

We Hear From

Jharna Bhattacharyya

Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarkar

Mahendralal Sarkar was born at Paik Para Village in Howrah District, near Calcutta (now known as Kolkata) in the Bengal Province of British India. He lost his parents early in life. After his father's death his mother had shifted to his maternal uncles' house earlier and subsequently he was brought up by his maternal uncles, Iswar Chandra Ghosh & Mahesh Chandra Ghosh in their house at Nebutala in Calcutta. First he was sent to a "Gurumasaï" or tutor to learn Bengali and subsequently to another tutor named Thakur Das Dey, to learn English. He secured admission in Hare School as a free student in 1840. In 1849 he passed the joined scholarship exam and joined Hindu College, where he studied up to 1854. At that time Hindu College did not have facilities for teaching science and as he was bent up to studying medicine, he transferred to Calcutta Medical College.

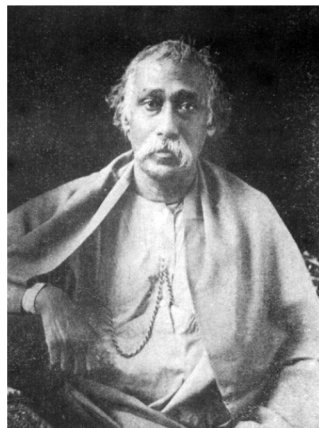
At Calcutta Medical College he was so esteemed by his professor that in the second year he was invited by them to deliver a series of lecture on optics to his fellow students, a task he performed honorably. He had a brilliant career at that college, where besides winning several scholarships he passed the final exam in 1860 with the highest honours in medicine, surgery and midwifery. In 1863, he took the degree of M.D with special Success.

Mahendralal Sarkar started a campaign in 1867 for a national science association that would be funded, run, & managed by the native Indians, with the aim of turing out with a pool of scientists for national reconstruction. The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) is an institute

of higher learning in Kolkata, India. Established in 1876 by Mahendralal Sarkar, a private medical practitioner, it focuses on fundamental research in basic sciences. It is India's oldest research institute.

Sarkar supported women's education in nineteenth century, where higher education among women was rare.

He was a fellow of Calcutta University and an honorary Magistrate and Sheriff of Calcutta (1887). He was made a CIE in 1883 and honored with an honorary doctorate degree by University of Calcutta in 1898.



Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarkar
(1833-1904)

Although educated in the traditional European system of medicine, Mahendralal Sarkar turned to homoeopathy. He was influenced by reading William Morgan's the philosophy of homeopathy, and by interaction with Rajendralal Dutta, a leading homoeopathic practitioners of Calcutta. In a meeting of the Bengal Branch of the British Medical Association, he proclaimed homoeopathy to be superior to the

"Western medicine" of the time.

In the course of his careers he treated several notable persons of those days, including the author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay the ascetic Ramkrishna, the Maharaj of Tripura and others.

Born : 2nd November 1833

Died : 23 February 1904 (Aged 70)

Spouse : Rajkumari Sarkar.

Jharna Bhattacharyya
ISEC