



INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER

समाचार

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Chairperson's Column

It is in the interest of reaching our readers with increased frequency, we thought of issuing this newsletter every quarter. So, this newsletter covers the activities of ICHR for the months January – March 2015. This period has witnessed a hectic activity in ICHR on many counts.

The Government of India has reconstituted the Council with eighteen new members who are well-known in their chosen areas of historical studies and also have been very active in historical research. I thank the Government of India for breathing in fresh air into the body of ICHR. Hope, the new team endeavours to work for the fulfilment of the avowed objectives of ICHR.

The new Council was inaugurated on 27 March 2015 which also happily coincided with the Foundation Day of the ICHR. This time, we wanted to make it a memorable event with the participation of our committed staff in the celebrations besides academic activities. The



prizes were distributed among the winners in staff tournament and other competitions held in this connection. The staff and their family members enjoyed an excursion trip to Pratapgarh Resort, Jhajjar (Haryana), organised by ICHR. For the first time, we enjoyed the participation of some of our staff working in our regional centres at Bengaluru and Guwahati.

Dr. David Frawley (USA), a Vedic scholar, was invited to speak on “Textual Evidences in Vedas – Cultural and Historical Implications”. It is felt that if we are free from inhibitions, our peep into remote past enriches our historical

knowledge to a greater extent. This suggests us to explore historical notices from the ancient and medieval literary texts – Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Arabic, Persian, etc.

The ICHR renewed its MoU with Russia when Mr. Sergey Naryshkin, Chairman of Russian Historical Association visited India on 27th February 2015. Another major activity in the form of a Workshop on the “Cultural Heritage and Rapid Urbanisation in India” was conducted in collaboration with RCUK-India, Arts & Humanities Research Council, Newton-Bhabha Fund and there was a fruitful

interaction on the theme between the experts from India and U.K. This event marked the actualisation of the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the ICHR and AHRC in November 2014. We are expecting more of such useful collaborations with other foreign academic bodies with whom we have entered into collaborative research agreements.

I am sure that the ICHR will continue to serve the academic community with added concern and commitment.

Y. Sudershan Rao

Conferences/Seminars attended by the Chairperson

- **28 March 2015: International Seminar on 'THE INDUS-SARASVATĪ (HARAPPAN) CIVILIZATION VIS-À-VIS THE ṚIGVEDA' organized by Draupadi Trust at IIC Conference Hall, New Delhi.**

Brief Description

The Chairperson, in his presidential address in the valedictory session, reiterated that early Indian history reveals the evolution of culture and civilization based on Vedic Knowledge and Wisdom. History writing depends on various scientific disciplines like archaeological sciences, astronomy, geology. But all these allied sciences have their own limitations. The modern social and historical theories could not decide the future developments as our present theories are based on a select data and human behaviour is unpredictable. Therefore, 'determinism' does not apply to historical developments. He further said, historical research is not the forte of professional historians alone. The 'truth' coming from a child should be welcome. Those great thinkers before the present genre have shown us many approaches to study history. Great thinkers like Karl Marx or Hegels are no less historians than the present. If prejudices are set aside, true history of human-kind will be possible, he said.

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- **27 March 2015: ICHR Foundation Day Lecture delivered by Dr David Frawley (Shri Vamadeva Shastri) at NMML Conference Hall at 5 pm, on the topic : "Textual Evidences in Vedas – Cultural and Historical Implications".**

Brief description

The Chairperson presided over the programme. In his opening remarks, he said that historian working on ancient Indian studies is dependent on ancient literature as historical source. The Vedic literature, besides being a fund of knowledge by itself, also

refers to some important historical events and personalities pertaining to our remote past. The Veda Pandits like Dr Vamadeva Shastri help us understand the ancient Sanskrit literature. The working knowledge of Sanskrit is not enough for understanding the nuances of Sanskrit literature. Therefore, there is a great need to depend on the Vedic scholars to help us discover the historical content from the ancient literature. In his closing remarks congratulating the speaker for an informative talk on Vedic times he said, 'Aryan Invasion Theory' was a Western construct and that it was not backed by any archaeological source.

- **25 March 2015: A National Seminar on "DOES HISTORY BREATHE? SOME PERCEPTIONS" organized by History Dept, Shivaji College, University of Delhi at 9.30 AM.**

Brief description

The Chairperson attended the inaugural function of the Seminar as Chief Guest and spoke on "What and Why of History". The following is the abstract of his lecture. "History, in the modern parlance, has its beginnings in the early Greek writings. The early writers have attempted to record what was heard and seen in their contemporary world. The purpose of these writings were empirical in the sense of facilitating their commercial interests with the other civilized parts of the world which was then evidently Arabia and Asia in general and India in particular. This was 'what and why'

of their historical endeavour. These 'fathers' of history lived only in their present. The subsequent Arab writers also conformed to this genre.

Philosophy of History has its beginnings in the Enlightenment period in Europe when the intellectuals realised that historical developments had a linkage caused by unseen forces and that these developments might lead to higher goals. The theories of history emerged to project the present into the future. Their set-data was pertaining to their present and to some extent to their recent/known past. These studies may be useful to understand the present. But these theories based on the present would become irrelevant for the future as the data would soon become outdated as everything in the present is transitory. We know that empirical studies in social sciences may have relevance only to the present or near future. Western genre of History as emerged during the past three centuries falls into this shortsighted category. Their area of study was limited to the geographical boundaries of Europe and their information about the rest of the world was mostly heard and imagined. Exactly in this alien setting, Indian history was born only to benefit the colonial masters.

