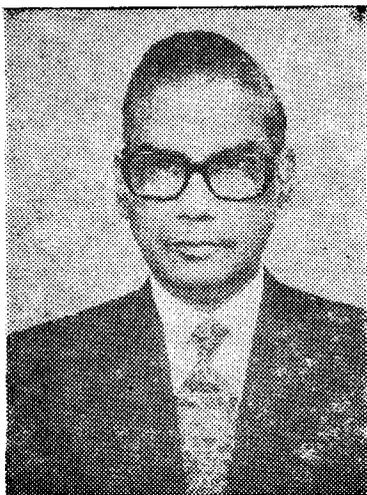


In Memoriam

Professor V. P. Subrahmanyam (1925 — 89)

A doyen among the Climatologists of India and a Scientist of great repute, both nationally and internationally, and the Father of Climatic Water balance studies in India, Prof. V. P. Subrahmanyam died on 18th July 1989 following the failure of both the kidneys at Visakhapatnam, at the age of 64, leaving behind him his wife, one son and two daughters.



Prof. V. P. Subrahmanyam was born in the year 1925 at Parlakhemundi in Orissa state. He took his M.Sc by research in Physics under the eminent scientist Prof. Suri Bhagavantham in the year 1948 at Andhra University. When the Department of Meteorology & Oceanography was started in the year 1948 for the first time in India at Andhra University, he was the first Lecturer appointed in this department. In the year 1952, he was deputed to USA by Andhra University for higher studies under internationally renowned Climatologist Dr. C. W. Thornthwaite at John Hopkins University under whose tutelage he learnt the applications

of Climatic Water Balance. He also studied Physiological Meteorology and Applied climatology and returned to India in 1954. His D.Sc. thesis on Applications of Water Balance to India and vicinity is a landmark study in this subject. During the later 3 decades he guided nearly 21 doctorates and established a School of Water Balance research in India. His papers and publications have received wide acclaim throughout the country for their great significance and practical applications to field problems. His technical monograph on Tropical droughts published by W.M.O. and the book on "Applications of Water Balance" published by Andhra University press are the most referred scientific documents in the area. His paper on "Water Balance of Godavari Basin" received the Gold Medal of the Ministry of Irrigation, Government of India for its outstanding contribution. He received many invitations from Organizations all over India and abroad for participation in various conferences as well as for giving endowment lectures. He delivered lectures as a Faculty member in an International Course on Agrometeorology organised by W. M. O. in Tashkent, USSR.

He visited Romania under the cultural exchange programme sponsored by Government of India and he was given the best teacher award by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1981. He retired from Andhra University Service in the year 1985 when he was invited to be a visiting Professor to Berhampur University.

Prof. V. P. Subrahmanyam's articles in the book 'Contributions to Indian Geography' edited by Prof. R. P. Misra

and published by Heritage Publishers, New Delhi, on General Climatology in Vol. III and Applied Climatology in Vol. IV are a review of the state of art development in the discipline, until that point. His research papers, numbering well over 100 are the most quoted references in Climatology. At the time of his demise he was engaged in writing a book on Climatology of India and its non completion is a serious loss to the scholars in this field. He was on the Editorial Board of several National and International Journals.

Prof. Subrahmanyam applied the water balance concept successfully to the study of droughts and desertification, floods and other areas of applied climatology. The studies on unurban climatology, Hydro meteorology and regional climatology have shown new techniques and methods in climatic research, to Indian scientists. He also conducted Laboratory and field experiments in Micro-Climatic Research for the study of heat and moisture-budget of crops. In short, he has covered a wide range of topics in Meteorology including such as human and animal biometeorology. His research papers are a valuable guidance to the posterity...

Prof. Subrahmanyam through his wide national and international contacts built a very vast personal library of publications in climatology which he donated to various departments of Andhra University with which he was closely linked. Following his death Mrs. Subrahmanyam gave away all the remaining books to his students, colleagues and admirers.

Prof. Subrahmanyam was a versatile speaker both in English and Telugu on scientific topics and in popularisation of Science. He was a very simple, unassuming and loveable person, friendly towards all, philosophical in outlook and disciplined in his habits. He leaves behind him his wife, Mrs. Saroja, two daughters Vijayalakshmi and Usha and one son Naresh. His second daughter is married to Mr. Kama Raju who is a Lecturer in Meteorology in Gujarat Agricultural University.

A. R. Subramanyam,
Andhra University, Welfare.

The Institute of Indian Geographers of which Professor V. P. Subrahmanyam, was a founder member, deeply mourns his death.