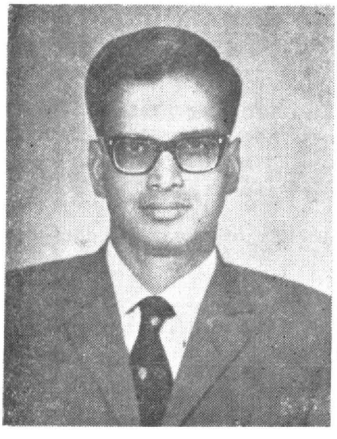
PRESENTATION OF M. R. SRINIVASA RAO AWARD TO C. LEELANANDAM



In presenting M. R. Srinivasa Rao Award 1992 to C. Leelanandam, K. V. Subbarao said :

It is my privilege to introduce the recipient of M. R. Srinivasa Rao medal for exceptional contributions in the field of petrology. This year our medalist is Prof. C. Leelanandam of the Osmania University, Hyderabad.

After post graduation at the Andhra University in 1954, Leelanandam began research on charnockites, which earned him Ph.D degrees of the Osmania University and the Cambridge University. While working in U. K. under the guidance of Prof W. A. Deer, and other teachers, he imbibed the traits of the great masters and continued his life's journey using simple microscopic techniques to unravel the genetic history of the most fascinating rocks such as granulites and anorthosites from the Eastern Ghat mobile belt. Using phase mineralogy, he estimated the P-T conditions of the Kondapalli granulites (in the order of 7-8 kb and 800–950°C) and pointed out the significance of geothermo-barometry in quantifying the conditions of metamorphism and thickness of the crust.

Leelanandam was the first to recognize the alkaline complex of Elchuru of Andhra Pradesh, which has resulted in a wealth of published papers on the mineralogical and petrologocial characteristics of these unique rock associations ranging from ultrabasic to felsic types as well as the mafic alkaline and lamprophyre dykes. This greatly reflects the hard work put in by him and his dedicated research students. Most of this work forms part of the Geological Society of India Memoir on the Alkaline Rocks recently edited by him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in inviting the Chairman to present the 1992 Srinivasa Rao medal to Prof. C. Leelanandam on his birthday! Let us all wish him many years of successful and productive life.

Reply by C. Leelanandam:

I am deeply touched, and also a bit elated, by the honour that is bestowed on me this evening by the Geological Society of India. At the very outset, I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Society for presenting to me M. R. Srinivasa Rao award for the year 1992, and to all those who are responsible for making this presentation possible.

I used to think that awards are normally reserved for young and aspiring researchers. I am now made to realize that the Society probably intends that I should feel scientifically young, have academic rejuvenation and pursue my researches more vigorously. I promise that I will strive hard to come up to the expectations of the Society, and I accept this award in all humility.

During my stay at the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology, Cambridge (England) for over three years (1962–65) as a Commonwealth Research Fellow, and at the Geochemistry Institute, Goettingen (former Federal Republic of Germany) for over two years (1972–74) as a Senior Humboldt Research Fellow, I have learnt what was then modern mineralogy, petrology and geochemistry, apart from the classical wet chemical analysis and most of the modern sophisticated instrumental techniques. The academic and technical staff, and my former colleagues at Cambridge and Goettingen have played a great role in moulding my research methodology then and now. My association with Professors W. A. Deer, (the late) S. R. Nockolds, R. A. Howie and K. H. Wedepohl is not only of inestimable scientific value but also responsible for keeping me academically alive. In my field studies, I was extremely fortunate in having the wise counsel and friendly help of Mr. S. R. Sarma (former Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad) for over three decades.

Discovering the Elchuru alkaline pluton and establishing the Prakasam Alkaline Province, discovering the anorthosites at Kondapalli and subsequently bringing to light the Kondapalli layered complex *in toto,* identifying the seemingly sensational presence of orthopyroxene, inverted pigeonite and/or garnet in the ferrosyenites of Sivamalai (TN) and Chimakurti (AP)—are some of the exciting landmarks in the later part of my research career. In these and other studies on diverse groups of rocks (granulites, granites, gabbros, ultramafics and chromitites; the Chimalpahad complex, the Mundwara complex), I was ably assisted by a small group of dedicated researchers. Indeed, my former and present research students have contributed, in no small measure, to the academic wealth and scientific strength which I now enjoy. It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge their unstinted support. I consider that the award given to me this evening is in recognition of our combined efforts and achievements, and hence the award truly and fittingly belongs to our entire group!

I once again express my grateful thanks to the Society for presenting this award at Pune, the cultural capital of Maharashtra.