

**PRESENTATION OF THE PROF. L. RAMA RAO MEDAL
TO
PROF. M. S. SRINIVASAN**



Dr. Kurien Jacob, President of the Society, in making the presentation of the award to Prof. M. S. Srinivasan said:

I have great pleasure in announcing the award of the Prof. L. Rama Rao Medal to Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Professor of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Prof. M. S. Srinivasan took his M.Sc., degree in geology from the Banaras Hindu University in 1960 and he was the recipient of the 'La Touche Medal' for gaining the first position in the order of merit at the University. Between 1962 and 1965, he carried out intensive research on the Eocene/ Oligocene marine stratigraphy of New Zealand, under a British Commonwealth Scheme and gained his Ph.D. degree from the Victoria University of New Zealand. In 1968-69 he visited U.K. under the Young Scientist Exchange Programme, and examined the Cenozoic foraminifera collections obtained from different British expeditions and lodged in the British Museum of Natural History.

Between 1972 and 1974, and again between 1979 and 1981, he was invited as a Visiting Professor at the Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, and carried out surface ultrastructural studies of foraminifera with reference to phylogeny and palaeo-oceanography using scanning electron microscope.

Prof. Srinivasan has been an active participant of some of the IGCP programmes. In 1976 he was the leader of the Equatorial Neogene Chronostratigraphy Group, and in that capacity has carried out some excellent work. In 1979, he was a member of the Global Research Programme on the Cenozoic Palaeo-oceanography. He was also a participating member of the Deep Sea Drilling Programme conducted in the South Pacific. Prof. Srinivasan was the Chairman of the National Committee for IUGS and Executive Committee Member of the IGCP Project on Neogene Event for the period 1986-90. In 1985, Prof. Srinivasan was elected Fellow of the Indian National

Science Academy, Delhi and also Fellow of the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore. He was awarded the Malaviya Foundation Award by the BHU. Prof. Srinivasan has made several valuable contributions to the Late Cenozoic biochronology and palaeo-oceanography of the Andaman-Nicobar island. His studies on a phylogenetic approach to the classification of planktonic foraminifera resulted in a valuable book on the Neogene Planktonic Foraminifera, published in the USA. He is now actively engaged in the Cenozoic biostratigraphy and palaeo-oceanography of the South Pacific, associated with the Deep Sea Drilling Project.

In view of Prof. Srinivasan's outstanding contributions to stratigraphy in general, and oceanic biostratigraphy and aspects of marine geology and oceanography in particular, the Council of the Geological Society of India unanimously decided to award the Prof. L. Rama Rao Medal to Prof. M. S. Srinivasan.

On behalf of the Fellows of the Society and on my own behalf, I warmly congratulate Prof. Srinivasan and express our expectations of further valuable contributions from him in future years. I have now great pleasure in presenting the 'Professor L. Rama Rao Medal' to Prof. M. S. Srinivasan.

Reply from Prof. M. S. Srinivasan

Dr. Jacob, Fellows of the Geological Society of India and distinguished guests,

I feel highly honoured to be chosen for the Professor L. Rama Rao Medal by the Geological Society of India. I am grateful to the Council of the Geological Society of India for recognizing my contributions in the field of Stratigraphy and Micropaleontology.

I had the privilege of meeting Professor L. Rama Rao only once during my visit to Bangalore in 1966 and I fondly recollect the interesting and stimulating discussions we had then on various aspects of Indian Stratigraphy in general and Cretaceous/Paleocene boundary problem in particular. He was the pioneer in initiating micropaleontological researches in India and trained a number of students who later made significant contributions to Indian Stratigraphy. It will be no exaggeration if I say that Professor L. Rama Rao is the father of Indian Micropaleontology.

The past two decades that have passed since then witnessed an explosive outburst of information in the field of Stratigraphy and Micropaleontology. In general, the descriptive and monographic treatment of faunas have given way to analytic and interpretive work, and the classical approaches to stratigraphy emerged into a new dynamic EVENT STRATIGRAPHY.

The recovery of deep sea cores ranging from tropical to polar regions from World's oceans, as a result of Ocean Drilling Programme, the advent of scanning electron microscope for surface ultrastructural studies and the availability of sophisticated instruments for stable isotope analysis have provided unprecedented opportunities to the study of the Cenozoic marine sequences during the seventies and eighties.

Since the last twenty years, I have been conducting and guiding researches on the Neogene of Andaman - Nicobar Islands, where uplifted deep sea sequences are exposed on magnificent cliffs and the deep sea cores from the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The fruitful integration of biostratigraphy, paleomagnetic data, absolute dating and isotopic record has allowed stratigraphers to delineate and date biostratigraphic datum levels of world-wide significance and to attempt inter-regional correlations with unprecedented accuracy.

One of the most interesting observations made during the study was to record a close relationship between the upper mantle activity, geomagnetic reversals, micro-faunal extinctions and volcanically-induced climatic changes.

During the last few years stratigraphers are paying increasing attention to fluctuations in the proportions of isotopes of oxygen and carbon in the Oceans, their relationships to the accumulation and decline of polar ice and changes in sea levels, and also to sedimentary hiatuses in the deep sea. A kind of EVENT STRATIGRAPHY seems to be emerging and its potential to provide an inter-regional event-based classification of the Neogene needs to be thoroughly evaluated.

If I have made any humble contribution to the existing knowledge on the Neogene biostratigraphy and paleo-oceanography, it is because of the support and assistance which I received from my friend and co-worker Prof. J. P. Kennett and my research students.

The Geological Society of India since its inception has been supporting and organizing National and International Seminars/Workshops on thrust areas of global interest. Through the publication of its Journal and Special Memoirs, the Society has been doing a great service to Indian Geoscientists by projecting their contributions to the world community. I feel proud to be associated with the activities of the Society.

Once again, I wish to thank you Mr. President, and the Council of the Geological Society of India for bestowing this honour on me.