CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library and Indian Knowledge Systems Division, Ministry of Education, Sign MoU to Strengthen Collaboration on Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property Rights

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The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division, Ministry of Education, Government of India, and the CSIR–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (CSIR-TKDL) Unit signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today to strengthen collaboration in the areas of Traditional Knowledge (TK), Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), people's rights over traditional knowledge, and the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

The MoU was signed by Prof. Ganti S. Murthy, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Indore, and National Coordinator, IKS Division, Ministry of Education, and Dr Viswajanani J. Sattigeri, Scientist-H and Head, CSIR-TKDL Unit, in the presence of Dr Raghurama Bhatta, Controller of Administration, IKS Division, and senior officials from both organisations.

The agreement builds upon the earlier MoU signed on 29 June 2023 in the presence of Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Dr N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR, and Secretary, DSIR.



Under the earlier collaboration, the two organisations jointly conducted 11 workshops on Traditional Knowledge, Intellectual Property Rights and People's Rights, benefiting a diverse range of participants, including students, research scholars, faculty members, scientists, Army personnel, yoga trainers and project associates. These workshops attracted participants from several States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry and Chhattisgarh.

The collaboration has also encompassed educational and training programmes, seminars, webinars, conferences, exhibitions and joint publications on subjects of mutual interest, with a focus on promoting awareness, understanding and responsible utilisation of India's traditional knowledge.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Ganti S. Murthy appreciated the joint efforts of the two organisations and underscored the significance of the collaboration in advancing the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the vision of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*, rooted in *Bharatiya Gnana Parampara*.

He emphasised the need to strengthen guidance on intellectual property aspects of Indian Knowledge Systems and traditional knowledge, particularly concerning patents, copyrights and geographical indications. He also highlighted the importance of developing stronger attribution frameworks to safeguard the rights of traditional knowledge holders and exploring appropriate legal instruments for the protection of Indian traditional knowledge.

Dr Viswajanani J. Sattigeri, Head, CSIR-TKDL Unit, noted that the workshops conducted under the collaboration had received encouraging feedback from young faculty members, students and participating institutions. She emphasised that the partnership would help promote the adoption, research and development, and innovation based on Indian traditional knowledge, while contributing to the country's socio-economic development.

She further underscored the importance of ensuring equitable benefit-sharing with traditional knowledge holders and preserving India's rich knowledge heritage while enhancing its relevance to contemporary needs and future generations.

Both organisations reaffirmed their commitment to rejuvenating India's traditional knowledge systems through education, research, innovation and institutional collaboration. The partnership seeks to leverage the strengths of *Bharatiya Gnana Sarita* and the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library to promote the preservation, protection and responsible application of India's traditional knowledge, contributing to the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

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