K. Naha
(1932-1996)

Earth scientists all over India are deeply grieved at the sudden and untimely demise of Prof. Kshitindramohan Naha on 24th May, 1996. Kshitindramohan Naha was born on 2.1.1932 in Comilla (now in Bangladesh). Prof. Naha obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from Presidency College, Calcutta. He was conferred the D.Sc. degree by the Calcutta University in 1959. After working as a research scholar in the Presidency College, Calcutta, under the guidance of Prof. Santosh Kumar Ray, he joined the Department of Geology and Geophysics of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, and worked there from 1958 onward. After retiring as a Professor in 1992 he continued to be associated with the IIT, Kharagpur, as an Emeritus Scientist. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of California, USA and the La Trobe University, Australia. He was the recipient of the National Mineral Award and the Bhatnagar Award. Prof. Naha was a fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, The Indian Academy of Sciences and a Life Fellow of the Geological Society of India. Prof. Naha took keen interest in all the activities of these august bodies.

Prof. K. Naha was one of the outstanding geologists of our country. The present status of Indian geology owes much to the high quality of his extensive researches on Structural Geology and Precambrian Geology. Prof. Naha's work was always characterised by the application of precise and modern methods, by the presentation of a wealth of detailed observations and by the method of arriving at all important conclusions on the basis of critical field evidences. This is one of the reasons why the totality of his researches spanning a period of four decades has stood the test of time and has been confirmed over and over again by later workers.

Prof. Naha's researches covered a wide area of both Structural Geology and Precambrian Geology and included different topics such as the kinematic significance of deformation lamellae in quartz, geometrical analyses of folds and superposed folds over large terrains of Singhbhum, Rajasthan and Karnataka, methods of elucidating large scale architecture of migmatities, methods of identifying angular unconformity in multiply deformed metamorphic terrains, determining the interrelationship of metamorphism and
deformation in space and in time in the Singhbhum Precambrian terrain and in the Simla
Himalaya, sedimentation and palaeogeography of eastern Singhbhum, basement-cover
relations in the Indian Precambrians and a detailed analysis of the problem of near-coaxial
folding in macroscopic scale.

Kshitindramohan Naha was a brilliant conversationalist with a keen sense of humour. He
was an extremely warm hearted person, ever ready to help his students, former students,
colleagues and friends. Prof. Naha’s death is an immense loss to the community of
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S.R.N. Murthy
(1936-1996)

In the sudden demise of Dr. S.R.N. Murthy, due to cardiac arrest on the morning of
19th May, 1996, we have lost an active earth scientist of the country, a renowned Sanskrit
Scholar and a Life Member of the Geological Society of India.

Dr. Sindhughatta Ramasastry Narasimha Murthy was born on 17th June, 1936 in a
small hamlet – Sindhughatta near K.R.Pet in Mandya district, Karnataka. He had his
schooling in Sharadavilas High School, Mysore (1949-54). He was introduced to Sanskrit
in his boyhood days by his father Sri Ramasastry, a well known Palace Purohit and a vedic
scholar in the Mysore palace. Dr. Murthy obtained his Honours degree in Geology from
the University of Mysore (1956-57) bagging the Hanumappa Gold Medal and M.Sc. degree
in 1958 also with distinction. In the same year, he joined the Geological Survey of India
as Geological Assistant when the organisation was in the throes of rapid expansion. He
was trained in various laboratories at Central Headquarters, Calcutta and posted to Bihar
Circle. He significantly contributed in the field of Economic Geology and brought out many
areas for detailed exploration for tin in Hazaribagh district. He then took up petrological
studies of mafic - ultramafic rocks of Salem and Kimberlites of Vajrakarur. He was awarded
a Norwegian Fellowship for advanced studies in Geology at Oslo during 1970-71. He had
the unique distinction of attending the World Sanskrit Conference held at Paris in 1977,
which he used to proudly recall as the first and the only occassion in which the GSI took
part in an International Sanskrit Conference.

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