



The Indian Council for
Cultural Relations



“Issues and Perspectives in Indology”

Virtual Webinar

organised by

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

in

collaboration with

The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR

Convener

Dr. Sharad Deshpande

19-21 November 2020 at 3.00 p.m. (IST)

Indian Council of Cultural Relations

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India, founded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 9th April 1950.

The objectives of the Council are to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people; to establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture; and to take such measures as may be required to further these objectives.

The ICCR is about a communion of cultures, a creative dialogue with other nations. To facilitate this interaction with world cultures, the Council strives to articulate and demonstrate the diversity and richness of the cultures of India, both in and with other countries of the world.

The Council prides itself on being a pre-eminent institution engaged in cultural diplomacy and the sponsor of intellectual exchanges between India and partner countries. It is the Council's resolve to continue to symbolize India's great cultural and educational efflorescence in the years to come.

Message



It is my delight to be a part of the Indology Webinar which is organized by ICCR in collaboration with the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune. ICCR took the initiative of organizing the Indology Conference in the year 2015 and the first Indology Conference was held in New Delhi at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Subsequently, conferences were held in the years 2016 in China and 2018 at St Petersburg, Russia. In this series, a 3-day webinar “Issues and Perspectives of Indology” is being organized from 19-21 November 2020, that is intended to develop a network of academic communication and conceptual construct through the creation of a common platform for discussing and understanding the methodologies utilized for studying the historical and comparative method based on Indian texts in the study of Indian society, its traditions, heritage and civilizational values .

I am sure the webinar will highlight the true spirit of Indian culture and its genesis and touch upon various aspects of Indian traditions, be it Natyashastra, Sanskrit or future prospects and importance of studying Indology and also help in identifying the challenges we are facing so as to acknowledge them and carve a way forward.

The present scenario has confirmed our belief in our Indian traditions-be it the “Namaskar”, the Indian way of greetings, “the importance of age old natural remedies”, jyotisha, astronomy, Vedic mathematics or philosophy, the list is inexhaustible. It is high time that we identify and promote our knowledge systems and understand contemporary relevance of Indological research.

(Dinesh K Patnaik)
Director General, ICCR

Concept Note

Issues and Perspectives in Indology

How should Indian scholars contribute to the generation of a new Indology in partnership with their confreres in the global arena in a manner which is true to the spirit and substance of India's rich, varied and living cultural heritage? What would be the appropriate epistemological underpinning of such a reconstructed *Bhārat-Vidyā* that could serve as a vehicle to understand India's civilizational self?

Focusing on these questions, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi in association with Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), Pune is organizing a Webinar to address some of the methodological, archaeological, historical, sociological, and environmental issues involved in understanding the complexities of Indian society with particular attention to desiderata including the identification and use of source materials, knowledge systems, and methods of translation and interpretation. The objectives of the webinar are **(a)** to focus on contemporary value/relevance of Indological research **(b)** to take forward some major debates in Indology, and **(c)** to stress inter-disciplinary potential of Indology.

Schedule of Webinar

Date & Time: 19-21 November 2020 (three days)

Opening Day – Thursday, 19 November 2020 – 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. (IST)

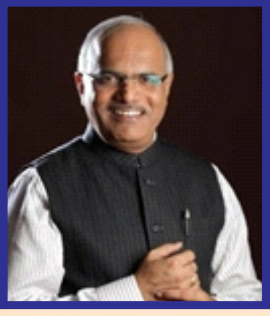
- * **Introductory Remarks** by **Prof. Sharad Deshpande**, Convener of the Webinar (10 minutes)
- * **Keynote Address** by **Dr. VinaySahasrabuddhe**, President, ICCR (20 minutes)
- * **Presentations** by speakers (30 minutes each) –
 - i) *The Uneven Playing Field of Indology* by **Prof. Michel Danino** (IIT Gandhi Nagar)
 - ii) *Prolegomena to Future Indology* by **Dr. Joydeep Bagchee** (University of Berlin)
- * **Question & Answer Session** (30 minutes)

Day 2 – Friday, 20 November 2020 – 3.00 to 5.00 p.m. (IST)

- * **Introductory Remarks** by **Prof. Sharad Deshpande**, Convener of the Webinar (10 minutes)
- * **Presentations** by speakers (30 minutes each) –
 - i) *The Study of Sanskrit Sources and Medieval History of India* by **Prof. Arvind Jamkhedkar**, Chairman, ICHR
 - ii) *Integrating the Environment into Indian History.* by **Dr. Nanditha Krishna** (CPR Institute of Indological Research, Chennai)
- * **Question & Answer Session** (20 minutes)

Day 3 – Saturday, 21 November 2020 – 3.00 to 5.00 p.m.

