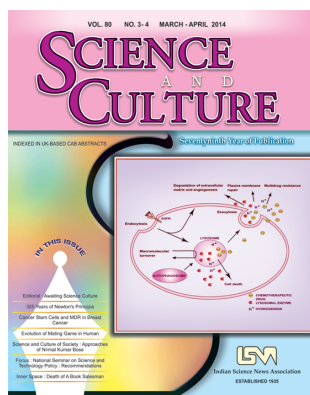


SCIENCE AND CULTURE

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EDITORIAL

AWAITING SCIENCE CULTURE



The winner of the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction 2011, Siddhartha Mukherjee wrote in his book 'The Emperor of all Maladies : A Biography of Cancer' the following:

In 2010, about six hundred thousand Americans, and more than 7 million humans around the world, will die of cancer. In United

States, one in three women and one in two men will develop cancer during their lifetime. A quarter of all American deaths, and about 15 percent of all deaths worldwide, will be attributed to cancer. In some nations, cancer will surpass heart disease to become the most common cause of death.

There is another half of the story. People of science for a number of decades are performing research tirelessly in order to combat the ferocity of the disease. Till date, no common cause for cancer has been discovered. However, it is a fact that the disease may be regulated if identified at an early stage. A paper in this issue has highlighted the subject nicely. Use of stem cell in medical treatment has

become a common language today which has been covered in the article.

Prof Nirmal Kumar Bose, a noted anthropologist and social activist is probably less known to the present generation. His understanding of science, culture and society is so original and integral that we can never forget him. It is our pleasure to note that an article on him has been contributed by a senior anthropologist of our country.

Issac Newton published his monumental work 'Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy' (often referred as 'Principia') in 1687. It was written in Latin. 'Principia' is a combination of three books. In the whole history of science two books stand out. One is 'Principia'

Newton's work shook the physical world whereas Darwin's work shook the biological world. The famous 'Principia' spread the light of mathematics on a science which up to then had remained in the darkness of conjectures and hypothesis

and the second one is 'Origin of Species' written by Charles Darwin in 1859. Though there is a long gap between these two works, we know that Newton's work shook the physical world whereas Darwin's work shook the biological world. The famous 'Principia' spread the light of mathematics on a science which up to then had remained in the darkness of

conjectures and hypothesis (Alexis Clairaut, 1749). The importance of the historical context of the book does require no explanation. It is heartening that a review article on the eve of 325 years of 'Principia' has been written by

a senior science writer of Bengal.

May is the month when Tagore was born in Kolkata. In his whole life-span of eighty years, he wrote only one book on popular science. But he has expressed his idea of 'science-culture' either in his different articles of correspondences to the known people. According

to him 'It is not possible to generate interest in science among the common people magically. Existence of a Tagore.

'It is not possible to generate interest in science among the common people magically. Existence of a building, sufficient instruments and a comfortable amount of money have not helped science to grow by itself in Bengal over the last quarter of a century.'

building, sufficient instruments and a comfortable amount of money have not helped science to grow by itself in Bengal over the last quarter of a century. No scientific law guarantees that it would expanded had there been more financial comfort.' (1902)

The forefathers of 'Science and Culture' were not out of step in their thought process in comparison with □

Syamal Chakrabarti