

NOTE

‘IKS IS NO MORE’

(1927-2008)

Shamsul Islam writes :

It may seem to be unbeliev-able to all those who have been regularly reading columns, Internet postings and books of Professor I K Shukla, but a sad reality now is that the beloved warrior against fascist ideologies especially the Hindutva brand and prominent thinker I K Shukla breathed his last on 17 September in USA. All his friends and admirers knew about his deteriorating health problems but his everyday Internet postings showed no sign of his sickness.

His death is an irreparable loss to the cause of justice, democracy, and equality. Progressives have lost a great fighter who waged relentless struggle against the forces of fascism, intolerance and repression not only in India but world over.

His pen was mightier than sword when it came to challenging the fascist elements. His in-depth knowledge of Sanskrit and Buddhist texts, his mastery over English, Bengali and Hindi languages and familiarity with Urdu made him a unique researcher and author.

He started his eventful journey of quest for truth and fight for justice in early 1970s in Varanasi which had produced great personalities like Kabir and Rahul Sankarteyan who challenged the forces of intolerance and fought relentlessly against exploitation of the poor by the feudal elements in the past.

Prominent artist Vibhas Das, a close friend of Professor Shukla, while narrating the life during Varanasi days said that with two other friends namely Anil Karanjia and Karuna Nidhan (well-known artist who died few years back), they formed a group of socially and politically concerned intellectuals and Professor Shukla happened to be a brilliant scholar and rebel amongst them.

He chose to be a journalist and was regularly contributing to journals like *Frontier* and *Point of View*. He was known for his exposures of state repression in the North-eastern India, fake encounters and violation of human rights in the Indian Subcontinent. These journals faced the wrath of the state due to these exposures. He shifted to Delhi in late 1970s and while residing in Model Town-Tagore Park area, formed a circle of progressive intellectuals and continued with his writings and work. He authored *Kumbhilo Pakhyon* in Hindi which stirred the intellectual scene as it gave documentary facts to show how great many Indian authors had plagiarized shamelessly.

For some time he taught English literature in two of Delhi University colleges where he opposed the autocracy of management which paved the way for the establishment of powerful teachers' trade union, namely Delhi University Teachers' Union.

After the ascendancy of Hindu Right in 1990s he was in the forefront in exposing its criminal past and future designs. He authored two important books *Hindutva : Treason & Terrorism* (Pharos Media) and *Hindutva* (Media House) which immensely helped in exposing the Hindutva gang.

He was cremated at Pacific Crest Cemetery, Redondo Beach, California on September 23, 2008 (Tuesday).

Shuklaji is dead but his writings and thoughts will always be there to lead the society away from darkness of bigotry and intolerance.

The most suitable homage to him would be to preserve his scattered writings and publish the same.

[Courtesy : *The Milli Gazette*]

Prof. Shukla

Anupam Shukla adds :

With great sadness and a feeling of immeasurable loss; informing that Professor I K Shukla was rushed to Little Mary Hospital in San Pedro, California in the afternoon of Monday, September 15, 2008 after having a massive stroke and then transferred to same hospital but a better facility in the neighboring city, Torrance, California. He was put on life support system, immediately, but passed away in the afternoon of Wednesday, September 17th, 2008. According to his wish, his ashes were submerged in the Cabrillo Beach, Pacific Ocean in San Pedro, California on Thursday, September 25th, 2008.

Professor I K Shukla is survived by his wife, two sons and a daughter. New contact details :

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