

The following recommendations emerged after a detailed discussion among the participants and panel members on various issues of disaster mitigation.

- It was suggested that member countries may approach Disaster Management support group at ISRO, Bangalore for getting the Radarsat data for disaster management purpose.
- Reservoir-induced seismicity studies may be carried out in different dams located in high seismic zones in order to avoid dam disasters due to earthquake in the region where intraplate earthquakes are common.
- All the space agencies may discuss projects related to natural hazard management at an international level for technology solutions.
- Geomagnetic field satellites detect ionospheric current system fluctuations

whose origin is not yet fully understood. Weather fluctuations related to fluctuations associated with natural hazards need to be investigated.

A panel consisting of S. K. Jain (IIT, Kanpur), B. K. Rastogi (NGRI, Hyderabad) and R. N. Iyengar (IISc, Bangalore) discussed 'Seismic hazard of the country'. The following recommendations were made by the panel:

- Installation of more numbers of strong motion accelerographs and seismograph stations in the country for obtaining a better estimation of peak horizontal acceleration (PGA) value and attenuation relation.
- Preparation of a homogeneous and consistent catalogue of Indian earthquakes.
- Designing of attenuation relationships for different regions of the country.

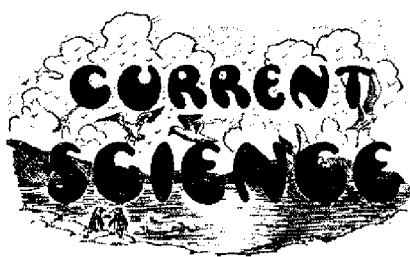
- Preparation of seismic hazard maps incorporating soil characteristics, liquefaction potential, site response and better attenuation relationships for corresponding regions.

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES



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### Dr. Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941)

We deeply mourn the death of Rabindranath Tagore on Thursday the 7th August in his residence at Calcutta. He was a universal figure venerated all over the civilized world as a poet, a philosopher and a seer. He travelled far and wide, and in most cities of the world, surging crowds were held spell-bound by the melody of his voice, by the inspiration of his addresses and by the fullness of his love and sympathy. There is scarcely any language into which his more important verses have not been translated. No poet, ancient or modern, has received during his lifetime the honour and reverence with which Dr Tagore has been greeted both in the East and the West. Indeed Keyserling has aptly described him as the most encompassing human being ever known.

His literary achievement is prodigious. It overshadows everything else. His writings have influenced the cultural and spiritual life of Bengal as nothing else has done during the last fifty years. He is however essentially a lyrical poet; and his poems have a universal appeal for they are always the expressions of his unique personality. As he himself says, 'When our heart is fully awakened in love or in other great emotions, our personality is in its flood tide. Then it feels the longing to express itself. Then it is that the notes of our music and song try to fathom the depths of the ineffable'. Thus when *Gitanjali* was published in English translation in 1912, it was received with raptures that were almost bewildering. Maeterlinck thought that the passages in the book would rank among the loftiest, the most profound and most divinely human ever written. And he was soon awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

There are few people who now remember that in the first decade of this century, Rabindranath was an active participant in the rough and tumble of politics. His national songs were sung in almost every political demonstration that followed the partition of Bengal in 1905. His eloquent speeches in Bengali moved vast audiences to whom the English oratory of Surendranath Banerjee carried no meaning. He became a priest of the

National Revival and assailed foreign rule with increasing vehemence. He extolled the valour and self-reliance of the heroes of India in most exquisite ballads, which together with his national songs have become a priceless possession of the Bengali literature.

One cannot help recalling that Rajah Ram Mohan Roy, the father of modern Indian Renaissance, had Maharsi Devendranath Tagore as his foremost disciple and Rabindranath was the youngest son of that disciple. Rarely do we witness such a succession of greatness in the history of a country to mould the spiritual and national life of its people for more than a century. These were noble spirits who were called to surrender themselves to the quest for the Heaven of Truth and Freedom. When the chaos of the modern world would burn deep his sensitive soul, Rabindranath would sing:

*'Where knowledge is free,  
Where words come out from the depths  
of Truth,  
Where the clear stream of Reason has  
not lost its way into the desert sand of  
dead habit,  
Unto that Heaven of Truth and Freedom;  
my Father, let my country awake.'*

To readers of *Current Science*, what message could be more inspiring than the call to join this quest!