

**background papers**

discussion guide & framework



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SILVER JUBILEE

# Conclave & Background Papers: Why & How?

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## Conclave

IASTAM India has always believed in being a catalyst to the process of furthering the cause of Traditional Systems of Medicine.

The concept of an 'Intellectual Conclave' was mooted by the Indian delegation at the Vth ICTAM in Halle, Germany to the then health ministry officials. The objective was to have an intellectual churning on issues confronting this sector in order to precipitate them at a specially constituted forum.

*This was in direct contrast to the sometimes casual manner in which opinions were being aired about the state of affairs in the sector*

The desire to have a conclave also had its roots in the perceptions one gathered, right from academic days, about the inertia & lackadaisical attitude prevalent at research organisations, government authorized bodies & academic institutes. There was also a rising concern one had about the corrosion which was rapidly causing great damage to the fiber of the sector & whether the same was beyond repair.

These were some triggers which ultimately led to the 'Intellectual Conclave 2003' in Delhi, which admirably served the purpose of a sounding board & setting the ball rolling towards an action oriented programme.

This Conclave, being held in the 'Knowledge City' of Pune, is the first step in the process of unlocking the true potential of this great system.

## Background Papers

In the initial phase only to reach conclusions that would be a set of actionable recommendations for the policy makers, need was felt for certain guidelines or a robust framework which would drive the deliberations to a decision point.

And thus was born the idea of creating 'background papers'. Given the enormity and importance of the task a core group of members with cross functional skill sets was constituted. The group numbered around 20 & was drawn from IASTAM as well as the 5 associate institutes who were part of the conclave.

The broad areas of discussion & the contents therein were identified after much deliberations & thought -

1. Educational Reforms
2. Applied Research Approaches
3. IT as GT (Growth Technology)
4. Competitive Benchmarks for the Profession
5. Longevity & Ageing Challenges





Responsibility for each area was assigned to sub-teams drawn from the core group. A lead resource , deputed from one of the nodal agencies , lead each of the teams & had coordination support from IASTAM. The groups were a fascinating amalgamation of diverse experiences & knowledge as also language backgrounds & thought processes. This lent a multifaceted personality to each of the teams which reflected in the width as well depth of the discussions. Stalwarts like Dr.S.D.Gokhale, Prof R.K.Mutatkar, Prof Bhaskar Sathaye, Vd.Vilas Nanal, Dr.S.P.Sardeshmukh, Dr.Ulhas Wagh, Dr.Mahabaleshwar Hegde, Dr.Mahadik & Dr Medha Dhurandhar lent their wisdom. Others like Dr.Asmita Wele, Dr Tanuja Nesari, Dr Manoj Nesari, Dr.Prashant Suru, Dr.Girish Tillu & Dr.Vandana brought vitality & energy to the table.

Each of the above areas was scanned meticulously to arrive at a common content index for the background papers. Cross linkages between subjects were established & content as well as quality parameters evolved.

To evolve meaningful outcome the following criteria were applied.

- a. Current Scenario & indices
- b. Strategic direction to be adopted
- c. Processes to adopted
- d. Key deliverables & outcome

After 2 rounds of meetings, often stretching way beyond normal working hours , & a pre conclave workshop the frameworks , templates & documents for each of the subject were generated.

As this conclave commences the group looks back with pride at the effort which has gone into something they hope will prove to be momentous. The background papers are merely representative thoughts or details as an outcome of this process and do not comprehensively cover the respective area. At the same time being very candid the group also accepts responsibility for lacunae that have crept into the final product.

But the group strongly feels that these background papers would prove to be harbinger of similar efforts in this sector.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to each member of the group who willingly came forward with commitment for a cause.

*Narendra Bhatt*



# Contributors Index

The background papers were a team effort with sharing of responsibilities amongst the core group members. Specific responsibility was assigned to a lead resource while some of the other members played a supporting role in the process.

Given below is a list of the contributors, arranged in a alphabetical order, with their positions as well as contact details.

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