

## **In Memoriam**

Name (Kripa Sindhu Rakshit 51CE)

Date of Death: March 31, 2024)

### **Details about his professional & personal life**

Rakshit da (Kripa Sindhu Rakshit), an outstanding Engineering Personality, an illustrious alumnus (1951 Civil) of B E College, a pride of PWD family of West Bengal, passed away at 05:30 PM (IST) (31 March 2024) at the age of nearly 98 years.

He made remarkable contribution in Engineering and bridge engineering in particular. His innovative thinking in design made open many new approaches correcting old concepts in many places. He was a regular writer in leading technical journals, got award for presenting papers in annual session of Indian Roads Congress. He liked PWD so much that he contributed in almost all the publications of Purta Katha since its inception in spite of his near blindness. He was keen to write for Purta Katha again when it restarted after a gap of 12 years but by that time he was 100% blind and completely deaf. But with his strong determination he started writing but it could not be legible. His signed message was published in the Purta Katha issue last year. After retirement on superannuation, Rakshit da started writing text book on bridge engineering. The book was an outstanding one to learn bridge engineering. Later he wrote another two books on bridge engineering. He chose a publisher who was reluctant to publish the book. After his repeated requests, the publisher gave the manuscript to Narayan Das Sanyal (1948 BEC), a very popular writer, if there was any prospect in

publishing the book. Narayan Sanyal told the publisher that he did not have expertise in bridge engineering, he would give the manuscript to an eminent expert. Publisher agreed and handed over the manuscript. Seeing name of the author Narayan Sanyal returned the manuscript and advised the publisher to publish the book without any hesitation. Once I had the opportunity to meet Prof Jonson Victor who wrote a remarkable book on bridge engineering. He wanted to know about Rakshit da and spoke highly about him and his book which he rated as the best text book on bridge engineering. Rakshit da was an active member of IRC committees and made significant contributions. He had a sharp memory. At the age of 95 he wanted to know from me about 82 engineers of PWD who were junior to him but retired from service. I am really fortunate to have the blessings of Rakshit da in many of my work. His son Chandan told me last year that his father wanted to meet me. I planned many a times to go to his residence but could not make it. I am saddened to know that our respected Rakshit da is no more with us.

I pray for his soul to rest in peace. My condolences are with Chandan and others of family of Rakshit da.

*Reported by Syama Prasad Datta 1967 CE*