

**Shanker Mohan Mathur
(1918-2011)**

Shanker Mohan Mathur, passed away at the age of 93, on 12th September 2011. S.M. Mathur, affectionately known as Bare Bhai, was born on June 22, 1918. He obtained his Master's degree from the Banaras Hindu University in 1941 and joined the Geological Survey of India (GSI) from where he retired in 1977. On deputation he served as Superintending Geologist in Cement Corporation of India and also as Director in Mineral exploration of India. He was a visiting senior scientist at the University of Reading (UK) during 1957-58, where he worked in collaboration with Prof. J.R.L. Allen.

After retiring from the GSI he served as CSIR Emeritus Scientist at the University of Saugar from 1978 to 1984 and as consultant to DeBeers-India between 1989 and 1998. He was President of Section of Geology & Geography, Indian Science Congress, 1981 and delivered address on "The Diamond Deposits of India". He was elected President of Indian Association of Sedimentologists (1990-92). He remained as Editor of the Journal of the Indian Association of Sedimentologists for about 10 years.

During his service in the GSI, CCI and MECL he (i) mapped extensively in the Vindhayan terrain, where he came across a sedimentary structure which appeared to be a new one, which he named 'Box-in-Box'. This was confirmed by the American Geological Institute (AGI), and was duly published in *Glossary of Geology* (4th edition) as a new structure; (ii) explored and proved deposits of the Panna diamond field that lead to nationalization of diamond deposits, particularly nationalization of the Majhgawan mine, and putting diamond exploration and exploration under Schedule of MM Act; (iii) examined a large number

of limestone deposits all over the country, evaluated their potential and supervised the prospecting of several limestone deposits, resulting in establishing of several cement factories; (iv) explored and proved the copper deposits of Malanjkhand and (v) explored and proved emerald deposits of Rajasthan that led to development of the Kalaguman mine. His contributions on diamonds in India have been quoted in several books on diamonds and gemstones published abroad. He presented a paper in the Second International Sedimentological Congress held in Switzerland in which he pointed out the impropriety of the term 'orthoquartzite'. This was recognised by sedimentologists the world over, and even F.J. Pettijohn in his book *Sands and Sandstones* first and later in the 3rd edition of his authoritative book *Sedimentary Rocks* acknowledged his contribution and abandoned the term 'orthoquartzite'.

S.M. Mathur was prolific writer and had authored over 120 research and scientific papers in national and international journals, chapters in multi-authored two books and a monograph on "Diamond Deposit of Majhgawan". Photography, philately and general reading were his main hobbies. Despite severe physical handicaps he kept his interest in geology alive and retained his contact with all friends till last.

S.M. Mathur was a legend and in his death the Indian Geology has suffered an irreparable loss. We offer our condolences to his bereaved family and pray for the peace of the departed soul.

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