

## OBITUARY



**Professor A. H. M. Ahmad  
(1961-2021)**

Professor A.H.M. Ahmad, affectionately known as 'Hasnat Sir' by his students, was born in Azamgarh (Uttar Pradesh) on January 22, 1961. He spent his early days in Azamgarh and then moved to Bhivandi (Maharashtra), where he completed his early education. He received his graduation, post-graduation, M.Phil., and Ph.D. from Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University in 1980, 1982, 1984 and 1989 respectively. In 1993, he was appointed as a Lecturer in the same department, then promoted to Associate Professor in 2001, Professor in 2014, and Chairperson in 2019, a position he held until his death.

Professor Ahmad authored 116 research articles and book chapters in prestigious national and international journals over his 37-year research career, supervised 14 doctorates and 02 M.Phil. theses, completed 7 projects, and attended several workshops and national/international conferences. He specialised in sedimentology and served as treasurer of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists, as well as a member of the IGCP-506 and the Palaeontological Society of India. Professor Ahmad, in addition to being a bright academician, was also a remarkable administrator who served as Warden of various halls of residence of Aligarh Muslim University and as Deputy Proctor of the University.

Prof. Ahmad is well known sedimentologist in the country as well as an outstanding teacher of sedimentary and petroleum geology. Precambrian and Mesozoic sedimentary facies and basin analyses, recent sedimentary environments, provenance, tectonic settings, and diagenetic evolution were among his research interests. He employed microfacies analysis, geochemical approach, and isotopic examination of sedimentary rock to better understand the geodynamics of the Kachchh and Jaisalmer basins. His series of studies on Jurassic rocks from Kachchh and Jaisalmer anticipated their evolution, depositional environments, paragenetic sequence, and porosity evolution in relation to reservoir quality. However, he was also captivated by Precambrian geology, particularly the North Delhi Fold Belt and the

Vindhyan Supergroup of rocks, which have a lot to say about Proterozoic cratonic evolution.

Regardless of the fact that he had been suffering from acute renal failure for about 5 years and had to undergo excruciating dialysis three times a week, he continued to do his job, whether it was supervising scholars or teaching undergraduate and graduate students. Even after overcoming all of this difficulty in his last few years, he maintained a strong commitment to academic excellence; he is without a doubt the bravest man we have ever met. After a protracted battle with renal failure, he got a bacterial infection in his lungs, which led to his death after a one-and-a-half month vigil at Fortis Escort Hospital in Delhi on August 14, 2021 at around 10 a.m.

Although he was not physically present between us, he had made an indelible impact on our lives through the way he treated with us and, most significantly, the humble and kind manner in which he spoke to us. When you talked to him, he was a friend; when you asked him a question, he was a teacher; and when you sought his advice, he was a wise man. Prof. Ahmad was an excellent supervisor, a dependable researcher, and a gifted educator. To his associates, he was modest, humble, friendly, cherished, respected, responsible, and an influencer. This will be our greatest tribute to him: we will preserve his vision and goal in front of us, and we will pray to the Almighty for eternal peace and patience for his bereaved family. He left behind his wife, son, and daughter along with a legacy of students that he encouraged to carry the spark of sedimentology forward! The tragic death of *Hasnat Sahab* (as he was profoundly known) has left a huge vacuum in India's Sedimentological society in general and our department in particular.

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