

OBITUARY



Bhawani Shankar Paliwal
(1946-2011)

I wish no one has the misfortune of reporting demise of his student as I am doing now. Bhawani Shankar Paliwal was my student who passed away on 5th January 2011 after some illness. Moving down the memory lane, I remember the days when we used to move about along the winding paths of the Aravalli mountains on bicycles looking at geological features to understand the stratigraphic relationship of the rocks of the region. That was the time when Paliwal was working with me initially as MSc student and subsequently for his doctoral thesis. Though we had student–teacher relationship I feel proud to say that we worked together for our mutual understanding of the geological intricacies of these ancient rocks.

Paliwal started his professional career as a Lecturer at Bangur College, Didwana in July 1970. He shifted to Dungar College, Bikaner as the Head of the Post-graduate Department in 1994; joined as Professor of Geology at the Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur, in the same year. Before superannuating in 2006, he also discharged duties in several academic capacities in the University as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Chairman of the Faculty of Science, Member of the Academic Council, Member of Senate and Member of Syndicate.

More than anything else, Paliwal will be remembered for his extraordinary efforts to rise from being a college lecturer at a remote place, Didwana in the eastern fringe of the Thar Desert (Rajasthan), to the recognition he received as an active international research collaborator in the field

in Earth science. He had a very close association with UNESCO IGCP project-440 on “Assembly and fragmentation of Rodinia and Growth of Asia”. He was the Chairman of the South Asia in the IGCP project on ‘Application of Computers and Data Base to Sedimentology’ for five years. In 1986, he was invited to Chair a session on Proterozoic sediments at the 12th International Sedimentological Congress at Canberra (Australia). He also acted as Session Chairman of International Meeting on Somalia and surrounding regions (GEOSOM-87) at Mogadishu (Somalia) in 1987, GEOSAS-I at Islamabad (Pakistan) in 1992 and GEOSAS-II at Colombo (Sri Lanka) in 1995. He was the convener of the General Symposium on Hydrogeology, and chaired as many as eight sessions held at different places.

Besides having a large number of scientific publications in different Journals and Proceeding volumes, he was credited with editing three important publications: Indian Precambrian (1998), Geological Evolution of Northwestern India (1999), and Global Groundwater Resources and Management (2010). All these publications received glowing reviews in scientific journals.

Paliwal’s loss would be a great set back to all those who take recourse to the basics of geology in understanding the regional geological setting of an ancient crustal belt.

Kolkata

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