

Estd. 1946

Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany

(An Autonomous Institution of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)

Newsletter

June 1999

Agrasar

The Institute actively participated in the Science and Technology Exhibition—*Agrasar* organised on the lawns of India Gate, New Delhi, from 3rd to 16th August 1998. “Achievements in Science and Technology since Independence and vision for future” constituted the theme of exhibition inaugurated by His Excellency the Vice President of India Sri Krishna Kant. Many eminent visitors and common people got benefited

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Sri Krishna Kant, Vice President of India and Professor M.M. Joshi, Union Minister, HRD greeted by Prof. Anshu Kumar Sinha at the BSIP Stall, DST Pavilion



after visiting the BSIP panel erected at Department of Science and Technology Pavilion.

Foundation Day

On the occasion of Foundation Day on September 10, 1998, the second Jubilee Lecture was delivered by **Professor D. Balasubramanian**, Director of Research, Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation on the topic “*New Biology in the help of Old Botany*”. Many guests, prominent citizens of Lucknow and scientists from and outside Institute attended the function.

Founder's Day

The Founder's Day was celebrated at the Institute on November 14, 1998. Floral



Floral tributes and Vandana



Professor T.V. Desikachary delivering 28th Birbal Sahni Memorial Lecture.



Professor S.B. Bhatia delivering 44th Sir Albert Charles Seward Memorial Lecture.



Prof. D. Balasubramanian, Director of Research, LV Prasad Eye Hospital, Hyderabad, Guest Speaker, Second Jubilee Lecture gracing the dais and honoured by the Chairman GB, BSIP

tributes were offered at the *Samadhi* of Professor Birbal Sahni. On this occasion Prof. C.V. Subramanian, Chairman Governing Body welcomed the gathering and urged to pursue multidisciplinary science. Two memorial lectures were delivered. **Professor T.V. Desikachary**, FNA, Former Professor, Centre of Advanced Study in Botany, Madras University, Chennai delivered the 28th Birbal Sahni Memorial Lecture on “*Some aspects of Palaeophycology*”. The 44th Sir Albert Charles Seward Memorial Lecture was delivered by **Professor S.B. Bhatia**, FNA, Former Professor of Geology and Emeritus Scientist (CSIR), Punjab University, Chandigarh on “*Post-Palaeozoic Charophyta : phylogenetic, biostratigraphic and palaeoecologic implications?*”. The celebration was graced by distinguished gathering.



Indian Science Congress

The Institute has participated in the 86th Session of the Indian Science Congress held at Anna



Bharat Ratna Dr Abdul Kalam showing interest in BSIP exhibits.



Dr Manju Sharma greeted by Prof Anshu Kumar Sinha.

University, Chennai from 3rd-7th January, 1999. The theme of the congress was 'New Biosciences - opportunities and challenges as we move into the next millennium'.

Research achievements and future goals of the Institute were displayed. A large number of students, citizens and eminent personnel visited the stall including Bharat Ratna Dr Abdul Kalam, Defence Advisor, Govt. of India, Dr R. Chidambaram, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Dr V.S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Deptt. of Science & Technology, Dr Manju Sharma, Secretary, Deptt. of Biotechnology and others. Institute scientists also contributed to the scientific deliberations.

National Science Day (February 28, 1999) & National Technology Day (May 11, 1999)

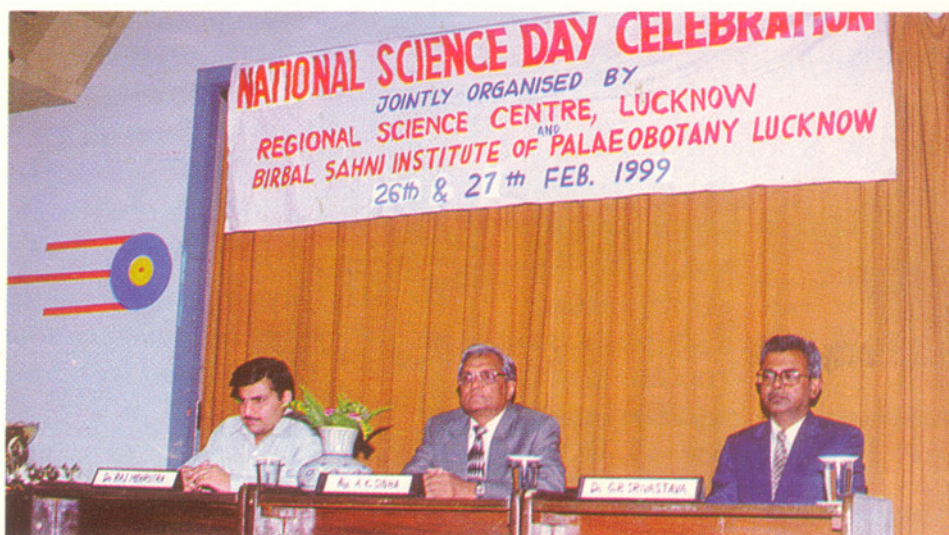
National Science Day was celebrated in the form of a 'Science - Week'. The theme of the science day was "Harnessing Information Technology". A lecture on this theme was delivered by Professor Bharat Bhaskar, Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow. Art competition for the school children was organised. An Open Day was observed and educational films were shown to the visitors. Science Quiz, Essay Competition and other activities were

