

## PERSONAL NEWS

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pleasantly surprised to see how well he had bounced back. He himself made me a cup of tea and insisted that I also ate the biscuits. We chatted for over an hour. Little did I know this was to be our last meeting.

I want to remember this gentle genius for the special bond we had and will always imagine him at work in his base-

ment lab in NCBS. To his family and to his numerous friends and admirers at NCBS, TIFR, in Aligarh and elsewhere, I can only say –

*Ujaale apni yaadoN ke humare saath  
rehne do  
Na jaane kis gali meiN zindagi ki shaam  
ho jaye*

Till we meet again!

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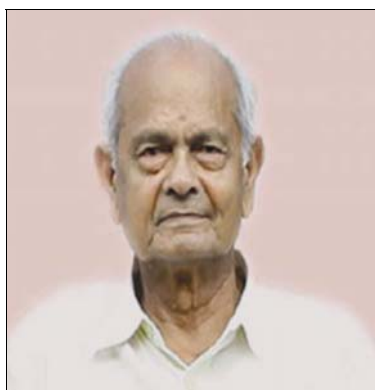
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## N. V. V. J. Swamy (1924–2013)

Nyayapathi Venkata Vykuntha Jagannadha Swamy, popularly known as Professor Swamy, a resident of Stillwater in Oklahoma State, USA and an Emeritus Professor of Physics at Oklahoma State University (OSU), passed away on 13 June 2013 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. He was teaching physics to M Sc students at the Department of Physics, University of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram till the 2012–13 academic year.

Swamy lost his parents when he was only 3 and with great difficulty he completed his schooling in Visakhapatnam. As he had no money to continue his further studies, he had to leave his home town to find a job, first as a shorthand typist at Bombay and later as a civilian clerk in the Royal Indian Navy in Bombay. After completing his B Sc (Mathematics) in 1949, B Sc (Physics) in 1950 and M Sc in 1952 from University of Bombay, he joined as a lecturer in the Department of Physics at Sidharth College, Bombay. He then moved to USA for his Ph D in theoretical nuclear physics at Florida State University. Swamy completed his Ph D in 1958 and joined the University of Maryland and the Duke University for post-doctoral research. He returned briefly to India to join the physics faculty at Karnatak University, Dharwad. He returned to USA to join as the first Indian American faculty at the Department of Physics in OSU, in 1963. Until retirement in 1987 Swamy was an active member of the physics faculty at OSU. During his sabbatical he lectured and taught at many universities in India, was a guest scientist in Julich (Germany), Cambridge University (UK) and University of Innsbruck (Austria). Swamy was a mathematical physicist and contributed to the physics of relativistic

harmonic oscillator which found wide applications in atomic, nuclear and high energy physics. He was well known for his theoretical contributions to mathematical physics and co-authored a textbook with Mark Samuel entitled *Group Theory Made Easy for Scientists and Engineers* (1979).



One of his most significant contributions came after his retirement from OSU when he joined the Saurashtra University (Rajkot), where he taught subjects like quantum mechanics, classical mechanics and nuclear physics to M Sc (physics) students and research scholars. Swamy brought some academic culture to the department. When a new postgraduate department in physics was to start at Bhavnagar University, he helped to establish it in 1988 and moved to Bhavnagar in 1988–89. He chose Saurashtra region (Rajkot and Bhavnagar) after his retirement only because of his love for Mahatma Gandhi. I met Swamy when I appeared for the position of a lecturer in physics at Bhavnagar University in 1988. As a fresh Ph D from IIT Madras, I had my own reservations in joining Bhavnagar University as faculty and like many

others, I also wanted to go for a postdoctoral research abroad. It was Swamy who convinced me to take up the lectureship at Bhavnagar. He then went to Mangalore University and finally settled at Oklahoma. Swamy shuttled between USA and India from 1989 until his death in June 2013. During his visits to India, he taught physics at University of Kerala, Pondicherry University, Bangalore University, Visva-Bharati and the Charotar University of Science and Technology. His final stint was at Gayatri University in Visakhapatnam. Swami inspired several young M Sc students from rural background to take up physics as career.

Apart from academic activities, Swamy could talk about contemporary Indian, American or global politics, arts, music and culture. He was an ardent fan of Carnatic music and regularly attended the annual concerts at the Madras Music Academy. One could discuss with him music from Thyagaraja to Ilayaraja. He was also interested in Vedic Astrology. He played tennis, started a Tennis club at Stillwater, and enjoyed watching cricket. He had many friends including E. C. G. Sudarshan and S. P. Pandya.

Swamy remained a bachelor and is survived by his grand niece Subhadra Singh and S. V. Rangarajan. It is a great personal loss not only to me but also to many young physicists who learnt physics from him.

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