

International Conference on ‘Retrieving the Voices from the Margins: Thinkers of Modern India’ (Second Chapter) (24-26 March 2018)

Concept Note:

The Second Chapter of International Conference on ‘Retrieving the Voices from the Margins: Thinkers/Writers of Modern India’ is intended to focus on critically examining the relevance of the vision of those modern Indian thinkers/writers/artists whose dharma-centric world-views as represented in their works/texts have so far been neglected in the domain of cultural/literary studies in contemporary Bharat/India. In the first chapter of the Conference which was held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (11-13 August 2017) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, the emphasis was on the critical examination of the worldviews of the thinkers of modern India whose civilizationally and socially significant vision remains hitherto occluded or ignored in the dominant academic discourses in India. In the second IAS Shimla Chapter of the Conference, due emphasis will be laid on the significance of the interrelated literary, cultural and philosophical worldviews of the hitherto neglected writers/ thinkers of modern India in contemporary socio-cultural contexts.

1. Objectives and Significance of the Conference:-

- A. To critically examine voices and worldviews of the hitherto marginalized/neglected Indian writers/thinkers having a bearing on literary/cultural studies at present with special reference to such issues as identity, nation/nationalism, class, caste, gender, ecology, literature, language, culture and society etc). Even the hitherto less or unexplored aspects of the works of some of the major modern writers/thinkers, having a bearing on the above issues may also be analysed.
- B. To focus on, how in the works of the hitherto ignored modern writers, the modern is reinscribed and reconstructed in accordance with polycentric Indian wisdom traditions.
- C. To critically analyses the significance of the world-views of the hitherto ignored modern Indian writers in contemporary literary/cultural/social/political/ecological contexts.

An International conference on ‘Retrieving the Voices from the Margins: Thinkers of Modern India’ (Second chapter) was organised at IAS in collaboration with Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during 24-26 March 2018. Professor Chandrakala Padia, Ex-Chairperson, IAS & Professor, Department of Political Science Banaras Hindu University Varanasi (U.P.) and Professor Sudhir Kumar, Professor of English, DES-MDRC, Panjab University Chandigarh were the Conveners of the conference. The welcome address was given by Professor Chandrakala Padia, convener of the conference. Professor Sudhir Kumar, convener of the conference gave introductory remarks. Prefatory Remarks was given by Professor Kapil Kapoor, Chairman, IAS. The Keynote address was delivered by Shri Rajiv

Malhotra, Chairman, Infinity Foundation, USA. Professor Kapil Kapoor gave Presidential address.

PARTICIPANTS:

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- Professor Shankar Sharan, Department of Political Science, NCERT, New Delhi 58
- Professor Arvind Sharma, Associate Professor, Faculty of Religious Studies, McGill University, Canada
- Professor Sadanand Shahi, Department of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, UP
- Professor Anand Kumar, Former Professor & Head, Department of Reproductive Biology, AIIMS, New Delhi
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- Professor Awadhesh Pradhan, Department of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- Ms. Shilpi Das, Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of English, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal
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