

PERSONAL NEWS

of the significant contributions made by Moudgal and Adiga to reproductive biology and molecular endocrinology, a new centre was established at the IISc campus under the umbrella programme of the Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India. Adiga was asked to be the Chairman of the Centre. He worked tirelessly to build a very modern centre with excellent faculty until his retirement in 1994. He continued working as an Honorary Professor and in other capacities until his sudden demise. He has published more than 150 papers in all the high impact journals of Biochemistry, Molecular Endocrinology, Reproductive Biology, Immunology, etc.

He was a widely read intense individual with a deep commitment to science and was very critical of his own work and that of others, which made him a superb teacher and research leader. He was a

terror at interviews and seminars and asked searching questions, sometimes even tricky ones. Although this did not endear him to the recipient at the moment, they remembered him lifelong. Many of them recollect these incidents with affection. Once you pierced this forbidding exterior, he was very humane. He made available his extensive knowledge to students and colleagues. He trained more than 20 Ph D, students, many of whom occupy high professorial positions in the academic world as well as important places in Industry in India and abroad.

Adiga received several awards, starting with the Giri Memorial Award for the best Ph D thesis of IISc during 1963; S. S. Bhatnagar Prize in Medical Science and Technology awarded by CSIR in 1980; Sanjay Gandhi Award for Science and Technology in 1982; Sreenivasaya

Memorial Award of the Society of Biological Chemists, India in 1984; M. R. N. Prasad Memorial Award Lecture, Indian National Science Academy, 1992. He was a Vice-President of the Society of Biological Chemists, India; Indian Society for Human Reproduction; Fellow, Indian Academy of Sciences; Fellow, Indian National Science Academy, and a Member, New York Academy of Sciences, USA.

Adiga leaves behind his wife, two daughters, three grandchildren, host of students and colleagues to mourn his tragic passing away.

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Vishnu Ganesh Bhide (1940–2006)

The passing away of V. G. Bhide in June 2006 was an unbearable shock for the scientific community, education circles, industries, innovation centres, non-government organizations and most importantly the common man. By his enormous scientific talent, his passion for the upliftment of the quality of school, college and university education in our country, his vision for a better future for our students driven by his nationalist spirit, his ability to lead by example, his inner purity of purpose and the ability to work extremely hard towards a cherished goal, he touched almost all aspects of social fabric related to the betterment of our future. Some of us had the good fortune of not only knowing him personally but also to work with him over the years in the pursuit of knowledge. His wife Prabha Bhide, has always been a great support and strength in all his endeavours, and with her extremely pleasant and quiet disposition she made everybody who came to know both of them personally, respectfully comfortable within a short time.

After securing the first rank and gold medal in his M Sc examination from Nagpur University, Bhide obtained Ph D

in Physics from the same university. He then joined the Institute of Science, Nagpur as a very young faculty member. He



went to UK for further studies to gain first-hand experience in the newly developing field of Solid State Physics. Here he obtained another Ph D degree from London University. After his return, he joined his duties back at Nagpur but soon was transferred to the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay as the Head of the Department of Physics. Under extremely

difficult circumstances he followed his dream of doing good experimental research in India. Recognizing the significance of the Nobel Prize-winning research of Mössbauer early, he set out to establish this technique and the corresponding physics research. He wrote some outstanding research papers at that time which are still cited for their truly original contribution to our understanding of hyperfine interactions in ferroelectric, magnetic and dielectric/ceramic oxides. He then moved to Delhi to take up a leading position at National Physical Laboratory. While continuing his research interests in Mössbauer spectroscopy and its applications to Materials Science, he began to move to other fields of significance to our country such as alternate sources of energy. He continued to make significant research contributions while at NPL. Bhide won many honours and awards including the *Padmashree* and the fellowships of all the three national academies. He also served on several national and international boards/committees dealing with issues of critical importance for our country. He then moved to Pune University on invitation of the university to head the school of energy

studies. He has since then done enormous work on alternative energy encompassing its many aspects starting from amorphous silicon solar cells to solar driers to biogas. He connected very fruitfully with industries and helped several small entrepreneurs to grow in this field. His presence in Pune University was also vital for the enhancement of research quality and output. Many of us at Pune had the tremendous benefit of his collaboration, scientific advice and support. He took over as the Vice Chancellor in 1984 and took several new initiatives to enhance the scientific and educational infrastructure in and around the university including the science and technology park. He was instrumental in hosting as well as guiding others to host many national and international conferences at the university including the Annual Science Congress. The student community in Pune benefited by his initiatives, including his ideas of holding open day, interactive science exhibitions, etc. He also played a central role in evolving the concept of inter-university consortiums and in fact formed one to enable the university faculty to

avail of the atomic energy facilities. He became the founding director of the IUC-DAEF at Indore and played a major role in establishing the centres and their research standards. It is impossible to capture the breadth of his many initiatives and contributions in short statement.

After returning to Pune, Bhide set out to plan an Exploratory for school and college students. This very original concept was perhaps the dearest to his heart and he spared no effort to make this dream a reality. With the help of industries, the government and like-minded people he established an Exploratory where students can avail of interactive and curriculum-free learning. Now this establishment can boast of a five storey building, but unfortunately its real soul is gone before he could lead it to even higher success. Fortunately, his coworkers and friends are determined to strive to take this institute to greater heights and we hope they will succeed in their efforts. Bhide and Govind Swaroop also recognized the need for a very high quality undergraduate education coupled to scientific research in our country and deve-

loped the concept of five-year integrated courses leading to research careers. Bhide was missed by many at the opening of IISER in Pune and Kolkata.

At 80, Bhide was a youngster. Walking fast, writing a lot, visiting people, giving talks, doing research... he had a full agenda. He had no time to think of his age. He had endless dreams... dreams for the young, dreams for the nation. While some may believe that his hectic schedule caught up with him, some would think that his dreams and work kept him going strong. Our best tribute to this great selfless soul and the light of the nation would be to learn from his life and contributions, and strive to do better in our own way in our lives and work. We salute our teacher and mentor.

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