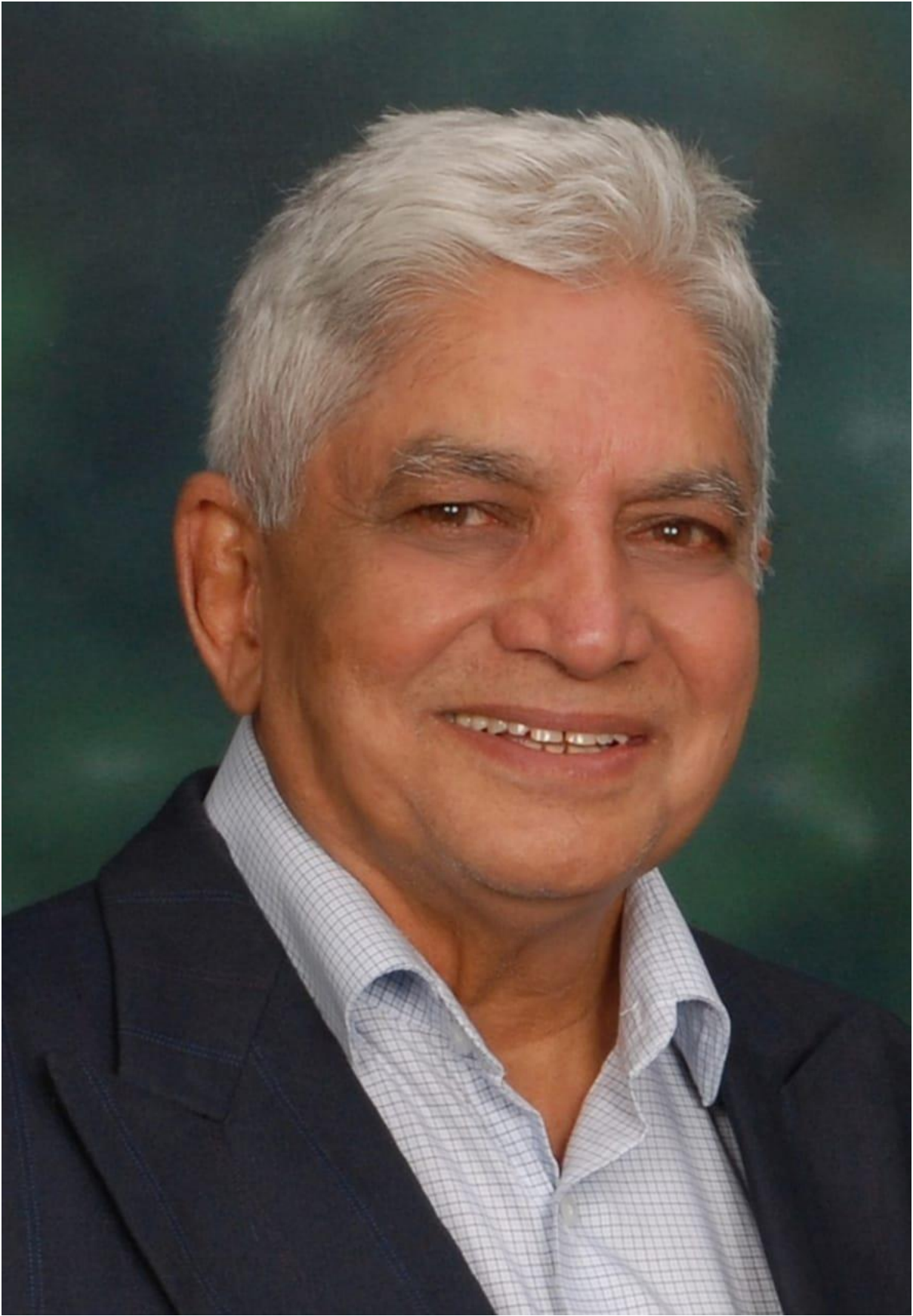


In loving memory of GS Kumar



GS Kumar- Former Director of Survey of India (1938-2021)

Sri GS Kumar, former Director, Survey of India, known for his pioneering contribution to the GeoSpatial Industry, passed away yesterday. He was 83. An alumnus of the Civil Engineering Department of the Osmania University of 1962, GS Kumar went onto join the Survey of India (1963) after a short stint in the State Irrigation department. In Survey of India, he acquired experience in various aspects of Surveying and Mapping which included – Irrigation Project surveys, Town Surveys, Control Surveys, Photogrammetry, Research and Training.

