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SUBJECT: Sujit Kumar Mitra 1932-2004

Professor **S. K. Mitra** passed away in Delhi on March 18, 2004, after a prolonged heroic struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Professor Sujit Kumar Mitra was born in Kolkata on 23 January, 1932. He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1956 for a dissertation on categorical data analysis, written under the supervision of Professor S. N. Roy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was associated with the Indian Statistical Institute since 1956 and took retirement in 1992.

Although Professor Mitra contributed significantly to several areas in Mathematics and Statistics, his pioneering work on generalized inverses has been of particular interest and a source of inspiration for linear algebraists. His book on generalised inverses, written jointly with Professor C. R. Rao, is a classic. Towards the later part of his career his main preoccupation was matrix partial order arising out of generalized inverse.

Professor Mitra was the first Head of the Delhi Centre of the Indian Statistical Institute after its campus was opened in 1975 and he contributed significantly to its running. His pioneering contributions to generalised inverses attracted several visitors to Delhi. Like his colleagues, all of them were deeply impressed by his persistence, dedication, sharp intellect and good humour that he maintained in the presence of a crippling disease that afflicted his body since 1979.

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