



**G.R. Narayana Das**  
(1926-2010)

It is with a deep sense of grief and sorrow that we report the passing away of G.R. Narayana Das, former Deputy Director of the Atomic Minerals Division (AMD), Government of India, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Narayana Das was born on September 18, 1926 at Bangalore. He obtained the B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Geology, in first class, from the Central College, Bangalore, M.Sc. in first class from the Banaras Hindu University. He joined the AMD in 1950 and retired in September 1986.

Narayana Das held several responsible positions in the AMD. He was the technical Secretary to the first Director P.K. Ghosh and as Regional Director of the southern Region, Bangalore. His major contributions include his pioneering investigations of the coastal and inland atomic mineral-bearing placer deposits in Kerala and Tamil Nadu; discoveries of uranium mineralization in the Himalaya; and discovery of radioactive carbonatites in Tamil Nadu. He was the brain and major force in getting a building constructed for the AMD at Bangalore, including the staff quarters.

Narayana Das published several papers in peer-reviewed national and international journals. One of the most outstanding of these is his paper entitled 'Prospecting and Evaluation of Beach Placers along the Coastal Belt of India', jointly with V. Mahadevan and N. Nagaraja Rao, that was presented at the Second United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, held at Geneva, from September 1 to 13, 1958, and which was published in Volume 2 of the Proceedings on pages 103 to 106. This paper proposed a unique microscopic technique for estimating the monazite contents of beach placers, the results of which were in excellent agreement with the data obtained by the much more sophisticated radiometric technique. His paper on the carbonatites of India, jointly with G.R. Udas and C.V. Sharma, presented at the International Seminar on Tectonics and Metallogeny of Southeast Asia and the Far East, held at the Geological Survey of India Headquarters in Calcutta (now Kolkata), in

1974, was applauded by all the foreign delegates. Narayana Das also published several papers in the Journal of the Geological Society of India on: the uraninite-fluorite-bearing sheared granite of Brijrani Gad in the Bhilangana valley of Uttar Pradesh; the geology, structure, and uranium mineralization in Kulu, Himachal Himalaya; the uranium mineralization in the Sikar district of Rajasthan; the radioactive carbonatites of Pakkanadu and Mulakkadu in the Salem district of Tamil Nadu; the carbonatite-alkaline complex in Mundwara in Rajasthan; and the petrography and mode of emplacement of the Arsikere granite in Karnataka. His two papers, 'Primeval oceanic sediments, extra-terrestrial dust, and komatiites: Significance in exploration of quartz-pebble conglomerates' and 'Application of oxygen isotope geochemistry to elucidate the provenance and genesis of uraniferous quartz-pebble conglomerates', jointly with S. Viswanathan, presented at the Workshop on 'Depositional Environment and Economic Significance of Quartz-pebble Conglomerate and Associated Sediments in the Late Archaean-Proterozoic Transition in India', organised by the AMD, and held at Bangalore, in 1986. The first paper suggested that the uraniferous quartz-pebble conglomerates of Karnataka could contain significant amounts of the Platinum Group Metals as a result of contribution from extra-terrestrial dust and komatiites.

Narayana Das was an affable, adorable and admirable person with a charming, sweet, and infectious smile for everyone. He treated all the scientists, secretarial staff, and labourers working under him with love, affection and compassion, without bossing over them. He was a gem of a gentleman, with a noble heart. In his untimely demise, the geological community in India has lost an eminent geologist, friend, philosopher and guide. He is survived by his wife, Srimati Hiranmayi Das, a son and a daughter.

AMD, DAE,  
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