



One Day National Conference on Marginal Literature at Marginality: Folk Writings of Haryanvi and Bhojpuri Language

Department of English
Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari

February 28, 2025 (Friday)

(Hybrid Mode)

Marginal literature of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal is recognised by Indian academia, but the regional writings of Haryana, Bihar and other less academically developed states are still wandering in wilderness. Indian renaissance that begins in Bengal awakened the consciousness of *bhadralok* writers to put their pen on the subaltern themes. Kabir and other writers make strong literature of marginal writers in Uttar Pradesh and whatever is left is supplied by the *Maveshi Nara* Movement that gave new direction to people at the margins. Likewise, Dalit Panther Movement gave strength to the marginal writers of Maharashtra. Neither of any social, political or academic movement were part of Haryana, Bihar and other states in literary domain. Due to such things, Haryanvi writers like Dayachand Mayna, Dhanpat Nidana, Deichand Sankhol and other suffered too much. The case of Bhojpuri poets like Heera Dom, Bhikari Thakur and Gorakh Prasad Mastana is not different than Haryana's writers.

One of the main reasons of their unpopularity is the language: Bhojpuri and Haryanvi are seen with mean eyes and hence their writers are not considered suitable to read by the academic writers, let alone worthy of translations. Although these writers became part of curriculum of several regional universities but they failed to attract scholars and researchers who can write on their subjects. Next problem in reviving in them is that Haryanvi and Bhojpuri are regional languages and it is hard for them to compete with the literature written in national languages. One more problem is that the regional writers failed to attract translators who can translate their works. Thus, they could not achieve what Punjabi (Khushwant Singh translates Amrita Pritam's *Pinjar*) and Kannada (AK Ramanujan UR Ananthamurthy's *Samskara*) language has achieved. Hence, these regional writers remain out of the art of canon making and no one even try to revive them.

It was good luck for Haryanvi writers that they get Rajendar Badgujar who published more than forty local writers, but Bihar did not get same fate. However, it does not mean that no writings of Bhojpuri are published as there are several but it is not easy to collect them. These are available only at select places, and sometimes it is hard to purchase them from market.

The aim of this one day conference is to remember the *avant-garde* folk writers of Haryanvi and Bhojpuri languages. We invite abstract of the following themes:

1. Marginalized Literature and its Recognition
2. Contributions of Haryanvi and Bhojpuri Writers
3. Linguistic Politics and Regional Literature
4. Neglect ion of regional writers
5. Language Barriers
6. Folk Traditions and Oral Literature
7. Regional Languages v/s Constitutional Languages
8. Translation, Dissemination, and Publishing Challenges
9. Literature and Social Movements
10. Gender, Caste, and Identity in Regional Writings
11. Marginal languages as the common language
12. Revival Strategies for Marginal Literature

Note: Speakers from other regional languages can present

Last Date to send abstract is Feb 25, 2025

Note: Selected papers will be published in book form by a reputed publisher

Guest of Honour:

Prof Ujjwal Jana, Department of English, University of Delhi, New Delhi.

Special Guests:

1. **Dr Gorakh Mastana**, Famous Marginal Bhojpuri Poet
2. **Prof Rajendar Badgujar**, Winner , Haryana Sahitya Academy Award
3. **Prof Nibha Singh**, Department of English, Magadh University, Bihar
4. **Prof Kalpana Purohit**, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Registration Fee

All should register as delegates. Registration fee for all delegates and faculties independent researchers is Rs. 500 (Outside MGCUB) and 200 Rs. for students and scholars of MGCU.

No TA/DA will be given. E-Certificate will be provided via email.

Name	Mahatma Gandhi Central University
Bank Account	3604439101
IFSC Code	CBIN0280030
Branch	Luthaha, Purvi Champaran, Bihar

WhatsApp Link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GVsRhT7QNp78R5VmfIgYUc>

Google Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12VxZrOpo4mua3A7hr-pvvr-13RH-o66bd6ZafCfLZTs/edit>

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About the University

The Mahatma Gandhi Central University, named after the Father of the Nation, was established in the historical land of Champaran under the Central Universities (Amendment) Act 2014 [No. 35 of 2014] enacted by the Parliament. The university is funded and regulated by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The University is presently functioning from five temporary campuses, namely Chankya Parishar, Buddha Parishar, DDU Parishar, Gandhi Bhavan, and an administrative block. The university has seven different schools with over 20 departments and more than 65 ongoing programs. The faculty of sciences is presently functioning from a temporary campus at Zila School called “Chankya Parishar,” which is situated at the heart of the city.

About Champaran

The University is located in Motihari, which is a city in the Champaran district of Bihar, India. This city holds great historical significance as it is the Karam-Bhoomi of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. It was in this very place that he first practised his idea of Satyagraha against the Neel plantation that was being carried out in the area. The establishment of MGCU is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha, which took place a century ago. The city is situated close to Nepal- only 55 km away from its border town of Birgunj. The beautiful Motijheel lake divides the town into two halves giving it a panoramic view. The weather of the city in the month of February is usually pleasant. Bodh Gaya, the place where Buddha attained enlightenment, is approximately 250 km away from Motihari. The largest Buddhist stupa in India is located in Kesaria, approximately 50 km away from Motihari.

About the Connectivity

The nearest airport to the city is in Patna which is approximately 170 kilometres away from Motihari. Motihari is also connected to all the major cities by train. The nearest railway station is Bapudham Motihari (BMKI) which is approximately 2 kilometres from the Temporary Campus at Zila School, Motihari. One can also reach Motihari by train via Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul, which are located within a radius of 100 kilometres. Motihari is also well connected to all major cities and towns of Bihar and adjoining states by road through a network of four-lane National Highway.