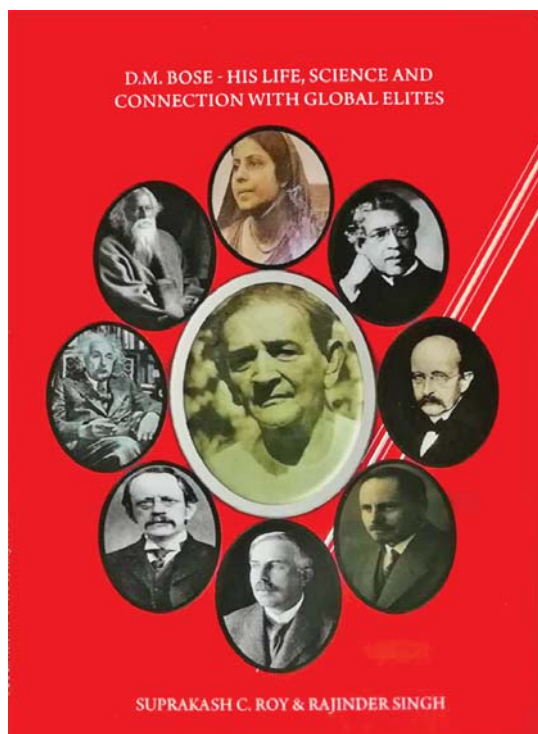


## Book Review



**“D.M. Bose – His Life, Science and Connection with Global Elites” by Suprakash C Roy and Rajinder Singh, published by Shaker Verlag, Düren, Germany in the field of History of Science is a comprehensive biography of Debendra Mohan Bose (1885-1975).**

D.M. Bose was an exceptionally brilliant physicist, a meticulous researcher, prolific writer, science administrator and institution builder.

The softbound book of 178 pages comprises of an introduction followed by six dedicated chapters dealing with various aspects of D.M. Bose’s personal life, the association of his family with Rabindranath Tagore and Visva-Bharati, his interaction with world-renowned physicists, an overview of his scientific contributions, and the state of general administration and scientific research in Bose Institute under his directorship. In the following paragraphs, we would briefly highlight a few points narrated elaborately

in the book. It might take 4 to 5 hours to read the entire book.

Debendra Mohan Bose was born in an educated and enlightened Brahmo family in Calcutta. His father Mohini Mohan Bose was a homoeopathic doctor and mother Subarnapova Bose was involved in child welfare. Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose was his maternal uncle. Debendra married Nalini Sircar, an accomplished lady who was a daughter of eminent physician Sir Nil Ratan Sircar.

In 1906 DMB passed the MA examination in physics from Presidency College, Calcutta. He then researched under J.C. Bose in the same college and also started teaching at the City College. However, in 1907 he went to the UK and joined Christ’s College in Cambridge as an advanced level student and worked with Sir J. J. Thomson and C. T. R. Wilson at the Cavendish Laboratory. In 1912 he received BSc honours degree in physics from Royal College of Science, London.

He returned to City College, Calcutta in 1913, but moved to Calcutta University Science College next year as Rashbehari Ghosh Professor of Physics, the position he held till 1934. However, in 1914 he went to Humboldt University in Berlin for higher studies and returned to India in 1919. While in Germany DMB came in contact with eminent physicists like Albert Einstein, Erich Regener, Arnold Sommerfeld, Walther Nernst, Max Born, Max Planck and Heinrich Rubens. In 1919 he earned a PhD degree from the Humboldt University in Berlin.

As an experimentalist DMB had contributed significantly in the fields of magnetism, radioactivity, cosmic rays and plant physiology. He had published nearly forty original papers which included twelve in Nature. Some of his works are named as ‘Bose Effect’, ‘Bose Theory’, ‘Bose-Stoner Theory’ or ‘Welo-Bose Rule’ in the scientific literature. Some of his noted research collaborators in India were P.K. Raha, S.K. Ghosh, H.G. Bhar, S. Dutta, P.C. Mukherjee, M. Sinha, M. Deb, T.C. Bhadra and B. Chowdhury.

D.M. Bose was Palit Professor of the University of Calcutta from 1934 to 1937. He had served as Director of Bose Institute from 1938 to 1967. DMB held positions of

scientific advisors in Atomic Energy Commission, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He was a life member of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science and a Founder Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy. The University of Calcutta and also Jadavpur University awarded him the DSc (Honoris Causa) degree. The Visva-Bharati University honoured him with its highest award the *Desikottama*.

The current book is a significant contribution from two well-known physicists and eminent historians of science, Prof Suprakash C. Roy, former Professor and Chairman, Department of Physics, Bose Institute, Kolkata and Dr Rajinder Singh, Research Group – Physics Education and Science Communication, Physics Institute, University of Oldenburg. It will suffice the interest of curious scholastic and general readers intending to know the various aspect of the life and works of D.M. Bose in detail.

In the recent past we have come across three such well researched and documented books: (i) ‘D.M. Bose – His Scientific Work in International Context’ by Rajinder Singh (2016) Shaker Verlag; (ii) ‘D.M. Bose – A Scientist Incognito’ by Suprakash C Roy and Rajinder Singh (2018) Bose Institute, Kolkata; and (iii) ‘Professor Debendra Mohan Bose (1885–1975)’ in ‘History of the Calcutta School of Physical Sciences’ by Purabi Mukherji and Atri Mukhopadhyay (2018) Springer. The current book published in 2019 is, however, the most comprehensive account which would complete the series of biographies of other eminent Indian physicists of Calcutta School like C.V. Raman, M.N. Saha, S.N. Bose, K.S. Krishnan and S.K. Mitra, the significant contributors in pre-independent India. □

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