



January 2006

I was shocked to know in the morning of 29th of December 2005 that Dr. M.C. Puri was a victim of a terrorist attack at IISc, Bangalore. It was very difficult to believe that Dr. Puri was no more.

I knew the work of Dr. M.C. Puri when I was a student member of ORSI 1985-1994 and his involvement with ORSI. I personally interacted with him from the year 2000 when he attended the Operational Research Society of India (ORSI) Annual Conference in Ahmedabad. In this conference, he was a member of the panel discussion in the session on "OR Education in India".

Dr. Puri was instrumental in organizing APORS in the year 2003. During this time I was impressed with his attention to detail and down to earth approach. In the year 2002, I was invited by the University of Delhi (with the initiative of Dr. Pankaj Gupta) as a guest lecturer for a short term. During this time I presented two research papers – the first presentation was attended by Dr. Puri. The second presentation was in the following week. I remember that he came and told me personally that it will not be possible for him to attend the second lecture. During this time I came to know that every Wednesday there is a meeting and a seminar on a topic related to research activities in the field of OR. I understand this was possible only because of the long time effort of Dr. Puri. I do not know any other place in India where such seminars are organized on a weekly basis.

In the summer of 2003, Dr. Puri sent one of the under-graduate students of IIT, Delhi (Akhilesh Majumdar) to do a summer internship with me. Dr. Puri personally recommended the candidate. I came to know from this student that students' development was one of his top priorities and the students deeply admired and respected him .

Dr. Puri has left a void in the OR community in India which will not be filled. He was widely respected by students, colleagues and other academicians in India and abroad.

ORSI will not be the same without his presence.

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