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Born on March 20, 1937 at Kalaw, Myanmar, he had his early education in a small town Pithoragarh in the Kumaun Himalaya, and higher education at Lucknow University. Obtaining Ph.D degree in 1963 from Lucknow University, he studied at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA as a Fulbright Fellow during 1965-1966. He has held various positions at Lucknow University, Rajasthan University, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Kumaun University and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre.