

OBITUARY



B. P. Singh
(1937-2011)

Prof. B.P. Singh, Former Director of Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) passed away on 19 February 2011 at his residence, at the age of 73 years. He was born on 18 August 1937 at Bandhwa, Gaya. He was a Life Fellow of the Geological Society of India.

Prof. Singh obtained his M.Sc. degree from Bihar University, Patna and Ph.D. from Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ontario, Canada in 1972. He was a lecturer at Ranchi University from 1958-65, a Scientist in Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad from 1972-73 before joining the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism as Reader in 7 June, 1973; he became Associate Professor in 1978, Professor in 1983 and was Director of the Institute from 29 November 1991 to 31 August 1997. Prof. B.P. Singh will be remembered for his valuable contribution to the Institute and science in general and earth sciences in particular.

Prof. B.P. Singh's contribution to electromagnetic imaging of the Earth, has been stupendous. He has been instrumental in starting 'Solid Earth Geomagnetism' as a distinct division at IIG. The Geomagnetic Depth Sounding studies initiated with Dr. F.E.M. Lilley of Australian National University in the seventies, finally led to generating the conduction map of India. The Magnetotelluric and LMT studies were initiated by him. Also the Ocean Bottom Magnetometer studies were started at IIG due to his initiatives. He was also instrumental in initiating GPS, paleomagnetic and environmental magnetic studies at IIG.

As Director of the Institute, he gave valuable guidance and his tenure of 7 years as Director, will be remembered as

a period of rapid growth in research activities and the Institute had very good scientific research interaction with IZMIRAN, Russia and several collaborative ventures with National and International organizations. Prof. B.P. Singh was a visionary; he wanted to initiate launching of an Indo-Russian multi-satellite Mission 'UNIMAG' in the nineties for magnetic field studies. He made a very liberal policy for building the Regional Centre Equatorial Geophysical Research Laboratory (EGRL) at a remote place in Tirunelveli, with full autonomy. The success of this center is due to Prof. Singh's positive approach.

Prof. Singh took personal interest in the development of the Institute although he was Director during difficult times when funds were scarce. Today we are here in the New Panel Campus of Navi Mumbai because of Prof. B.P. Singh's efforts in acquiring the land from CIDCO and developing the same. Prof. Singh always encouraged youngsters and helped several members of the Institute in a variety of ways.

Prof. B.P. Singh received various awards and honours. He was Reinhardt. Fellow, Queen's Univ., Kingston; Fellow of National Academy of Science, Geological Society of India, Indian Geophysical Union; he was a member of Executive Council of IGU from the period 1989-1991.

The Institute deeply mourns the passing away of Prof. B.P. Singh. In his passing away, the Institute has lost one of its ardent well wishers.

Email: mita@iigs.iigm.res.in

MITA RAJARAM