

अनुलोमगतिनौर्स्थः पश्यत्यचलं विलोमगं यद्वत् ।
अचलानि भानि तद्वत् समपश्चिमगानि लङ्कायाम् ॥

Just as a man in a boat moving forward sees the stationary
objects moving backward, just so are the stationary stars seen by people at
Lanka (at the equator) moving exactly towards the west.

(Aryabhatta in Aryabhatiya, Ch IV, Stanza 9, 5th century AD)



Seminar on the Hindu Period in India (500AD-1500AD)

Let us explore India's Cultural History – V

Saturday, November 3, 2018 | 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Bemis Hall, 15 Bedford Road, Lincoln, MA

ब्रह्म सत्यं जगन्मिथ्या जीवो ब्रह्मैव नापरः ।

Brahman (ब्रह्म, the Absolute) is alone real; this world is unreal;
the Jiva (जीव) or the individual soul is non-different from Brahman (ब्रह्म).

(Shankracharya in brahmajnanavalimala Stanza 20, 8th century AD)

गौर्गौः कामदुधा सम्यक्प्रयुक्ता स्मर्यते बुधैः।
दुष्प्रयुक्ता पुनर्गौत्वं प्रयोक्तुः सैव शंसति॥

Word well used is declared by the wise to be the wish-yielding cow;
the same ill-used indicates the user's cow-like nature.
(Dāṇḍī in Kāvyaḍarśa, Chapter I, Stanza 6, 7th century AD)

आलोकार्थी यथा दीपशिखायां यत्नवाञ्जनः।
तदुपायतया तद्वदर्थे वाच्ये तदादृतः॥

Just as a man interested in perceiving objects directs his efforts in securing a lamp,
so also, one creates words in speech in order to communicate.
(Anandavardhana in Dhvanyāloka , Chapter I, Stanza 9, 9th century AD)

SEMINAR ON THE HINDU PERIOD IN INDIA, 500AD-1500AD.

PROGRAM

Session I

9:30 – 12:15

Welcome, announcements – Dr. Satyendra Sharma

Invocation recitation – *excerpts from Soundaryalahari, a composition by Hindu Saint Shankaracharya in 8th century*
– Ms. Srilakshmi Srinivasan accompanied on keyboard by Dr. Ravi Mosurkal

“Hindu Period Geography and People” – Ms. Hardeep Mann

“Hindu Practices and Living as A Hindu” – Mr. Giri Bharathan, Samskrita Bharati, USA

“Hindu Period Language and Literature” – Mr. Prem Nagar

“Evolution of Sufi Literature in India” – Dr. Sunil Sharma, Boston University, Boston, MA

“Hindu Period Philosophy and Religion” – Dr. Satyendra Sharma

Lunch - 12:15 - 1:00

Session II

1:00- 4:00

Musical Rendering of *Sri Raghuviradadyam –a composition by poet Vedanta Desika of 13th century*
– Dr. Mukundan K Santhanam and Mr. V. Ramapriya

“Hindu Period Art and Culture” – Dr. Jaidev Dasgupta

“Buddhism in China” – Mr. ChowChin Chuang, Massachusetts Buddhist Association Lexington, MA

“Hindu Period Science and Technology” – Dr. Bijoy Misra

“Hindu Period Economy and Politics” – Ms. Bhavani Vankineni

Q&A and Discussion

Shabad from The Guru Granth Sahib – Mr. Sarbpreet Singh, Gurmat Sangeet Project, Boston, MA

Vote of Thanks – Dr. Bijoy Misra

*We find that different counsels have confused the designation of Tien-chu,
the old names were Shen-tu or Hien-tu; now we must conform to the correct
pronunciation and call it Yin-tu. The people of Yin-tu use local appellations
for their respective countries, the various districts having different customs,
adopting a general designation, and one which the people like.*

We call the country Yin-tu which means the "Moon".

(Yuan Chwang, Buddhist pilgrim from China, in diary Travels in India, 629-645 AD)

Contributors:

Guest speakers and participants:

Dr. Sunil Sharma is professor of Persian and Indian literatures at Boston University. He has published several books and articles on Indo-Persian and Urdu literature. One of his areas of research is the medieval courtier-Sufi poet Amir Khusrau. His latest book is *"Mughal Arcadia: Persian Poetry in an Indian Court"*.

Mr. ChowChin Chuang hails from Taiwan and is an engineer. He is diligent Buddhist Practitioner and has been a member of the Massachusetts Buddhist Association since 1990. Besides Buddhism, he keeps interest in India, art, meditation, trade. Silk road, Russia, Germany and Japan.

Mr. Giri Bharathan grew up in a traditional Hindu family in rural Tamilnadu, India. He is a software engineer in the field of data communication and a scholar in Sanskrit. He teaches Sanskrit nationally and volunteers for Samskrita Bharati, a nonprofit organization to promote Sanskrit speaking and use.

