



## **REPORT**

### **Award Ceremony (Online)**

**Elocution Competition on “Nataraja: A Confluence of Arts and Science” held on September 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM**

### **Organized by**

**CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), New Delhi**

A statue of ‘Nataraja’ was unveiled in the precincts of CERN – European Organisation of Nuclear Research – at Geneva on June 18, 2004. Nataraja is the most sublime symbol of Indian culture and it was presented by the Government of India to CERN as a gift to celebrate the long association of India, starting from 1960, with the world’s largest particle physics laboratory. To make the anniversary of this great event, CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS), New Delhi and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) organized an online elocution competition on the idea of ‘Nataraja - A Confluence of Arts and Science’ from 18<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. At the inaugural of the event, dialogue exchange programme on Nataraja Confluence of Arts and Science was also organized by CSIR-NISTADS & VIBHA on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020. Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Director, BARC, Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission of India and Secretary to the Government of India and Prof. Sharada Srinivasan, Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore were the expert panelists. Dr. Vivekananda Pai moderated the dialogue exchange programme. Elocution is an art of speech and conveying a message which allows anyone to share their views. This platform has helped in gathering knowledge on the topic and spreading the significance of studying art scientifically. The aim of the competition was to draw attention of curious minds to confluence of ‘Arts’ and ‘Science’.

The award ceremony was successfully held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020 at 11:00 AM and broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook using VIBHA Channel in presence of the Honourable distinguished speakers - Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe National Secretary, VIBHA and all the participants of the award ceremony as well as the participants of the elocution competition held from 18 -30 June, 2020. Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi and Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Organizing Secretary, VIBHA, New Delhi were the Chief Patrons of this event. The event was coordinated by Shri Praveen Ramdas, Secretary, VIBHA, New Delhi, Dr. Mohammad Rais, Chief Scientist, Dr. Suman Ray, Senior Scientist and Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad, Scientist from CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi.

## Highlights of the Event

A total 165 participants participated in (online) elocution competition on Nataraja: A Confluence of Arts and Science from 18-30 June, 2020. The participants were not only from India but also from across the world. The most important highlight of the event was the participants not only belong to cities but also from the villages, Government schools etc. The participants were from various parts of the country, different cities, and remote areas to international countries like UAE, Qatar etc. that made this event an International Event. The competition was in bilingual mode-Hindi and English. There were three category of participants A-8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> standard school students, B- Undergraduate and Postgraduate and C- Open to all except the above two categories for the competition. The videos were evaluated by 12 member's expert committee and the results were announced and displayed on CSIR-NISTADS website. The first prize, second prize and the third prize with three consolation prizes were given in each group in English and Hindi category. More than 350 viewers attended the program on YouTube live on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020. Based on VIBHA YouTube channel, the video is viewed by 864 persons till 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. The event was moderated by Dr. Suman Ray, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi.

### Welcome Address

Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director CSIR-NISTADS welcomed the distinguished speakers-Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe National Secretary, Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) and all the participants of the award ceremony as well as the participants of the elocution competition held from 18 -30 June, 2020. A tribute was offered in condolence of the Former *President Shri Pranab Mukherjee*, who left for heavenly abode on Aug 31, 2020 followed by 2 minutes silence for the peace of the departed Soul.



**Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal**  
**Director, CSIR-NISTADS**

The connection of 'Shiv Tandava', the most noted dance performance of Nataraja, to Late Shri Pranab Mukherjee was also highlighted by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, who often visited Bhadrakali Temple during his visit to Kurukshetra. Maa Bhadrakali Temple is one of the 52 Shakti Peeths found in India, situated in Kurukshetra, Haryana. The concept of 'Tandav Dance of Shiva' was explained by narrating the ancient story of the 'Origin of Shakti Peeths'. Prof Ranjana Aggarwal also explained how a Hindu God statue has taken place in the research institution CERN and how the dancing Nataraja is related to physics with several examples. Dancing Nataraja Statue is the classical example of integration of science and arts. Nataraja statue is a merge of Religion, Arts and Science. The connection of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Former Director, BARC, to the decision of gifting Nataraja statue

to CERN, Geneva was also explained by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal. The background of the dialogue exchange program held on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 was also highlighted by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal.

### Chief Guest

Dr. Sachhidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) explained the significance of Nataraja statue in CERN Museum. He correlated the impact of cosmic effect and cosmic energy with Nataraja. He highlighted that how the modern science is based on the ancient Vedas in details. It is not surprising to know the knowledge of modern technology has originated basically from Veda itself. Nataraja is a symbol of traditional knowledge, basically global acknowledgment based on the ancient Vedas. However, the difference is only in terminology in modern science.



**Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi**  
**Member Secretary, IGNCA**

The celebration of the Nataraja, the initiative was taken by CSIR-NISTADS and VIBHA, is of great significance to understand the basis and origin of scientific research which is actually based on our ancient literature by the students in today's generation.

Few years back, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) had organized conference in which there was participation of highly intellects from various parts of the country with different specializations-literature, philosophy, science, geography, numerical science, astrology, that was focused on discussion of the *Shastra* in various angles as an example to understand the concept of space, concept of sound, concept of nature, concept of *Prakriti* etc. to present it in front of our modern society. 'Dance of Shiva' written by [Ananda Coormaraswamy](#) is well known. This is really worth reading to understand the clear analysis of the concept of cosmology of Nataraja. We can understand very well the significance of different Poses / Mudras of Shiva that represents the different cosmic energy, our entire approach towards life by reading this book. If we try to understand and analyze the whole concept of the cosmology of Nataraja, it actually signifies a cosmic signal to the entire world, an approach to life in a different angle. We can see *Panchakriya* (five different activities) in the mode of 'Dance of Shiva'.

First, the evolution of nature, how it has been created, how it has been evolved, its origin, all can be visualized through the Nataraja statue actually. Second, the presentation and the status, how we react etc., are all very well explained in the article 'Dance of Shiva'. Similarly, description of the destruction is also explained in this article. Other expressions like *Tirobhava*, that is, how we can keep ourselves detached from the external disturbance, and *Anugraha*, that is, gratitude, how we grasp it in our character etc., are all well illustrated by [Ananda Coormaraswamy](#) in his article. The

author also talks about 108 Mudras of Nataraja to understand and depict the different expressions or feelings, is the whole *Shastra* itself. The article introduces the intellect and mental status of the mankind. No matter how much we discuss this subject, analyze it, a new research, a new energy, a new curiosity arises in us.

These facts, which are in our ancient tradition, may be new to so many children / students of different age groups who have participated in this event. The implementations of these facts have the great significance in future research. We should not merely accept these facts as part of our tradition or ritual sake to be followed rather; we should try to understand the scientific basis of it. Vigyan Bharati has been consistently working in this area since past many years through different seminars, workshops etc. to make us and the society to understand our Indian traditional literature, scientific basis and its significance in making our life.

This generates not only new research but also new knowledge. As of now, we are all passing through the Corona Pandemic, we all can understand very well the values of our traditional knowledge which is so rich in science too. This is just a small example to understand our ancient *Shastra* and we need to really understand it so that we can live with nature. We have to carry forward both science and *Shastra* together, as neither is complete without the other which teaches us how to live in harmony with nature. If we do not have emotion, if we do not have pathos, if we do not have compassion towards life, we are not complete human being. This is our Indian traditional system.

Nataraja statue in CERN is not a surprise; it actually represents our rich cultural heritage at the global level. We have to understand the philosophy of the creation of human being as a whole. 'New Education Policy' recently announced, possibly after independence it is for the first time, that, the whole education system is represented in a holistic manner. This policy has tried to make our education system barrier free, providing full independence. Nataraja statue in Chitambaram is a true representative of the scientific basis of our tradition which provide a different experience all together to evolve further scientifically. We need to change our mindset with time on the basis of our ancient tradition / *Shastra* in a scientific manner.

The initiative taken by CSIR-NISTADS and VIBHA, in form of the elocution competition, is a step towards understanding and creating awareness among the children, students and people to our rich cultural heritage with a scientific basis and building the nation in a holistic manner.

## Presidential Remarks

The presidential remark of this event was given by Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Secretary, (VIBHA). Swadeshi Science Movement is one of the main objectives of Vigyan Bharati, to extend its reach to the society. The dialogue exchange program on 18<sup>th</sup> June was a successful program followed by elocution competition held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, organized by CSIR-NISTADS in collaboration with VIBHA. **Swami Vivekananda on September 11, 1893, at the first World's Parliament of Religions** talk on Hinduism. Between



**Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe**  
**National Secretary,**  
**Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)**

September 11 and 27, 1893, Swami Vivekananda delivered many speeches at Chicago, which was very impressive. On 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 1893, Swami Vivekananda presented a research paper on 'Hinduism' and his talk with the sentence 'from the high spiritual flights of the Vedanta philosophy of which the latest scientific discoveries of science are seem like echoes, to the low idolatry with its multifarious mythology and so on. **Swami Vivekananda** introduced Hinduism to America and introduced Vedanta and Yoga to the West. This has credited with raising the profile of Hinduism to that of a world religion. Thus, introduction of science based on the Veda principle has already been well described earlier in our ancient literature and the modern science has basically originated from it. The microcosm, and the macrocosm, the internal and the external are equal and this concept has been elaborated by Swami Vivekananda during his speech in Chicago in **1893**. About 2,500 years back in ancient India, the elaboration of microcosm and the macrocosm is found in Upanishad. Hence, there is deep correlation between Nataraja and science. This unique correlation fact was so well recognized and understood long time back in ancient times. For example, in the modern science, the principle of uncertainty by Heisenberg is a repetition of the microcosm and the macrocosm concept actually.