- * **Introductory Remarks** by **Prof. Sharad Deshpande**, Convener of the Webinar (10 minutes)
- * **Presentations** by speakers (30 minutes each) –
 - I) *Why Natyasastra is neglected disciple of Indology* by **Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi**, (Former VC, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth)
 - ii) *Tradition of Anonymity and Indian Sculptural Tradition* by **Prof. Deepak Kannal** (MS University, Vadodara)
- * **Question & Answer Session** (20 minutes)



Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR (Keynote Speaker)

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe is the President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and also Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development. An activist-researcher at the core, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe happens to be the Vice President of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini as well. RMP is South Asia's only training and research academy for elected representatives and voluntary social workers.

Having headed BJP's Training Cell for over a decade, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe currently is National In-Charge of twin departments of the party, viz Policy Research and Good Governance.

As a student activist, he had offered satyagraha and was behind bars during the Emergency of 1975. He was also National Secretary of the AkhilBharatiyaVidyarthiParsihad (ABVP) while being whole-timer of the Organisation. He has also worked as member on Senate and Management Council of the University of Mumbai for several years. He has also served on Boards of Governors of academies like YASHADA, (academy of development administration, Pune) and Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) as member. Between 2013-15, he was the as Vice-President of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, a 208 year old prestigious society.

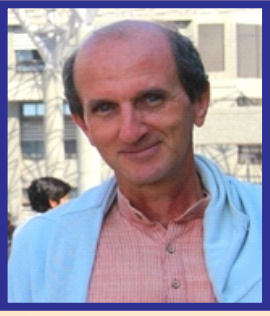
A freelance journalist since his college days, Sahasrabuddhe is a regular contributor to several Marathi and English language dailies and weeklies and a blogger as well. The University of Mumbai awarded him a doctorate in Politics in 2009 for his thesis 'Political Parties as Victims of Populism and Electoral Compulsions: A Quest for systemic Solutions.' His research was later published in the form of a book, entitled 'Beyond a Billion Ballots.'

Dr. Sahasrabuddhe has been an active participant in Rajya Sabha with almost 100% attendance. Over last two years Parliament has appointed him to the court of Delhi University, to Indian Council of World Affairs as well as a member to the Press Council of India. His latest book 'The Innovation Republic' capturing 17 key innovations made by the Modi Govt. is receiving critical acclaims!



Prof. Sharad Deshpande
(Convener)

Professor Sharad Deshpande's teaching and research career in Indian and Western philosophy at University of Pune spans over four decades. He has held Tagore Fellowship at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, British Council Visiting Fellowship at U.K., Visiting Fellowship at Maison De Sciences, Paris and Visiting Professorship of Indian Council of Philosophical Research.



Prof. Michel Danino

Born in France in 1956, Michel Danino has been living in India since 1977 and is an Indian citizen. An independent student of Indian civilization, he authored or edited several books on protohistorical India (including *The Lost River: On the Trail of the Sarasvati*, Penguin Books 2010), Indian culture (including *Indian Culture and India's Future*, DK Printworld 2011) and knowledge systems. Since 2011, he has been teaching courses on Indian civilization and heritage at IIT Gandhinagar, where he is currently visiting professor; he has also been assisting the Archaeological Sciences Centre created there in 2012.

Michel Danino was (2015-18) a member of the Indian Council of Historical Research and is currently a member of the Indian National Commission for History of Science. In 2017, he was awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India. His other interests include nature conservation, a field in which he was especially active during his stay in the Nilgiris (1982–2003).



Prof. Joydeep Bagchee

Joydeep Bagchee a Berlin-based Indologist, philosopher, and scholar of intellectual history. His research primarily focuses on the reception of Indian texts in the West in both the colonial and post-colonial periods. Prof. Bagchee holds a PhD from the New School for Social Research, New York in Philosophy. Together with Prof. Vishwa Adluri, he is a co-author of *The Nay Science: A History of German Indology* and *Philology and Criticism: A Guide to Mahābhārata Textual Criticism*. He has also co-edited the volume *Argument and Design: The Unity of the Mahābhārata*. Prof. Bagchee teaches courses in Orientalism, race theory, and the history of the humanities at the Hindu University of America. He is presently translating a book on the experience of Jewish intellectuals at the German university.



Prof. Arvind Jamkhedkar

A.P. Jamkhedkar has a Master's degree in Sanskrit and Linguistics and Ph.D. in Ancient Indian Culture from Deccan College, Pune University. His teaching and research career spans over five decades. He was Director of Archaeology and Museums Government of Maharashtra (1977-97). He is associated with Asiatic Society of Mumbai, and presently, he is the Chancellor of the Deccan College, Pune (Deemed to be University) and the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research.



