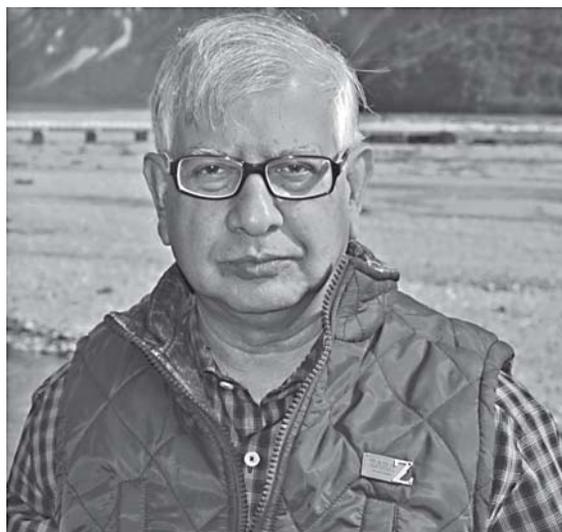


PROFESSOR PARIMAL CHANDRA SEN (1952-2018)



Dr. Parimal Chandra Sen, born on August 4, 1952 began his life from humble origins in Barisal in former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He moved to India at the age of thirteen and by dint of his mental strength and academic pursuit, he excelled in life in spite of the many trials and tribulations of his early life. He received his PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Calcutta University in 1977 and was a postdoctoral research associate at the State University of New York, Syracuse and The Hormel Institute of the University of Minnesota, USA. Thereafter, he joined Bose Institute, Kolkata, in 1983. He was the founding Chairman of the Division of Molecular Medicine at Bose Institute. He superannuated from Bose Institute as a Senior Professor of Molecular Medicine and Dean of Studies, and thereafter continued as a NASI Senior Scientist till his untimely death at the age of 65 years on February 24, 2018.

During his tenure at Bose Institute, he took on increasingly greater responsibilities, becoming departmental chairman, organizing multiple symposiums and international conferences, and helping establish an innovative integrated MSc-PhD program. He collaborated with multiple highly-ranked institutions abroad and spent time working at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany, Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary and the University of Ljubljana in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Prof. Sen was known for his pioneering work on various transport enzymes and their interactions with different drugs and lipids. His research also explored the mechanism of regulation of transport enzymes by protein kinases, phosphatases, endogenous stimulators, and/or inhibitor proteins to determine their pharmacological importance and their utility as contraceptive drugs. In addition, his research explored the role of ATPase in fertility regulation, the regulation of ATPases by synthetic compounds, and their possible use as an anticancer agent. Recently, his work expanded to study synthetic compounds that have been found to regulate different ion - transporting enzymes, with a view to exploring their utility in cancer therapy.

Prof. Sen has published almost one hundred papers in international high impact journals. His pedagogic legacy includes (in addition to the countless students who have been taught by him in the classroom) approximately 20 doctoral students who have gone on to become successful teachers, academics, and scientists in India and abroad. He was a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences (F.N.A.Sc.), India and a Fellow of the West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (WAST) and an advisor of NASI (Kolkata Chapter). He was a recipient of a number of awards such as Prof. P. B. Sen Oration Award, Prof. P. A. Kurup Endowment Award, Mrinal Kanti

Dewanjee Lifetime Achievement Award and Prof. R. C. Shah Memorial Award.

Prof. Sen was the Secretary of the Indian Science News Association since 2013 till his death and was also in the Editorial Board of the journal *Science and Culture*. Prof. Sen was closely associated with the Indian Science Congress Association for a long time and became the Sectional President of New Biology section in 2014.

In his personal life, Prof. Sen was disciplined and devoted to his family. He maintained a healthy lifestyle throughout his life. He enjoyed reading books, the arts, and travel. An extremely well-traveled man, he had been to nearly 35 countries in 5 continents, with many more trips planned, had his untimely death not cut his explorations short. Be it exploring ancient monasteries in Ethiopia, going on safari in the remotest corners of Africa,

hiking under the midnight sun in the High Arctic or road-tripping through the Swiss Alps, he enjoyed the beauty of this world to its fullest. An extremely soft-spoken person, Prof. Sen drew strength from his humility and had an immense sense of surprise and gratitude for the way life had given him more than he had expected from it when he began his journey as a little child in a remote village in Bangladesh.

His passing away leaves a huge void in Indian science and among his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Purabi and son, Deajeet. □

Compiled with inputs received from Deajeet Sen (Prof. Parimal Chandra Sen's son), members of the Editorial Board (Dr. Amit Krishna De and Prof. Barun Kumar Chatterjee) and the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Suprakash Chandra Roy of Science and Culture