

Shyam Sundar Rai is currently a Chief Scientist and JC Bose National Fellow at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, where he also heads the Seismic Tomography programme.

Dr.Rai studied B.Sc.(Physics Hons.) at Banaras Hindu University, and M.Tech. (Applied Geophysics) at the University of Roorkee. He obtained his PhD from the Indian School of Mines Dhanbad in 1988. Dr. Rai started his career as a Scientific Assistant in CSIR - NGRI in 1978 in a UNDP-sponsored project, in the area of Geo-electromagnetic modelling. Besides NGRI, he was also associated with the then newly-established, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata as a Professor of Geophysics during 2009-10.

Dr. Rai has made enduring contribution to two overarching areas of Earth Sciences: Geo-electromagnetism and Tectono-physics – where, he generated new knowledge based on hypothesis-driven approaches, to address the problems of earth structure and processes. He is currently involved in generating 3-D images of the India- Himalaya region at various scale lengths, using specifically-designed seismological network. Dr. Rai has to his credit about 80 research publications, most of which have been published in reputed, international journals of Earth Science. He has also supervised 6 Ph.D. theses.

In recognition of his research contributions, Dr. Rai was awarded several national awards like the SS Bhatnagar Prize and the Distinguished Alumni Medal of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee. He is a fellow of all the three national science academies of India.

Among other committees, Dr.Rai currently serves as a member on the Senate of the AcSIR and on the Sectional Committee (Earth Science) of the Indian National Science Academy. He is also the Area Coordinator representing Earth Science academic interests in India on the Joint Council of the Indo Russian Long Term Programmes.