

OBITUARY

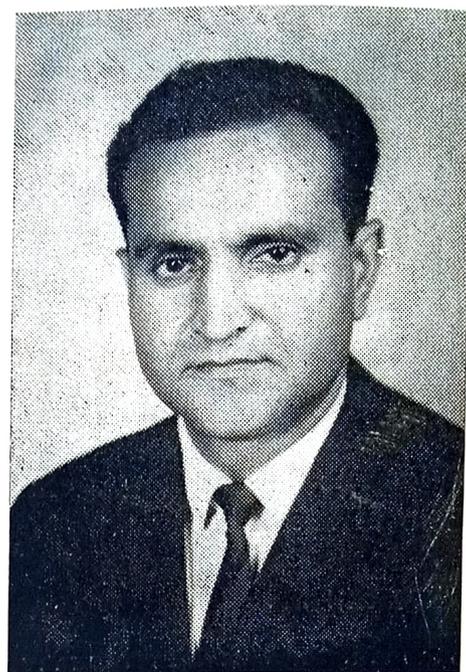
DOCTOR KRISHNA KUMAR TANDON,
M.Sc., Ph.D., F.P.S.

The sudden death of Doctor Krishna Kumar Tandon at Lucknow on 15th January, 1978 at a very young age has deprived the science of Geology of one of its most devoted students. Krishna Kumar Tandon was a lovable personality and an inspiring teacher. He belonged to a gifted and respected Khatri family of Gonda, his father having later migrated to Lucknow.

Krishna Kumar was born on 19th July, 1935. He had his early education at Lucknow. He graduated from the University of Lucknow in 1958 obtaining the degree of Master of Science in Geology. Same year he enrolled for his doctorate at the Department of Geology, Lucknow University choosing Biostratigraphy of Lower Tertiary of Kutch as his dissertation theme. He was admitted to the doctorate degree in the year 1967.

Doctor Tandon joined the Geology Department of Lucknow University as a teacher in 1964. Only a couple of days before his premature demise he was selected as a Reader in Geology at the University. At the time of his death he was supervising doctoral theses of several students on various aspects of Palaeontology and Stratigraphy of the Kutch Tertiaries. Apart from his main field of research on Biostratigraphy of Lower Tertiary of Kutch, Krishna Kumar's interests were varied. He made significant contributions to the knowledge of smaller and larger foraminifera, ostracoda, echinodermata, holothuroidea, algae and dinoflagellates from the Tertiary sediments. Biozonation of Middle Eocene sediments of south-western Kutch district, Gujarat is a brilliant contribution. At the time of his death he was preparing a monograph on the Tertiary Echinodermata of which he had a very rich collection from the Kutch area. Besides the palaeontology and stratigraphy of the Kutch Tertiaries, Dr. Tandon also explored the pre-Cambrian Vindhyan rocks for evidences of the primitive life. He discovered definite annelid remains from the Lower Vindhyan of the Katni area. Another interesting and significant contribution by him was the report of trace fossils from the so-called fresh water 'Lameta Beds' supporting a marine depositional environment for these beds. He was not a voluminous writer, but his writings had the impress of sound judgement, based upon a strict adherence to facts.

Tandon was a member of several learned societies. He was for several years on the executives of the Palaeobotanical Society and the Palaeontological Society of India. Just before his death he had organised a seminar on "Problems in Mesozoic and Lower Tertiary Palaeontology, Sedimentation and Palaeoenvironment" which unfortunately he could not see being held. He will be missed by his many friends for his frank and lively expression as he greeted them with a big smile. His hearty laugh was contagious.



K. P. JAIN AND H. K. MAHESHWARI