

Editorial

N Mukunda, Chief Editor

Each year we celebrate National Science Day on the 28th of February. It was on this day in 1928 that Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman, working at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Calcutta, discovered the effect that bears his name. Raman's birthday falls on November 7 – so for this and for so many other reasons we feature him in this issue. We have a special *article-in-a-box* by A K Ramdas – who worked briefly with Raman in Bangalore — on the fascinating subject of gemstones, whose optical and other properties so captivated Raman. In the *Reflections* section we present a brief essay of Raman's from the early fifties on *The Scientific Outlook*; and accompanying Raman's portrait is a brief sketch of his life and work written by S Ramaseshan and R Nityananda.



M N Saha discovered his ionization formula in 1920; S N Bose found his photon derivation of Planck's Law in 1924; and Raman's discovery came in 1928. Collectively they made the 1920's the golden era of Indian physics. No wonder Arnold Sommerfeld, after his visit here in 1928, wrote:

"... it was in this ancient land of civilization that, during the last years, strong shoots of modern physics had grown, by which India suddenly emerged in the competition of research as an equal partner with her European and American sisters."

S K Ghoshal concludes his series *Know Your PC* with detailed advice on how to check and install your new machine. When he says viruses can attack your PC, its hard disk can be terminally ill, it needs a ten minute rest now and then, and you must locate it in a place where you would yourself be comfortable, you can well believe that this is technology with a human face!

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Arnold Sommerfeld, 1928.

