



### Rabin Sen Gupta - a biography

Rabindranath Sen Gupta is one of authorities on the chemistry of the oxygen-depleted oceanic environments. Rabin, as he is popularly known, or *Dada* (Bengali for elder brother) as he is fondly called by people in India, has made unequalled contributions to oceanographic research in India both as a scientist par excellence and as an administrator.

Born on 1 October 1932 at Calcutta, Sen Gupta graduated from Calcutta University in 1951. He started his research career at the Central Marine Fisheries Research institute at Mandapam Camp in 1957. In 1964, he moved to the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay. During this period, he participated actively in the International Indian Ocean Expedition. Subsequently, he spent eight years (1965–1973) at the Institute of Oceanography, University of Goteborg (Sweden), where,

under the supervision of the late Prof. Borje Kullenberg, he carried out extensive research on the nutrient (particularly nitrogen) cycling in the Baltic, that included the nutrient budget, nutrient fractions, a stoichiometric model and denitrification. His Ph.D. dissertation still continues to be the most authoritative document on chemical oceanography of the Baltic and is extensively cited.

After coming back to India in 1973, Sen Gupta joined the National Institute of Oceanography at Goa and initiated an ambitious observational programme in the northern Indian Ocean. He was the first to study the consequences of the oxygen-poor conditions in this region and their implications on the global nitrogen cycling. He also pioneered the work on the cycling of some major ions in the northern Indian Ocean. His con-

cern for the deteriorating marine environment made him initiate studies on marine pollution where his contributions have been equally valuable. More recently, he has been involved with the International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme, working as an Emeritus Scientist at NIO, Goa, on the biogeochemical cycling of greenhouse gases in the northern Indian Ocean.

Sen Gupta has worked in all the major oceanic environments including the Arctic and the Antarctic (he was the leader of the Eighth Indian

Scientific Expedition to Antarctica) as well as the land-locked seas such as the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. He has spent over 2000 days at sea. He has so far published about 100 research papers in international journals.

A fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India, Sen Gupta has served on a number of panels of the organizations UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, IOC (UNESCO) and FAO.

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