

Obituries



Prof. R.C. Sharma
1932-2009

Ram Chandra Sharma popularly known as R. C. Sharma was born on 5th July 1932 in Ramganj, Ajmer, (Rajasthan). He was a gold medalist in M. A. (Geography) from Allahabad University in 1956 and completed his Ph. D from University of Edinburgh (UK) in 1970 under a renowned geographer, Prof. J. W. Watson.

After teaching about a decade in Allahabad University, he joined Jawaharlal Lal Nehru University, New Delhi in 1971 at the School of International Studies as an Associate Professor. He was on deputation as Professor and Head in North East Hill University (NEHU) Shillong from 1976 to 1979 and developed the Department of Geography. He also served as the Dean of School of Environmental Sciences there. He joined back the JNU as Professor of geopolitics and continued till his retirement in September 1996. Though he was retired from active service, he continued his academic pursuits in full swing and took the assignments of Visiting Professor and Advi-

sor to the VC of Nagaland University and Mizoram University (Both Central University). During his active service, he visited a number of universities as visiting professor. These universities include: Edinburgh (UK), Toronto and Sasketchwan (Canada), Ruhr (Germany), Tehran (Iran), Baghdad (Iraq), Hiroshima (Japan), Ulaan Bataar (Mangolia), Yonsei (South Korea) besides a large number of Indian Universities.

With such a long teaching and research experience, Prof. Sharma had a credit of supervising 75 M. Phil and 65 Ph. D. students who have worked on a wide range of research fields and were successfully awarded research degrees. Similar is the case for publication of research papers and books which range from geopolitics, environment, resource management, regional development, tourism to peace and conflict management.

Professor Sharma had a great organizational capacity. During his tenure of service at JNU, he had organized six international

conferences and 15 national conferences. He had a membership of several professional organizations and associations in India and abroad. They include: founding member of International Boundary Research Unit (IBRU), Co-convener of Indo-Mongolian Group, Joint Director of Indo-Japanese Research Studies in South Asia, founding member of IGC Environment Commission are few of them to mention here.

Professor Sharma was a great human being who never believed in caste, creed and region. He was a great philanthropist who was always ready to help. Rather he was always looking to avail the opportunity to serve humanity. He was very generous to downtrodden and marginalized sections of population.

He had a very friendly nature and was a kind hearted person. Anyone who met him once, became his admirer. His friends, students, colleagues and persons from various walks of life always regarded him as high esteemed and respectful person.

He was a distinguished scholar, great visionary, innovative and an excellent researcher who had keen interest in promoting the neglected fields of geography such as tourism, geopolitics, marine geography etc. He was the founding father of the Department of Geography and resource management in a number of universities in the North eastern region of the country.

After a prolonged illness, Professor Sharma breathed last on 13th November 2009 in New Delhi. No Doubt it is a great loss not only to his family members but also to the discipline of geography. It would be very difficult to fill the vacuum easily after the untimely demise of such a great and versatile geographer of India.

Professor Sharma is survived by his wife Ms. Nasira Sharma, a prolific writer of Hindi literature and two children: Mr. Anil and Ms. Anju.

We pray to almighty to place his soul in peace.

Professor M. Ishtiaq
Department of Geography
Jamia Millia Islamia,
New Delhi