

OBITUARY



**T. Ramamohana Rao
(1933-2017)**

With a deep sense of regret, we hereby record the demise of our beloved teacher, Prof. T. Ramammohana Rao. Prof. Tallapragada Ramamohana Rao was born on 30th January 1933 in Unguturu, near Tadipalligudem, West Godavari District, A.P. Tallapragada family was one of the most educated families in West Godavari district, in those days, having a unique and good family library. Ramamohana Rao had his elementary education at Unguturu, secondary school education at Pentapadu and intermediate education at Eluru, respectively.

After his intermediate education, he joined in Andhra University, Visakhapatnam in the year 1951. He passed B.SC (Hons) in Geology in the year 1954 with first class. In the academic year 1954-55, he did M.Sc (Geology) by research under the guidance of Prof. C. Mahadevan.

He joined the Geology Department of Andhra University, as a faculty member. Simultaneously, he registered himself under Prof. C. Mahadevan as a D.Sc candidate on the topic "Petrological Studies in the Precambrian Rocks of Yellandlapad area (Pakhals), Khammam district, Andhra Pradesh." He was awarded D.Sc in the year 1965. His work received appreciation from the adjudicators.

Dr. Ramamohana Rao, is steady and meticulous in his approach. He was not taking anything on the face value. He became proficient in geochemical analysis of rocks both by classical and instrumental analyses like Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy, colorimetry etc. He was an expert in optics in particular the Universal stage and X-ray crystallography. He published quite a number of good articles in both national and international journals.

He had higher training at the University of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia in 1966 and did research for four years on an Australian Government Scholarship. He has done work on low grade metamorphism, plate tectonics and published quite a number of articles.

Ramamohana Rao, was the convener for the highly successful second Indian expedition to Antarctica.

Ramamohana Rao was an erudite scholar and noted for his versatility. He was a good all-rounder in the Department of Geology, apart from his specialization in Precambrian stratigraphy, petrology and mineralogy, he was good in every subject practically. He had good mathematics background and had considerable depth in subjects like structural geology, plate tectonics, crystallography, geochemistry,

paleontology, marine geology, environmental geology, which is a very rare combination.

He was a very good teacher gifted with communicative skills of high quality, both in writing and speaking. He produced quality research work. In due course, he became Head of the Department of Geology, Andhra University and retired from the services of Andhra University on 31st January 1993.

Ramamohana Rao had a knack and passion for acquiring knowledge. After his retirement from the active service of Andhra University, he used to work in the department from 12 noon to 9pm every day including Sundays and holidays. Prof. Ramamohana Rao, engaged himself in active research. He did substantial work on plate tectonics and wide variety of subjects. He continued his research for more than a decade after his retirement, till health problems cropped. His insightful articles on Caribbean plate tectonics in 2008 has won praise globally. He believed in a holistic approach and synthesis, in the geological problems.

Ramamohana Rao loved sports and was playing tennis. He was an voracious reader and was interested in Journalism. He wrote extensively and published in many magazines on several topics, including highlighting on contemporary problems.

Simple living was his forte and he was always affectionate, amicable, helpful and approachable/accessible to one and all. He was soft spoken and a good conversationalist. All his family members are well settled.

Prof. Ramamohana Rao breathed his last peacefully, in his home in the presence of his wife, children and other family members on Sunday, Oct 22, 2017 and attained heavenly abode.

He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, two sons and grandchildren and a host of colleagues, students and admirers.

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