When the subsequent foreign writers attempted to write Indian history developing direct contact with this land and people, they were encountered with vast amount of historical sources – oral tradition, literature and archaeological finds – unexpectedly and they were drawn to the remote times defying

any estimate. They however tried their best to squeeze the information into their avowed limited time frame. So, the modern genre of Indian history fails to show-case properly India's past - recent and very remote.

Indian perspectives of History have been very clearly demonstrated in its ancient literature – Epics and Puranas. This is the 'what' of our history. The set human values are based on Dharma which was defined clearly and demonstrated through the historical events and the lives of ideal personalities. Dharma having both temporal and spiritual connotations is the bed-rock of Indian culture. This foundation is stewed with rich historical events of remote and recent past to make Indian culture explicable. Indian culture is designed to guide the humanity to smoothly and peacefully pass through this temporal life and reach divinity as an ultimate goal. Thus Indian history is set with higher goal for which our sages delved deep into the remote past. Purana is the product of a serious and deep inquiry into the unknown times of this Creation while the Epics demonstrated the same theme i.e. Dharma through contemporary great events only to assure us of its all-time paramountcy and infallibility. This is the 'why' of our history.

What we teach today in schools and colleges lack both moral and material content which could mould character and conduct of the taker. Our history is deprived of Bharateeyata (Indianness). Perhaps, this might be one of the reasons for the inability of the current

genre of History to attract the students and general public.”

- **19 March 2015: Late Prof Mallampalli Somasekhara Sarma Centre for Research in History and Art, Visakhapatnam, Meeting with the Executive Committee, at 5 PM in the Public Library Conference Hall.**

Brief description

Late Mallampalli Somasekhara Sarma who served in the Department of History and Archaeology, Andhra University, Waltair, Visakhapatnam was one of the pioneering professional historians of Andhradesa. He was a good epigraphist and unearthed many an inscription scattered on the length and breadth of Telugu speaking country. He had fixed the chronology and genealogies of ruling dynasties from the Satavahanas to almost 15-16 centuries authoritatively on scientific lines, which is now being followed in the academic world. He had left behind a corpus of inscriptions he collected laboriously and his personal collections of palm-leaf manuscripts and articles unpublished. His published material is also scattered and almost unavailable for the scholars. The Committee requested the ICHR to assist them in digitizing the material available and to take up a project to bring out his contribution to the historiography of Andhradesa as a comprehensive work and to facilitate their extensive activities to take the historical knowledge to common man and to educate the student community

in history. The Chairman appreciating the work of the Committee briefed them of the major functions of ICHR and stressed the need for giving training in the necessary interdisciplinary approaches in the historical research by holding orientation/training camps to train young scholars in epigraphy, numismatics, manuscriptology, archival sciences, museology and to develop necessary language skills to take up research in ancient and medieval areas as most of the modern scholars are turning towards research in modern times for obvious limitations of their skills. He said ICHR is already holding workshops in 'Historical Methods' in various regions. He said ICHR could plan 21-day Orientation Courses at various states calling scholars of various universities in that state to give training to equip them in these techniques. He proposed that ICHR would extend its help to bring out the contributions of pioneering scholars in history from various regions to find their deserving place on the national academic map.

- **14 Mar 2015: A national seminar on 'Social, Cultural and Political Dynamics of Telangana State' organized by Itihasa Sankalana Samiti (Bharateeya), Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Department of History, Kakatiya University P.G. College, Hanamkonda.**

Brief Description

The Chairperson while delivering inaugural address at the Seminar called for a

'Comprehensive History of Telangana'. Efforts should be made to record its history by setting facts straight and make it relevant to contemporary world. He wanted the historians to come-up with wide ranging accounts of culture, traditions and their social and political aspects. In compiling history, one should take care in laying emphasis on facts in a scientific manner rather than focusing on controversial and contradictory arguments, he suggested. He opined that it is not mandatory that only those who acquired academic discipline should do research in history. He reminded the scholars that the pioneering historians who wrote and published historical works had no university degrees in History, but their works had become standard texts and reference books for the degree and post graduate students. Therefore, general intelligentsia with basic training in historical method could do original research. He said History is of the people; they have a right to know their history and also write history satisfying the basic norms and methods. He said that the history of this region was attempted by those scholars who did original research and published standard history books. He appealed that the people should develop a taste for historical studies and writings.

- **2-4 March 2015: An international workshop organized by ICHR and AHRC and RCUK on "Cultural Heritage and Rapid Urbanisation in India" held at 2-4**

March, 2015 at Maiden Hotel, 7, Sham Nath Marg, Civil lines, New Delhi.

