

·OBITUARY



S. N. Sengupta
(1920-1999)

Sudhindra Narayan Sengupta was born on October 1, 1920 in Barisal, now in Bangladesh. S.N. Sengupta breathed his last in a Calcutta Nursing Home on 7th December '99 at 15:50 hrs due to cardio-respiratory failure.

S.N. Sengupta obtained his Master's degree in Pure Physics from Science College, Calcutta. In May 1947, he joined the Geological Survey of India as a Geophysical Assistant. Sengupta was trained in geophysical surveys and exploration in the U.S. Geological Survey. Principal contributions of Sengupta in geophysical exploration during his tenure in the G.S.I. include: (a) Computatiuon of three layer resistivity departure curves, (b) deliniation of alluvium-covered contact of coal-bearing Gondwana formations with the granite basement in Bankura, (c) exploration of groundwater in Deccan Trap and Kachchh, (d) determination of depths to foundation rocks at a number of sites for railway bridges, Koyna dam site in Maharashtra and at a dam site in Tapti valley in southern Gujarat, (e) exploration for the sulphide deposits at Mamandur, and (f) exploration for copper in the Khetri area of Rajasthan.

Sengupta joined ONGC in 1956 where he planned, organised and carried out seismic surveys in the logistically difficult Assam area. As a Superintending Geophysicist from 1960-64, he supervised geophysical exploration in diverse areas like the Himalayan foothills, the Brahmaputra valley, Cauvery basin and Gujarat. As the Director of Geophysics between 1964 and 1970, he coordinated with the Russian teams in seismic surveys in the Bombay Offshore areas. As Chief of Geophysical Services and later on as General Manager (Overseas Operations), he finalized and supervised exploration programme for oil in Iraq and Tanzania. He carried out many other exploration assignments and advised ONGC on many exploration problems. He retired from ONGC on 31st January 1979. With an alert and analytically fertile intellect, he worked as General Manager for hydrocarbon exploration in South Yemen after his superannuation.

He served as a Visiting Professor in Exploration Geophysics at several national universities.

He was a Member of many learned societies like the Society of Exploration Geophysicists, Tulsa, USA, Association of Exploration Geophysicists, Osmania University; Geological Society of India, Bangalore; New York Science Society, Society of Petroleum Geophysicists, and the Geological Mining & Metallurgical Society of India, Calcutta. He was awarded Gold Medal in 1998 for his outstanding contribution to Petroleum Geophysics by GEOPIC, Dehra Dun.

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