

ADDRESS GIVEN IN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ISNA HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2018

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Namashkar !

My greetings to everybody.

It is a great privilege for me to be present here in this Annual General Meeting of one of the oldest science societies of India, the Indian Science News Association which was established in 1935 by Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray, Meghnad Saha and many other luminaries of that time. It gives me a shiver when I came to know that a person like Subhas Chandra Bose delivered a lecture in one of the AGMs of ISNA. However, what attracted my attention is the title of the journal "Science and Culture", published by the Association for the last 84 years without fail. Apparently science and culture seem to be two different things - poles apart. It is difficult to conceive the connection between the two at first sight ... but it is of course a significant matter to bring them together.

Culture is probably the least understood or mostly misunderstood subject. Culture has different meanings to different persons or to different group of people. To a young adult, it just simply-means singing, dancing, acting plays etc. as we all are familiar with 'cultural programmes' that are held at different places on different occasions. Truly, manifestation, cultivation or practicing human intellectual qualities and achievements, be it music, dance, painting, writing poetry or making films can be termed as culture.

When we think of science what comes to our mind are theories, equations, laboratories, research etc. The commonality between science and culture is that both are deeply involved for the progress and enrichment of our lives and living. While Science continuously brings new

technology and transforms the infrastructural environment of our society. At the same time Culture, which is the spirit of life, makes our life joyful, enchanting and more happy and enjoyable and brings grace to it. In fact science is also a part of culture. In fact culture cannot progress without the scientific developments created by science. Culture originates from the creative minds of the people. This is the reason why culture could define the human values, signifies ethics and morals of a society. It contains human sensibilities and spirituality, while science creates the outer infrastructures and body of the progressive society and nation. Culture is dynamic- it changes with time and also meaning of culture is different in different geographical locations, climates and different in different communities.

I was amazed to note the far sightedness of these great people who realized the relationship between science and culture at a time when science in India was nonexistent. In the present era of technological domination, the effect of science in culture is becoming more and more visible. While it is serving the society with numerous manner, giving comfort to the people in day to day life, with so many new type of gadgets. We are all aware, how mobile phones, internet etc have changed and effected the lives of people. However at this time we need to be cautious and careful. It should not ultimately destroy our positive culture. Science is a powerful force. Unrestricted culture of science is not desirable. At the end science is for the humanity and for creating a progressive social culture of human values.

We need a scientific science culture to serve the humanity. I am sure that is why journal called 'Science and Culture' has been established by the ISNA. □

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