

A brief report on the National Conference on “Present Relevance of Ancient Indian Sciences” on 14-15th September 2011 at GITAM University, Visakhapatnam.

A two day National Conference on the captioned subject was held in the Mother Theresa Hall of Gitam University, Visakhapatnam, on the 14th & 15th September 2011. The Conference was organised jointly by I-SERVE and Gitam University and the response from the students and faculty of the University was so overwhelming that the five hundred capacity hall was jam-packed during almost all the technical sessions of the conference.



Sri Sadguru K. Sivananda Murthy, a prominent educationalist, philanthropist and spiritual leader, lit the lamp and commissioned the conference into action at 11.00 a.m. on 14th Sept. 2011. In his benedictory address, the Sadguru traced the history of Indian Sciences from the vedic period to present period and observed, that as far as India is concerned, its spiritual practices never came in the way of its scientific progress. He further added that India is always India and a bifurcation line which can separate Ancient India from Modern India never existed. He appreciated the authorities of Gitam University for choosing I-SERVE for the purpose of conducting this conference and blessed all those who worked for the implementation of the conference.

Then Dr. M.V.V.S. Murthi, Hon'ble President, Gitam University, who graced the occasion, in his brief but inspiring speech, welcomed the efforts of I-SERVE to revive ancient Indian knowledge again into this modern time.

Prof. G. Subramanyam, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gitam University, in his speech, narrated the series of records established by Gitam University in the recent past and thanked I-SERVE for making this conference possible.

Prof. N. Lakshmandas, Principal, Institute of Science, Gitam University, who is the Chief Coordinator of this Conference, in his speech, encouraged the students and the faculty to take deep interest into the panorama of knowledge which is going to be revealed in the succeeding technical sessions.

Then, Prof. K.V. Krishna Murthy, Chairman, I-SERVE, was invited to deliver his key note address, which he did through a power point presentation. In his presentation, Prof. Krishna murthy, quoted the reports of several comiittees of scientists and Governments to show how modern sciemce is pusing the humanity towards irreparable peril through its approach of exploitation of Nature. He then, went on to demonstrate how the ancient Indians worked in a different way which was totally Nature friendly and non hazardous, in their pursuit of science. He picked up different text books of Sanskrit belonging to 15 different branches of ancient sciences and demonstrated the depth and the spread of the ancient scientific books. In conclusion, he made an appeal to the modern scients to make sincere efforts to evolve a Nature freindly alternative science, which can complement the indespensaible modern science. He assured that ancient Indian literature, in this regard, is emanating powerful hopes of ray and urged upon the future researchers to catch hold of them and utilise them for the eternal progress of humanity on this globe.

The key note address was well received and responded by the participants of the conference and the sentiments of the whole audience was reflected in the response of the Vice chancellor of the University, who insantaneoulsy announced that the Gitam University is going to enter into a M.O.U. with I-SERVE, for the purpose of working on the academic and research fronts of ancient Indian sciences, fused with their modern counterparts.





(Left to right: Prof. G. Subrahmanyam, VC, Gitam University, Prof. K.V.Krishna Murty, Chairman, I-SERVE, Dr.M.V.V.S. Murthi, Hon'ble President, Gitam University, Sri Sadguru Sivananda Murthy garu, Prof. N. Lakshmana Das, Institute of Science, Gitam University)

Sri Sadguru Sivananda Murthy, released the proceedings volume of the conference and also a new publication by I-SERVE viz., "Ancient Indian Astronomy and Cosmology."

After the tea break, the technical sessions started with the inspiring presentation by DR. I. Suryanarayana, Senior Scientist, IICT, Hyderabad on 'Utilisation of Chemistry Principles of Ancient India in Modern Chemistry Research'. Dr. Suryanarayana took his material from a series of ancient chemical text books like Rasaratna Samuchchaya etc., and listed a number of marvelous chemical achievements of ancient Indians along with the parallel modern nomenclatures of technical terms. He also showed a few pictures of the ancient chemical apparatus, to bring out the similarity between modern and ancient methods of chemical technology.

The next session was on 'Calculus in prose and poetry of Kerala school' by the famous orator and scientist Prof. K. Bala Subramanian, Dept. of Humanities, IIT, Mumbai. In his interactive speech, Dr. Subramanian, drew the young students into a dialogue on modern calculus and demonstrated how the so called modern calculus was already there in the works of ancient Kerala mathematician.

The next presentation was by Prof. N. Someswara Rao, Department of Organic Chemistry, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, on 'Homa - A scientifically planned ritual for the welfare of the human beings'. In fact, this is the theme of the research project which he is presently undertaking along with 3 of his research fellows in Andhra University. Unlike many others, who tried to make comments either for or against Homa therapy, Prof. Someswara Rao, took it in the right scientific spirit and devised new equipment to verify the claims and counter claims on this subject. The work is still in progress and the final results are yet to be arrived at. But, the data collected by his group, so far, clearly indicates that it is possible that our ancient sages have designed a positive

system of therapy through the regular process of daily Homas and occasional yagnas. Without making any claims as such, Dr. Rao, presented the data collected so far and discussed their pros and cons without partiality.

