

On 1 Oct 2020. PROF S. LOKANATHAN delivered this speech in the web based curtain raiser programme to mark the birth centenary of Prof D.P.Khandelwal

Principal, Prof. Bera, Prof. Das, Prof. Ghosh, Prof. Dharkar, Prof. Joshipura, Prof. Samantha, Prof. Ogalaparkar, Prof. Panchadhyayee.

We celebrate today the centenary birth anniversary of Prof. D.P.Khandelwal, doyen of the teaching profession, the founder of IAPT.

Many of us have aspirations, dreams of serving causes dear to us but few have the sustained strength and ability to achieve their goals. Prof. Khandelwal was that rare breed who could create an institution. The IAPT has caught the spirit and imagination of teachers throughout the country.

I first met Prof. Khandelwal in 1965 when he and Prof. Babulal Saraf visited I.I.T, Delhi where I was teaching. He immediately struck me as a person with a purpose. He wanted information about some laboratory equipment he needed and came straight to the point.

Later, in 1969, when I had joined Rajasthan University, Jaipur, he was a frequent visitor. My senior colleague and friend, Babulal Saraf had decided views on the diminution of teaching standards and the decline of the Laboratory in Physics. Prof. Khandelwal invited us to a workshop he was organising at Agra College where he was Professor and Head of The department of Physics.

Such was his organised life that he would participate in every session even if he was not the speaker, find time to give instructions about the mundane but necessary arrangements for putting up the participants. Later in the evening he would even participate for an hour of playing Bridge but would still find time for preparing for the next day's proceedings before retiring for the night.

It was during one of his visits to Jaipur that he mooted his idea of a National Institution of Physics Teachers. He was advising us on the University Leadership program (ULP) under the direction of Babulal Saraf. Not for Prof. Khandelwal just his advice during discussions! He would find time to sit in the laboratory and perform an experiment or two, like a student, to get a feel for the impact on its education.

His vision for a wider awakening among teachers around the country was now gathering a focus and it was unflagging work that led to birth and flourishing of the IAPT. As I see now the enthusiasm and vigour of teachers around the country participating in the various activities of IAPT, I feel a tinge of sadness that he is not with us to savour the fruits of his creation.

In honouring him, you are honouring the entire teaching profession. It is most appropriate that the Midnapore College Centre for Scientific Culture is hosting this program.

My best wishes for a very successful Webinar.

S.Lokanathan.

