

IIT Bombay is organising an Institute Colloquium on Friday, March 4, 2011. The details are as follows:



Speaker : **Ms. Rohini Nilekani**  
Chairperson of Arghyam  
Bangalore  
Title : "Social Challenges, Personal Responses"

Day & Date : Friday, March 4, 2011  
Time : 5.15 p.m.  
Venue : Main Auditorium, Victor Menezes Convention Centre

*All are invited.*

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**Abstract:**

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, perhaps the most critical decade ever for India, all of us recognize the huge challenges – economic, environmental, ethical – we face as a country and as a society. The elite among us, which includes my audience, also see the many opportunities that stretch ahead of us as a nation. I would like to use the framework of my experiences in the social sector to deliberate the question: How can we all personally respond to both the challenges and the opportunities out there to deepen and enhance the idea of India in a globalised world? What choices can we make? What choices are others, in situations different from ours, making? How will our choices and their choices impact on each other and on the country? The young people at IIT will have certainly thought about these things. I will try to share my own thoughts and concerns.

**About the Speaker:**

Ms. Rohini Nilekani is the Chairperson and Founder of Arghyam, which she setup with a private endowment in 2001. An ex-journalist, a writer and a philanthropist, Rohini has been deeply involved in development issues for many years now. She has co-founded Pratham Books, a non-profit publishing enterprise to produce high quality, low cost books for children in several Indian languages. She is on the Board of Directors of Pratham India Education Initiative (PIEI). She is on the Board of Sanghamithra Rural Financial Services and has funded its first microcredit programme for the urban poor. She was the Chairperson for Akshara Foundation, the goal of which is "Every child in school and learning well", from July 2002 to July 2008