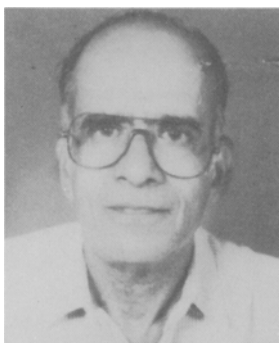


Obituary



Dr. A. K. Sundaram, a former President (1979–84) and a Founder Vice-President of Indian Thermal Analysis Society, who, sadly, expired on January 27, 1994 was a remarkable personality respected and admired widely.

Dr. Anantharaman Kalyana Sundaram, the eldest son of the well-known advocate late Mr. Anantharaman, was born on May 10, 1925 in Tanjore in the State of Tamil Nadu in India. He graduated from Madras University in 1945, obtained Masters Degree in Science from Banares Hindu University in 1948 and was awarded Doctorate Degree in Chemistry by The University of Bombay in 1962. He started his scientific career in 1949 in the Indian Institute of Sugar Technology, Kanpur where he pioneered work on Faradaic rectification in a.c. polarography in association with Prof. K. S. G. Doss. Later, in 1951, Dr. Sundaram joined Atomic Energy Commission (present Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) where he was in service till his retirement in 1985 as Head, Electrochemistry Section. During his illustrious academic and research career, he was associated with eminent scientists like Prof. I. M. Kolthoff and Prof. P. Delahay. He built dedicated schools of research in electrochemistry, solvent extraction and thermal analysis and guided over 20 students for their M. Sc. and Ph. D. degrees of The University of Bombay. He contributed about 160 research publications inclusive of many papers on thermoanalytical study of solid-state reaction kinetics. He was the first to extend the popular method of Borchardt and Daniels to the study of solid-state reaction kinetics. Later, his interest was centred on refinement of methods of analysis of thermoanalytical data and computer-aided modelling of decomposition reactions based on solid-state reaction models.

Dr. Sundaram was a Regional Editor of *Journal of Thermal Analysis* (1980–85) and a Member of the Editorial Boards of *Proceedings of Indian Academy of Sciences* (1977–79) and *Indian Journal of Chemistry* (1980–83). He was also a Member, Scientific Sub-Committee for 'Solid State Electrochemistry, Instrumentation and Fundamentals', Central Electrochemical Research Institute, Karaikudi (1977–79), Chairman, Committee on Electrode Kinetics, SAEST, Karaikudi (1981–82), Member, Nomenclature Committee, ICTA (1981) and Affiliate Councillor, ICTA (1979–84). He was a Fellow of Royal Institute of Chemistry, Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and Member of ICTA. He fostered and popularised Indian Thermal Analysis Society and ensured a firm foundation for it.

Dr. Sundaram was healthy and active till the last day of his life. No one close to him had any warning of the sudden heart failure which caused his death. It is very unfortunate that the thermal analysts and electrochemists in India can no longer look forward to this dynamic and far-sighted personality for guidance. Dr. Sundaram is survived by his wife Maitreyi, daughter Rajeswari Rangan and son Swaminathan.

P. V. Ravindram