



BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE KOLKATA (SHSK)
On **Science Education in India through the Ages**

in collaboration with
Department of History, Institute of Science, and IIT-BHU

Under the sponsorship of
Sponsored Research & Industrial Consultancy Cell (SRICC), BHU, Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Anusandhan National Research Foundation – Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi

11 – 13 NOVEMBER 2024

Day One: 11 November 2024

Venue- Mahamana Auditorium, Institute of Science, Near- Faculty of Commerce

Inaugural Session (10.00 am – 10.30 am): -

Chair –Professor Sudhir Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, BHU

Co- Chair- Professor Amit Patra, Hon'ble Director, IIT-BHU

Floral Tribute to Mahamana followed by BHU Kulgeet by Faculty of Performing Arts (10.0 am - 10.05 am)

Welcome Address –Professor Binda D Paranjape, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU

Address by the President SHSK – Professor Deepak Kumar, Former Professor, JNU, New Delhi, and President, SHSK

Address by the Guest of Honour – Professor Dhananjay Singh, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi

Remarks by the Co-chair – Professor Amit Patra, Hon'ble Director, IIT-BHU

Remarks by the Chair –Professor Sudhir Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, BHU

Vote of Thanks – Professor Ghan Shyam, Head, Department of History, Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU

(Conducted by Professor Padmini Ravindra Nath, MMV, BHU)

First Technical Session (10.30 am-11.15 am)

Chair –Professor Arabinda Samanta, Formerly Department of History, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, and Member, Indian National Commission for History of Science, Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

Speaker 1 – Lubna Irfan, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University (The ideas, knowledge systems and practices of Medicine in Mughal India: An insight into the Persian and European influences)

Speaker 2 – Aratrika Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology-Indore (Interdisciplinarity in Theory and Practice: Can SHSS of IITs be a model?)

Second Technical Session (11.15 am – 12.00pm): -

Chair –Professor Suprakash C Roy, Formerly Department of Physics, Bose Institute, Kolkata, Member, Indian National Commission for History of Science, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Speaker 3 – M. Christhu Doss, Assistant Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi (Popular Science, Intersectional Pedagogy and Changing Gender Stereotypes in Colonial South India)

Speaker 4 – Shaan Kashyap, PhD Candidate, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack (Between Science Education and Science Popularization: Kalinga Prize, 1952-2002)

Third Technical Session (12.00pm – 12.45 pm): -

Chair – Professor Achintya Kumar Dutta, Department of History, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal

Speaker 5 – Abhinandan Das, Assistant Professor, Department of History Raiganj Surendranath Mahavidyalaya, Raiganj, W.B. (Nation Building and Formation of Chemical Engineering in Colonial India: HL Roy and His Time)

Speaker 6 – Pallavi Mitra & Rajeshwari Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, Centre for Distance Education, RBU& Guest Faculty, Department of Environmental Studies, RBU, Kolkata (A Comparative Study on Environmental and Social Perspectives of Green Revolution in India)

Fourth Technical Session (12.45 pm – 01.30 pm): -

Chair–Dr Jagdish N Sinha, Formerly Department of History, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, Member, Research Council, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Speaker 7 – Malini Ghosh & Samir Kumar Saha, Research Assistant, NCE, Bengal & Former Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, Jadavpur University (Engineering Education in Colonial India: A Study of Institutional Models in a Journey towards Excellence)

Speaker 8 – Nishant Raj, PhD Scholar, Department of History, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow (History of Electrical Engineering in Colonial India and Its Impact on the Indian Power Sector)

LUNCH 1.30 pm - 2.30 pm

Invited Lecture- 1 (03.00 pm – 03.45 pm)

Chair- Professor Rohan D'Souza, Graduate School of Asian & African Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

Speaker -Prof. Amit Ranjan Basu, Independent Scholar

Topic-*The Coming of Mental Hospitals in India: Ranchi European and Indian Mental Hospitals*

Invited Lecture- 2 (03.45 pm – 04.30 pm)

Chair- Professor Amit Patra, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, BHU

Speaker - Professor Prithvish Nag, Former Surveyor General of India & Vice Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi

Topic- *History of Cartography in India* followed by a short film screening on Cartography

Inaugural Lectures (04.30 pm – 06.00 pm): -

Chair – Professor Sudhir Kumar Jain, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, BHU

