

National Progressive Schools' Conference organises mega event to mark its golden jubilee celebrations

To mark 50 glorious years of its inception, the National Progressive Schools' Conference (NPSC) organised a mega conference titled NPSC Conference 2023 at Manekshaw Centre. It was a milestone in the association's journey. The presence of the dignitaries from various fields created an ambience of exchange of powerful ideas and emotions.

NPSC chairperson and ITL Public School principal Sudha Acharya accorded a warm welcome to all the luminaries and said the NPSC is firmly committed to the belief that it is the collective responsibility of each citizen to make India's G-20 Presidency a big success, showcasing India in ways befitting its stature and glory. The conference deliberated and discussed several contemporary issues on the changing school education landscape in India under the larger theme 'Designing Human-Centric Education For A Sustainable World'. NPSC chairperson said human-centric education respects the intrinsic value of the child and wellbeing, focusing on those values that can be described as human, including curiosity, care, compassion, relationship and responsibility.

The plenary session set the tone of the conference with keynotes from seasoned bureaucrat NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam, and National Book Trust director Yuvraj Malik along with UNODC representative (regional office for South Asia) Marco Teixeira and former director of Asia Education Foundation Maureen Welch.

The theme had a series of sub-themes which touched upon the new paradigms in the learning landscape. The NCF 2022 entailed a critical shift in mindset. As the focus is on the fundamentals of true enlightenment, there is a fervent need to realign the Pancha Kosha. The panelists for the session 'A Journey from Annamaya to Anandamaya Vikas' were professor Ranjana Arora from NCERT and NIEPA chancellor MC Pant.

Thereafter another session titled Life for Environment (LiFE) encour-



(L-R): Moderator Aditi Mishra, NPSC chairperson Sudha Acharya, chief guest Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam (IAS officer) and moderator Ameeta Mulla Wattal during the event

aged a lifestyle that focused on mindful and deliberate utilization of resources ingeniously presented by TERI director general Vibha Dhawan, Development Alternatives chairman Ashok Khosla and Kalpana Sastry, Chairs T-20 of the G-20 task force on accelerating SDGs.

It was followed by a dance performance 'Meenal'- The Precious Gem- on Women, Water & Blue Economy by none other than Kathak exponent and Padma Shri awardee Shovana Narayan. It was an imperative for us to awaken to the preservation and nurturing of the precious gems - women and water!

Day 2 of the conference deliberated on Sustainable Horizon: Navigating the Tech Frontier for Shaping the Future of Learning. It was spearheaded by IGNOU pro-vice chancellor professor MM Pant; founder & CEO of The Entrepreneurship School, ThinkStartup, Sanjeeva Shivesh; and Delhi University professor Sanjeev Singh.

Another session of the day was on the topic 'Financial Literacy for a Balanced and Inclusive Ecosystem'. It created an integral and vital understanding if sustainable investing. The panelists were Monika Hallan,

author, chairperson of SEBI Advisory Committee for IPEF; Geetu Joshi, economic advisor in the ministry of finance, government of India; and JNU professor Rashmi Barua.

The session on topic 'Realizing SDG: The Life Force for Change' took the audience through an aesthetic presentation of an ancient dance form Chhau by national award winner Lok Nath Das.

The valedictory session on the theme 'Globalising Indian Knowledge System as a Living Tradition' witnessed the presence of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, a former Union minister of civil aviation & energy. Honoring the clarion call of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the session on Vedic Diet: A Journey Towards Holistic Wellness by Shikha Nehru Sharma was indeed an eye opener towards the rich legacy for holistic wellness.

The guest of honour for the occasion was Ramjas Foundation managing committee chairman Rajnath Gupta. The conference was a systemic shift that aligned educational structures, policies, practices and learning experiences around the wellbeing of all the stake holders in the education ecosystem.