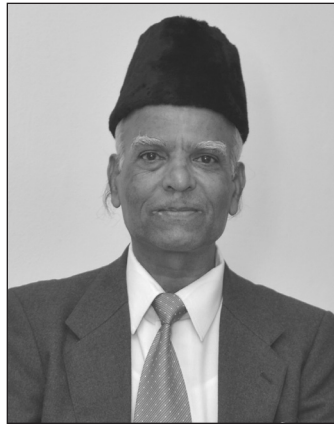


## *Obituary*



**Professor Zahid Husain Qureshi**  
(1952 - 2015)

Writing an obituary is invariably a challenging task both emotionally and morally, particularly if the person happens to be a colleague and a friend. The untimely demise of Professor Zahid Husain Qureshi on the September 14, 2015, suddenly and for clearly unknown reasons has been both a personal setback as well as for the Department of Geography, School of Human and Environmental Sciences, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, which he served with dedication and distinction from 11 April 1997 till 2015, which shall be remembered by all the colleagues in the department and by the University community and large number of students and alumni of the Department.

Professor Qureshi did his Masters from the Department of Geography, Mohan Lal

Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan, a city where he was born and brought up and subsequently completed his Ph.D under the supervision of Prof Bhattacharyya on the Monpas of Arunachal Pradesh. He had an extended stay in the city of Shillong from 1979 to 1997 when he joined the Department of Geography, NEHU as a Reader/ Associate Professor 11.4.1997 and then, Professor on 17.11.2006. Professor Qureshi had a chequered career. He joined as a Research Assistant at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur (1.6.1975 - 17.10.1978) where he worked with Professor Amal Kar and had some interesting publications including one on the extinct but legendary River Saraswati that was published by the Royal Geographical Society, London (jointly). After his stint with

CAZRI, he joined the Deccan College, Pune as a Post-Doctoral Fellow (17.10.1978 to 18.10.1979). Subsequently, he was selected as a human ecologist (Research Associate) in the ASI, North East Regional Centre, Shillong in 1979 and came and resided in Shillong the rest of his life, first with the Anthropological Survey of India, NE Regional Centre and then with NEHU, till the very last.

Professor Qureshi was a devout Muslim in his private life but equally secular as a human being, a person with great empathy, humility and courtesy to one and all. He taught Geomorphology and water resources and was a dedicated teacher, extremely affectionate to students and was willing to help anyone, anytime, without any expectations. A typical family man, he brought up his three children, one son and two daughters with great care and affection. His untimely passing away has been a great tragedy for the family who reside in his native city of Udaipur. Many may not be aware, in his younger days he was a gifted cricketer and was a certified umpire at the First Class level and had officiated several Ranji Trophy matches.

Academically, he had several publications including an edited volume on Water Crisis (2011). He was also deeply associated with North East Institute of Social Science Research (Late Prof B. Duttaroy) and was involved in organisation of many seminars and publications of NEISSR, Shillong. He had about 40 paper publications in India and abroad and 5 books/ monographs to his credit. He had supervised 5 M.Phil and 5 Ph.D candidates during his tenure at NEHU, Shillong.

He certainly is missed by the NEHU community. May his soul rest in peace. For the geography fraternity of the North East the loss is irreparable. At the time of darkness, on behalf of all those who knew him and worked with him I condole his sad passing away and pray for strength and fortitude to the bereaved family.

**A.C. Mohapatra**

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