



Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies Sarnath, Varanasi

A Two-Day Workshop on The Evolution of Sanskrit and Hindi Literature 5-6 December 2018

Objectives

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath is dedicated to promote the high standard research and publications with the help of its Department of Tibetan Languages and Literature since its inception. The department has published various ground-breaking research works in the interdisciplinary field of Tibetan Languages and Literature. To add another jewel to its crown, the department is currently working on the ambitious and promising project of producing an illustrative comprehensive history of Tibetan Literature.

The friendly relationship between Tibet and India has a remarkable history of interchanging of scholars and ideas alike, consequently, Tibetan Literature is highly influenced by Indian Literature and culture. Hence, it is inevitable to analyze the survey of Sanskrit, Hindi and English Literature while writing the history of Tibetan Literature. Keeping this point of view in mind, a two-day workshop was organized to discuss and explore various modes of genres, evolution and their impact.

Day First--5 December 2018 Survey of History of Sanskrit Literature

The workshop commenced with the felicitation of the invited scholars by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the institute-Professor Geshe Ngawang Samten. Professor K. N. Mishra

instituted the theme of the workshop in form of his key note speech. The discourse was categorically divided in four sessions to streamline and explain the growth of Sanskrit literature from Ancient Vedic era to Modern Sanskrit Literature.

First Session- “History of Vedic Literature”

The session started with a highly academic and fruitful lecture by the renowned scholar on Ancient Vedic Literature Professor Rammurthy Chaturvedi, Head, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth. He extensively talked about the nature of Vedas, criterion for the classification and its significance, different phases, branches and sub-branches of historicism related with Vedic Literature. He also elaborated upon the significance of *Mantra*, *Brahmana*, *Aaranyaka* and *Upnishdas* and its methodology of learning and future research problems associated with the field. He simplified an otherwise complicated era and established the theme of the session by showing its future utility and cosmopolitan appeal.

Second Session- “History of *Purana*, *Darshana* and *Dharmashastra*”

The scholar of international repute, Professor Gangadhar Panda from Sampurnananda Sanskrit University contributed to give a shape to the evolution of ancient literature by talking about *Puranas*, their time, numbers, significance, characteristics, relation with *Vedas*, *Uppurana*, *Jain-purana*, *Darshana* and *Dharmashastra*. He also discussed the future impact of ancient Vedic tradition in Sanskrit literature.

Third Session- “History of *Laukik Sahitya*”

This session was further divided in form of two different lectures to cover a long span of time period. The first lecture was delivered by Professor K N Mishra who talked about the seminal texts of this era and covered even the literature available in Pali language in various forms like poetry, dramas, fiction and epics. The second lecture was delivered by Dr. Vivek Pandey who carried forward the evolution of *Laukik* Sanskrit literature of almost two thousand

years spanning from the works of Panini to Panditraj Jaggannath. He surveyed different genres, their characteristics, rise and fall, canonization of the formats like epics, dramas, *champakavyas*, prose, literary criticism and theory, short stories, novella, novels, plays, works of oral tradition, and various important treatises of figures of speeches (*Alankaarshastras*).

Fourth Session- “History of Modern Sanskrit Literature”

A very intensive research-oriented survey of the history of Modern Sanskrit literature was attempted by the scholar Professor Prabhunath Dwivedi from the Sanskrit department of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth. He covered almost four hundred years of growth in the field of survey in a very empirical manner citing the examples from various epics, plays, novels, poems to the modern compositions. He also gave various instances of the growth in the literatures of *Pali*, *Prakrit* and *Apbhramsha* tradition.

Photographs:







Second Day- 6 December 2018

History of Hindi Literature

The daunting survey of History of Hindi Literature was divided in four sessions to cover up the journey from *Aadikaal* to Modern era.

First Session- “History of *Aadikaal*”

The renowned scholar of the field, Professor Sadananda Saahi from Benaras Hindu University traced the historical evolution of *Aadikaal* in the different traditions of *Siddha*, *Naath* and *Jaina* Literature. He empirically analyzed the classical works of *Raaso*, *Laukik* and *Dharmik* Literature with ample examples and stories.

Second Session- “History of *Bhakti Kaal*”

The evolution of religious fervor in the history of Hindi Literature was presented in a very systematic and enchanting manner in the mellifluous tone of the scholar of international repute Professor Avdesh Pradhan from Benaras Hindu University. He not only explained the causes of the rise of *Bhakti* Literature in this particular era but also demystified various myths about the

terminology related with the subject. Tracing its origin from South India to North India, he presented a very extensive survey of Bhakti Kaal quoting various poetic lines of the nomadic poets. He also elaborated upon the four mainstream branches of the religious fervor in India namely *Santkavya*, *Sufikavya*, *Ramkavya* and *Krishnakavya*. While emphasizing upon the similarities and differences of the branches he also projected the future importance and impact of these in a very lucid and easy manner.

Third Session- “History of Riti Kaal”

A very fresh and though-provoking interpretation of *Riti Kaal* was produced by the respected scholar of the field Dr. Prabhakar Singh, Benaras Hindu University. He opened up new vista to look at the era with fresh outlook and foregrounded various problems of research during historical survey of the field. He also emphasized on the value of the marginal writers and their contribution towards shaping the literature of the era.

Fourth Session- History of Modern Hindi Literature

A daunting, yet substantial; extensive, yet crispy and informative lecture was delivered on the topic by Professor Ramsudhar Singh from the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies. He traced it back to the literary Renaissance from the 19th century to the development of Modern Hindi Literature in *khadi boli*. He delineated a sweeping survey of the era, highlighting the cultural, political and social background which produced highly acclaimed works in the different genres like essays, poetry, prose, novel, plays and short stories. Quoting extensively from various writes of the given span of time, he presented a very lively pictures of its historical evolution from *Khadi Boli Kavya*, *Chaayavaad*, *Pragativaad*, *Prayogvaad* to *Nai Kavitha* and *contemporary literature*.

For the successful completion of the workshop, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the institute- Professor Geshe Ngawang Samten congratulated the organizers and emphasized over the need of such academic events in the future. He also elaborated upon the

intersection of Tibetan and Indian Literature and challenges of such a project in the end.

The vote of thanks was delivered by the Head of Department of Tibetan Language and Literature- Dr. Lakpa Tsering. Dr. Ramsudhar Singh coordinated all the sessions in a very lucid and informative way.

Photographs:





