

OBITUARY



J.S.R. Krishna Rao
(1927-2009)

With heavy heart and deep sorrow, we hereby inform the passing away of Prof. Jillela Siva Rama Krishna Rao, former Head, Department of Geology, Andhra University (AU), Visakhapatnam on Thursday, the 24th September, 2009 in a private nursing home in Visakhapatnam. Prof. Krishna Rao, popularly known as 'JSR' to his numerous students, colleagues, admirers and friends, was a sincere teacher, dedicated researcher, able administrator and prolific contributor in diverse branches of geology.

Prof. Krishna Rao was born on May 01, 1927 at Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh) to Smt. Lakshmi Devi and Sri Ramamurthy, and as younger brother to Prof. Jillela Venkateswarlu, nationally reputed botanist of his period. Prof. Rao, after completing Intermediate at Kakinada, obtained the degrees of B.Sc. (Hons.) (in 1949), M.Sc. (by research, 1950) and D.Sc. (1957), all from AU. Dr. Rao's doctoral thesis on the 'Manganese ores of the Garbham – Garividi – Chipurupalle area in the Eastern Ghats', under the supervision of late Prof. Calamur Mahadevan, was adjudicated by the panel comprising late Profs. Alan M. Bateman (Chairman) and Paul F. Kerr. Prof. Rao joined the Geology Department, AU as a demonstrator in 1950 and retired on April 30, 1987 as the Chairman, Board of Studies in Geology, AU. Deputed by Prof. C. Mahadevan with a Commonwealth Scholarship during 1959-61, Prof. Krishna Rao carried out his post-doctoral work under late Prof. Paul Ramdohr at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. Subsequently in early 1970's, Prof. Rao, at the invitation of DAAD, visited the Universities of Heidelberg, Göttingen and Munich, and did collaborative work with Profs. Gunter H. Moh and Amo Schuller on ore petrology of granulites.

Prof. Krishna Rao taught the subjects of Economic Geology, Ore Petrology, Ore Microscopy and Petrology to Honors and Post-Graduate students in Geology and Applied Geology and published over 135 research papers in peer-

reviewed national and international journals, besides presenting numerous papers at national and international symposia, seminars and workshops. He had guided and supervised 18 PhDs, under the projects and scholarships of UGC and CSIR, on diverse topics like characterization of manganese, iron, chromium, lead-zinc and aluminium mineralization, and their host-rocks, attributes and origin of granitoids, granulites, ophiolites and beach rocks in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa and Jammu and Kashmir, and mineragraphy of the manganese nodules from central Indian Ocean, besides demonstrating 'Kodurite', introduced by late Dr. Fermor, as a myth. Due to his extensive work on 'Manganese Ores', he, besides Prof. Supriya Roy, is well known as a 'Manganese Geologist' of India and was a Member of the Indian Working Group for the IGCP Project on 'Genesis of Manganese Deposits'. He has reported rare occurrences of awaruite, mackinawite and todorokite. Many of his post-graduate and doctoral students have occupied key positions in different national geo-scientific and related organizations. All of them have high regard for Prof. Krishna Rao and his contributions. Indeed, as a mark of such respect to Prof. Krishna Rao, his students, research scholars, colleagues and admirers felicitated and presented him a purse on his 'Shastiabdapoorti', held on May 1, 1987 in AU and a medal was instituted in his name by his first Ph.D. student, Dhana Raju, for the author(s) of the best paper, published in the Journal of Applied Geochemistry, every year.

Dr. Krishna Rao left behind his wife, Smt. Sarojani Devi, son, Dr. Venkata Ramana, two daughters, Smt. Rama Lakshmi and Kumari Padmaja, and son-in-law, Dr. V.C.V. Rao, besides numerous students, colleagues and admirers.

Secunderabad
Visakhapatnam

R. DHANA RAJU
M. JAGANNADHA RAO