

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 converynship 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 presentations 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 hold Visakhapatnam, A. P. on October 24-26, 2005.