



Institute Colloquium



S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences
(An Autonomous Research Institute established under DST, GOI)



5 April, 2023



12.00 Noon
at FERMION, SNBNCBS



Webinar Link

YouTube YouTube Link

Title:

Partnership between Megh Nad Saha and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar in the conception of plans in all domains for the post World War-II India

Abstract:

I shall describe a narrative as to how Megh Nad Saha (MNS) and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) seized up the opportunities at the start of the second world war to conceive plans for scientific research and development of India.

M N Saha (1893-1956) and S S Bhatnagar (1894-1955) came to know each other in London, where the former was a post-doctoral visitor and the latter had enrolled for his doctoral degree. SSB had accompanied MNS to meet Wather Nernst in his laboratory in Berlin in 1920. MNS had moved to University of Allahabad as Professor and Head in 1923 and SSB was selected as the first Director of University Chemical Laboratory at Lahore in 1924. The two of them much admired each other's accomplishments.

SSB was inducted by the colonial government as the first Director of newly created Board of Scientific and Industrial Research (BSIR) in 1939 as the second World War broke out in Europe. He was moved to Calcutta in April 1940, where MNS was already positioned as the Palit Professor of Physics.

Bhatnagar reached out to the teacher colleagues in the Universities as small grants were made available to them from BSIR. Saha masterminded the getting together of all the scientists for a meeting convened in Calcutta in September, 1943 by J C Ghosh, the then President of the National Institute of Sciences. At the prodding of MNS, SSB got invited the British MP and the Secretary of The Royal Society of London, Nobel Laureate Dr. A V Hill, for a visit to India from November, 1943 to April, 1944. Hill endorsed the plans articulated by the teacher scientists for the future of India. Hill himself submitted a report titled 'Scientific Research in India' in August 1944. The recommendations enshrined in it became the agenda for implementation. The close synergy between the scientists and political leaders at the forefront of independence movement gave us a head start in independent India.

Speaker:

Prof. Arun Kumar Grover

Hony. Prof., Punjab Engineering College (Deemed to be University), Chandigarh & Ex-Vice Chancellor, Panjab University

Short biography of the Speaker

Prof. Arun K Grover is an Honorary Professor at Punjab Engineering College. He obtained his Ph.D in 1979 from TIFR, Mumbai and carried out his Post Doctoral research at Imperial College, London, UK. He served as a faculty member in TIFR during 1982-2011 and then served as the Vice - Chancellor of Panjab University, Chandigarh for the period 2012 - 2015.

His research interest includes Magnetism & Superconductivity, Vortex State Studies in Superconductors, Strongly Correlated Systems. He has published more than 170 papers and has won many awards and recognitions. He is an elected fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore and The National Academy of Sciences, India.

