

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BUDDHIST CULTURE AND MODERN HINDI LITERATURE  
12-13 DECEMBER 2018**

To explore and discuss the Buddhist impacts in different forms of modern Hindi literature like play, novel, story, poetry, essay, and journalism, Institute organised a national seminar on Buddhist Culture and Modern Hindi Literature on 12-13 December 2018.

Based on the form of the literature the technical sessions of the seminar were arranged and authoritative scholars of the subject concerned were invited to deliver on the area concerned.



Inaugural session of the seminar was held in the Atisha Hall of the Institute. It was presided by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the Institute Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten. In his presidential address Hon'ble V.C. stressed that in the present age of violence and hatred the concept of non-violence, compassion, amity and harmony propounded by Buddhism are more relevant than ever, and the different academic communities including scientist are working on different aspects of Buddhism for the benefit humanity. Quoting the research on Emotional Quotient, Prof. Samten said that even basic practices of the Buddhism are making great changes in the human life and now it had been scientifically proved. He said that it is high time to explore the treasure of Buddhism from different aspects for the benefit of all sentient beings.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyala, Wardha (M.S.) Prof. Girishwar Mishra was the chief Guest of the Inaugural Session. In his address Prof. Mishra said that life and sayings of the Buddha ever enthralled the creative writers and poets. He quoted many references of poetry where the authors were inspired from Buddhist teachings.

Guest of honour Prof. Harishchandra Mishra of Vishwa Bharti, Shantiniketan, said that creative literature is an attempt to get over from inertia and philosophy is thinking of thinking. Prof Mishra delivered on the philosophical aspects of the different forms of Hindi literature.

A noted Hindi writer of Sant Sahitya Dr U. P. Singh (President Hindustani Academy) was also invited as Special Guest. In his address Dr Singh explained the four Noble Truth of Buddhism and their impact on the Indian culture as well as on Hindi Literature.

In the beginning of the session Registrar of the Institute Dr R K Upadhyaya welcomed the guests, Dr Ram Sudhar Singh convened the session and Prof. D. R. Singh proposed the formal Vote of thanks. All the students, faculty members, officials and invited guests were present on the occasion.

**First Technical session** was on the Buddhism and Modern Hindi Plays. This Session was chaired by Prof. Shraddhanand, M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi and addressed by Prof. Harischandra Mishra of Vishwa Bharti, Shantiniketan, Prof. Suman Jain of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Prof. Manoj Kumar Singh of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

The session was concluded with the impression that the Indian cultural renaissance was deeply impressed by the Buddhist ideologies, which is evident from the writings and social movements of Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore and his contemporary writers and social activists. This impression is more widely felt in the creative writings of Hindi play writers of early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Jaishankar Prasad of Varanasi was pioneer in the area he has written many plays based on Buddhist characters and stories among which Rajshree, Vishakh, Ajatshatru, Dhruvswami were discussed in the session and another play titled Lahron ke Rajhans written by Rangey Raghav was also discussed in details.

The session was convened by Prof. B. R. Tripathi and Sri R. K. Mishra proposed the vote of thanks.



**Second Technical session** was on the Buddhism and Modern Hindi Poetry. A well-known literary critic Prof. Awadhesh Pradhan of B.H.U., Varanasi, chaired the session and Prof. Ashish Tripathi, BHU, Varanasi, Prof. Yojana Rawat, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Prof. Sandhya Singh, NCERT New Delhi, Prof. Vidya Shankar Singh, Delhi University Delhi, Prof. Sadanand Singh, Govt. Degree College Chandauli, Dr. Vivekanand Tiwari, CIHTS Sarnath, presented their papers.

It is concluded that the Buddhism was way of living of the Indian society for many centuries, remains of which were further explored in late ninth century and some of the creative Hindi poetry writers of that period and many of the Hindi poetry writers of romanticism era and afterward were directly and/or indirectly impressed with Buddhist culture. It is very well expressed in Kamayani of Jaishankar Prasad, Bharat-Bharati (Atit Khand) of Maithili Sharan Gupt and many poetries of S.H.V. Agyey, Mahadevi Varma and Nagarjuna.

The session was convened by Dr. Anurag Tripathi and Dr Jyoti Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

**Third Technical session** was on the Buddhism and Modern Hindi Novels, fictions and stories. This Session was chaired by Prof. Prabhu Nath Dwivedi, M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi and addressed by Dr. Satyapal Sharma of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Dr. Anurag Tripathhi of CIHTS, Sarnath, Dr. Vandana Jha, Vasanta College for Women, Rajghat, Varanasi, Dr Indushekhhar Tatpurush, President Rajasthan Sahitya Academy Udaipur, Dr Ram Sudhar Singh, CIHTS, Sarnath and Dr Indivar Pandey, Varansi.

