

OBITUARY



Anant V. Phadke
(1937 - 2010)

A.V. Phadke, an exponent of the old school of mineralogy, passed away after a brief illness at Pune. He is survived by his wife and daughter Neelima. He is renowned for the range of knowledge from high temperature – high pressure metamorphic mineralogy to the low pressure – low temperature cavity minerals in the Deccan Traps.

Prof. Phadke began his career under the guidance of K.V. Kelkar, with whom he was instrumental in nurturing the Department, erstwhile a small post-graduate unit affiliated to the Bombay University in the Fergusson College campus in Pune. He also played a major role in the growth of the Department after it shifted to its current location on the Pune University Campus. He started studies on the Deccan Traps in which he benefited from interactions with Prof. G.P.L. Walker and Dr. W.D. West. Being one of the earliest researchers to map *pahoehoe* and *aa* type flows, his pioneering work on Deccan basalts also included mineralogy and petrology and interflow horizons, work on inter-trappean ash beds and cavity minerals (zeolites) earned him recognition in India and abroad. In collaboration with officers of the Geological Survey of India, he contributed to deciphering the structure of the volcanic flows around Bombay (Mumbai) - mainly with regard to the *Panvel Flexure*. He is recognized by the Mineralogical Society for discovering “Kelkarite” a new mineral from the Deccan Trap cavities. Contemporary workers like R.N. Sukheshwala, R.B. Gupte, Awasia, K.V. Subbarao and others, acknowledged him to be at front of knowledge in the subject.

Rarely does one come across such a dedicated geologist,

who was wedded to the subject and the Department all through his 35 year long career and beyond. A.V. Phadke was often found peering through the microscope through late hours of the night, with a weary-eyed research student alongside, in the mineralogy laboratory.

His last official assignment at the University was as UGC Emeritus Scientist in Geology. He earned numerous national and international accolades for his achievements. He is credited with more than 100 research publications, several books and guided more than 10 Ph.D. scholars. He was a Fellow/Member of many learned Societies and was the Editor for the Indian Society of Earth Scientists. He founded the Deccan Volcanological Society, and brought out a special issue on the Icelandic volcanism just a month before.

Interestingly Phadke’s doctoral work and subsequent research focused on the Sausar metamorphics and allied Precambrian rocks.

Phadke travelled extensively in India and abroad in pursuit of his researches through international collaboration.

A teacher to the very core; students will remember his style of teaching and the interest that he took in their individual aspirations. It will be difficult to list out the number of students whom he helped get scholarships and fellowships for further studies abroad.

Phadke will be remembered as a teacher par excellence, a passionate researcher and a geologist, who virtually passed away with his cap, hammer and boots on!

Pune

VIVEK S. KALE