

Report on #SVASTIK Special Session on “Indian Traditional Knowledge” at the 6th Bharatiya Vigyan Sammelan at Ahmedabad during 21-22 December 2023

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A Special Session under the #SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) initiative on “Indian Traditional Knowledge” was organised by CSIR- National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR), New Delhi at the 6th Bharatiya Vigyan Sammelan (BVS) in Ahmedabad during 21-22 December 2023.



In the first technical session on “Indian Knowledge Systems and NEP 2020 on Day 1, Professor Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, provided an overview of the national initiative #SVASTIK launched by CSIR-NIScPR to communicate scientifically validated Indian traditional knowledge in a simple and interesting format of infographics and audio-visuals in diverse traditional knowledge domains. Professor Shekhar C. Mande, Distinguished Professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University and the former Director General of CSIR chaired the session and emphasised the importance of integration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Dr. Ruchir Gupta, IKS Coordinator, Ministry of Education, GoI talked about the prime goal of education in India since ages which has always been focused on ‘complete realisation and liberation of self’. Vaidya Girish Tillu, AYUSH Center of Excellence, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune gave the Keynote lecture on ‘Ancient Insights Modern Discoveries: Examples of fathoming Ayurveda knowledge base’. He informed the audience about Ayusoft, a searchable knowledge base and support system for all decoded knowledge on Ayurveda for students, researchers and practitioners. He also talked about Ayurgenomics which integrates concepts in Ayurveda with modern genetics research.

The technical session-II on “Indian Traditional Knowledge Communication and Dissemination: The Road Ahead” started on 22nd December 2023. Prof. Anil Gupta, Founder GIAN, NIF and Honey Bee Network delivered keynote address on various topics covering Indian Knowledge System and grassroots innovations. Prof Gupta emphasized upon the importance of further research on our traditional knowledge and also highlighted the need for bridging the gap between the formal and informal science.



Dr. Akhilesh Mishra, Principal Scientist, Department of Science & Technology, GoI gave overview of research support under the ‘Science and Heritage Research Initiative’ (SHRI), DST, GoI which aims to promote, and enhance heritage science innovations”. Prof. Manoj Kumar Patariya (the Former Director of CSIR-NIScPR, formerly CSIR-NISCAIR) talked about the contributions of various Indian scientists towards the communication of both modern and traditional knowledge in science.

The third technical session on “Scientifically Validated Indian Traditional Knowledge for Health and Wellness” was chaired by Prof B N Jagatap, Senior Professor, IIT Bombay. Prof (Dr) Tanuja Nesari, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi in her Keynote address said that India has a treasure house of knowledge on non-intervention treatments and now is the dire need to communicate this traditional knowledge with the world. She talked about the importance of looking at Ayurveda from the perspective of modern research.

Shri Ranjit Anand Puranik, Managing Director, Shree Dhootapapeshwar, Mumbai emphasised about the scientific validation of how Ayurveda effectively deals with a range of lifestyle diseases from diabetes to cardiovascular disorders. Dr. Geetha Krishnan, Unit Head of Evidence and Learning at WHO Traditional Medicine Centre, Jamnagar, Gujarat, said that Ayurveda has a capability to work as a health management system rather than a disease management system. He also emphasized that the traditional systems of medicines need to be cost-effective for overall easy accessibility and affordability.

The two-day programme was coordinated by Dr Charu Lata, Principal Scientist & Coordinator SVASTIK, Dr Paramananda Barman and Ms Meetali Bharti, Scientists of CSIR-NIScPR.

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