



Obituary: Dr. Subhash Bhandari (1974–2026)

I write this obituary with profound grief and a deep sense of personal loss on the sudden and untimely demise of my colleague and close associate, **Dr. Subhash Bhandari**, who passed away due to a severe heart stroke on **15 January 2026**, at the young age of 51 years. Dr. Subhash Bhandari and I worked together since **2008**, from the very inception of the **Department of Earth and Environmental Science, Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachchh University**. We were among the pioneers who jointly laid the academic and research foundation of the Department. Over the years, through collective effort, shared vision, and sustained commitment, we worked to uplift and shape the Department to its present level. His contribution to this journey was immense and irreplaceable.

Academically, Dr. Bhandari was an ardent and sincere researcher with notable contributions in the fields of **palaeoclimate studies and neotectonics**, particularly in the **Narmada Basin**. He was also a visionary scientist who initiated **pioneering work on Martian geomorphology and planetary analogue sites in Kachchh**, supported by **ISRO–RESPOND project grants**. This innovative work resulted in several **international research publications** and the successful supervision of a **Ph.D. scholar, Dr. Anil Chavan**, who went on to pursue focused research on Mars.

In addition to his core discipline, Dr. Bhandari was entrusted with the responsibility of **heading the Department of Archaeology** at the University. He fulfilled this role with remarkable enthusiasm and dedication, actively collaborating with the **Department of Archaeology, University of Kerala**, and playing a key role in the **excavation and investigation of Harappan Civilization sites in Kachchh**. His interdisciplinary approach significantly strengthened archaeological research in the region.

After I assumed charge as Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow, Dr. Bhandari took on additional responsibilities as **Head of the Department of Geosciences** and later as **Dean, Faculty of Science**. In these leadership roles, he served the University with sincerity and distinction, contributing actively to several academic and administrative committees and supporting the University administration with commitment and integrity.

Throughout this period, his colleague **Dr. Gaurav Chauhan** extended constant support in ensuring the efficient functioning of the Department. The earlier faculty members of the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, **Dr. Mrugesh Trivedi** and **Dr. Seema Sharma**, along with laboratory staff **Smt. Vimala Maheshwari** and **Mr. Paresh Katua**, and other supporting staff, always stood by him in strengthening the Department. I also fondly remember the affection and care shown by a former supporting staff member, **Smt. Ushaben Khatri**, towards Dr. Bhandari.

Beyond his academic achievements, Dr. Bhandari was a **generous, approachable, and compassionate human being**, always ready to help anyone who approached him, irrespective of discipline or designation. His calm demeanour, humility, and sense of responsibility earned him respect and affection from colleagues, students, and staff alike. Dr. Subhash Bhandari completed his **graduation and doctoral studies from The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda**, under the guidance of **Prof. L. S. Chamyal**, a mentor whom we both shared.

He is survived by his wife **Dr. Jaya Bhandari**, a doctorate in Chemistry, and their beloved son **Dhruv**, studying in 9th standard, to whom he was a devoted and loving father. His sudden passing is an irreparable loss not only to the Department and the University but also to his family, who have lost a pillar of strength.

I have lost a trusted colleague, a fellow pioneer, and a dear friend. The void created by his departure will be deeply felt for years to come. I pray that his soul rests in peace and that the Almighty grants strength and courage to his family to bear this immense loss.

Prof. Mahesh Thakkar

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