

Professor P. D. Mahadev



Professor P. D. Mahadev, an eminent urban geographer of the country, passed away on November 27, 2005 at Chennai. He had been ailing for the last ten years.

Born in a Maharashtrian family at Coimbatore on 16th August 1933, Mahadev Padmanabha Dudhbhate had his early schooling at Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh) and Mumbai. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geography from the Presidency College, Madras University in 1956 and 1958 respectively. He had a short stint at Karaikudi (Tamil Nadu), teaching geography in a college before joining the Karnataka University Dharwar in 1959. He finally moved to the University of Mysore in 1964 and continued there for thirty long years until his super annuation in 1994. He rose to the position of Professor in 1982 and guided the affairs of the Department as Chairman for over a decade. He took the Department to new heights of academic excellence. He developed international collaborative programmes with the French Institute, Pondicherry, Bordeaux University, France, and IDRC, Canada. He organised a number of national and international seminars, including an Indian Geography Congress, and an annual conference of the Indian National Cartographic Association.

He served on a number of national and international geographic committees with distinction. He had the honour of being elected President of the National Association of Geographers, India as also President of the International Cartographic Association. His research contributions enriched urban geography, though he had fascinating forays in other fields as well. His valuable contributions include "Urban Morphology of Mysore City", "Impact of Irrigation on Population Dynamics" and "Settlements in the Tungabhadra Valley", he edited the volume on "Urban Geography of India" and had a number of research papers in the field of urban geography to his credit.

PMD, as Professor Mahadev was affectionately known to his colleagues and friends, was a fine gentleman. He was warm hearted and presented a happy-go-lucky image. Anecdotes of his forgetful behaviour shall linger long in the memories of his friends, colleagues and students. His departure from this world is indeed a great loss to Indian Geography and shall be mourned deeply by a large fraternity of friends and admirers. May his soul rest in peace.

P. S. Tiwari