



B.K. Dhruva Rao
(1936-2016)

B.K. Dhruva Rao, a doyen of Mineral Exploration in the Country, breathed his last in Bengaluru, on 24th November 2016, after a prolonged illness. In his demise, the country has lost an excellent Exploration Geologist. He had an illustrious academic career. He was a student of great merit throughout and obtained his Master's Degree in Geology from the prestigious Central College, Bengaluru and was a gold medalist. Soon after his studies, he joined Indian Bureau of Mines, and later worked in various capacities in Geological Survey of India, Air-borne Mineral Surveys and Exploration, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd, and Bharat Gold Mines Limited. After superannuation he continued to work as a consultant for various National and International exploration groups.

He was a voracious reader. He was a rare blend of sharp intelligence and photographic memory. He was a field geologist par excellence and believed in sincere and systematic approach in everything he did. He was abreast with latest developments in the field of geology, especially mineral exploration.

His contributions to mineral exploration in the country are noteworthy. While in IBM, his work on exploration for apatite and copper in Singhbhum copper belt, Jharkhand resulted in the opening up of several potential copper deposits for exploration and development. As the lead person during his tenure in AMSE, he set an example for systematic exploration in the country with his continued interest and various contributions in Singhbhum belt. He was part of a small group of experts who formulated and planned the execution of first ever systematic Air-Borne mineral surveys in India.

He was one of the few geologists drawn from GSI to establish MECL as a pioneering mineral exploration organization in the country. While in MECL, he made outstanding contributions to systematic exploration and development of the newly discovered east coast bauxite deposits in Orissa. At a time, when use of computers in mineral exploration was still in its infancy, he took keen interest in the application of geo-statistics in ore reserve estimations; computerization of exploration data and extensive use of computers in data processing and preparation of exploration reports.

He made significant contributions to Kolar gold mines when he headed the exploration department of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd. He was instrumental in re-estimation and re-classification of ore reserves/grade of the mines using geo-statistical methods. He introduced procedures for grade control and metal balance in the mines. Under his able guidance, a UNDP aided extensive integrated exploration program was carried out in the Kolar greenstone belt for finding additional gold resources. His relentless efforts resulted in the Chigargunta gold deposit in south Kolar, explored by GSI/MECL, becoming a gold producing mine.

He was an excellent and a patient teacher and had a knack of managing geological personnel. It was a great pleasure to work with him. He always encouraged his team of young geologists to express their ideas and improve their intellectual abilities. He never hesitated to delegate responsibilities as well as powers to junior officers. He was a dependable leader, very good team builder and always encouraged his fellow geologists to work in unison.

He was a perfect family man and a great host. His fellow officers and staff always felt very homely in his company. His wife, Mrs. Vasanthi, spared no efforts in making all their guests feel comfortable all the times and was a perfect companion to him. She, very patiently, took care of him, especially in the last 4 or 5 years, when he was bed ridden. He is survived by his beloved wife, a son and a daughter who are well settled.

All those, both professional and non-professional, who had interacted with him on various subjects, are going to miss him forever. We offer our sincere respects to the departed soul and condolences to the bereaved family members. May God give enough strength to them to bear this irreparable loss.

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