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INDIAN
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EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar addressed ICCR's global event 'Knowledge India' in New Delhi

5 December 2023, New Delhi: ICCR organized the first-of-its-kind 'Knowledge India Visitors Programme' from 4-6 December 2023, hosting 77 esteemed foreign academicians from 35 countries devoted to exploring the diverse realms of Indian Knowledge Systems in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, who commended ICCR's initiative to bring together Heads of Departments teaching Indology, Buddhist Studies, Sanskrit, Hindi, and other Indian languages, Yoga, Ayurveda, Indian dance, and music.

During the inaugural speech, the Hon'ble Minister assured unwavering support for the growth and dissemination of Indic studies, emphasizing their significance. The Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, also shared insights into the universal appeal of the Indic Knowledge Systems, underscoring its global significance.

Prof. Ganti Suryanarayana Murthy, the National Coordinator of Indian Knowledge System (IKS) at the Ministry of Education, presented the Government's approach to promoting the Indian Knowledge System. The presentation garnered appreciation from the delegates, sparking numerous questions about IKS and its applications.

A special session by Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, delved into "Building a Bharat Narrative," followed by an interactive session that resonated strongly with the engaged delegates. Lauding the work of the invited foreign delegates, Minister Jaishankar said that as India's profile continues to rise, the importance of India studies and interest of other countries in strategic engagement with India would also rise in future.

Additionally, the breakout sessions focused on the vital disciplines of Hindi, Sanskrit, Indology, Buddhist studies, Yoga & Ayurveda, and Indian Classical Dance and Music. Academic representatives chaired these sessions, delving into the challenges faced by foreign delegates in propagating Indic studies globally. The outcomes of these sessions will be shared with relevant ministries for future actions and policymaking to foster the learning of Indic studies abroad.

The day concluded with a cultural evening. It is interesting to mention that throughout the conference, the menu featured millet as an initiative to promote and celebrate our rich millet culture.

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On the second day of the event, Prof. Dr. Tanuja M. Nesari, Director of All India Institute, deliberated on Ayurveda and Yoga in a session chaired by Dr. B. R. Ramakrishna, Vice-Chancellor of S-VYASA, followed by another session by Michel Danino on the Relevance of Indian Knowledge System in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities, which was chaired by Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General of the Association of Indian Universities.

A session on career opportunities for students of Hindi, Sanskrit, Indology, Buddhist Studies, and Ayurveda & Yoga was held, during which industry representatives like CII, FICCI, Publishers Association of India, Ayurveda Drugs Manufacturers Association, academic institutions like IIT Roorkee and Symbiosis Institute, and the Government represented by the Ministry of Ayush briefed the delegates about various options and opportunities available for their students.

The event concluded with valedictory remarks by Hon'ble Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

On the last day, ICCR organized a visit to prominent locations around Delhi.