

# VIGYANIKA

## Science Literature Festival

### IISF 2023

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**T**HE 2023 edition of *Vigyaniika — Science Literature Festival* was organised at DBT Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)-Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) Campus Faridabad on 18 and 19 January 2024 as a part of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023. The two-day Science Literature Festival witnessed insightful discussions, workshops, scientific sessions, and student engagement activities, successfully accomplishing its primary objective to facilitate in-depth discussions and dialogues for effective science communication.

Around 350 delegates, including students, science communicators, and science enthusiasts from India and abroad, attended the event. CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF), and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) were the coordinating organisations for *Vigyaniika* 2023.

The inaugural ceremony on 18 January 2024 began with the welcome address by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi. Prof. Aggarwal highlighted the importance of scientific temper and CSIR-NIScPR's commitment to fostering scientific awareness. Emphasising the importance of science communication in Indian languages through diverse mediums like puppetry and poems, she highlighted *Vigyaniika*'s role as a networking platform

among scientists and science enthusiasts. Dr Dinakar M Salunke, Former Director, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi; Dr Subhra Chakraborty, Director, National Institute for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi; and Shri A Jayakumar, Vijnana Bharati, were the distinguished guests of the inaugural ceremony.

The first scientific session on “Science and Technology Public Outreach in India” was chaired by Prof. BN Jagatap, Senior Professor at IIT Bombay. During the session, the experts emphasised the need to extend scientific research from labs to the general populace, highlighting the historical contributions of Indian scientists. They also discussed the importance of handling the communication of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence or vaccinations, highlighting the significance of providing science communication trainings.

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Prof. Dinakar M Salunke delivered the keynote address, whereas Prof. Uma Kumar, Professor, AIIMS, New Delhi; Prof. KC Bansal, Former Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi; and Prof. Gøbardhan Das, Director, IISER Bhopal, were the other experts in the session.

Panellists, during the first-panel discussion representing various Indian languages, participated in the discussion titled *Apni Bhasha Apna Vigyan: Strengthening Science Communication in Indian Languages*. This stimulating session was chaired by Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry, Padma Shri, and Chairman Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

During the session, experts stressed the importance of scientific communication in Indian languages in order to cross language barriers and strengthen communication. The panellists for the session were Prof. VPN Nampoori, Cochin University of Science and Technology, for Malayalam;

