

## M. S. Srinivasan (1938–2021)

One of the pioneers of Micropalaeontology and Palaeoceanographic studies in the country, Prof. M. S. Srinivasan, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, passed away on 29 April 2021. Srinivasan was born in the year 1938 in Varanasi. He graduated from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and later joined the Department of Geology, BHU in 1960 as a faculty member. He proceeded to Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand on a British Commonwealth Fellowship for his doctoral research and obtained Ph.D. degree in 1965. After returning to his alma mater, Srinivasan laid the foundation of Micropalaeontology teaching and research in the Department of Geology, BHU. Srinivasan was a passionate teacher and researcher, a dedicated supervisor who mentored a galaxy of students in the research field of Marine Micropalaeontology and Palaeoceanography. He along with his students had put their incessant efforts to initiate teaching and research in Micropalaeontology in various universities and research institutes/organizations across the country. Amongst students he was respectfully known as 'Guruji' and his close friends often referred to him fondly by his nickname 'Cheenu'. Srinivasan remained very active even after his superannuation in 2001 and served as a guardian and a great source of inspiration for young generations working in the field. Besides, an outstanding scholar and a teacher, Guruji was exceptionally a humble human being and regarded as one of the most revered Earth scientists in the country.

Srinivasan was a world-renowned expert of Neogene foraminiferal taxonomy. In 1983, he, along with Jim Kennett authored a classic atlas '*Neogene Planktonic Foraminifera: A Phylogenetic Atlas*' extensively referred by the researchers working in the field world over. His research interests were largely focused on Neogene foraminiferal biostratigraphy and palaeoceanographic evolution of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. He pioneered a systematic micropalaeontological study of the uplifted marine sequences of Andaman–Nicobar Islands and published the classical monograph on *Schwager's Car Nicobar*

*Foraminifera in the reports of Novara Expedition: A revision*. He was Visiting Scientist at the British Museum (Natural History), London (1968–1969) and the Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, USA (1972–1974, 1979–1981). Srinivasan participated in the Deep Sea Drilling Project (DSDP) Leg-90 on board the D/V *Glo-mar Challenger* in the Southwest Pacific (1981–1982) as a shipboard scientist. This had accelerated Srinivasan's efforts of initiating deep-sea research in the country. Srinivasan visited many reputed institutes of the world for academic interaction including those in New Zealand, USA, UK, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, Russia and Thailand. He



has been the Leader of the International Working Group on 'Equatorial Pacific Neogene Chronostratigraphy' and an executive member of the regional committee on 'Pacific Neogene Events'. Srinivasan was Chairman of the IUGS National Committee twice and has been a leading member of several IGCP Programmes and projects funded by the Government of India. He has been a member/chairman of several scientific committees of various government organizations, academic and research institutions.

An author of 180 research publications including 3 books, 1 monograph, chapters in various books, 1 edited volume. Srinivasan was a Fellow of all three National Science Academies and The World Academy of Sciences. Srinivasan received the UGC National Lecturer Award (1984–1985), the First Malavia

Memorial Trust Senior Academic Award by BHU (1986), Prof. L. Rama Rao Gold Medal (1988), Platinum Jubilee Lecture of ISC (1991), Hari Om Ashram Trust Award by UGC (1994), Swami Pranavanad Saraswati Award (2001). He had the honour of delivering prestigious M. R. Sahni Memorial Lecture (1989), Prof. Birbal Sahni Memorial Lecture (2002) and Dr. H. N. Siddiqui Memorial Lecture (2008).

Srinivasan served as Head, Department of Geology, BHU (1984–1986) and Director, Academic Staff College, BHU (1991–1993). As an excellent academician and administrator, he contributed to the BHU in countless ways over many years. After his superannuation in 2001, he joined as INSA Hon. Scientist (2001–2003) and INSA Senior Scientist (2003–2008). In recognition of his distinguished services, BHU honoured Srinivasan by appointing him as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Geology. During his long illustrious career spanning almost 60 years, he motivated and inspired a whole generation of Indian and overseas students, including his own 14 Ph.D. students. Srinivasan was a much admired and respected micropalaeontologist whose extensive research, passionate teaching and mentorship par excellence delivered a rich legacy to Indian Geology. He is survived by his wife Lalitha Srinivasan and daughter Jai Sree and other family members.

Prof. Srinivasan will always be remembered by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him and working with him.

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