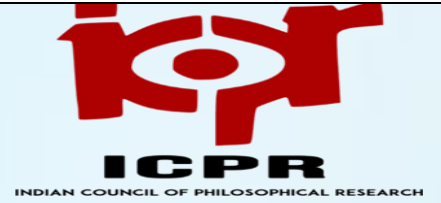




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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



Indian Philosopher's Day-2024

One-Day National Seminar on "Philosophical Thought of Kashmir"

CHIEF PATRON



Prof. Nilofer Khan
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor
University of Kashmir, Srinagar

PATRON



Prof. Naseer Iqbal
Registrar
University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Organized by
Centre of Central Asian Studies
In Collaboration with
Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi
Date: 26th June, 2024 Time: 10:30 A.M

Venue:

Conference Hall, Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir

Prof. Tabasum Firdous
Director & Convenor

Dr. Wahid Nasaru
Seminar Coordinator

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UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

NAAC Accredited “A+”
Hazratbal Srinagar-190006

One-Day National Seminar
On the Eve of
Indian Philosopher’s Day–2024

“Philosophical Thought of Kashmir”

Concept Note

Kashmir is known as a vibrant space for knowledge, spirituality, and mystic thought. Centered at the confluence of major religious systems, it emerged as a syncretic site for churnings in philosophical thought, poetry, aesthetics, architecture, music, etc. Philosophically, Kashmir has been a cauldron of philosophies spanning Buddhism, Trika/ Kashmir Shaivism, and Kashmiri Sufism. In Kashmir’s distinct syncretic cultural milieu, such philosophies and their confluence have seeped deep into mysticism, devotional practices, language, and poetic forms. The familiarity of Kashmir with the diversity of philosophical thought is known from a rich archive of historical and literary sources, which include *Rājtarangini*, *IshvarapratyabhijnaKārika*, *Sarvadarshanasangraha*, etc. The region gave birth to a unique non-dualistic philosophy referred to as *Pratyabhijna Darshan* or Philosophy of Self-recognition. The founder of this philosophical tradition was Vasugupta and it was gradually expanded by Somananda, Bhatta Kallata, and Utpaladeva. Abhinavagupta, and Kshemaraja. The fourteenth-century Saint-poetess Lal Ded preached this liberated philosophy in vernacular Kashmiri with poetic quatrains called ‘*Vaakhs*’ as the medium. This tradition continued in the teachings and poetic verses of Kashmir’s foremost Muslim Sufi saint, Sheikh Noor-ud-din Noorani, popularly known as Nund Rishi.

The ‘*Mandala*’ of Kashmir since its ancient past has been a vibrant space for social-intellectual developments and discourses. In its ancient past, it was

connected to the four major civilizations—Indic, Chinese, Central Asian, and Persian. As civilizations across the region experienced advancements, Kashmir was not merely a passive recipient but actively engaged with and contributed to various realms of social and intellectual pursuits. These contributions spanned religious discourse, historiography, poetic expression, musical traditions, aesthetic sensibilities, and philosophical inquiry, reflecting Kashmir's vibrant and dynamic role in the broader cultural landscape. In the field of philosophy, Kashmir was a simmering cauldron of various philosophies like **six Āstika** (*Sankhya, Yoga, Navya, Vesheshik, Mimansa, and Vedanta* Philosophies) philosophies, all these six schools of philosophies are believers in **Vedas** and three '**Nastika**' (*Charvaka, Buddhist, and Jain* philosophies) these philosophies are not believe in **Vedas**. Nevertheless, while scholars primarily documented philosophical treatises in Sanskrit, in the fourteenth century, Saint-poetess Lal Ded revolutionized this tradition by disseminating liberated philosophical concepts in the vernacular Kashmiri language. She conveyed her profound insights through poetic quatrains known as '*Vaakhs*', thereby making complex philosophical ideas accessible to a broader audience in a medium deeply rooted in the local culture. With the advent of Islam in Kashmir, the region's philosophical tradition, known as '*Rishi sampradaya*', emerged. Surprisingly, the *Rishi's* lifestyle and teachings resembled Hindu Acharyas more than Muslim Sufis, reflecting a unique fusion of philosophical perspectives transcending religious distinctions.

Hence, this seminar aims to reexamine the philosophical evolution of Kashmir across its historical epochs, challenging the prevailing perception of Western superiority across all intellectual domains over the East.

The aim of “**Indian Philosopher’s Day-2024**” Under the said theme is to bring into focus Kashmir’s rich contribution to philosophy and mystic thought. Contributions are welcome from scholars working on Kashmir philosophy, history, and culture/society, across disciplines in humanities and social sciences.

Some of the indicative themes include:

- Biographies and Contributions of Philosophers and Mystics from Kashmir
- Trika/ Kashmir Shaivism and Shaivite Scholars from Kashmir.
- Buddhist Philosophical Thought and Contributions from Kashmir
- Sufism and Mystic Thought from Kashmir
- Literary and Poetic Reflections of Kashmir's philosophical contributions
- Kashmir Arts and Aesthetics
- Syncretic Philosophies and Devotional and Sufi Practices

These themes are indicative, and the seminar is open to contributions on other themes of relevance to Kashmir Philosophy and Mysticism.

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