Mrs. Srilakshmi Srinivasan is an artist, performer, composer and a poet.

Dr. Mukundan Kandanur Santhanam is a Sanskrit scholar and a priest at Dwarkamai Vidyapeeth, Billerica, MA.

Mr. Vrittamani Ramapriya is retired engineer and a student of the scriptures.

Mr. Sarbpreet Singh is a playwright, commentator and poet. He serves as an interfaith religious counsellor in Northeastern University.

Moderator:

Dr. Sonal Jhaveri studied Physics, Mathematics, Psychology and Neuroscience. She is in the Faculty of Brain and Cognitive Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, also is associated with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She teaches writing and science communication.

Research Presenters:

Ms. Hardeep Mann is a textile designer and a social activist. With family rooting and upbringing, she developed sincere attachment to Indian culture and to understand its diversity. She is an active member of the South Asia Center in Cambridge and participates regularly with the meetings in India Discovery Center.

Mr. Amitava Ganguly studied in India and the US, and served as a financial professional in India. He is interested in India's art and history and has been a contributor to the IDC Essay project. He lives in Delhi, India.

Dr. Jaidev Dasgupta is a scientist, technologist, and an entrepreneur. He has authored several articles on India and published the book "In Search of Immortality: An Introduction to Indic World-views." He served in the Faculty of at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. He creates summary posters for India Discovery Center.

Mr. Prem Nagar is a technology professional and works for the Oracle Corporation. He is a researcher in the field of cognitive science and contributes scientific papers in the field. He is a poet and a scholar in Hindi. He serves as a Director of India Discovery Center.

Dr. Satyendra Sharma comes from a family of scholars in Rajasthan, India. He works as a technical professional in a local company. Bred in philosophy and literature, he is an avid participant in the religious and devotional events in the area. He serves as Director of India Discovery Center.

Dr. Bijoy Misra is a physicist, Sanskrit scholar and a poet. He keeps interest in teaching young children and organizing community activities in culture. He is in the Faculty of Harvard University. He is the Founder and President of India Discovery Center.

Ms. Bhavani Vankineni "Vani" is an IT professional with active participation in Indian scriptural reading, cultural productions and in community service. Empathetic in nature, she offers hand to people in need where she can. She serves as the Treasurer of India Discovery Center.

“Study of the Hindu Period (500AD-1500AD)” is the fifth seminar offering in a series entitled “Let us Explore the Cultural History of India”

Synopsis of the tracks in today's seminar:

Geography and People: The period witnessed erosion of the central administration in favor of strong regionalism. The land was opulent and trade revenue was excellent. Individuality was respected and new designs in art, architecture, food, music and dance emerged. While the country remained prosperous with magnificent monuments, it became politically weak.

Art and Culture: The period was an era of dynamism, self-expression, growth, and diversity. Artists and artisans forged distinctive cultural identities in different regions. New and different works in architecture, sculptures, paintings, music, dance and drama emerged. With opulence in society, art took root in folk culture influencing the social festivals and faith assemblies.

Language and Literature: Regional languages got established with coded grammar. Scripts developed. Analytic work on word and sound led to theories of perception and poetics. Stories from the epics Rāmāyaṇa and Mahābhārata and the scriptures were retold. Prolific literature in poetry, drama, art, music, medicine, architecture and agriculture developed.

Philosophy and Religion: Indian Philosophy took theological trend. Belief in incarnations and anthropomorphism became part of religion. Tantra became a religious discipline. *Advaita* school of thought helped democratization of self-expression. Buddhist faith declined with external religions like Islam and Christianity affected various parts of the country.

Science and Technology: Scientific research expanded to work on Earth's orbital parameters, theory of infinitesimals, the modes of human perception and the theory of poetics. Metallurgy and civil engineering reached new heights. Search for new elements led to work in chemistry and alchemy. Improvement in navigational tools aided ocean transport.

Economy and Politics: Span of agriculture expanded with diverse crops adding to the tax revenue. Maritime trade flourished creating new markets and brought in wealth. Individual talent was supported through administrative processes and royal patronage. Regional kingdoms prospered, but boundary conflicts emerged. Islamic invaders managed to occupy the land.

Sponsors (Charter members): Dr. Umaballav Mishra, Dr. Dinesh Shah, Mr. Chandramouli Subbaraman Mr. Mahendra S Bakshi, Mr. Sarboday Misra, Dr. Ramaiya Balachandra, Mr. Ram N Gupta, Anonymous.

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ہوئی سکھ ملیا میں ملہ میں سوارہ آپ
ہوئی تیرا جگ سبھ رہہ ہو میرا تے جے فریدہ

Aap Swareh Main Milahe Main Milaya Sukh Hoye
Farida Jey Tun Mera Ho Rahihe Sabh Jag Tera Hoye

Through contemplation and cultivation Self reveals and brings joy.

The whole world is in this self, it is yours.

(Baba Farid, Punjabi Muslim Mystic, 12th century AD)