



**Krishan Lai Kaila**  
**(1932-2003)**

Dr. Krishan Lai Kaila was born in Lahore (now in Pakistan) and did his higher studies at Delhi. He had a brilliant academic career and did his Masters degree in Physics, with merit, in 1954 from the Delhi University and later Ph.D from the Roorkee University. Before joining the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 1956 he did two years of research in Nuclear Physics publishing four papers. He spent 9 years in ONGC before joining the NGRI in 1965. His initial research contributions included study of seismicity, body wave travel times and amplitudes. Later he pioneered the Deep Seismic Sounding studies in India in the year 1972, in collaboration with the then USSR, when these were taken up for the first time along the Kavali-Udipi profile across the Indian shield. He was a scientific manager beyond par and saw to it that these studies continued with the help of various organizations like Koyna Dam Authority, ONGC, GSI, OIL and later DST. He was respected worldwide for his contributions about the Indian crust.

He has to his credit more than 120 research papers in almost all the renowned international earth science journals. Most of these are highly cited, at least 25 have been cited more than 20 times. The paper on the first results of DSS studies along the Kavali-Udipi profile, published by the

Journal of Geological Society of India in 1979 is probably the highest cited (> 120) paper among the Indian earth science papers. He was one of the top five scientists in the entire CSIR system in terms of citation.

Dr. Kaila was a recipient of various awards including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize (1977), Centenary Commemoration Medal of USSR Academy of Sciences (1983), Krishnan Gold Medal (1976) and Decennial Award (1994) of Indian Geophysical Union, Visiting Fellow to NSF, USA (1976). Other honours included Member, Working Group 6 of ILP, Member, IASPEI Commission on Controlled Source Seismology. He was Fellow of many societies including the Geological Society of India.

Dr. Kaila loved to enjoy his life. His home garden was envy to many. He was meticulous and highly disciplined in all his activities. During the last six months he was suffering from kidney failure and decided to move from Hyderabad to Delhi where he breathed his last after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and their families.

May his soul rest in peace.

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