

## Indar Singh Luthar (1932–2006)

Indar Singh Luthar (retired professor of Mathematics, Panjab University, Chandigarh, and Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore) died at Chandigarh on 7 December 2006.

Luthar, son of Ved Kaur and Hari Ram, was born on 31 March 1932 at Sialkot (now in Pakistan). He had his early education at Sialkot, where his father was a headmaster. Throughout his education Luthar had a brilliant academic record, always first class first. For his doctoral studies, Luthar went to the University of Illinois, Urbana (Illinois), USA, where he was awarded by the University one of the two prestigious predoctoral G. A. Miller Fellowships. After completing his PhD in 1957, Luthar visited the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton for a year and then returned to India. He joined Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1958 and continued to work there until his retirement in 1992. In 1966, he was promoted as Professor in the Department of Mathematics. Along with R. P. Bambah, Luthar played a constructive role in shaping the Department of Mathematics into an internationally recognized Centre for Advanced Study.

During his career in Panjab University, Luthar held many important academic

positions. He was Editor of *Mathematics Student*, a publication of the Indian Mathematical Society during 1977–81. He also held several visiting assignments abroad.



Luthar was an eminent mathematician and a brilliant teacher, extremely popular with his students. He worked in several areas of mathematics, including algebra, analysis and number theory. His work is published in international journals of repute. He was always keen to learn new subjects and, whenever he decided to do so, he would invariably turn to the masters. He supervised the doctoral research of six students, three of whom are cur-

rently on the faculty of the Department of Mathematics at Chandigarh. Luthar was a keen expositor of mathematics at all levels. He wrote seven books at graduate and postgraduate levels. His lectures were always meticulously prepared.

I had the privilege of being a student at Chandigarh when Luthar started his teaching career in 1958. So I had my first lessons in modern algebra from him. After I moved from Kurukshetra to Chandigarh in 1979, we had a long collaboration in working both on research problems and writing of books. Working with him in writing our four-volume set of books in algebra (Narosa Publishing House) was indeed a great learning experience for me. His last book was *Sets, Functions and Numbers* (Narosa, 2005). In fact, he was actively engaged in academic work until the very end.

With Luthar's demise we have lost a great teacher and researcher. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

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