OBITUARY

K. B. Powar
(1937-2016)

Professor Krishnapratap Bhagwantrao Powar, breathed his last due to prolonged illness and suffering from cancer at 3.30 pm on February 22nd, 2016 at Pune. He had adorned many positions such as Secretary General of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi; Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur and Head of the Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. The family members, his associates, colleagues, students and friends grieved on his sad demise that created void in the field of geosciences and higher education in India. Just 20 days before his demise his wife Jyoti Powar also passed away due to long period of illness. The couple is survived with their son Dr. Sanjay Powar and daughter Monika Powar-Patil.

Prof. Powar was born on 20.12.1937 and had his higher education at the Nagpur University, Nagpur from where he obtained his B.Sc. in 1958 and M.Sc. degree in Applied Geology in 1960 and was awarded the J.P. Trivedi Gold Medal and the King Edward Memorial Scholarship. He later moved to Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi and obtained his Ph.D. degree in Geology in 1967. Subsequently, he received Fulbright and Institute of International Education awards for higher studies and research in U.S. during 1966-67.

Prof. Powar was an exceptional teacher, researcher and an educational administrator in his professional career of 44 years. He started his career as a Lecturer in Geology at Banaras Hindu University where he served from 1960 to 1969. He then joined as a Reader in Geology at Poona University (1969-77) and became Professor of Geology, Poona University (1977-86) before being appointed as Vice Chancellor, Shivaji University, Kolhapur in September 1986 and completed his term in 1992. He was Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi from 1993 to 2002 and thereafter worked as the Founder Director of the Amity Foundation for Higher Learning, New Delhi till November 2004. He was Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed University), Pune and became the Chancellor of the same University until he breathed his last.

Prof. Powar made significant research contributions in the field of Geology. His important contributions relate to the geology

of Kumaun and Ladakh Himalaya; and of the Deccan Volcanic Province. He successfully guided 22 Ph.D. students in the Earth Sciences, published 82 research papers, edited 3 research volumes and authored four textbooks in Geology. In recognition of his research work he was elected as Fellow of the Geological Society of India (1966), Fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, (1984) and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (1988). He was elected President of the Geology and Geography Section of the Indian Science Congress Association (1986-87). He was Vice President, Maharashtra Academy of Science (1991-94). He was elected the first Life Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of India, in 2006, for his overall contributions to mineralogy and petrology. He was awarded the G-51 Millennium Award by the World Environment Congress and others in 1998. Two *festschrifts* – *Contributions to Environmental Science* (2000) and *Geoinicators and Related Environmental Studies* (2002) - have been published in his honour.

Professor Powar was widely known for his significant contributions to research and policy planning related to higher education, especially in the areas of quality assurance, economics of education, internationalization of higher education and governance in higher education institutions. In this area he published 64 papers, authored 6 books and edited 17 volumes dealing with different aspects of higher education.

Professor Powar's charismatic, unpretentious and humanitarian values made him popular and respectful amongst the students, friends and colleagues. His gracious and formal behavior reflected him as a teacher and researcher that can be emulated by all of us. Though he was suffering from cancer he never stopped his fervor for writing and completed his last book '*Reflections*'. Such a magnificent teacher, gleaming researcher, impeccable educational administrator and venerable human being Professor K.B. Powar will be fondly remembered by all his friends, students and colleagues for his contributions to geology and higher education in India.

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