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IN MEMORIAM



Prof. S.S. Dhillon

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Prof. S.S. Dhillon was fondly called as *Guru Ji* by the students of geography department and their friends in Punjabi University, Patiala. He was a true saint in human form. He always has a very supportive and helping attitude towards the problems and limitations of his students. His home and heart were open for all students and employees of the university, irrespective of their department.

Born on May 27, 1938 in village Pipal Majra, near Chamkaur Sahib in Ropar (Rupnagar) district of Punjab, Prof. S.S. Dhillon was named as 'Sher Singh'. He did his matriculation in 1957 and FA in 1959 from Govt. College, Ropar. Thereafter, he spent several years among *Nirmala* saints at Rattan Bagh, Haridwar where he had discourses with sadhus, practised meditation, learned *Gurmat* philosophy and *Nirmala* traditions. He again joined Govt. College Ropar and completed graduation in 1967. After this, he got enrolled himself in the first batch of M.Sc. in Geography in the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra which was opened in that year and completed his post-graduation in 1969. He was awarded University Research Scholarship and did his Ph.D. in 1973, under the guidance of a renowned Agricultural

Geographer Prof. Jasbir Singh.

Prof. Dhillon started his teaching carrier from University College, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra where he joined as a lecturer in geography in 1974. From 1978 to 1981, he did book writing under UGC project with Dr. Jasbir Singh and co-authored world-famous book 'Agricultural Geography' which has been translated into several languages. After this, he joined back at University College, from where he was selected as lecturer in the Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra in the year 1984. Then he moved to Punjabi University, Patiala in 1987, as Reader in Geography. Here, he served as Head of the Department, got promoted as Professor and also worked as Dean, Students Welfare.

Prof. Dhillon published several research papers in national and international journals. A large number of students completed M.Phil. under him, while some of us also completed Ph.D. under his able guidance. He was such a noble person that he always offered coffee/tea to students whom he met at canteen/coffee house. His trademark *fikki chah* with *gulab jamun* was famous at university canteen. While in service, he kept his ties with *Nirmala* sadhus strong and visited Haridwar

often. Several of his contemporaries and shishyas are heading Deras and held him in high esteem.

He was a member of several geographical organisations of the country, apart from a founder member and President of the Association of Punjab Geographers. After retirement from university, he immersed himself in spiritual pursuits. He was often away from home, for weeks together, at some or the other religious place. In the last few years, he settled at his birthplace, and constructed a *Gurudwara* (A religious place) on his prime ancestral land in memory of *Shahids* (persons killed) during the War of Mughals' with Guru

Gobind Singh at Chamkaur Sahib. He dedicated himself to this religious place and was staying there although his family was at Patiala.

He was always fit and fine, a regular walker and remained in high spirits. He was ill for a month or so in the last. When we were taking him to hospital for treatment, he said, 'I am 83 now, what else does a man wants from GOD.' His death has left a great void for his family, friends and students. May almighty grant solace to his soul.

Dr. Lakhvir Singh Gill, Principal,
SBSBM University College,
Sardulgarh (Mansa).

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