

LAUNCHING RENAISSANCE 2.0

PARLIAMENT OF ENLIGHTENED THOUGHTS TOWARDS COLLABORATIVE PROSPERITY



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
KHARAGPUR

PLATINUM JUBILEE

In association with



CULTIVATING GROWTH AT THE GRASS ROOTS

THE BOSTON PLEDGE

SILVER JUBILEE

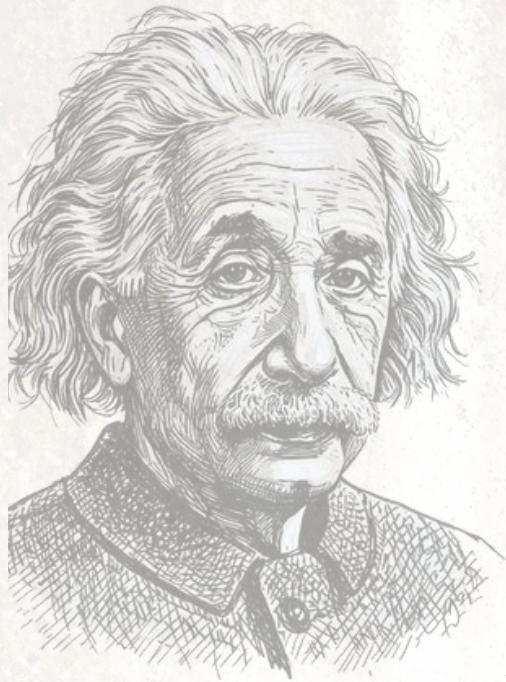


AT KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2026

The world stands at a defining crossroad—fractured by division, ecological collapse, moral drift, and widening inequality. The institutions that once propelled human progress now struggle to meet the demands of our time. A new compass is needed — one guided by wisdom, compassion, and shared purpose.

On February 24, 2026, inspired by the spirit of the **1893 Parliament of Religions**, **Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur**—celebrating its **Platinum Jubilee**—in collaboration with **The Boston Pledge**, marking its **Silver Jubilee**, will host the **Parliament of Enlightened Thoughts** to inaugurate Renaissance 2.0: **a global movement to reimagine civilization itself**.

This historic convergence in Kolkata will bring together visionary leaders—thinkers, scientists, artists, and spiritual voices—to ignite a new era of enlightened prosperity grounded in peace, equity, and a higher sense of human purpose. The tentative program structure is detailed in the following pages.



"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world."

Albert Einstein

Message from the Director, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

As IIT Kharagpur stands at the proud threshold of its Platinum Jubilee, we are called upon not only to celebrate a legacy of excellence but also to take a resolute step toward shaping a future of deeper meaning and inclusive growth. In this moment of great transition — for our institution, our nation, and our world — we must ask ourselves: what kind of civilization are we becoming, and what kind of civilization must we now aspire to be?

It is against this backdrop that we convene the Parliament of Enlightened Thoughts Toward Collaborative Prosperity — not merely as an event, but as a moral and intellectual movement. Inspired by the historic 1893 Parliament of Religions, this Parliament is our collective response to the urgent crises of our age: the deepening chasm of economic inequality, the degradation of our natural environment, the fragmentation of societies, and the erosion of spiritual connectedness. These challenges are not technical problems alone — they are symptoms of a profound civilizational misalignment.

