

Tribute to Mr Sanjay Prasad (30 June 1971-19 May 2023)

Ajay Prasad[†]



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On 19 May 2023, the sudden demise of Mr Sanjay Prasad came as a shock. Although he was suffering briefly from an illness, we never had a second thought that he would pass away so soon. Sanjay, a GIS expert served on the editorial board of our Journal *Space and Culture, India* since 2015. He reviewed the GIS and mathematical models of the submitted manuscripts.

Sanjay was an extremely hardworking person. As a GIS expert, Sanjay was working on preparatory survey for the greater Yangon water supply improvement Indo/Myanmar project and Institutional Development Program of the JICA-assisted Ganga Action Plan Project, Varanasi at TEC International Co., Ltd., a Japanese consulting firm specialising in the international water sector market. He was engaged in this project from July 2017 until his demise.

Born in Gomia, Jharkhand in 1971, Sanjay obtained his Masters in Geography with Specialisation in Remote Sensing and Cartography from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India, in 1996. In 2007, he accomplished Post Graduate Diploma in Geoinformatics from Salzburg University, Austria and gained his Master's in Business Management from Xavier School of Management (XLRI) in Jamshedpur, India, in 2009.

As a GIS Consultant, he ran his own private firm, SAMNE Associates Private Limited Delhi, Provision of GIS Consulting Services. Through this firm, he provided his consultancy services to various companies, which are discussed in the form of a table.

<p>June 2012-June 2013</p>	<p>Employer: Ridings Consulting Engineers, Noida, India Position Held: Senior Project Manager</p>	<p>Activity performed: As a senior manager controlling and managing several ongoing projects and was responsible for (i) Project management , (ii) report Preparation , (iii) Team building , (iv) Work supervision and necessary client interaction</p>
<p>Oct 2009- June 2012</p>	<p>Employer: Tokyo Engineering Consultants Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan through Environment Education & Health, Delhi Position Held: Project Manager</p>	<p>Activity performed: As GIS mapping and Hydraulic Modeling Expert for “The Study on Improvement of Water Supply System in Delhi” and was responsible for (i) Analysing & integrating existing available data in GIS (ii) Assisted and monitored GIS Experts for mapping the assets and their classification (iii) Population forecasting leading to demand estimation (iv) DMA creation and prepared network models in WaterGEMS (v) Provided input information, tables, charts maps etc. for preparation of Water Supply Master Plan 2021 (vi) gave presentations to Client and stakeholders (vii) Assisted NRW team at all levels (viii) On job training of Client officials capacity development.</p>
<p>Feb 2007- Sept. 2009</p>	<p>Employer: RMSI Pvt. Ltd., Noida, India Position Held: Sr. Engineer</p>	<p>Activity performed: For Asian Development Bank funded (RUIDP- Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project) was involved in (i) GIS Database preparation (ii) Asset mapping (iii) Quality checks, (iv) design specifications and finalization of the data model, (v) database management, project control and monitoring in key stages For National Geographic Maps (i) managed the GIS team to prepare World Historical Atlas (ii) Client interaction and data delivery (iii) Quality control</p>
<p>Jan 2007- Feb 2007</p>	<p>Employer: Infotech Enterprise Pvt. Ltd. (Now Cyient Ltd.) Position Held: Digital Cartographer</p>	<p>Activity performed: For Groundsure, United Kingdom (i) Map and Data Quality checks, (ii) database creation and identification of contaminating features from scanned reference maps.</p>

Sanjay was not an academic per se; however, despite being a non-academic, he contributed towards the publication of a number of journal articles and book chapters in high-quality, peer-reviewed outlets bearing international repute. Some of his publications are as follows:

1. Bhattacharyya, Rituparna and **Prasad, Sanjay (forthcoming)**. Socioeconomics and Caste Census of India using GIS. In Thakur Rajiv, Brunn Stan, Thakur, Baleshwar & Dhussa, Ramesh (EDs.). *Environment, Development and Culture in South and East Asia: Local, Regional and International Perspectives*. Springer Nature
2. Sarma, Pranjit Kumar, Bhattacharyya, Rituparna, Deka, Sanatan, Sarma, Amal, & **Prasad, Sanjay** (2023). Rejuvenating Geographies of Manas Through People's Participation: A Success Story of Community Conservation. In Anand, S., Das, M., Bhattacharyya, R., Singh, R.B. (eds). *Sustainable Development Goals in Northeast India*. Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-6478-7_21
3. Bhattacharyya, Rituparna, Prasad, Ajay & **Prasad Sanjay** (2023). 03 August 2015 Framework Agreement, Naga National Movement, and Confused Road Ahead. Bhattacharyya, Rituparna (2023). *North East India Through the Ages: A Transdisciplinary Perspective on Prehistory, History, and Oral History*. London and New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis. DOI: 10.4324/9781003157816-10
4. Pulla, Venkat Rao, Shoukat, Aisha, Jafar, Muhammad, Alam, Md. Fakhrul, Attanayak, Shamini M.T.R., Mussarat, Jabeen, Gautam, Gyanendra, Lafain, Rachel & **Prasad, Sanjay** (2022). Managing the Pandemic in the South Asian (SAARC) Countries. *Space and Culture, India*, 10(3), 87–109. <https://doi.org/10.20896/saci.v10i3.1262>
5. Bhattacharyya, Rituparna and **Prasad Sanjay** (2020). Water Scarcity in Delhi: Mapping for Solutions and the Way Forward. In Dr R.B. Singh, Bathula Srinagesh and Subhash Anand (eds.). *Urban Health Risk and Resilience in Asian Cities*. Springer Nature, Singapore. DOI:10.1007/978-981-15-1205-6_24, pp.421-444
6. Bhattacharyya, Rituparna and **Prasad Sanjay** (2020). Chapter 15: Geographies of Indian Women's Everyday Public Safety. In Rajiv Thakur, Ashok Dutt, Sudhir Thakur, George Pomeroy (eds.). *Urban and Regional Planning and Development: 20th Century Forms and 21st Century Transformations*, Springer Nature, Cham. DOI https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-31776-8_15, Print ISBN 978-3-030-31775-1, Online ISBN 978-3-030-31776-8, 243-260, pp. 243-260

Sanjay was a character who used to make himself known among his circles, whether it was professionals or friends. He used to stand beside whoever needed him in whatsoever way. Sanjay leaves behind his wife, Mrs Vani Prasad, his only daughter, Vasushree Prasad, and his father and family members. Only on 12 May 2023,

Vasushree passed her 10+2 examinations AISSCE Board with flying colours securing 99.2 per cent. While the sudden demise of Sanjay is a great loss to our journal and us all — his colleagues, family and friends, we offer our humble obeisance to the departed soul.