

## OBITUARY



**Professor A.R. Chandrasekaran**  
(22<sup>nd</sup> December 1935 - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

Prof. A.R. Chandrasekaran, the founder Secretary and former President of the Indian Society of Earthquake Technology left for his heavenly abode on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

Prof. A.R. Chandrasekaran, popularly known as Prof. ARC (on the Structural Engineering Forum of India (SEFI) web portal) was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1935 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He joined the University of Roorkee in 1957 as a Lecturer and retired in 1996 after making significant contributions in various fields. He was one of the founding faculty members of the erstwhile School of Research and Training in Earthquake Engineering (now 'Department of Earthquake Engineering') at the erstwhile University of Roorkee (now 'IIT Roorkee'). Under the guidance of Prof. Jai Krishna of the University of Roorkee, Prof. D.E. Hudson and Prof. G.W. Housner of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, he submitted his doctoral thesis in November 1963 and was awarded the first Ph.D. from the Department of Earthquake Engineering, IIT Roorkee in 1964. Besides being Dean Academics, University of Roorkee and founding member of the Indian National Academic of Engineering (INAE), he made special efforts during the seventies (1970s) in setting up the first Main Frame Computer DEC 2050 and Information Superhighway Facility in 1995 at IIT Roorkee.

His engagement as an UNESCO expert with the Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Seismology (IZIIS), Skopje in the erstwhile Yugoslavia (now 'Macedonia') during 1970-76 stands as a testament to his academic and research capabilities. He was a key member of the expert team which conducted a detailed study of the Koyna Dam after the Koyna Earthquake, December 11, 1967. Also, he designed and fabricated the first Strong Motion Seismograph under INSMIN project of DST, New Delhi in 1976. His design was approved and seismographs were mass produced which were later installed in Bihar, the then UP hills (now Uttarakhand), Himachal Pradesh and the North East.

Prof. Chandrasekaran was instrumental in the establishment and growth of ISET. He was party to the discussions in which the Society's name was proposed to have the neutral word 'Technology', instead of Engineering or Science, to remain neutral and involve everyone interested in mitigating earthquakes, in the Society's activities. He served as the society's founder Secretary during 1962-65, its Vice-President during 1975-76, and its President during 1993-95. He was the Editor of the ISET Journal during 1970-73. He delivered the 9<sup>th</sup> ISET Annual Lecture titled 'Strong Motion Array and Ground Motion Characteristics of Shillong Region'. He was a member of the publication sub-committee when ISET organized the Sixth World Conference on Earthquake Engineering in New Delhi, in 1977. He co-authored the popular book titled 'Elements of Earthquake Engineering' which introduced many among the current generation senior level Indian Earthquake experts to Earthquake Engineering.

**Prof. T.G. Sitharam**  
President, ISET &  
Director, IIT Guwahati