Prof. M.P. Singh
(1957 – 2017)

Prof. M. P. Singh, an accomplished Coal Petrologist of international repute, left for heavenly abode on 13th April, 2017 in Varanasi. Prof. Singh was born on 10th September, 1957 and was brought up in the campus of Banaras Hindu University. He was serving as the Head of the Department of Geology, BHU at the time of his sudden demise. He graduated in 1978 and obtained his PhD degree in 1981, both from BHU. Prof Singh had an illustrious career at BHU and led the coal petrology group of an academic department in the country.

He had been working on various aspects of Organic petrology and organic geochemistry making significant contributions in understanding the surface microstructures employing Scanning Electron Microscope, petrographic framework, evolutionary trend, source rock characteristics, organic maturation, hydrocarbon generation, and trace element geochemistry of Permian and Paleogene coals of India. He was instrumental in establishing an Advanced Coal Petrology Lab in the department which is first of its own kind in any Indian University. His current programme included characterization of fire-affected coals (Natural Coke). Prof Singh published over 75 papers in reputed journals. He was a recipient of 'Subrato Ghosh Award' and 'Dr J Coggin Brown Memorial Gold Medal' given by the 'Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India' for his outstanding contributions in coal petrology. Prof Singh promoted coal science in several professional bodies like International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology, South Asian Association of Economic Geologists

and the Bureau of Indian Standards in its Study Group. His research students have occupied leading positions in various academic and research institutions like CIMFR, ONGC, GSI, Tata Steels Ltd, RGIPT etc.

Prof Singh was a teacher par excellence and earned lot of praise from the students. He trained the generations of students not only at BHU but extended his services to other universities of the country like Indian School of Mines, Mizoram University and Delhi University; and organizations like Neyveli Lignite Corp. Ltd., Coal India Ltd, CIMFR and many others. It was due to his effort that a new postgraduate program in 'Petroleum Geosciences' could be started in this department.

In true sense he was a friend, philosopher and guide having pleasing personality. His patience and encouragement are responsible for shaping my career; and being his research student, it is a personal loss to me. He is survived by his wife Prof Meenakshi Singh, B.H.U., daughter Divya Gautam, son Aditya Gautam (Mohit) and a large fraternity of friends and students. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. We pray that his soul may rest in peace and family members gain strength to bear the irreparable loss.

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