

***India's Nobel Prize: Nominators and Nominees, by Rajinder Singh,
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Kankan Bhattacharyya*

This is an extremely interesting book which every Indian should read. This book lists the names of Indian Nobel laureates, Indian nominees and the nominations made by Indians. India has so far officially six Nobel laureates (Tagore, Raman, Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama, Amartya Sen and Kailash Satyarthi). If we include Chandrasekhar, Khorana, Salam, Venky Ramakrishnan and Pachauri (as Chairman IPCC) the number would reach double digits. This book summarizes the nominations which are at least 50 years old (i.e. before 1966).

It is heartening to note that Tagore got Nobel in the first year of nomination by TS Moore in 1913. Raman was nominated for two consecutive years- first in 1929 without success (by N Bohr and J Cabbane) and then successfully in 1930 (by Bloch, Bohr, Perrin, L de Broglie, M de Broglie, Rutherford, Wilson, Pfeiffer and Stark).

CV Raman nominated S Chandrasekhar for Physics Nobel in 1957 and GN Ramachandran

for Chemistry Nobel in 1964. MN Saha was nominated six times (twice by Compton and rest by Indians). SN Bose was nominated three times (all by Indians while Bhabha was nominated five times by Hadamard. UN Brahmachari was nominated on two years (by Indians).

The most interesting and touching is the case of Mahatma Gandhi. There were all together 21 proposals for Peace Prize to Gandhiji of which 15 alone in 1948 (for a possible posthumous Nobel). Note, in 1948 the Peace Nobel was not awarded to anybody. Nehru received the maximum of proposals (65 spread in 7 years) while Radhakrishnan received ten proposals.

The information given in this book is inspiring and extremely important historic facts. This information would enthuse the youth to reach the highest stage of success in their pursuit. I, therefore, strongly recommend this volume to the libraries of all college, university and research institutes and in India and also as a valuable personal treasure for every scholar.

* Kankan Bhattacharyya, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, Bhopal 462066, MP, India, E-mail: kankan@iiserb.ac.in