



A PROFILE OF PROF. BRAHMA SWARUP TEWARI

Professor Brahma Swarup Tewari was born on 2nd December, 1923 at Kanpur in a simple orthodox Brahmin family. His father, Sri Ram Swarup Tewari and mother Smt. Jag Devi, were deeply religious persons. He was the second eldest of the seven siblings. He received early school education at S.M.V. Inter College, Kanpur. Later on, he shifted to Varanasi and did his Intermediate from Queen's College.

After obtaining M.Sc. degree (Geology) from the Banaras Hindu University in the year 1946, Dr. Tewari started his research career under Prof. Raj Nath and was awarded the J.K. Fellowship of the Faculty of Science, Banaras Hindu University. Around this time, Prof. Birbal Sahni was looking for some bright, young person dedicated to carry out research at a newly opened Geology Department at Lucknow University. The young Brahma Swarup met Dr. Birbal Sahni in August, 1946 and impressed him with his qualities and subject knowledge. Prof. Sahni advised him to apply for Lectureship at the Lucknow University, where Prof. Sahni was the Head of the Geology Department. Prof. Tewari joined Lucknow University as temporary Lecturer in the leave vacancy of Prof. P.N. Ganju, who had shifted to Aligarh Muslim University as the Head of the Geology Department.

During a brief stint as a research scholar at Banaras Hindu University, Dr. Tewari was assigned the Kutch area for research. He mapped the Jurassic rocks of Kutch at Habo Hill along with his illustrious classmate, the late Prof. S.K. Agarwal.

After about 16 years, Dr. Tewari was promoted to the post of Reader in 1962. During his long stay at Lucknow University, he taught Micropalaeontology and Palaeontology to P.G. students and earned fame as a researcher in palaeontology. Late Prof. M.R. Sahni, then Chairman, Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Panjab University, Chandigarh was greatly impressed with him and persuaded him to join Panjab University as Professor of Geology. He joined Panjab University in the year 1966. He became Chairman of the Advanced Centre and continued till his retirement 1983. In 1983, Dr. Tewari joined North Eastern Hill University, Kohima Campus, as Professor and Head of the Geology Department and continued till 1986. Since 1986, he has been leading a peaceful, retired life at Lucknow. Prof. Tewari supervised Ph.D. theses of 15 students and published more than 100 research papers in the National and International Journals.

In the year 1950, under the leadership of the late Prof. M.R. Sahni, Prof. Tewari founded the Palaeontological Society of India at Lucknow. After the death of Prof. M.R. Sahni in 1983, Dr. Tewari took over as President of the Society and continued till 2010.

As a teacher, Prof. Tewari inspired students to study palaeontology. Though he was among the masters of palaeontology, he was equally comfortable with other branches of geology because of his clear concepts and vast knowledge. Dr. Tewari was the manifestation of a truly professional earth scientist with considerable field knowledge and experience, essential for any geoscientist.

Prof. Tewari was humble and completely devoted to academics; he always encouraged students to take up challenging problems of research; suffice to say that he believed that a sound overall knowledge at student level is enough to make a good geologist. He nurtured intelligence, encouraged talent and helped the relatively low-ranking students. His magnanimity has no limits. Prof. Tewari has carved special place in the hearts of his students for his qualities of heart and intellect. He still commands respect and is remembered even after 40 years of his departure from Lucknow University. He attends regularly almost all academic functions of the department, often actively participating in the academic deliberations.

I pay my respectful regards to Prof. Tewari and pray to the Almighty for his long, healthy and academically productive life.

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