

**Prof. Sanatan Rath.**

**President, Neurological Society of India 1994.**

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I had been to Cuttack for delivering the third Prof. R. N. Chatterji Oration at the 12th Annual Conference of the Association of Neuroscientists of Eastern India ( 10 and 11 Oct 1998) when I could meet a large number of my old friends and Dr. P. N. Tandon. He came to deliver Prof. T. K. Ghosh oration. Despite a lot of effort I just could not get the biographical sketches of some of the past Presidents of NSI and Dr. Tandon also agreed that the task was not at all easy. Indeed I am sorry that I could not get the write up from people like prof. Sriramachary. There are many other neuroscientists in India who contributed significantly to the growth of the NSI Somewhere the line had to be marked and I know that this would certainly create some ill will. But Prof. Tandon agreed with me that even this much would be a taxing job.

It was bit surprising for me to know that Dr. Sanathan Rath did not get any of my previous letters. I gave him no choice other than to sit down and write up as much as possible on 10th Oct night. He obliged to my request and I collected some more information from the Souvenir published during the 12th Annual Conference of ANEI.

Dr. Sanathan Rath was born on 25th July 1934 and passed his MBBS (Utkal) in 1957, MS (Surgery) from Patna in 1962, MS Neurosurgery from CMC Vellore in 1965. He joined as an Assistant professor of Neurosurgery in SCB. Medical Colleges, Cuttack in May 1965. He continued to work in the same College as Associate Professor (Jan 1968- May 1970), Professor and Head (May 1970) till he became the Director of Medical Education in Orissa in 1991. Now he is working as the Director of Clinical services and senior consultant Neurosurgeon in a private hospital (Ideal Clinic, Cuttack).

When he joined in SCB Medical College, Cuttack he started his unit under the Dept of General Surgery. He became an instant success as patients from all places of Orissa and from near by states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and even West Bengal approached him. He was fortunate to get Dr. B. S. Das as his assistant in 1968. Dr. Das left as Associate Professor and Head of Neurosurgery at VSS Medical College, Burla, Sambalpur. (Dr. Das left this place also to become the Professor and Head of NIMHANS, Bangalore in 1981).

When Dr. Rath began his work in SCB Medical College he started a combined Neurology-Neurosurgery unit. In a wise manner he taught the physicians of his college the relevance of these subjects which led to greater awareness of neurological problems in Orissa medical circle. He could procure the necessary instruments not only for neurosurgery but also for neurology. It was a sheer surprise that he could get a CT Scan in 1981 earlier than in Calcutta. In Trivandrum we got a CT scan unit only in 1983 at Sree Chitra Thirunal Centre (though almost every process of buying a CT Scan in Trivandrum Medical College was over in 1982 itself. Thanks to our radiology colleagues in Trivandrum who effectively sabotaged our request at the final phase).

Prof. Rath has done quite significant work to elevate the standard of neurosciences in Orissa. He had further training with Prof. Gillingham at Edinburgh. He has done collaborative work with Prof. J. P. Das in Canada and with the Dept of Zoological Endocrinology of Utkal University. He was elected the President of NSI in 1994.

He is still very active as a neurosurgeon and an academician. He was the President of ANEI in 1995.