Shri Jayant Ji also discussed about the physicist Dr. Capra's views on Nataraja and explained the similarities among the principle of modern science and Veda and Upanishad or the knowledge provided by Buddha and their teachings. Shri Jayant Ji gave example like, *The Tao of Physics* written by Dr. Capra in which the Nataraja statue has been given a key position. The book states that Nataraja statue depicts cosmic dance of all sub-atomic particles. Later on, in 1992, Carl Sagan in his book

'Cosmos' explores 15 billion years of *cosmic* evolution and the development of science and civilization, in which, the Nataraja statue was given a special importance to describe the cosmology concept. Nataraja Statue was thus, gifted to CERN, Geneva realizing the significance of the deep science behind it. Great mathematicians have also described 'Laws of Thoughts' which is also based on our ancient knowledge of Hinduism.

### **Distribution of Certificates**

Total 34 awards were distributed during the program in three groups and two languages- English and Hindi in each group: School students up to Intermediate, Graduate and Post Graduate and General except above two categories for two languages Hindi and English. The award distribution was coordinated by Dr. Suman Ray, Senior Scientist, and Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad, Scientist, from CSIR-NISTADS.



**Dr. Suman Ray**  
Senior Scientist,  
CSIR-NISTADS



**Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad**  
Scientist,  
CSIR-NISTADS

### **Introduction of the Guests and Vote of Thanks**

Dr. M. Rais introduced to the participants and gave brief description of work carried out by Prof. Joshi and his achievements. Dr. Rais also talked about the famous books of Dr. Sachhidanand Joshi. Firstly, Dr. M. Rais Introduced Honourable Chief Guest-Dr. Sachhidanand Joshi, Member Secretary the executive of Academic Head Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. Prof. Joshi served a Vice-Chancellor of two terms and founder Vice-Chancellor of Kashikathakare University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Raipur and he is also founder registrar of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of



**Dr. M. Rais**  
Chief Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS

Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. He is a Scholar of History and Mass Communication, a writer, a poet and an actor. He has been writing extensively, some of his recent publications are Sachhidanand ji ki Lokpriya Kahaniya, Kuchh Alp Viram, Pal Bhar ki Pehchan, Mera Desh Mera Dharm etc. Dr. Rais also introduced Chief Patron, Dr. Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe, National Secretary, (VIBHA). Dr. Jayant Sahasrabudhe is a science and engineering professional, scientist and a very active speaker on Science and Arts.

Dr. Rais also gave Vote of Thanks on the special occasion to expert committee members proposed from VIBHA and CSIR-NISTADS, 12 evaluators were involved to evaluate the entries of elocution competition - Dr. Smita Sundaram, Assistant Professor, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Science for Women, University of Delhi, New Delhi; Dr. Rajeev Singh, Assistant Professor, Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, University of Delhi, New Delhi; Dr. Anu Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Dr. Ruchita Pal, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Dr. Rahul Singh,

Assistant Professor, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, New Delhi; Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NISCAIR; Dr. Parmanand Barman, Scientist, CSIR-NISCAIR; Dr. Sumit Kumar Mishra, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NPL; Dr. Mohammad Rais, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS; Dr. Kasturi Mandal, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS; Dr. Suman Ray, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS and Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad, Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS for giving time to evaluate the participants and expressed gratefulness to Co-coordinators Shri Praveen Ramdas Ji, Dr. Suman Ray and Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad for great cooperation & support. This Elocution Competition provided the opportunity to learn from participants & CSIR & VIBHA team during this period. He also extended hearty thanks to our Director, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal for her motivation and guidance to conduct the competition on “Nataraja” making it a resounding success.

