

Expert Talk on “Relevance of Ancient Indian Knowledge in Today's World” by Prof Debi Prasad Mishra, NITTTR Kolkata on 08.11.2024

On November 8, 2024, the G L Bajaj Institute of Technology & Management, Greater Noida, hosted an insightful and thought-provoking expert talk on the topic “Relevance of Ancient Indian Knowledge in Today's World”. The session was conducted by Prof. Debi Prasad Mishra, Director National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR), Kolkata.

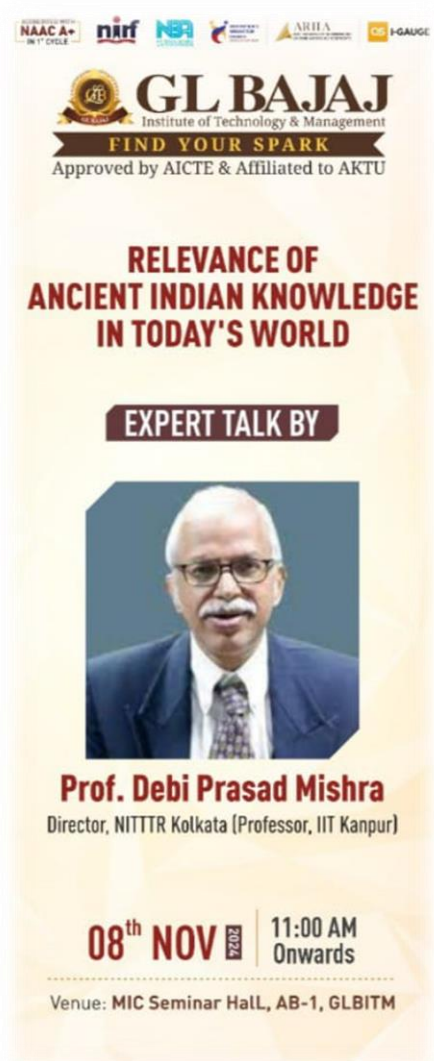
The session commenced with a welcome note by the Dr Manas Kumar Mishra, Director, GLBITM, who introduced Prof. Mishra as a distinguished academician and expert in the field of ancient Indian philosophy and sciences. The audience, comprising Dean's, Head of Departments, Professors briefed on the purpose of the event—highlighting the importance of understanding the deep and rich intellectual heritage of India and its relevance in contemporary times.

Prof. Mishra began the session by emphasizing the often-overlooked contributions of ancient India to modern scientific thought, technological advancements, and societal development. He pointed out that Indian civilization, with its multifaceted systems of knowledge, had profound insights into diverse fields such as mathematics, astronomy, medicine, ecology, and social governance long before many of these disciplines were established in the West.

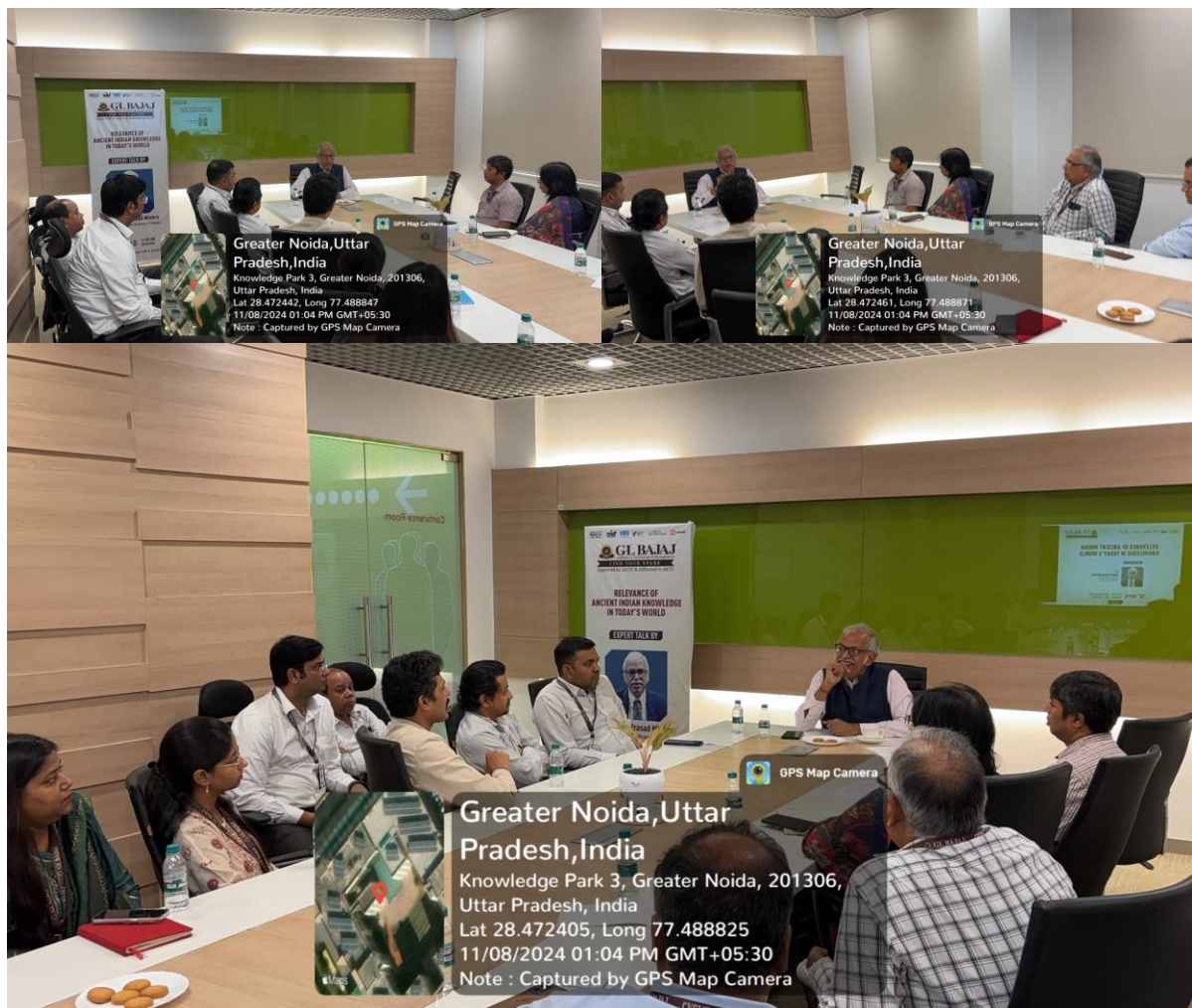
Prof. Mishra highlighted the significant contributions of ancient Indian mathematicians such as **Aryabhata**, **Brahmagupta**, and **Bhaskara**. He pointed out how ancient Indian mathematics, including the concept of **zero**, the **decimal system**, and **trigonometry**, laid the foundation for modern mathematics and computing. The ancient Indian understanding of astronomy, particularly the model of planetary motion, was far ahead of its time, influencing later astronomical studies in the West.

Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, was also a central theme of the talk. Prof. Mishra spoke about the holistic approach of Ayurveda, which emphasizes the balance between body, mind, and environment. In the modern context, Ayurveda's principles of preventive healthcare, natural remedies, and the importance of lifestyle and diet are increasingly recognized and integrated into modern health systems around the world.

India's traditional knowledge systems are deeply rooted in ecological balance and sustainability. Prof. Mishra illustrated how ancient texts like the **Vedas** and **Upanishads** contain profound ecological insights that emphasize the interconnectedness of all living beings with nature. He discussed how modern environmental challenges such as climate change,



resource depletion, and biodiversity loss could benefit from an understanding of ancient Indian environmental ethics and practices, such as **organic farming**, **sustainable agriculture**, and **rainwater harvesting**.



Indian philosophy, particularly through systems like **Vedanta**, **Yoga**, and **Sankhya**, offers profound insights into the nature of consciousness, self-realization, and ethical living. Prof. Mishra drew connections between ancient Indian philosophies and modern discussions in **quantum physics**, **neuroscience**, and **consciousness studies**. He argued that ancient Indian wisdom offers a unique perspective on issues such as the nature of reality, mental well-being, and the pursuit of happiness.

One of the key takeaways from Prof. Mishra's talk was the potential for integrating ancient Indian knowledge with modern scientific and technological advancements. He suggested that there is a need to build a bridge between these two worlds—combining the rigor of modern research with the wisdom and holistic approach of ancient knowledge systems. This integration, he believes, could lead to more sustainable, inclusive, and ethical solutions for global challenges.

Prof. Mishra shared several contemporary examples where ancient Indian knowledge is being applied today. For instance, the concept of **Yoga** has gained global recognition as a practice for mental and physical well-being, while **Ayurveda** is increasingly being integrated into modern wellness and medical practices. In addition, he spoke about the growing interest in

Vastu Shastra for architectural design, which combines principles of geometry and environmental harmony.

Following the lecture, an interactive Q&A session was held, during which faculty asked various questions about the practical implementation of ancient knowledge in modern contexts. Prof. Mishra addressed questions on topics like **digital technology and ethics**, the **role of Indian philosophy in contemporary social systems**, and how young people could engage with ancient texts and teachings.



In his closing remarks, Prof. Mishra reiterated the need for a **balanced approach** to knowledge—one that appreciates both the advancements of modern science and the timeless wisdom of ancient traditions. He encouraged the audience to take inspiration from ancient Indian knowledge to solve present-day problems, particularly in areas such as healthcare, sustainability, and personal well-being.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Prof M S Naruka, DSW-GLBITM, who expressed gratitude to Prof. Mishra for his enriching insights and to the audience for their active participation. He also acknowledged the support from the faculty and staff of the G L Bajaj Institute in making the event a success.