

JAMMU AND KASHMIR – A CULTURAL PRISM

**A timeless journey of cultural heritage of Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh
through memory lanes**

**through an exhibition, seminar/ panel discussions, cultural performances/ workshops and
documentaries**

on 17th -20th February 2018, at BharatiyaVidyaBhavan, K G Marg New Delhi

**A Joint Initiative of Centre of Indology, BharatiyaVidyaBhavan and Millennium India Education
Foundation**

Jammu and Kashmir is the crown of India not only by virtue of its geographical location but also by the crowning contributions in all the cultural fields like literature and philosophy, performing and visual arts. Over the centuries the state has nurtured a distinct culture where people belong to diverse social and religious practices- Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic. Hindu-Buddhist traditions have a history of more than two thousands of years and Islam came in 13th century. The state comprises of three ethnic regions- Jammu, Kashmir and Laddakh with three cultural zones integrated by one state structure in terms of political administration.

Kashmir has been the cradle of Indian culture, a land of rishis, philosophers, historians, scholars, monks, pilgrims, artists, rhetoricians and story tellers. The rishi tradition of Pandits was complimented by Sufi Islamic way of life leading to a syncretic culture where both the communities revered the same local saints and prayed at the same shrines. Kalhana is remembered over the past centuries for his chronological work- Rajatarangini. A Persian manuscript by an anonymous author on the political history of medieval Kashmir- Baharistan-i-shahi is from 1614 AD.

The history of Kashmiri language goes back to the Vedic times. Sharada script was used from 7th-8th century AD onwards for writing manuscripts and all kinds of the most important Sanskrit texts and documents. Over the past centuries it slowly got replaced by Persian and later to Urdu, Devnagari and Dogri scripts.

In 7th-8th century, Kashmir witnessed culmination of arts and architecture ushering into an era of glory during the kings like Lalitaditya and Avantivarma who built temples, chaityas and monasteries. The Sun temple- Martanda, Shankaracharya temple and many more dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu were renowned places of pilgrimage. Kashmir region has preserved the tradition of worshipping Kuldevis and Ishtadevis like Jwala, Sharika and KheerBhawani, venerating the feminine aspect of nature. The great temples in Jammu are the RaghunathMandir and the Ranabiresvara Shiva Mandir as well as the famous Vaishno Devi Shrine which attracts millions of devotees every year. Also the Amar Mahal museum displays a superb collection of Pahari miniature paintings as does the Dogra Art Gallery.

Kashmir had a highly developed and flourishing tradition of painting and sculpting. Its 8th century paintings survive in Gilgit. Its craftsmen were long famed in Central Asia and Tibet. Rinchen-bzangpo came from Tibet thrice to obtain services of Kashmiri craftsmen, sculptors, painters and even scholars to build 108 temples. Kashmiri bronzes are world famous for meticulous execution of finest details and intricate designs. In the field of performing arts the only extant and complete commentary on Natyashastra is by Abhinavagupta. A massive text of music and dance- Sangeetaratnakara is by Shrangadeva.

In the field of literature poet Lallesvari or LalDed (14th century) wrote mystical verses followed by Nunda Reshi, HabbaKhatun (16th century), RupaBhavani (1621–1721), Arnimal (d. 1800),

Mahmud Gami (1765–1855) and several others including modern poets- Ghulam Ahmad Mahjur (1885–1952), Abdul Ahad Azad (1903–1948), and ZindaKaul (1884–1965), DinanathNadim (1916–1988), RahmanRahi, GhulamNabiFiraq and SarvanandKaul 'Premi' etc.

Kashmir played an important role in international trade and dissemination of culture by virtue of its location. Major trade routes connecting Eastern and Central Asia, and Europe met in Kashmir.

Historical evolution of Jammu can be traced back to the descendants of Lord Rama and its heritage goes back to Indus valley civilization. There are temples, gurudwaras, mosques, forts, palaces, havelis, serais, baolis etc. that can be divided into the following types: caves, structural buildings, temples , Muslim monuments, secular buildings and palaces.

