



P.G. Adyalkar
(1927-2007)

Pandurang Ganpatrao Adyalkar, born on December 3, 1927, was a dominant personality in Indian hydrogeology for nearly four decades. He passed away at Nagpur on 13th November, 2007, after a prolonged illness. He completed his M.Sc in Geology from the Nagpur University in 1951, and started his highly chequered and brilliant professional career in 1953 in the Geological Survey of India where he served in various capacities from 1953 to 1972, and then in the Central Ground Water Board from 1972 to 1983. He was on deputation to the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation from 1962 to 1966. He was promoted as the Director, Geological Survey in 1969. He critically examined the major stratigraphic formations in the country for their hydrogeological potential, including pioneering study of the Karst of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. He also made original contribution in the hydrogeology of the Deccan Traps. He was awarded Ph.D from the Nagpur University.

Adyalkar was a good speaker, a scholar, versatile genius, and a popular science writer. He was well versed in many languages such as English, French, Hindi, Marathi (mother tongue), Bengali and Oriya. In discharge of his professional duties he traveled widely through out the length and breadth of the country, and visited abroad including countries like Algeria, Bhutan, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Nepal and United Kingdom. He conducted advanced studies in Hydrogeology and Aerial Photography during 1968-69 in France (Bureau de Reserche en Geologie et Miniere – BRGM). He was also a member of the Indian delegation to Algeria on Water Engineering in 1975. He contributed profoundly to the hydrogeological science of the country and was actively associated with framing and implementation of groundwater development plans nationally.

Adyalkar had to his credit 250 research papers, and 150 technical reports under individual or joint authorship. He delivered the Presidential address to the Geology and Geography Session of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) in 1984 on “Hard Rock Hydrogeology in Indian Scenario”. He also delivered prestigious Prof. K.P. Rhode Memorial Lecture of ISCA in 1993 and Dr. R.S. Murthy Memorial Lecture of the India Society of Soil Sciences in 1994. He participated in scores of radio talks and television discussions.

In recognition of his scientific contributions, he was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of India (Bangalore), Indian Academy of Sciences (Bangalore), Founder Fellow and President of the Maharashtra Academy of Science (Pune), Gondwana Geological Congress (Nagpur) and India Science Congress Association (Calcutta) apart from several International scientific bodies. He was recipient of National Unity Award for Excellence in 1995 from the All India National Unity Conference (1995).

Apart from all his accomplishments in professional career, he was a versatile personality of cheerful disposition, soft spoken and always eager to help the needy. He had deep interest in philately. Born in a poor family, he rose to the national stature and dominated the national scene through his sheer intellect.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, two daughters and a brother, Harish Adyalkar, who is a noted social activist.

*Formerly Indian Bureau of Mines
Nagpur*

R.M. UMATHAY

*Central Ground Water Board
Nagpur*

P.K. NAIK