

Ashesh Prasad Mitra **1927-2007**



Ashesh Prasad Mitra, FRS, a leading Indian Scientist was born on February 21, 1927 in Calcutta. Dr. Mitra obtained his Ph.D. in 1953 from Calcutta University. He began his research in Earth's Space Environment under the guidance of the legendary Scientist, Professor S. K. Mitra, FRS. Dr. A. P. Mitra made path-breaking work in the field of Earth's near-space environment and also on Cosmic Radio Noise and in the study of upper atmosphere. He was one of the pioneers behind the Indian Programme of the International Geophysical year 1957-58, International Quiet Sun year (1964-65). He introduced research in Ionospheric Physics at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL). He later became Director of NPL and the Director General of CSIR. He is now working as Scientist of Eminence at NPL, New Delhi. Of late he has concentrated his work on the scientific aspects of global environmental hazards of industrial activities.

Dr. Mitra won worldwide recognition for his contribution to science and received many awards in India and Abroad. He was Chairman of Indian Advisory Committee on Space Science and Governing Council of National Council of Science Museums. He was also Chairman of START - SASCOM and National Committee for International Union of Geosphere – Biosphere Programme (1991-94). He obtained the Santi Swarup Bhatnagar award for Physical Sciences in 1968; Sir K. S. Krishna Memorial Lectureship of INSA (1975). C. V. Raman award of UGC (1982) and many other prestigious awards. He is a Fellow of Royal Society of London, Indian Academy of Sciences and third world academy. He has over 200 publications and several books to his credit. Dr. Mitra is actively engaged in various high level committees of the Government of India. He has been awarded Padma Bhusan by the Government of India.

As Chairman of the Section 8.1 Committee for Indian Statistical Institute, Dr. Mitra took a keen interest in the activities of Indian Statistical Institute and encouraged ISI to spread out and take up problems of national interest. He gave 25th Convocation

Address in Indian Statistical Institute on 23rd February 1991. The title of his talk was 'Changing Concepts of Atmospheric Environment'.

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