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IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh
(July 6, 1946 - September 1, 2022)

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh was a Professor of Geography at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. She was born in 1946 in an educated-administrator family of Allahabad. Her early education was from St. Mary's Convent School in Allahabad and obtained her graduation from Allahabad University in 1967. After which she married Prof. Rana Janardan Singh (Professor of Physics at Aligarh Muslim University) and moved to Aligarh.

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh completed her post-graduation and Ph.D. from Aligarh Muslim University. She completed her Ph.D. in 1976 under the supervision of Prof. Md. Shafi on 'The distribution and utilization of uncultivated lands in Koil Tehsil, district Aligarh' which was a pioneering work in the field of agricultural geography. Prof. Singh started her teaching career at the Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University in 1978. During the course of her professional career, she graced the seat of Chairperson and Dean Faculty of Science at Aligarh Muslim University and superannuated from active service in 2015 as UGC-BSR fellow.

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh was an outstanding teacher. She was a very popular, adored and assiduous teacher. She used to

teach both physical and human geography with equal ease, her detailed explanations aided with relevant examples and diagrams were the hallmark of her classroom teaching. She used to maintain high level of discipline in her class, inspired and promoted good students and put in extra efforts to encourage the underperforming students to bring them together with the rest of the students.

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh was a remarkable researcher. She was a prolific writer and researcher who carried forward the mantle of the Aligarh School of Geography in India and abroad following the path of Padam Shree Prof. Md. Shafi. Her writings, more than 20 books and 175 research articles have been appreciated and taken highly by the geography fraternity. Prof. Singh guided 20 Ph.D. students, her research interests cutting across various fields of geography, have been like agriculture, land use, environment, social, urban, health, planning etc. to name a few. Micro level field-based studies were the hallmark of her research. She successfully completed 5 research projects, including two sponsored by international agencies. She organized more than 10 academically successful international and national semi-

nars which serve as a testament of her commendable organizational skills. Prof. Singh was also member of several high-level academic bodies, including International Geographical Union Commissions, Indian National Science Academy, University Grants Commission, Board of Studies, Research Development Committees and Special Assistance Program advisory committees of many top Indian Universities. She was also on the Editorial board of Punjab Geographer and The Geographer, which are journals of international repute. Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh was honoured with many awards and distinctions by various academic bodies including, Centre for Land use Management (CLUMA) - best scientist award, International publishing - best citizens award, Indira women achievers award, Shiksha Ratan award and Bhoogol Vachaspati award etc., to name a few. Presently, she was nominated as the President elect of The National Association of Geographers (NAGI) which is the largest academic body of Indian geographers.

Prof. Singh was also an able administrator. She carried out her duties with exemplary authority throughout her professional life. She was admired by all for her sedulousness, honesty and sincerity in her work ethics. She glorified the Department of Geography of Aligarh Muslim University with her proficient leadership in her tenure as the Chairperson,

Dean, Faculty of Science, Coordinator, UGC Special Assistance Program and brought laurels to her Alma-mater.

Prof. Abha Lakshmi Singh was a compassionate human being and would always be remembered for her gentle and caring nature. Living literally up to her name -ABHA, she used to bring energy and radiance in any gathering by her presence. A philanthropist to the core, used to help the needy without being pretentious. She had great loving relationships with her family, friends, students, colleagues, domestic helps and also with nature, plants, animals which not only reflected in her academic prowess but also in her personal life as well. Prof. Singh shaped and influenced the careers and lives of thousands of her students and people around her.

The geography fraternity and Aligarh Muslim University has lost a noble soul, a person with extraordinary blend of human and intellectual merits of a teacher, a researcher par excellence and above all a very good human being. It is an irreparable loss for all of her colleagues, disciples and loved ones. She has gone from our sight, but will always be in our hearts and prayers. May her soul rest in eternal peace!

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