



Distinguished Talk  
(Centenary Celebration)



**Date and Time:** 1st August, 2017 at 3.00 PM

**Venue:** Seminar Hall, Rajabazar Campus, Bose Institute

# Science and the Human Predicament

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**Abstract:** We review in broad terms the increase in scientific knowledge and conceptual advances in our understanding of the physical universe in recent times, particularly in the 20th century. Considering developments over a somewhat longer time frame, we emphasize the evolving nature of human knowledge, and the meaning of understanding in science. The reinterpretation of Kant's ideas as suggested by Lorenz and Delbruck in the light of evolutionary theory shows us the abilities and limitations with which we function, as well as our singular place in Nature. An appreciation of the predicament of the individual then emerges as a possible source for the important quality of compassion which is as essential for human existence as possession of knowledge.