In Survey of India, he began his career as Super-in-tending surveyor and took voluntary retirement as Director in 1992. Since then he was associated with the private sector as consultant and founding Chairman of MapWorld Technologies Ltd & GeoMap Systems Pvt Ltd. He pioneered GIS and Photogrammetry applications while organizing over 100 GIS/Photogrammetry Training Programmes. Widely travelled, guest faculty in Geomatics at several Institutions.

He was the first Indian to pursue a programme on “Aerial Photography” from ITC, Netherlands. He authored a book on “Aerial Photography” as also another book on “Fundamentals of GIS ” besides publishing books on GPS. He completed M.Phil in Development Studies with dissertation related to GIS (1991).

Popularly known as GIS Kumar he is credited with starting Asia’s first journal on GIS (Geographic Information System), “GIS India” in 1992, now an online journal “Maps Today”. As managing editor of the journal he strived to bring about awareness on GIS and mapping. He organised several national and international conferences on GIS, Mapping and Surveying. He is credited with introducing the system of Licensed Surveyors for cadastral surveys in the country. He also introduced the popular “GeoMap Quiz” Programme for school children. He was actively associated with the Institution of Engineers, Institution of Surveyors, Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA), and Engineering Staff College of India.

He was also the Correspondent of the Nishulk Prabhat Hindi / Telugu School at Khairatabad. The school and other children are supported by “Swati Foundation” for many years. He was a close confidante of Sri Vemuri Balram, Editor, Swati. He was associated with Swati magazine in its formative years. His wife Smt Janabai, had expired in Jan 2020. He is survived by his eldest son, Major G Shiva Kiran and younger son G Chandra Kiran.

He was a contemporary of Sri R Vidyasagar Rao, well known Irrigation Expert, Telangana. Dr DP Rao, Former Director, National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Maj Gen (Dr)Siva Kumar , Dr Subba Rao, Former Surveyor General of India, Dr Raghavaswamy and Dr Prasanna Kumar, Chairman, Mahatma Gandhi National Council for Rural Education (MGNCRE) termed his demise as “a loss to the Indian Geo Spatial Industry”.

A note from Shiva Kiran

GS Kumar, my father left us on the 27th of May suddenly. The end was quiet and peaceful. That's what a lot of my family and friends say. It was kind of a smooth transition. So much so that I expect him to just reach out anytime. His effervescent presence was such that he'd become me and us.

To the best part of my memory, Nanna (as me and my brother Chandra Kiran) called him; he was always involved / associated with us. "Detached Attachment" one of his many favs was what he practiced and believed in. Memories of our time at Bhubaneswar, where we would regularly read from "Adventures of Shivaji"- through guerrilla warfare, the clever Shivaji took on the treacherous Aurangzeb. It was a daily experience of action, drama and leadership much better than what is dished out today in the name of web series. The transfer to Madhupur, a small town in Bihar (Now in Jharkhand) where the Office, staff and the families stayed in one huge building called Sadhu Sanga on Pather chapti. His regular involvement with our studies at Carmel School. This was a punishment posting for him as he dared to take on the Military in Survey of India. A court case and the establishment was after him. But he took in on the chin and exactly like Shivaji, made an impact on the system and forced the government to change the british legacy. So may calls / msgs from his colleagues and staff in Survey of India, the Class IV staff saw GOD in him, the staff a leader whom they could look upto, a mapping professional who felt that Mapping was the key to the country's development. All along the urge to question remained. This spirit brought him and our family to the grace of Swatantra Senani Pandit Ramnandan Misra ji (affectionately called Babuji) who was associated with Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinobha Bhave. Nanna's many visits to Babuji at Dharbhanga brought in a metamorphosis in his attitude towards life and living. Our family's association continued with Sri Vijay Misra ji (Babujis son). Whether Survey of India changed or not, Nanna did and with it a profound impact on all of us.

