



National Seminar on

Sufi Literature and India's Cultural Pluralism

PG Department of English
KARIM CITY COLLEGE, JAMSHEDPUR
in collaboration with
KHUSRO FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI

30th November & 1st December 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS





Dear Esteemed Academic,

The PG Department of English, Karim City College,
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand and Khusro Foundation, New Delhi
invite you to a Two-Day National Seminar, in blended mode,
titled Sufi Literature and India's Cultural Pluralism on
30th November and 1st December 2022.



*My heart has become capable of every form:
A meadow for gazelles, a monastery for monks,
A house of idols, the Ka'aba for the pilgrims,
Tablets of the Torah, the corpus of the Qur'an.
I follow the religion of love.
Wherever love's camels turn, there lies
My religion, my faith.*

Ibn 'Arabi

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Pluralism is central to Indian identity. We have an age old tradition of pluralism which dates back to the time when Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism were coexisting in India and when different races and faiths across the world were making India their home, their nation. Our pluralism comes from the 'anekantvad' theory in Bhagwatisutra of Mahavira, from the philosophy of 'vasudhaiv kutumbakam' and from the vision of 'wahdatul wajood'. Various forms of contact characterise the geopolitical space of India. Migrations, trade, travel, pilgrimage, conquests, invasions and colonisation played an important role in creating India as an inclusive and pluralistic entity. Epistemological, ontological and philosophical pluralism acknowledges the existence and equality of different ways of 'being', 'thinking' and 'knowing'. Migrating races brought with them their cultures, languages, religions, spiritualism, ethics, philosophy, customs and rituals, festivals, cuisine, clothing, music, literature, painting, sculpture, architecture and behaviour pattern. The migrants maintained their unique identity within the wider culture. Meanwhile an extensive indigenization of the migrant groups also happened creating India's cultural pluralism. India's pluralism inevitably seeks accommodation, negotiation, and understanding.

ABOUT THE SEMINAR


Sufism is the celebration of this Indian pluralism. It is the voice of co-existence. Sufism blossomed in India's openness and pluralism. Sufism plays a phenomenal role in the promotion of cultural pluralism in India. It is an strengthening force in pluralism. The Sufi shrines are inclusive. They provide food, shelter and spiritual solace to those who are often marginalized and stigmatised by the society. The 'dargaahs' (hospices) are always open even to those who are not identified with conventional gender categories. They not only welcome but provide spiritual 'safe space' to the people belonging to the third gender. Sufism transcends caste, class, gender and even religious hierarchies.

Sufism offers a wide range of literature. This includes commentaries on the Qur'an, biographical works of the Sufis (tazkiraas), correspondences (maktubaat), conversations (malfuzaat), Question & Answers (majlusaat), tales (hikayaats), creative prose, manuals of conduct, belles-lettres, liturgies, philosophy, cosmology, ethics, etc. However the most benefitted genre of literature is poetry. Sufi poems are written in a wide range of languages. Sufism enriches the linguistic as well as the musical tradition of India and music helps Sufism to reach the common people. Amir Khusro is the most linguistically pluralistic writer of his times. Amir Khusro not only wrote poetry but also played an important role in the development of a few percussion instruments and the Sufi style of Hindustani music. A new style of poetry writing and singing developed with the effect of Sufism and it further led to the development of dance forms like Kathak.



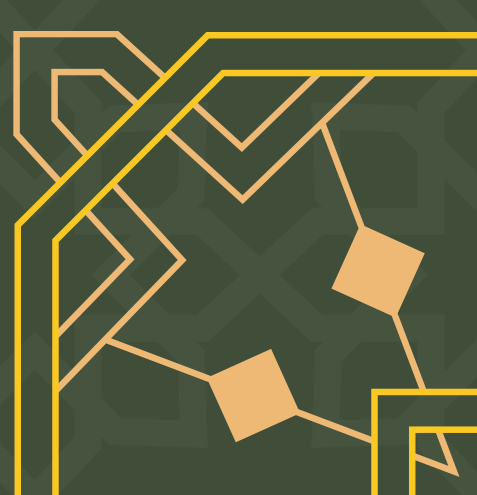

The seminar is proposed to take care of the following broad areas with reference to Sufi Literature and India's Cultural Pluralism:

