

S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences

series of talks on

Illustrious Indian Scientists in Pre-independence Era



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Title of the Talk

C V Raman & National Science Day

Abstract

C V Raman was truly a star and a superhero. From his outstanding discoveries under the most difficult circumstances to his monumental confidence (like buying ticket to go to Sweden to receive Nobel Prize six months in advance) and his emotional outbursts, his life could easily be made into a block buster movie. In 1906, Raman passed M. Sc. in Physics, with first rank, at the age of 18 and already had three scientific papers. Simultaneously, he topped Indian Financial Service examination and started working full time in the Accountant General's office. Amidst this busy office work, he published his first paper in Nature in 1907, working alone. He never had a Ph.D. or post-doctoral supervisor. Still he succeeded because he believed that "the highest scientific inspiration is that which comes from within one self." He was the first in Asia to receive the Nobel Prize in any branch of science for the discovery of the Raman Effect. He announced the discovery on 28 February 1928 to the press. Many Newspapers reported that on the next day. For this, 28 February is celebrated as the National Science Day in India. Raman's students and illustrious nephews played a major role in building the culture of modern science in India. I will briefly outline, some of the dramatic events and discoveries of Raman.

The Speaker



Prof. Kankan Bhattacharyya
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Prof. Kankan Bhattacharyya is a noted physical chemist and spectroscopist and one of the pioneering scientists to introduce ultrafast spectroscopy in India. He obtained his B.Sc. from Presidency College, Kolkata and M.Sc. from Calcutta University. He received his PhD degree in 1984 under the mentorship of Prof. Mihir Chowdhury, IACS, Kolkata. After a few years of post-doctoral work in USA, he joined IACS, Kolkata as a faculty in 1987. He also served as a director of IACS during 2009-2013. After his retirement from IACS in 2016, he joined IISER Bhopal as a visiting professor. His research interest covers Confocal microscopy, FCS and fluorescence life time imaging, Femtosecond Up-conversion, Surface Second harmonic generation, Solvation dynamics, FRET, Electron/Proton transfer, Fluctuation in Biological system, Live cell, drug delivery, Proteins, micelles, cyclodextrin, polymer, fluorescent gold nano-clusters etc. He has authored more than 250 papers and guided 32 PhD students. He is a recipient of several prestigious prizes including S. S. Bhatnagar Prize in 1997 and J. C. Bose Fellowship, DST Govt. of India in 2007. He is a Fellow of all the three major academies of India and served as the Vice President of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) during 2016-18. He has also been elected as a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2008. He also has served as an editor in many reputed journals including The Journal of Physical Chemistry.