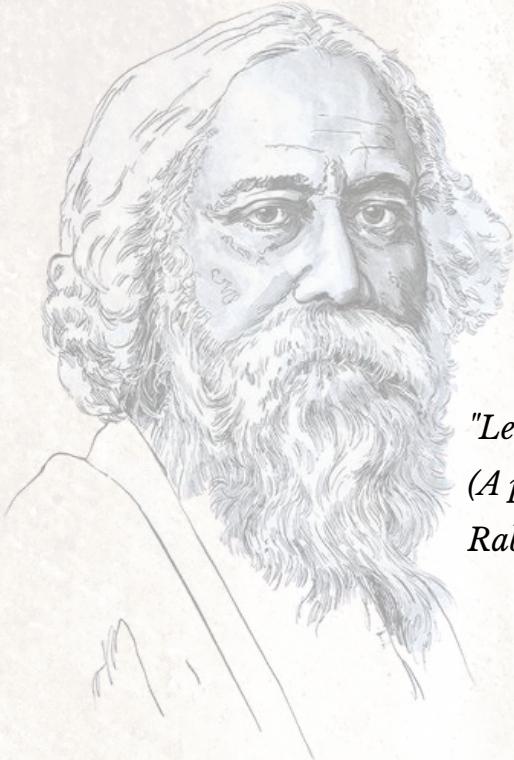
IIT Kharagpur, born from the ideals of nation-building and human progress, is uniquely positioned to bring together the minds and hearts that can begin a new conversation. A conversation that does not shy away from complexity, but also does not lose sight of hope. In convening this Parliament in Kolkata — the intellectual and cultural capital of India — we aspire to create a sacred space where leaders from science, spirituality, economics, governance, education, and the arts may come together to reflect deeply, imagine boldly, and act collectively. This Parliament is structured around four transformative streams of inquiry, namely, *Reawakening the Spiritual Vector — Toward One Humanity, Rethinking Economic Constructs — Beyond Capitalism and Socialism, Guiding Technological Evolution — Science with Soul, Reimagining Education — Awakening the Whole Human Being*. Through these dialogues, we seek to catalyze a new moral compass and strategic blueprint for the next 25 years — a declaration that will inspire the Renaissance 2.0 movement: a movement rooted in regeneration, equity, and shared purpose.

Let this not be a gathering for words alone, but for wisdom to blossom and for action to take root. May this Parliament awaken in each of us the courage to envision a future where prosperity is not measured by accumulation, but by harmony — with each other, with nature, and with the deeper self. Let this be the gift of IIT Kharagpur to the world in its Platinum Jubilee — a beacon of enlightened thought, a sanctuary for transformative dialogue, and a seedbed for collaborative prosperity.

With profound hope and commitment,

Prof. Suman Chakraborty

Director, IIT Kharagpur



*"Let your life lightly dance on the edges of Time like dew on the tip of a leaf."
(A poetic call to balance creativity with responsibility.)*

Rabindranath Tagore

From the desk of the Chairman

The Boston Pledge

As geopolitical tensions escalate, societies fracture internally, wealth gaps keeps increasing, and the relationship between humanity and nature continues to deteriorate, one truth becomes increasingly undeniable: the mental, moral, and material equations that shaped civilization over the last two centuries are no longer serving us. The widening global wealth divide, accelerating ecological decay, and growing spiritual disconnection are not isolated issues — they are symptoms of a deeper civilizational malaise. We need deep reflection. It is critical and urgent for the current and future leaders!

In response to this critical moment and drawing inspiration from the **1893 Parliament of Religions in Chicago** — a milestone in interfaith unity — **the Parliament of Enlightened Thoughts Toward Collaborative Prosperity** proposes a historic gathering in Kolkata. This initiative will convene visionary leaders and thinkers from across the world — spanning science, economics, spirituality, education, arts, and governance — to reimagine what prosperity means in the 21st century.

At its heart, the Parliament seeks to seed a new moral and strategic framework for global cooperation — a framework rooted in equity, regeneration, and shared human purpose.

The Parliament will center around four transformative streams of inquiry, each designed to provoke bold thinking, build bridges, and inspire action:

Session I: Reawakening the Spiritual Vector — Toward One Humanity

In an age where external connectivity has surpassed inner connectedness, we must ask: how do we align conscience with consciousness? This session will explore how humanity can evolve toward a more integrated identity — One Humanity— guided by deeper awareness, ethical clarity, and spiritual anchoring. We will examine how governance systems, from local to global, can be reimagined to elevate morality, empathy, and dharma in decision-making. This is not about religious revivalism, but about activating a universal spiritual grammar that can shape economic and political leadership with compassion and courage. We hope this dialogue will inspire a new generation of leaders — spiritual, civic, and corporate — who serve not from personal ambition, but from inner wisdom and sacred responsibility toward higher level social ambition.

Session II: Rethinking Economic Constructs — Beyond Capitalism and Socialism

This session will critically assess the evolution and limitations of the current economic systems — both capitalist and socialist — and ask: what comes next? As the wealth gap widens, and market logics often fail to deliver human well-being, we must imagine a new "ism" — one that harmonizes enterprise with equity, growth with purpose, and freedom with fraternity. Speakers will explore emerging models of regenerative economics, ethical finance, and community-centered entrepreneurship. Participants will be invited to challenge the zero-sum thinking that has dominated global economics and instead co-create a new calculus for prosperity — one that places dignity and interdependence at its core.

