology, Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi—for work on pressure-temperature characterization of granulites of South India.

Dr S. Mohanty, Lecturer, Department of Applied Geology, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad—for structural studies related to unravelling basement-cover relationships in Rajasthan.

Dr Nitin Nitsure, Research Associate, School of Mathematics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay—for contributions to the study of moduli of vector bundles and the computation of their cohomology.

Dr Kanchan Pande, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad—for work on characterization of ultramafic nodules in Deccan basalts.

Dr N. Ramesh, Research Associate, Molecular Biophysics Unit, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—for an innovative approach to the role of Z-DNA structure in gene expression.

Dr Debraj Ray, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi—for mathematical contributions to the theory of games and economic theory.

Dr Daman Saluja, Research Scientist 'A', Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi—for contributions on reversible phosphorylation of ribulose triphosphate carboxylase and its activation.

Dr N. Viswanathan, Research Associate, Department of Animal Behaviour and Physiology, School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai—for work on the circadian rhythm in the locomotor activity of the Indian pygmy field mouse.

#### Appointment

Dr G. P. Phondke has been appointed Director of Publications & Information Directorate, CSIR

New Delhi, with effect from 26 June 1989. Dr Phondke joined the Biomedical Group of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay, in 1961 and worked in the areas of immunology, cell surface biophysics, radiation biology and cancer. From 1983 to 1986 Dr Phondke edited *Science Today*. He then became science editor for daily newspapers in the Times of India Group of Publications.

#### Retirement



Professor G.V. Anantha Iyer, Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, retired on 31 July 1989. Prof. Anantha Iyer got his B.Sc. degree from the University of Mysore in 1948, and the master's degree

from Central College, Bangalore, in 1960. He joined the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry, IISc, as a Research Assistant in 1962, and obtained the Ph.D. degree for his investigations on 'Geochemistry of the alkali feldspars and origin of gold-quartz veins in the Precambrian of Mysore'.

Prof. Anantha Iyer is a rare and, as far as this country is concerned, unique example of an outstanding geologist working in tandem with chemists to unravel the mysteries of rocks and minerals. He was instrumental in introducing courses in crystal chemistry in the IPC Department way back in the sixties, and has also taught engineering geology to M.E. students in civil engineering and mineralogy to B.E. and M.E. students in metallurgy.

Prof. Anantha Iyer has made outstanding contributions to geochemistry and mineralogy. The work of Prof. Anantha Iyer and his coworkers has led to a better understanding of the crustal evolution of the Karnataka (Dharwar) Craton and the spatially aligned gneiss-granulite region of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Notable among his contributions to mineralogy are studies of the structural state of plagioclases, anthophyllites, cordierites and chloritoid minerals, in particular the order-disorder phenomenon in chloritoids. He has also carried out several significant physicochemical investigations on economically important natural deposits such as asbestos, magne-

site, gold and copper ore bodies located in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Prof. Anantha Iyer is a Fellow of the Geological Society of India. He is also Member of the Indian Earth Sciences Association, and Member, Karnataka Association for the Advancement of Science. He has also been a member of the Working Group of the National Coordinated Project on 'Experimental petrology and high-pressure and temperature studies' set up by the Department of Science and Technology.

*On the occasion of the retirement of Prof. Anantha Iyer, a symposium on geochemistry, chemistry and physics of minerals was held in the IPC Department, IISc. Twelve papers in civil engineering, metallurgy, geology, geochemistry, physics, materials science and chemistry were presented, emphasizing the truly multidisciplinary character of geochemistry. This issue of Current Science also contains a paper by G. V. Anantha Iyer and S. N. Gananath (EPR spectroscopic studies of calcic-plagioclases from the Archaean anorthosites of Holenarasipur, Karnataka Craton, South India, pp. 915-917).*

—Editor

### Obituaries

S. V. Anantakrishnan (b. 4.10.1908, d. 17.1.1989) was Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Madras Christian College, Madras. He was distinguished for important contributions to the application of principles of physical chemistry to organic chemistry.

Dr C. R. Dasgupta (b. 16.10.1899, d. 3.2.1989) was Head, Department of Haematology, and Deputy Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. He worked on various haematological problems and on kala-azar.

C. G. Khatri (b. 4.8.1931, d. 31.3.1989) was Professor of Statistics, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. His work included matrix algebra, multivariate distribution theory, characterization of distributions, and optimality of certain functions of matrix arguments.

S. G. Srikantia (b. 9.9.1926, d. 6.5.1989) was Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.