

Shri T. V. Chowdary (1943 – 2024)

P.V. Rao FAusIMM

Editor, Mining Engineers Journal

E-mail: editor.mej.meai@gmail.com

Received: 27 March 2024 / Accepted: 4 April 2024

© 2024 Geological Society of India, Bengaluru, India



Born on 01-06-1943 in Maddalacheruvu Village, Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Thati V. Chowdary secured a Degree in Mining Engineering from the Osmania University in the year 1964. While in service, he completed his MBA degree from the same University in the year 1984 and a Bachelor of Law degree in October 2001.

Sri T.V.Chowdary commenced his professional career with the Bengal Coal Company of Andrew Yule in 1969. After 4 years he joined the Department of Mines and Geology, Govt of Andhra Pradesh, as Assistant Director of Mines and rose to the position of Director of the Department at a very young age, which he held for several years. Post the announcement of the first National Mineral Policy (NMP-1993), Sri Chowdary streamlined the processing of applications for granting Mineral Concessions that paved the way for the phenomenal growth of the commercial mineral exploration and mining sector in Andhra Pradesh and maximized mineral revenue collection to the State.

Sri.T.V.Chowdary had a lengthy and prolific relationship with the Mining Engineers' Association of India (MEAI) and with those involved in Mineral Resource Development. He held the Chairmanship of the Hyderabad Chapter of the MEAI during 1992-1994. He was the elected President of MEAI from 1997 to 2001. The MEAI's National Headquarters (NHQ) was established in Hyderabad, during his Presidentship of MEAI. Sri.Chowdary was also responsible for making the publication of the Mining Engineers' Journal (MEJ), as the official publication of the Association from 1997 onwards. Till 1997, the Journal was published from Bhubaneswar as IM&EJ by a private party. Sri.Chowdary also acquired a flat on the 6th floor of Raghavaratna Towers, Abids, Hyderabad, for establishing the NHQ and subsequently acquired an adjacent flat from the earnings saved by holding an International seminar on Heavy Mineral Beach Sands at Visakhapatnam. Under his Chairmanship of the *NHQ Building Renovation Committee*, both the flats were integrated into a single state-of-the-art office attached to a 100-seater auditorium. Sri.Chowdary was also the Chairman of the MEAI Bye-laws Amendment Committee, twice, in 2010 & 2017. Sri Chowdary attended an SME Annual meeting in the USA where he and Sri K.K. Biran established an Association-level affiliation of MEAI with the SME. He was also a member of IE(I).

Sri.T.V.Chowdary formulated a New Granite Mining Policy in AP State which transformed the Granite industry from exporting raw

blocks to creating value addition by the establishment of cutting and polishing units in the State. This policy was later adopted by the Govt. of India for the entire country by bringing in Granite Conservation and Development Rules-1999. He founded the *Development of Mineral Resources and Technology Upgradation Fund* (DMRTUF), a first of its kind in the Country to take up research and development and technology upgradation in the mineral industry. Concurrently with his Directorship of the DMG, Sri.Chowdary headed the PSUs- APMDC and NEDCAP. Mr.Chowdary retired from government service in 2001. He subsequently became a member of the Bar Council in the year 2002.

Post-retirement, Sri.Chowdary acted as Director of Trimex Group of Companies and was instrumental in setting up a world-class integrated heavy mineral beach sands mining and minerals separation project at Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. The project was the first of its kind to process 5 minerals under one umbrella. Sri T.V.Chowdary also served as an Independent Director on the Board of M/S Pokarna Ltd and M/S Divyasakti Granites Ltd.

Sri.T.V.Chowdary was awarded "Rashtriya Gaurav Award in 1993" by the All India Achievers Conference, New Delhi, for his contribution to the Development of Non-conventional Sources of Energy in Andhra Pradesh. He was the recipient of "Sitaram Rungta Award" in the year 1992 and the "MEAI Lifetime Achievement Award" for his contribution to the field of Mineral Administration & Innovation in Mining in the year 2014. Sri.T.V.Chowdary was a Life Fellow of the Geological Society of India. He used to take every opportunity of meeting Dr.B.P.Radhakrishna, the doyen of the Geology of India, whenever he happened to visit Bangalore from Hyderabad.

SriT.V.Chowdary was a visionary, a mentor, and a friend to many. His dedication and passion for the cause of the Association of Mining Engineers are evident in every decision he made and every action he took. Beyond his professional achievements Sri Chowdary will be remembered for his kindness, compassion, empathy, and unwavering commitment to serving his fraternity.

SriT.V.Chowdary breathed his last in the morning hours of 7th March 2024 at his residence in Hyderabad. He is survived by his wife Smt.Thati Indira, sons Vamsi Mohan and Sridhar, daughters-in-law Gayatri and Jyothsna, and grandchildren Suma, Nakul and Nidhi. Let us join to offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, and pray for the departed soul to rest in peace.