

Science Colloquium at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata, 23 December 2015

A colloquium was held on 23 December, 2015 at Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata under the joint auspices of the Breakthrough Science Society and the Research Fellows Association of the SINP against the atmosphere of communal frenzy, propagation of unscientific beliefs and superstitions, and slashing of fund in science education and research. Professor Dhruvajyoti Mukhopadhyay presided over the programme. In the inaugural speech Professor Bikas Chakrabarty (Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata) pointed out the mediocre state of research in post independent India and presented a comparative data on global basis to support his statement.



Professor Soumitro Banerjee, General Secretary, Breakthrough Science Society, in his address emphasized that in order to excel in research and to cultivate scientific bent of mind among the people at large, a conducive socio-politico-cultural atmosphere must prevail in the country. He said that this very requisite condition to develop scientific temper in our country had been obstructed time and again due to the policies adopted by the governments in power, irrespective of its colour, in the post independent period. He also said that this situation will worsen when the fund for science research is slashed.

Professor Amitava Datta (Calcutta University) stressed that the need of the hour is to cultivate the teachings and struggle of the renowned scientists Acharya P C Ray and Megnath Saha amongst the students to make them understand the grave situation and apprise them of their duties. Professor Palash Baran Pal (SINP, Kolkata) said in his speech that all forms of dogmatism, pseudo-patriotism and fundamentalism is the enemy of our science movement. He stressed that intentionally the education at the

university level, the core of our intellectual sphere, was neglected by the governmental policies and fund for research is being curtailed continuously.

Professor Soumitro Banerjee read out the message sent by Professor Partha P Majumder, Director of NIBMG in the house where he appealed to raise voice against the prevailing situation in our country. Professor Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay appealed in the house to observe February 28, the National Science Day as the day of cultivation of scientific bent of mind in our country. The convention ended with a vote of thanks on behalf of the Research Fellows Association, SINP, Kolkata.