



ISRS

SIGNATURES

Newsletter of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing - Ahmedabad Chapter

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In this issue

Editorial	1
ISRS-ISPRS Symposium	2
News & Snippets	4
ISRO Achieves New heights	5
Educational Excursion	5
ISRS-AC Activities	6
ISRS-AC members superannuated	6
Awards	6

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Joint Secretary	Mr. C.R.Vaidya
Treasurer	Mr. N.S.Mehta

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Mr.Ramesh Sojitra	Dr.S.P.Vyas
Dr.Abha Chhabra	

Contact e-mail addresses

ISRS-AC Communications
ssrana@sac.isro.gov.in
asrajawat@sac.isro.gov.in
nsmehta@sac.isro.gov.in

Editorial Communications
krmanjunath@sac.isro.gov.in
cpsingh@sac.isro.gov.in
cmd@scanpointindia.com
abha@sac.isro.gov.in

Editorial

Dear Members,

I am thankful to the members for their overwhelming appreciations for the previous issue of Signatures. At the same time I would like to express my regrets for the few mistakes which were committed inadvertently. The ISRS-AC is the largest chapter and has grown further during the last year. The growing membership of ISRS-AC and demand from members has made the editorial committee to deliver the Signature issue on time. The current issue highlights the memories and achievements of ISRS-AC and its members.

I would like to congratulate the ISRS-AC and its Executive Council and members who have contributed to the grand success of ISPRS TC-IV Symposium at Goa. Members of ISRS-AC have actively contributed towards organization of the Symposium, Tutorials and Workshops. This has made us feel proud and shows not just the professionalism but also the dedication and commitment to the cause of dissemination of remote sensing information. As suggested in the last issue, I welcome one or two lead articles but of short and popular nature which would interest the members.

Wish you a happy browsing!

NEW ISRS-AC MEMBERS

ISRS-AC facilitates new membership enrolment. 15 new Life members have been included during October 2006-March, 2007. The ISRS-AC continues to be the largest Chapter of the ISRS with its total strength of 353 members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Astronautical Society of India (ASI) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will host 58th International Astronautical Congress at Hyderabad during September 24-28, 2007.

ISRS-AC Newsletter Editorial Committee

Chief Editor: Mr. K.R.Manjunath

Editorial members:

Mr.C.P.Singh, Mr.Ramesh Sojitra and Dr.Abha Chhabra

World Environment Day Celebration

(June 5th 2007 at BFIC, Ahmedabad)

Gujarat State Forest Department and Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Ahmedabad Chapter cordially organized World Environment Day on June 5th 2007 at Bodakdev Forestry Information Centre (BFIC), Ahmedabad, India. Following activities were carried out:

1. Drawing and Coloring/Painting Competition,



Themes for Drawing and Coloring/Painting Competition were: *Mother Earth; Save Water and Man and Space.*

2. Lecture on Global Warming and its Impacts by Dr. S.M. Bhandari, Senior Scientist, SAC (ISRO), Ahmedabad,



3. Screening of Movie on: Changing Climates and – PSLV/GSLV Launch,



4. Prize Distribution.

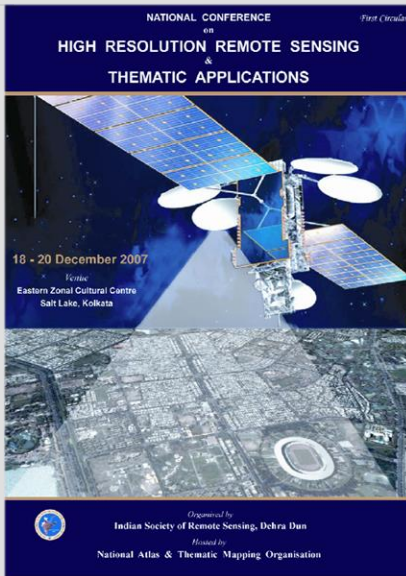


The Deputy Conservator of Forest, State Forest Department, Ahmedabad took keen interest in organizing the same.

NEWS & SNIPPETS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HIGH RESOLUTION REMOTE SENSING & THEMATIC APPLICATIONS

National conference on “high resolution remote sensing & thematic applications” is going to be organised during 18 – 20 December, 2007 at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake, Kolkata by ISRS, Dehradun and hosted by NATMO, Kolkata.