The last presentation of the day was by Prof. Chandu Subba Rao, former Head of the Dept., Geo-Physics, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam. His subject was 'Ancient science is the gateway to the story of epistemology – example the shape of earth! In his lecture, Dr. Rao drew the attention of the audience both to the achievements of the ancient as well as the occasional gaps in the literature.

The next day started with the enlightening speech of Dr. S. Balachander Rao, member, Research commission for history of sciences, INSA, New Delhi, on 'Astronomy in Ancient India – an over view'. He gave a historical account of the mathematical and astronomical achievements of ancient India and a comparative study of the same with the modern achievements. As usual, he crossed across the barriers of partiality and acknowledged the greatness of the scientists in their achievements, whether they are ancient or modern.

The next presentation was by Dr. B.L. Narasayya, former Director, Geological Survey of India, on 'Can we predict earth quakes using ancient Indian Scientific tools'. This presentation, in fact, is a part of the work which is being presently handled by him as a joint R&D project with I-SERVE and Gayatri Vidya Parishad of Visakhapatnam on earth quakes. Dr. Narasayya as a seasoned scientist, who practically worked on the fields of many earth quake occurrences, compared the modern knowledge and the ancient knowledge on the subject and concluded his presentation with a note that if, properly decoded, it is possible that the ancient works on these subjects may yield new and crucial clues to the modern scientists, in the field of predicting earth quakes.

Then Dr. J.L.N. Sastry, Director, Technical, Pragati Bio-pharma Limited, took audience into the field of Nagarjuna contributions in the area of alchemy. Dr. Sastry, as a seasoned scientist, equipped fully with the ancient and modern aspects of chemistry, made a beautiful survey of the achievements of Nagarjuna period and concluded that there were definite usages of Lygand chemistry and nano chemistry also in those periods.

The next speaker, Sri Rani Sadassiva Murthy of Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupathi, took the audience to the pre-Paninian periods (around 3rd century B.C.) He spoke with lucid illustrations and slides about the physiological aspects of Sanskrit speech signs, which is actually a part of the modern linguistics

The day's afternoon session started with oral presentations of the research scholars and faculty, who made a number of impressive presentation on various subjects connected to ancient Indian sciences. The technical sessions came to an end with the impressive presentation of Prof. C. Santamma, former, Head of the Dept., Physics. Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, who spoke on the "Comparison of Aryabhata's and Western methods in Mathamatics." At the

age of 84, still guiding students both in the field of Physics and Vedic Mathematics, Prof. Shantamma, impressed upon the students how ancient Indian Mathematicians stood always on the forefront of mathematical achievements.

After that there was an interactive session in which several relevant questions from the audience were answered by the experts in the relative fields and the most inspiring and appreciative feedbacks from the participants were received. In this session, the main focus has been on the areas of research themes on which future research students can concentrate and get benefitted. The experts who answered the questions indicated the themes and inspired the students.

Finally, the conference, came to a conclusion, with a brief Validatory Session headed by Prof. N. Lakshmand Das, Principal, Institute of Science, Gitam University and Prof. K.V.Krishna Murthy, Chairman, I-SERVE. The conference concluded with the united rendering of National Anthem at 5.30 p.m.

M.O.U. between Gitam University and I-SERVE In-charge signed on 16th September 2011.



GITAM means Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management, which was established by the great philanthropist and visionary Dr. M.V.V.S.Murti : 31 years back.

GiITAM is a frontline University offering quality education in diverse disciplines such as Science, Engineering, Pharmacy, Management and International Business. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. Of India, ranked Gitam as 'A' category University among the Universities of its kind. This tribute is symbolic of 31 years of its track record in maintaining high reputation as a premier institute of quality higher education.

'Gitam Institute of Science' is established with main emphasis on education and research in the basic and engineering areas of science. All the science

departments have well developed laboratories and offers a diversified learning experience characterized by strong faculty-student interaction with a perfect blend of structure and flexibility that allows students to develop personally and professionally in an enriching and collaborative environment.

As a culmination of the inspiring two day conference, a MOU was signed between GITAM and I-SERVE on 16th September 2011 at 11.00 a.m. in the chamber of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. G. Subramanyam. The main focus of the MOU was on the collaborative work in the fields of academics and research, related to both ancient and modern sciences. The specific areas of research will be identified by the joint expert committees of both the institutions. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Subramanyam called on both the parties to work seriously on the MOU to see that the MOU takes the form of actual R&D programmes as early as possible.

With this I-SERVE entered into another purposeful and valuable MOU with a third University and 9th Scientific Organisation.
