



**Department of Sanskrit,
Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi, India**
with the collaboration of
Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR)
and
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)
organises

THREE DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
on

THE INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS OF KASHMIR

14, 15 & 16 February, 2020

(Friday, Saturday & Sunday)



Concept Note

The study of Sanskrit Language and Indian culture has remained the topic of research and interest for a very long time by the historians, travellers, writers and researchers worldwide. In particular, ample contributions by the Sanskrit scholars of Kashmir have been extensively studied by foreign writers, authors, scholars and has equally remained an interest of national and local intelligentsia.

Adorning the crest of the Indian subcontinent, Kashmir is verily Heaven on the Earth. Like a fragrant mark of saffron on India's forehead, Kashmir not only enriches the spirit of India in terms of its physical beauty, but also enlivens it by means of an endless stream of knowledge traditions. This glorious land, where *Rishi Kashyapa* spent several years in meditation, is the playground of nearly all major Sanskrit knowledge traditions. From the preservation of the Vedic canon, to compiling translations and commentaries of literature, grammar and philosophy- all of these are a few among the major scholarly endeavours undertaken in Kashmir. Alongside this, Kashmir is also the birthplace of the *Sharada* script- which has been used for several centuries to transmit sacred knowledge to future generations. Therefore, Kashmir is not just the geographical crest-jewel of India, but is also a luminous lamp of the country's rich heritage of scholastic enquiry.

The origins of the eternal knowledge systems which evolved and took shape in Kashmir can be traced to Vedic literature itself. The works of Rishi varga speak of Kashmir's snow-capped peaks and fast flowing rivers that descended from them. Is it not possible that the composition of 'Somavalli' was also undertaken in these beautiful valleys? Professor Blue huller discovered the 'Pippalada-shaakha' of the Atharva Veda in Kashmir, which was subsequently published in 1901 by Bloomfield under the name 'Kashmerean Atharva Veda' at Stuttgart. Uvvata- the famed commentator of the Kanva-Shakha of the Shukla Yajurveda and Kaiya's 'Mahabhashya Pradip Tika' is also believed to have been a native of Kashmir. An illustrious line of scholars, who played an important role in bringing literature to the pedestal of sacred knowledge itself, hailed from Kashmir. Not much research has been undertaken on the life and works of such luminaries. Attaining the level of intellectual perfection which these scholars had attained is a far-fetched and nearly unattainable feat for most individuals, even today. Bharata's Natyashastra is considered to be one of the foremost texts in the Indian literary tradition.

Studies have indicated that even its composition can be traced to the valleys of Kashmir. Moreover, illustrious scholars who expounded the meaning of the Natyashastra, such as *Bhatta-Lollata*, *Bhattanayaka*, *Shankuka* and *Acharya Abhinavagupta*, are all believed to be Kashmiris. The Natya-Shastra is considered to be the base text, on the basis of which the compilation of nearly all dramatical works in Sanskrit are based upon. Further in the line of illustrious scholars are individuals like Acharya Bhamaha, Acharya Vamana and Acharya Rudratata, all of whom hail from Kashmir as well. Be it the founder of the poetic world- Acharya Anandavardhan or the richly gifted Acharya Mammata; be it Kshemendra or Kuntaka- all of these individuals were children of the land of Kashmir, who went on to spread its glory to the entire world. These intellectual traditions, viz. 'Rasa', 'Riti', 'Alankaara', 'Vakrokti', 'Auchitya' and 'Dhwani' continue to inspire our endeavours even these days.

Kashmir also provided ground for the growth of intellectual traditions, which cannot be seen in mutually exclusive terms. The works of the famed scholar Abhinavagupta, who's works reflect a coming together of the traditions of Prose, Dramaturgy, Advaita Vedanta, Shaiva Philosophy and Tantra, also hailed from Kashmir. The inspiration for Kalhana's 'Rajatarangini'- which analyses the social, cultural, and religious aspects of human personality in its beautiful poems, also comes from Kashmir. Apart from these, scholars like Allat, Ruyyak, Mahimbhatta, Bilhana, Bhllata, Lalleshwari Devi, Jayaratha, Vagbhatta, Pratiharenduraaaja etc have adorned the crest of Kashmir's rich tradition. It is due to its significant contribution to the intellectual world, that Adi Shankara chose Kashmir for the location of 'Sharada-Peetha'.

