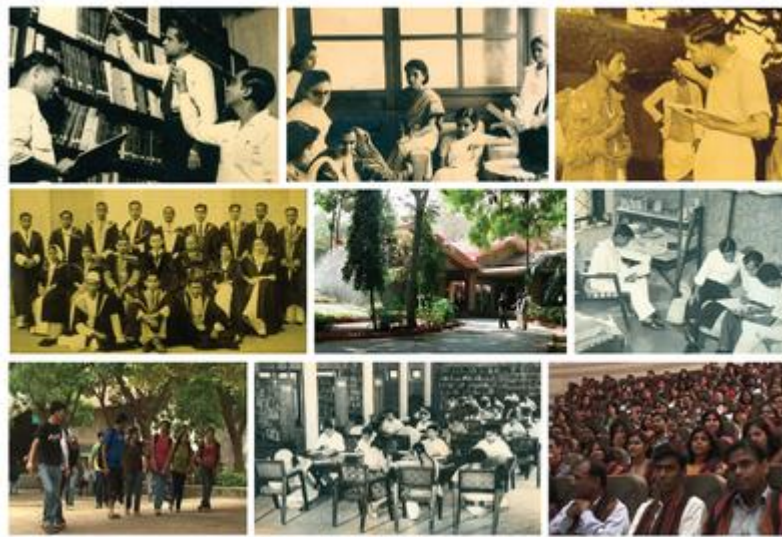


# Tata Institute of Social Sciences

## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

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Tata Institute of Social Sciences 1936 - 2011

1936 witnessed the birth of a new profession in South Asia. Started by Dr. Clifford Manshardt, an American missionary, the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work was the first venture of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Renamed the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in 1944, the Institute has produced generations of dedicated human service professionals, influenced social policy and programmes through its research and initiated pioneering field action projects. As the Institute enters its Platinum Jubilee year in June 2011, it seeks to use this opportunity to achieve several objectives:

- To reach out and **network with its alumni**, to bring them together on this occasion and to leverage the tremendous goodwill that the Institute has with its alumni and others to raise resources, both human and financial, for further development.
- To look inwards and **critically reflect** on its programmes, structures and strategies, in the contemporary context and to rededicate itself to its vision of being an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to the changing social realities through the development and application of knowledge, towards creating a people-centered and ecologically sustainable society. To **initiate new programmes and structures** that would help it better serve its vision and mission.

- To reflect on its contribution to human service and social sciences professional education, research, field action and extension over the past 75 years and to **showcase this contribution** through various print, audio-visual and internet media.
- To celebrate 75 years of service to society through **organizing relevant events** that reaches out to its stakeholders within and outside the institution.

With these broad objectives in mind, the Institute has begun work on a series of events and initiatives:

- The **formal inauguration** of the Platinum Jubilee year is slated for November. Among other things, this occasion will launch the M Ward initiative and will involve the release of a postage stamp and first day cover. The new logo of TISS will also be released on this occasion.
- **The M-Ward Initiative:** This is a massive challenge as well as an equally large opportunity to redefine our relevance as an institution to society. The M Ward, where TISS is located, is a microcosm of the city: it is an extreme example of skewed development in the metropolis, with virtually all indicators registering alarm; requiring urgent action that is multi-dimensional, comprehensive and strategic to serve its burgeoning population. It has been the most neglected ward from the point of view of infrastructure and human development and poses a huge challenge to a city already struggling to provide basic amenities to the majority of its citizens. The challenge in M Ward is to generate a paradigm shift in thinking and doing—in envisioning and delivering **a development plan** that will benefit all its citizens and ensure the rights and entitlements of people, especially the marginalized and vulnerable. The attempt is to bring all disciplines within TISS to focus on research, theory, teaching and practice for social change and development that is sourced from and led by the M ward community. The key strategies envisaged for bringing about this change include: community empowerment and leadership development; enabling equitable access to government programmes and schemes; creating a shared vision and ownership; and creating an enabling environment through advocacy and communication. While the project will need to be of a much longer duration, its initial stage is envisaged as a 3 year programme.
- An **Alumni Meet**, which will include a half day seminar on the theme of Rethinking Social Justice followed by *a day and a half of cultural events and a trip down to memory lane* is planned for December 17 and 18, 2011. The Institute is in the process of

consolidating its alumni database and reaching out through multiple media to reach alumni across the globe.