Brief Discription

The international seminar was organized by the ICHR and RCUK under recently signed MoU by both the associations in which the experts from both countries participated to discuss the effects of rapid urbanisation harming the cultural heritage in India. The Chairperson in his opening remarks said that India is endowed with a rich experience dating back to at least to 3rd millennium BC in urban administration. But, the rapid urbanization in the past three decades is so alarming that special attention is required to preserve our cultural heritage. He remembered that even a hundred year old structures are taken care as heritage structures in the West and they try to retain their facades even when it was necessary to renovate the structure. Thus London remains London for several years to come. But, Indian cities change their faces in just five years. While modernising cities, the Governments are not taking necessary steps to retain the heritage structures. Each city has its own characteristics and personality. That should be respected, he pleaded. He also said that most of Indian cities have great antiquity and also considered as holy *ksbetras* since times unknown. Their sanctity should also be respected in attempting modernization. He welcomed the present effort under joint collaboration of RCUK and ICHR and expected that such endeavour

should continue for the benefit of both countries and peoples.

Executive Summary of the Report

This report reflects on the findings from a workshop held in Delhi in March 2015 which examined the relationship between cultural heritage and rapid urbanisation in India. The workshop was delivered as part of the Newton Fund¹ and organised by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), with support from RCUK India and the British Library. It convened academic experts from the arts and humanities from both the UK and India to explore an area of emerging importance with a view to future collaboration and enhanced interdisciplinary engagement. Over the two days the scholars considered five main themes: 1. Urbanisation and History; 2. Public Spaces and Urban Planning; 3. Digitisation of Heritage and Urban Processes; 4. Architectural History and the Conservation of Built Heritage and 5. Urbanisation and Intangible Heritage.

Key areas that emerged from the discussions included: how to engage with contested heritages; how we can consider the future of heritage as well as its history and contemporary context; the extent to which comparative studies analysing one or more cities within India and further afield may enable a deeper understanding of heritage management; the relationship between intangible and tangible heritage

and the need to examine more closely the relationship between public space and heritage. A number of specific research questions, covering issues such as how changing historical geographies and patterns of land ownership affect understandings of heritage; the role of linguistic and cultural transformation arising from urbanisation in shaping public heritage; and whether the value of cultural heritage can be quantified, were also produced.

The ideas stimulated by the discussions in the workshop would benefit from further development of the ideas in two main ways. Firstly, further forums in which these ideas can be discussed would enable the ideas to develop into viable research projects. Secondly, for those projects in which the ideas are already at an advanced stage, pilot projects would allow scholars from the UK and India to work together to develop outputs and form longer-term collaborative projects that build on the relationships established in Delhi.

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projects that build on the relationships established in Delhi.

- **27 Feb 2015 : ICHR signing MoU with The Embassy of Russian Federation in India for joint collaboration in historical research programmes. The meeting was held at Russian Embassy at 12.30 PM.**

Brief Description

The Chairperson attended a meeting with the Russian Embassy officials and invited Indian intellectuals on the occasion of signing an MoU with Mr Sergey Naryshkin who is also the Chairman of the Russian Historical Association and the Head of Organizational Committee for holding the Year of Literature in Russia in 2015.

The Embassy of Russia in India invited the Chairperson to participate in the Round Table on the historical and cultural aspects of Russian-Indian Relations during the meeting of Mr Sergey Naryshkin with Indian intellectuals and scientists in the field of culture, history and art. During the meeting, the MoU between the ICHR and Russian History Association was signed.

- **25 Feb 2015: National Seminar on "Society, Culture and Historiography in India through the Ages", NREC College, Khurja Campus, U.P.**

Brief Description

On the occasion, the Chairperson had inaugurated the Association of Historical Studies and laid foundation stone to the

NREC History Museum. During the seminar, he released the *Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*, Vol XVI. In his address as the Chief Guest, he complemented the management and staff of the College which is more than a century old for keeping up the academic standards of the institution. The Department of History is well-known for its research and academic progress in all aspects of historical studies.



- **20 Feb 2015: XXXV South Indian History Congress, Kakatiya University, Warangal (20-22 Feb 2015).**

Brief Description

The Chairperson was presiding over the Inaugural Function of the SIHC on 20th Feb 2015 on the Campus of the Kakatiya University. He spoke on the historical significance of Warangal which served as capital city for the Kakatiya rulers, a major dynasty of the medieval period, ruling all the Telugu speaking regions of Deccan and Coastal Andhra.

In the evening he delivered an endowment lecture in honourable memory of Prof B C Ray on “National Integration and Indian Culture – Contribution of South India”. He opined that history is rewritten when a scholar tries to revisit the past in search of a remedy for the present malady. Whenever a serious effort is made by a scholar or a group or team of scholars, a fierce resistance comes forth from those who had already formulated a theory on the topic in question. They expect that their theories should be accepted uncritically. If questioned, it becomes controversial and scientific temper among the contenders is lost in the milieu. Thus he deplored that every topic turns problematic. In 1947, the English withdrew their rule jeopardizing India. India was divided into three parts – a secular middle India with two Islamic Pakistans on either side. Such kind of partition of a country on communal lines followed by huge genocide was hitherto unknown to history. But during the last six decades and above after they became independent, it is quite evident, that the two Pakistans could not stay united for long despite the main parameter, religion, being common while India with all diversities could stay united as a democratic Republic surviving all adversaries from within and without. While Pakistan and Bangladesh could satisfy all parameters of a modern Nation State like, one language, one religion, a defined territory, government and sovereignty, technically India cannot satisfy the first two requirements which were in fact major considerations for partition.

