



**Devendranath Kanungo
(1925-2021)**

Dr. D.N. Kanungo, a pioneering and grand old structural geologist, passed away on 8th June, 2021 at his residence in Bhubaneswar following a cardiac arrest. He was 96. He comes from an academic family – his father was the Head Master of the reputed century old Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack and his younger brother Prof. M.S. Kanungo, a Bhatnagar Awardee and a distinguished scholar at BHU, Varanasi. His wife, Dr. Shanti Kanungo, Professor at Ravenshaw College, had died earlier in 1970. He leaves behind two daughters who are settled in USA.

After obtaining his Master's Degree in Geology from Lucknow University, he served in Utkal University before leaving to UK for higher studies. He was awarded Ph.D in structural geology from Imperial college of London in 1956 under the guidance of Dr. Gilbert Wilson (also research supervisor for John G. Ramsay, the father of Modern Structural Geology, who passed away recently). His structural studies on geology of Scotland remains a landmark contribution to British geology. A part of his thesis was included in the book of "Mesoscopic structures" by Gilbert Wilson. The focus in those years was on "the Mesoscopic structures and their significance in understanding the structural evolution of rocks and regions". Dr. Kanungo was amongst the contemporary legends like John Sutton, Watson and H.H. Read in Imperial College, London.

After his return to India, he joined in Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad and later joined CSIR-NGRI as one of the few senior scientists, around 1966-67. Dr. Kanungo contributed immensely towards the structure and tectonics of the eastern part of Gangpur series, Central parts of Inner Himalayas, granites of east Dharwar

craton and Nellore schist belt. He always believed in the application of structural geology to mineral and groundwater exploration working in tandem with geophysicist colleagues. Mining people in the Nellore mica belt were always seeking his advice for extending their mining operations. He has guided many students and research scholars and a few of them were awarded Ph.D (Late Prof. Mahalik of Utkal University, T.R.K. Chetty of NGRI and K. Satyanarayana of AMD). Dr. Kanungo was an excellent teacher and a great photographer. He established photographic lab in NGRI and used to make prints of field photographs himself. For some administrative and other personal reasons, he took voluntary retirement in 1981. Subsequently, he served as a Professor of Geology in the University of Nainital for about two years. Since then, he spent his time in Yogic practices and spiritual learning leading a pious and peaceful life in Bhubaneswar. The present Jagannath temple in Hyderabad had fructified by his initial incentive efforts.

He was kind, courteous and helped many of his colleagues and students in need. He was a lovable and cordial personality with classic manners and he is fondly remembered by many of his students, colleagues and several living seniors of Indian Earth Science community.

May his soul rest in peace.

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