Prof. K. Kameswara Rao
(1932-2017)

Prof. K. Kameswara Rao was born to Late Kakaraparthi Swami Sarma and Jogamma and had his early education at Sriperambur of Tamil Nadu and obtained his BSc degree from M.R. College, Vizianagaram. Kameswara Rao passed his M.Sc (Tech) Applied Geology in 1966 from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. Impressed with Sri Kameswara Rao's interest in Geochemical analysis, the distinguished Professor and Head of the Department, Prof. C. Mahadevan offered him faculty position at the Geology Department of Andhra University. Sri Kameswara Rao simultaneously registered for D.Sc under the stewardship and guidance of Prof. C. Mahadevan. He was awarded D.Sc degree in 1969, by the Andhra University, for the thesis on "Studies on Copper Mineralization at Mosabani Mines, Singhbhum district, Bihar, India". At that time, he was one of the pioneers to do studies on sulphides, in India.

Sri Kameswara Rao went to University of Leeds, under UNDP program, for an year and his professors were impressed with his analytical skills in the analysis of ores in general and Pb ores (which uses cyanide to analyse lead (Pb) ores) in particular.

Prof. Kameswara Rao, was steady in his approach and had dexterity of highest order in the chemical analysis of rocks and ores. He established a chemical laboratory in the Geology Department of Andhra University. He used to train the post-graduate students, meticulously in carrying out chemical analyses by classical methods. In those days, the instruments like Atomic Absorption Spectrometer was not available in the Geology Department.

Once, Prof. Gandikota Gopala Rao, Head of the Chemistry Department, Andhra University expressed skepticism about the abilities and skills of geologists to carry out chemical analyses and their accuracy. Dr. Kameswara Rao, carried out chemical analyses of iron ores and P ores with such dexterity, Prof. Gopala Rao took back his opinion about the skills of geologists and openly acknowledged and

praised the competence of Dr. Kameswara Rao. To put in other words, very few can match the precision, accuracy and dexterity of Prof. Kameswara Rao in carrying out chemical analysis.

Prof. Kameswara Rao was equally adept in spectroscopy, photography, ore dressing. He established a ore beneficiation laboratory in the geology department. He used to do a lot of consultancy work in mining, in general, and Graphite Industry (which is located in Eastern Ghats belt) in particular.

In the University Exhibitions of Science and Art Departments, which took place once in three years, he used to prepare mine models with such dexterity, the visitors used to become awestruck and his work bore a stamp of originality and dexterity.

He was one of my guides, for my Ph.D thesis entitled "Precambrian Geology of Donimalai area with special reference to Banded Iron Formation and Associated iron ores". Prof. Kameswara Rao gave meticulous guidance in the laboratory techniques, photography etc. and the thesis received encomiums from the adjudicators. He also served as an expert in the selection of Geologists in UPSC.

Simple living was his forte, and Prof. Kameswara Rao was soft spoken, always affectionate, amicable, helpful and approachable/accessible to one and all. Prof. Kameswara Rao and his wife Mrs. Malathi were very good hosts. He retired from the service of Andhra University on 31-May 1992. After his retirement, he was keeping slightly indifferent health and his elder daughter-in-law Mrs. Saumyasri took great care of him till his death. Prof. Kameswara Rao attained heavenly abode on 24-04-2017 and leaves behind a host of colleagues, students and admirers to mourn his death.

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It is with profound sorrow that we record the demise of two senior and distinguished former students of Late Professor C. Mahadevan of the Geology Department, Andhra University, Waltair.

Dr. B.B.G. Sarma (87) passed away on 01.02.2017 at his residence in Hyderabad. Dr. Sarma taught at the Geology Department, Andhra University before he moved to the Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation in Hyderabad and contributed significantly in the exploration and exploitation of natural resources in the undivided state of Andhra Pradesh.

Shri K. Appavadhanulu (88) passed away in Hyderabad on 21.06.2017. Shri Appavadhanulu served in the Geological Survey of India and later in the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., and made valuable contributions in the field of Economic Geology/Mineral Exploration and Assessment in post-independent India.

Dr. B.B.G. Sarma and Shri K. Appavadhanulu were the founding members and pillars of the *Mahadevan Students and Admirers Association* (MASAA) in Hyderabad, serving the wider cause of Earth Sciences by drawing inspiration from their *Guru*, Late Prof. C. Mahadevan.

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