Dr. Nanditha Krishna

Dr. Nanditha Krishna is a historian, environmentalist and author based in Chennai. She has a Ph.D. in Ancient Indian Culture from Bombay University. She is currently the President of the C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation and Founder of its many constituents, including C.P. Art Centre, CPR Institute of Indological Research (affiliated to the University of Madras), CPR Environmental Education Centre and several educational institutions. She has been a Professor and a Research Guide for the Ph.D. degree of the University of Madras and received a D.Litt (honoris causa) from Vidyasagar University, West Bengal.

In 2001, she established the Shakunthala Jagannathan Museum of Folk Art at Kanchipuram. She was responsible for the revival of the painting traditions of the Kurumba tribes and pottery traditions of Kota women. She has restored the Varahishwara Temple in Damal and a 450-year-old building in Kanchipuram. She has been documenting India's Ecological Heritage Traditions; revived Traditional Drawing and Painting in Mamallapuram; and Tamil Folk Art Forms in schools. In 1990, she was deputed to the Archaeological Survey of India's restoration of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. She has researched the Khmer temples and reported on the restoration process. She is the author of 23 books, including *Hinduism and Nature*, *Sacred Plants of India* and *Sacred Animals of India*, published by Penguin India.

She is the winner of several awards including Nari Shakti Puraskar, Stree Ratna and Outstanding Woman of Asia.



Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi

Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi is one of the senior-most professors of Sanskrit in the country. He has served as Vice-Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University) at Delhi for five years (2008-13), as Vice Chancellor on additional charge at Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Sanskrit Vidyapeeth for six months and as Vice Chancellor in charge of Dr. H.S. Gour University on a number of occasions. He worked as Visiting Professor at Silpakorn University, Bangkok for three years. He retired as Professor from Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar (M.P., India) as Professor in February, 2014. He has worked as Fellow in Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla for one year (2014-15). Presently he is working on the Karnatak Chair of Orientology at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune.

Widely acclaimed for his original contributions to the study of Nāṭyaśāstra and Sāhityaśāstra, Prof. Tripathi has published 173 books, 265 research papers and critical essays as well as translations of more than 30 Sanskrit plays and some classics from Sanskrit into Hindi. He has received 37 national and international awards and honours for his literary contributions which include the Sahitya Akademi Award for original poetry in Sanskrit, Shankar Puraskar for Best Philosophical writing, UGC Veda-Vyas Samman, Ramkrishna Sanskriti Samman from Canada and Shikhar Samman of the Govt. of M.P.

Radhavallabh Tripathi is a well-known poet, short-story writer and playwright of Sanskrit and Hindi. He has 25 books of original writings in Sanskrit, including six collections of poems, two plays and one collection of one act plays. He has also produced translations of more than 30 plays as well as some classics from Sanskrit in Hindi.

He has been referred in various research journals on Indology. Research for Ph.D. has been completed as well as is being carried on his creative writings in Sanskrit in a number of Universities. Three Journals brought out special numbers on his writings. Seven books comprising studies on his creative and critical writings by other authors have been published.

Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi specialises in Nāṭyaśāstra and Sāhityaśāstra. His publications in these areas include – Nāṭyaśāstraviśvakośa (an Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Nāṭyaśāstra), Nāṭyalalitakalāsamgraha (an Anthology of Texts on Performing and Plastic Arts), Lectures on Nāṭyaśāstra, Aspects of Nāṭyaśāstra, Bhāratīya Sāhityaśāstra kī Ācāryaparamparā, Nayāsāhitya Nayā Sahityaśāstra etc.

He has visited various institutions at UK, USA, Germany, Holland, Vienna, Nepal, Bhutan, Russia, Iran etc. for delivering lectures/ presentations in Conferences or delivering lectures under cultural/academic exchange programmes.



Prof. Deepak Kannal

Prof. Deepak Kannal is an Art Historian, a sculptor and a teacher. He taught at the Department of Art History and Aesthetics, Faculty of Fine Arts, MSU of Baroda, shouldering the responsibilities as the Head of the department and the Dean of the Faculty. He has a long list of Publications that includes two books and a monograph, five edited volumes- three of them co-edited with Prof. Parimoo, three edited journals, three full length plays, three dance dramas and more than seventy papers and articles on Art and Aesthetics to his credit. He has organized and participated in many National/Inter National seminars, has delivered series of lectures for coveted institutes in India, US and UK and was invited on prestigious chairs instituted by various Academies, Museums and Universities.

He is a recipient of a number of awards, scholarships and distinctions in Sculpture, Theatre and Art History including the Charles Wallace fellowship at Cambridge, UK, National Lalitkala honorable mention, Gujarat Lalit Kala awards, A.P. Council National award, The Gujarat Gaurav Puraskar, Raja Ravi Verma Samman and the Tagore National Fellowship under which, he is working on the correspondence between Indian Linguistic Theories and Indian sculpture.