

OBITUARY



Ravindra Kumar
(1946 - 2022)

Dr. Ravindra Kumar (Ravi to his close friends) - an eminent scientist, a renowned scholar of geology, an academician, and a popular author - breathed his last on 14th February 2022 at Pune.

Born on April 6, 1946, he completed his Masters in Geology from Banaras Hindu University in 1964!! He continued to pursue his research at Panjab University, Chandigarh where he completed his Ph.D. in 1969. He subsequently joined the same institution as a faculty in the Department of Geology, where he continued to serve till his superannuation in 2009. He served as the Head of Department (2006-08), and was also the Director of the Centre of Advanced Study (2003-08). In his first Structural Geology Class, I was his BSc Final student, and we had been on numerous field trips together as colleagues.

Dr. Kumar received the coveted UNESCO fellowship to visit Russia in 1974-75 to study the Regional Tectonics of parts of the Russian Platform and Crimean Peninsula. He served as a faculty of the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal from 1976 to 1979 under the Indian Cooperation Mission, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He also held a faculty position for the academic year 1989-90 at the Faculty of Earth Sciences, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Post his retirement, he took guest lectures at renowned institutions in Pune, a city which he eventually chose to settle.

Dr. Ravindra Kumar pioneered the study of microstructures of deformed rocks of the Shimla Himalaya, subsequent to which he carried out research on different aspects of stratigraphy, structure and tectonics in different regions of the Himalayas, which he presented in his Presidential Address on the Earth System Sciences at the 93rd Indian Science Congress held in Jan. 2006 in Hyderabad.

His book "Fundamentals of Historical Geology and Stratigraphy of India" is immensely popular amongst students worldwide who look up to the wide knowledge captured in this publication. His dedication was amply displayed by the fact that six days before his death he managed to bring out the revised edition of this very popular book.

He was a widely traveled scientist who was invited to participate

at international conferences and deliver special lectures in many countries including Canada, United Kingdom, Russia, Georgia, Middle East and Korea amongst others. During 2007-09, Schlumberger's Middle East and Asia Learning Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE had invited him to conduct short term courses in Sedimentary Facies, Stratigraphy and Structural Geology for Petroleum Geologists and Petrophysicists.

Post his retirement, he moved to Pune in 2009, where his entire family - his wife Punam, his two daughters and their families are settled.

Ravindra Kumar had a great passion for life and used to derive immense pleasure from small things that gave him joy. A simple man with an ever smiling face, he had tons of curiosity to discover new things, a never ending excitement to visit new places and countries, and caring for each & everyone that touched him. He never said never.

An absolute family man, who doted on his children, grandchildren, family and friends. His caring attitude was not limited to his family & friends alone, but extended to his students across the globe and everyone he touched in his daily life - be it the security guards, gardener, cook, the restaurant staff where he regularly visited. His last rites was attended by the entire community that he touched.

During the last one month in his frail health condition, he didn't want anyone to help him and kept trying to do things on his own. A small walk on his own would bring a childlike smile on his face, a sense of achievement. He never cribbed about why he was hit with this health challenge, rather he always would say let's see what he could do to make it better. That was undying spirit of the eternal geologist.

His resilience, his zeal to life, his inquisitiveness, his very positive persona, a life well lived - something that will continue to inspire and be cherished by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

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