

Report of the National Seminar

The School of Philosophy & Culture has organized a National Seminar on “Kashmir Shaivism and Neo-Tantrism” from July 29 – 31, 2007. The Seminar was sponsored by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Navjeevan Rastogi on “Kashmir Shaivism: Status, Challenges and Prospects.” In his address, he gave a sketch of the historical development of Kashmir Shaivism, the basic tenets of the philosophy and current challenges in it. There were altogether 21 presentations by the delegates from different parts of the country. The titles of presentations are as follows:

1. Prof. Rekha Jhanji: *Nature of Embodiment in Kashmir Shaivism*
2. Prof. Godavarish Mishra: *Consciousness and Self-Consciousness: With special reference to Śaṅkara and Abhinavagupta)*
3. Dr. Ajay Verma: *In Defense of Methodology of Pratyabhijñā System from the Mainstream Philosophical Perspective*
4. Prof. Ashok Vohra: *Notion of ‘Parā Śiva’ - Supreme Śiva - in Kashmir Shaivism*
5. Dr. Yohai Kawajiri: *A Critique of the Buddhist Doctrine of Self-Awareness in the Pratyabhijñā School*
6. Nihar Purohit: *Anupāya-The Pathless Path in the Doctrine of Kashmir Saivāgama*
7. Dr. Kamlesh Jha: *Abhinava Āgamācaryaḥ Śrī Rāmeshvara Jha*
8. Dr. Chenchulakshmi Kolla: *Consciousness in Sāṃkhya and Shaivism: A Metaphysical Analysis*
9. M. Radhakrishnan: *Nature of Consciousness in Śaiva Siddhānta as revealed from some of the pūjā rituals of South Indian Śiva Temples*
10. Prof. R. Gopalakrishnan: *Theo-Centric Epistemology of Śaiva Siddhānta*
11. Dr. Surendra Mohan Mishra: *The Doctrine of Saktipāta in Advaita Śaivāgama*
12. Dr. Abha Singh: *Concept of Bondage and Liberation in Pratyabhijñā School of Śaivism*
13. Dr. B.R. ShantaKumari: *Soul’s Nature and Destiny: Pratyabhijñā View*
14. Dr. Rama Ghose: *Contribution of MM Gopinath Kaviraj in Neo-Tantrism*
15. Dr. D.A. Gangadhar: *MM Pt. Gopinath Kaviraj’s Contribution to Tantric Philosophy*

16. Dr. L. Vijai: *Tāntric Dimensions in the Integral Non-Dualism of Sri Aurobindo*
17. Dr. Shitla Prasad Upadhyaya: *Srī Vidyā Sampradāya Pravartaka – Ācārya Śri Bhaskara Ray Bharati Diksita*
18. Dr. Pramod Kumar Singh: *MM Pandit Rameshvar Jha as a Neo-Tantric Scholar*
19. Dr. V. Sujata: *Sivādvayavād of Sri Nārāyaṇa Guru*
20. Dr. Kartar Chand Sharma: *Kashmir Shaivism as a System of Yoga*
21. Dr. Asha Gargi: *Mukti in Kashmir Shaivism*

The discussions on the abovementioned papers were broadly focused on current issues related to consciousness studies, philosophy of mind, theory of person etc. and also on the peculiar notions of Kashmir Shaiva philosophy such as *pratyabhijñā*, *śaktipāta*, *anupāya* etc. Discussions took place on the well cherished issues of Indian philosophy such as on the debate of *āgama* and *nigama*, *bhakti* and *jñāna*, etc. There were some thought-provoking papers on the *neo-tantric* tradition also. These papers were primarily focused on the contribution of various thinkers and practitioners of our time such as MM Pt. Gopinath Kaviraj, MM Pt. Rameshvara Jha and Ācārya Śri Bhaskara Ray Bharati Diksita.

Apart from the paper presentations, there were three special lectures by distinguished Scholars like Prof. Deva Brata Sen Sharma and Prof. Rekha Jhanji;

Prof. Deva Brata Sen Sharma: Developments in Shaivism

: Theory of Creation

Prof. Rekha Jhanji : Abhinavgupta and Indian Aesthetics

These lectures laid emphasis on the worldview of Kashmir Shaivism in general and peculiar philosophical notions of the system in particular.

In addition to the above scholarly discussions, a panel was also convened to discuss a currently relevant topic titled “Does Spirituality Have a Place in the Modern Techno-centric World?” The panelists were Profs. Srinivasa Rao, Mohini Mullick and Rekha Jhanji. One of the prime concerns of the discussion was ‘Can Spirituality be treated as a science? The session was chaired by Prof. Ashok Vohra.

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