



Dr. P.K. Mukherjee

Smt. Manthripragada Sita Devi - Sri Rama Rao Medal

Dr. P.K. Mukherjee hails from a remote locality (Noamundi) at the heart of the natural resources-rich mining belt of Singhbhum district, Jharkhand. He has graduated from Tata College, Chaibasa with Honours in Geology, Dr. Mukherjee earned his post-graduate degree (M.Tech, Applied Geology) and Doctoral degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (formerly University of Roorkee) with specialization in Geochemistry. Realizing the challenges and difficulties in analysis of geological samples and need for development of appropriate geoanalytical facilities, Dr. Mukherjee has developed keen interest in geoanalytical research while working as a lecturer at IIT Roorkee, and later decided to joined Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology(WIHG) to devote fulltime in research and exploit the richness of the modern analytical facilities already available there.

Dr. Mukherjee became a part of the up-coming Geoanalytical Centre of excellence at WIHG that began to nucleate with establishment of state of art modern analytical facilities like ED-XRF and WD-XRF, ICP-AES, ICP-MS, XRD, AAS, SEM and EPMA at WIHG. His involvements and competencies in all these techniques has resulted in development of several noteworthy innovative techniques by his group at WIHG. In addition to his core competency in geochemistry, he has worked on a wide range of fields like environmental geochemistry, geochemical mapping, exploration geochemistry, soil sciences, wildlife forensic sciences and many industrial specific material characterizations. In connection with his research, Dr. Mukherjee also visited several countries and was also invited by the Mineral Resource Division of USGS at Reston (USA) and developed a heavy mineral fraction quantification and characterization protocol using XRD technique. He has published more than 37 research articles in several national and international SCI Journals focusing on interdisciplinary research involving various fields of geochemistry and mineralogy. As a key member of the reference geostandard development programme, three reference standards from the Himalayan belt were successfully characterized by his team following IAG norms. Currently he is working as a Senior Scientist at WIHG and is developing a LA-MC-ICPMS based Micro-Geochronology Centre.