organised jointly with Regional Science Centre, Lucknow. An exhibition on evolution through ages at Mahanagar Boys College was also organized.

On May 11, 1999 National Technology Day was celebrated. On this occasion Dr. Krishnanand Sinha, Project Coordinator, Indira Gandhi Planetarium, Lucknow delivered a talk on "Quantum leaps in Astronomy" - Courtesy small concepts.



School children participating in an Art Competition at the Institute and prize distribution by the Director, BSIP.



National Science Day Celebrations at Regional Science Centre, Lucknow.

Lectures

To keep the learning process going, lectures on various topical aspects were delivered by eminent scientists drawn from different organisations.

October 1998

Professor Leon Stuchlik—Director Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland — “*General information—W. Szafer Institute of Botany*”.

Mr. W. Granoszewski—Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, Poland—“*Late Pleistocene pollen sequence from Eastern Poland*”.

November 1998

Professor B.B. Lal—Former Director General, Archeological Survey of India, New Delhi — “*New Dimension of Indus Civilization*”

Dr Gene Mapes, Director, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio — “*Permo-Carboniferous Coniferophyte from Kansas, USA*”.



Dr G.W. Rothwell, Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio — “*Reconstruction of plants for the reconstruction of fern phylogeny*”.



December 1998

Professor R.A. Spicer, Depart-

ment of Earth Sciences, The Open University, Milton Keynes, U.K. — “*Mid- and Late Cretaceous climate of Asia and Northern Alaska using CLAMP Analysis*”.

Dr Mike Widdowson, Department of Earth Sciences, The Open University, Milton Keynes, U.K. — “*Stratigraphy and structure of the southern Deccan Traps : A chemostratigraphical approach*”.

January 1999

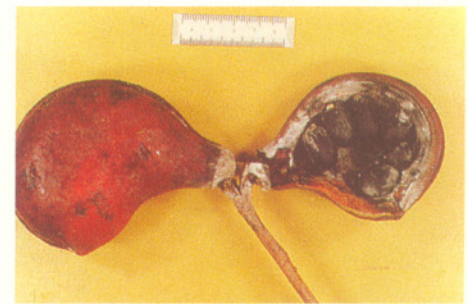
Prof. Helmut Wopfner, Emeritus Professor, Applied Geology, University of Cologne, Germany — “*A palaeoclimatic transect for the Late Palaeozoic from Africa to the Alps – Can it apply to India?*”

New Findings

Dr R.C. Mehrotra and **Dr B.D. Mandaokar** report the occurrence of an ichnofossil *Terredolites clavatus* Leymerie for the first time from the Ramrikawn stone quarry near Aizawl, Mizoram, India. It belongs to the Upper Bhuban Formation of the Surma Group and is Lower-Middle Miocene in age. Its presence indicates deltaic environment.



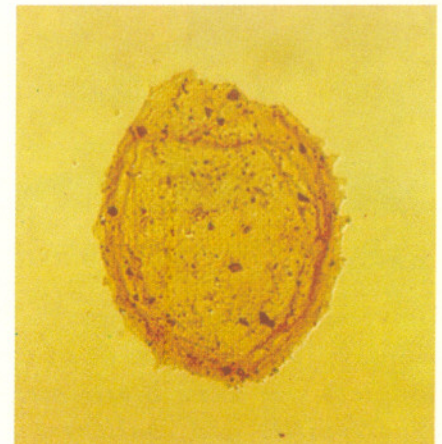
Dr (Mrs) Jayasri Banerji reports an angiospermous fossil fruit from Rajmahal Intertrappean bed, Bihar named *Butea carbonsonajoriensis*;



Extant *Butea* fruit

which is a unilocular, multiovulate angiospermous fruit with distinct pericarp. It shows resemblance with the extant fruit of *Butea* of the family Fabaceae.

