

## OBITUARY

PROFESSOR A. K. GHOSH

(1905—1985)

The news of the sad and unexpected demise of Professor Amiya Kumar Ghosh on 18th January, 1985 at the age of 79 came as a shock to the Palynologists/Palaeobotanists in India and abroad. The end came almost unwarranted at Ranchi. His death has caused the loss of a very distinguished Palynologist/Palaeobotanist of India. He was admired not only because of his erudite scholarship and encyclopedic knowledge but also for his benevolent nature and generous disposition.

A. K. Ghosh was born in Arrah (Bihar) in 1905. He had his early education in the Mitra Institution (Bhowanipur), Calcutta. Later, he graduated in Science from the Presidency College, Calcutta in 1926 and obtained M. Sc. degree in Botany from the University of Calcutta in 1928. All through his life, Professor Ghosh showed keen interest in the organisation related to the cultivation and propagation of scientific thought and actively participated in editing the journals like *Bulletin of the Botanical Society of Bengal*, *Science and Culture*, etc.

Ghosh served the Geological Survey of India in the preliminary stage of his professional life as Museum Assistant. He joined the University of Calcutta as Sir Rash Behari Ghosh Research Fellow to work with the late Professor S. P. Agharkar, Head of the Department of Botany, Calcutta University. He earned a fame as a successful teacher when he served the Diocesan College, South Calcutta Girls' College and Victoria Institution, all in Calcutta from 1931-1937. The year 1937 witnessed a big break in his scientific and teaching career when he joined the University of Calcutta as a Lecturer in Botany. He was also closely connected with the activities of the Department of Geology of the same University. During this decade (1937-1947) he was instrumental to introduce Palaeopalynological research in India in its true scientific perspective when it was still in its infancy even internationally. He proved himself to be an able administrator during the next eight years (1948-1956) as the Registrar of the Bose Institute. Although his time was mostly burdened with administrative responsibilities, he never failed to continue research studies and during this period he produced a few valuable research papers in Palynology. Ghosh accepted the assignment of Senior Palynologist in 1957 and organised a Palynological Laboratory under the auspices of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Dehradun, which he did with success and continued to work for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission until 1963.

A. K. Ghosh was called back by the University of Calcutta after his retirement from the O. N. G. C. He remained closely associated with this University in various capacities until the end came. During this period he made significant contributions to the fundamental and applied researches in Palaeobotany and Palynology covering the ear-



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liest life from the Pre-Cambrian to the Quaternary. Professor Ghosh was endowed with an unusual talent to remember the past events, especially related to scientists and scientific activities which he witnessed during his life time and also from the earlier periods. He was always a source of ready reference and valuable informations on history of science and other matters.

Ghosh was the Founder Secretary and later President of the Botanical Society of Bengal. He occupied top positions in a number of Scientific Societies and Associations all over India, among others, the Science Club, Bangiya Bijnan Parishad, Indian Science News Association, Palynological Society of India, The Palaeobotanical Society, The Asiatic Society, etc. He was elected fellows of the Geological, Mining & Metallurgical Society of India, Palaeontological Society of India, Palynological Society of India and the Palaeobotanical Society. During his fruitful life time he received the Mining, Metallurgical and Geological Institute's Medal (1946-1947), Bruhl Memorial Medal for Asiatic Research in Botany (1983) and was also nominated to receive award of the prestigious Gunnar Erdtman Medal (1984-1985) instituted by the Palynological Society of India, but the end came before the medal could be awarded to him.

The 1st International Palynological Conference at Tucson (USA) was attended by him in 1962 as a delegate of the O. N. G. C. Two years later he attended the 22nd International Geological Congress, Delhi; one year later 7th International Congress of Quaternary Research at Boulder (U. S. A.). Later he also attended the 4th International Palynological Conference at Lucknow (1976-1977) and the 4th International Gondwana Symposium at Calcutta (1978).

The first Professor S. P. Agharkar Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Ghosh at the Maharashtra Association for the Cultivation of Science, Pune. Later, he delivered the 43rd Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Endowment Lecture at the Bose Institute, Calcutta, the 26th Sir Albert Charles Seward Memorial Lecture at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow and the 2nd Dr. J. Sen Memorial Lecture at the University of Calcutta.

Possessing a kind and affectionate nature, A. K. Ghosh was liked and admired by his students, associates, collaborators, friends and colleagues. A great teacher, he was left behind him the legacy of an old school charm and devotion of Indian academic tradition.

With the death of Professor Ghosh the country has lost an ardent teacher and enthusiastic researcher. His death will be deeply mourned by his students and those who came in contact with him.

SUNIRMAL CHANDA

*Division of Palynology and Environmental Biology,  
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DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
STP DIVISION

*Title : SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN YOUTH  
(PSIY)*

**Objectives :**

1. To promote and sustain scientific interest in youth during their creative period of career.
2. To provide opportunities to young scientists for pursuing exciting and innovative research ideas.
3. To provide opportunities for interaction and exchange of ideas with the scientific community etc.

**Who can apply :**

- The scheme covers young scientists in the age group of 18-35 years.
- Young scientists who have adequate background in any field of Science and Technology and show inclination to undertake an activity for the fulfilment of the objective of the scheme.

**Activities :**

- Creativity Encouragement Projects of about two years duration requiring seed-money up to Rs. 1.0 lakhs
- Socio-economic Development Projects
- Seminars/Symposia
- Awards through INSA and ISCA
- Contact Programme with eminent scientists
- International Travel Assistance

**When to apply :**

Any time on the prescribed format obtainable from DST.

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
(DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY)**

*Title : SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL YOUNG  
SCIENTISTS SCHEME (SERCVS)*

**Objectives :**

1. To provide quick research support to young scientists to pursue their bright ideas in newly emerging and frontline areas of research in Science and Engineering.
2. To work for integrated research programmes involving inter-disciplinary fields.
3. To support inter-institutional programme.

**Who can apply :**

- The scheme is open to young scientists below 30 years.
- Researchers/Scientists who have shown promising achievement during their Ph.D. and/or subsequent work are eligible.
- Applications need not be forwarded/routed through any institutions at this stage but once the proposal is approved a certificate of affiliation to an institute is necessary.

**Duration and financial limit :**

1. Projects under this scheme would be sanctioned for a period of 2 years.
2. The total cost of the project for this period should not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakhs.

**When to apply :**

The project proposal in 5 (five) copies should reach Department of Science and Technology by 31st January and 31st July of each calendar year on the prescribed form.

*Contact Address :*

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Department of Science and Technology,  
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