



अनेकसंशयोच्छेदि, परोक्षार्थस्यदर्शकम्।सर्वस्यलोचनंशास्त्रं, यस्यनास्त्यन्धएवसः॥

National Conference
INDIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY & HISTORIOGRAPHY
(1st – 3rd August, 2018)

Organised by

Department of History, Sikkim University

In association with

Bhartiya ItihasSankalan&Vijanana Bharati





THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE
INDIAN SCIENCE: HISTORY & HISTORIOGRAPHY

ORGANISED BY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, SIKKIM UNIVERSITY

In association with
BHARTIYA ITIHAS SANKALAN & VIJANANA BHARATI

1ST -3RD AUGUST, 2018



About Sikkim University:

Sikkim University is a Central University established in 2007 by an Act of Parliament and is fully funded by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi. At present the University has 32 academic departments organized under 6 Schools of Studies. Sikkim University is at present located in and around Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, which borders on Bhutan, China and Nepal on its east, north and west respectively. The process of building a world-class campus on a plot of land measuring 300 acres at Yangyang in the South District of Sikkim and located 56 kilometers from Gangtok is going on.

About Sikkim

While to the Lepchas- the land is "Nye-mae-el" (Paradise), to the Bhutias it is "BeymulDenzong" (The hidden valley of Rice), the name Sikkim is commonly attributed to the Tsong's word "Sukhim" meaning (New or Happy Home) .

Small but beautiful, Sikkim situated in the Eastern Himalayas spread below the world's third highest mountain Kangchendzonga (8585m) revered by the Sikkimese as their protective deity. Sikkim is separated by the Singalila range from Nepal in the west, Chola range from Tibet in the northeast and Bhutan in the southeast. Rangit and Rangpo rivers form the borders with the Indian state of West Bengal in the south.

Sikkim is the 22nd state of India came into existence with effect from 26th April, 1975. Sikkim has been divided into four districts and each district has further been bifurcated into two sub-divisions for administrative purpose. Ethically Sikkim has mainly three groups of people viz. *Nepalis, Bhutias, Lepchas*. The local language is Nepali. English is the official language. Wrapped in mists and clouds, a garden state with an incredible variety of rhododendrons & a host of other flowers Sikkim is one of the world's richest bio-diversity hot spots and one of the twenty top tourist destinations.

How to Reach Gangtok

The nearest airport is at Bagdogra, of Siliguri city of West Bengal. The distance between Bagdogra and Gangtok is about 124 km. Taxis to Gangtok are available on hire at the airport. The nearest railway station is New Jalpaiguri Station (NJP), which is about 125 km from Gangtok. Gangtok is well-connected by road with Siliguri, Darjeeling and Kalimpong by National Highway No. 10. There are regular services of Sikkim Nationalized Transport buses, private buses and light vehicles from Siliguri, Bagdogra and New Jalpaiguri for coming to Gangtok.

Weather Alert

Sikkim experiences rain showers almost all the year round, monsoon period is July till October, It is advisable to carry an umbrella/ raincoat with you all the time when visiting Sikkim.

Concept Note of the Seminar

In the debate between the Local and Global it is more than often that western science & technology is accepted as benchmark to measure and evaluate the achievements of traditional knowledge. While Western intellectual discourse has marginalized the term 'traditional' with the connotation of 'pre-modern' in the sense of 'primitive' or 'outdated', many of the traditional sciences and technologies were quite advanced by 'modern' standards as well as better adapted to unique local

conditions and needs than their later substitutes. The discourses like - science verses magic, technology verses superstitions, modern versus tradition – was promoted by European colonizers to systematically exterminated or undermine local traditional science, technology and crafts. Aside from intellectual arrogance, there was a profit motive to this – as evidenced by Britain's conquest of Indian textile and metallurgical know-how. Many anthropologists who have recently worked with so-called 'primitive' peoples have been surprised to learn of some of their highly evolved and sophisticated technologies.

In Eurocentric historiography History of Science & Technology originates from the knowledge of and reaches its modern hegemonic status through Renaissance and modern ages. Colonial historians ignored India's past and denied its knowledge the identity it deserved, the space it commanded. Macaulay had a massive impact on depiction of Indian history and numerous achievements of Indian Science & Technology were denied acknowledgement.

