



## Society for the History of Science Kolkata (SHSK)

### Announcement of the Second Seminar, 11-12 November 2024

#### *Science Education in India through the Ages*

These days we all talk about knowledge society and knowledge economy. Knowledge is being looked upon from different perspectives. Science and technology are prime movers, no doubt. What has been their place in our educational history? How did they evolve in our educational institutions, in our curriculum and the thought processes? Science education is to be seen in a larger perspective. It includes technical and medical education. In the distant past this knowledge was imparted in a distinct way suitable to the then existing culture and the milieu. But it was there and in some instances fairly robust. It was never static. Changes took place albeit slowly. But from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, we were exposed to new ideas, that too, at a pace never seen before.

Big changes in both knowledge production and generation came riding the wave of colonization. Under the East India Company, perhaps for the time in Indian history the state had emerged as the producer of knowledge and the sole arbiter of what was to be delivered and to whom. The Company's education policies in India had become more interventionist. The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw discursive debates of a very high

order which ensured a 'new dawn' at the beginning of the twentieth century. All this had brought new hopes for the middle class Indians. Their 'vision' of a new India as evident in the writings in periodicals, pamphlets and other contemporary publications, included growth of technical and medical education, scientific research and agricultural experiments and institutional dissemination of knowledge among others. Although this vision was unitary, in a broad 'national' sense, it was discursive, with controversies and differences of opinions shadowing 'national' goals in education and at times stunting its clear growth. Post-independence things were expected to change and they did. New institutions like the CSIR, IITs, medical colleges and universities were established under state patronage. Later at the turn of the century privatisation and commercialisation appeared.

The second seminar/meeting of the Society of the History of Science to be held at **BHU, Benaras, on 11-12 November, 2024**, proposes to discuss the above and abstracts are invited before 30<sup>th</sup> June from the interested scientists and social scientists. Preference will be given to research scholars and early-career faculty members. There would be no registration fee and local hospitality would be provided but the participants are expected to become members of the Society. Senior scholars are expected to sign up for Life Membership. The interested scholars are requested to see the website: [www.societyforthehistoryofscience.com](http://www.societyforthehistoryofscience.com)

**Important Information:**

*Last date for abstract submission: - 30 June, 2024*

*List of selected abstracts to be uploaded on the website: - 31 August, 2024*

*Submission of full papers: - 20 October, 2024*

The abstract should be within 300 words. The full paper, if selected, should adhere to the style-guide of the *Indian Journal of History of Science*.

For more information, consult the website of the journal:

<https://link.springer.com/journal/43539>

Abstracts and full papers should be sent to the official email Id of the Society- [info@societyforthehistoryofscience.com](mailto:info@societyforthehistoryofscience.com)

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**Secretary, SHSK**

