

**28th West Bengal State Science
& Technology Congress**

presents

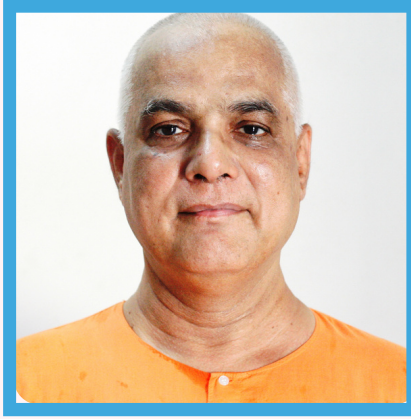
**The 28th Prasanta Chandra
Mahalanobis Smriti Baktrita**



Organised by
The Department of Science and Technology and Biotechnology,
Government of West Bengal

On Feb 28, 2021. 10:30 AM . WBSCST YouTube channel

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Swami Atmapriyananda

Swami Atmapriyananda is the first Vice Chancellor (presently the Pro-Chancellor) of the University established by Ramakrishna Mission as a humble attempt to actualize Swami Vivekananda's educational vision of creating a harmonious blend of 'natural and humanistic' sciences—modern science and technology with ancient spiritual wisdom of India. This University is a multi-campus University devoted to teaching and research in a variety of unique areas that are in a sense 'gap areas' in that these areas are scarcely addressed by any of the conventional Universities in India. Apart from creating new knowledge through innovation and research, the University cultivates social responsibility to impact and enhance the quality of life of all sections of the society, particularly the underprivileged and the marginalized.

Swami Atmapriyananda received his Masters in Science (Physics) and doctorate (Ph.D.) in Theoretical Physics for his work in elementary particle theory and has a number of research publications in this area in reputed international journals. He joined the Ramakrishna Order of monks in 1978 inspired by the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideology of spiritual liberation combined with service to humanity in the spirit of worship of God in Man, and has been serving in higher education institutions for more than four decades. He is a member of several global organizations working for inter religious understanding, peace and harmony, and holistic welfare of children, which requires him to travel extensively in India and abroad as invited speaker to preach and interact with eager spiritual seekers. He represented Hinduism at the World Parliament of Religions held in Melbourne, Australia, in December 2009. During the last decade, i.e. 2008—2019, he made as many as 48 trips to various countries which include: Thailand, Italy (Assisi, Rome, Vatican), Germany, France, England, Ukraine, Austria, Israel, Morocco, South Africa, Australia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Canada, Panama, USA, Brazil, Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain.

Jivaner anischayata -- vigyan, darshan o dharmer drishtite

(Uncertainties of life—from the perspectives of science, philosophy and religion)

Abstract

That life is full of uncertainties is a truism revealed to us at every moment of our existence as we go through the rigmarole of daily life. This awareness has been acutely heightened by the recent Covid-19 pandemic that has severely shaken the collective consciousness of humanity throwing it into the brink of helplessness and despair. How does one encounter such a situation and come out of it, not only unscathed but stronger and more determined to face the further challenges coming in its wake? What perspectives in science, philosophy and religion can help us in this stupendous task? These points are discussed in the light of P.C. Mahalanobis's drawing inspiration for the concept of probability and statistics from the Jaina philosophical doctrine of *syaad-vaada*. The probabilistic interpretation of Quantum Mechanics in modern Physics and the historic 'whether God plays dice' debate between Albert Einstein and Niels Bohr, the two stalwarts in Physics are also discussed. All these and much more: the teachings of Vedanta, Ramakrishna-Vivekananda, songs of Ramprasad and Kamalakanta in Bengal. Finally, we conclude by an insightful psychological analysis of loneliness vis-à-vis Vedantic doctrine of *atmaaraama*, one who is poised and delights in his own inner Higher Self which is perhaps the strongest antidote for the illness of 'loneliness' that is plaguing the collective psyche of humankind in the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

List of speakers of the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Lecture over the years

Year	Name of the Speaker
1994 - 1st WBSSTC	Prof. B. P. Adhikari
1995 - 2nd WBSSTC	Dr. A. P. Mitra
1996 - 3rd WBSSTC	Prof. Satyabrata Sen
1997 - 4th WBSSTC	Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukhopadhyay
1998 - 5th WBSSTC	Dr. Saroj Ghosh
1999 - 6th WBSSTC	Prof. Rathindra Narayan Basu
2000 – 7th WBSSTC	Prof. Amitava Ghosh
2001 - 8th WBSSTC	Dr. Dilip Biswas
2002 - 9th WBSSTC	Sri Subir Raha
2003 - 10th WBSSTC	Prof. Jayanta Ghosh
2004 - 11th WBSSTC	Prof. Chanchal Dasgupta
2005 - 12th WBSSTC	Prof. Asis Dutta
2006 - 13th WBSSTC	Prof. Sandip Kumar Basu
2007 - 14th WBSSTC	Prof. Devkumar Basu
2008- 15th WBSSTC	Prof. S. Bramhachari
2009 - 16th WBSSTC	Dr. Pushpito Ghosh
2010 - 17th WBSSTC	Dr. Srikumar Banerjee
2011 - 18th WBSSTC	Dr. Parthapratim Majumder
2012 - 19th WBSSTC	Dr. Mahan Maharaj
2013 - 20th WBSSTC	Prof. Palash Baran Pal.
2014 - 21st WBSSTC	Dr. D. N. Guha Mazumder
2015 - 22nd WBSSTC	Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray
2016 - 23rd WBSSTC	Prof. Dipankar Chatterjee
2017 - 24th WBSSTC	Prof. Dipankar Das Sarma
2018 – 25th WBSSTC	Dr. Mani Lal Bhaumik
2019 - 26th WBSSTC	Prof. Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay
2020 - 27th WBSSTC	Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti