

## Prof. S. S. Merh (1928-2022)

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**Prof. S. S. Merh (1928-2022)**

Professor Sukumar. S. Merh, a renowned earth scientist, founder Head of the Department of Geology and former Dean, Faculty of Science, The M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara left for heavenly abode on 3 November, 2022 in London. Profoundly mourned by his family, friends, admirers, colleagues and students from all over the country and abroad, he will always be fondly remembered by fellow geo-scientists. Professor S.S. Merh was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1928 in a Gujarati family of Varanasi. He studied geology at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and took his M.Sc. degree in 1948 with First Class. He joined the M.S. University of Baroda (1951) in the civil engineering department. He was deputed by the M.S. University to the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London (1957) for his doctoral studies and worked under Professor John Sutton and came in close contact with Professors Janet Watson and Johan Ramsay, the eminent metamorphic and structural geologists of those days. Professor Merh worked on the Moinian rocks of Scottish Highlands for his Ph.D. emphasizing on the structural complexities of the area. On his return to India (1960) he was entrusted with the task of setting up a full-fledged Department of Geology at Baroda and was appointed as a Professor of Geology (1963) and then a Senior Professor (1972) at a young age of 44 years. Professor Merh published a large number of

research papers, books and monographs, and supervised about 50 doctoral students.

In recognition of his contribution to teaching and research in geology, Professor Merh was elected Fellow of all the three Science academies of the country, viz. Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and National Academy of Sciences, India, Allahabad. He was associated with numerous educational and professional organizations. He worked as a Chairman of the Governing Body of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun (1985-88). He was President of the Geology-Geography Section of the Indian Science Congress (1980); and Indian Geological Congress (1982). He was INSA Council Member (1987-89) and served as an INSA Senior Scientist (1989-91). Professor Merh was also a recipient of DN Wadia Medal of INSA (2001). He was very friendly with his peers and students, a wonderful orator and his balanced attitude to all problems earned him admiration and respect. However in his personal life, he faced several odds. He lost his wife and the only son at a very young age and he had to shift to London for taking care of his daughter-in-law and two grand – daughters: an accountability which he squared commendably. Prof. Merh will remain in the hearts of many and will be deeply missed by his family, friends and students.