

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

ON

SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2016

AT

MAHATMA GANDHI CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

MOTIHARI, DISTRICT – EAST CHAMPARAN, BIHAR (INDIA)

ON THE THEME

‘PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF INDOLOGY: CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS’

(भारत विद्या का अतीत, वर्तमान तथा भविष्य: चुनौतियां एवं संभावनाएं)

Indology witnessed vicissitudes ever since its emergence. However, it has found less presence and prominence in India after attaining independence from the suzerainty of the Britishers, although the discipline has been attracting attention of the scholars across the globe to understand and explore multiple dimensions of culture, literature and languages of Indian Society.

In the wake of eighteenth century foreign pioneers like William Jones, known to be father of this discipline, Henry Thomas and August Thomas Schlegel, Indology emerged as an academic subject during nineteenth century. It followed a spree of establishment of Societies and other organizations in India and abroad. Asiatic Society, Societe Asiatique, Royal Asiatic Society, The American Oriental Society and German Oriental Society and the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies are some such organizations devoted to explore Indology.

Now the question arises as to why the foreigners become so much of interested in understanding Indology. Why the Vedic Literature, Society & Culture and other classics of ancient times attracted their attention?

Divergent views come forth from the scholars about the discipline of Indology and they associated it with different phenomena. A major school of thought believes that the seeds of Indology sprouted from the tireless efforts of the Intellectuals from India and abroad to comprehend rich and diverse cultural heritage, languages and literature of Indian sub-continent.

Vedic Sanskrit articulating Vedic knowledge, Paninian Sanskrit as it is found in Astadhyai, the Prakrit patronized by the kings, Pali, middle Indo-Aryan language in which Buddhist scriptures and commentaries are preserved and Dravidology, a distinct branch devoted to the Dravidian languages attracted the attention towards the great Indian civilization which saw not only the Vedic literature seeing the light of the day but emergence of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism developing on the soil of India during ancient period. Astronomy, Ayurveda, Mathematics, Grammar, Music, Classical Dance and Yoga continue to be the areas of interest and investigation for scientists and explorers.

It merits mention that the beginnings of the study of India by outsiders date back at least to Megasthenes about 2300 years ago, systematic study as a discipline started about two hundred years ago. Today, India is emerging as a more powerful and active player at international arena and scientific community and renowned agencies of the world have started accepting India as country with unparalleled rich cultural heritage, repository of knowledge and having the most scientific of languages. It is high time that a platform through seminar is provided for the convergence of the scholars from India and abroad to find articulation to their views on the theme.

Sub Themes: Main themes of the Seminar are as under:

1. Evolution of Indology in the context of India
2. Challenges to Indology as a discipline in India
3. Efforts in foreign to develop Indology as a distinct branch of knowledge
4. Prospects of Indology in India and abroad

ABOUT MOTIHARI:

Nestled in the heart of Northern Bihar, the Motihari city is the headquarters of East Champaran district in Indian State of Bihar. Here, Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, experimented *First Satyagraha in India*, a century ago to protest against the obnoxious system of agricultural labour. This city of 1, 50,000 population is connected by road with Muzaffarpur, Lucknow, Patna, Darbhanga, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. *The Bapudham Motihari Railway Station*, is connected to cities of India like Kolkata, Delhi, Haridwar, Dehradun, Mumbai, Amritsar, Kanpur, Guwahati, Jammu, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow and Bareilly. By air, one can come up to Patna. Motihari is 165 Kilometres Northwest from Patna, the capital of Bihar, 72 kms. Muzaffarpur and 55 kms. from Birgunj city of Nepal. The average highest temperature here hovers at 32°C and lowest at 25°C during the month of September.

Guidelines to Author

Abstract in 250 words and full-length paper should be typed in Calibri with a letter font size of 11 in 1.5 space. Authors are required to comply with the APA style of referencing and submissions must be in MS Word format only. Kindly submit abstract & full length paper with complete author contact details at indology.seminar@mgcub.ac.in

Important Dates

Abstract Submission	: August 31, 2016
Full Paper Submission	: September 5, 2016
Registration	: On the spot
Registration Fee	: Rs. 1000/-

Lodging and boarding

Organizers of the Seminar will facilitate in arranging lodging and boarding. However, the delegates will bear the expenses on account of lodging and boarding.

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