

Obituary

It is with profound sorrow we note the peaceful passing away of Prof. B. S. Sonde on Saturday, the 9 November 2019. He was in good health and spirits till the moment of his passing away.

Prof. Anurag Kumar, Director, IISc, and several present and past members of IISc visited Prof. Sonde's place on 10 November 2019 morning and paid the last respects. Prof. Sonde is one of the widely recognized and highly respected academic in the country for his unique contributions to technical education in India. He was one of the key architects of the Department of ECE, IISc. Present and past members of ECE, IISc condoled his passing away and fondly remembered his many contributions to the growth of the department. Present and past members of Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE), IISc – formerly Center for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT) – met to condole his passing away and remembered various aspects of his life and paid tribute to his graceful and gentle personality, his leadership, his eye for details, his outstanding teaching, and his great contributions to technical education in India. He is respectfully remembered as the one of the two founders of the department. His vision for creating such a durable entity in the Institute was revered and appreciated.

Prof. Sonde was a brilliant student both in his early studies and during his research at the Institute. After his Ph.D he joined the ECE department and rose quickly to become a full professor. He served IISc in an exemplary manner till 1997; as a professor, Department chair of CEDT and ECE, Chairman of the then Electrical Sciences Division, and the Engineering Dean. He then served as the Vice Chancellor of Goa University till 2002. Subsequently he headed many organizations such as NBA. Apart from many research publications, he published 10 books (including a monograph series of six books) that served as foundation for many courses in Electronics across the country, setting a standard for the curriculum for many universities. He contributed to the management and administration of higher education by writing, guiding, and reviewing the statutes, regulations and other policies of many universities. He guided many students who in turn contributed to the growth of electronics education and industry in the country.

He is fondly remembered and revered for founding the Centre for Electronics Design and Technology (CEDT, renamed latterly as Department of Electronic Systems Engineering DESE) in collaboration with the Swiss Government (through Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC). His seminal contributions towards Electronics and allied engineering education in India is well known and highly regarded. His enthusiasm for education was such that he took these ideas beyond the shores of India to countries like Thailand.

He is survived by his extremely supportive wife Ms. Padma Sonde and his dear daughter Ms. Sakura, a practicing architect, and her family.

He will be sorely missed by all those whose lives he touched.