





LSS17 : Ernest Rutherford



PHYSICIST Ernest Rutherford 1871-1937

Rutherford was born at Spring Grove near Nelson in New Zealand on 18th August, 1871. His father James Rutherford was a schoolmaster and a farmer. Following a scholarship from Nelson College in 1889, he went to Canterbury College in Dunedin. He received his B.A. in 1893, M.A. in 1895 and B.Sc. in 1896. For his honors degree he investigated the magnetic properties of iron by high frequency electric discharge and published his first scientific paper on the topic. He converted a very small number of atoms into alpha rays...

LSS18 : Satyendra Nath Bose



PHYSICIST-MATHEMATICIAN Satyendra Nath Bose 1894-1974

Satyendra Nath Bose was a scientist of exceptionally brilliant caliber, with his very high intelligence he solved many problems and kept working the field of his interest. He made numerous contributions to quantum statistics. Perhaps no other scientist in our country wrote as much on the foundations of quantum statistics. Satyendra Nath Bose was born on 1st January 1894 in Shrinikhet, West Bengal. From his childhood he was recognized as a prodigy. When he joined Presidency College of Kolkata, he found himself among the company of brilliant students like Bipin Pal, J.C. Ghosh and Man Mohan Malaviya, C.C. Bose and P.C. Ray. This period of great boisterousness led to an indelible memory. It is recalled that he was admitted to the B.Sc. and B.A. examinations. In the examination, which was held in 1911, he secured 1st class...

LSS19 : Dr. Vikram Sarabhai



PHYSICIST Dr. Vikram Sarabhai 1919-1971

Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, one of the greatest scientists and statesmen of India, revolutionized the future of Indian Space Research Program because of his significant contribution to the field of cosmic ray physics and development of space technology in India. He was not only an imaginative and creative scientist but also a pioneering industrialist and an astute planner. Besides his technical expertise for scientific observation and studies, he also created a number of organizations like IRI Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad State Industrial Research Association, Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology and Windfall Association. Sarabhai was born on 12th August 1919 at Ahmedabad to an affluent industrialist family. His father had established Sarabhai owned many mills in Gujarat. He got his early education in a private school established by his mother Sharda Devi. After that he went to Cambridge and studied for three years in Natural Sciences from St. John's College in 1938. Then he returned to India and joined Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He started his research in cosmic rays there under the expert guidance of Sir C.V. Raman. After the war, he returned to Cambridge and obtained his Ph.D. in 1947 for his thesis titled Cosmic Ray Ionization in Tropical Latitudes...

LSS20 : Thomas Alva Edison



PHYSICIST Thomas Alva Edison 1847 - 1931

Edison was the most prolific and practical inventor whose work has greatly influenced the world, particularly in the fields of communication and electrical power. He had patented more than a thousand inventions, the best known of which were the phonograph, the gramophone and the incandescent electric lamp. Edison was the seventh child of Samuel Edison who managed to scrape together a plot in western Canada's Green Bay and settled in Milan, Ohio with the help of a large sum of money from his father. It was here, on 11th February, 1847 that Edison was born and named Thomas Alva Edison in honor of his father. He was brought up in Milan and most of his education was provided by his mother. He was not only a brilliant inventor but also a successful businessman. In 1862, he patented his first invention - an electric vote-recorder. During this time he was working with Western Union Telegraph in Boston, which he joined in 1862 as a telegraph operator. Based with Boston, he moved to New York. He got his first success there with a telegraph machine called 'Fidel' which communicated stock exchange prices across the country. The amount of \$ 20,000 he got by selling his invention to Gold and Wash Telegraph Company, was used to set up an industrial research laboratory in 1876 in Newark, New Jersey. In 1871, he married Mary Stewart. He turned his attention then to telephony. In 1876 he patented an electric transmitter system but it proved less commercially successful than Bell's telephone. He then invented carbon granule microphone and made a large amount of money. He moved to Menlo Park, a small village in New Jersey and set up his big laboratory which remained the centre for his research. In 1877, he invented the phonograph - a sound recorder. In October, 1879 he exhibited a version of light using a thin carbon filament in an incandescent lamp. In 1882 he and Joseph Wilson Swan formed 'The Edison and Swan United Electrical Company Ltd.' to get commercial benefits of his discovery. In 1884 Mary died of typhoid. In 1885, he got with an idea of moving pictures and developed a high-speed camera and kinematograph. In 1890, he married Miss Wood and moved to West Orange town. In the last days, he spent most of his time in doing lecture tours but he continued to work. He died on 18th October, 1931 in West Orange.

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