

OBITUARY



G. L. BADAM
(June, 1940 – May, 2022)

Dr. Gyani Lal Badam, was a renowned palaeontologist and Quaternary geologist of India whose work in the field is recognized by the national as well as international scientific community. Indian palaeontology and zooarchaeology has indeed suffered a great setback due to the demise of Dr. Badam at the age of 82 years at Pune on 21st May, 2022. Dr. Badam was born in Srinagar (J & K) where he obtained his early education. He graduated in 1962 from University of Patna with Geology as a major subject. He moved to Chandigarh for his Master's degree in Geology from the Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, Panjab University, Chandigarh. From the same alma mater, he completed his Doctorate degree, under the expert supervision of Prof. B.S.Tewari, on the basis of a thesis submitted in 1973 entitled, "*Geology and palaeontology of the Upper Siwaliks of a part of Pinjor-Nalagarh Area*". As a part of his doctoral research, he explored the Plio-Pleistocene Upper Siwalik sediments exposed in the Pinjor-Nalagarh area near Chandigarh and made a large collection of mega vertebrate fossils and worked on their taxonomy, morphology and chronology.

After completing his doctorate, Dr. Badam joined in October, 1972 as lecturer in palaeontology at Deccan College and Post-graduate Institute, Pune, where he helped to develop the newly established Palaeontological Laboratory. He launched several expeditions to explore for fossils in the Narmada Valley of Central India and many other river valleys of peninsular India and brought to light some new fossil bearing horizons from where he made an extensive collection of mega fauna fossils, some of which were new finds. He also extended his expertise in examining faunal remains from Chalcolithic, Megalithic and Harrapan archaeological sites of Maharashtra. He was popular among his students due to his amenable persona and excellent teaching skills.

He was a recipient of Senior Fulbright Scholarship, which took him to University of Oregon, USA in 1984. He was a prolific writer and published

eight books and a large number of research papers, several of them in international journals of repute such as *Palaeo3*, *Journal of Palaeontological Society of India*, *Current Science*, *Modern Geology*, etc. One of his important books was "*Pleistocene Fauna of India*", which was published in 1979 and was basically based on his doctoral work and early work on the Narmada mega fauna.

Dr. Badam superannuated from Deccan College in the year 2000. After superannuation, he worked as advisor to the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sngrahalya (IGRMS), which was followed by a three year term as Joint Director, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Chhattisgarh and also as a consultant for the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, till 2010.

Dr. Badam is survived by his wife, son, daughter and grandchildren. The passing away of Dr. Gyani Lal Badam has left a void among the fraternity of vertebrate palaeontology and Quaternary geology which will always be felt.

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