Dr. (Mrs) Archana Tripathi reports *Talcheridium indicum*



gen. et sp. nov. from shales in the coal bearing Barakar Formation of Talcher Coalfield, Orissa, India. It encompasses a thin walled ornamented acritarch cysts showing polar symmetry, commonly have a peripheral, sometimes a meridional fold, having pylome with an irregular edge at one pole.

Participation Abroad

INSA-JSPS International Scientific Exchange Programme

Dr (Mrs) Rashmi Srivastava : Visited Japan under INSA-JSPS International Scientific Exchange Programme for three months



(March 27 - June 28, 1998). During her stay at Botanical Garden, Tohoku University, Sendai, she worked on Palaeogene fossil woods from Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu Island with Prof. Mifsuo Suzuki.

10th International Gondwana Symposium, Cape Town, South Africa, June 28-July 4, 1998

Dr P.K.Maithy : He contributed two papers—*Pre-Gondwana events and evolution of Indian subcontinent as part of Gondwana* and *Gondwana structural biological life from India before Permian times*. Dr Maithy also visited South African Museum, Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. (Mrs.) Shaila Chandra : She was one of the keynote speaker who presented a paper entitled "*Plant colonisation of Gondwana and subsequent speciation, diversification on Gondwana fragments*".

Dr. (Ms) Jayasri Benerji : She presented a paper entitled "*Megafloral diversity of Upper Gondwana sequence of the Rajmahal Basin, India*".

Dr. Shyam C. Srivastava : He co-chaired the session on Gondwana flora II and also presented a paper on "*Palaeoclimatic fluctuations during Triassic of India*".

Dr. (Ms) Vijaya : She contributed a paper entitled "*Palyno-event stratigraphy in Neocomian - Aptian palynoflora on Indian Peninsula*". She also visited South African Museum, Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr. K.J. Singh : He presented a

paper entitled "*Plant biodiversity in Mahanadi Basin, India during Gondwana period*".

Visit to France

Dr (Mrs) Vandana Prasad : Spent three months (May-July 1998) as a Visiting Scientist at the Centre de Géochimie de La Surface C.N.R.S./ULP, Strasbourg, France and acquired expertise on Dispersed Organic Matter studies through transmitted light microscope. These studies were applied on Subathu sediments of Morni Hills, Haryana and Kalakot area of J & K with a view to interpret palaeoenvironment. Techniques involved in the TEM studies of palynodebris were also learnt.

5th International Symposium on the Jurassic System, Vancouver, Canada, 16-20 August, 1998

Dr. (Ms) Vijaya : She presented data on the status of nonmarine Jurassic sediments in the Gondwana Sequence on Peninsular India. She suggested concerted efforts to explore Jurassic strata in India for biostratigraphy.

International Scientific Conference on Dichotomy and Homology in Natural Sciences, Tyumen, Russia, 7-12 September, 1998.

Dr. A.K. Srivastava : He was nominated as one of the members of Organising Committee of the Conference. He presented a paper entitled "*Dichotomous development pattern in Glossopterids*". He also participated in two excursions to Tyumen City and Kremlin Tobolok.

Mrs Kavita Kumar : She presented a paper entitled "*Dichotomous and homologous patterns in catalogueing and classification of palaeobotanical literature*". She also participated in two excursions to Tyumen City and Kremlin Tobolok.

CIMP Symposium and Workshop, Pisa, Italy, 11-14 September, 1998

Dr. Archana Tripathi : She contributed on "*A new microfossil genus Talcheridium gen. nov. from the subsurface sediments of Barakar Formation, Talcher Coalfield, Orissa*". Its affinity and age connotations were analysed. She also visited Departmenta Biologia Vigitela, Universita La Sapilnza, Rome and National History Museum, Pisa.

Systematic wood Anatomy Symposium of the 7th Latin American Botanical Congress, Mexico, 18-20 October, 1998

Dr. J.S. Guleria : He delivered a keynote address on the topic "*Systematic wood anatomy of fossil trees from the Tertiary sediments of Guatemala, Central America*". New fossil wood records from India were discussed. He also visited Prof David L. Dilcher at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, U.S.A.

4th International Conference on Biodeterioration of Cultural Property, 21-25 November, 1998 and 3rd International Symposium on Conservation and Restoration of Historical objects and Architectural Decorations, Tehran, Iran. 29th November – 2nd December 1998

Dr. Asha Gupta : She presented a paper entitled "*Fungal*

remains from Tertiary deposits exposed at Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh, India".

