

Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft e. V. Magnus-Haus Berlin Wissenschaftlicher Leiter

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Scientific Evening Talk

Tuesday, July 24, 2012, 18.30 h Magnus-Haus Berlin, Am Kupfergraben 7, 10117 Berlin

Emergence of modern research in chemistry and physics in colonial India – the German connection

Prof. Dr. Debashis Mukherjee

Raman Center for Atomic, Molecular and Optical Sciences Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, India

> The discussion will be chaired by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Eberhardt Scientific Director Magnus-Haus

'Nachsitzung' with food and drinks in the 'Remise' sponsored by the WE-Heraeus-Foundation RSVP:

http://www.dpg-physik.de/dpg/magnus/formulare/formular 2012-07-24/anmeldung-2012-07-24.html

Abstract:

In this talk, we will take a journey back in time to the late nineteenth century, to have a glimpse of the emergence of modern Physics and Chemistry in the colonial India.

India assimilated modern science as a part of their freedom movement to come out of the yoke of the British rule. The pioneers of championing science started developing institutions of teaching and conducting research solely on the strength of generous donation of funds by the prominent nationalist leaders of India. Notable contributions were made by the German scholars--who were not always scientists themselves, and also the Jesuit preachers, who provided a very productive and an intellectually stimulating platform. The early Indian practitioners took science to great heights. We will highlight the many-faceted contributions of the German scholars in several decades, starting from the late nineteenth century, up to the very recent times.