Basically, religion was the prime engine to mobilise communities to be identified as distinct nations. The language had become a marker of religious identity. None of these two engines could make these two cousins strong internally and gain a considerable image among the comity of nations. On the other hand, India cannot claim to be a homogenous community to acquire nationhood but still it is recognized as a Nation. It appears, its strength lies in its ability to streamline these diversities to a common good. Surprisingly, the majority population in India are secular by nature bound by time-honoured traditions whereas it is otherwise in its neighbourhood countries which are newly born nations based on religious identity. Bangladesh could, however, claim partial ethnic identity which has led to its formation. Whether India is a Nation or a 'Nation-in-making', has been discussed by several scholars from India and abroad basing their arguments on the Western theories like that of Herbert Resley's statistical and ethnographic research to categorise Indian society.

He explained certain issues related to India's unity, which has been a reality and tested and verified every now and then. He elaborated what has contributed to its unity and strength in the absence of the primary characteristics of a Nation according to European concept? What factors keep it united? As some intellectuals argue, will Culture unite people of a country? If so, what are the characteristics or aspects of

such a Culture which could create and establish firmly the feeling of oneness among the people of a vast country like India with varied geographical regions. How could these diverse geographical regions contribute to National integration? He attempted to address these issues in his endowment culture.

- **07 Feb 2015 : New Delhi, A discussion session at the residence of Ambassador of Turkey on "First World War – Turkey".**

Brief description

The discussion session has started at about 7 pm at the residence of the Ambassador. Three recent publications of Ms Vedika, Capt Singh and the Ambassador were placed before the participants for discussion. The participants included senior professors of history, social scientists and other intellectuals numbering about thirty. The Chairperson complemented the authors for their informative works and felt that there was still a need for more serious works on the role of Indian Princes in the First World War, the contribution of Indian army, both regulars and others, effects of the War on the ongoing freedom struggle in India and the consequences leading to partition. The ICHR has already signed an MOU earlier with Turkey and sponsored the visit of scholars of Turkey to India for academic interaction with Indian scholars on more than one occasion. The Chairperson has invited the Ambassador and his scholar-wife to visit ICHR for interaction with

Indian scholars and to chalk out academic exchange programmes.

- **04 Feb 2015: University of Delhi, Department of Persian, National Seminar on "Society and culture in Indo-Persian Literature during Sultanate Period (Circa 13th – 16th)"**

Brief Description

The Chairperson attended the seminar as Chief Guest. While inaugurating the seminar, he said that studies on the society and culture required expertise in Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and vernaculars. The scholars who choose to do research in the medieval period should have working knowledge in the languages concerned and also take assistance from the respective scholars in interpreting the texts. The Sultanate and the Mughal periods witnessed a great spurt in the development of Indo-Persian literature in various subjects of arts, sciences, history, philosophy etc. It is unfortunate that in the modern times, languages are viewed as markers of religious identities. Every language opens a window to a different world of its own. Literature makes man human and music divine. This phenomenon could be identified in the life and works of Amir Khusroe. The poets and scholars of this period were proficient in Persian, Sanskrit and regional languages despite the fact that the period was marked with invasions followed by devastations and destructions. Most of the repositories of ancient texts and works of greater importance were destroyed by the

barbaric attacks. Perhaps there appears to be a tendency towards destruction among some men which we witness even today that such men create virus to destroy the soft data stored with great care and effort. In the second millennium, whenever the times settled down to normalcy congenial to the development of finer faculties, India was subjected to sporadic attacks which gave severe tremors throughout the country. The literature promotes an atmosphere for creating synthesis among the diverse societies and communities. Different schools of religion, political philosophy and economics widen the gaps between the communities but the culture enriched by arts, literature and philosophy would contribute to the unity of peoples at large.

- **29 Jan 2015 : University of Delhi, Sanskrit Department, Prof. P N Chaudary Memorial Lecture.**

Brief Description

The Lecture was delivered by Mr Rajiv Malhotra of Infinity Foundation, US. Dr Subramanian Swamy was the Chief Guest. The Chairperson ICHR presided over the meeting. In his presidential remarks, he called for more research in the areas of ancient and medieval periods of Indian history. He said that the ICHR would take steps to promote research in these areas since they were not paid due attention in the past years. He pointed out that very few historians who worked in these areas earlier had proficiency in basic languages like,

Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Persian and Arabic. Most of these studies were based on the translations of the original texts. And in the post independent era, these areas are much neglected by both scholars and students since they do not equip themselves with language skills to consult the original sources, he said.

- **23 Jan 2015: Keshav Memorial PG College, Narayanguda, Hyderabad and 24 Jan 2015 Vagdevi PG College, Hanamkonda, a symposium on the Nizam's Rule in Telangana.**

Brief Description

Prof Makkhan Lal, Delhi, was the key speaker. The Chairperson was the chief guest. It is noticed during the movement for Telangana State and also after its formation, a section of politicians and intellectuals have been advocating that the Nizam's rule was secular and progressive. Chairperson questioned, "If so where was the necessity to raise such a movement against his rule using both the strategies, *satyagraha* and armed struggle. If the Nizam was secular, why were the Telugus, Marathas and Kannadigas forced to learn only Urdu in place of their mother tongues. What might have happened to Hindu millions if the 'Police Action' was delayed for a day or two. By imposing Urdu as medium of instruction even at the level of higher education, even introduction of western education had become a backward step taking to medievalism. His own community raised agitation against him for Mulki. Will beautification of Hyderabad

city, opening one or two public/private sector undertakings and minor irrigation projects be sufficient to call him progressive, he asked. Still there are millions who remember how they spent their days and nights in terrific scare. It was described that the common man was crushed between '*din ka sarkar and raat ki sarkar*'. Keeping aside these realities, a section of intellectuals and politicians are misinterpreting history for their ulterior motives probably, he opined.

