

## OBITUARY



**Pradeep Raj**  
(1960-2011)

Pradeep Raj was born on 15 April 1960 in Hyderabad and had a brilliant academic career. He was CSIR Junior and Senior Research Fellow and worked at Nanakram Bhagwandas Science College as Lecturer in Geology, at Roads and Building Department as Research Geologist and at Ground Water Department, where he was working as Deputy Director.

His doctoral work contributed to the understanding moisture content of the coal besides bringing out the general geological characteristics of coals from mine to mine and within a mine.

Working at the Ground Water Department, he developed a procedure for village wise groundwater resource estimation and a spreadsheet based program for assessment of the resource. This method and the program are used today for groundwater resource estimation by the State. He received an award for this work in 2002. He had proposed a standard way (Standardized scale) of plotting hydrographs and also proposed a classification of well hydrographs. He had showed that the wet season water level rise and specific

yield can be iteratively used to arrive at best approximation of recharge to groundwater.

Pradeep Raj had defined general pattern of distribution of fluoride in groundwater in hard rock areas. It opened up the possibilities of delineating small areas with permissible fluoride in groundwater for drinking water needs, in otherwise high fluoride areas. He showed that the optimum pumping rate of wells in hard rocks is less than the discharge recorded during the drilling operations, especially when drinking water needs are to be planned.

Among his teachers, he was particularly grateful to Dr. K.V. Subba Ramaiah, who “initiated him and hundreds of others, very skilfully into the fascinating world of geology and that defined a big turning point in his life and for many others too”. At Osmania University, his idol was Prof C. Leelanandam – who had a tremendous influence on him.

His parents particularly his mother, Late Smt. Shanti Devi struggled hard to bring him up.

*Hyderabad*

MRUDULA DEVI