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*Satyendra Nath Bose (1894-1974), along with Megh Nad Saha, established modern theoretical physics in India. Born and educated in Calcutta, he had a brilliant academic career through school and university. His teachers at Presidency College included J C Bose and P C Ray. After four years as lecturer in Calcutta University, he moved in 1921 to Dhaka University, working there until 1945. He then returned to Calcutta University as Khaira Professor, and was later Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati.*

*While teaching M.Sc. students at Dhaka, Bose felt dissatisfied with existing derivations of Planck's Radiation Law. Spurred by discussions with Saha, he developed a logically satisfactory derivation based entirely on Einstein's photon concept and what was later recognized to be his own "principle of indistinguishability" of photons. He sent his work to Einstein in June 1924. Einstein immediately grasped its significance, translated it into German, and arranged for its publication in the Zeitschrift fur physik. This is how quantum statistics was born.*

*Einstein applied Bose's method to give the theory of the ideal quantum gas, and predicted the phenomenon of Bose-Einstein condensation. (See the article by Rajaram Nityananda on page 111). Bose's work was an important step on the path to quantum mechanics. Bose-Einstein (BE) and Fermi-Dirac (FD) statistics are the two major expressions of indistinguishability of identical particles in quantum theory. Particles obeying BE statistics are called 'bosons' — examples are the photon, the pi meson, and the W and Z particles. Bose's name has become part and parcel of modern physics.*