

In memoriam: Prof. YBG Varma



In the words of his colleagues....

Prof. MS Ananth:

In the passing away of Prof. Varma, I have personally lost a former senior colleague and a good friend. He was the first Ph.D. in engineering from IIT Madras. He served as Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering for 23 years until his superannuation in 1996. He was consistently rated one of the best teachers. He was by far the best researcher in Chemical Engineering with seminal contributions in the general area of multi-phase flow. His attention to detail ensured that some of the finest data in multiphase flow systems came from his laboratory. He was an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow and co-author of 'Air Pollution Control Equipment' published by Springer Verlag, Berlin.

As a person, he was sincere, steadfast of purpose and loyal to his family and friends. He was frank and always truthful. He was a true karma yogi. He was professionally very strict with his students, friends and family, but stricter still with himself! For nearly two decades until he superannuated, I had the pleasure of pursuing joint research with him in multi-phase flow systems. He enjoyed his research work and pursued it with an uncompromising integrity. He never bragged about his considerable achievements. I personally owe a great deal to him for my own professional success.

I pray that God give Mrs. Varma, who played such a silent yet pivotal role in her husband's success, and her sons the strength to bear this loss.

Prof. A Kannan:

I am distressed to hear the passing away of my (MTech) Guide Professor YBG Varma. He had the students' welfare at heart and wanted them to excel in their profession. He inculcated discipline and helped them to understand the benefits of hard work and attention to detail in research.

He was a great Teacher, and the Award instituted in his name in the Department continues to encourage Excellence in Teaching so that thousands of students will continue to benefit. My heartfelt condolences for this irreplaceable loss.... I pray that his Soul rests in Peace.

Prof. Sreenivas Jayanti:

I am sorry to learn of the passing away of Prof. YBG Varma. He was already a giant in the department when I joined, but gave me all the respect of a fellow colleague from Day 1. He was a role model as a person, and also as a researcher and teacher.