



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
ASTRONOMY 2009



**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ASTROPHYSICS**

**Landmark Series Public Lecture**



**Meghnad Saha - The Scientist & the Crusader**

by

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**Abstract:** Meghnad Saha's work on thermal ionization of gases, explained for the first time, the bewildering complexity of stellar spectra, a problem that had remained unsolved for several decades. International recognition from the likes of Arnold Sommerfeld who hailed Saha as the "great Indian astrophysicist", helped him to champion the cause of planned scientific and industrial development which later found fruition in the post-independent *Nehru-Mahalanobis* plans. Truly an Indian at heart, Saha was also a votary of international cooperation in science and worked to promote international understanding, peace, progress and nuclear disarmament. His contribution to science and the above areas of public policy and organization will be described in the lecture.

**Friday, May 29, 2009, 16:00 hrs**

**IIA Auditorium**

All are welcome

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—Tea will be served after the talk—

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