

National Workshop on Science Communication in Hindi through Digital media

A two-day national workshop on "Science communication in Hindi through digital media" was organised on 28-29 March 2012 with the objective of using information and communication technology (ICT) for communicating S&T and to prepare road map for future strategies. The event was jointly organised by Vigyan Prasar, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, and National Centre for Innovation in Distant Education (NCIDE), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi.

The chief guest of the two-day national workshop, Prof. Puspesh Pant, former Dean, School of International Studies, JNU, emphasised the need for seamless flow of science communication/science writing in Hindi and for differentiating between pure and complex Hindi. Prof. Pant said that there is need to communicate science and technology through digital media among farmers in their own language. This information should be in simple Hindi. Prof. Pant urged scientists to write popular science articles in Hindi and also mentioned about the need to popularise software that can overcome the problem of fonts used in popularising science. Prof. Pant insisted on the need for standardisation of scientific terminology and more use of newly created words. Dr Subodh Mahanti, Director, Vigyan Prasar, in his inaugural address emphasised the need for science communication through the digital media and said there is urgent requirement of standardisation of scientific terminology in Hindi. There is also need for strong promotion of scientific terminology; spread and adoption. Digital media can play a useful role in this direction. He said

that there are many words in English such as black holes, which individually are used in different means such as *krishna viver*,



Inaugural session : (L to R) Smt. Kinkini Dasgupta Mishra, Dr. C. K. Ghosh, Prof. Puspesh Pant, Dr. Subodh Mahanti and Dr. D.P. Sharma

krishna paksh, and so on. Therefore caution is required in the use of such words and their standardisation is necessary. Dr Mahanti emphasised on popularisation of Hindi related science websites which includes science communication in Hindi.

Dr C. K. Ghosh, Director, NCIDE, IGNOU, in his welcome address said the language of science should be simple and colloquial. Scientific approach is seen to be believed. Today is an era of ICT, but 'I' meaning information vanishes and only CT is discussed.

Ms Kinkini Dasgupta Mishra, President of Scientific and Official Language



Workshop in progress

Committee of Vigyan Prasar, emphasised the need to prepare a roadmap to facilitate science communication in Hindi through digital

media and overcome the hurdles in the way. The workshop covered a total of five technical sessions and a total of 26 experts participated and provided meaningful inputs. Science communicator, scientists, official language officers, software engineers, and experts in Hindi and science bloggers were present in the workshop.

The first technical session was focussed on "Science communication in Hindi through digital media – Changing scenario" and four speakers presented their views. Mr Dinesh Bhatt, science teacher from Chhindwara, discussed about physics teaching through digital media and

Mr Panchal Hardik, blogger from Ahmedabad spoke the importance of scientific websites in removing myths and superstitions and linking youth to science. Smt R. Anuradha, Editor, Publications Division, discussed problem of fonts in science communication in Hindi and also suggested its solution. Mr Rintu Nath, scientist from Vigyan Prasar, talked about status of Hindi websites, their challenges and future strategies. Dr. Krishna Kumar Mishra, from Homi Bhabha Science Education Centre, Mumbai, highlighted the usefulness and importance of an e-learning portal developed by his institute

The second session was focussed on "ICT supported science communication in Hindi – Challenges and prospects". Dr Ajay Shivpuri, scientist from NISCAIR discussed in detail about the importance and usefulness of 'NISCAIR-Tube' in science popularisation. Mr. Navneet Gupta and Dr. Irfana Begum, Project Officer, EduSat, Vigyan Prasar, respectively talked about the TV series telecast on Lok Sabha TV on science-based weekly program "Vigyan darpan" and "Science This Week" and discussed the

development and diffusion of science by use of ICT. Chair of the session, Dr. Arun Dev, Associate Professor, Sahu Jain College,



Speaker of the first technical session : (L to R) Dr. K.K. Mishra, Shri R. Nath, Shri Dinesh Bhatt, Smt. R. Anuradha and Shri Hardik Panchal

Najibabad, Bijnor and an active Hindi blogger, in his statement said that science is a social motive, and it cannot be separated from society and the public. Digital media will play a leading role in connecting science to villages.

