

Symposium Report

Exploring and Connecting Great Indian Knowledge Networks of Ashrams and Gurukuls for the Benefit of HEIs: A Working Model as per Mandate of NEP 2020

Date: 18th March 2025

Centre: Sarasvati IKS Centre

Director: Prof. Kusha Tiwari

Venue: Board Room

Collaborations: IQAC and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti

Number of Student Participants: 50

A one-day symposium was organized on 18th March 2025 at Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, titled “*Exploring and Connecting Great Indian Knowledge Networks of Ashrams and Gurukuls for the Benefit of HEIs: A Working Model as per Mandate of NEP 2020.*” The event was conducted under an ICSSR project by the Sarasvati IKS Centre and IQAC, in collaboration with the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The symposium was attended by 50 students and 30 faculty members from various departments, reflecting a strong interdisciplinary interest in Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and their relevance in contemporary academic and institutional structures.

The programme began with Saraswati Vandana, invoking the blessings of the goddess of knowledge, followed by the rendition of the Kulgeet of University of Delhi, setting a solemn and inspiring tone for the day.

This was followed by the Introductory Address by Prof. Kusha Tiwari, Principal Investigator of the ICSSR Project and Director of the IQAC and Sarasvati IKS Centre. She provided an overview of the project’s objectives, emphasizing the significance of reconnecting contemporary academic structures with the holistic, value-based models of ancient Indian education as envisioned in the National Education Policy 2020.

Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, Principal, then delivered the Welcome Address, in which he underlined the institution’s commitment to promoting interdisciplinary and indigenous knowledge systems. He highlighted the relevance of such initiatives in reviving India's rich intellectual traditions and aligning them with modern educational reforms.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja, Former Professor, University of Delhi, and currently serving as Director-Academics, Sanskrit Promotion Foundation. Prof. Saluja offered deep insights into how the Gurukul system fostered a holistic model of education centered on Dharma, values, and personal transformation. He emphasized the need to move beyond superficial understanding and reclaim the spirit of the teacher-student relationship rooted in ancient Indian pedagogy. Citing hymns from the *Yajurveda* and references from the *Taittiriya Upanishad*, he advocated for the revival of dialogue-based, value-rich, and contextually adaptive education as envisioned by NEP 2020.

The first academic session featured Prof. Prakash Joshi, Professor, Department of Sanskrit, University of Allahabad. Prof. Joshi traced the evolution of Indian education from *Acharya*

households to *Ashramas*, then to *Acharya Kulas (Gurukulas)*, and eventually to world-renowned universities such as Nalanda and Takshashila. Drawing from historical sources and texts such as the *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad*, *Jataka Tales*, and the works of scholars like Nagendranath Mujumdar, he argued that education in ancient India was not just about knowledge transmission but about character building, cultural continuity, and vocational excellence. His presentation reinforced the idea that Indian education systems were rooted in Dharma and encouraged spiritual and intellectual liberation.

In the second session, Mr. Harish Swaminathan, Electronics Engineer and Vedic education advocate, delivered a special talk. He shared his family's journey of reviving Vedantic studies in Tamil Nadu after a generational gap. He emphasized the values imparted through Vedic education- discipline, self-respect, holistic health, and synchronization of thought, word, and action. Highlighting current trends in modernizing *pathshalas* to include mathematics, English, and other essential subjects, he presented a compelling model of integrating traditional and modern education for holistic development.

The final presentation was by Mr. Ravi Singh Choudhary, Author and Co-founder of the Shastra Club. With a background in *Chanakya Niti*, agroforestry, and Indian philosophy, Mr. Choudhary emphasized the relevance of ancient pedagogical techniques such as debate, discussion, and experiential learning. He highlighted the limitations of current theoretical models and advocated for a hands-on, curiosity-driven, and emotionally intelligent approach to learning that merges ancient wisdom with modern pedagogy.

The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Prof. Kusha Tiwari, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all the distinguished speakers, the Principal, the organizing committee, faculty members, student volunteers, and attendees for their enthusiastic participation and support. She emphasized the critical importance of such dialogues in contextualizing Indian Knowledge Systems within the present-day academic framework.

The symposium ended on a patriotic note with the National Anthem.



SLC (University of Delhi)
SHYAM LAL COLLEGE
NAAC A++

IQAC and Sarasvati IKS Centre
in collaboration with

Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti
organize

One day Symposium (under ICSSR Project)

**“Exploring & Connecting Great Indian Knowledge
Networks of Ashrams and Gurukuls for the benefit of HEIs:
A Working Model as per Mandate of NEP 2020”**

Date: 18th March, 2025, Time: 10:00 am onwards

Venue: Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Chand Kiran Saluja
Former Professor (Retd.)
University of Delhi

RESOURCE PERSONS



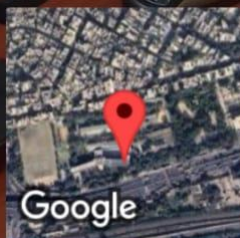
Prof. Prakash Joshi
University of Allahabad



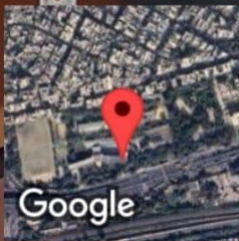
Mr. Ravi Singh Choudhary
Author

SPECIAL TALK BY
Harish Swaminathan ji
Electronics Engineer

Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar
Professor- Principal, SLC



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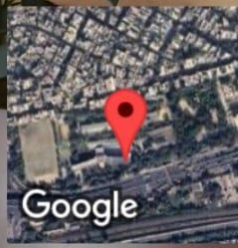
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सादर नमस्कार:
गुरुकुल एवं आधुनिक शिक्षा

प्रमुखीय विद्वत्
राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति, २०२० एवं आधुनिक ज्ञान वास्तव्य
आधुनिक शिक्षा वास्तव्य - पञ्चांगमयः, आधुनिकः, आधुनिकीकरणः पञ्चांग
शिक्षा सम्प्रदाय एवं आधुनिक, विषय एवं वास्तव्य, शिक्षावास्तव्य
विश्लेषण



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