

Indian Council of Chemists

(www.chemicc.com)



Celebration of Chemistry Day on August 2 to mark the birth day of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, the Father of Chemistry in India

Appeal

To
All the Vice Chancellors/Directors/Heads
Institutions in India

July 11, 2024

Sir,

You would be delighted to learn that the Indian Council of Chemists (ICC; www.chemicc.com), an apex body of Chemistry in India having thousands of members and Fellows spread all over the country, has decided to commemorate and help to commemorate the 2nd August, the birthday of "Father of Indian Chemistry", the great Acharya P. C. Ray (August 2, 1861 – June 16, 1944) at National Level. This Celebration will motivate the Young Scientists to know about the great Indian Chemist and get inspiration in studying and doing research in Chemical Sciences.

As you are aware, Sir Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, D.Sc. (Edinburgh), the staunch nationalist scientist, literary figure, professor, industrialist, and philanthropist who is revered as "the father of Indian chemistry," was a pioneer and figurehead of modern chemical research in India. He was a great teacher and he used to give away his salary to students interested in science. Ray's research career spans numerous areas of chemistry, but he is most famously known for his work on organic and inorganic nitrites—earning him the nickname "Master of Nitrites." One of his most notable contributions in this area is the discovery of the stable compound mercurous nitrite in 1896, which laid the groundwork for years of discoveries and published research on the synthesis, structure, and decomposition of nitrites and hyponitrites of different metals. He was mentor and founder of professional bodies including "The Indian Science Congress Association" and research journal JICS (started in 1924) and was founder of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. He was also the President of the civic society (with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as the Secretary of the society) which organized first public rally/function of Mahatma Gandhi in Bengal (at Kolkata). ICC has resolved to celebrate August 2 every year as the "National Chemistry Day" and is pursuing the matter with other organisations such as Vidya Bharati (it has already resolved to celebrate it in thousands of schools throughout the country), Vigyan Bharati, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas etc and is appealing to Universities, Institutes, Colleges and schools to celebrate the day as national Chemistry Day.

The following events are being carried out at various places:

1. Tribute by garlanding picture/portrait of Sir Acharya P. C. Ray.
2. Lecture or Lecturer series on the life and work of Acharya P. C. Ray.
3. Lecture or Lecturer series on any topic of chemistry or chemical technology or pharmaceutical sciences
4. Elocution Competition on Acharya P. C. Ray
5. Quiz competition
6. Short films on the life and work of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray
e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibgrWeO-7YE&themeRefresh=1>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3v-8Ga8LkA>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYXSB0m01eE>

The Indian Council of Chemists has resolved to recognize and felicitate the best performing institutions in college/university/school categories during its 43rd Annual Conference being held at Pune in December 2024. **The entries shall subject to displaying the name of ICC without any financial commitment.** However, ICC can help in providing expertise in organizing any of the above events. Fellows of ICC are present throughout the country. The ICC may help in reaching out locally. For that, the National Convener, Prof C.P. Bhasin(cpbhasin@yahoo.com), the Secretary, Prof Rajesh Dhakarey, Former VC (icckota23@gmail.com) or the President, Prof Ranjit K Verma(profrkverma@gmail.com) may be contacted. . Any single or multiple activities may be organized such as the above.

The decision shall be taken by a Committee on the basis of the following and on the basis of report submitted with photograph:

1. Number of participants
2. Types and number of items
3. Geographical area covered for the participation
4. Number of lectures delivered/research papers presented
5. Publication of the report or special chapters

We would appeal that your esteemed and renowned institution should join the celebrations.

C.P. Bhasin
Convener
NCD Celebration Committee, 2024.
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