- **22 Jan 2015: Centre of Nehru Studies, Bharatidasan University, Tiruchirapalli,**

Brief Description

Chairperson delivered 'Jawaharlal Nehru Lecture'. He focused on the major role played by the Princely States during British rule in preserving and continuing our culture, tradition, art and literature in his lecture on 'Integration of Indian native states – Some cultural issues'. But for them, the country's art and culture would have vanished, he opined. When these states were integrated into Indian Union, the newly formed government under Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister and Vallabhbhai Patel, Dy Premier, had agreed to retain their titles and honours. They were also offered compensatory pension annually. Some of these Princes joined politics but most of them kept themselves away from the new political arena. But, the later government under Mrs Indira Gandhi had relieved of them all their honours and compensations under the influence of Communist allies.

These Princes who survived even the mighty British Imperial authority had, most of them, volunteered to join Indian Union but they had a raw deal.

While interacting with the Press, “Instead of totally focusing on the political history, awareness about the other branches of history such as social history and economic history, should be generated among the public and the corporate sector could also benefit from the knowledge of history pertaining to their trades to help their R&D wings and they could also sponsor projects taking consultancy services in various branches of discipline. ICHR will monitor such projects to the requirements of the sponsoring agency. The young generation should realize the progressive role of history in the development of nation. He stressed, “every subject has its own sphere of development”.

Earlier in the morning, he visited SRC Post-Graduate College for Women, Trichy and addressed the staff and students separately on the relevance of historical studies.

- **22 Jan 2015: Tamil University, Thanjavur, ICHR Three-day Orientation Programme on “Research Methods in History”.**

Brief Description

While inaugurating the Orientation Course, the Chairperson said, “Every generation revisits and writes history of the past keeping in view of the demands of times and circumstances. Thus, a number of genres are created in course of time from ancient times

to the present. The present popular genre is three centuries old which is Euro-centric. The post-modern genres are now shaping fast. The relevant methodologies have to be designed to suit our research topics. This programme acquaints the young scholars with the basics of research methodology for historical studies. Therefore, a scholar has to design his own methodology for his topic of research because he is better informed in his own field of study. He also advised them to acquire language skills in national and at least one international language besides their mother tongue. While interacting with the Press, he said that historical research might be brought in the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at par with the travel and tourism. He said, the corporate funding was to be made accessible to the researchers in history so that history could become an inclusive branch and not the domain of pedagogues only. The knowledge of history could be applied in various areas of human activity, like tourism, architecture, town planning, religious and cultural festivals, pharmacology, management and administration, social planning, building technology, law and taxation, irrigation, environment, public policies and governance, interior decoration, jewellery designs, fashion designing and fabrics, dramatics, dance and music, painting, games and sports, cinema and TV shows. If one sheds the political garb of history, the historical knowledge is all-inclusive and comprehensive. History helps improvise any productive field of human activity according to him.

On invitation from the Sastra University, Tanjavur, he visited the University campus and got himself acquainted with various academic programmes of the University. He was impressed with the projects undertaken by the University's Department of Oriental studies in the fields of ancient sciences and mathematics.

- **17 January 2015: Banaras Hindu University, 9th Annual Session of IASR Conference on 'Religion, Ritual And Archaeology' at Varanasi.**

Brief description

Addressing the session, the Chairperson said "historians did not study religious aspects quite intently although it is an important aspect of our lives and a useful tool to understand our society and its past. India provides a great museum of world religions and numerous religious practices. Hindu religion in particular has several practices and several schools of thought. Hinduism acknowledges an individual's freedom of belief, but only regulates his material life. Individual is given freedom to choose a path for his self-emancipation/evolution. Although there are several practices, the basis of all these is *Sanatana Dharma*. Although the practices superficially diversify our experience but the thought of *Sanatana Dharma* being the basis unifies Indians. Scholarly studies into the arts, religion and culture would enrich history of India in its varied facets".

- **11 January 2015: Kakatiya University, Warangal, ICHR Orientation Course in 'Research Methodology'.**

Brief Description

The Southern Regional Centre of ICHR had conducted an orientation course on 'Research Methods' at Kakatiya University, Warangal in collaboration with the Department of History and Tourism Management of the University. While inaugurating, the Chairperson advised the students to take up research with due seriousness and acquire necessary skills and capabilities. Keeping in view of the specific requirements of the scholars in this university, advised them also to learn research methods of folk studies, tourism management etc.