Activity	Important Dates
Abstract Submission	October 15, 2007
Full paper submission	November 12, 2007
Conference	December 18-20, 2007

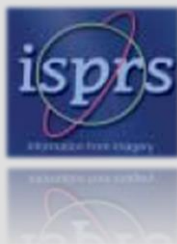
Address for Correspondence:

Dr. B.P SINGH, Deputy Director,
Organizing Secretary, National Conference on High Resolution Remote Sensing & Thematic Applications
National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation,
Government of India, CGO Complex (7th floor), DF - Block, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 064. Tel: (033) 2334 6341, 2334 6331, 2334 5006, Fax: (033) 2334 6460
Email: bp_singh31@rediffmail.com

ISPRS News

ISPRS Workshop on Updating Geo-spatial Databases with Imagery & The 5th ISPRS Workshop on DMGIs.

28 August - 29 August 2007
Urumchi, Xingjiang, China



XXI ISPRS – Call for Papers

The XXI ISPRS is being promoted as the Silk Road for Information from Imagery. The Silk Road was an ancient trade route between China and the West. The deadline for abstract submission is 20 October 2007.

Visit www.isprs2008-beijing.org for more information.

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<International News 1>

<International News 2>

<International News 3>

“inspirational quotes.....”

-By

BOOK REVIEW

Review of “Highlights of the Space Age” – Author : Dr. P. N. Pathak (PRISM Books Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore- 2006, pp 169, Rs. 240/-, ISBN: 81-7286-504-X) by Satyendra M. Bhandari.

As we approach the Golden Jubilee of the advent of Space Age on Oct. 4, 2007, there is bound to be an upsurge in the interest about the innumerable achievements in the area of space science and technology. Indeed, we have come a long way from the days of small rockets and early satellite based experiments to advanced satellite systems and space stations and deep space probes that provide near operational services in the area of detailed monitoring of the Earth and its environment, including the weather, providing efficient communication and navigation capability, and of course probing and discovering the objects within the solar system and the Universe beyond. Man made objects have traveled far and wide in the Solar System and man himself has constructed a viable home in orbit around the Earth. It has been an exciting and wonderful journey indeed, revolutionizing the way we work and live and perceive our existence in the Universe.

In bringing the excitement of space to the general reader, Dr. Pathak, author of the newly brought out book “Highlights of the Space Age” has taken the lead. The book presents a highly readable account of the developments in areas of space science, space technology and space applications. Being himself directly associated with the development of space activities in the country since inception, he has been able to provide a ring-side close-up view of all the aspects of space research. The book also separately chronicles, in brief, the space related developments in India from the very initial stages to the present.

It is a remarkable book describing the development of various aspects of space science and technology. The book is written in a simple, smooth, sincere, systematic and scientific style. The author has a tremendous -

capacity to express scientific concepts and ideas in carefully crafted language without taking recourse to any mathematical formulas or expressions. In less than 200 pages, the author has covered each and every aspect of space age developments, with nuggets of information scattered everywhere. He has terrific control on the narration.

What the preface says “topics are introduced in a logical manner, so that the reader can get a good picture of the whole subject. The language and the style of presentation are simple and descriptive, so that students at higher secondary level can understand the content without much difficulty”, is indeed the case.

The book, a welcome addition to the literature on popular science books in India, is highly readable and a must for anyone interested in a fleeting overview of the the development of Space Science and Technology and how it contributes to our knowledge about the Earth, the Solar System and the Universe at large. Coming as it does on during the 50th year of the advent of Space Age, this celebrates the Golden Jubilee of Space age quite appropriately.

The author, as well as the Publisher, deserves hearty congratulations on their effort in bringing out the book in a timely manner and in a size and binding that is very convenient to hold and read. It is also priced reasonably.

It is hoped that other scientists in India are inspired to put down their knowledge and experience in the subject of their expertise for the benefit of general public.

