

## S. V. Singh (1947–2004)

Shyam Vir Singh, a distinguished meteorologist and administrator passed away on 7 November 2004 at his residence in Delhi, after bravely fighting cancer for about a year. It is sad that we have to report this news in the special issue of which he was one of the guest editors.

Born on 1 July 1947, Singh received his Master's degree in physics in 1967 from Agra University and Ph D from University of Poona, while working at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. Singh had more than 30 years of experience with conducting and guiding research in meteorology and published about 100 research papers in international and national journals. He edited three books jointly with other authors and guided several students for Ph D/M Sc degrees. He made significant contributions in various aspects of weather forecasting, namely synoptic climatology, inter-annual variability of monsoon, stochastic process of rainfall, and medium and extended range forecasting of monsoon. He used extended empirical orthogonal function to demonstrate south to northward propagation of circulation anomalies that is now recognized as an important feature of the sub-seasonal variability of the monsoon.

Singh worked at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune for 25 years before joining the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in 1995 as Joint Director (Application). He subsequently became its Head in 1997, in which post he continued till his demise. He cherished a dream to make NCWRWF a world leader in the field of medium range weather forecasting and create a platform to carry out high quality research on NWP utilizing satellite and high resolution meteorological data for making its application possible to common man. During his leadership, Singh started several programmes to fulfil different operational needs in India, particularly mesoscale modelling and mountain weather forecasting for defence research and applica-

tions, weather forecasts for mountain/hot-air balloon expeditions, district-level weather forecasting, and ocean wave modelling. The Agro-Meteorological Advisory Service Units were expanded to 83 all over India during his leadership. Singh established collaborations with BARC and CDAC to utilize their supercomputers for weather forecasting in India. He worked hard to establish the new campus of NCMRWF at its present location in Noida, and perserved to develop high-class facilities for scientists.

Singh established collaborations with many international organizations such as National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), USA; Florida State University, and University of Washington among



others, thus opening new avenues for joint work between Indian and US scientists. He was the Indian coordinator for conducting the first Indo-US Workshop on Weather and Climate Modelling under the Indo-US Forum, and was India's representative in the international THORPEX (The Hemispheric Observation Research and Predictability Experiment) committee. With his demise the country has lost a great scientist with a vision, who worked for augmenting the science of meteorology in India. This is what some of the international scientists had to say on hearing his sad demise: 'S. V. Singh was a real friend and a strong leader who went a long way toward

promoting a good relationship between India and the US in weather forecasting' – Bob Gall (NCAR); 'His leadership role in Indian meteorology and his burgeoning presence in world weather research programme activities were well recognized' – Rit Carbone (NCAR); 'I was amazed by his enthusiasm and hard work to provide India an improved predictive capability for monsoons and climate; I have no doubt his dedication will be long remembered' – B. B. Rath (NSF). He was particularly keen to help developing nations in the field of weather forecasting and, made the NCMRWF forecasts available to countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Qatar and Africa through internet on real-time basis. He encouraged young scientists to work with reputed ones and obtain international exposure in the area of weather research and forecasting.

Singh held memberships of many national and international committees. He received several awards, such as the First Silver Jubilee Award of the IITM (Joint recipient) and of Sixth SAARC Award (Joint recipient). He was an elected Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Life Member and President, Delhi Chapter, Indian Meteorological Society; and a member of the Indian Association of Hydrologists; Association of Agrometeorologists; Indian Science Congress Association, etc.

Singh had a positive attitude and would not say 'no' to anyone who approached him for help. His simplicity, straightforwardness and down-to-earth attitude will be missed by his colleagues. He would always encourage scientists to undertake any kind of challenging scientific problems. He leaves behind his wife, son and daughter.

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