Co-Chair- Professor Kamal Sheel, Senior University Consultant (Academic), BHU

Address by the President SHSK- Professor Deepak Kumar, Former Professor, JNU, New Delhi, and President, SHSK

Inaugural Address – Professor Dinesh Singh, Chancellor, K. R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, and Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi; Former Adjunct Professor of Houston University; and Distinguished Fellow at Imperial College London

Address by the Guest of Honour – Professor Shekhar C Mande, Distinguished Professor, Bioinformatics Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Former Director General, CSIR, and Secretary, Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India

Remarks by the Chair – Professor Sudhir Kumar Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University

Vote of Thanks – Professor Sahara Ahmed, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata (Secretary SHSK)

(Conducted by Professor Padmini Ravindra Nath, MMV, BHU)

Day Two: 12 November 2024

Venue: Mahamana Auditorium, Institute of Science, Near- Faculty of Commerce

Invited Lecture 3 (10.00 am – 10.45 am)

Chair – Professor Binda D Paranjape, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU

Speaker - Professor Rohan D'Souza, Graduate School of Asian & African Studies, Kyoto University, Japan

Topic- *Facts and Values: Can 'education' help our understanding of Science?*

Invited Lecture- 4(10.45 am – 11.30 am): -

Chair- Professor S C Lakhota, Distinguished Professor, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU

Speaker – Professor Manoj Kumar Harbola, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Topic- “*Three Questions about Past and Present of Indian Science*”

Fifth Technical Session (11.30 am – 12.15pm): -

(Lt.- 1, Ground Floor)

Chair – Dr Jagdish N Sinha, Formerly Department of History, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, Member, Research Council, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Speaker 9 –Baasit Abubakr, PhD Scholar, Centre for Studies in Science Policy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Waves, Wires, and Wars: The Social Shaping of Radio Broadcasting in Jammu and Kashmir)

Speaker 10 – Sunayana Maiti, Guest Lecturer, Department of History, West Bengal State University (Tracing the historical roots of why supply exceeded demand: Unemployment in engineering profession in India, c. 1940s-1970s)

Sixth Technical Session (12.15pm – 01.00pm): -

(Lt.- 1, Ground Floor)

Chair – Professor Sahara Ahmed, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

Speaker 11 – Madhuri Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bharati College, University of Delhi (Mahamana's Mission and Role: Patronizing Medical Education and Banaras Hindu University)

Speaker 12 – Ritesh Gupta, Assistant Professor, Vivekananda College, University of Delhi (Mahamana, BHU, and the Science: The Early History of Technical and Engineering Education at BHU)

Seventh Technical Session (01.00 pm – 01.45 pm): -

(Lt.- 1, Ground Floor)

Chair –M. Christhu Doss, Assistant Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi

Speaker 13 – Nirmala Shah, Assistant Professor, Shyama Prasad Mukherji College for Women, University of Delhi (Shaping Knowledge in Turbulent Times: Scientific and Technical Education in Colonial India between the two World Wars)

Speaker 14 – Amrita Bagchi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bethune College, Kolkata (Privatizing Medical Education in India: Challenging the entry of 'poor' students in the sphere of higher education)

Lunch (01:45 pm – 02.45 pm)

Invited Lecture 5 (02.45 – 03.30 pm)

Chair – Professor Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Honorary Professor, Department of Physics, IISc Bangalore, Member, Research Council, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Speaker– Professor Y. Singh, Honorary Professor, Department of Physics, Institute of Science, BHU

Topic- *A Brief History of Conceptual Evolution in Physics*

Invited Lecture 6 (03.30 pm – 4.15 pm)

Chair-Professor Deepak Kumar, Former Professor, JNU, New Delhi, and President, SHSK

Speaker - Professor S C Lakhotia, Distinguished Professor, Department of Zoology, Institute of Science, BHU, Varanasi

Topic- *Use of the fruit fly Drosophila for Genetic Studies in World and in India*

Book Release (04:00 pm - 05:30 pm) *Decolonizing Science and Modernity in South Asia: Questioning Concepts, Constructing Histories* (Springer, 2024), edited by Sahara Ahmed and Suvobrata Sarkar

Moderator: Professor Deepak Kumar, Former Professor, JNU, New Delhi, and President, SHSK

Discussants: -

- Professor Arun Bandopadhyay, Former Nurul Hassan Chair Professor of History, University of Calcutta, and Vice-President, SHSK
- Professor Sreerup Raychaudhuri, Director, Bharat Kala Bhawan, BHU

05.30 – 06.00 pm.