Acharya Vasu Gupta laid the foundations of the tradition of Kashmir Shaivism. This great tradition is a significant part of the great philosophical heritage of the Indian subcontinent. The preservation and augmentation of several manuscripts in the Sharada script has also been undertaken in Kashmir for centuries. The regional literature and regional traditions of Kashmir are also fascinating, and much like Kashmir's beautiful environs, are also characterized by immense beauty.

Keeping in mind all of these facets, Jamia Millia Islamia is organizing an International Conference on the rich literary traditions of Kashmir.



Conference Objectives:

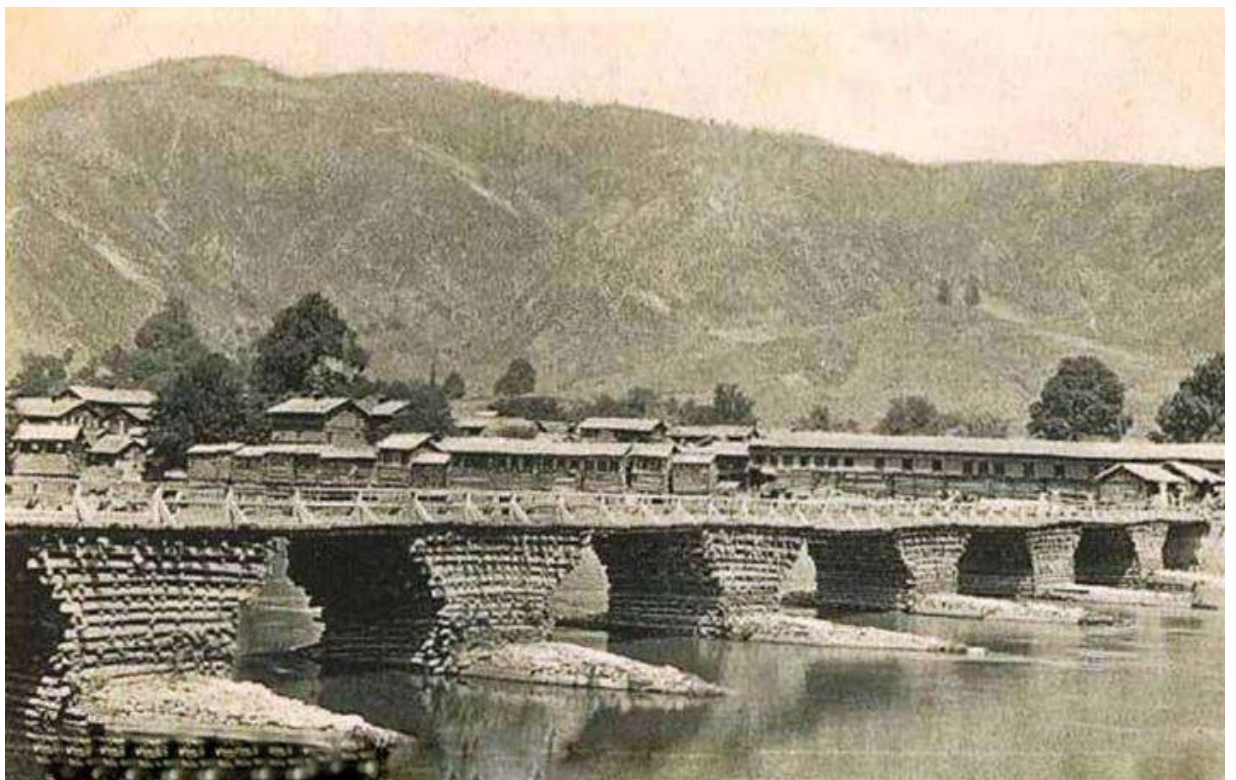
Since the ancient time due to prevailing socio-political circumstances, Kashmiri literary traditions have been subject to widespread negligence. In today's time Kashmir and its associated traditions are acquiring centre stage among researchers, universities, intellectuals; and it is felt that these should also be made accessible to the general public as well. The international conference on Kashmir and its literary traditions being organized at Jamia Millia Islamia, would be a foundational step in making these proposed goals a reality. Following are the major objectives of this conference-

- A. Exploring the contributions of Kashmiri works in the Indian Knowledge tradition at large.
- B. Engaging in collaborations with scholars from Kashmir, thereby enabling the knowledge traditions of the region to be re-established as independent areas of enquiry.
- C. Inspiring students to engage in the study and research of manuscripts.
- D. Focusing on those aspects of the Kashmiri literary tradition which have until now not entered the domain of scholarly enquiry.
- E. Creating a compilation of major Kashmiri literary works in the form of a book.