Session III: Guiding Technological Evolution — Science with Soul

As humanity gains unprecedented powers through GenAI, gene editing, quantum computing, metamaterials, and space exploration, the question is no longer can we, but should we — and how should we? This session will convene scientists, technologists, ethicists, and policymakers to explore how the frontiers of innovation can be guided by shared moral and ecological purpose. We will explore how science and technology can be stewarded not just for profit or power, but for planetary well-being and social cohesion. The aim is to shift the narrative from disruption to stewardship — from innovation as dominance to innovation as dharma.

Session IV: Reimagining Education — Awakening the Whole Human Being

The current education system, often geared toward linear thinking and market readiness, must be reoriented to nurture the whole human being. This session will explore how education can be transformed to cultivate intellectual rigor alongside spiritual depth, moral imagination, emotional intelligence, and physical well-being. Particular emphasis will be placed on rebalancing right-brain creativity with left-brain logic — to unlock intuitive, integrative thinking and prepare future generations to lead in complexity. We will ask: what kind of education cultivates the kind of leaders the world now desperately needs?

A Call for Collaboration and Legacy Building

Through catalytic dialogues, transformative performances, and cross-sector panels, the Parliament aims to ignite coalitions that transcend geographies, ideologies, and disciplines.

We believe the time has come — not for minor reforms — but for civilizational reimagination.

We invite visionary sponsors, institutions, and partners to stand with us — **not merely as event supporters, but as co-architects of a generational legacy**. A legacy grounded in courage, creativity, compassion — and the conviction that the future is not something to inherit, but something we must dare to design.

As a culmination of this gathering, the Parliament will offer its **Declaration for the Next 25 Years** — a blueprint to guide the Renaissance 2.0 movement: a movement to reawaken the soul of civilization, and to chart a future that is truly peaceful, prosperous, and purpose-driven.

Respectfully,

Partha Ghosh

Chairman, The Boston Pledge¹

¹ Since its inception in 2001, The Boston Pledge has championed voluntary service — nurturing grassroots innovation, rural transformation, and youth empowerment. It is a non-profit 501(C) 3 organization that brings together outstanding professionals committed to public service to address issues at the base of the pyramid. It is our firm conviction and overarching belief that by (i) transcending the constraints of self-interest and limits of national borders, (ii) providing outstanding leadership in channeling intellectual know-how and financial resources to individuals, groups, or government bodies working for the betterment of society and (iii) focusing on “uncovering the inner power” within people at the grassroots. Our goal is to create a virtuous, equitable, and sustainable society for all humanity.

KOLKATA

Where wisdom inspires innovation.



Why Kolkata?

Cradle to Transformational Movements

The Calcutta Arc: From Crisis → Creativity → Compassion

Calcutta now Kolkata, is not merely a city. It is a living symbol of humanity's capacity to transform pain into purpose and adversity into awakening. Marked by colonial struggle, famine, and political unrest, it became a birthplace of **world-changing ideas and movements rooted in truth, transcendence, creativity, and service**.

Global Firsts with Eternal Resonance

1. Cultural Awakening — Rabindranath Tagore

First non-European Nobel Laureate (1913), born in Jorasanko, Calcutta. His poetry, music, and vision redefined India's cultural selfhood and inspired a **global movement of aesthetic humanism**.

2. Scientific Revolution — Satyendra Nath Bose

Quantum physics pioneer, co-architect of **Bose–Einstein statistics**. His work from Calcutta's academic institutions rewrote the fabric of physical reality, gave birth to the "God Particle" known as the **Boson**.

3. Spiritual Renaissance — Swami Vivekananda & Swami Prabhu Pada

Swami Vivekananda, born in Kolkata, introduced Vedanta to the West at the **1893 Chicago Parliament**. Swami Prabhu Pada, also Calcutta-born, founded ISKCON—carrying India's spiritual heritage to millions worldwide.

4. Compassion in Action — Mother Teresa

Founded the **Missionaries of Charity** in Calcutta (1950). Her work made the city a global epicenter of mercy and selfless service.

Why Calcutta Matters Now?

