

## Md. Sahid Ummar (1950-2022)

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**Md. Sahid Ummar**  
(1950-2022)

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1950 at Sundargarh, Odisha, Md. Sahid Ummar obtained his MSc. (Geology), Ravenshaw College, Utkal University in 1973. He worked as Asst. Mining Officer (Trainee) and Geologist, Directorate of Mining & Geology, Orissa from 1973-1977 and then served in the Geological Survey of India in various capacities till his superannuation in Jan. 2010, as Geologist (Sr). Because of his keen interest in application of computer in processing of basic geological data, he sharpened his skill in computer application by undergoing various training programmes both within GSI and outside institutions. These include, Computer Concept, National Informatic Centre, Bhubaneswar in 1985, Geographic Information System (Arc-Info) in 2001, Digital Map Processing AutoMap (2003) and Geo-processing (additional features in Arc-GIS.9) in 2004. His professional work in various domains of geological mapping, mineral investigation, geo-environmental studies to geological data management spread from Central Region, Nagpur, Operations Odisha to Arunachal Pradesh. Compilation of district Geo-resource maps and Mineral Belt Maps of Odisha are his major contributions. He had a special flair for writing of popular articles of geology especially on topics of societal concern in vernacular language (Odia) as

regular weekly columns of widely circulated Odia newspapers and thus has earned a niche for himself among the contemporary Odia writers and columnists. He used to write popular science articles in “*Bigyan Diganta*” (Odia) and “*Science Horizon*” (English) monthly magazines of Odisha Bigyan Academy, Govt. of Odisha. He has published 16 books in Odia, which include district wise resource books of all 30 districts of Odisha and were of wide circulation and relevance in the academic circles. He was life member in several professional institutions like Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata; Institution of Geoscientists (Odisha), Bhubaneswar; Society of Geoscientists & Allied Technologists, Bhubaneswar; Odisha Bigyan Academy, Bhubaneswar and Odisha Environmental Society, Bhubaneswar. He was awarded the Best Popular Science Writer 2007 by Odisha Environmental Society and was felicitated by Odisha Sahitya Academy in 2012 for his contribution in popular science. He breathed his last in 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 leaving behind his wife Smt. Rekha Das an acclaimed academician in life science and only son Ayaan. His untimely death created a void among the popular science writers in Odisha as well as among the geologist community.