14th Himalaya- Karakoram -Tibet International Workshop, Kloster Ettal, Germany., March 24-26, 1999

Professor Anshu Kumar Sinha : He presented a paper entitled "*Accretion of Terrane in Karakoram microcontinent—New palaeobotanical and geochemical data*". The data supported the concept of accretion or mosaic tectonics to the Karakoram Block. Plant fossil data from Chhingtash Formation of Karakoram Tethyan zone establish Lower Gondwana affinity for rocks of Karakoram.

Re-invitation Programme of DAAD Fellowship (September-November 1998)

Dr. S.A. Jafar : He carried out research work with Prof. Dr. Hans Peter Luterbacher of University of Tuebingen (2 months) and with Prof. Alexander Volker Attenbach of University of Munich (1 month).

Ph.D Awarded

Ratan Kar : Palynostratigraphy of the Gondwana sediments from Ramkola-Tatapani Coalfield, Surguja District, Madhya Pradesh; Lucknow University, Lucknow.

A.K. Pokharia : Palaeobotanical study in Kushan Culture (ca 100-300AD) at Ancient Sanghol, Punjab; Lucknow University, Lucknow.

E.G. Khare : Studies on plant fossils from the Deccan Intertrappean sediments of India; Lucknow University, Lucknow.

Shiv Mohan Singh : Early Permian flora of Karanpura and Bokaro coalfields; Lucknow University, Lucknow.

New Editors

Drs. A. Rajanikanth & Mukund Sharma have been



appointed as Assistant Editors of the Journal *The Palaeobotanist* since 15-02-1999.

Medal Awarded

Dr Chunnilal Khatiyal Medal

Dr Amit K. Ghosh was awarded the Dr Chunnilal



Khatiyal Medal for 1998 for the best piece of research work done by him during April 1995- March 1998 at the Institute under Scientist 'A' category. He was given a Medal and citation on the occasion of Founder's Day.

Forthcoming Events

International Symposium on Multifaceted Aspects of Tree Ring Analysis (15-19 November,

1999), Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, 53 University Road, Lucknow - 226 007 (INDIA).

Phone : 324291, 323206, 325822, 325945.

Fax : 91-0522-381948/374528

E-Mail :bsip@bsip.sirnetd.ernet.in

International Conference on Coal Bed Methane : Prospects and Potentialities (5-6 November, 1999), Geological Survey of India, 27, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Calcutta-700016.

Phone : 0771-254200/254500. 249-6976/249-6941-43.

Fax : 0771-254600, 033-249-6956.

Telex : 021-5967

E-Mail : gecr.engrpr.m.p.inc.in

10th International Palynological Congress, (June 24-30, 2000) Nanjing, China

Secretary of the Organising Committee IPC, Nanjing Institute of Geology & Palaeontology, Academia Sinica, 39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008 PR China
E-Mail : gwliu@jlonline.com

6th Conference of International Organization of Palaeobotany (IOPC-VI), (July 31 - August 3, 2000) Qinhuangdu, Habei, PR China

Secretary General, IOPC VI, Nanjing Institute of Geology & Palaeontology, 39 East Beijing Road, Nanjing 210008 PR China

E-Mail : paleobot@publici.ptt.js.en

Other Activities

On the occasion of **Independence Day**, 15th August, 1998, various games were organised by the **Staff Welfare Committee**. These include Carom, Chess, Slow cycling, Slow scootering,



Table Tennis etc. Winners were awarded by the Head of the Institution.

Institute **Garden** has won about seven prizes of merit in different Flower- Show competitions organised by various organisations at Lucknow. Campus Garden has also been adjudged second in the District for which a Trophy has been awarded to the Institute.

New Scanning Electron Microscope (LEO 430) has been installed.

A coloured **Xeroxing Machine (Modi 5799)** has been acquired. Library Hall has been air-conditioned.

Renovation of **Photographic Unit and Canteen** has been completed.

Pensioners welfare society of Institute was formed (vide Regd. No. 1541/96-97 under the Presidentship of Dr. K R Surange, Former Director BSIP. It has 46 life members and 10 ordinary members. The society aims to promote the welfare of pensioners, their benefit, health care, Income tax and related problems. The Institute has provided accommodation and furniture for the office of the society.