Dogri folklore is the mainstream of Jammu's culture. Its songs record historical events. Its great tradition of folk dances is performed by Chaiga, Bhangra, Kudd, Phumian and RasLeela. The main school of Pahari miniature paintings in Jammu is Basohli. The painters mainly use the theme of *nayaka* and *nayika* revealing emotions, ornamentation and imagination. Sculptures depicting the images of Hindu Gods and goddesses are the marvels that one finds in Jammu region. Its script called Takri was developed from Sharada and Gurumukhi. It was also used to write the languages like Pahari, Garhwali and Dardic.

Laddakh- the land of lamas and gompas is unique in its culture, religion, ethnicity and topography. It is a popular belief that Buddhism was introduced there during the time of Emperor Ashoka who is said to have built first Buddhist temple in Suru valley. The LadakhiGompas reflect a unique aspect of Indian culture decorated with beautiful wall paintings.

The famous festivals of Laddakh are Hemis, Losar, SinduDarshan, MathoNagrang and others where dances play a prominent role. They are Cham-mask, Jabro, Drugpa-rches, Tukhatanmo and Shonetc..Laddakh has attracted travelers since ancient times and still continues to do so. It is a fabulous land with most interesting geography, history and customs.

LIST OF TOPICS FOR THE SEMINAR

- 1. History and archaeology**
- 2. Scripts, languages, literature and philosophy**
- 3. Performing arts**
- 4. Arts and architecture**
- 5. Iconic figures**
- 6. Contribution of Jammu and Kashmir to the spread of Indian culture abroad**
- 7. Cuisine and crafts**



KASHMIR REDISCOVERED

**CENTRE OF INDOLOGY, BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN AND
MILLENNIUM INDIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

Jammu & Kashmir - A Cultural Prism

**A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSURE TO
THE RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE OF JAMMU, KASHMIR AND
LADDAKH**

**Through exhibition, seminar, documentaries and cultural
performances**

**Venue – Munshi Memorial Hall, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
(entry from gate No. 4, Copernicus Lane) K G Marg, New Delhi
17TH-20TH February 2018**

Overleaf



- **INAUGURALA FUNCTION – 17TH FEB. 2018, AT 4 PM,**
- **EXHIBITION -17TH -20TH FEB. 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**JAMMU & KASHMIR THROUGH THE LENS OF MANUSCRIPTS, MURALS,
MINIATURE AND OTHER FORMS OF PAINTING FROM THE THREE REGIONS,
CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE- TEMPLES, MONASTERIES, STUPAS, SHRINES,
PLACES OF PILGRIMAGE, GURDWARAS, MOSQUES AND OTHER
HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT PLACES, SAINTS & SAGES – HINDU, BUDDHIST
AND MUSLIM, ICONIC FIGURES WHO CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS CULTURAL
PROGRESSION OF THE STATE**

- **CULTURAL PERFORMANCES 17TH FEB.**
- KASHMIRI, DOGRI & LADAKHI FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE,
- **DOCUMENTARIES ON CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THREE REGIONS**
- **SEMINAR- 18TH -19TH FEB.2018 10.30 a.m. to 6. P.m.**

**ON KASHMIRI, DOGRI & LADAKHI CULTURE
PRE REGISTRATION FOR THE SEMINAR - A MUST, CONTACT
- Dr Uday Kakroo(Ph:9810301261) /mief2@gmail.com,
-Prof. Shashi Bala (Ph: 9811841183) drshashibala56@gmail.com**

**Organising Committee: Sh. Ashok Pradhan Chairman & Director Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan,
Dr Uday Kakroo Convener & Director Millennium India Education Foundation,
Dr Shashi Bala, Convener & Dean Dept.of Indology, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
RSVP – Sunit Gulati (23382470), Sumita Wadhavan (23381129)**