Obituary

Prof R Natarajan



(January 09, 1941 to November 18, 2026)

Prof R Natarajan, FNAE born on January 09, 1941 passed away on November 18, 2026. He was elected to INAE Fellowship in the year 1994 and affiliated to Engineering Section-III (Mechanical Engineering).

Prof R Natarajan, Formerly Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi and Formerly Director, IIT Madras was Vice President, INAE during 20003 to 2006. He had made significant research contributions in the areas of Combustion and Energy Science & Technology. His research in the fields of Combustion and Fuel Dynamics covered investigation of the combustion behaviour of multi-component and heavy liquid fuels, analyzing explosive vaporization, droplet shattering, and velocity histories using high-speed cinematography. In the areas of Propulsion and Transport Phenomena, he contributed extensively to fundamental studies in aerospace propulsion, energy conversion, and heat/mass transport phenomena. As Director of IIT Madras from 1995 to 2001, he focused on quality management, benchmarking, and strategic institutional planning. He introduced the 'ISO 9000', a set of international standards of quality management and quality assurance development, in the Institution and ensured its adherence. As Chairman, AICTE from 2001–2004, he led India's statutory body for technical education across engineering, management, architecture, pharmacy, and related disciplines, focusing on quality assurance, accreditation, benchmarking, and regulatory standards. His contributions left an indelible mark on the higher education landscape of the country. Prof. Natarajan was a distinguished academician, an inspiring leader, Institution builder and a true visionary in the field of technical education in India. Generations of students, faculty, and administrators have been inspired by his commitment to excellence, integrity, and institutional development.

May God bless his soul to rest in peace