



Science for Society

Science for Man

Science in Thinking

# BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY

All India Committee

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

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## **Statement on the National Conference on 'Gau-Vigyan' at IIT Guwahati**

Ever since the implementation of the New Education Policy 2020 started, it has persistently focussed on promoting a fanciful area of study called 'Indian Knowledge Systems' (IKS). In many institutions and organizations, new Centres for studies on Indian Knowledge Systems have been created with generous governmental financial support. The activities of these Centres make it clear what, according to the policy-makers, constitute Indian Knowledge Systems.

The Centre of Excellence on Indian Knowledge Systems at IIT Kharagpur has published calendars for three consecutive years, which have sought to propagate various pseudoscientific ideas. An IKS Division has been created at the All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE), which has mandated that all engineering colleges have to introduce courses on IKS. The recommended courses are majorly based on subjective beliefs. And now, the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems at IIT Guwahati is organizing a conference of 'Gau-Vigyan' (cow science) on May 20-21, 2023.

If a veterinary university or one dealing with animal husbandry organizes a scientific conference on cow science, that would be perfectly understandable. But the Centre for IKS at an engineering institution organizing a conference on this topic smacks of other motives, especially in the background of several claims by important political and government functionaries in recent times. The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Mr Trivendra Singh Rawat, has claimed that the cow is the only animal that inhales and exhales oxygen. Different influential political leaders at different times have claimed that cow milk, cow urine and the hump of Indian cows contain gold. The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has invited project proposals to develop products from indigenous cows. There is also a focused programme of research on Panchgavya -- the health benefits of consuming cow-excreta. During the peak of the COVID pandemic, several organizations organized programmes of mass consumption of cow urine to drive away the coronavirus. There is genuine apprehension that speakers at the conference on Gau-Vigyan will attempt to support these unscientific claims.

The Breakthrough Science Society opposes these attempts to allow unscientific personal beliefs to masquerade as science. It appeals to the authorities of IIT Guwahati to ensure that peer-reviewed experimental findings back each claim made at the conference.

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