

Obituary / In Memoriam Professor Arvind P. Kudchadker



Professor Arvind P. Kudchadker, age 90, passed away, surrounded by family, in Chico, California on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. He was born on February 16, 1934 in Curchorem, Goa, India. After spending his early years in Curchorem and schooling in Karwar, he moved to Mumbai for his undergraduate studies, then to the UK, followed by the US for his Masters and PhD in Chemical Engineering. In 1968 he joined IIT, Kanpur as Assistant Professor in Chemical Engineering and held positions subsequently of Professor and Head; Chairman, Placement; and Dean, Student Affairs. From 1976-78 he served as Visiting Professor in the Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University. In research, Professor Kudchadker worked in Thermodynamics. He was among the first to recognize the importance of sustainable chemical processing, and initiated programs with a broad vision for shifting the focus to bio-based raw materials from fossil-based ones. He was a mentor to several generations of students, and was also early to recognize the importance of technology in bringing quality education to the masses

Prof. Kudchadker joined IIT Bombay in 1978 as Professor of chemical engineering. He was Dean R&D (1984-86), Cochairman, CII Western Region (1984-86), Head CAD Centre (1984- 94), Deputy Director, IIT, Bombay (1986-94). He has been member of various government and industry committees (including Science Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; DST). He is a Fellow of National Academy of Engineering. He has published over 50 papers in international reviewed journals, contributed chapters in books, data books, and presented a number of invited talks.

Professor Kudchadker was filled with an infinite zest for life, positive energy, never-ending curiosity, and unconditional love for all. His living legacy lies in his dedication to creating innovative educational institutions, fostering industry-academia partnerships, and advancing technology and academic planning. He will be remembered for his profound impact on education and his unwavering commitment to shaping the future of India.

The Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Kanpur and the Institute at large, fondly remember Professor Kudchadker's many contributions. May his soul rest in peace.