हिन्दी पखवाड़ा

संस्थान में दिनांक 14 सितम्बर से 28 सितम्बर 1998 तक हिन्दी पखवाड़ा आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें संस्थान के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों ने रुचिपूर्वक भाग लिया। मुख्य समारोह दिनांक 16 सितम्बर को सम्पन्न हुआ, जिसमें लखनऊ के लब्धप्रतिष्ठ कवि श्री रवीन्द्र कुमार



Flag hoisting on Independence Day.



Prize distribution to child participants on August 15.



New Scanning Electron Microscope (LEO 430)



काव्य गोष्ठी समारोह में मंच पर आसीन मुख्य अतिथि डॉ शकुन्तला कालरा, निदेशक प्रो. अंशु कुमार सिन्हा तथा संचालक डॉ. हरि कृष्ण माहेश्वरी ।

वाद विवाद प्रतियोगिता प्रथम पुरस्कार विजेता पक्ष



डा. मुकुन्द शर्मा



रीता बनर्जी



कैलाश चन्द्र

‘राजेश’ मुख्य अतिथि थे । इस अवसर पर दो टीमों राजभाषा टीम तथा राष्ट्र भाषा टीम के मध्य एक वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गयी, जिसका विषय था— “आधुनिक भारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में पारम्परिक पुरावनस्पतिविज्ञान अपेक्षित भूमिका निभा रहा है” । विषय के पक्ष में अपने विचार रखने वाली राजभाषा टीम को विजयी घोषित किया गया, जिसके सदस्य थे, डॉ. मुकुन्द शर्मा, श्रीमती रीता बनर्जी तथा श्री कैलाश चन्द्र चन्दोला ।

इसी श्रंखला में एक लघु निबन्ध लेखन प्रतियोगिता आयोजित की गयी, जिसका विषय था. ‘हिन्दी में विज्ञान लेखन

लघु निबन्ध विजेता



शैलेन्द्र सिंह पेंवार

: समस्याएँ एवं निराकरण’; इस प्रतियोगिता में डॉ. (श्रीमती) नीरजा झा ने प्रथम, श्री शैलेन्द्र सिंह पेंवार ने द्वितीय तथा श्री कैलाश चन्द्र चन्दोला ने तृतीय स्थान प्राप्त किया ।

पखवाड़े का अगला कार्यक्रम था,

प्रश्नकुंज विजेता



संजय सिंह

प्रश्नकुंज विजेता



अविनाश श्रीवास्तव



प्रश्नकुंज विजेता डॉ. अन्नमराजु रजनीकांथ

प्रश्नकुंज विजेता



डॉ. ज्योत्सना राय

प्रश्नकुंज प्रतियोगिता, जिसमें श्री संजय सिंह ने प्रथम, डॉ. अन्नमराजु रजनीकांथ एवं श्री अविनाश श्रीवास्तव ने द्वितीय तथा डॉ. ज्योत्सना राय ने तृतीय स्थान अर्जित किया ।

पखवाड़े का एक अन्य आयोजन हिन्दी टंकण गति मापन प्रतियोगिता था,

हिन्दी टंकण विजेता



हरि लाल

हिन्दी टंकण विजेता



चित्रा चटर्जी

जिसमें श्री हरि लाल प्रथम, कु. चित्रा चटर्जी द्वितीय तथा श्री अजय कुमार श्रीवास्तव तृतीय स्थान पर रहे ।

पखवाड़े के अन्तिम कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत एक सरस काव्य गोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें संस्थान के अधिकारियों एवं कर्मचारियों के अतिरिक्त नयी दिल्ली से पधारी मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. (श्रीमती) शकुन्तला कालरा ने काव्य पाठ किया ।

दैनन्दिन कार्यों में हिन्दी के अधिकाधिक प्रयोग के लिये पुरस्कार



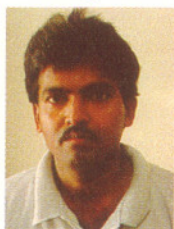
प्रथम पुरस्कार प्राप्त करते हुए डा. मुकुन्द शर्मा

द्वितीय पुरस्कार

द्वितीय पुरस्कार



डॉ अनिल चन्द्रा



मिश्री लाल

तृतीय पुरस्कार



रेणु श्रीवास्तव

इसके अतिरिक्त संस्थान के दैनन्दिन कार्यों में हिन्दी का अधिकाधिक प्रयोग करने के लिये डॉ. मुकुन्द शर्मा को प्रथम, डॉ. अनिल चन्द्रा एवं श्री मिश्रीलाल को द्वितीय तथा डॉ. दिनेश चन्द्र सैनी एवं श्रीमती रेणु श्रीवास्तव को तृतीय पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया।

Appointments



Sri Pavan Singh Katiyar, Technical Officer 'B' w.e.f. 30.12.1998.



