



BOSE INSTITUTE NEWS

DIRECTOR'S DESK



94 years ago today, Acharya Jagadis Chandra Bose delivered the inaugural address of the Bose Institute, entitled "The Voice of Life", which ended with the promise that through our united efforts, we shall be able to bring about the greater India yet to be. That vision of our beloved founder

drives us at Bose Institute; we continue to strive for excellence in the service of our Nation and the entire humankind.

It has been a year since I presented the previous edition of the Bose Institute Newsletter, our face to the outside world. I have the privilege to do so again with the 2011 edition, where we are able to report steady and noticeable growth in all spheres of our activities. The members of our faculty and our student colleagues have continued to win coveted laurels, awards and other recognitions, which can only spur us on to raise our benchmarks. Among the developments over the past year which deserve special mention, the institution of the integrated M.Sc.-Ph.D. course in Life Sciences at Bose Institute, in partnership with the University of Calcutta, is one which has drawn great appreciation from our Scientific Advisory Committee. This has been hailed as the most suitable model for the collaboration between the national research institutions and laboratories on the one hand and the universities on the other hand. Following the footsteps of Bose Institute, the two other national institutes, located in Kolkata, under the Ministry of Science & Technology have started similar programmes with the University of Calcutta. Our attempts to modernize the administration process through the implementation of e-governance are, finally, coming to fruition.

The most important asset of any organization is its people; this is especially true for a research institution. We are fortunate that our efforts to induct highly competent and talented young scientists into the faculty as well as promising and motivated research scholars in the student body of Bose Institute has been quite successful, in the face of stiff competition from many other new and old institutions. We hope to make it conducive for them to take Bose Institute to greater heights.

We are committed to serve, as our beloved founder enjoined us to do. We seek the support of one and all to this end.

Wishing all the readers a happy reading,

Sibaji Raha

Editorial Board :

D. Home, G. Basu, P. Parraek, D. Basu

Assisted by: T. K. Maji

The 73rd Acharya J.C. Bose Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Swami Atmapriyananda, *Vice Chancellor*, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Belur Math, Howrah on 'Ethics and Values in Learning and Teaching : Challenges for the Human and Social Development Role of Higher Education'

Abstract



Globalization and the staggering advances in science and technology have thrown up unprecedented challenges in recent times. One such is the stupendous challenge to the ancient question of ethics and values vis-à-vis human development. Dharma, the Sanskrit word for ethics and values, literally means 'holding together'. W.B. Yeats' poignant verse *The Second Coming* (1920) laments that

Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;

Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world, the blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere

The ceremony of innocence is drowned;

The best lack all conviction, while the worst

Are full of passionate intensity.

If 'holding together' is Dharma, then non-holding by the 'centre' should be non-Dharma (*adharma* in Sanskrit), leading to what Yeats laments about anarchy being released and the ceremony of innocence being drowned. With the decline of Dharma, the dark clouds of disintegration ('things fall apart') and anarchy looming large on the horizon of modern development are agitating the collective human conscience. The very question of what really constitutes human development has resurfaced in this rudely shaken and profoundly agitated collective conscience, clamouring for an urgent revisit and revaluation. The developmental role of higher education is being subject to scrutiny.

In the present lecture we propose to discuss some of these issues and reassesses the goal and role of higher education in the light of the concept of human personality and the paradigm of true human development evolved over thousands of years by the Indian sages and seers, philosophers and thinkers. Fortunately, we have the unique privilege of revisiting and reverentially contemplating the thoughts of the four luminaries from Bengal on the historic occasion of their 150th birth anniversaries who were born within a space of a few years of each other: Acharya J. C. Bose, Acharya P. C. Ray, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda. These modern seers reinforced and captured the ancient ideas, caught the cadence of the wisdom of the Rishis, our ancient seers, and poured their hearts out in the present day, each in his own unique field of thought and action and in his own unique fashion to give a new direction to struggling humankind by pointing out that the way to salvation is to develop an expanded consciousness, what Einstein called 'cosmic awareness', a sense of the Whole (*purna*), in which all littleness, narrowness and selfishness will be dissolved. We end with the plea that the challenges to higher education in its role for human and social development in a globalized and technologically highly 'developed' world which is crying nevertheless in deep anguish and agony for peace and harmony can be met only by the inculcation and development of 'cosmic awareness' as the 'most profound and most sublime feeling

