

Department of Persian
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Concept Paper for Two-day International Seminar

On

“The Impact of Indic Civilization on Persian Civilization”

15-16 March 2022

Background and Rationale

The relationship between India and Iran has been well-founded since time immemorial. Both nations have nurtured the greatest civilizations on the planet. Civilization is nothing else but a combination of diverse customs, cultures, knowledge systems, arts, architecture, etc. India has brought much to the world and to mankind in general. Right from fable stories of Panchtantra, games like chess, philosophy like Advaita which was, later on, manifested in the writings of Ibn-i Arabi, and in the field of music famous Shruti and old dance forms of India left an impeccable impact on the world civilisation. India is pioneer as far as meters are concerned, Pingal meter was used in India.

In Yogshahstra India has provided with many seminal books like yogsutra and Patanjalyog Darshan. Yoga which now has become daily routine exercise of people across the world for a healthy life is also India's gift to the world. In medicinal sciences the treatment through herbs and plants, India has a very old Ayurveda system for curing patients. The knowledge disseminated in medicinal sciences covered both human beings and animals. Sushruta Samhita and Charaka Samhita, the fundamental Indian texts on the Ayurveda sciences and Shalihotra on veterinary science are such examples. The treatise Shalihotra translated into Persian served as a manual from early Islamic period in India till British time in royal stables.

There were countless treatises on human and medicinal sciences that were translated by Indian scholars. In astrology India gifted the world Brahmihir Sanhita and Brahad Jatak. Iran has been at the receiving end of many Indian cultural transmissions and itself had surpassed many worldwide civilizations. India's greatness lies in the fact that it embraced all those who had immigrated for various reasons, demonstrating its true belief in “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”.

Zoroastrianism, the religion that was started in Persia, is also believed that India played an important role in spreading the Zoroastrianism in some parts of central Asia. The followers of this religion immigrated to India after Islamization of Persia, and settled at many parts of India and made it their home. This small community indulged in business and brought the fame and respect for Indians across the world in various fields. This is no any less important contribution of India to the Persia and world as a whole.

All the world's superpowers resorted to seek spiritual comfort in today's chaotic and disorderly world. It is India alone that can and is capable of driving the world into spirituality. It has a long history of tolerance and love for the natural world and other species. The philosophies of Buddha and Mahavira provide striking examples of the same. In today's era when the corona pandemic left every nation in a state of helplessness, India stood steadfastly to minimize the dreaded impact of the virus and successfully could be able to manufacture two vaccines and donated them to help the world battling with coronavirus. These are some of India's biggest giveaways in the world. India has evolved into many stages of achievement and excellence in various domains of literature, philosophy, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, astrology, etc.

In ancient time, India played a significant role in popularizing Indian culture, tradition and literature through many ways. Translation bureau at Abbasids court in which the Hindu scholars were invited from India to help the translators in translating the Sanskrit books. *Siddhant* was the first such book to be translated in that bureau. Once Harun al-Rashid fell sick and a vaidya called Manak was called to cure him. Buddhist preachers went to the Persianate world to propagate Buddhism, the remains of which can be found at many places. These priests and scholars were not only propagators but cultural emissaries to those lands. Albeiruni's *Tahqiq-I ma Lilhind* also provided them with the first-hand information about India. Silk route helped in spreading this Indian culture in Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia, Asia Minor and Arab world. By organizing conferences on such topics it is a significant step toward reviving those old cultural and traditional links and using them for the soft diplomacy to further connect this vast Persianate world with old Indian cultural milieu.

It is high time, when India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive independent India, to glorify and educate about the glorious past culture, tradition, philosophies, thinkers, India's literature to the world.

Scope and Objectives of the Seminar

India, in view of the above-mentioned facts, is truly a Vishva guru. It had also, in the past, directed the other civilizations by providing them with the best gems of its kind in the form of literature, arts, games, philosophies. The Persian department feels it pertinent, bearing in mind India's rich contribution to the world, to hold a two-day international seminar to celebrate and commemorate the 75 years of India's independence and to introduce to the world the rich cultural heritage of India.

The chief aim of this seminar is to create a space for discussion and debate on language, literature, culture, philosophies that impacted the world generally and the Persianate culture specifically by looking at India's priceless contributions to wisdom, intellect, and leisure time activities like different games etc.

Participation

All research scholars, educators, academicians and students of Persian language, history, Philosophy and sociology are invited to participate in the seminar.

Proposed Seminar Design

This seminar will be held over two full days and divided into six sessions including an Opening and Closing Session. Each session will be led by several expert panelists who will give short presentations followed by an interactive discussion with comments and questions from the floor. The discussion will be followed by concluding remarks from the moderator. Plenary discussions will be held to allow more productive interaction and sharing among the participants and an active involvement of participants across various disciplines will be encouraged.

Expected Output

A book containing papers presented is expected to be published by the department.


All are cordially invited to participate in the seminar and present a research paper on the subject or any of the following sub-topics:

Sub-Themes: The areas of inquiry include but are not limited to the following themes

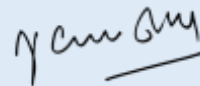
- India's glorious past that impacted the world at large.
- India's impact on Persianate language and culture.
- Potentiality of India's becoming Vishva Guru in current time.
- Any other topic directly related to broad theme of the conference

Abstracts (300 words, maximum) of papers, related to the broad theme of the Conference, are invited by February 15, 2022. Authors should clearly mention their name and affiliation. Please note, we will be unable to consider abstracts received after the last date. Presentation time will be 15-20 minutes. Abstracts must be sent here: persianfoundationofindia@gmail.com.

Abstracts can be in English, Hindi, Urdu and Persian. All abstracts will be sent for blind peer-review and selected participants will receive an acceptance letter by February 22, 2022. In order to participate in the conference, selected candidates will have to send their complete papers by March 1, 2022.



Prof. Rajinder Kumar
Head, Dept. of Persian



Dr. Ali Akbar Shah
Convenor