

National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC)
&
Basant Sewa Sansthan (BSS)
Announce

National Seminar
Towards a Scientific & Technological Culture
November 22-25, 2006; Hotel Clarks, Khajuraho-471001, M.P. (India)

Science and scientific culture have been integral parts of Indian culture for the ages. While the sages were practicing yoga in ancient age, they were specifically practicing the science of healthy living. Similarly, the modern science has revealed that a number of spices and flavoring plants used in Indian food, have medicinal values. The trees of Neem, Peepal and Banyan have been the centre of early human settlements, because of their pleasant shadow and healthy products. A number of rituals, traditions and customs being followed for the centuries have some elements of scientific principles and attitude. Over the period, unfortunately, many of these contaminated with a number of superstitions and mis-beliefs resulting into unscientific practices. It has to be revamped and the combination of science, technology and culture has to be restored to bring about a scientific and technological culture. Being rational, analytical and systematic in our attitude, behaviour and conduct is attributed to a S&T culture. In recent times, scientific culture has become a phrase much discussed at all levels of public discourse. The term may have two dimensions: individual and social. There is a need for defining indicators of S&T culture and understanding recent developments regarding its diffusion into our society. Some scholars put school at center of S&T culture, some find family and parenting as critical factors, while others see popularization as its core and thus communication and media come into picture as potential means. S&T culture is emphasized in terms of citizens' cultural development and is considered as a prerequisite for socio-economic development and innovation. The social aspects of S&T culture enable people understand scientific basis as how a modern society works and behaves. The value of S&T culture lies in its applicability to individuals as well as to institutions and society as a whole. The social debates and decisions affecting masses have to be logical, informed and scientific. A scientifically cultured individual and society can contribute to this cause more effectively. The seminar intends to address questions as what is a S&T culture; how it impacts on various facets of development; and possible models for its measurement. The seminar offers a forum to discuss and deliberate on these issues and invites criticism, comments and suggestions on current issues in S&T communication as well as evolves future strategies.

Technical Sessions/ Sub Themes : There will be 5 technical sessions/ sub themes:

- i) **Understanding S&T Culture:** This session introduces and defines S&T culture; explores various concepts; determines role of scientific literacy, scientific temper and technological temper in developing S&T culture.
- ii) **HRD and S&T Culture:** This session discovers critical role of formal/ informal education/ training/ parenting/ social engineering in development of S&T culture.
- iii) **S&T Communication and S&T Culture:** This session tries to find newer ways and means as how S&T communication can help develop S&T culture.
- iv) **Role of Scientists/ Technologists in Developing S&T Culture:** The session suggests effective methodologies and practices to be applied for defining the role of S&T personnel in diffusion of S&T culture in society.
- v) **S&T Culture and Development:** This session studies as how administration, infrastructure services, policy/ decision makers, etc., can be motivated towards S&T culture to enhance the pace of sustainable development.

Seminar Format : The technical sessions will have presentation of contributory research papers, review papers, survey analyses, case studies, and invited talks. That apart, there would be discussions in different split groups. Deliberations will be in Hindi with some exceptions in English. A sub theme cannot be the title of your paper/ presentation; select a narrower topic under a sub theme. Papers may be prepared in standard research paper format, i.e. title of the paper, name(s) and address of author(s), abstract, key words, introduction, objectives, methodology, observations, discussion/ analysis, inferences/ conclusions/ recommendations, and references, along with illustrations/ graphics/ photos including captions.

Who can participate : The seminar is likely to be of interest to those who have anything to do with science, communication and science communication, i.e. scientists, science communicators, science writers, journalists, editors, researchers and faculty members of university departments of journalism, public relations and information officers of scientific organizations, representatives of media houses, newspapers, magazines, science cells of radio/ TV channels and voluntary organizations active in this area.

Registration/ Submission of Paper/ Abstract : Deadline November 10, 2006. No registration fee. Only selected applicants would be invited for presentation.

