Radhakrishna's writings on groundwater and mineral (especially gold) geology and on the conservation of the environment and natural resources are recurring themes in the volume. And rightly so. No country can afford to ignore them: Geo-resources and Geo-environment are the very foundation of life and wealth. Radhakrishna considers them at the top of 'priorities in earth science research' (essay #59) and at the core of his 'vision for a new Indian geoscience' (essay #75). Of course, he does not play down the significance of basic research. For instance, he welcomes 'interest in Deccan flood basalts' (essay #4). But he challenges (essay #59) earth research strategies in which 'Earth science application for societal needs' comes at the tail of a five-component programme suggested by the government.

These editorials not only enlighten the geologist's mind, but also speak for the geologist in a politicized society in which voices influence policies and public decisions. Earth science teachers and managers will find numerous useful ideas and food for thought. I pray that Radhakrishna will continue to write for years to come, and to give geoscientists the warmth to practice geology and the voice to express what is best in them.

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Information and Announcements

Short Course on Seismic Design of Bridges

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur 208 016
November 22-26, 2004

The short course is meant for engineers engaged in design and construction of bridges and for senior engineers engaged in directing these activities. The course contents include: earthquake engineering basics, concepts of seismic design, difference between seismic design philosophy of bridges and buildings, review of codal provisions in different countries, ductile detailing, and seismic retrofitting. Brochure of the course is available at www.nicee.org/brochure.pdf. For further information, please contact:

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