

hazards of mining in the Himalaya and also the measures to combat these (V.S. Mathur et al.). The study of Mansar Lake (Jammu) indicated erosion from carbonate provenance. Illite and chlorite were common in lake sediments (B.K. Das and R.K. Kakar). A plea to study effect of nuclear explosion of May 1998 on geo features in Indian subcontinent was also made (A.D. Ahluwalia et al.)

Bulk of the papers stressed on the need for immediate action to arrest the degradation of water system and atmosphere.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### LATE Dr. K.S. KRISHNAN, EMINENT AND DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIST: HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEOPHYSICS AND REMINISCENCES

The birth centenary of the late Dr. Kariamanickam Srinivasa Krishnan was celebrated on 28th December 1998. Glorious accounts of his many achievements in physics, particularly his participation in the discovery of the Raman effect, have already appeared in other Journals. Very little, however, has been published about his contribution to the discipline of geophysics in India. He contributed outstanding papers on the magnetic properties and X-ray studies of rock crystals. He was the Chairman of the Indian Chapter of the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957-58 during which his contributions to geophysics won high praise from Dr. S. Chapman, Chairman of the International Programme. As a very distinguished member of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Chairmanship of Sri S.S. Bhatnagar, he was the first to propose, alongwith his distinguished colleague Dr. M.N. Saha, in 1942, the establishment of the Central Geophysical Institute, and worked ceaselessly to set it up until his death in 1961. In fact, the present National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), which became the newly designated name for the Central Geophysical Institute in 1963 was primarily due to his untiring efforts over two decades from 1942, and he may therefore be rightly regarded as the chief architect of the NGRI.

Dr. K.S. Krishnan was easily the most eminent member of the Central Board of Geophysics which had been set up in 1942. At that time I held the twin assignments of Chief Geophysicist and Head of the Department of Geophysics in the GSI and the Executive Secretary of the Central Board of Geophysics and its two research wings viz. Geophysics (Calcutta) and Oceanography (Cochin). Dr. Krishnan's interest in the development of geophysics in India was very great, and as far as I can remember he never missed an Annual Meeting of the CBG.

Prof. Krishnan was by nature simple and modest, delightfully humorous and magnanimous at heart. He was universally loved and respected. He was also a great scholar of Sanskrit and Tamil literature. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who was a great friend and admirer of Dr. K.S. Krishnan, had said of him, "He is a great scientist, but something much more. He is a perfect citizen, a whole man with an integrated personality."

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