

Honouring the GSI Titans – T.L. Ramakrishna, Director (Retd), Geol. Surv. India, 228, Ushas Apartments, 26, 16th Main, 6th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560011. (E: bharatgeoguides@rediffmail.com)

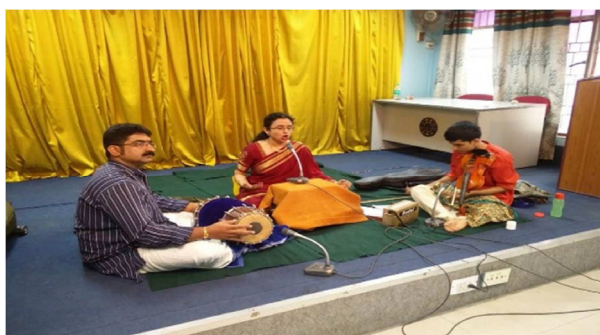
Honouring elders is an age old practice in our society, but elders, honouring their elder generations is a very interesting situation, that is what is being practiced by a association of retired senior officers of one of the oldest scientific organisations of the country, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) (founded in 1851) at Bangalore. The subject of such a association casually discussed by a group of officers at lunch time, during the waning years of their service, some years ago, became a reality, unlike, what usually happens to the contrary in such matters. With a growing strength, presently of nearly 150 members of different generations, it is a rich corpus of talent and experience indeed.

This association is purely voluntary, no binding, has no formal letterhead, constitution, membership fees, or elections, mutual respect and emotional bondage amongst the members is the glue, managed informally by a small band of enthusiasts among the members. Communications are through word of mouth, phone call or a humble book post mail. They meet twice a year, on the first Saturday of January and July, in the cosy conference hall of GSI at Vasudha Bhavan, in Kumaraswamy Lay out, Bangalore. That, there have been uninterrupted meetings, surpassing a silver jubilee and heading steadily towards a golden jubilee, is really creditable. Participation of spouses

in the meet in increasing numbers, of late, is a very pleasant development.

Service matters or personal prejudices are never discussed at the meet. It has a well chartered agenda, on a pleasant morning, one hour for informal one to one or group meeting in the lounge over a cup of tea/coffee, exchanging pleasantries and welfare to begin with, followed by about an hour or so of pleasing, soothing entertainment, a yoga, classical dance or music performance. The performers, both start – up's and professionals, accept to perform out of sheer goodwill, respect and regard for the senior scientists, not minding the logistics.

Then follows the patented honouring the senior members item. Those to be honoured are chosen amongst the members present at the meeting, strictly according to age seniority, no prior short listing, bias or lobbying. Those chosen need not necessarily be Bangalore based, the only qualification, they must be or must have been from GSI, from which ever part of the country notwithstanding. The honour, a decent shawl, a bowl of fruits and a flower bouquet. The third important part is the smart, tasty lunch, sponsored by some one or the other members. Then, the good bye, with a smile, looking forward for the next meet six months later. Such meets serve as immense social and psychological value additions to the members and aid in networking.



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