

Obituary



Samir Kumar Ray, Director of the Central Research & Training Laboratory under the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) passed away suddenly on January 02, 2010 following a cardiac arrest. He was 57 and was survived by two young sons. Ray's wife had expired a month prior to his untimely demise, the rude shock of the great loss that badly effected his health. A Mechanical Engineer by profession, S. K. Ray joined the National Council of Science Museums in 1979. Throughout his career he was involved in different exhibit development projects at District Science Centres at Purulia and Dharampur, National Science Centre, Delhi and Visvesvaraya Industrial & Technological Museum, Bangalore, to name a few. Known for his honest and punctual personality, S. K. Ray left indelible marks in the areas of exhibition design and fabrication. In the year 1998, he took charge of the R&D hub of the National Council of Science Museums, the Central Research & Training Laboratory (CRTL) in Kolkata. During his tenure as the Director, CRTL, he played a pivotal role in embarking on its first overseas turnkey project of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre in the island country of Mauritius. He was instrumental in dealing with a number of overseas ventures of the Council especially in the areas of extending catalytic support in terms of conceptualization, development and installation of interactive science learning exhibits to institutions of excellence in countries like Turkey, Israel, Bangladesh and so on. He endeavoured that the Central

Research & Training Laboratory scaled new heights in designing, developing and applying state-of-the-art technologies in science communication. Designing need-based training modules for science communicators and curators in the changing technological scenario was his other interest in the CRTL. He was also an important member of the core team in launching the two-year full time academic

course, Master of Science (MS) in Science Communication of the Council in collaboration with Birla Institute of Science & Technology (BITS), Pilani. As a part of his responsibilities, S. K. Ray had to undertake a number of overseas assignment-cum-study tours in USA, Germany, erstwhile USSR, Mauritius, Vietnam, Bangkok and Nepal.

An alumni of the Purulia Ramakrishna Mission School in the early days and later on, of the Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission College, Samir Kumar Ray was a disciplinarian. Endeared to all for his affable nature, his unfortunate demise created a void which is difficult to fill in the Council. The entire staff members of the National Council of Science Museums deeply condole the untimely death of Samir Kumar Ray which has come as a shock to the entire Council and to all who knew him.

Subhabrata Chaudhuri
Director, CRTL