

**"Accelerate Vigyan" (An interministerial initiative)**  
(31.01.2023)

1. It was a pleasure to deliver an invited lead talk at the 08th India International Science Festival (IISF2022) jointly contributed by all S&T departments but primarily steered by the Department of Biotechnology in the campus of Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh during 21-24 January 23. Dr Jitendra Singh & Sh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Minister of S&T & Hon'ble Chief Minister MP respectively inaugurated the prestigious festival. More than 8000 delegates from various ministries, organisations, universities, institutions, etc., participated in the vibrant event. Each day of science activities was followed by cultural evening, including the first one by Sh kailash kher.
2. My talk was primarily staged for the heads of all the State Science & Technology Councils, as one of the significant 14 events at the festival. Theme was "Accelerating Vigyan: Capacity building for Institutional Research". It was encouraging to note tremendous enthusiasm observed during the interaction session at the State S&T Councils Conclave. The official newsletter on #iisf2022 covers <https://lnkd.in/dNp-bVHa> another bite by @Vigyan Prasar is: <https://lnkd.in/duWjMKVe>
3. Accelerate Vigyan Interministerial Scheme aims to expand & strengthen the scientific research base by encouraging high-end scientific research & preparing the scientific workforce through workshops and research internships (in designated nine pillars with a few dozen themes).
4. The aim is also to aggregate the database of the entire capacity building funded by various S&T departments and organisations in the country at a central coordinated platform to avoid duplicity & consequent redundancies.
5. This scheme was conceived, designed, and implemented on broad recommendations of the SGO 8 (Group of 08 S&T Secretaries to GoI) and launched about two and a half years ago through an exclusive portal <https://lnkd.in/dJSUJxqv>
6. The scheme has generated huge interest. By now, more than 3500 Principal Investigators from premier Central Institutions have approached and put up their proposals for capacity building meant for PG and P hD students from not-so-elite institutions (in terms of available infrastructure and facilities). About 10000 such students have already benefited, and the target is to reach out to a total of 25000 students in the next three years.
7. It was a unique opportunity for me to reach out to the masses about this innovative scheme of Science and Engineering R. but also visit various other festival events, and interact with the S&T community in the country in rest of the events.