Travel Fellowship : There is some provision of travel support for selected/ invited delegates from India. International delegates will make their own travel arrangements; the organizers could offer free stay and meals. Best paper/ presentation awards would be given in junior and senior categories based on independent evaluation.

How to Reach Khajuraho : Khajuraho is one of the important tourist destinations in central India famous for fine stone carvings and rich cultural heritage. Mahoba is the nearest railhead (50 Km. by road from Khajuraho) connected directly by super fast trains with Delhi, Lucknow, Varanasi, Kolkata, and Mumbai. Khajuraho has its own airport with daily flights of Indian Airlines and Jet Airways from Delhi and Varanasi. Winter begins in November here, hence normal woollens are recommended.

Exhibition of Popular Science Publications : An Exhibition of Popular Science Publications and Software Materials is also being organized at the venue; please bring/ send your publications, articles, books, magazines and software materials for display.

Addresses for communication :

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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME *

NOVEMBER 22

11:30 - 01:30 PM

PRESS CONFERENCE

01:30 - 02:30 PM

LUNCH

02:30 – 06:00 PM

ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES/ REGISTRATION
TEA/ COFFEE

07:00 – 10:00 PM

RECEPTION/ EVENING TALK/ NETWORKING/ DINNER

NOVEMBER 23

09:00 - 10:00 AM

INTERACTION/ TEA/ COFFEE

10:00 - 11:30 AM

INAUGURAL FUNCTION

11:30 - 12:00 NOON

TEA/ COFFEE

12:00 - 01:30 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION I

01:30 - 02:30 PM

UNDERSTANDING S&T CULTURE
LUNCH

02:30 - 04:00 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION II

04:00 –04:30 PM

HRD AND S&T CULTURE
TEA/ COFFEE

04:30 – 06:00 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION III

06:00 - 06:30 PM

S&T COMMUNICATION AND S&T CULTURE
TEA/ COFFEE

07:00 - 10:00 PM

CULTURAL PROGRAMME/ EVENING TALK/ DINNER

NOVEMBER 24

09:00 - 10:00 AM

INTERACTION/ TEA/ COFFEE

10:00 – 11:30 AM

TECHNICAL SESSION IV

11:30 – 12:00 NOON

ROLE OF SCIENTISTS & TECHNOLOGISTS
IN DEVELOPING S&T CULTURE

TEA/ COFFEE

12:00 – 01.30 PM

TECHNICAL SESSION V

01:30 – 02.30 PM

S&T CULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT
LUNCH

02:30 – 04:00 PM

SPLIT GROUPS DISCUSSION/ RECOMMENDATIONS

04:00 – 04:30 PM

TEA/ COFFEE

04:30 – 06:00 PM

VALEDICTORY FUNCTION

06:00 - 06:30 PM

TEA/ COFFEE

07:00 - 10:00 PM

CULTURAL PROGRAMME/ EVENING TALK/ DINNER

NOVEMBER 25

FIELD VISIT/ END OF PROGRAMME

**Minute-to-minute programme for inaugural/ valedictory functions and technical sessions to be given with seminar kit.*

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Registration Form

1. Name of the Delegate :

2. Postal Address :

3. Contacts

Phone :
Fax :
Mobile :
E-mail/ Website :

4. Abstract/ Paper

Title of Paper/ Presentation :
Session/ Sub Theme :
Requirements for Presentation, if any :

5. Travel

Travel Support : Required/ Not Required
Arrival Date :
Arrival Time :
Arrival Train/ Flight No. :
Departure Date :
Departure Time :
Departure Train/ Flight No. :

6. Accommodation : Required/ Not Required

7. Any Other Information :

Date

Signature

-
- *Please send filled in Registration Form along with your Biodata and Abstract/ Paper to :*

Mr. Rajendra Sharma
Secretariat (Seminar 2006)
Hotel Clarks, Khajuraho-471001, M.P. (India)
Phone: +91-9415453820
Email : basantsevasansthan@yahoo.com