From Madhupur to Patna, to Nagpur, to Jabalpur and finally back again to Hyderabad in 1988-89. My brother Chandra Kiran remained with my parents whereas I had moved back to Hyderabad to be with my grandparents. Wherever he went ppl wanted him to settle down at that place. I often felt that both of them(him and my brother) were on the same intellectual plane and I had a lot of catching up to do.

He loved academics, topper from school days. He wrote the first book on “Aerial Photography” after a UN fellowship at the ITC, NetherLands. MPhil from CESS, BE - Osmania University.

After a short stint in the army, when I had to decide whether to come back to Hyderabad or continue, clear inputs from him made me decide to return, from 1995 to 2021 it's been quite a journey, mapping, environment management, GeoMap Quiz, MapWorld, GeoMap, Jana Mitra, GeoMap Society, Sukuki Exnora, Sukuki Apartments, Real estate, we thoroughly enjoyed the journey. GIS India, Asia's first journal on GIS- Geographic Information System. His friends would say he was GIS Kumar !!!

He would regale us with so many instances from the past that were just inspiring. His sports, ball badminton (Kumar Fives- Nanna, his brothers – Sasi, Vijay, Ramesh and my Grand father- G Sudershanum were a team), drama & theatre activities, writing and Publishing- Swati-the popular Telugu Monthly began in our garage- (Sri Vemuri Balaram acknowledges my father's contribution). Teacher, Professional, Yoga practioner, Homeopath, spirituality...he wore many hats with aplomb.

All our friends were his and his ours. There was no demarcation, all were family. In effect most of my friends would love to spend time with him. He could speak on anything under the sun. In most conversations he would advocate practising a healthy life-Yoga, and a positive attitude. Acceptance was his biggest strength.

To our entire family he was the eternal “Kumar Uncle”- esp on my mother's side. On his own side he was respected and loved liked no one was. My uncles and aunts respected him and my cousins just loved and adored him.

In recent times his routine was- getting up early, preparing tea for the sanitation workers around our place by 6 in the morning, watching a bit of news and Brahma Kumari Sister Shivani from 630 to 7 am. Reading the newspapers from 7 to 8. Those were the best hours of my day too. He would keep a watch on the grand daughters- Sunandani, Malvika & Sunethra (SMS) and they could together set a house on fire. Malvika's 7 pm meditation calls was something he would eagerly look fwd to. Sunandani and Sunethra were truly blessed to have his physical presence to guide.

Institutions...

Survey of India, NRSC, Institution of Engineers, Institution of Surveyors, Engineering Staff College of India, WALAMTARI, Irrigation and Power Depts, Nishulk Prabhat, Osmania Graduates Association, GIS India, Maps Today, GeoMap Systems, Sukuki Exnora, Map World, GeoMap Society, JanaMitra, CARG

I acknowledge the presence of so many wonderful ppl in his life

Swatantra Senani Pandit Ram Nandan Misraji, Vijay Bhai and family

GIS / Mapping /Survey of India- NRSC

Dr DP Rao, Dr T Hanuman Chowdary, Prof Afzal Mohd, GS Oberoi, Prof Haragopal, VS Rao, KS Bhatnagar, Gopal Krishna, IVM Murali Krishna, Brig Ahuja, Dr Murali Mohan, Dr Swarna Subba Rao, DR Raghavaswamy, P Satyanarayana, Sessa Rao, Ramana Kumar, Dr Ravi Gupta, Alla Rajesh, INrimt Subba Rao, NK Agarwal, HC Misra, Brig Dhal, MS Swamy, Dr Nagaraja, Dr Gangadhar, Dr Rameshwar Rao....Michael, B Khan, Rabindra Prasad, KP Misra, Srivastava

Family and friends

Pandurangam, Ishwar, Venkatesham, GH Naik, Murugkar Family, CD Sha, Chadda family, Rakesh Bhatnagar, KH Prasad, Dr Gita, Gayatri DP Rao, Namdev, Vardhanamma and family, Mohini, Padma, Surya, Gita & Hari, Mona Elizabeth, Taher & Asghar, Lateef, Neelkantam, Dr WG Prasanna Kumar, BT Srinivasan, Dr A Satyanarayana, Sudershan & Shankariah Family (Khairatabad Ganesh) Nishulk-Shravan Agarwal, Ashok Naredi, Gayatri, Rakesh, Jaywant, Dr Rajshekar Reddy (Homeo doctor), Ramchandar, Sarojini, Rajendran (Advocate), Vamshi, Rama Krishna, Pradeep, Vinitha, Chitra, Nidhi, B Srinivas, Katti Raju, Amresh Mathur, Masthan, Venugopal, Sunil, Ravi Mathur, Murali Badam, Vanaja & Girija