- **9 January 2015: CP Ramaswami Iyer Institute of Research in Indology, Chennai. National seminar on "Popular Uprisings in India with Special Reference to Tamilnadu – 1750 to 1857 CE" sponsored by ICHR**

Brief Description:

I was taken round the photo exhibition on "popular uprisings in India" by Dr Nanditha Krishna, the Director of the Institute. Later, inaugurated the seminar. While addressing the scholars at the seminar said that the seminar was titled very aptly as 'peoples' struggle against foreign aggression'. Further pointed out that right from the time the Europeans landed on the West coast in 15th Century to almost those times of the predominance of British rule, Indians have been fighting

with great spirit both in the North and the South against alien rule. Europeans though had great naval power could not establish a good number of settlements on the West coast (of India). Great naval powers like the Dutch and the Portuguese also failed to establish their rule on the West coast. Even the English could not stretch throughout the West coast. The first English ship, *Globe*, had touched Musulipattam on the East coast. With all their might they had great difficulty in establishing their rule on Coromandel completely. The tribal chiefs of the region never succumbed to their power and almost retained their autonomy even during the matured Raj. Though the English emerged as the most powerful nation by twentieth century, they had to compromise with the situation leaving one-third of this vast country under the native rule. While native rulers could no more raise armed struggle against the British, people took up the struggle into their hands and forced the mighty British power to withdraw.

- **2 January 2015: Bengaluru, ICHR panel discussion on 'Regional/Vernacular literary sources for South Indian History' at the Southern Regional Centre of ICHR.**

Brief Description

The Chairperson presided over the seminar. Prof. Rajan Gurukkal, Prof. Srinivas Padigar and Prof. P. Hymavati were the resource persons. The topic of discussion was a vast subject area in itself and had to be dealt by specialists and linguists in the field. He

elaborated the problems encountered by the scholars in this field by pointing out that all Indian languages have gone through several changes in course of time and that the present generation of Telugu people have to struggle to understand the literature of some 200 years ago. It was unfortunate that the literature of a few hundred years ago can only be understood now through an interpreter for most of the Telugu people of today and stressed the need of regional scholars in this field in interpreting the vernacular literature for writing regional History.

Conferences/Seminars attended by the Member Secretary

Three Day Orientation Course on 'Research Methods in History' from 11 to 13 January 2015 organised by ICHR's Southern Regional Centre in collaboration with the Department of History and Tourism Management, Kakatiya University, Warangal.

The Member Secretary delivered the Keynote Address to the week-long ICHR workshop on research methods in history organized at the Kakatiya University, Warangal. He spoke of the necessity for historians to observe the established protocols of historical research for the production of credible historical works. Adherence to such methods distinguished the professional historian from others writing on matters historical. He also

emphasised the dangers of agenda driven history writing and the related attempts to change the present by destroying sites of historical heritage such as that of the Babri Masjid in India and the Bamiyan Buddha statues in 2001.

One-day Workshop on 'Writing Gender History' on 23 January 2015 by Department of History, D.A.V, Post Graduate College, Chandigarh in collaboration ICHR, New Delhi.

He delivered the Inaugural Address to the one-day workshop on 'Writing Gender History' that was funded by the Council and organized by the D.A.V College Chandigarh. He noted that professional historians and teachers of history should be committed to rediscovering women's role as active agents of historical change. The lecture included a brief survey of the development of gender history as it developed as a specialised area of research in the Unites States, Europe and in India.

Valedictory Address in the 47th Session of the Punjab History Conference on 1 March 2015 at Punjab Historical Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala.

The Member Secretary spoke on "Writing Regional History in 21st century India" at the Valedictory Session of the 47th session of the Punjab History Congress at Patiala. The lecture attempted to discuss the fraught use of the category of region and its frequent conflation current administrative divisions. How Indian historians engaged with the

category of region and other sub-national categories and the uses and limits of using the region as a category of analysis were some of the points highlighted.

Later in March, he delivered two lectures on Quantitative Methods in History writing and on the methods and materials of Historical Demography at the Manipur University in Imphal where the Council had organized a one-week course on historical methods.

ICHR Foundation Day

The 80th General Council Meeting was held in the morning with the new Council Members taking active part. The members of the new Council are as follows:

1. Prof Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR
2. Prof Saradindu Mukherji
3. Prof Dilip K.Chakrabarti
4. Prof Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma
5. Prof Narayan Rao
6. Prof R.S. Agrawal
7. Dr Rahman Ali
8. Prof P.T. Haridas
9. Prof Gangmumei Kamei
10. Prof Nanditha Krishna
11. Prof C.I. Isaac
12. Prof Purabi Roy
13. Dr Meenakshi Jain

14. Prof Nikhilesh Guha
15. Prof Michel Danino
16. Prof K. Ratnam
17. Prof Baidyanath Labh
18. Prof Sacchidananda Sahai
19. Prof M.D. Srinivas
20. Dr Atul Rawat (UGC Representative)
21. Director General, National Archives of India
22. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India
23. Secretary, Deptt of Higher Education, MHRD
24. Secretary, Ministry of Culture
25. Financial Advisor, Deptt of Higher Education, MHRD
26. Prof Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary

All the Committees were reconstituted as follows:

Committees of the Indian Council of Historical Research

Administrative Committee Research Project Committee

1. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR
2. Dr. Saradindu Mukherji, Member
3. Professor M.D. Srinivas, Member
4. Professor Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma
5. Professor K. Ratnam, Member
6. Professor Baidyanath Labh, Member
7. The Financial

