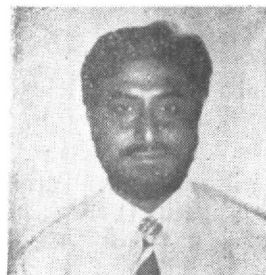
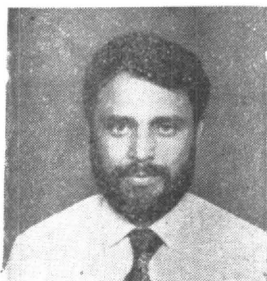


PRESENTATION OF BELLUR RAMA RAO AWARD 1992
TO

B. K. BANDYOPADHYAY

AND

ABHINABA ROY



In presenting the award to B. K. Bandyopadhyay and Abhinaba Roy, B. P. Radhakrishna said:

I consider it as one of my most pleasant tasks to present the 'Bellur Rama Rao award for 1992' to Dr. B. K. Bandyopadhyay and Abhinaba Roy of the Geological Survey of India.

'Bellur Rama Rao award' is one of the prestigious awards instituted by the Geological Society of India. This has been made possible by the generous contributions made by the family members of the late B. Rama Rao, former Director of the Mysore Geological Department, a person who had made fundamental contributions to the Precambrian geology of India. The value of the award has been increased to Rs. 10,000 consequent on a matching grant announced by The Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd. I take this opportunity of thanking these donors for their generous gesture in promoting excellence by honouring deserving scientists.

In granting the award for the year 1992, the Council of the Geological Society of India has taken the view that the award should be given to persons who have not only distinguished themselves by their past work but who can look forward to a future of intensive investigation through greater efforts. The award should act as an incentive for such an endeavour in the coming years. The award for this year, therefore, has been given to two active workers in the field of Precambrian geology. Both of them are presently engaged in unfolding the complexity of the geology of a terrain in which the entire history from the Archaean to the Recent is compressed.

I consider the Central Tectonic Zone of India as a fundamental feature dividing the subcontinent into two blocks—the Northern Bundelkhand block and the Southern Deccan block. The two blocks were fused together along a line of junction marked by a system of lineaments along the Narmada-Son. The Archaean and Proterozoic rocks of this zone are involved in great fold movements. The most important feature of this zone is its tectonic activity throughout geological history, extending even to the present day. The decipherment of the stratigraphical elements and elucidation of the tectonic history of this zone is a major task facing the geologists in India. This zone is also likely to show up, on closer investigation, many important mineral deposits and is, therefore, not without economic significance. The two geologists, whom we are honouring today, have the necessary background to

make a beginning in working out the geological and tectonic history of this most interesting terrain.

Bimal Kumar Bandyopadhyay and Abhinaba Roy who have been selected for the award this year are both structural geologists who have made a mark in the field of their specialisation. Both of them have graduated from the Presidency College, Calcutta and are students of the distinguished structural geologist of India, Prof. Dhruba Mukhopadhyay. Both of them are presently engaged in the study of the stratigraphic units identified as the Mahakoshal and Sakoli Groups. It is fitting that this prestigious award for the year 1992 is to be shared equally, by these distinguished young geologists.

Of the two awardees, I have known Abhinaba Roy more intimately. He was for a long time in Karnataka. His work on the greenstone belts of Karnataka, especially on aspects like the structure, metamorphism and tectonic set-up, are noteworthy. His main work on the Shimoga, Sandur and the Hutti-Maski belts are of high quality. His work has thrown additional light on the manganese ore resources of Sandur and Goa. Presently Roy is working along with Sri Bandyopadhyay on the geology of the Proterozoic of Mahakoshal belt of Central India.

Sri Bimal Kumar Bandyopadhyay, I came to know only recently. From what I understand, he has carried out intensive fundamental work in the field of geochemistry, structure and tectonics of the Mahakoshal belt of Madhya Pradesh and the Sakoli basin of Maharashtra. His work is full of promise and we look forward to a continuous research output from him in unravelling the complex geological history of the Central Indian Tectonic Zone.

I have now great pleasure in requesting the President to present the Bellur Rama Rao Award for 1992 jointly to Dr. Abhinaba Roy and Sri Bimal Kumar Bandyopadhyay. This should be considered as a mark of recognition of their excellent work with the proviso that they will put in their best efforts in the coming years to increased activity in geological research.