Dr. Puneet Bisaria, Hindi Translator, w.e.f. 14.8.1998.

Sri Suresh C. Bajpai, Registrar, relieved on lien for one year w.e.f. 15.12. 1998 to join the post of Registrar at Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.

Miss Debi Dutta, Junior Research Fellow, DST Sponsored Project w.e.f. 28.12.1998.

Retirements



Dr H.K. Maheshwari, Scientist 'F', retired w.e.f. 31.1.1999.



Dr H.P. Gupta, Scientist 'F', retired w.e.f. 31.1.1999.

Obituary



Dr J. S. Antal, Scientist 'E', expired on 7.2.1999.



Sri Mahadev Prasad, Attendant 'I', expired on 1.3.1999.

Library Aquisitions (July 1998 - March 1999)

Acc. No.	Author	Title	Year
55703	Nanda M	Palynological investigation of some Tertiary formations of India	1996
55704	Sharma P	Palynostratigraphy of Early Eocene sediments of Rajasthan	1997
55705	Sekar B	Chemical analysis and 14C dating of lake sediments and their implications on environmental reconstruction	1995
55746	Kazmi AH	Geology and tectonics of Pakistan	1997
55747		Geologica: Res.Bull.Geosci.Lab.	
55748	Van Couvering JA	Pleistocene Boundary and the beginning of the quarter	1997
55751-55756		Journal of Himalayan Geology Vol. 1-6	1990-95
55757		Journal of Himalayan Geology Vol. 13	1989
55758		Journal of Himalayan Geology Vol. 14	1993
55759-55761		Journal of Himalayan Geology Vol. 16-18	1995-97

55763-66	Celis JE	Cell Biology Vol.1-4	1998
55767	Roberts N	Holocene: An Environmental history	1998
55768	Wall RA	Copyright made easier	1998
55801	Rai AT	A Crystal section of eastern Dharwar Craton, Godavari Rift, Eastern Ghats	1992
55802	Chandra D	Jharia Coalfield	1992
55803	Kumar G	Geology of Arunachal Pradesh	1992
55804	Radhakrishnan BP	Geology of Karnataka	1997
55805	Raman PK	Geology of Andhra Pradesh	1997
55806	Sinha-Roy S	Geology of Rajasthan	1998
55807	Soman K	Geology of Kerala	1997
55808	Balakrishnan TS	Major tectonic elements of the Indian sub-continent and contiguous area : A Geophysical View	1997
55809	Yoshida M	India & Antarctica during the Precambrian	1995
55810	Sahni A	Cretaceous stratigraphy and palaeo-environment	1996
55811	Bhattacharyya A	Recent advances in Vindhyan Geology	1996
55812	Ahnert F	Introduction to Geomorphology	1996
55813	Lal BB	India 1947-1997 : New light on the Indus Civilization	1998
55815	Henriet J-P	Gas Hydrates	1998
55817	Jagadishomrityunjay	Science of Consciousness	1997
55818	UNESCO Pub.	Understanding the Indian Ocean	1998
55819	Verma S	Fast Science facts	1997
55820	Qasim SZ	Glimpses of Indian Ocean	1997
55821	Qasim SZ	Jagran Varshiki 1998	1998
55822	Singh MP	Coal and Organic Petrology	1998
55823	Lincoln R	Dictionary of Ecology, Evolution and Systematics	1996
55824	Sindermann CJ	Scientist as consultant building new career opportunities	1997
55825	Niklas KJ	Evolutionary biology of plants	1997
55826	Monroe JS	Changing Earth exploring geology and evolution	1997
55827	Polunin O	Flowers of the Himalaya	1997
55828	Raghvendra	Photosynthesis : Comprehensive Treatise	1998
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Asstt. Editors	: Drs. A. Rajanikanth & Mukund Sharma
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Hindi Translator	: Dr. Puneet Bisaria
Published by	: Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow
Correspondence	: Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany 53, University Road, Lucknow 226 007 (India)
Fax	: 91-0522-381948/374528
E-mail	: bsip@bsip.sirnetd.ernet.in
Phone	: 0522-333620, 324291, 323206, 325822, 325945
Printed at	: Army Printing Press, 33, Nehru Road, Sadar Cantt., Lucknow 226 002 Tel. : 481164, 480546