In an age marked by ecological collapse, moral drift, and social despair, the world needs more than innovation—it needs **inspiration**. Calcutta offers:

- **A tested arc:** from suffering to vision to action, to cultural & intellectual ferment.
- **A convergence of genius and grace**—where science meets soul and thought meets empathy.
- **A timeless reminder:** that civilization is not built on power alone, but on poetry, prayer, and the practice of compassion.

Kolkata is not just a place—it is a proof.

That even amid crisis, humanity can dream, dare, not afraid to explore new frontiers & transform.

PARLIAMENT OF ENLIGHTENED THOUGHTS

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

INAUGURATION SESSION (3:00 ~ 4:30) PM

Welcome Session: *Warm Opening to Assembling Minds, Igniting Purpose*

Inauguration with Vedic Song: *Invoking Timeless Wisdom to Begin a New Era*

Thoughts Behind the Vision & Purpose of the Parliament: *Vision, Structure, and Shared Intent*

IIT Kharagpur Platinum Jubilee Message: *Celebrating 75 years of Innovation and Impact*

The Boston Pledge 25th Anniversary: *A Promise Renewed - Service, Innovation, and Global Equity*

Messages from Leaders: *Voices of Guidance, Unity, and a National Purpose*

Declaration of Renaissance 2.0 Open: *Lighting the Torch for a Reimagined Civilization*

ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION WITH LIGHT FOOD & BEVERAGE- (4.30 ~ 5.45) PM

PLENARY SESSION (6:00 ~ 9:00) PM

Session I: Reawakening the Spiritual Vector — Toward One Humanity: This session will explore how humanity can evolve toward a spiritually connected global identity, fostering systems of governance rooted in ethics, conscience, and dharmic clarity. Leaders will discuss how a deeper spiritual foundation can inspire decision-making at all levels to become more compassionate, inclusive, and human-centered.

Session II: Rethinking Economic Constructs — Beyond Capitalism and Socialism: We will critically assess the performance of current economic systems and explore emerging alternatives that balance enterprise with equity. This session seeks to lay the groundwork for new economic paradigms that prioritize well-being, shared value, and regenerative development.

Case studies: *On bottom-up enterprising in enabling the concept of cellularism*

Session III: Guiding Technological Evolution — Science with Soul: This stream will examine how rapid advances in AI, gene editing, quantum computing, and space exploration can be aligned with ethical imperatives and long-term planetary stewardship. It aims to shift the narrative from technological disruption to technological dharma.

Session IV: Reimagining Education — Awakening the Whole Human Being: Participants will re-envision education systems that nurture not only cognitive and technical skills but also moral imagination, emotional intelligence, and physical well-being. Emphasis will be placed on integrating right-brain creativity with left-brain logic to develop future-ready, conscious leaders.

The closing session will offer an integrated view of the next 25 years and invite everyone to participate in the Renaissance 2.0 movement.

VENUE:



IIT Kharagpur Research Park, Newtown,
West Bengal - 700160

CORE COMMITTEE:

Dr. Partha Ghosh – Chief Mentor and Advisor

Director, IIT Kharagpur – Patron

Prof. Subrata Chattopadhyay – Organizing Chair

Prof. Joy Sen – Organizing Co-Chair

Dr. Prajit Nandi – Chief Executive Officer

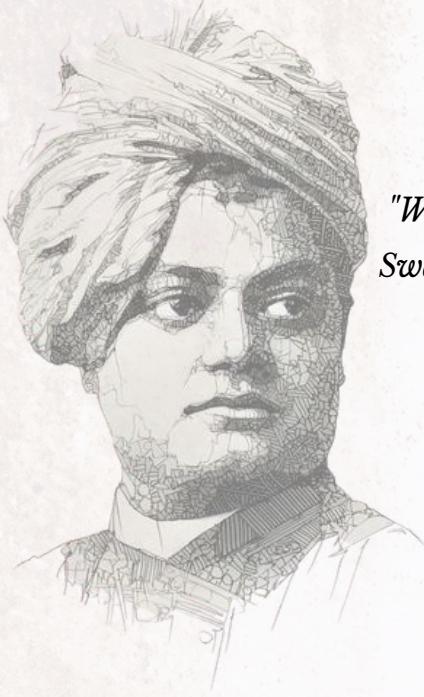
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"We are all one — the difference is only in degree, not in kind."
Swami Vivekananda