



OBITUARY

KRISHNA PRATAP VIMAL



(March 4, 1926 - December 13, 1999)

With heavy heart, we inform that Professor Krishna Pratap Vimal, former Head of the Department of Geology, University of Lucknow, and former Treasurer and Life Fellow of the Palaeontological Society of India passed away peacefully on the evening of the 13th December, 1999 from cardiac arrest. A well-known scientist and a prominent figure of the University of Lucknow, he had a long association with the Society spanning over four decades.

Born on 4th March 1926, Krishna Pratap Vimal did his B.Sc and M.Sc. (Geology) from the University of Lucknow in 1946 and 1949 respectively. Later, he worked as a Research Assistant (August 1949 - August 1951) under the late Dr. A. R. Rao and was awarded the Senior Research Training Scholarship in August 1951 for two years to carry out research in Palaeobotany under Dr. Rao. The University of Lucknow awarded him the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Geology in 1956 on a thesis "Studies on Tertiary Lignites of India" which was well received in the scientific circles. To date, this work has

remained a standard reference in the field of lignite studies. His list of papers includes several outstanding publications, some of which were published in overseas journals (e.g. *Micropaleontology*). While reviewing the palynological studies of the Indian sequences, several authorities, including Prof. G. Erdtman, made a special reference to Dr. Vimal's pioneering studies on the Indian lignites and pointed out the significance of his work in Indian stratigraphy.

Dr. Vimal was appointed Lecturer in Geology in the University of Lucknow in 1953 and Reader in 1975. He rose to the rank of a Professor in 1978, assuming the office of the Head of the Department of Geology in September 1980 and continuing till his retirement in 1986. During his long innings as a faculty member, he made a mark as a devoted and sincere teacher with specialisation in Palaeobotany and Stratigraphy. He supervised the work of several students for their doctoral degree, who are now well settled in their professional fields.

Dr. Vimal was also associated with the *Geoscience Journal* as its founder editor from 1980 to 1994. He was always prepared to give his helping hand to any association or individual for the cause of knowledge and scientific development. His sense of belongingness and devotion to the Department can be judged from his involvement in the renovation of the Geology auditorium in 1984 when the department had no funds to undertake such a work because of financial crunch. He, then, raised the much-needed funds through donations from his old students and acquaintances and successfully implemented his plan of converting the old, disordered hall into a new, impressive auditorium.

Apart from teaching and research, he evinced keen interest in extra-curricular activities and also actively participated in the corporate life of the university as President of various clubs of the Canning College Athletic Association and also as its Chairman as well as Provost of a few hostels.

Dr. Vimal was truly an unassuming person who remained least bothered to make a display of his position or work. He was a man of great scientific honesty and expected the same from others. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons and a host of friends, admirers and several generations of students who will miss him very much.

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