Seminar on

Confluence of Minds and Ideas:

Rabindra Nath Tagore,
Brajendra Nath Seal and Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis.

On 13 March 2014

A Tribute to

Acharya Brajendra Nath Seal on his 150th Birth Anniversary

Organized by

Reprography & Photography Unit
Library, Documentation & Information Science Division
Indian Statistical Institute
203, B. T. Road, Kolkata-700108
Seminar on
Confluence of Minds and Ideas:
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A Tribute to Acharya Brajendra Nath Seal on his 150th Birth Anniversary

This year is the 150th birth anniversary of Brajendra Nath Seal.

Brajendra Nath Seal was an illustrious son of Nineteenth century Bengal. He was a philosopher of international renown, great visionary and educationist of rare quality. He was a renowned scholar and an eminent professor of philosophy in Calcutta University and Vice Chancellor of Mysore University for about a decade. As is well known, Brajendra Nath Seal had emotional and intellectual kinships with the eminent personality Rabindra Nath Tagore and budding visionary Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. Brajendra Nath Seal came in close contact with Rabindra Nath Tagore as it used to happen among the reputed contemporaries. When Brajendra Nath Seal sought for a person capable of analysing examination results, Tagore suggested that the work could be undertaken by P C Mahalanobis of Presidency College to execute the idea. P C Mahalanobis was just back from England trained in physics and mathematics with a knack for quantitative assessment of facts and figures. Thus the three minds came close to put across their ideas on a commonly felt academic need. A philosophical genius and a budding statistician came together to create a history with the blessings from Gurudev Tagore.

The present generation, for a variety of reasons, does not seem to be always in the know of the contributions of these personalities. There is a greater need now than earlier to seek what these visionaries have left for subsequent generations. We feel obliged to celebrate the occasion of Acharya Seal’s 150th birth anniversary in view of the needs of the youth, enlightening them about our not-too-distant past days of glory.

It is therefore, in the fitness of things that as a tribute the Indian Statistical Institute is organising a seminar to the memory of Brajendra Nath Seal along with his close linkages with Tagore and Mahalanobis.
"..... I may say broadly that I owe to you the entire background of my statistical knowledge, specially in its logical aspects...........

In your address before the Races Congress at Rome (was it in 1911 or earlier?) you had pointed out very clearly and emphatically the need of using n-dimensional hyper-space for the representation of racial types. You had also discussed this idea with me on many occasions; and as I had fully acknowledged in my Presidential Address to the Anthropological Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1925, your idea was the starting point of my own work on the Generalised Distance between Statistical Groups..................

---- Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
(Extract from a letter to B N Seal dated 02 June 1935)

In brief, the objectives of the seminar are:

A. To deliberate on commonalities of the three personalities regarding their perspectives, sense of values and leadership

B. To discuss on equipping present generations with the knowhow of the endeavors of the trio personalities

C. To deliberate on the relevance of their contributions

D. To consider enabling strategies of coping with current dilemmas.
Possible participants: Academicians, Researchers, Students & Teachers of Philosophy, Literature, Mathematical Sciences, Humanities and allied subjects.

Registration:
Limited number of participants will be registered for the Seminar. Registration is mandatory for all Participants. Registration includes seminar kit, tea/coffee and working lunch.

Venue and Date:
Kolmogorov Bhavan, NAB- I & II,
Indian Statistical Institute
203 B T Road,
Kolkata- 700 108

Date: 13 March 2014

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Registration Form

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Academic qualification :

Institution / Organization :

Present occupation :

Signature of Participant