Reply by B. K. Bandyopadhyay:

It is indeed a great moment for me. It feels so good. I am happy to accept the prestigious Bellur Rama Rao Award 1992 of the Geological Society of India. But I am happier that it has been a joint recognition. On behalf of myself and on behalf of the organisation I represent, the Geological Survey of India, I thank the Council of the Geological Society of India for conferring this honour on me. I also take this opportunity to place on record my deepest sense of indebtedness to the legendary Professors including Dr. S. N. Sen, Dr. A. K. Saha, Dr. D. Mukhopadhyay, Dr. A. De and Dr. S. Mukherjee who were my teachers in the Presidency College, Calcutta and the University of Calcutta, who laid brick-by-brick the basic foundation in me and provided the right training and inspiration and also shaped and moulded my formative years as a student of geology in the college and the university. I joined the Survey in 1972 and started my work in the Precambrian of Rajasthan. I was then deputed to the Bhutan Unit of GSI where I worked in the Bhutan Himalayas. My acquaintance with the Precambrian geology of the

Central Indian Shield began in the year 1982, when I started my work in the Sakol Fold Belt (SFB) in Maharashtra and the Mahakoshal Belt in Madhya Pradesh. For the last ten years I have been continuously working in the SFB and published several papers on the structural and metamorphic evolution and mineralisation characteristics of the SFB, both in national and international journals. We reported the occurrence of tourmalinites from the SFB and through an international collaboration with the USGS obtained several sophisticated data including boron isotope analyses and microprobe chemistry of tourmalines. Based on these data we proposed a new theory of origin of the tourmalinites.

Honours do not come thick and fast. In this beleaguered world it is heartening to find that over the years the Society has been taking keen interest in maintaining the culture of recognizing good work and talent. Geological Survey is perhaps the only agency in the country for collection of raw geological data nationwide. Raw data are fundamental in any science. Much of the work of GSI is getting published through the Journal of the Society. This is a healthy sign and I look forward to an increased cooperation between the Survey and the Society in the years to come.

For some years, there has been an alarming tendency by the geoscientists all over the world to publish papers only on laboratory data. Geological mapping, collection of field data and basic petrographic work which constitute the building-blocks of the geological edifice are receding to the background. That our work which is largely a field-study has been recognized by a leading organization is a proof of the importance placed on field geology in the pursuit of geological knowledge.

My father had once told me in my childhood days: 'A person's mind is like an umbrella, it is of no use until it is opened'. If I deserve to be honoured it is because all through my life I have trained to keep my mind open and allowed the wind of changing times to drift in.

I wish the Society and all its incumbents health and prosperity in the years to come and I assure them that this award would go a long way in inspiring me in my endeavours in the future.

Thank you.

Reply by Abhinaba Roy :

I deem it a great privilege and honour to be awarded the Bellur Rama Rao Award by the Council of the Geological Society of India and I thank Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna for his kind words. I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude to the Society for bestowing this honour on me which I accept in all humility. On this occasion I acknowledge my deep debt to my teachers Prof. A. K. Saha and Prof. D. Mukhopadhyay who taught me the basic principles of geology and instilled in me a love for earth science.

I started my research activities on the geology and geochemistry of granitic rocks at the Presidency College, Calcutta where I could learn and apply statistical methods in solving geological problems. After my joining the Geological Survey

of India in the year 1972, I was assigned the job of systematic mapping in Dharwar and other schist belts of Karnataka. The challenging problems which I encountered in the course of geological mapping in these multi-deformed and metamorphosed terrains gave me the best chance to enter the fascinating field of structural geology. In later years, my endeavour has been always in collecting more and more data on structure, prepare a true geological map and unravel the geometry, orientation, interrelationship and chronology of events in the evolutionary history of the schist granitoid terrain.

The importance and significance of structural studies in mineral investigation is now well understood. My interest in such studies was to work out the inter-relationship and interdependence of structure, metamorphism and mineralization in schistose rocks.

I have several mentors and a good number of colleagues and friends in the organisation to which I belong, viz., Geological Survey of India. They have rendered all possible help and cooperation in my pursuit of science. I wish to record my sincere thanks to all of them. Here I must acknowledge the encouragement and inspiration that I received and still continue to receive from Dr. B. P. Radhakrishna, an eminent and universally respected figure among the Indian Geologists. His involvement in encouraging comparatively younger workers like me is indeed laudable and my sincere thanks to Dr. Radhakrishna for the constant encouragement and kindness I received from him over the years.

I was exposed to the Geology of Central India in the year 1983 when I was transferred to Nagpur from Bhutan. The Precambrian of Central India is indeed fascinating, more so, as much remains to be deciphered in this field. It represents one of the best mobile belt and exhibits craton-cover relations, seldom seen with such clarity anywhere else. There has been some advance in Central Indian Geology during the last ten years, but unfortunately, adequate emphasis has not been given to structural work. You, sir, have expressed some kind words about our work, but I can honestly say that we have touched fringe of the problem. We have just made a beginning and much more remains to be done in the field of structural geology in Central India. Detailed investigations are warranted with the help of petrologists, geochemists and geochronologists.

On the very first year of its institution the prestigious Bellur Rama Rao Award has been bestowed on two field geologists. Prof. H. H. Read is quoted as having said, 'The best geologist is, other things being equal, one who has seen the most rocks'. This, I believe is the basic philosophy in the study of earth sciences.

Sir, I accept this award as a recognition of the work of my fellow field geologists. Their hard work in hostile terrain and in adverse conditions has rarely been rewarded. The Geological Society of India has, in fact, boosted the morale of the field geologists at a time when their spirits are under a new low for want of recognition of their efforts.

I once again thank the Council of the Geological Society of India for conferring on me this honour. This will be an inspiration to continue our investigation in the fascinating terrain of Central India.