



ISRS

SIGNATURES

Newsletter of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing - Ahmedabad Chapter

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In this issue

Editorial	1
ISRS-AC Activities	2
Annual General Body Meeting ISRS-AC	4
Book Review	5
Forthcoming Events	5
Environmental Watch	6
Quiz Time	6
ISRS-AC members felicitated	7
Superannuation	7
Obituary	7

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Editorial

Dear Members,

The second Signatures issue brings out various but relevant events. The ISRS-AC has been active throughout and has conducted many events. I was happy to get lot of event related inputs from Executive Council. The efforts have been made to widen the topics of coverage. The activities on lectures, World Environmental Day and National Remote Sensing Day, Space Exhibition at Rajkot are covered in this issue. The Climate Change was always high on the agenda of space scientists. Hence the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) winning the Noble Peace Prize for the current year has been aptly added and environmental watch box as a regular feature has been initiated. The highlights of 23rd Annual General Body Meeting of ISRS-AC has been included.

The book review and quiz components are additions in this issue. Your inputs and comments would make the Signatures much more interesting.

Wish you a Happy New Year !!



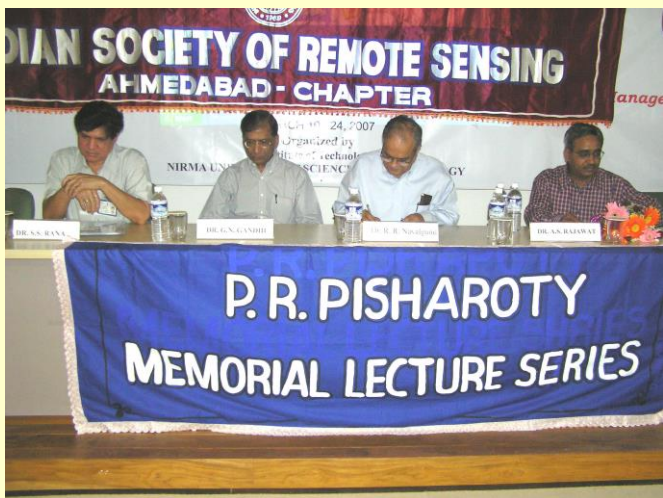
Chairman ISRO, Director SAC and other dignitaries at the inaugural function of Space Exhibition organized by ISRS-AC in collaboration with Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad and Shri Odhavji Velji Sheth Regional Community Science Centre, Rajkot on October 9, 2007 at Rajkot

**ISRS-AC continues to be the largest Chapter of ISRS
 with total strength of 363 members
 09 new Life members included since March 2007**

ISRS-AC ACTIVITIES

P. R. Pisharoty Memorial Lecture

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



World Environment Day Celebration

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

1. Drawing and Coloring/Painting Competition



Themes: *Mother Earth; Save Water and Man & 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



Prizes and certificates were distributed to the winners.

ISRS-AC is thankful to Deputy Conservator of Forests and staff, State Forest Department, Ahmedabad for taking keen interest in jointly organizing these events.

Space Exhibition at Rajkot

Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Ahmedabad Chapter in collaboration with Space Applications Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad and Shri Odhavji Velji Sheth Regional Community Science Centre, Rajkot organized a Space Exhibition on, "*Space Science, Technology and Applications*", during October 9-17, 2007 at Rajkot. This exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. Madhavan Nair, Chairman ISRO. School children, teachers, parents and public at large showed keen interest in understanding various aspects of Space Science.

National Remote Sensing Day Celebration

ISRS-AC in collaboration with Sanskar Dham, Sanand, Ahmedabad jointly organized National Remote Sensing Day celebration to mark the birth anniversary of eminent Indian Scientist Dr. Vikram Sarabhai on August 12, 2007.



Following activities were carried out on this occasion on August 11

1. Drawing and Coloring/Painting Competition

Themes: Natural Scenery, Save Water, Changing Rural Environment

2. Debate Competition

Topics – Should India venture mission to moon/ Can Education Satellites replace schools and colleges

3. Speech Competition

Topic: Life Sketch of Vikram Sarabhai



Dr. J.S. Parihar, Deputy Director RESA (SAC) and Chief Guest of the occasion distributed prizes and certificates to the winners.



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



The 23rd ISRS-AC AGM was organized on May 04, 2007 at SAC. Total 52 members attended this 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 during the year 2006-2007. He informed that most of the 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.

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.

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 presented included:

- 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.

Shri N.S. Mehta, Treasurer presented the audited account of FY 2005-2006 as well as FY 2006-2007. The house passed the Audit Reports 2005-2006 as well 2006-07 by voice vote.

