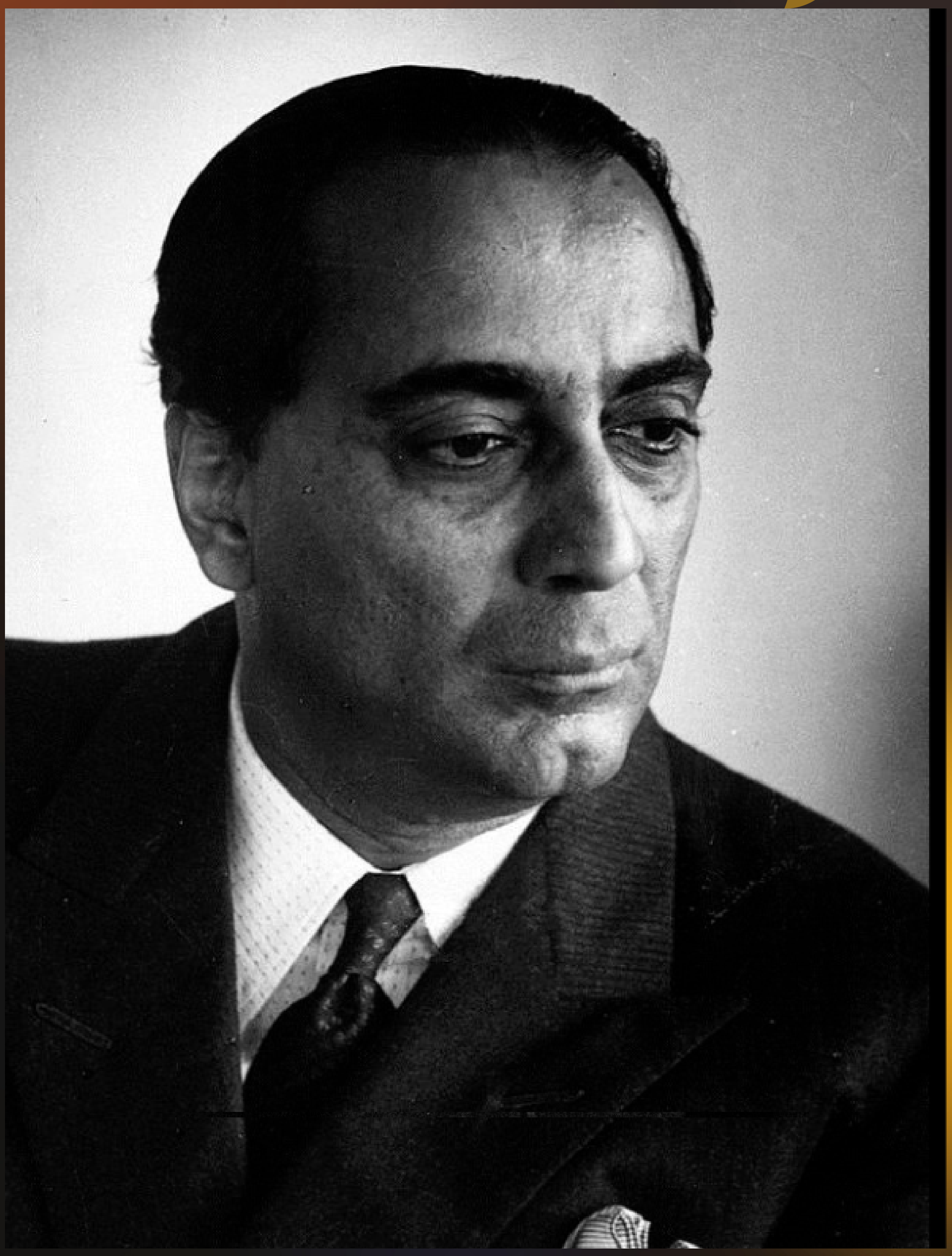
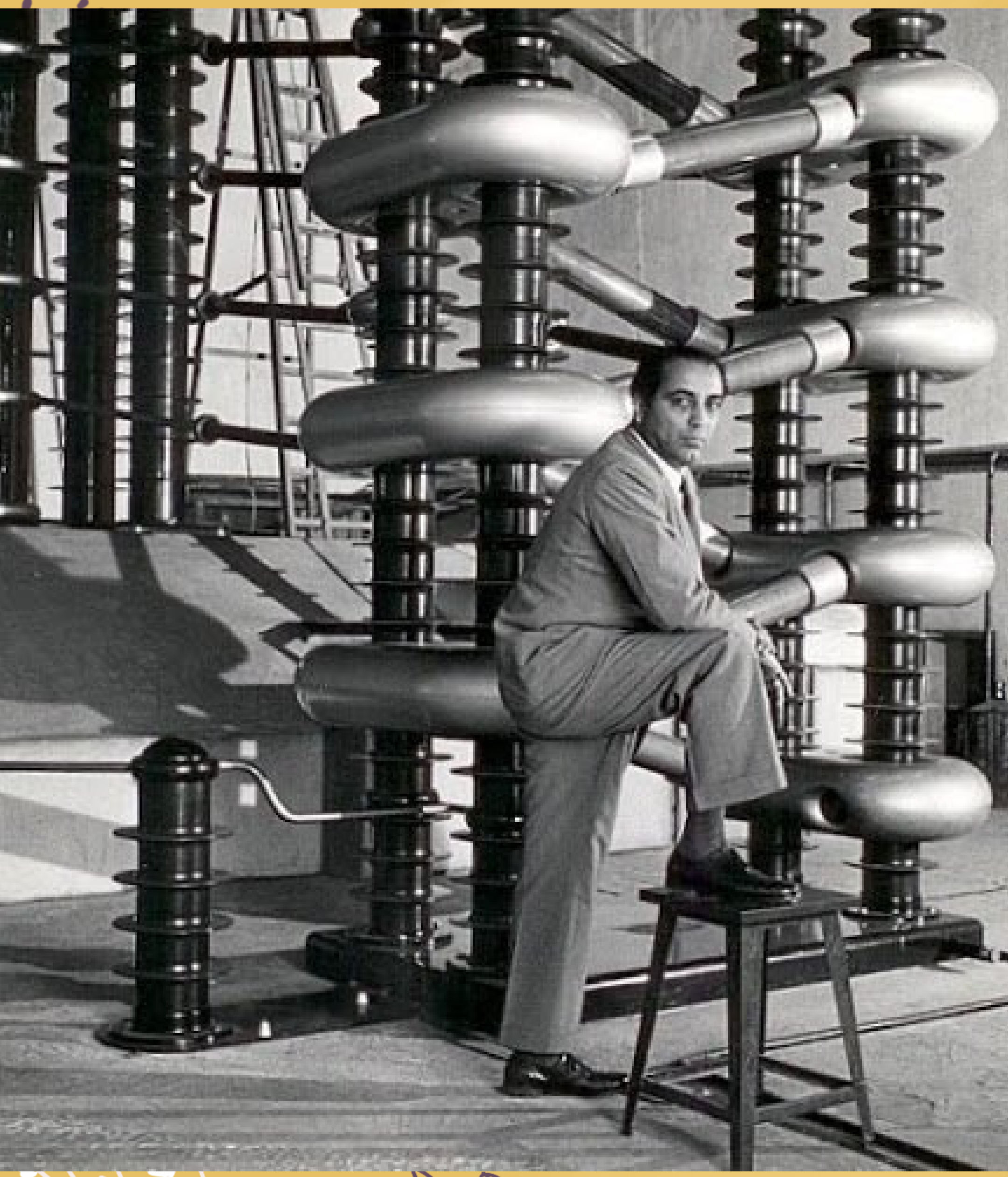
"Physics is my line. I know I shall do great things here."



FATHER OF INDIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

HOMI J BHABHA

Homi Jehangir Bhabha was a prominent Indian nuclear physicist, founding director, and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR). He was popularly known as “father of the Indian nuclear programme”. Bhabha was also the founding director of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) which is now named the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in his honor.



He was the first Chairman of The Atomic Energy Commission of India. He made important contributions to quantum theory and cosmic radiation. He studied nuclear physics at Cambridge, where he published groundbreaking papers on cosmic rays and electron-positron scattering, a phenomenon now called Bhabha scattering.

In 1933, Bhabha received his doctorate in nuclear physics. Next year he also completed his doctoral studies in theoretical physics under Ralph H. Fowler.

In 1935, he published a paper to determine the cross section of electron-positron scattering; which was later named Bhabha scattering, in his honor. Bhabha's research also led to the straightforward experimental verification of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. Bhabha continued his work at Cambridge until the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

Homi J Bhabha died in a plane crash near Mont Blanc in the Swiss Alps while on his way to Vienna for a meeting on 24 January 1966. He was 56 years old.