

Obituary



Dr. Ashok Kumar Srivastava
(29- 12 – 1959 – 19 – 02 – 2022)

It is with great sorrow that I have to announce that, Dr. Ashok Kumar Srivastava, has returned to his heavenly abode on 19th February, 2022. He was being treated by a team of doctors at Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai for brain hemorrhage, for three months. He suffered a fall on stairs at his home on 2nd October 2021, and was admitted to a local hospital in Amravati for about a month, after which he was moved to Mumbai for further treatment. Despite our best efforts to make him stay, the decision of the almighty to call him back to his celestial world stood supreme. He left us in peace, surrounded by family.

Dr. Srivastava was the fifth child to Late Sri Sriram Srivastava and Late Smt. Tapeshwari Devi, born on 29th December, 1959 in Gorakhpur, UP. Born in a reputed family and *Kayastha* community, he was encouraged in academics from his early childhood. His father was the bank manager in the District Co-operative Bank, Gorakhpur, UP, and his mother took care of the family. He was married to Late. Smt. Dr. Ranjana Srivastava, and is survived by two sons, Utkarsh and Shadwal.

In his school days, he was always inquisitive and curious about science. He did his schooling from Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Inter-College and his graduation from Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Degree-College, Gorakhpur, UP. He

completed his B. Sc. (Zoology, Botany and Chemistry) and later earned an M. Sc. in Geology in 1982, from Gorakhpur University, Uttar Pradesh.

After completing M. Sc. in geology, he pursued doctorate in Geology at Lucknow University. He was awarded with a Ph. D. for his work on “Sedimentological studies of the Triassic succession of Malla Johar area, Tethys Himalaya, Uttar Pradesh with special reference to diagenesis”, under the supervision of Prof. Surendra Kumar (Department of Geology, Lucknow University) in 1989.

He was appointed as Lecturer in the Department of Geology, Sant Gadge Baba Amravati, Maharashtra in December 1991, where he served as a founding member. He pursued his career at Amravati University, and attained the rank of Professor in 2008.

Under his guidance, Dr. Srivastava supervised 9 doctorates and about 100 M. Sc. students, and completed 8 research projects funded by agencies like DST, UGC and CSIR. His research interests were mainly in sedimentology, palaeobiology, hydrogeology, Antarctica glacial sediments and tephra, in which he produced more than 100 articles in reputed international journals.

Along with his scholastic credentials, Dr. Srivastava had received a number of National and International honors, including recommendation for Commonwealth Academic Fellowship in 2004 by the UGC. He participated in the 21st Indian Antarctic Expedition as a member of Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica, by Department of Ocean Development, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, in 2002. After having an exceptional career with Amravati University, he retired from service in May 2020. However, he was involved in research on the paleoclimate and paleovegetation in the Purna alluvial basin, Central India during the Quaternary period.

Apart from his interests in academics, Dr. Srivastava admired the Indian Classical Music (Shastriya Sangeet). He had a large collection of ghazals from famous Indian and Pakistani ghazal artists. His hobbies included travelling, cooking, and gardening. He had been to a number of places across India for academic as well as recreational purpose. He was fond of Indian cuisine and liked to cook in his leisure time.

Dr. Srivastava believed in the value of karma. He always took life as a Journey, where at times one needs to keep moving ahead without getting distracted by the paths left behind and worrying about the results. He always used to teach, **“One who strives for excellence shall**

always receive what he desires; no matter how many times one might fail, sooner or later, he will eventually succeed”.

While the pain of his demise is immeasurable, he taught us through his actions and words that the journey of one's soul does not stop at death. I hope that his soul will find a place in Vaikuntha, and be freed from the endless cycle of life and death on this material world.

He lived a dignified life, full of well-deserved achievements earned through hard work and commitment. I consider myself fortunate to be guided by a man of his grace and dignity. I am sure that he will continue to provide us his guidance and blessings from the heaven above.

Om Shanti.

Ajab Singh

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