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Professor B. KARUNES

29 January 1925–29 June 1978

Professor B. Karunes was born at Ghatshila in Bihar where he received his early education. He took his B.Sc. (Honours) in Civil Engineering at Glasgow University (1949) and his D.Phil. at Calcutta University (1954). In 1957–58 he went to Brown University as a Senior Fellow, and in 1968 he was on the visiting faculty of the Imperial College, London. He was elected President of the Indian Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1971.

He joined the department of Physics of Calcutta University in 1950 as a Lecturer in Classical Mechanics and moved to I.I.T. Kanpur in 1963 as an Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, where in 1964 he was promoted to a full professorship. In 1966, he joined I.I.T. Delhi as Professor of Applied Mechanics and held important positions such as Dean of Post-Graduate Studies, Chairman of the Admissions Committee, Head of Department, and Senate nominee on the Board of Governors, I.I.T. Delhi. He was also nominated to the Board of Governors of G.B. Pant University for two terms. He served in these positions with distinction.

Professor Karunes had earned a high reputation for himself as a researcher and scholar, both within and outside the country. His diverse academic interests included areas such as Elasticity, Plasticity, Fatigue, Dynamic Deformations, Bio-Mechanics, Metal-cutting and Metal-forming. For his eminence in these fields his services as a consultant were sought by many public and private industrial concerns in the country. He published extensively in Indian and foreign professional journals and he was for a long time an advisor, referee and member of the Editorial Advisory Board for this Journal. During his career as a teacher he supervised many Ph.D. and a number of M.Tech. dissertations and today his students occupy important positions in industry and the academic world.

Besides teaching and research, his interests ranged from big game hunting to classical music to theology and philosophy. He was admired and respected by his colleagues and friends also for his qualities as a human being—for his generosity, warmth of heart and compassion.

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