

OBITUARY



**Sarat Chandra Patnaik
(1935-2018)**

Born on 7th July 1935, Shri S.C.Patnaik had primary education at Athgarh, followed by M.Sc. in geology from Ravenshaw college, Cuttack, Odisha. He joined the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in 1960 at Kolkata and superannuated as Director, in the year 1993.

His long career in the GSI is loaded with expeditions in the Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan sectors of the majestic Himalayas, where he trekked above snowline, studying the receding snouts of glacier and recorded the impacts of global warming. He braved the freezing elevations in the lap of Kanchanjenga, to study the Zemu Glacier, the feeder of Teesta River, with limited logistics and nerve shattering risks of mountaineering as an active member of the then newly opened Glaciology Division of GSI. Shri Patnaik's eventful journey in Geological Survey of India took him from trekking in one of the bone chilling glaciological expeditions in the Himalayas to the exploration of hydrothermal copper mineralization in Kuliana,

Mayurbhanj district, Odisha believed to be controlled by the southeastern splay of the Singhbhum shear zone. He had a constructive stint with innovative ideas in the then newly established Field Technique Research Unit of GSI at Bangalore. This was aimed to equip the field geologists with new gadgets and logistics, making data collection more efficient and effective. As Director of projects in Economic Geology, Odisha, he supervised investigations for gold, base-metal and manganese ores in Odisha. Sarat Chandra Patnaik breathed his last on the 26th August 2018, leaving his bereaved family. His simplicity, amiable character and affection for his colleagues and friends left an indelible print in their hearts.

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