- Syncretic Sufism
- Transcending caste, class, gender, and even religious hierarchies
- Interfaith Harmony, Freedom, Human Rights, Peaceful Co-existence
- Inclusive Discourse
- Sufism as Voice of Dissent against the Conventions and Status Quo
- Preference of the Vernacular Languages by Sufi writers.
- Sufism and Religion
- Sufism and Spirituality
- Sufism and Romanticism
- Sufism and Performing Art



Abstracts of not more than 250-300 words, with three to five key words, are invited on, but are not restricted to, the above broad areas or the following sub-themes:

- Role of Sufi Literature and Poetry in India's Composite Culture
- Sufi Poetry & Music
- Mahfil-e-Sama (Qawwali)
- Sufi Singing/Music and Indian Cinema
- Linguistic Plurality within the Sufi Tradition
- Multilingualism and Sufi Literature
- Resistance and Sufi Poetry
- Pluri-lingualism, the Literary Phenomenon and Sufism
- Cultural Pluralism and Sufi Literature
- The Rise of 'Hindwi' language and Literature
- Religious Pluralism and Sufi Literature
- Role of Sufi and Bhakti Literature in Cultural Plurality



Note: Along with English, abstracts and papers will be accepted in Hindi and Urdu also.



PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- You are invited to be a part of this National Seminar either in person or through virtual mode.
- Register yourself through the Google link <https://forms.gle/feF5xXzc3nTKtCKR6> latest by 30th October 2022 till midnight. The Google form contains the payment mode also. Make the payments and register.
- The paper presenters in English should mail their abstract (after registering through the Google link), in 250/300 words, typed in 12 font size of New Times Roman with a line space of 1.5, on english@karimcitycollege.com latest by 5th November 2022.
- The paper presenters in Hindi should mail their abstract (after registering through the Google link) on dr.guptasubhashchandra@gmail.com latest by 5th November 2022.
- The paper presenters in Urdu should mail their abstract (after registering through the Google link) on mynameisahmedbadr@gmail.com latest by 5th November 2022.
- Acceptance of abstract will be informed through mail between 6 to 8 November. An online book of abstract will be released on 15th November 2022.
- Send your full papers latest by 20th November 2022. It is compulsory to send the full papers along with a plagiarism check certificate failing which we will be unable to include your paper in the proposed book. All papers, received for the seminar, will be published in an ISBN book by Authors Press, New Delhi. The papers should follow the latest (9th) version of MLA and should be composed in MS Word, typed in 12 font size of New Times Roman with a line space of 1.5. Send the papers on the same email address on which you have sent your abstract latest by 20th November 2022.
- Certificates of paper presentation will be given to the presenters during the valedictory session or it will be sent through speed post to those who will present their papers in the virtual mode.
- A whatsapp group will be created for the paper presenters to share all links and relevant information.

REGISTRATION FEE

(to be paid at the time of registration):

For 'on the Venue' Presentation:

Faculty : Rs 1000/- INR

Research Scholars: Rs 750/- INR

PG Students: Rs 750/- INR

For Online Presentation:

Faculty : Rs 1250/- INR

Research Scholars: Rs 1000/- INR

PG Students: Rs 1000/- INR

Working lunch and tea will be served to the 'on the venue' paper presenters however they have to arrange for their own stay and dinner.

Important Dates:

Last Date of Registration: 30th October

Submission of Abstract: 5th November

Submission of Full Paper: 20th November

Important Contacts:

For participation related issues:

Prof. Saket Kumar, 9631199900

For payment issues:

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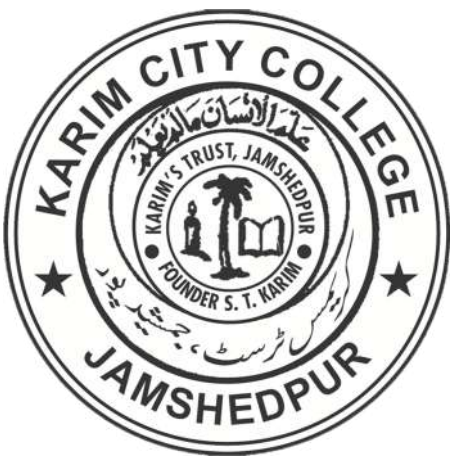
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