

**EADS-TIFR**  
**Agreement signing ceremony**  
*1 March 2013, Bangalore*

I am very happy to be associated with this very unique and happy occasion.

More than 300 years ago Galileo had observed, “the laws of Nature are written in the language of Mathematics”. Since then we have seen an accelerated interaction between mathematics and the natural sciences.

The earliest interface (from ancient times) is with Astronomy, where there was a civilizational contribution from India.

As we come to the 16<sup>th</sup> century in the times of Galileo and Newton the interface with Physics grew by leaps and bounds...as we move closer in time...in the 20<sup>th</sup> century we see mathematics interfacing with Biology and Computer science.

Mathematics is enriched more and more by posing new challenges as we explore nature more and more...

In India we need to encourage and grow more the interface of mathematics and the natural sciences and engineering and this is precisely what is being forged by this endowment from EADS.

It is worth mentioning that a French –European corporation proposed to do this and I hope Indian corporations will take this as an example to emulate.

Finally I want to stress one point about this agreement that it allows for a flexibility about the type of mathematical projects that can be pursued by the `chair`. While several traditional areas have been listed in the annexure of the agreement we will also explore other mathematical problems and themes as we go on. It should be recalled that John Holland made a profound contribution to optimization problems by adopting ideas from evolutionary biology which has also helped in the design of aircraft engines.

*Spenta Wadia*