Adviser, MHRD, Member

8. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Research Project Committee

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR

2. Professor Gangmumei Kamei, Member
3. Professor P.T. Haridas, Member
4. Professor Rahman Ali, Member
5. Professor R.S. Agrawal, Member
6. Dr. C.I. Issac, Member
7. Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Member
8. Professor Kiran Kant Choudary (Co-opted Member)
9. Professor E. Sudha Rani (Co-opted Member)
10. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Foreign Travel Grant Committee

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR

2. Professor Michel Danino, Member
3. Professor Purabi Roy, Member
4. Professor Narayan Rao, Member
5. Professor Nikhilesh Guha, Member
6. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Monitoring Committee, NERC, Guwahati

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR

2. Professor Gangmumei Kamei, Member
3. Professor Purabi Roy, Member
4. Professor Nikhilesh Guha, Member
5. Dr. C.I. Issac, Member
6. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary,

ICHR Library & Documentation Committee

1. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Dr. Saradindu Mukherji, Member 3. Professor Sacchidananda Sahai, Member 4. Professor Gangmumei Kamei, Member 5. Professor P.T. Haridas, Member 6. Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Member 7. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Monitoring Committee, SRC, Bengaluru

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Professor M.D. Srinivas, 3. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Member 4. Professor P.T. Haridas, Member 5. Dr. Saradindu Mukherji, Member 6. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Monograph Series Committee

1. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarti, Member 3. Dr. Nanditha Krishna 4. Dr. Meenakshi Jain 5. Dr. Saradindu Mukherji 6. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Second Level Grievances Redressal Committee

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Professor K. Ratnam, Member 3. Professor Baidyanath Labh, Member 4. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

Indian Historical Review (IHR)

1. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarti, Member (Chief Editor) 3. Dr. Nanditha Krishna, Member 4. Professor Sacchidananda Sahai, Member 5. Professor Nikhilesh Guha, Member 6. Professor Gangmumei Kamei, Member 7. Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Member 8. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR and Managing Editor, IHR

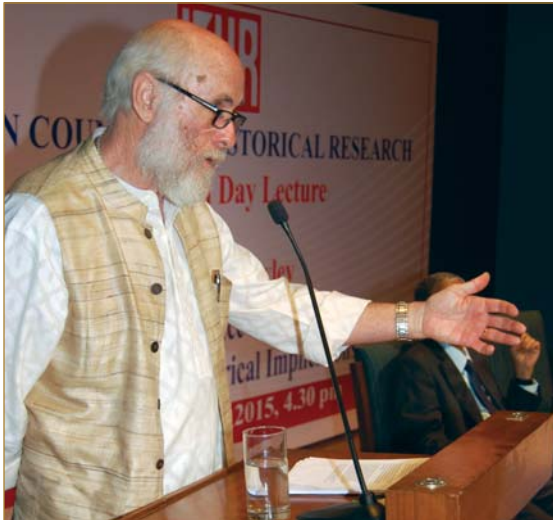
ITIHAAS

1. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR 2. Professor Sacchidananda Sahai, Member (Chief Editor) 3. Professor Baidyanath Labh, Member 4. Professor R.S. Agrawal, Member 5. Professor Rahman Ali, Member 6. Professor Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma, Member 7. Professor K. Ratnam, Member 8. Dr. Kuldeep Kaur Dhaliwal, Member 9. Dr. M.A. Lari Azad, Member 10. Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR

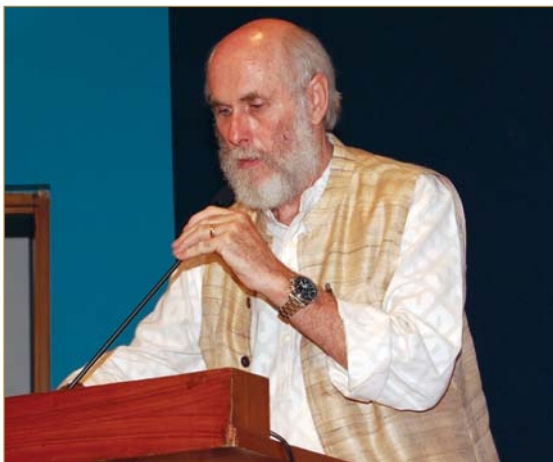
The ICHR also celebrated its Foundation Day on Friday, 27 March 2015 in the Auditorium of the Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dr David Frawley, Director, American Institute of Vedic Studies, Santa Fe, USA, delivered the Foundation Day Lecture and spoke on *Textual Evidence in Vedas – Cultural and Historical Implications*.

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman ICHR gave the welcome address and Professor Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary,



Audience in rapt attention at the lecture hall on the occasion of the Foundation Day Lecture delivered by Dr. David Frawley



Dr. David Frawley delivering the Foundation Day Lecture

ICHR gave a brief report to highlight the activities of the ICHR in 2014-15.

The Lecture was preceded by release of ICHR publication by Dr. Frawley viz; 2 parts of volume I of *Documents on Economic History of British rule in India (Southern India in the Late Nineteenth Century)* – edited by Profs Amiya Bagchi and Arun Bandodaphyay.

