

OBITUARY FOR DR. ASOK KUMAR MOHANTY

Dr Asok Kumar Mohanty, who left for the heavenly abode on 9th January, 2022, was a much adored, decorated and a brilliant metallurgist, academician and Professor. His students, the vast Alumni of NIT, Rourkela, where he taught and lived for 53 years, bear testimony to his vast repertoire of knowledge and superb teaching skills, unmatched in clarity of thought and erudition. His sudden demise leaves behind a bereaved doting and loving family and the large tribe of friends, former students and well-wishers, both in his personal and professional life.

Born on 1st October, 1941, the eldest son of Shri Paramananda Mohanty and Smt. Sarat kumari , he was a stellar performer at School, College and University. He was a distinguished and highly qualified engineer in the field of metallurgy. A man with an outstanding academic record, after graduating in Engineering with First Class Honours from Benaras Hindu University in 1961, he served as a Lecturer in the same University from 1961-63. Later, he was awarded the prestigious Commonwealth Scholarship for higher studies in the reputed University of Sheffield, U.K., where he obtained his Master's Degree in 1965 & Ph.D in 1967 in Metallurgy.

After a brief stint in Malviya Regional Engineering College (REC), Jaipur as Reader, Dr. Mohanty joined REC, Rourkela as Assistant Professor and through his devotion, commitment and dedication, rose to the position of Professor at a very young age, in 1972. A noble Statesman, with exemplary administrative abilities, and liked by all for his calm demeanor & pleasing manners, Dr. Mohanty assumed the charge of Principal of REC, Rourkela in February, 1996. His accomplishments and outstanding contribution towards the development and betterment of REC, Rourkela, now, National Institute of Technology (NIT), were noteworthy. A person of high caliber, Dr. Mohanty gained expertise in the field of Extractive Metallurgy with particular interest in Steel Making. He has several technical papers published in many national & international journals to his credit, and has authored a very popular textbook in Metallurgy by Prentice Hall Company.

His disarming smile, an inimitable sense of humour, affable and unassuming nature, love and compassion for people of each strata of life goes to reflect a soul, psychically crystal clear in its magnificence. He was involved in social work, was Director of Sri Aurobindo's school and was involved in the well-being and academic development of young students

of the same School. He had a most worthy partner in his spouse of 52 years, Dr. Jyotsna Patnaik, who perfectly complemented him in his intellectual and spiritual pursuits.

Dr. Mohanty leaves behind an utterly inconsolable family- his wife, Dr Jyotsna Patnaik; son, Dr. Sanjeeb Mohanty (Jubin); daughter, Srujani (Ruby); daughter-in- law, Sagarika; son-in-law, Sanjog, and grandchildren, Manasvi, Soham & Divyam. The lanes of NIT, Rourkela Campus stand testimony to his footsteps that firmly planted itself on the echelons of academic excellence. His entire life was celebration of human achievement. He was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award for his excellent teaching, unusual concern for students and faculty and the significant contributions made to the Institute.

May You Rest in Peace..... Om Shanti !!