

## Obituary



**Sarbani Patranabis-Deb**  
(13<sup>th</sup> November, 1966–31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022)

Sarbani Patranabis-Deb was an impressive multi-disciplinary earth scientist grounded on conventional scientific method of examining the rocks in the field. She was born in West Bengal, India on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1966 and passed away in Kolkata, on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2022. Sarbani was an accomplished sedimentologist, stratigrapher, sandstone petrologist, volcanic geologist, geochronologist, tectonics specialist, basin analyst, and a global geologist. She had a remarkable career in academia by joining the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1997. She was promoted to full Professor in 2020. I had the privilege of getting to know Sarbani both professionally and personally during the past 20 years since her obtaining Ph.D. from Jadavpur University in 2001. It was serendipity that the Directors of ISI requested my professional evaluation of her academic performance in 2008, 2013, and 2019 towards her career advancements at ISI. Although my research interest focuses primarily on deep-water processes (Shanmugam, 2021), Sarbani and I had many common interests of research domains, which included deltaic sedimentation, shelf sedimentation, tidal sedimentation, sequence stratigraphy, sediment deformation, tectonics, and

diagenesis. We both published articles on fan deltas (McPherson et al., 1987; Patranabis-Deb and Chaudhuri, 2007).

She has research interests in sedimentology, stratigraphy, and stratigraphic basin analysis focusing on the Proterozoic cratonic basins (Purana Basins) of peninsular India and the greenstone belts underlying them.

She also worked on ancient microbial mats and their lifestyles in Precambrian sea.

She was elected fellow of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST) 2021, received National Geoscience Award-2010, for Basic Geosciences, Ministry of Mines, Government of India (2012), Slater Fellow, Durham University, UK, 2009, BOYSCAST Fellow (DST), Post-Doctoral work on Dynamics of Indian Lithosphere at Indiana University Bloomington, USA, 2005

In 2020, the 36th International Geological Congress (36 IGC) planned for New Delhi in India was cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. This included field trips. In order to minimize disappointments from international geologists who

travelled to India to examine the Indian rocks, Sarbani organized field trips to interested geologists.

Following the Indian tradition and culture, Sarbani had always placed her family first above all else. She is survived by her husband and two sons. Her husband, Gautam Kumar Deb, is a Professor (Structural Geology) at Presidency University in Kolkata. She was always very proud of her two sons and their academic achievements.

Despite her recurrent illness during the past few years, she continued to do research and publish frequently (e.g., Patranabis-Deb, 2022; Patranabis-Deb and Saha, 2020; Patranabis-Deb et al., 2018, 2020; Kale et al., 2020; Bachhar et al., 2021; Deb et al., 2021; Banerjee et al., 2022; Slowakiewicz et al., 2022, Wabo et al., 2022, among others). She was a tenacious fighter till the end. The global geologic community will miss her.

The most recent email that I received from Sarbani was on October 22, 2022, just nine days before her passing, in which she wished me “Happy diwali dada”. Dada means big brother. In the end, I have lost not only a dear sister but also a superb sedimentologist.

In the ancient Hindu culture, the name “Sarbani” represents the Mother Goddess Durga—the ultimate symbol of strength and protection. The name also means the Number # 1 (topper), reflecting leadership. I think of **SARBANI** as someone who was an amalgamation of multiple impressive traits: **Stalwart** (Strong), **Articulate**, **Resourceful**, **Brilliant** (Beautiful Bengali), **Ardent**, **Number #1** and **Intellectual** (Indian)!

**Please join me in celebrating Sarbani’s contributions during her brief stay of 56 years on this Planet Earth.** A longer version of this tribute will be published in the JIAS Magazine (First issue 2022)

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