

VIITH INVESTIGATORS' MEET ON HISTORY OF SCIENCE PROJECTS, NEW DELHI — A REPORT*

The seventh Meet on History of Science projects was organized during April 13-14, 2011 at INSA, New Delhi followed by a joint meeting of the Research Council and Indian National Commission for History of Science. The major objective of this Meet was to make a qualitative assessment and overall evaluation of progress reports and consideration of new proposals for financial support during the year 2011-12.

A large number of scholars, local fellows of the Academy, members of the Research Council and National Commission along with the project investigators attended the programme.

Dr. Krishan Lal, President, INSA and Chairman, National Commission presided over the Meet.

Professor Raghavendra Gadagkar, Chairman, Research Council for History of Science delivered the welcome address and expressed pleasure over the presence of the learned participants, and made a special mention of Dr. Krishan Lal, Professor R Rajaraman, Vice-President (Science Promotion) INSA and Dr. A K Bag, Editor *IJHS* along with Dr. Alok Moitra, the Executive Secretary, INSA for their encouragement. Professor Gadagkar, while pointing to the importance of the programme laid a special emphasis on community of historians of science, which is indeed very small in numbers, desired that the effort might be made to include the subject in the curriculum of schools and colleges to catch the students young to generate and nurture carefully at this stage with the involvement of knowledgeable persons around.

Dr. A K Bag while welcoming the inaugural panel of distinguished members and participants, highlighted with great pleasure, the essence of the programme, its various feature and importance in culture and tradition of Indian science. He also shared his pleasure of watching youngsters carrying interest and debate to ascertain the role and importance of Indian traditional and modern science from their contemporary international perspectives.

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Dr. Krishan Lal, the President, INSA, in his inaugural address expressed great pleasure and happiness for being present at this unique programme of the Academy which involves the development of science and technology in its various dimensions. He recalled the contributions of Homi Bhabha, Humayun Kabir in founding the History of Science programme in the Academy and expressed a great pride in India's age old tradition and contribution in scientific heritage. In this context, he particularly referred to Nalanda as an ancient institution of high standing, important epics and works—*Râmâyana*, *Mahâbhârata*, Kauṭilya's *Arthauâstra* containing description of different treasures of wisdom of India's remote past, fascinating description of diamond, its antiquity, availability, properties, quality and uses in India. He was equally concerned about preservations of heritage buildings and mentioned the uniqueness of medieval architecture in this context showing excellent features of the science of architecture depicting an unimaginary skill of Indian artisans. He also referred to the *Vedas* and the *Upaniṣadic* lore opening the door for exchange of knowledge in the form of question and answer rejecting the notion of blind belief. His special interest in art & culture, science & technology of tribal community was quite apparent while he mentioned the indigenous skill of Dokra art, alloys and metallurgical knowledge like making of arrows and process of moulding and folk medicine etc. and noted that India is still the home of varieties of tribal knowledge. He appreciated very much of Academy's initiative and effort to compile and document the knowledge of India's heritage in history of science and culture for the last fifty years and desired that careful scrutiny and study of authentic sources might also be taken into considerations for realistic image of our glorious past.

The project presentations were next made in the different sessions for assessment by the members of the Research Council and Commission, which are as follows:

Session I: Chair: Prof. R Gadagkar

B S Shylaja, Bangalore: Studies related to History of Astronomy

Sripad Bhat, Tirupathi: Edition with English Translation of *Siddhânta Śekharam* of Sripati (11th cent.)”

Somenath Chatterjee, Hooghly: *Brahma Siddhânta* - Text, Eng. Translation and Commentary

K Ramasubramanian, Mumbai: Preparation of Translation and Mathematical Notes of the works of Nilakantha

Mala Bhattacharjee and Purabi Mukharjee, Kolkata: The Pioneer mathematicians and their role in Calcutta University during nineteenth and twentieth century

Session II: Chair: Dr. AK Bag

Madhu K P, Kerala: Translation of *Prayoga Samuccayam*

Sathyanarayana Bhat, Bangalore: *Khagendra Maṇi Darpaṇa* (KMD) World's first complete Text on Ancient Toxicology

Senu Kurien George, Kerala: English Translation of *Jyotṣṇika*

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

Session III: Chair: Prof S Ranganathan

Vibha Tripathi, Varanasi: An Ethno-Technological Study of Iron Working Around Sonbhadra Region

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

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

Subhasis Biswas, Kolkata: Historical evaluation of Forestry Research in India (1861-2005) with a special case study of forestry Research Institute, Dehradun

PP Deshpande, Pune: Catalogue of Forge welded iron Cannons in Western Maharashtra Forts

Session IV: Chair: Prof. MS Sriram

B K Sen, New Delhi: Growth of Scientific Societies in India (1784-1947) for decades

Samir Kr. Saha, Kolkata: History of Technical Education in India: 1900-2005

Srabani Sen, Kolkata: Communicable diseases and Germ theory in Colonial India: An assessment

Satyendra Prakash Kaushik, Chandigarh: Milestones and developments in Indian surgery since independence: A historical perspective

Session V: Chair: Prof. SMR Ansari

Sreekumar Nellickappilly, Chennai: A study on the history of the traditional Ayurveda practicing by Parambarya Vaidyas in Kerala and their unique ethical outlook

Sukta Das, Kolkata: Multi-dimensional concept of preventive strategies for Non-communicable diseases with reference to Diabetes, Cardio-vascular disorders and Cancer – A historical overview

Pratibha Mandal, Kolkata: The Garo perception of disease and medicine: A history since the British regime in the Indian sub-continent

Jayanta Bhattacharya, West Bengal: A historical study of Indian medicine through Travellers' accounts, with special emphasis on Anatomical and Surgical knowledge

Session VI: Chair: Dr. Ram Manohar

Usha Bajpai, Lucknow: A study on Solar passive concepts used in the Avadh architectural buildings

M S Sriram, Chennai: *Siddhântaūiromaṇi* of Bhâskaracârya – Translation of the text and the auto commentary *Vâsanâbhâṣya* and explanatory notes

Arun Kumar Sethi, New Delhi: History of *Nâḍī Vijnâna* (Pulse Science)

CB Palit, Kolkata: Science and Nationalism in Bengal 1876-1947 Phase VII: Girish Ch. Bose and modern agronomy in India

Rajesh Kochhar, Chandigarh: Seductive orientalism: English education and modern science in India

Ashish Lahiri, Kolkata: The scientific achievements of Radhanath Sikdar and science in early colonial India

The session ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.