**Acknowledgement:**

Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NISTADS

Dr. Jayant Sshasrabudhe, National Secretary, Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA)

Shri Praveen Ramdas Secretary Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA)

Dr. Mohammad Rais, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS

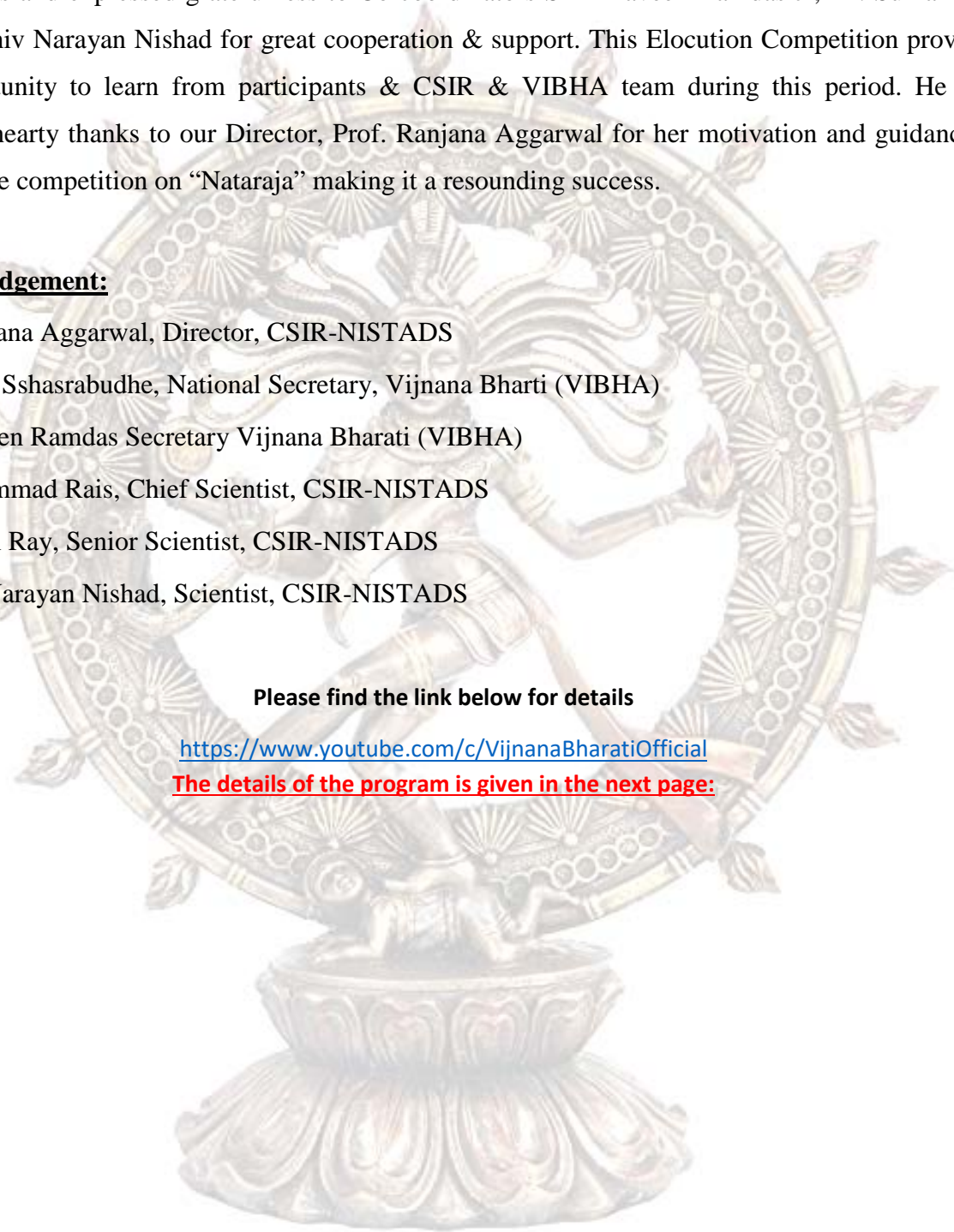
Dr. Suman Ray, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS

Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad, Scientist, CSIR-NISTADS

**Please find the link below for details**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/VijnanaBharatiOfficial>

**The details of the program is given in the next page:**





**Award Ceremony**  
**(Online)**

**Elocution Competition on**  
**“Nataraja: A Confluence of Arts and Science”**

**September 3, 2020 at 11:00 AM**

**Chief Guest**

**Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi**

Member Secretary,  
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA),  
New Delhi

**Chief Patrons**

**Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal**  
Director  
CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi

**Shri Jayant Sahasrabudhe**  
National Organizing Secretary  
Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), New Delhi

**Coordinators**

**Shri Praveen Ramdas**  
Secretary  
Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), New Delhi

**Dr. M. Rais**  
Chief Scientist  
CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi

**Dr. Suman Ray**  
Senior Scientist  
CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi

**Dr. Shiv Narayan Nishad**  
Scientist  
CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi

**Link for details**

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**CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies**  
**and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), New Delhi**