

Obituary

Prof Palle Rama Rao



(June 30, 1937 - October 3, 2026)

Prof. Palle Rama Rao, *FNAE* born on June 30, 1937 passed away on October 3, 2026. He was elected to INAE Fellowship during the year 1987 and affiliated to Engineering Section-VIII (Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering).

Prof Palle Rama Rao, Former President of INAE (2001-2002) was an eminent Metallurgist, scientist, and visionary academic administrator who had held the prestigious appointments of Secretary to the Government of India for the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ocean Development (1991–1995) and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). He also served as Director of the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) in Hyderabad (1982–1991); Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hyderabad during (1999 to 2002) and was the Chairperson of the Governing Council for the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru for four consecutive terms from 2004 to 2018. As Chairman of the Governing Council of the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials ARCI, Hyderabad he guided the institute's strategic direction, research focus, and collaborations with national and international industries. His legacy as an Institution builder who played a pioneering and foundational role in setting up several major national labs, manufacturing plants, and technology boards thereby bridging the gap between indigenous R&D and commercial applications is recognized and lauded at National level.

Prof Rama Rao's pioneering work in the areas of alloy development, X-ray diffraction, creep, fracture toughness, and structural specialty steels are impactful and pathbreaking. Besides being a recipient of a plethora of prestigious awards and honours, Prof Rama Rao was conferred with the INAE Lifetime Contribution Award in Engineering in 2012. Renowned for his foundational contributions to Physical and Mechanical Metallurgy, he was also awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2011 by the President of India and also elected as an International Fellow of The Royal Academy of Engineering, UK and International Member of the US National Academy of Engineering. Prof. Palle Rama Rao shall be remembered as a visionary leader, dedicated engineering luminary, scientist, Institution builder and a deeply humane educator whose personality blended a passion for excellence, kindness and humility. INAE Fellowship, staff and well-wishers join the Nation in mourning his profound loss.

May God Bless his soul to Rest in Peace