



Dr. Ashwini Kumar Rai

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. A.K. Rai joined AMD in 1979 as Scientific Officer after obtaining Master's Degree in Geology from Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and has been an eminent Exploration Geologist for Atomic Minerals over four decades. He was awarded Ph.D. Degree in geology by University of Mysore in 2012. He has served the organization in different capacities viz. In charge of field Investigations, Deputy Regional Director (2003-2006) and Regional Director (2006-2012) of Southern Region, Bengaluru. He was the Additional Director in AMD from 2012 to 2015 and was promoted to the grade of Outstanding Scientist during 2015. Dr. A.K. Rai became the Director, AMD on 01.01.2016. Under his dynamic leadership, AMD has significantly augmented the atomic minerals required for the successful implementation of the nuclear power programme of the country.

In his illustrious career, he has made exceptional contributions in the field of uranium geology in varied geological domains under diverse geographical locations. He has immense contributions in the discovery and establishing the uranium deposits in varied geological domains of the country.

The exploration acumen of Dr. A.K. Rai is credited with exploring southern part of the Cuddapah basin, has made the Tummalapalle uranium deposit as one of the largest in the world.

In Singhbhum Shear Zone, he has contributed significantly in uranium resource addition in Jaduguda, Narwapahar, Singridungri-Banadungri and Bangurdihareas (around 15,000t U_3O_8). This has significantly enhanced the life of the existing mines and mills at Jaduguda and Narwapahar. Under his able guidance several potential geological domains have been developed. Notable among them are Wahkyn, Wahkut, Kulangin Mahadek Basin Meghalaya; Rohil, Jahaz-Maota, Narsinghpuri, in North Delhi Fold Belt, Rajasthan; Gogi-Kanchankayi, Bhima basin and Deshnur, Kaladgi basin, Karnataka; Kotri-Dongargarh Belt, Chhattisgarh; Dharmapuri Shear Zone, Tamil Nadu; Chhotanagpur Granite Gneiss Complex, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and Satpura Gondwana basin, Madhya Pradesh.

He has the credit of bringing out the economic significance of acidic rocks of Siwana Ring Complex, Rajasthan and carbonatites of Pakkanadu, Tamil Nadu and Ambadongar, Gujarat for their uranium and RMRE potential where nearly 3,00,000t Speculative Resources of REE have been estimated.

He has been instrumental in the successful implementation of time-bound drilling programme in AMD. Under his leadership the drilling-productivity has been enhanced by nearly 3 times. He has played a key role in the modernisation of exploration activities in AMD namely utilization of heliborne geophysical methods in diverse geological terrains; developing borehole deviation system, integrating the exploration data in Enterprise Level Geospatial Database Management system and equipping the laboratories with the latest state of the art analytical instruments.

He is the recipient of “National Geoscience Award –2011” by Ministry of Mines, Government of India; “Outstanding Service Award –2014” of Indian Nuclear Society (INS); “DAE – Group Achievement Award– 2014”; “Radhakrishna Prize - 2015” by Geological Society of India and “Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award – 2015” by DAE.

Dr. A.K. Rai has represented the country as an expert member in various international forums such as UDEPO, Uranium Group and Convention on uranium resources, IAEA, Vienna, Austria during 2009, 2013 and 2016 and Buenos Aires, Argentina during 2016; Convention on In-situ Leach (ISL) and uranium mining, Czech Republic during 1999 and PDAC, Toronto, Canada during 2012.

Dr. A.K. Rai has presented and published 175 scientific papers in national and international seminars /symposia and journals.