

---

# Bhabha's take on crime against women

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** The increasing violence and crime against a woman is nothing but a sign of frustration of a chauvinistic male who can no more control the life of the former, said renowned cultural and literary theorist Homi K Bhabha before his delivery of Jit Paul Memorial Lecture at Kolkata Language and Literature Festival, 2014 at the book fair on Saturday.

A champion of global justice and global freedom, Bhabha is the Anne Rothenberg professor of humanities and senior adviser to the President and Provost at Harvard University. The chauvinistic male, he finds, is intimidated by aspect



Basabdatta Sarkar

Homi K Bhabha at the book fair on Saturday

of emancipated woman. They have now started claiming their space in public sphere. Violence against women is an act of a closeted mind.

Professor Bhabha finds humanities as great rescuer: "A large number of Indian corporations just cannot hire excellent engineers and programmers. It is simply because they

lack the vision which only liberal arts can provide," he said. Humanities, according to him, not only make one presentable and expressive but also break barriers and thus build core human values, which is universal.

But sadly the humanities are "radically being under-funded". "More radically you under-fund the humanities, more orthodox you become. Humanities help cross border, cross disciplines and bridge between two entities, two communities and two nations. Humanities die when it is trivialized and protected," he said.

Explaining the difference between information and knowledge, Professor Bhabha, a trustee of the UNESCO world report on cultural diversity,

said, "Information becomes knowledge when it is interpreted. The power of interpretation makes one knowledgeable. But the interpretation needs training. Because one interpretation varies from other, it also allows space for freedom. It also makes you responsible. The freedom of a society appropriately gives you an opportunity to act responsibly."

Professor Bhabha, in his maiden trip to Kolkata, falls in love with the city. "It is more like Mumbai, not Delhi. The grand architecture of the building holds the lofty aspirations of its imperial custodians. It has lot of character," he said. But, he finds the city painted white and blue "rather ill-fitting and garish".

---