

National Seminar on ‘Relevance of Triguna Theory in Contemporary World’ (03-04 October 2018)

Concept Note:

Behaviour of human being is integral part of humanity since times immemorial. Behaviour emanates from thinking or psychology/ cognitive framework. Concept of Gunas originated and has been described in Atharva Veda. Indian philosophies discuss human behaviour in the course of explaining their entities ‘tattvas’. Bhagwat Gita and Samkhya darshana explains guna and implications in real life. These are discussed as unique features or characteristics of an individual with respect to personality traits and behaviour. Right from the Vedic period this philosophy has been deliberated by Socrates, Kant and Wittgenstein. Soul is vital life form in human body that provides life and consciousness to body and mind and is the unifying element of the universe. Samkhya, ancient Indian philosophy is a dualist theory that relies on existence on realities of Purusha (soul, spirit) and Prakriti (matter). Matter is comprised of body and mind or psyches that are physical aspects of human body whereas soul or the spirit or atma signifies ultimate consciousness. Psychology of any individual comprises of three primary dimensions; Satva guna, Rajas guna and Tamas guna. These are three constituents described in Samkhya Philosophy correspondingly reflect spirituality, activity and inertia. All are omniscient but in divergent quantities. Proportion of each depends on state of mind of each individual with ultimate aim of achieving highest form Satva, the most peaceful and productive to mankind. All three constituents are beautifully enunciated in the Srimad Bagwat Geeta (14th, 17th and 18th Cantos) as central force that help reaching harmony with the divine law. One promotes the other to bring out the best in human being. Inertia or rest to body is as important as wisdom or goodness Looking inwards and introspection of own behaviour brings out the best in a personality. Samkhya philosophy focuses on complete awareness of soul and that it is free from all sufferings. Vedanta philosophy postulates that the soul is blissful and it spreads happiness and influences individual psyche positively (1.1.3, 2000BC).

Project Summary

Overall Objectives and Broad Themes

- a) To discuss ‘Triguna Model’ as illuminated in Samkhya Philosophy.
- b) To deliberate on ‘Personality Traits’ as identified by Western Scholars.
- c) To critically examine ‘Personality theories’ as in other philosophies.
- d) Understand individual, behaviour and character in Triguna Dimension.
- e) Implications of Triguna theory for next generation: Way forward.

Sub – Themes

- a) Indian philosophy and Triguna theory.
- b) Contemporary personality philosophies.
- c) Need to improve inter-personal relations via Triguna Spectrum.
- d) Triguna for effective behavior.

Expected Outcomes

The modern world is dynamic and emotions and gunas are limited to individual belief systems. Kalyug has its effect on the kind of personalities that we are. The seminar will focus on importance of Triguna theory and application of theory in contemporary world. The discourse is expected to bring new insights and better understanding of the theory. Discussion and brainstorming are likely to identify and quantify measures to be adopted to enable society to use this theory in daily life and be effective at work place. The outcome proposed to develop some scholarly value - addition to already existing scholarship on the subject. The deliberations would attempt at redefining the Triguna - relevance in present day state of chaos and uncertainties.

Target Outcome

- a) Generate awareness about Indian philosophy-based theories on human behaviour, body, mind and soul.
- b) Understand Triguna and contemporary theories.
- c) Application of Triguna on individuals and society.
- d) Identify and bring improvement in personal traits of participants.
- e) Measuring barometer for application of the theory for future generation.

A National seminar on '*Relevance of Triguna Theory in Contemporary World*' was organised at IAS during 03-04 October 2018. Brig. JS Rajpurohit, Ph.D., BGS (Concepts CP), HQ ARTRAC, Shimla, Lt. Col.(Dr.) Jyoti Satpathy, National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune and Professor Ramesh Chandra Pradhan, National Fellow, IAS were the Conveners of the seminar. Professor Chaman Lal Gupta, Vice Chairman, IAS delivered the Welcome address. Brig JS Rajpurohit, Convener of the seminar gave introductory remarks. Special address was given by Lt. Gen. P G Kamath (Retd.), PVSM, AVSM, YSM, SM. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. L.D. Mishra, IAS (Retd). Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jyoti Satpathy, Convener of the seminar proposed the vote of thanks.

Participants:

- Dr. Srinivasan Krishnamurthy, Department of Saiva Siddhannta Philosophy, School of Religions, Philosophy and Humanist Thought, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai
- Mr. Subhankar Roy, Research Scholar, Department of English, Adamas University, Barasat, West Bengal
- Dr. Sopan Shinde, Assistant Professor of English and PhD Scholar, Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur
- Ms. Shikha Rajpurohit, PhD Candidate, School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Dr. Siddhartha Dave, Loksabha Research Fellow, G 304, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector 30, Gurugram, Haryana
- Dr. Ashutosh Vyas, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi, Delhi
- Dr. N Ganesh Rao, A-12/46, Sunder Nagar, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai
- Dr. Lakshmidhar Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Apartment No. 69, B-13, Anupam Co-Op Group Housing Society, Vasundhara Enclave, Delhi

- Dr. Chinmayee Satpathy, , B J B Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Dr. Lalitha Sarma R, Department of English, Faculty of Basic Sciences and Humanities, Indian Naval Academy, Kerala
- Dr. Anil Kumar Paliwal, Principal, Government College, Simalwara