

SIR J. C. BOSE: THE UNSUNG INVENTOR OF MARCONI'S WIRELESS RECEIVER

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To build a culture of scientific temperament in India, the story of Sir J. C. Bose and the invention of the radio need to be told to the budding technologists in this country. Though the study of life in plants by Bose is well-known, his contribution to the invention of radio is unsung. In the author's view, the invention of radio should not be attributed to Marconi alone, but to both Marconi and Bose. This article covers in detail the key aspect of Bose's contribution to invention of radio – technological, circumstantial and cultural. The reader is introduced to the technological scenario that existed more than 100 years back and Bose's invention of the autocoherer (Marconi's wireless receiver) is discussed in the same context. Present day analogue of Bose's autocoherer is also discussed, which happens to be a diode.
