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SHANTA ACHARYA DPHIL (OXON)

RARELY does one find the confluence of multiple talents in one person as we did in Susanta Acharya's case. He was a brilliant sportsman, a bright scholar, and an achiever in his professional life. In sports, he excelled in not one but many disciplines such as athletics, cricket, and others, winning laurels for his state, university, and club teams. Susanta passed away on 26th May 2024 after fighting cancer for months. He is survived by his wife, Madhumita, who works at The Indian Oil Corporation as a General Manager, son, Ashish, who is working in cyber security in Canada, and daughter, Aditi, who is pursuing her higher studies in Economics on a full scholarship at the University of California, San Diego as well as his mother, his three siblings and their families. This tribute to my beloved younger brother comes with contributions from the rest of our bereaved family.

Susanta, the second son of Shrimati Rashmi Rekha and Shri Brundaban Chandra Acharyawas born in Cuttack to a distinguished family. He is the grandson of two illustrious sons of Odisha: the eminent Shri Paramananda Acharya,

## A Versatile Talent Gone Too Soon

honoured by the Government of India in 1964 with the award of Padma Shri for his work on temples and archaeological discoveries in Odisha. And, the equally esteemed Shri Ratnakar Sarangi, well known for his impeccable credentials and contributions to the administrative services of Odisha.

Susanta was educated at Stewart School, Cuttack, where he was awarded the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education Examination in 1974 in a wide range of subjects that included English, Oriya, Indian History and Culture, Geography, Mathematics, and Science. He completed his Intermediate Examination in 1978 with a first class degree and B.A. (Hons) in 1981 with First Class Honours in Political Science from Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. Susanta was awarded the Gold Medal from Utkal University for his first class Master's degree in Personnel Management and Labour Welfare from Vani Vihar in 1983.

An outstanding sportsman,

Susanta was well regarded for his many extracurricular activities for which he was awarded the All-Round Cup in Ravenshaw in 1979-80. He represented his school, college, and university in athletics. He participated in the State High Schools Winter Games in 1974-75 and represented the State of Orissa in the XXV National Games of India in Hyderabad (1979) held under the auspices of the Indian Olympic Association. A cadet in the National Cadet Corps, Susanta passed the Certificate 'A' Part I examination held under the Authority of The Ministry of Defence, Government of India. He served on an Attachment to the Regular Army, Naval, and Air Force Units/ Ships/ Establishments/ Installations in July 1976 in Assam.

Susanta represented Ravenshaw College and Utkal University in Inter-Collegiate and Inter-University competi-



tions in cricket from 1977 till 1983. He represented the East Zone Universities for the Vizzy Trophy in Bombay (1982-83). He also represented the State of Orissa on several occasions, including the State Team in the C.K. Nayudu Trophy in 1976-77 (Calcutta), 1977-78 (Gouhati), 1979-80 (Cuttack), 1980-81 (Calcutta). He was a member of the East Zone C.K. Nayudu Team at Pune in 1979-

80. Susanta was Captain of the Orissa State Team in 1980-81. He was Captain of the Utkal University Team in 1982-83 when they became the East-Zone finalists. Susanta was selected for the Ranji trophy season in 1980, but could not participate due to his father being seriously ill at the time. In March 1986, Susanta represented the state of Orissa in the XXL All India Civil Services Cricket Tournament in New Delhi.

In November 1985, Susanta started his career as an Assistant Labour Officer with the Government of Orissa. In 1986, he joined Indian Oil Corporation Limited as a Management Trainee. On completion of his Orientation Training, he joined IOC's Haldia Refinery in July 1986. His service with IOCL included the refineries at Paradip and Barauni as well. In April 2010, he joined IOC's Mathura Refinery as Chief Manager and became Deputy

General Manager in May 2017. In March 2018, he joined the Indian Oil Institute of Petroleum Management, Gurgaon, and retired from IOCL as General Manager on 30 September 2020.

Efficient and enterprising, loyal and blessed with a great sense of service, Susanta's considerable analytical and organisational skills, in addition to his intuitive understanding of any situation, made him a treasured asset to any team, project or organisation. We are devastated that cancer took our dearest and most precious Muna. He was affectionately known as Muna by his family and close friends. There is no other way of saying this except how immensely blessed we are to have known Muna and what a tremendous loss we have to bear for the rest of our lives. He will be greatly missed along with his great and small acts of kindness and love, not to mention his excellent wit and sense of humour. He was not just a wonderful son, brother, husband, father, but a rare human being - his courage, patience,

generosity and compassion cannot be expressed. Those who knew him know what a genuinely special person he was.

Susanta's father Shri Brundaban Chandra Acharya served Ravenshaw College in several capacities in addition to his academic responsibilities as professor and Head of the department of Geography. Satyananda Acharya, youngest brother of Shri Brundaban Acharya, after an illustrious career in academia, served as Vice Chancellor of Utkal University before his retirement. Shri Jitendriya Sarangi, son of Shri Ratnakar Sarangi, retired as professor and head of the department of Statistics at Utkal University.

Susanta was the younger brother of Mr Bikash Acharya, an orthopaedic surgeon who ran his private practice in Harley Street, London, and Shanta Acharya DPhil (Oxon), a poet/writer and investment banker, also based in London. Dr Sanjay Acharya, who recently retired as professor and head of the department of P.G. Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, is Susanta's younger brother.

www.shanta-acharya.com