

OBITUARY



Brij Bhushan Saran Singhal
(1931-2011)

Dr. Brij Bhushan Saran Singhal, the well known teacher of Hydrogeology passed away at Roorkee on 27 June, 2011. He was born on 4 July, 1931 at Rampur in Uttar Pradesh. After receiving basic education at his home town, he completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Geology) in 1950 and 1952 respectively from Banaras Hindu University. He received the prestigious LaTouche Gold medal of Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India for obtaining 1st rank in post-graduation. Thereafter, he proceeded to the University of Belgrade (in the erstwhile Yugoslavia) for pursuing his doctorate in hydrogeology which he completed in 1956.

On his return from Yugoslavia, Dr. Singhal worked as a Lecturer initially at Banaras Hindu University for a few months but later moved to join IIT Kharagpur as a Lecturer in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. In 1963, he joined the University of Roorkee, Roorkee where he served for almost 30 years initially as a Reader and then as Professor in Hydrogeology. Soon after his retirement from the University of Roorkee in 1992 he was selected as an Emeritus Scientist by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Singhal had the distinction of serving as Head of the Department of Earth Sciences at University of Roorkee for two full terms.

Dr. Singhal had been a reputed teacher of Hydrogeology and his former students are currently occupying senior positions in various groundwater organizations of the country and abroad. Dr. Singhal laid the foundations of Hydrogeology in India as was evidenced by his significant contributions in various research journals, seminars and conferences. Besides, he was invited by several universities in the country to help design courses in hydrogeology. In recognition of his dedication, the University Grants Commission appointed him as a National Lecturer in Geology in 1978-79. He supervised ten doctoral students in several interdisciplinary areas of the Hydrogeology.

Some of the notable scientific contributions made by

Dr. Singhal in the field of Hydrogeology include Hydrogeology of Deccan Trap Basalts, Groundwater Quality in Coastal aquifers and Estimation of hydraulic and well parameters of fractured aquifers. During mid-eighties, he was also a principal investigator of several research and consultancy projects, the notable ones being a consultancy project on 'Working of wells and borewells in Karnataka' funded by NABARD, and a research project on 'Hydrological Aspects of Waste Disposal in Upper Hindon Basin', funded by MoEF, Govt. of India. Dr. Singhal was a life member of several national and international scientific bodies viz. Geological Society of India, Indian Association of Hydrologists, International Association of Hydrogeologists and Indian Institute of Public Administration. He also worked as one of the Vice Presidents of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID) and Indian Geological Congress (IGC).

Dr. Singhal travelled widely both in India and abroad on invitation to deliver special lectures, keynote addresses and to present scientific papers. He was also a member of several important committees set up by the Govt. of India (including Union Public Service Commission) and other agencies. He also worked as an expert consultant of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Royal Netherlands Embassy among others.

After retirement, Dr. Singhal wrote a book entitled 'Applied Hydrogeology of Fractured Rocks' (along with his co-author Dr. R.P. Gupta) which was published by Kluwer Publishers, The Netherlands in 1999. Subsequently, he also revised this book and its second edition was published and was released by M/S Springer Verlag just before his demise in June, 2011.

All the Hydrogeology fraternity of India (and abroad) who knew Dr. Singhal would miss him for long time to come.

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