

## *Obituary*



**Professor K.B.Powar**  
(1937 - 2016)

Professor Krishnapratap Bhagwantrao Powar, the life member of IIG, breathed his last on February 22nd, 2016 at Pune after prolonged illness. He was suffering from cancer. During his long career he held many important and distinguished positions such as the Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil University, Pimpri, Pune; the Secretary General of Association of Indian Universities, New-Delhi; the Vice-Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur and the Head of the Department of Geology, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. The family members, his associates, colleagues, students and friends from the field of geosciences and higher education in India grieved on his sad demise. Just before his demise his wife Mrs. Jyoti Pawar also passed away following a long period of illness. The couple is survived by a son Dr. Sanjay Pawar and a daughter Mrs. Monika Pawar-Patil.

Professor K. B. Powar was born on 20.12.1937 and had his higher education at the Nagpur University, Nagpur from where he obtained his B.Sc. in 1958, and M.Sc. degree in Applied Geology in 1960 and was awarded the J.P. Trivedi Gold Medal and the King Edward Memorial Scholarship. He later moved to Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi and obtained his Ph.D. degree in Geology in 1967. Subsequently, he received Fulbright and Institute of International Education awards for higher studies and research in U.S. during 1966-67.

An exceptional teacher, grand researcher and perfect educational administrator Professor Powar had a long professional career of 44 years. With a modest beginning as a Lecturer in Geology at Banaras Hindu University (1960-69), he then joined as a Reader in Geology at Poona University (1969-77) and became Professor of Geology,

Poona University (1977-86) before being appointed twice as the Vice Chancellor of Shivaji University, Kolhapur (1986 -1992). He was then appointed as the Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi in February 1993 and was reappointed for the second term of five years in February, 1998. After his retirement from the AIU in December 2002, he worked as the Founder Director of the Amity Foundation for Higher Learning, New Delhi till November 2004. Later on he was Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed University), Pune and became the Chancellor of the same University until he breathed his last.

Professor Powar will be remembered for a long time for his varied and significant research contributions to the field of Geology. His important contributions relate to the geology of Kumaun and Ladakh Himalaya; and the Deccan Volcanic Province. He successfully guided 22 Ph.D. students in the Earth Sciences, published 82 research papers, edited 3 research volumes and authored 4 textbooks in Geology. In recognition of his research work he was elected as the Fellow of the Geological Society of India (1966), Fellow of Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, (1984) and Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India (1988). He was elected President of the Geology and Geography Section of the Indian Science Congress Association in 1986-87. He was the Vice-President, Maharashtra Academy of Sciences (1991-94). He was elected as the first Life Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of India, in 2006, for his overall contributions to mineralogy and petrology. He was awarded the G-51 Millennium Award by the World Environment Congress and others in 1998. Two festschrifts –

Contributions to Environmental Science (2000) and Geoindicators and Related Environmental Studies (2002) - have been published in his honour.

Professor Powar was widely known for his significant contributions to research and policy planning related to higher education, especially in the areas of quality assurance, economics of education, internationalization of higher education and governance in higher education institutions. In this area he published 64 papers, authored 6 books and edited 17 volumes dealing with different aspects of higher education besides guiding one Ph.D. student in the field of distance higher education. The books authored by him include – Accreditation in Higher Education: The Indian Perspective (1996), Performance Indicators in Distance Higher Education (2000), Indian Higher Education: A Conglomerate of Concepts, Facts and Practices (2002), Internationalisation of Higher Education: Focus on India' (2003), Quality of Higher Education (2005) and Reflections (2015) based on his experience in governance in higher education institutions.

Professor Powar was a member of the Board of Management of the Geological Survey of India (1984-87), Chairman of the National Committee for International Union of Geological Sciences (1988-91) and President, and Chairman, Governing Body, of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun (1991-97). He was Convenor of the Earth Science Panel of the University Grants Commission, member of the Executive Committee and the Council of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, member of the Governing Body of the Sports Authority of India and member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

Professor Powar's charismatic unpretentious and humanitarian values held him popular and respectful amongst the students, friends and colleagues. His gracious and formal behavior reflected him as a teacher and researcher, a path set by him can be followed by all of us. Before his death, though he was suffering from cancer, he never stopped his fervor for writing and completed his last book 'Reflections' while he was in hospital. Such a magnificent teacher, great researcher, impeccable educational administrator and venerable human being Professor K.B.Powar will be fondly remembered by all his friends, students and colleagues for his contributions to geology and higher education in India.

**N.J. Pawar**

Professor of Geology,  
S.P.Pune University and  
(Former Vice-Chancellor,  
Shivaji University, Kolhapur)