Chair-Professor Suprakash C Roy, Formerly Department of Physics, Bose Institute, Kolkata, Member, Indian National Commission for History of Science, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Presentation by Shri Soumen Ghosh, Senior Curator, Birla Industrial & Technological Museum (BITM), Kolkata on the formation of a **Science & Technology Archive** at BITM, Kolkata

Day Three: 13 November 2024

Venue: Mahamana Auditorium, Institute of Science, Near- Faculty of Commerce

Parallel Session- 1(10.00 am –11.30 am): -

Panel Discussion Titled '*Alternative Techne*'

1. Thamaraiselvan and Senthil Babu: *Sculpting in South India*
2. KV Cybil: *Thinking Technology from the Margins*

Panelist 1 – Thamaraiselvan, Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) Community Scholar, 2024-26

Panelist 2 – Senthil Babu, Senior Researcher, Department of Social Sciences, French Institute of Pondicherry

Panelist 3 – KV Cybil, Associate Professor, Humanistic Studies, IIT-BHU

Eight Technical Session (10.00 am –10.45 am): -

(Lt- 1, Ground Floor)

Chair–Professor Sahara Ahmed, Department of History, RBU, Kolkata

Speaker 15 – Reshav Ranjan, Research Fellow, Department of History, BHU (Contribution of Banaras Hindu University to the Development of Science and Technology)

Speaker 16 – Shweta Gahlaut, PhD Scholar, Department of History, BHU (Women and Science Education in Early 20th Century: A Case Study in Women's College of Banaras Hindu University)

Nineth Technical Session (10.45am – 11.30am): -

(Lt- 1, Ground Floor)

Chair – Dr Suvabrata Sarkar, Department of History, RBU, Kolkata, and Treasurer, SHSK

Speaker 17 – Amandeep, Research Scholar, Department of History, BHU (Bridging Tradition and Modernity: Swami Vivekananda's Vision for Science Education in India)

Speaker 18 – Alok Bharti, Research Scholar, Department of History, BHU (Teaching Modern Sciences in Bihar: Evolution of Various Technical Schools (1850-1900)

Speaker 19 – Juli Kumari, Research Scholar, Department of History BHU (...)

Invited lecture 7 (11.30 am – 12.15pm)

Chair- Professor Sreerup Raychaudhuri, Director, Bharat Kala Bhawan, BHU

Speaker – Professor Mallickarjun Joshi, Former Professor, Department of Geology, Institute of Sciences, BHU

Topic – *Metabolic Rift and the inevitability of Anthropocene (?)*.

Invited Lecture 8 (12.15pm – 01.00 pm)

Chair-Professor Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Honorary Professor, Department of Physics, IISc Bangalore, Member, Research Council, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Speaker - Professor Rajiv Kumar Mandal, Department of Mines & Metallurgical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University

Topic- *Crystallography before and after 1982*.

LUNCH (01.00 pm - 02.00 pm)

Invited Lecture 9 (02.00 pm - 03.00 pm)

Chair: Professor Arabinda Samanta, Formerly Department of History, University of Burdwan, West Bengal, and Member, Indian National Commission for History of Science, Indian National Science Academy

Speaker – Professor Sukh Mahendra Singh, Department of Bio-technology, Institute of Science, BHU

Topic- *Some Aspects of the History of Immunology*

Valedictory Session (03:00 pm – 04.00 pm): -

Chair – Professor Smriti Kumar Sarkar, Former Vice-Chancellor of The University of Burdwan; Member, Research Council, INSA, and Executive Committee Member, SHSK

Announcement of the result of the *S.P. Banerjee Memorial Prize for the History of Engineering & Technology*– Ms. Nivedita Banerjee would present the endowment award to the winner

Valedictory Address –Professor Arun Bandopadhyay, Former Nurul Hassan Chair Professor of History, University of Calcutta, and Vice-President, SHSK

Vote of Thanks – Dr Suvobrata Sarkar, Department of History, RBU, Kolkata, and Treasurer, SHSK

Tea Break

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General Body Meeting of the Society (04.30 pm – 5.00 pm)

Executive Committee Meeting of the Society (05.00 pm – 05.30 pm)

“The Soulful Science”

Cultural Evening organized by the Faculty of Performing Arts, BHU at Pandit Onkarnath Thakur Auditorium (06.00 pm – 07.00 pm)