Modern Hindi literature has a great tradition of historical and history based novel writings, this session was aimed to explore and discuss the impacts of Buddhist culture especially the characters and events of Buddhist era. The session was concluded with remark that Buddhist culture has great impact on fiction writers. Many of the modern Hindi fiction writers had written on the characters and events of Buddhist era. Yashodhara Jeet Gai of Rangey Raghav, Amita and Divya of Yashpal, Amitabh of Govind Vallabh Pant, Singh Senapati of Rahul Sankrityayan, Vaishali Ki Nagar Vadhu of Acharya Chtursen, Buddha Nirvaan ki Rah par of Shiv K. Kumar, Geshe Jampa of Neeraja Madhav and Tathagat and Yashodhara of Babu Ram Tripathhi were discussed in the session.

The session was convened by Dr. Jyoti Singh and Dr Vivekanand Tiwari proposed the vote of thanks.



**Fourth Technical session** was on the Buddhism and Modern Hindi Essays. This Session was chaired by Prof. Awadhesh Pradhan of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and addressed by Prof. Suman Jain of Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Shri Om Dheeraj, Sarnath Varanasi, Dr. Jyoti Singh, CIHTS, Sarnath. Three Research Scholars of Hindi Departments of Various Institutions of Varanasi have also presented their papers in the session.

Essay writing is a realistic way of narration and it is said that the modern Hindi writers have written a lot on Buddhist tradition, culture and on Buddha's sayings. There are many renowned Hindi scholars who have written essays on the topic. Karuna ke sandesh wahak of Mahadevi Varma; Ramdhari Singh Dinkar written in a length on Buddhist culture and Buddha in his well known book Sanskriti ke Char Adhyaya; Dharm Chakra of Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi; Gautam Buddha Ka Sandesh & Yog, Vairagya aur Gautam Buddha of Ram Bilas Sharma; Mahamanav of Rahul Sankrityayan; Bhikshu purvvari aur parvarti of Rangey Raghav; Bodhisatva of Shantipriya Dwivedi are some of the well-known Hindi essays having great impact of Buddhist culture. The session concluded with remark that Buddha's sayings and Buddhist culture is a topic of great interest for the Hindi scholars and they have

successfully utilized their creativity to understand and spread the message of Lord Buddha among scholars as well as among common men.

The session was convened by Shri R K Mishra and Dr Suchita Sharma proposed the vote of thanks.

**Fifth Technical session** was on the Buddhism and Modern Hindi Journalism. This Session was chaired by Prof. Ram Mohan Pathhak of M. G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi and addressed by Dr. Kinshuk Pathhak of Bihar Central University, Gaya and Shri Chandrabhushan, Editor Nav Bharat Times Delhi. Five Research Scholars of Hindi Departments of Various Institutions of Varanasi have also presented their papers in the session.

Session concluded with remark that Buddha was a rational communicator who encouraged the practice of auto dialogue (dialogue with self) to analyse and understand the reality moreover he used the language of common man for his teachings and travelled distant places with his followers to communicate with people. This unique tradition of communication and extension continued till centuries and scholars and practitioners of Buddhism worked as messengers of Buddha by which the Buddha Dharma very quickly surpasses the boundaries of nations and in true sense became the world religion.

The session was convened by Dr. Vivekanand Tiwari.



### **Valedictory Session**

**Valedictory** session of the seminar was presided by Hon'ble V.C. of the Institute, Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth Prof. T.N. Singh was Chief Guest and Well known Hindi writer Dr Neeraja Madhav was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the valedictory Session Hon'ble Hon'ble V.C. of the Institute, Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten said that creative writing is a sentimental way to present the crux of philosophy, history, arts etc. like subjects for the common man in an easy to grasp way. He further said we should not forget that Reality and Tathata (Thusness or Suchness: the truth that governs the Universe) are important for every domain of human knowledge. He concluded that literature written with goodwill and in the light of reality always make changes in the human life.

Chief Guest of the session Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth Prof. T. N. Singh, quoting the Ajanta caves said that the remains of arts and culture of Buddhist era are living evidences for cultural, scientific and social richness of past society and propagation of culture and art only possible in a peaceful society. He further said that Buddha's teachings are ever capable to establish harmony in man, society, county and world.

Addressing the session, Guest of Honour Dr Neeraja Madhav, expressed her views on the present conditions of the Tibet and Tibetan people and said that way in which Tibetan diaspora is protesting for freedom of Tibet is the best example of Buddhist Way to protest.

Sri R K Mishra presented the summary of the Seminar and said that in all sessions of the seminar 30 scholars and 8 students presented their papers and discussed their point of view with participating scholars.

The session was convened by Dr Ram Sudhar Singh Prof. D. R. Singh proposed the vote of thanks.