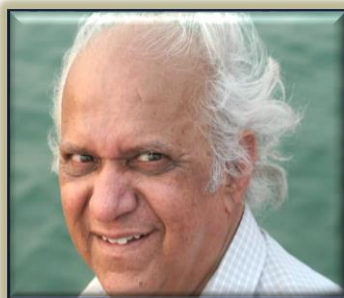


OBITUARY



**Professor I B Singh
(1943-2021)**

Professor Indra Bir Singh, a celebrated sedimentologist who inspired many generations of geology students of India, breathed his last on 11th February 2021. Professor Singh was born on 8th July 1943 in Lucknow. He received early education from the Lucknow Christian College and later joined the University of Lucknow in 1956 and completed B.Sc. (Hons.) in 1961 and M.Sc. in geology in 1962. He joined Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for a brief period. He registered for his Ph. D. at the Technical University, Stuttgart, Germany on "Sedimentology of the Keuper Lias boundary layers, Württemberg" and received Doctor rerum naturalium (Latin for 'doctor of natural sciences'). He joined as Research Associate at Senckenberg Institute, Wilhelmshaven, Germany and subsequently worked as Post-doctoral fellow at the Oslo University, Norway during 1967-68. He again joined Senckenberg Institute in 1969 and worked on modern shallow marine sediments till 1972 when he returned to India and joined the Department of Geology, University of Lucknow.

Prof. Singh was a versatile teacher and researcher who immensely contributed to the stratigraphy of the Lesser Himalaya, depositional history of Vindhya of Central India, Bagh-Lameta beds, Jurassic succession of western India, Siwaliks, Karewas of Kashmir and Deltas of East Coast. His main contribution is on the resolution of age controversy of the Krol - Tal sequence of the Lesser Himalaya which was earlier considered a Mesozoic succession. He presented his paper reporting Trilobite from the Krol - Tal sequence during the 4th convention of the Indian Association of sedimentologists at Aligarh Muslim University in February 1984. I am witness to the criticism he received during his presentation alleging false reporting of the fossil trilobite from the sequence. But his observations and arguments challenging the Mesozoic age to Krol-Tal sequence was later demonstrated by him and his students proving its Precambrian-Cambrian age. Professor Singh and his students also made a discovery by identifying the

contribution of interfluvial (doab) processes in fluvial domain of the Ganga Plain. He has also made discovered food grain domestication in India suggesting agricultural evolution and domestication of rice cropping in India during Holocene.

His famous book "Depositional Sedimentary Environments" co-authored with Prof. H. E. Reineck, was published in 1973 which has been also translated in Russian and Chinese languages and is still being used as a reference book. He was keen to revise the book but unfortunately that couldn't materialize because of his pressing academic and research engagements; he once told me. He has also published another important book "Delta Sedimentation: East Coast of India" co-authored with A.S.R. Swamy" in 2006.

Prof. Singh has supervised 16 doctoral students and published about 200 research articles which have been widely quoted internally. Prof. Singh was elected Fellow of Indian National Science Academy in 1995. He is the recipient of the National Mineral Award, Government of India and National Award for excellence in Earth System Science in 2014 and L. Rama Rao Birth Centenary Award of the Geological Society of India (1996). In 2020, during the centennial foundation day of the University of Lucknow, he was recognised as an illustrious faculty member of the university. He was the Fellow of Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany during 1988 – 1989. He served as a visiting professor at European and American universities including Uppsala, Sweden; Erlangen-Nuremberg (1998-99), Halle/Saale, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge (1984-86).

In Professor Singh geological fraternity in general and sedimentology have lost an excellent teacher, impeccable mentor, a theoretician having practical approach in understanding the nature and natural processes. Professor Singh is survived by his wife, two sons, numerous students and friends.

G. M. Bhat
University of Jammu
bhatgm@jugaa.com