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EDITORIAL

THE LEGACY CONTINUES



years of its existence, Bose uphold and take further ahead the objectives as laid down by the founder himself. In its illustrious history, this year, 2008, constitutes a watershed event, when we are celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of our beloved founder. This is the time to re-evaluate the legacies of Sir Jagadis Chandra, better and more aptly known as Acharya Jagadis Chandra in India, so that they can serve as a beacon of hope for the present and future generations of scientists and students.

Acharya Jagadis Chandra is one of the rare scientists whose scientific contributions not only continue to be relevant but even grow in importance across the ocean of

Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose, the doyen of modern science in India, if not all of Asia, left a large number of scientific legacies for posterity, the most important among which is Bose Institute. Founded in 1917, Bose Institute is the oldest institution in India, dedicated to full-time scientific research in all aspects of natural sciences. Throughout the 90

The travails of Acharya Jagadis Chandra during his lifetime to have his ideas accepted are well known; many of his findings are in the process of being rediscovered and fully appreciated after almost a century. Sir Neville Mott had commented, in the context of Acharya J.C. Bose's use of a semiconductor device, that he was 50 to 60 years ahead of the times. In the realm of electrophysiology, Acharya Jagadis Chandra seems to have been more than 100 years ahead of the times.

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Bose Institute has undertaken a number of academic programmes to commemorate this momentous event. In addition to organising a number of national and international seminars / symposia / workshops, outreach programmes / lectures / exhibitions, it has also been felt that a special volume dealing with the impact of the Acharya's seminal scientific works should be published for permanent record and wide dissemination. To this end, we are delighted that *Science and Culture*, a journal of long-standing reputation, has offered to bring out this special volume dedicated to Acharya Jagadis Chandra and his scientific legacies. The connection

between *Science and Culture* and Bose Institute dates back to the beginning of the journal; Dr. D. M. Bose, who succeeded Acharya Jagadis Chandra as the Director of Bose Institute, edited *Science and Culture* for many years. A number of important scientific results from Bose Institute were published in *Science and Culture*. It is thus most appropriate that this publication comes to the reader as a special issue of *Science and Culture*.

The articles included here deal with the implications of some (by no means all) of Acharya's works in the present state of these topics. The authors, all of whom have graciously agreed to our request to contribute to this volume, have attempted to avoid technical jargons and make the pieces accessible to a wide body of readers irrespective of areas of specialisation, without comprising or diluting the scientific contents. As most of us know, this is easier said than done. Fortunately, all our authors have achieved this goal admirably and that too within a short notice; our congratulations and gratitude to all of them.

I ought to make a special mention of the brief note entitled "Inconsistencies, Gaps and Lack of Objectivity

in Biographies: The Case of Acharya J. C. Bose" by Prof. S. C. Dutta Roy. This article, not explicitly dealing with the scientific legacy of Acharya Jagadis Chandra, serves as a voice of the conscience that should guide all researchers, in natural sciences, social sciences or technology. The need for accuracy and care can never be sacrificed, and yet, examples of incomplete research and lack of objectivity are in plenty. A proper chronicle of the history of science demands serious research and hopefully, this should develop into an intense and concentrated endeavour.

I am most grateful to the Editorial Board, and especially Prof. S. C. Roy, the Editor-in-Chief of *Science and Culture*, for their excellent support, guidance and help, and above all, patience. My colleagues at Bose Institute, in particular Prof. Barun K. Chatterjee, Prof. Arun N. Lahiri Majumder and Prof. Parimal C. Sen, have done all the hard work in putting the volume together in what I dare claim an excellent format. If any shortcomings still remain, the responsibility for that is entirely mine. □

Sibaji Raha
Guest Editorial



Sibaji Raha, Senior Professor and Director, Bose Institute, is a physicist by training. His areas of interest are diverse, encompassing Cosmology, Astrophysics, High Energy Particle and Nuclear Physics, Cosmic Rays as well as Atmospheric Physics, Environmental Science and Global Change.

Editor's Note : *This Special Issue has been sponsored by Bose Institute, Kolkata. I have failed to resist the temptation of inserting a eulogy of Sir J. C. Bose at the end, which was written by Birbal Sahni after his death, who knew J. C. Bose since 1915. This has been reprinted from Science and Culture, Vol. 3, pp. 346-348 (1937).*