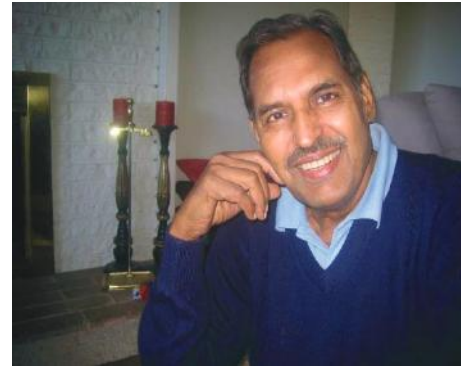




## Editorial – Dedicated to Dr. Vijai Mohan Sharma

*“As life is, death is. The awareness of this fact allows you to live life fully and intensely.” - Sadhguru*

It is with heavy heart and deep sorrow we are to record the sad demise of Dr. Vijai Mohan Sharma, Founder of ISRMTT and former directors of CSMRS and AIMIL, who left for his heavenly abode last year on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at Singapore. The sad demise of Dr. V. M. Sharma is second blow in a row for the entire rock mechanics fraternity of India after the sudden demise of Prof. Bhawani Singh exactly two months ago on 4<sup>th</sup> May. I am shocked to have lost Dr. Sharma- yet another towering personality in the field of Rock Engineering. He was not only a great source of inspiration for me but also a mentor ever since, I came in contact with him in 1980 when I started



01.01.1939 - 05.07.2021

pursuing my master's degree in Rock Mechanics from IIT Delhi. During that period, he was serving as Deputy Director at CSMRS, New Delhi and used to remain deeply involved in Rock Mechanics activities of the above research station.

Born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1939; Dr. Sharma graduated in civil engineering from IIT Kharagpur, M.E. in WRD&M from UOR (now IIT Roorkee) and Ph.D. in Rock Mechanics (1985) from IIT Delhi. The topic of his Ph.D. thesis was "Prediction of closure and rock loads for tunnels in squeezing ground" which is probably only thesis of IIT Delhi, which deals with the practical problems of underground excavations and takes the field performance into account.

Central Soil & Materials Research Station (CSMRS), Ministry of Water Resources (now Dept. of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti) New Delhi where he had started his career in sixties and finally served as the Director, is one of the first Institutions, which took lead for the development of rock mechanics in India.

The development of the infrastructure facilities at CSMRS was started with the help of Colombo Plan, UNDP and Indo- Norwegian Assistance programs from 1973 onwards. Dr. Sharma had played a key role in development of rock mechanics facilities at CSMRS which emerged out to be the best equipped institution of the country. It was Dr. Sharma who pioneered the idea of establishing a society exclusively dedicated to R&D related activities in Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology in India. Thus, ISRMTT was formed in 1992 with Dr. Sharma as its first member (LM-01). By God's grace, ISRMTT has now fully grown-up society with more than 2200 members and approximately 20 Institutional members.

On behalf of the members /editors of the Editorial board, Journal of Rock Mechanics and Tunnelling Technology (JRMTT) and my own behalf, we pay our homage to Dr. V. M. Sharma (Founder of ISRMTT)

*May his soul rest in peace...Om Shanti.....*

**- Dr. Subhash Mitra**  
Chief Editor, JRMTT