

NEWS

SIXTH HISTORY OF SCIENCE PROJECT INVESTIGATORS MEET — A REPORT*

The sixth Annual Project Investigator's Meet cum Workshop of History of Science Programme was organized during April 6-8, 2010 along with a Joint meeting of Research Council and the National Commission in the premises of Banaras Hindu University. The opening session of the meet was held at *Swatantrata Bhawan*, Senate Hall. This special session was attended by learned scholars and students from the faculties of Science, Technology and History, Culture & Archaeology etc. Professor Kamal Sheel, Dean, Faculty of Arts, delivered a welcome address which was followed by an introductory remarks by Prof. Vibha Tripathi, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (Local Convener of the INSA meet. Professor R.H. Singh, former Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Āyurveda Viśvavidyālaya, Jodhpur and Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Āyurveda, IMS, BHU, gave an inaugural talk on "Āyurveda and Researches in History of Science and its Relevance in Modern Society" and emphasized role of the nature in curing the diseases and the practice of the *Rog* and *Rogi Parikṣā* in the Science of Āyurveda. He also stressed on the need for adopting the new methodology from the holistic point of view in this discipline. Dr. A K Bag, FASc. Editor, *Indian Journal of History of Science* and former Coordinator in History of Science was invited to speak on "Role of Benaras in Studies of History of Science", who emphasized Varanasi as a nerve centre and described how Benaras Sanskrit College (1820-1915) and BHU (1916 onwards) played important role in the program by promoting scientific study and researches. In this context he referred to Bāpu Deva Śāstrī and Sudhakar Dewedi's contribution in *Jyotiṣa* from the Benaras Sanskrit College, and the effort of BHU in preserving traditional knowledge.

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Professor P. Krishna, FNA, FASc, formerly Professor of BHU and Secretary, Rajghat Education Centre, Krishnamurti Foundation, India, a specialist in Education, Science and Society besides Crystallography, spoke on “Need of Indepth Researches on History of Science & Technology”. Professor Krishna, termed science as a universal utility which could solve many gaps and puzzles of History, Philosophy and Economy of the Society. He also found India’s heritage very rich and emphasized a need for accurate emphasis on scientific studies . While referring to the glorious past he suggested that the holistic approach may be applied in the studies of History of Science and Technology.

Prof. R Gadagkar, FNA, FASc., Chairman, Research Council for History of Science Programme of INSA in his Presidential remarks focused on “Role and Responsibility of INSA in Promoting Research in History of Science & Technology”. Professor Gadagkar highlighted the activities of history of science being carried out under the patronisation of INSA and felt a need to building up a community of History of Science to promote researches in a focused manner and to enlarge its dimensions. He invited young researchers to build up the heritage in science and desired their substantial involvement.

Prof. R C Gupta, Deptt. of Metallurgy, BHU presented his work on “Wootz Steel” and made it visually interesting by using slides. He traced the History of Wootz Steel from nearby places.

Prof. Vibha Tripathi extended vote of thanks to the distinguished guests, speakers and learned audience, members of Commission and the devoted team of workers for making the event fruitful and possible at the auspices of the BHU. She thanked Professor R Gadagkar for extending all kinds of support on behalf of INSA. She proposed also one minute silence to the memory of late Professor R Balasubramaniam, one of the members of National Commission for History of Science, INSA and an old alumuni of IT, BHU for untimely death and highlighted his dynamic personality as a student and teacher.

One minute silence was observed in memory of Professor R Balasubramaniam.

Under the project presentation programme the progress of the on-going projects and new proposals were evaluated by the Research Council. The programme was divided in four sessions under the guidance of Prof. R Gadagkar, which was held on the premises of Bharat Kala Bhawan, BHU.

Session I : Chair – D K Ojha, Deptt. of AIHC & Archaeology, BHU

History of the Ordinance Establishment of British-India : 1700-1947 by Dr. Kaushik Roy, Kolkata

A Study on Solar Passive Concepts used in the Avadh Architectural Buildings by Dr. Usha Bajpai, Lucknow.

Growth of Scientific Societies in india (1784-1947) by Dr. B K Sen, New Delhi.

Communicable Diseases and Germ Theory in Colonial India : An Assessment by Dr. (Mrs.) Srabani Sen, Kolkata

English Translation of Trimalla Bhaṭṭa's *Bṛhad – Yogataraṅgiṇī* by Dr. Nirmal Saxena, Rae Bareli.

Edition with English Translation of *Siddhānta Śēkhara* of Sripathi (11th cent.)” by Dr. A Sripad Bhat, Tirupati.

Studies Related to History of Astronomy by Dr. (Mrs.) B S Shylaja, Bangalore

Khageṅdra Maṇi Darpaṇa (KMD) World's first complete Text on Ancient Toxicology by Dr. Sathyanarayana Bhat, Bangalore

Catalogue of Forge Welded Iron Cannons in Western Maharashtra Forts by Dr. P P Deshpande, Pune

Preparation of Translation and Mathematical Notes on the works of Nīlakaṇṭha by Dr. K Ramasubramanian, IIT, Mumbai

Session II : Chair – Professor Deepak Kumar, JNU, New Delhi

History of Technical Education in India : 1900-2005 by Prof. Samir Kumar Saha, Kolkata

Multi-dimensional Concept of Preventive Strategies for Non-communicable Diseases with reference to Diabetes, Cardio-vascular disorders and Cancer – A Historical Overview by Dr. (Ms.) Sukta Das, Kolkata

Brahma Siddhānta - Text, Eng. Translation and Commentary by Dr. Somnath Chatterjee, Kolkata

A Historical study of Indian Medicine through Travellers' Accounts, with special emphasis on Anatomical and Surgical knowledge by Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, West Bengal.

Translation of '*Prayoga Samuccayam*' by Dr. Madhu K P, Kerala

Session III : Chair – Dr. Ishrat Alam, ICHR, New Delhi

A study on the History of the Traditional Ayurveda Practicing by Parambarya Vaidyas in Kerala and their Unique Ethical Outlook by Dr. Sreekumar Nellickappilly, Chennai

The Garo Perception of Disease and Medicine : A History since the British Regime in the Indian Sub-continent by Dr. Pratibha Mandal, Kolkata

Delineating the History of Plant Science and Agriculture Technology of India : A Multi-disciplinary Perspective by Dr. Vasudha Pant, Almora

Traditional Ecological Knowledge in India – An Assessment by Dr. Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay, Kolkata

Milestones and developments in Indian surgery since Independence : A Historical perspective by Dr. Satyendra Prakash Kaushik, Chandigarh

Towards an understanding of indigenous knowledge system of the fishermen of Sundarbans in West Bengal and their approach to health, sanitation and climate by Prof. Mahua Sarkar, Kolkata

Session IV : Chair – Professor SMR Ansari, AMU, Aligarh.

Minerals, Mining and Metal working crafts in medieval India. C 1600-1750 AD: A study based on Dutch sources by Dr. Ishrat Alam, Delhi

Catalogue and technical analysis of forge welded iron cannons in Deccan Forts by Dr. S Jai Kishan, Hyderabad

An Ethno-Technological Study of Iron Working around Sonbhadra Region by Prof. (Mrs.) Vibha Tripathi, Varanasi

Indigenous Techniques of Weaving in Silk Industry : A Study in the context of Eastern Uttar Pradesh by Dr. Adya Prasad Pandey, Varanasi

The academic sessions concluded with a general discussion. A Joint meeting of Research Council and the Indian National Commission for History of Science was held at the *Department of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology*, BHU to overview the activities and reports presented by Investigators.