The presentation and contents of *Signatures* was well appreciated. It was also suggested that efforts should be made towards transforming it to a National Newsletter, and its soft copy should also 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.

OBITUARY

ISRS-AC records with profound grief the sad demise of Dr. M.V. Muley, Scientist RESA (SAC) and Life member ISRS-AC on August 29, 2007. We express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

May his soul rest in peace!



BOOK REVIEW

Book: "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).
Review by: Dr. S.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. In bringing the excitement of space to the general reader, Dr. Pathak has taken the lead. 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.

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. 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.

Published in the 50th year of the advent of Space Age, this celebrates the Golden Jubilee of Space age quite appropriately.

[Note: Dr. P. N. Pathak is a Life Member of ISRS and 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. 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. His e-mail : parantap@icenet.net

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

ISPRS International Symposium

The XXI Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) on 'Silk Road from Information to Imagery' is scheduled to be held in Beijing China during July 03-11, 2008. For details: <http://www.isprs2008-beijing.org>



Abstract submission:
September 30, 2007
Full paper: March 31, 2008



IEEE International Symposium

IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium on 'Geoscience and Remote Sensing: The next generation' is scheduled to be held during July 6-11, 2008 at Boston, USA. For details: <http://www.igarss08.org>



ISRS National Conference

Indian Society of Remote Sensing is organizing a National Conference on 'High Resolution Remote Sensing and Thematic Applications' during December 18-20, 2007 at Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Salt Lake Kolkata. This conference would be hosted by National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO).



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SUPERANNUATED

Dr. S.M. Bhandari, Scientist MOG (SAC) and ISRS-AC executive committee member superannuated in July, 2007.

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



ENVIRONMENTAL WATCH

2007 ozone hole 'smaller than usual'

The ozone hole over Antarctica has shrunk 30% as compared to last year's record size. According to measurements made by ESA's Envisat satellite, this year's ozone loss peaked at 27.7 million tonnes, compared to the 2006 record ozone loss of 40 million tonnes. Over the last decade the ozone layer has thinned by about 0.35% per year on a global scale, increasing the risk of skin cancer, cataracts and harm to marine life. Envisat can localize ozone depletion and track its changes, enabling the rapid estimation of UV radiation as well as providing forecasting. The three atmospheric instruments aboard Envisat are SCIAMACHY, the global ozone monitoring by occultation of stars (GOMOS) sensor and the Michelson interferometer for passive atmospheric sounding (MIPAS). Source: http://www.esa.int/esaEO/SEM6MD7H07F_index_0.html. However, WMO has denied it saying it might be due to mild temperatures in the region's stratosphere this winter and is not a sign of recovery.

Noble Peace Prize 2007

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has conferred this year Nobel Peace Prize in two equal parts, between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. 'for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change'. IPCC was founded in 1988, with its headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, an eminent Indian scientist has been the IPCC- elected chief since 1992. The IPCC aims to evaluate the scientific, technical and socio-economic information needed to understand the risks to climate change induced by humans. The 4th United Nations Climate Report on global climate change that appeared in three parts in January, February and May 2007 revealed new facts and has been a large contributor to raising the awareness of climate change. It includes a total of 2500 experts collaborating over the course of six years.

The former US president Al Gore has for a long time been one of the world's leading environmentalist politicians. He became aware at an early stage of the climatic challenges the world is facing. His strong commitment, reflected in political activity, lectures, films and books, has strengthened the struggle against climate change. He is probably the single individual who has done most to create greater worldwide understanding of the measures that need to be adopted.

ISRS Members Awarded During ISRO-Excellence Awards - 2007



Crop Acreage and Production Estimation (CAPE) team received the ISRO-Excellence team award from, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, then President of India



Dr. J.S. Parihar, Project Director CAPE receiving the award from Dr. Kalam



Which is India's first artificial satellite?

On which spacecraft did Rakesh Sharma make his historic trip to Space?

Which is India's first Defence satellite?

The experimental satellite SROSS abbreviation means?

Escape velocity for the Space Shuttle to fly to the moon is _____?

What shape does water form when floating in space on the shuttle?

A line connecting points of equal precipitation is known as ?

Which remote sensing technique uses sound?

Which four satellites were launched on January 10, 2007 by ISRO's PSLV-C7?

Which is India's first exclusive meteorological satellite and when it was launched?

[Note: Children (below 18 years) of ISRS-AC members are encouraged to send their answers to the editorial board latest by December 31st, 2007. The names of children with correct answers will be published in the next issue of Signature]

"Nothing is too high for a Man to reach but he must climb with planning, determination and confidence to succeed-

Goethe