



**2 DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR  
ON**

**FOLKLORES OF INDIA : TEXTS AND CONTEXTS**

(Under the Aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)  
4-5 November 2022

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name : .....

Designation : .....

Institution : .....

Mailing Address: .....

Contact No.(WhatsApp No.) .....

Title of the Paper: .....

Date and Time of Arrival: .....

Date and Time of Departure: .....

Details of Registration Fee: .....

**Signature of the Delegate:**

**Note:** The Participants will have to make their own stay arrangements as the Registration Fee **Does Not** include Boarding and Lodging.

An abstract of about 300 words may be sent to [seminarfolklores2022@gmail.com](mailto:seminarfolklores2022@gmail.com) by **04 October 2022**. The abstract must include name, institutional affiliation, email, and mobile number. The organising committee will screen all the abstracts and notify the accepted abstracts by **15 October 2022**. The authors are expected to pay the seminar registration fee by **18 October 2022**.

**Publication:** Apart from the book of abstracts, selected papers will be published in a book form by an international publisher. The articles should have **3500-5000** words with proper referencing, annotations and figures. It should be written in the latest MLA style.

**Registration Fee**

Faculty Member: ₹ 2000

Research Scholar: ₹ 1000

PG Student: ₹ 500

**Important Dates**

Last Date of Abstract Submission:

**04 October 2022**

Last Date of Full Paper Submission:

**15 October 2022**

Last Date to Submit the Registration Fee:

**15 October 2022**

**Organising Committee**

**Patron**

Prof. Alka Singh

**Convener**

Dr. Saurabh Kumar Singh

**Organising Secretaries**

Prof. Manjari Jhunjhunwala, Dr. Sunita Arya

Dr. Manjari Shukla, Dr. Rachana Pandey

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**Organised by**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

VASANTA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

(Admitted to the Privileges of Banaras Hindu University)

KFI, Rajghat, Varanasi - 221001

**Sponsored by**

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)

New Delhi, India

## **ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

Vasanta College for Women, Krishnamurti Foundation India, Rajghat maintains its rich legacy for more than a hundred year. It is one of the oldest institutions of Varanasi. The college is situated in the premises of Krishnamurti Foundation India, at the confluence of river Ganga and Varuna. The college has a picturesque campus and a natural environment on the banks of river Ganga. It is located in the close vicinity of the famous excavation site and archaeological mounds of Rajghat. It is in between two famous Ghats: Adi Keshava and newly constructed NaMo/Khidkiya. A women's college, established prior to Independence on 7 July 1913 by Dr. Annie Besant who was a leading figure of the Indian National Movement and a pioneer in envisioning the need of education for women, especially in India. The college is admitted to the privileges of Banaras Hindu University, recognized by UGC under sections 12B and 2(f). The college runs under the aegis of Krishnamurti Foundation India, a world renowned foundation, devoted to the cause of education. Based on J. Krishnamurti's teachings, the college remains committed to developing creative and critical thinking, nurturing innovation and excellence through education with a focus on the holistic growth of the students.

## **ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

The Department of English, Vasanta College for Women was established in 1954. The department has been concerned with the holistic growth of students and provides a pleasant and equitable environment for consistent learning. Since its birth, the department had been run by a galaxy of noble scholars like Dr. R. V. Moghe, Dr. Deepika Mukhopadhyaya, Dr. N. Sharada Iyer (Former Principal), Dr. Shwetambari Sehgal (Former Principal), Prof. Anita Singh (Senior Professor at Department of English, BHU currently), Dr. Madhu Kapoor, Dr. Nishat Zaidi, Dr. Sandhya Mishra, Dr. Ibha Verma and Dr. Vandana Shukla. Present members of the department are Prof. Alka Singh (Principal of the College at present), Prof. Manjari Jhunjhunwala, Dr. Saurabh Kumar Singh, Dr. Sunita Arya, Dr. Manjari Shukla and Dr. Rachana Pandey. The department runs the courses of B.A., M.A. in English, Ph.D., Communication Skills and Soft Skills. M.A. in English was introduced in 2009 and four meritorious students have been the recipient of BHU Gold medals for standing first in M.A. English Course at University level. The department believes in the versatile growth of each and every student therefore, every year student-oriented activities are organised like Students' Colloquiums, World Poetry Day, Story Writing Competitions, Workshops, National/International Conferences, Literary Festival, Lecture Series, Faculty Development Programme, Meet the Author and related activities based on famous literary figures time to time. The department has a full-fledged library as well as an E-library and a language lab. The department has four books to its credit which are the outcome of different colloquiums and conferences.

