



It is with profound sorrow that we inform our members of the sudden and untimely demise of **Mr. Soumitra Kumar De, Chairman of the Institute's General Purposes Committee and a past Chairman of Kolkata Branch.** He was one of the stalwarts of the institute who had supported and advised us during difficult times the Institute went through some years ago. His dedication and commitment to the institute's activities was always of a high order and the institute will be ever grateful for the services he has rendered over the years.

Mr. Soumitra De was born on September 30th 1959 and passed his Civil Engineering degree with 1st Class Honours from the Jadavpur University in 1981. Mr. De joined the Burn Standard Company and had an illustrious career as a structural engineer having been involved in the execution of many major projects such as the Brahmaputra Bridge, 2nd Hooghly Bridge and Rajghat Thermal Power station. While at Burn he also developed various Prototype Wagons and manufactured the same for the Indian Railways. In 2000 he left Burn to form his own consultancy company Polaris Engineers (I) Pvt. Ltd. of which he was the Managing Director. He has provided consultancy to many important Flyover and bridge projects. Mr. De was a fellow of our Institute and also member Institution of Engineers (India) and American Society of Civil Engineers (USA). A goodhearted person, he was very amiable and friendly to one and all in the institute and outside.

Mr. De leaves behind his aged parents, a married daughter and a young son in college, his wife having sadly passed away some years back. Our sincerest condolences go out to his family members in their hour of grief and we pray that god gives them the strength and courage to tide over this irreplaceable loss. His untimely demise is a great loss to the institute and he will long be remembered by the entire IIW family. May his soul rest in peace.