

OBITUARY



P. S. Saklani
(1941-2017)

Prem Swaroop Saklani, former Professor, Department of Geology, Delhi University, Delhi, was born on 28 August 1941 in Padiyar village in Tehri District, Uttarakhand. He had his education in the Inter College Srinagar Garhwal, in 1958, and graduated from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), and M.Sc in Geology from BHU, Varanasi in 1963.

He started his career as Assistant Professor in Geology at Punjab University, Chandigarh, during his service he completed his Ph.D degree under Prof. I.C. Pandey, and worked on the Structure and Tectonics of Mukhem area in Tehri district.

Prof. Saklani shifted from Punjab University, Chandigarh to Delhi University, Delhi in 1975 and continued his service for more than three decades in the Department of Geology, Delhi University.

Formerly, he was Vice Chancellor of Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, Uttarakhand (1999 to 2001) and Chairman of the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, Govt. of India, R.K.Puram, New Delhi (from 1994 to 1998). Prof. Saklani was DAAD Fellow and worked in Germany for two years. He had also worked with Prof. Werner Schwan of Erlangen Universitate, Schlobgarten, West Germany. He had supervised many German students for the PhD and dissertation work on Himalayan geology.

He was elected as President of Earth System Science, of the 85 Session of Indian Science Congress in 1997-1998. Prof. Saklani was recipient of several Awards, Consulting Editor of American Biographical Institute, Raleigh, U.S.A., 21st Century Award: U.P. Ratna Award etc.

Prof. Saklani served as Visiting Professor in the Netaji Subhash Chand Bose National Institute of Technology (NIT) for three years after his retirement.

Prof. Saklani authored many books – Tectonics of Garhwal Himalaya, Geology of Lower Himalaya (Garhwal), Structure and Tectonics of Himalaya, Metamorphism and Tectonics of Himalaya, Dictionary of Geology & Tectonic Geology and edited books on Himalaya (Geological Aspect) volumes 1 to 4. His books are very popular among the students of geology in India and abroad.

Prof. Saklani published 56 research papers of national and International repute on the Himalayan tectonics. He guided 11 students for the award of Ph.D and 11 students for the M.Phil degree.

Prof. Saklani served as an expert in many selection committee of DST, UGC, CSIR, UPSC and various universities in India and in Project Assessment committees. Prof. Saklani passed away on the night of 23 April 2017. The unfortunate demise of Prof. Saklani has created a gap among the geofraternity and the academia has lost a dedicated teacher in earth science and society a popular science writer or say educator. His contributions on the Geology/Himalayan Geology education will forever be remembered.

Prof. Saklani was very much supported by his inspiring wife Srimati Sushila Saklani and son Mukul and daughter Anjali.

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