



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

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A Voluntary Organization Committed to the Cause of Science, Culture and Scientific Outlook

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The 'Vishwaguru Bharatvarsha' calendar of IIT Kharagpur: A subtle way to devalue significant scientific developments of the past and to make unscientific claims

The release of the 2023 'Viswaguru Bharatvarsha' calendar by the IIT Kharagpur is an unethical attempt to misappropriate all achievements of modern evidence-based scientific research and credit them to the preposterous claims being made in the name of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), adversely affecting the dissemination of all scientific knowledge and progressive thoughts.

The calendar belittles the outstanding contributions of scientists like Newton and Darwin, and philosophers like Bacon and Descartes, while making many unscientific claims in the name of science. It says that Prigogine's theory of non-equilibrium thermodynamics has established the equivalence of agni and soma; Penrose's objective reduction hypothesis supports the "perspective of consciousness in the Universal space (Prana in Akasha)"; that the phenomenon of entanglement in quantum mechanics supports the notion of anulama-viloma, etc! It expounds nonsensical ideas like "Prana and Akasha = Force and Matter".

The mention of such deep scientific theories and Nobel Laureate scientists would lead the uninitiated reader to believe in its central claim -- that all scientific knowledge stems from ancient Vedic wisdom and is "inherently available in IKS". The fact is that these theories have no connection whatsoever to the grandiose claims made in the calendar. The danger is that since they come from a hallowed seat of learning, people would only believe these if they checked.

Regrettably, the resources of a premier technical institution funded by tax-paying citizens are being marshalled to propagate unscientific and unverified claims. This is being done with the active support and blessings of the Central Government, when, as per article 51A(h) of the constitution, it is duty-bound to cultivate scientific temper among its citizens and act against the such spread of pseudo-science.

The Breakthrough Science Society strongly protests such unconscionable propagation of unscientific ideas from a scientific institution - this being the 3rd year in succession it is doing so - and demands that the calendar should be withdrawn from circulation forthwith.

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