

Foreword

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write the foreword of a book on Jagadish Chandra Bose. Jagadish Chandra Bose has been one of my heroes. He is my icon because he created science in India at a time when there was hardly any science. He built instruments when instrumentation was not heard of. He did research on problems related to transmission of radio waves when radios did not exist. He worked on aspects of plant biology which were unknown at that time. Jagadish Chandra Bose is a super example of a very creative intellectual. He was extraordinarily creative the way he did experiments and the way he chose the problems. Even now it surprises me how he ever thought of using a lead sulfide crystal in one of his experiments. Semiconductor solid state physics was not known at that time. In fact, Jagadish Chandra Bose amazes me every time I think of him.

Bengal during the time of Jagadish Chandra Bose was going through the renaissance period. Jagadish Chandra Bose was clearly a renaissance man. Unfortunately, most educated persons and historians have not given Jagadish Chandra Bose his due place in the history of Bengal. I would say that he was one of the greatest personalities of Bengal of the renaissance period. He joins the galaxy of people like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Rabindranath Tagore. To me, he was not only a scientist of great capability but also a person who thought out of the box.

India's first Nobel Prize in science should have gone to Jagadish Chandra Bose. Unfortunately, fate was against it. He was literally cheated out of a Nobel Prize, even though his work was done two years ahead of the work that got the Nobel Prize. Forgetting the Nobel Prize, I feel that he deserves a greater place in the annals of Indian science and in the history of Bengal. It is truly remarkable that we had J.C. Bose in this country. It is even more remarkable that he did everything at a time when there was hardly any formal support for science. He was the first modern experimentalist of India who did outstanding work in the 19th century. I pay my

tribute to this great Indian and to this great scientist on the occasion of his 150th anniversary.

This book brings out the spirit of J.C. Bose and the flavor of the great man. I am delighted that various facets of his personality and contributions have been brought out nicely in the book. I do hope that the book will be read by a large number of people, particularly young people of India.

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