

Shri.K.R.Ramamani – a brief profile

Shri K.R.Ramamani was born on November 30, 1927 in Shimoga, Mysore to Shri K.S.Rajagopala Iyengar, a leading Civil Advocate. Shri.K.R.Ramamani completed his schooling at P.S.High School in Mylapore as a stellar student and joined the Madras Presidency College at the age of 16 for his undergraduate studies in B.SC. (HONS.) PHYSICS. Due to the unfortunate sudden demise of his father when Shri.K.R.Ramamani was only 18 years old, he was forced to discontinue physics and join law to support his family. He was **admitted to the Bar in 1950** and joined the leading firm founded by Shri.M.Subbaraya Aiyar as an Apprentice of Law.

Shri.K.R.Ramamani's razor-sharp intelligence and an ability to think on his feet, coupled with his unassuming manner and quiet ways, made him a rising celebrity in legal circles. In 1962, Subbaraya Aiyar promoted him to be as Partner in his firm thereafter called Subbaraya Aiyar, Padmanabhan & K.R.Ramamani Advocates (S.A.P.R Advocates).

The S.A.P.R firm grew under the able guidance of Shri.K.R.Ramamani and Shri.Padmanabhan to become one of the leading firms in direct & indirect taxation in the whole of India, especially South India. The firm has given rise to many Honourable Justices like Honorable Justice P.P.S.Janardhana Raja, Retd. Honorable Justice Sethuraman, Retd Honorable Justice M.M.Ismail, to name a few. The firm has also produced or been associated with many Standing Counsels and around half a dozen Senior Advocates over the last six decades. It can be said that many of the leading advocates in South India today, in the field of taxation, have been associated with the SAPR firm at some point of time or other in their career.

Shri.K.R.Ramamani's devotion to his profession was total. So much so, **he took time off his very busy schedule to teach law at the Madras Law College where he taught courses in taxation for nearly seven years.** His lectures were widely attended and were considered masterpieces of taxation. Till this date, members of the legal fraternity fondly recollect his lectures and the impact it had on them. Shri.K.R.Ramamani during this period also edited and published subsequent amendments to one of the foremost legal books on Income Tax titled "*The Law of Income tax in India by V.S.Sundaram*"

With his growing sphere of influence, Shri.K.R.Ramamani was called to head many professional associations, societies and committees. He was appointed for two terms as a member of the **Central Tax Advisory Committee**, constituted by the Government of India. He was truly a doyen of the Bar and has served as the **President of the Revenue Bar Association**. He served on the **Board of Directors of over 20 leading public companies** like *Essar Shipping, Essar Steel, Ashok Leyland Finance Ltd, India Cements, Premier Mills Ltd, Ramco Industries Ltd, TAFE Ltd, TVS Suzuki Ltd, Sakthi Finance Ltd, South India Shipping Corporation Ltd, S&S Power Switchgear Ltd, Sundaram Fasteners Ltd, Sanco Trans Ltd, India Securities, India Nippon Electricals Ltd, Amco Batteries, Evergo Capital Markets, Gee Gee Granites, , Economist Communications, ICL Sugars Ltd, Kunal Engineering Company Ltd, PLR Industries Ltd, Solidaire India Ltd, Estee Auto Pressings, Esteem Home Products, Gem Equities & Securities, Ram Kumar Mills etc.*

Shri.K.R.Ramamani was heralded by industrialists, lawyers, chartered accountants and others as one of the foremost authorities on Taxation in the whole of India. His advice was much sought after and his Budget meetings, seminars and discourses were always in great demand. However, Shri.K.R.Ramamani's unique hallmark was not just being the foremost expert of his field but his completely unassuming and simple nature which impressed one and all that came into contact with him. For many people, from all walks of life, Shri.K.R.Ramamani was not just their tax advisor but their ***guru*** in the literal sense.

In a recent function, on 1st December 2012, to mark its Golden Jubilee Celebrations the Revenue Bar Association of Chennai held a **K.R.Ramamani Memorial Lecture** in his honour; over 800 people attended, 40+ top industrialists, businessmen, academics, accountants, senior lawyers, Judges from all across India gave video tributes running to over 6 hrs unedited and over 300 people wrote glowing written tributes which was published in a two volume book-set titled **“K.R.Ramamani – Remembrance of a Tax Legend”**. Such was the admiration and veneration that people have for K.R.Ramamani even decades after his death

Some of the services which were closest to Shri.K.R.Ramamani's heart were working with charitable Trusts and institutions. He was the **Founding Trustee of the Child's Trust Hospital** and also served as a **Trustee for the Indian Bank Mutual Fund and a member of the Ethics Committee of Sankara Netharalaya.**

Shri.K.R.Ramamani realized a dream very close to his heart when in 1996 he started the **RMT Matriculation School (<http://www.rmtmatric.com>) in Madarpakkam**, located in the AP/Tamil Nadu border 65kms north of Madras. Shri.K.R.Ramamani's vision was to provide free English-medium education to the economically downtrodden, rural children who would otherwise be used for daily labour. The RMT School was thus born and functions as a **fully charitable English-medium school providing free quality education, books, uniforms and milk to over 450 students today.**

Shri.K.R.Ramamani was struck ill by a heart attack in late January 1998 and died due to complications arising from it on March 6th 1998.