Sub Themes of the International Conference

- 1 The Vedic Traditions of Kashmir
- 2 The Sanskrit Literary Traditions of Kashmir
- 3 The Sanskrit Grammatical Traditions of Kashmir
- 4 The Philosophical Traditions of Kashmir
- 5 The Agama and Tantric Traditions of Kashmir
- 6 The Scripts of Kashmir (focusing on the Sharada Script)
- 7 Sanskrit Manuscripts of Kashmir
- 8 The Tradition of History Writing in Kashmir
- 9 The Kashmiri Traditions of Astrology & Astronomy
- 10 Sanskrit Literature on the Silk Route
- 11 Adi Sankaracharya's Incredible writing of 'Soundarya Lahari'
- 12 Temple Architecture in Kashmir according to 'Vastu Shastra'
- 13 Millennium year of 'Acharya Abhinavagupta'
- 14 Fable Literature of Kashmir in Sanskrit Literature
- 15 Yoga: Tradition of Kashmir
- 16 Literary works of 'Lalleshwari/Lal Ded'
- 17 Sharada Peeth: Ancient Centre of learning
- 18 Kashmir a treasure of 'Ayurveda'
- 19 Soma: A Vedic era herb in Kashmir
- 20 The role of Sanskrit Media in protecting Intellectual Tradition of Kashmir to India and the world



Guidelines for Papers

- Please send the abstract & full-length paper to sanskritseminar@jmi.ac.in
- Each paper/participants will be allotted a time of 15 minutes, with an additional 05 minutes for discussion.
- Papers may be presented in Sanskrit, Hindi or English only.
- Paper should be original and unpublished.

For submission of Abstract papers

1. Abstracts are invited on the topics relevant to the themes from the participants.
2. Abstracts on any theme of the conference must be in Microsoft word, text should be in 12 point, **Times New Roman** font for English and **Unicode** font for Sanskrit and Hindi. Margins should be of one inch on all the sides, **1.5 spaced** with maximum of 250-300 words along with a brief CV.
3. Provide **4 to 6 keywords** which can be used for indexing purposes.

For submission of Full Length Papers

1. Papers must be in Microsoft Word with doc format ONLY along with the PDF file.
2. Papers must be written in English (British) or Sanskrit or Hindi.
3. Research paper should include a separate page containing the following in the order mentioned: Title, Authors, Affiliation, Abstract, Keywords, and main text, Acknowledgements, Appendix and References.
4. Abstract paper & full-length paper will only be accepted for Publication on the condition that the Manuscript has not been copyrighted, has not been published, has not been presented or accepted for presentation at professional meetings, and is not currently under Review for presentation at other professional meetings. A declaration to this effect must accompany the final paper, which must include ethical responsibilities and Standards as well.
5. Participants should take responsibility of Content-Editing, Grammar-check, Proof-reading and formatting etc at the time of submission.

Important Dates

Last date for Submission of Abstracts	December 31, 2019
Last date for Submission of Full-length papers	January 15, 2020
Notification of Acceptance by the Review Committee	January 20, 2020
Conference	February 14 to 16, 2020

Registration Charges

Foreign Participants (Faculty Member & Research Scholar)	₹ 7,000 (USD 100) (Including Accommodation, Conference kit, Abstract of papers, Participation certificate, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
For Foreign Participants <i>Other than invited speakers, participants from outside India are requested to seek funding from their institutions/resources for travel costs.</i>	
Indian Participants (Faculty Member)	₹ 2,000 (Including Conference kit, Abstract of papers, Participation certificate, Lunch and refreshment served at conference venue)*
Indian Participants (Research Scholar & Others)	₹ 1,500 (Including Conference kit, Abstract of papers, Participation certificate, Lunch and refreshment served at conference venue)*

**Accommodation and Dinner charges ₹ 1000/- per person per day on twin-sharing basis on prior information for outstation Indian participants only.*

Venue of the Conference

Dr. M.A. Ansari Auditorium (Gate No. 13) Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 110025

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) Auditorium, New Delhi 110001



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