- A **National level Students Festival** titled **Resonance** is slated for December 20-22. This event will bring together students from various Universities across the country for a programme that involves discussion, reflection and cultural sharing. The theme of Resonance is **Celebrating Diversity**.
- A **national conference** from February 17-19, 2012 on the broad theme of **Globalization and Social Transformation: The Indian Experience**. The aim of the Conference is to provide a broad platform to academics, policy makers and practitioners from multiple disciplines for debating and deliberating on Globalization as a transformative process and its consequent effects on the economic, social, and cultural institutions in India. The conference will deal with 8 sub-themes.
- The **Production of Print, Audio-visual and Web Material** on the history of TISS has been initiated. This involves several projects which include the creation of a web based visual and oral history archive entitled **TISSStory**, the production of a series of six films showcasing 75 years of the Institute's contribution in various areas, the production of displays and exhibitions, a new look for the campuses and the production of an illustrated book on the history of the Institute.

The Institute sees the Platinum Jubilee as an opportunity to consolidate and revisit the significant changes wrought by re-structuring and to move forward with a renewed commitment to society for the next 25 years. It looks forward to the active participation of all its stakeholders: students, staff, alumni, partner organisations and others in making the Platinum Jubilee year an occasion to remember.

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PLATINUM JUBILEE  
1936-2011

Dates	Events Scheduled
September 24, 2011	<a href="#">One day Mega Festival for Senior Citizens</a> organized by the Centre for Life Long Learning (runner up Event)
November 14, 2011 (tentative date)	<p>Formal Inauguration of Platinum Jubilee Year 2011-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inauguration of <a href="#">the M-Ward Initiative</a> and screening of the film "From the Margins" (8 mins) based on the initiative</li> <li>Inauguration of TISSStory : the online Audio Visual Archive and screening of the film "TISSStory" (8 mins) based on oral narratives from TISS</li> <li>Release of TISS' postage stamp and first day cover and release of the new TISS logo</li> </ul>
November 14, 2011	Cultural Programme for the TISS Community
December 17 and 18, 2011	<p><a href="#">Alumni Meet</a></p> <p><i>December 17</i></p> <p>A half day <a href="#">seminar on the theme Rethinking Social Justice</a></p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Walking down memory lane with alumni from the 1940s</p> <p>An exhibition mapping the Institute's journey and contribution in the last 75 Years</p> <p>Release of the series of six films on the Institute's contribution in the last 75 years by the Centre for Media and Cultural Studies</p> <p>Special session for Alumni to discuss the academic restructuring</p> <p>Exhibitions/displays by Alumni</p> <p>Skit by faculty</p> <p>Cultural events</p> <hr/> <p><i>December 18</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centre and School Interaction with Alumni</li> <li>Lunch</li> <li>Meeting for finalising the Alumni Association constitution</li> </ul>
December 20-22, 2011	<p>Resonance - A National level Student's festival on the theme <i>Celebrating Diversity</i></p> <p>December 19/20: School/Independent Centre Specific Events</p> <p>December 21: Inter University Competitions</p> <p>December 22: Inter University Programmes, Cultural Evening</p>
January 13, 2012	Platinum Jubilee Institute Day
February 17-19, 2012	<a href="#">National Conference on the theme Globalisation and Social Transformation: The Indian Experience</a>



### **CELEBRATING DIVERSITY**

Diversity is crucial to the survival of any society or nation. It is diversity that allows for learning from the other, for dialogue, for creativity and innovation. In our contemporary world, diversity is under threat from a variety of forces, from the homogenizing commercialism of global capital to the staunchly exclusive nationalism. Differences, whether of dress, food or other cultural markers, which were formerly respected and even enjoyed, are today being regarded as threats to a mainstream normality that is intolerant of minorities. In such times, it becomes important to assert the importance of diversity, to celebrate it through various modes of expression.

In its Platinum Jubilee year, TISS invites students from across the country to join us in our affirmation of this diversity. The students of TISS are organizing 'Resonance'- a students' festival with the theme 'CELEBRATING DIVERSITY'. The work of TISS since its inception has focused on marginalized sections of the society and is committed to the rights of the diverse minorities that form the fabric of society in India. To understand diversity in entirety, one must be able to look beyond the dominant and to see that which is not visible, to read that which is not written about and to understand the processes by which certain cultures are silenced and rendered invisible.

The theme reflects the approach of the institute in all its facets- from admissions, to pedagogy, work in the field and the kind of culture that it promotes. We hope that through Resonance, the significance of the theme will emerge through the participation of over 35 educational institutes of repute cutting across barriers of region and academic disciplines. The events at Resonance will bring in literature, fine arts and performing arts, film and other cultural events in a manner that would accentuate the joy of diversity and facilitate participation from professionals as well as amateurs. Among the highlights of the three day event will be the cultural evenings which would provide a platform to artists and groups that represent diverse marginal cultures, making it an enriching experience for the participants as well as the hosts.