

Professor YR Waghmare: A Remembrance



IAPT has lost a friend, philosopher and guide in the passing away of Professor Y R Waghmare. A great teacher, researcher and educationist he steered IAPT to achieve its potential as President of IAPT in difficult times. A researcher who rubbed shoulders with Noble laureates had an iconic personality with a permanent smile gleaming his face. An easy to approach person, his talks always inspired listeners. He was master story teller with physics interwoven beautifully in the narration. A prolific author of text books in core areas of Physics, he made sure that Indian physics students get best books to learn physics at affordable price and of best quality. As the tributes started pouring in of his demise on the WhatsApp group, a flood of tributes followed showing how IAPTIANs respected him and loved him.

I had the opportunity to first meet him in Lucknow Convention, when he was President IAPT. As I write this many memories of Professor Waghmare's presence vividly come in front of my eyes. I can see his picture in front of me with Professor Arvind Kumar of HBCSE and Professor HS Virk talking about the role of Physics Education Research and its role in addressing conceptual gaps in students learning of different topics.

On my election to the post of President, he sent me a beautiful e-mail underlining the pivotal role played by the duo of President and the General Secretary and offered to help us in whatever way we desired. When I telephoned him to seek his blessings after assuming charge as president of IAPT he gave valuable tips to strengthen IAPT about initiating programs, raising the number of members from untouched areas and using IT to broaden IAPT'S reach and depth. He was very particular about the financial resources of IAPT and stressed the need to have enough to run our star programs from endowments. His advice was, do not worry in reaching out to corporate sector for endowments to bring permanence in the programs of IAPT at both central and regional councils. An advice which can help

flourish the role of physics teachers and hence its students at all levels. He was also very emphatic in saying IAPT needs young blood with mentoring by senior colleagues.

IAPT will always remain indebted to Waghmare Sir for his contribution in fulfilling its objectives in changing learning environment. He was a benefactor of Physics Education, Physics Teachers and Physics Students who worked for it wholeheartedly till his last breath. On behalf of IAPT and my own behalf I offer heartfelt condolences to his family and extended family of his students and colleagues spread all over the world.

We pray to the God to give his family strength to bear this unbearable loss. We will always cherish his lofty ideals and touch of belonging to us. We will miss you Professor Waghmare Sir!

Professor PK Ahluwalia

President

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