

The Ministry of Earth Sciences deeply condoles the demise and irreparable loss of Padma Bhushan Prof. KS Valdiya (1937-2020)

New Delhi, October 1 (Vigyan Samachar): The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India expresses deep condolences on the demise of Prof KS Valdiya who passed away to the heavenly abode on September 29, 2020.

Prof. KS Valdiya was a recipient of the MoES Life Time Achievement award (2018) for contributions to the field of geodynamics. He was a distinguished earth scientist, communicator, teacher, and environmentalist. He will always be remembered for his life full of service to society, accomplishments, and awards.

He was a recipient of the several coveted awards such as the Chancellors Medal (1954), Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1976), SK Mitra Award (1991), National Mineral Award of Excellence (1997), Padma Shri (2007), MoES Life Time achievement award (2018) and Padma Bhushan (2015). He served as Member of the Science Advisory Committee to Prime Minister (1983–1988) influencing the national policy on Science and Environment. He was recognized as an able architect of Himalayan Geology and Tectonics.

Prof. Valdiya was a former vice-chancellor (1981), Uttarakhand. He established several institutions. These of Himalayan Geology, Environmental Institute of Himalayan Development, and the Kumaon University credited with over 110 books, and almost 40 the regional language fellow of Indian National



a renowned geologist and of Kumaon University was involved in the reputed Indian geological include the Wadia Institute Central Himalayan Association, G B Pant Environment and Geology Department of in Uttarakhand. He is research papers, 20 popular science articles in Hindi. He was an elected Science Academy (INSA),

National Academy of Sciences, India (FNASc), Indian Academy of Sciences (FASc), Third World Academy of Sciences (FTWAS), the Geological Society of India, Geological Society of America and Geological Society of Nepal.

He worked towards science outreach programs to popularize science and scientific temper among young students for several years, especially in the remote regions of Uttarakhand. He tirelessly worked to organize events and forums on the application of

science, avenues, and opportunities for children, and to career guidance to a young and dynamic community of Indian students.

Amongst his notable work, Prof. Valdiya conducted studies that involved painstaking mapping of the mountainous terrain of Uttarakhand Himalayas, traversing thousands of kilometers on foot. The body of work contributed by Prof. Valdiya has made the Uttarakhand Himalayas one of the best documented, most thoroughly studied sectors of the Himalayan Mountain Arc. One of his well-researched scientific reports on the destabilizing effect of limestone quarrying led to the Supreme Court's judgment on banning limestone mining in the Mussourie Hills. He pioneered studies on declining discharges of mountain springs, where he developed the concept and methodology of spring sanctuary and demonstrated its workability in several areas of Uttarakhand. He was a true-to-heart environmentalist who inspired public participation in the implementation of spring sanctuaries, afforestation in villages, and established linkages of animal husbandry, horticulture, and agriculture in multiple villages of Kumaun.

In this deep time of sorrow, the MoES shares prayers for Prof. K S Valdiya with the bereaved family, and the global and national Earth sciences fraternity. May his soul RIP.

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