Prof. R. Srinivasan passed M.Sc. in geology from Central College, Bangalore of Mysore University in 1963. He taught in Central College between 1963 and 1968 and Mysore University at Youvaraja's College and Department of Geology, Manasagangrtri between 1968-1973. He was a Geological consultant at Geomysore Services, Bangalore, between 1973 and 1986. From 1986 to 2003, Srinivasan was a Research Scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute. After superannuation from the National Geophysical Research Institute, he returned to Bangalore and was a consultant for gold exploration by the Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore and since past three years he has been researching at the Indian Institute of Science as Senior Scientist of the Indian National Science Academy. He is also concurrently serving as the Chief Editor of Current Science, a prestigious science journal published from India.

Srinivasan's principal research interest has been understanding Precambrian crustal evolution as evidenced from the Dharwar craton of India. Towards this end he has worked on sedimentation, stratigraphy, paleobiology, paleoclimate, geochemistry and geochronology of the Archean rocks of Karnataka. For his work on the "Stratigraphic and Geochemical characterization of the type sections of the Early Precambrian rock Formations of Karnatakaø, he was awarded the Ph.D. degree of Mysore University. He has carried out comparative studies on the Archean Geology of southern India with that in Karelia and Kola provinces of Russia and Lake Superior of USA. He has also had field trips in Murchison Province, Kambalda and Kalgoorlie greenstone terrains of Western Australia. He examined structural features in the granulites of southern India and compared them with those in Sri Lanka. Srinivasan also heat generation characteristics of the rock formations of the Dharwar craton and estimated the mantle heat flow in the Dharwar craton. He investigated the seismic faults at Killari and Koyna by helium emanometry and established the amount of displacement by core drilling His researches are published in more than 110 research papers in National and International journals and monographs.

As a geological consultant he has contributed to the development of ground water resources in parts of Karnataka under the Ganga Kalyana scheme of the Government of Karnataka in the initial years, using remote sensing and geophysical techniques. He estimated the manganese resources in the Supa dam reservoir area of North Kanara, He studied the clays of Bageshpura for setting up stone ware pipe plant using waste clays, He distinguished abrasive and metallurgical grade bauxites from the Baindur plateau along the west coast in North Kanara. In the area of Engineering Geology he advised the Public works department regarding the stability of roof along irrigation tunnel alignments and advised on constructional materials for the earthern dam in Kudremukh iron ore project area. In recent years, he prepared gold exploration reports.

In recognition of his contributions, Srinivasan has been elected as the Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, Delhi; Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and National Academy of Sciences of India , Allahabad. He is also Fellow of the Geological Society of India,"