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

India, the land of 'Unity in Diversity', is known for its plurality of folkloric traditions and practices. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, from Maharashtra to Manipur, India has treasures of cultural diversities: multiple ethnic identities, languages, costumes, foods, rituals, festivals, arts and so on and so forth. Scholarly collections of folklore materials were first performed in Asia, particularly in India. *Kathāsaritsāgara*, *Pañcatantra* and *Jātaka* are some of the examples of highly erudite and illuminating works which, quite obviously, date long back ago to western scholars and their writings such as the Grimm brothers' (Jacob and Wilhelm) *Kinder and Hausmarchen* and William John Thoms' *Early English Prose Romances*. Folklore forms an integral part of folk culture: material or tangible culture and nonmaterial or intangible culture. Folklore can be loosely defined as the conglomeration of the traditional beliefs, customs, practices and stories of a community passed through generations by word of mouth or by customary practices. It can also be a body of popular myths and beliefs relating to a particular place, activity or group of people. There can be three major aspects of folklore studies. Verbal folklore includes traditional knowledge skill, wisdom and literature such as myths, legends, folktales, jokes, proverbs, riddles, chants, charms, blessings, curses, oaths, insults, retorts, taunts, teases, tongue twisters, leave taking formulas etc. Material lore covers folk art and craft or the artifacts comprising metal works, bamboo works, cane works, wood works, stone works, weaving and textile works etc. Cultural or traditional lore consists of folk customs, beliefs, magic and folk religious practices, ceremonies, festivals, inheritance rules, marriage, family, household, Kinship etc. It also contains folk performing arts such as folk dance, folksongs, folk music, folk theatre and drama, etc. The discipline devoted to the identification, documentation, characterisation, and analysis of traditional expressive forms, processes, and behaviours is folkloristics (alternatively identified as folklore studies or folklife research).

Folklorists have identified different functions of folklore. Noted American folklorist William R Bascom has talked about four distinct functions of folklore studies. First important function is to amuse and entertain the folk. Second significant function is the validation of rituals to those who perform and observe them.

It helps in the expression and enhancement of beliefs. It also strengthens the tradition and endows it with greater value. B. Malinowsky in his book *Myth in Primitive Psychology* (1926) talks about it as 'a warrant; a chart or even a practical guide.' Third significant function of folklore is its role in education particularly but not exclusively, in non-literate societies. It also focuses on the incorporation of morals and values for pedagogic purposes. Fourth seminal function of folklore is an important one but often overlooked function of maintaining conformity to accepted patterns of behaviour. In this way, folklore works as a tool to exercise social pressure resulting in social control.

Apart from this, folklore functions greatly to understand different societies in the light of cultural diversity and urgency to preserve and protect indigenous folk cultures. The proposed seminar seeks to bring together scholars, academicians, researchers and social scientists and engage them in meaningful deliberations regarding the present state of folklores and their studies as evidence to highlight the rich cultural fabric of Indian heritage. It also aims to sensitize the researchers to be aware of vast treasures of folklore materials lying around unnoticed, marginalized and ignored. Fortunately, after independence various governmental and non-governmental agencies have seriously been involved in the revival and resurrection of various folkloric traditions across India. The proposed seminar aims to enhance our understanding of folklores as powerful tools to enkindle the spirit of cultural plurality, integrity and solidarity to bring about a newer and energized sense of cultural consciousness.

Abstracts are invited, but not limited to, the following sub-themes:

- ★Folklore and Cultural Consciousness
- ★Folklore and Ethical/Moral Issues
- ★Folklore and Oral Literature
- ★Folklore and Song
- ★Folklore and Dance
- ★Folklore and Music
- ★Folklore and Theatre
- ★The Art of Puppetry
- ★Folklore and Tales/Proverbs/Jokes/Riddles
- ★Folklore and Art/Craft
- ★Folklore and Urban Legend
- ★Folklore and Globalisation/Popular Culture/Mass Culture