In the light of archaeological evidences when it became impossible to ignore the existence of Indian knowledge the colonial might was used to deny the continuity of system and to assert that past glories do not belong to the present world. Asserting supremacy in all aspects colonial masters denied space to traditional knowledge in text and in practice. The colonial claim of White Man's civilising burden was asserted through introduction of western science in all spheres. Educated classes of Indians were forced fed the aspect of western supremacy and the notion of pre-colonial India being feudal, backward thus needing colonial stewardship for its emancipation.

Unfortunately, even after independence majority of Indian intellectuals continued to use European parameters to judge Indian society and thus although much work was done in analysing the feudal past, the class and caste, not much significant work was carried out to bring forward the pioneering achievements of India in the field of science & technology.

The conferences propose to look into the realms of Traditional science and to engage with the emerging discourses of rediscovering the traditional knowledge and its dissemination throughout the world. It seeks to understand the contribution of Indian knowledge in all the spheres of human life and to search for the global within the local.

Major theme for discussion “*Indian Science: History & Historiography*” seeks to initiate a dialogue among historians and scientists working on Indian Science & Technology on various aspects of ‘Traditional Knowledge System’ which as a scientific system has its own validity.

Call for Papers

We invite original research papers to discuss the history and historiography of Indian Science related but not exclusively limited to the following sub-themes:

- **Science in prehistory: archaeological evidences and narratives**
- **Materialistic and Scientific attitude of Vedic period: Growth of scientific literature & practices**
- **Dissemination of knowledge: Journey of Indian Science & Technology in ancient world beyond boundaries.**
- **Indian Religion: Debating belief, practices and scientific values**
- **Tribal knowledge: Unacknowledged Scientific tradition.**
- **Framing of tradition: Astronomy, Astrology, Vaastu, Yoga, Siddha and their popular image.**
- **Political changes of medieval period: impact on science, technology and medicine**
- **Early encounter with Europe: acceptance and amalgamation**
- **Rise of Colonial hegemony & paramount supervision: denial of space**
- **Post-independence historiography: continuance of denial and untold narratives of Indian achievements.**

Teachers, scholars and students who wish to contribute to the academic discourse are invited to present papers in this seminar. They may submit an abstract of not more than 300 words by 10th July, 2018. The abstract must include a few key words and must be submitted along with a brief bio-note of the presenter at sciencehistoriography@gmail.com. The abstract in English should be written in Times New Roman, font size 14 and should not include any foot note. For Hindi scholar must use Devlys 010 or Kruti Dev 010 font, font size 14 and in double spacing. Accepted abstracts will be notified by 14th July, 2018.

Each paper presenter will be given 15 minutes for presentation followed by 5 minutes of discussion. All participants are expected to attend all the sessions of the seminar. Certificates for paper presentation will be handed over in the Valedictory Session on 3rd August, 2018.

The final full-length paper must be submitted by 25th July, 2018. Selected complete papers will be considered for publication in a volume with an ISBN number. The final paper should be of 3000-5000 words (including end notes and work cited) with an abstract of not more than 500 words. Paper should be written in Times New Roman, font size 14, double spacing and alignment justified. Authors should follow MLA 7th edition for citation. Complete full-length papers should be submitted at sciencehistoriography@gmail.com

Each paper presenter will have to register at the registration desk on the first day of the seminar, 1st August, 2018. For joint paper, each presenter will have to register separately. The registration fee for the seminar is as follows:

Registration fees for Teachers with accommodation: Rs 5000

Registration fees for Research Scholars with accommodation: Rs 4000

Registration fee for Teachers without accommodation: Rs 1500

Registration fees for Research Scholars without accommodation: Rs 1000

The Registration fee includes conference kit, a printed copy of submitted abstracts and refreshment and lunch for three days. No TA/DA shall be paid to the presenters.

Paper presenters seeking accommodation must inform the organising committee by 15th July'2018.

For further queries please contact the persons mentioned below:

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Important Dates:

Last Date for Submission of Abstracts: 10th July, 2018

Intimation of Acceptance: 14th July, 2018

Last Date for Submission of Complete Paper: 25th July, 2018

Last Date of Registration: 1st August, 2018

Out of all the papers submitted for presentation one will be awarded as Best Paper based on recommendation of review committee. To be considered for this award the paper in full must be submitted on or before 20th July, 2018 along with full payment of registration fees.

Seminar Organizing Committee

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