The third technical session was focussed on "Science communication in Hindi through digital technology." The first speaker of the session was Mr Kapil Tripathi, scientist, Vigyan Prasar, who spoke about effective communication of science through radio. Mr Bharat Gupta, Senior Engineer, CDAC, New Delhi, spoke about Hindi on the Web. Dr. Kewal Krishan, Director, Department of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs), mentioned about efforts of the Department of Official Language in popularisation of Hindi through digital media. Dr. Zakir Ali Rajneesh, science blogger and highlighted the significance of science related blogs in science popularisation through digital media. Chairman of the session, Dr. O.P. Sharma, Deputy Director, IGNOU, said there are scattered efforts at communicating science in Hindi through digital media and there is need to bring all these efforts on one platform.

Topic of forth technical session was "Innovative methods of science communication through digital media". Mr Abhay Rajput, scientist from IITM, Pune in his presentation said that there will be larger impact if science is communicated through poetry by digital media. Mr Shashank Dwivedi, Assistant Professor from Alwar said due attention should be given to innovative methods in communicating science through digital media in villages. Dr. Surjit Singh,

the positive things.

Theme of the final and fifth technical session was "Digital translation and use of scientific terminology for science communication". Dr D.K. Pandey, Joint Secretary, Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, spoke about Hindi font, terminology, translation solutions and many associated problems and the efforts being undertaken by the department. Dr Ashok Shelwatkar, Scientific Officer, Scientific and Technical Terminology Commission, spoke about the efforts of commission in developing scientific terminology in Hindi and said that till now a total of 8 lakh 50 thousand scientific terms in Hindi have been standardised. Mr Pankaj Chaturvedi, Editor, National Book Trust, said in his presentation that scientific language should be simple, comprehensible, and should be flowing. Translations should be such that they have the clarity and simplicity are not difficult to read and understand. Mr Shanbunath, science journalist, Zee News, New Delhi, said the language of translation should be as simple as the language in which we talk with our mother. Mr Prempal Sharma, Director, Railway Board and popular science writer, said if we have to popularise science and develop scientific

Scientist, NISCAIR said there is minimum science for everyone and we need to define one's need for a balanced dissemination of science. Dr. Anurag Sharma, science communicator said that digital medium is need of modern times and through which society may develop scientific temper. Mr Vishwa Mohan Tiwari, president of the session and senior science writer in Hindi, emphasised that there are some disadvantages of the digital medium but we need to consider only

temper, then we have to link youth through print media, electronic media and digital media. Dr Paritosh Mani, Head of Hindi Department, Kisan College, Meerut and a Hindi blogger, emphasised the importance of blogs and digital media in disseminating science to the wider public. The session chairman and pioneer of popularisation of Hindi through digital media, Dr. Om Vikas said, science and technology communication organisations should work jointly through institutional effort and the target should be identified

Speaking at the closing session, Dr Subodh Mahanti, Director, Vigyan Prasar has emphasised that the dissemination of science in Hindi language is still full of challenges. There is need to explore this new digital media. Er Anuj Sinha, former Director, Vigyan Prasar, described the workshop as a commendable initiative by Vigyan Prasar and IGNOU. Dr C.K. Ghosh, Director, NCIDE, IGNOU said with collaborative effort we can achieve the biggest targets. Dr OP Sharma, Deputy Director, NCIDE, IGNOU said that we have to clear hurdles in the way of science communication in Hindi through digital media. Dr Sharma, expressed gratitude for the cooperation of officers, employees, all the participants, experts and scientists from Vigyan Prasar and IGNOU. Manish Mohan Gore, Secretary, Vigyan



Speakers of the fourth technical session (R to L) Dr. Anurag Sharma, Shri Shashank Dwivedi, Shri V. M. Tiwari, Shri Nimish Kapoor, Shri Abhay Rajput and Dr. Surjit Singh

Prasar Official Languages Committee presented a summary of the technical sessions of workshop. The workshop was coordinated by Mr Nimish Kapoor and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Scientists, from Vigyan Prasar.

(Report: Manish Mohan Gore)