[Note: Dr. P. N. Pathak is a Life Member of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing and the Indian Meteorological Society. He has participated and contributed significantly in the activities of their Ahmedabad Chapters. He has been actively involved in the popularization of space and has written books and articles in Gujarati- his mother tongue. He has contributed to the Gujarati Vishwakosh and has appeared on Radio and TV on many occasions to bring the knowledge of Space Science, Astronomy and Weather & Meteorology to the general public. During his active service, he has contributed to R&D at different ISRO Centres, including PRL (Ahmedabad), ISAC (Bangalore), SAC (Ahmedabad) etc. Post-retirement, he continues his active interest in these areas. He can be contacted at: parantap@icenet.net]

23rd Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of ISRS-AC



The 23rd AGM was organized on May 04, 2007 at SAC, Ahmedabad. Around 52 members attended the meeting. AGM started with welcome remarks from Shri S.S. Rana, Chairman, ISRS-AC. He remarked that ISRS-AC continues to be the largest and most active Chapter. He briefly mentioned about some of the significant activities carried out by ISRS-AC during the year 2006-2007. He informed that during the year 2006-2007 activities of the Chapter were organized jointly with the active participation and support of Gujarat State Forest Department, Van Chetna Kendra & Forestry Information Centre, Bodakdev, Minnie CAMA Secondary and Higher Secondary School for the Blind, Blind People's Association, Ahmedabad, M.G. Science College, Gujarat University, Institute of Technology, Nirma University, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Scientific Societies (ISG-AC, IMSA, INCA-GB), ISRS-HQ, ISPRS-Commission-IV and SAC. He announced that the proposal submitted by ISRS-AC to Main body to organize a National Symposium on a tentative topic "Advances in Remote Sensing Technology and Applications with Special Emphasis on Microwave Remote Sensing", during Nov.-Dec., 2008 with Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad as host on the occasion of the silver jubilee of the Ahmedabad chapter has been accepted.

After the opening remarks, the items as per agenda circulated were taken up one by one.

1. Dr. A.S. Rajawat, Secretary, ISRS-AC informed the House about the 22nd AGM Minutes and the House approved the 22nd AGM Minutes by voice vote.

2. The 23rd Annual Report was presented by Secretary, ISRS-AC about the activities taken up during the year 2006-07. It was informed that during the year 2006-07 all mandatory as well other planned activities were organized. The details of the activities grouped as follows were presented :

- Dissemination of information and knowledge which included Membership drive/status, World Environment Day Celebration, National Remote Sensing Day Celebration, Support for ISPRS Commission-IV and ISRS websites maintenance and updation and ISRS-AC Newsletter "SIGNATURES".

- Scientific meetings, which included: Providing support for organizing two International Symposiums along with pre-symposium tutorials under ISPRS Commission-IV and ISRS, L.N. Calla Memorial Lecture, educational excursion and P.R. Pisharoty Memorial Lecture Series.

- Chapter management activities such as ISRS-AC EC meetings and ISRS-AC Accounts and Audit.

3. Shri N.S. Mehta, Treasurer presented the audited account of FY 2005-2006 as well as FY 2006-2007. After some clarifications House passed the Audit Reports 2005-2006 as well 2006-07 by voice vote.

Following points emerged out of discussions on activities for 2006-07 as well as planned activities for the year 2007-2008:

- The getup as well as contents of this Newsletter was well appreciated. It was also suggested that efforts should be made towards transforming it to a National Newsletter. It was suggested that the soft copy of the Newsletter should be circulated.

- Dr. J.S. Parihar suggested that yearly earning of 10% or more must be kept as F.D. as a revenue raising effort. He also suggested that the electronic submission should be started for the Journal of the Society. Shri V. Tamilarasan suggested that the National Symposium planned for the year 2008 should be made as International Symposium. Dr. Prakash Chauhan suggested that student membership concept should be started to popularize remote sensing in student community.

Shri S.S. Rana, Chairman thanked all members for their overwhelming participation in the proceedings of the AGM.



CAPE team got the award from Ex-President, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



P. R. Pisharoty Memorial Lecture



P. R. Pisharoty Memorial Lecture Series, on "Indian Earth Observation Programme: an Overview" delivered by Dr. Rangnath R. Navalgund, Director, SAC(ISRO), Ahmedabad on March 19, 2007 at Nirma University, Ahmedabad.



ISRS-AC MEMBERS SUPERANNUATED



DR. S M BHANDARI ,
SCI/ENGR-SG, RESIPA-MOG-
OSD, SAC (ISRO) superannuated
in July-2007

On behalf of all ISRS-AC members,
we wish them a healthy and
prosperous life ahead!!