Venkat Lakshmi, Pushpa, Meher, Shivani & Rama Krishna, Susheel & Indira, Shailendra, Vinay, Sabita, Priti-Kishore, Shilpa- Vijaya, Padma- Naveen & Praveen, Mahesh, Vinay, Vishal, Uday, Bharat, Kalyani- Sai, Surekha- Satyam, Uma-Suresh, Seenu-Renu, Krishna Kumari- Suryanarayana, Aruna- Harnath, Jaya-Mohan, Ramesh- Amita, Vijay Kumar-Tara, Adinarayana, Prem Kishore

Chegoors, Gunturs.....

I am surely missing many of them, truly grateful for being part of GS Kumar.

My life time objective was to impress my father, be on his right side. Most of my family and our friends saw us as friends rather than father-son. We would fight, argue, collaborate, share, meditate laugh and were a team. He was blessed with a wonderful sense of humour- amongst the best was "To make God Laugh, tell him your Plans". Whether God Laughed or not, we sure did and he left with a smile on his face.

It was a life well lived, respected and loved and it was my privilege and honour to have him around for the best part of my journey . From the "known" to the "unknown" he would quip- in the context of surveying and mapping. Yes, from the supposedly known life he has transcended to the unknown. I am sure he used the correct map and GPS to get where he wanted to be.



GeoSpatial Community remembers GiS Kumar

In an online remembrance session, GIS professionals shared their experiences with GS Kumar. He was a former director of Survey of India and pioneered GIS activity in the country.

Held as prelude to the longest day of the year-21st June, a geographically significant day more than 50 Geomatics professionals from Survey of India, NRSC spoke about GS Kumar's contribution to the field of surveying and mapping. The online meet was moderated by Major General (Retd) Siva Kumar, former head NSDI (National Spatial Data Infrastructure). He mentioned about how GS Kumar since 1981 took up promotion of spatial technologies in an inspiring way with passion, patience and perseverance. **Popularly known as G/S Kumar** he credited him with starting Asia's first journal on GIS (Geographic Information System), "GIS India" in 1992, now an online journal "Maps Today". As managing editor of the journal he strived to bring about awareness on GIS and mapping. He organised several national and international conferences on GIS, Mapping and Surveying. He is credited with introducing the system of Licensed Surveyors for cadastral surveys in the country. He also introduced the popular "GeoMap Quiz" Programme for school children. He was actively associated with the Institution of Engineers, Institution of Surveyors, Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA), and Engineering Staff College of India.

Dr DP Rao, former director of NRSC, spoke of his long association with GS Kumar and credited him with introducing photo gammatry as also unit rate system to promote geospatial entrepreneurship. He recalled the association at ITC Netherlands. He termed him "Ajata Shatru" in promoting technologies. The former Surveyor General of India, Dr Swarna Subba Rao, remembered GS Kumar's contribution to removing the restriction policy on maps. Dr Raghavaswamy, Dr Sasi Kumar, Dr Pappan formerly of NRSC reminisced about his contribution and affable nature. Dr Maurali Mohan spoke about how he encouraged younger professionals to speak up.

Maheep Thapar, Monika Patwa, Mohini Gowri, Planners mentioned him as a mentor and a professional who provided an experiential discourse in GIS / Mapping. Rajesh Alla of IIC Technologies, P Satyanarayana and others spoke on GS Kumar's ability to organise seminars and conferences on the subject.

Sri VS Rao, a mining professional spoke of his contribution to mining applications which were organised in association with Institution of Engineers and Engineering Staff College of India. Dr Sridhar, Head –Civil Engineering, Vasavi College of Engineering mentioned that GS Kumar was instrumental in starting the GeoSpatial elective in the college.

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