

S&T MEDIA AND COMMUNICATORS CONCLAVE AT IISF 2023

Uniting Journalism & Science Communication

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IN an effort to bring together journalism and science communication at a single platform, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), National Innovation Foundation (NIF-India) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), organised a two-day programme, “Science & Technology Media and Communicators Conclave”, from 18 to 19 January 2024, as part of the mega-science event, the India International Science Festival 2023 (IISF 2023). With a focus on new trends, challenges, and the way forward, the conclave deliberated on the multifaceted relationship between science and media by organising various sessions, including master class, panel discussions, etc.

The conclave inaugurated by the distinguished guests and experts on 18 January 2024 aimed to achieve several objectives, including promoting effective science journalism, highlighting the media’s role in science diplomacy, enhancing the representation of science in mainstream media, exploring science and cinema intersections, and facilitating networking and collaboration.

In the opening remarks, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, said, “India has a rich legacy of communicating science. Science journalism plays a big role in disseminating scientific knowledge to the general public. S&T Media and Communicators Conclave of the IISF is an active platform to engage science journalists, media experts, students and scientists together to explore a roadmap for spreading science to society.”

Welcoming the gathering, Dr Manish Mohan Gore, Coordinator of the conclave and Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, provided a background of science journalism, its importance and the relevance of the conclave. Shri Kuldeep Dhatwalia, Senior Consultant at the Science Media Communication Cell (SMCC), CSIR-NIScPR, discussed the conclave theme, offering insights into the dynamic world of science dissemination to society.



Shri Praveen Ramdas, addressing the gathering

In the inaugural session, Shri Praveen Ramdas, Chief Guest and National Joint Organising Secretary, VIBHA, highlighted the growing global recognition of Indian scientists. He further advocated for the extensive dissemination of scientific knowledge in Indian languages, aiming to bring science closer to the people.

During his keynote address, Dr William Selvamurthy, President of the Amity STI Foundation, underscored the pivotal role of science and technology in addressing



Director CSIR-NIScPR, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, welcoming the distinguished guests