

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS, INDIA (NAGI)

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BHOOGOL VACHASPATI AWARD



**Prof. Baleshwar
Thakur**

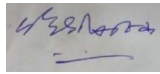
Born on 16th July, 1943 at Village Sarabe in Madhubani district of Bihar, Baleshwar Thakur had his higher education at Patna and completed his Master's degree from Patna University in 1964. He obtained second Master's degree in Geography from University of Waterloo Canada in 1972 as a scholar on Commonwealth fellowship. He obtained a doctoral degree from Patna University in 1978. His early karmabhumi was Bihar where he served in different universities and shifted to Delhi School of Economics in 1980 as a Reader. He rose to the position of Professorship in 1990 and headed the Department of Geography, University of Delhi during 1996-1999. Prof. Thakur was called upon to work as Vice-Chancellor of Lalit Narain Mithila University, Darbhanga, Bihar. He has to his credit, approximately five decades of teaching, research and administrative experience at the Universities of Ranchi, Patna, Waterloo, Akron, Delhi, Mithila and North Dakota. His specialization, research and teaching experiences are largely in Urban Development, Resource Management, Geographic Thought and Research Methods.

He is a recipient of several national and international awards.. He was a Commonwealth Scholar (1970-72), Fulbright Visiting Professor (1992), and Indo-Canadian Shastri Fellow (2004). For his contributions to the field of urban and resource development in the context of developing countries, the Association of American Geographers awarded him with 'Distinguished Scholar Award' in their Denver annual meeting in 2005. He has the credit to work with Professor Ashok Dutt, Professor Allen G. Noble and Frank J. Costa in USA who were the lead editors of the 2 Volume Springer festschrift (2015) in his honour. He has guided and supervised 35 M.Phil. Dissertations and 20 Ph.D. theses in different areas of his specialization.

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Professor Thakur has been a prolific author and published 13 books, 13 volumes on resources, 3 monographs and more than 110 research papers in journals such as The Canadian Geographer, Geo Journal and a host of others in India. He has been associated with professional associations in India and abroad such as the ISCA, NAGI, IIG, among many others and the AAG in the USA. He was recorder (1990-92) and President (2000-01) of the Earth System Sciences section of ISCA; Secretary General (1996-2002), President of the National Association of Geographers, India (2002) and President Institute of Indian Geographers (IIG) -2012.

In recognition of his seminal contribution to Geography, the National Association of Geographers India, (NAGI) honours Prof. Baleshwar Thakur with the award of BHOOGOL VACHASPATI on December 26, 2016 in its 38th Indian Geography Congress held at University of Mysore, Mysuru.



V. K Shrivastava
President



Secretary General
NAGI