



(1955-2020)

Prof R. Venugopal Obituary (Necrologio), by IIT (ISM)

Yesterday, there was an unusual radiance in the sky. The orange moon in its full shone down brightly, giving away the impression of a face which was cut by time and put out in the full moon, making someone the face of heaven. Between the earth and the sky reposed transcendence, tranquillity, and reality: a grief observed! We lost one of our own yesterday. Prof Rayasam Venugopal left his earthly physical existence at the noon of September 03, 2020. He succumbed in his residence inside the campus, after a cardiac arrest. He was 65.

His journey began on 28th July, 1955 in Tamil Nadu. His lure for learning and higher education brought him to University of Madras (graduated), University of Karnataka (post-graduated) and Indian School of Mines (earned his doctorate). He moved into ISM in the capacity of a teacher in 1982 and since then he remained an indispensable part of this institute life-long. His career as a teacher and researcher came full circle in 1995, when he received the National Mineral Award from the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India. He rendered his services to the institute for more than 38 years in various capacities and held several administrative positions such as Head of the Department, as Dean (Research & Development) and as Chairman JEE among others.

Although with an Engineering background, he consumed philosophy, language, and letters. He was a retentive reader who could converse on a wide range of subjects from Thiruvalluvar to Shakespeare, from physics to metaphysics, from material to spiritual.

He was a Sciencophile, a dilettante, a logophile, and above all an autodidact! Despite a brimming and tartly phrased political sensibility, he was fundamentally an aesthete. Through his brilliance, sensitivity, and passion, he magnetized his audience.

He was a man of great learning with a ready wit. His sharp wit had them all. Perhaps, he had mastered the art of curing distempers of the mind with words.

A Merchant of Words indeed - if he may be called- enjoyed indulging in vocabulary games.

He brought to all of the people around him his love for science, art, life, and literature.

Such was Prof Venugopal. He touched many hearts in very special ways that can never, ever be aptly put into written words... One can just feel it!

His wife and three daughters survive him.

He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him!

On behalf of the entire IIT (ISM) Community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, loved ones and friends.

We pray the Almighty grants his family, colleagues, loved ones, and friends the courage and fortitude to bear this loss, which is immense and irreparable.

May his soul rest in perfect peace!