



## S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences

series of talks on

### Illustrious Indian Scientists in Pre-independence Era



1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022



04:00 PM



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#### *Title of the Talk*

**Jagadis Chandra Bose: His Life, His Times and His Legacy**

#### *Abstract*

Independent India is a young nation, only 75 years old. The colonial yokes that she had to bear aimed at thwarting her progress. Yet, in this short span of time since she gained her freedom, India now boasts of the third largest contingent of trained scientific/technical personnel in the entire world. India's strive for excellence in scientific research started even before independence; despite apathy of the colonial rulers, India imbibed the practice of the so-called modern, i.e., Western, sciences and achieved excellence in them, primarily through individual excellence. At this time, when the Nation is celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of our independence, these pioneer scientists seem to have been forgotten. The present generation of young Indians would be hard put to name most of them. Avid quizzers would perhaps know the name of Raman, as the sole Indian Nobel Laureate in Science or that of Satyendra Nath Bose, because of the sensationalism fuelled by the media on the occasion of the Nobel prize being awarded for the discovery of the Higgs Boson. Contrast that with the state of affairs about 50 years ago! In the school curricula, the short biographies of many of the pioneering scientists used to form essential reading. Many in the audience may perhaps recall a piece called "Bose Institute" in their higher secondary English text, an excerpt from the Travel Diaries by Aldous Huxley.

The doyen of the "modern science" in India was the venerable Jagadis Chandra Bose (or J.C. Bose, as he alluded to himself in English). India's entry in the realm of scientific research and investigations happened through him, which blazed a shining path and took the world by surprise. This march was joined soon by Prafulla Chandra (P.C.) Ray and many others, mostly trained by these two stalwarts at Presidency College, Calcutta. In this discourse, I shall try to provide a glimpse of the life and works of J.C. Bose, the conditions in which he worked and most importantly, his scientific legacy, which ought to serve as a beacon for the future generation.

#### *The Speaker*



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*Prof. Sibaji Raha is a Physicist, specialising in High Energy Particle and Nuclear Physics, Astrophysics, Astroparticle Physics, Cosmology as well as a multitude of areas related to the Global Change scenario. He has obtained his Doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin. After several years of research and teaching in abroad, he joined SINP and after that he moved to Bose Institute. He served as the Director of Bose Institute and also the Officiating Director of S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences. He created the National Centre for Astroparticle Physics and Space Science at the Darjeeling campus of Bose Institute, which has attained an enviable international status and reputation within a very short time. He is currently the Chairman of the Joint Scientific Council of the international Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research (FAIR) and the German Helmholtz Institute for Heavy Ion Research (GSI) in Darmstadt, Germany. He has authored over 300 scientific papers in leading international journals, authored/edited 8 books and also written extensively in non-technical publications on various issues. His exposure to science education, teaching and research in many countries across the globe has instilled in him an abiding interest in the history of science and society.*