On this occasion, prizes and certificates were also distributed for events organised for the staff of ICHR.

The lecture was attended by several historians and scholars from various academic institutions and universities.

Following the Foundation Day Celebrations, a trip was organized for the staff members to Jhajjar, Haryana.

ICHR Seminars/ Workshops

One Day Workshop on “Writing Gender History” was held on 23 January 2015 organised by Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi in collaboration with DAV College, Chandigarh.

The main objective of this workshop was to rethink historiography through the researcher’s experience. Gender when referred in texts comes with the social and cultural constructions of masculinities



ICHR Staff on an excursion trip to Jhajjar on the occasion of the Foundation Day.

and femininities and not just implied to the state of being male or female. Hence, each time history of women or gender is written, a large set of social relations come into account. India, with its heterogeneous society, provides an interesting ground for research where each region differed from the other in context to language, culture etc. The main concern of the researcher writing about the women's question is that he or she cannot ignore the gendered hierarchies in India.

Among other distinguished speakers, Professor Geraldine Forbes, Professor Emerita, History Department, State University of New York, Oswego used a 'non conventional' source while documenting the lives of women in colonial India. Other speakers who contributed to further historiography on gender and the women issues were Professor Pushpinder Syal, Professor Sunita Pathania, Dr. Karamjit K. Malhotra, Dr Shatarupa Bhattacharya and Dr. Suman Bharti.

Workshop on Historical Research Methodology held from 16th to 22nd March 2015, sponsored by ICHR Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of History, Manipur University.

A Seven Day Workshop on 'Methods of Historical Research', sponsored by ICHR Delhi was held in the Department of History, Manipur University from the 16th to 22nd February 2015. The workshop was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University Prof. H.N.K. Sarma.

The first two lectures on the initial day of the workshop were delivered by Prof. Priyam Goswami. She spoke on the practicalities involved in choosing a research problem. On the second day Prof. Gopinath Ravindran gave two lectures on statistical methodology and role of quantitative factors in history. Prof. Gopinath also facilitated a proper understanding of Historical Demography, a subject which most participants had little knowledge of.

Prize distribution to the staff at the ICHR Foundation Day Programme.



Ms. Anita Pokhriyal



Ms. Malavika Gulati



Mr. Devender Singh Bisht



Ms. Saloni



Ms. Vandana Rana



Ms. Bharti

Prize distribution to the staff at the ICHR Foundation Day Programme.



Mr. Mukesh



Mr. Soban Singh



Ms. Poonam Bailwal



Mr. Bhagwati Prasad



Ms. Noor Shabina Aziz



Ms. Nazish

Prize distribution to the staff at the ICHR Foundation Day Programme.



Mr. Pradeep Kohli



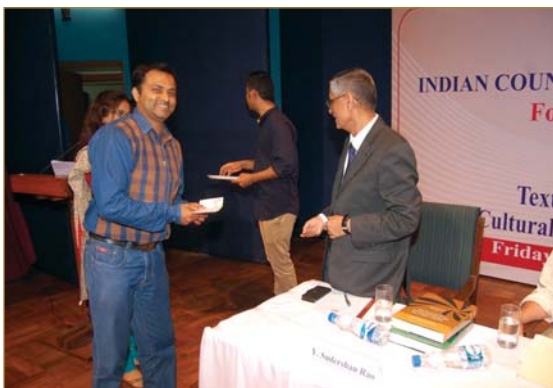
Dr. Jyotsna Arora



Mr. Sandeep



Mr. Rahul Bhardwaj



Mr. Mohd. Nazim



Mr. Ramesh Yernagula

Prize distribution to the staff at the ICHR Foundation Day Programme.



Mr. M.D. Joshi



Mr. Hemant Kumar



Mr. Rajan



Mr. Virender Kaul



Mr. Pratap Chand



Mr. Sanjeev Kumar

Prize distribution to the staff at the ICHR Foundation Day Programme.



Mr. Shivam Devlal



Mr. Naresh Bhardwaj



Mr. Davinder Singh



Mr. Lokesh



Mr. Dharmender Singh



Mr. Ram Shankar

Prof. Ishrat Alam, former Member-Secretary ICHR spoke extensively on *History and Quantitative Analysis, A History of Indian Historiography, Problems in Writing a Research Text in History, Sociology and History* and finally *Thoughts on Studying History*. Prof. D. Nath delivered 2 lectures entitled – Writing Local History – Sources and Methodology on 18-3-2015. The first focused on the scope, origin and necessity of local history whereas the second was on the sources and methodology of local history with emphasis on oral tradition, traditional knowledge systems, etc. It also included discussions on conversion in North East India. Prof. N. Lokendra, Registrar, Manipur University spoke on Oral Tradition.

Prof. Biswamoy Pati delivered 2 lectures – one on *Marxism as a Historical Method*, and the other on the *Possibilities of Alternative Sources in Modern Indian History*. In the first lecture he clearly delineated 7 principles which are to be applied if one uses Marxism as a historical method. In the second lecture he focused on the main problems that have arisen during the development of Marxist historiography from Marx's time onwards, as also the major formulations of Marxist historiography.

Dr. Smita Sahgal delivered a lecture on *Facts and Theory, the Foundations of Rational Historical Research* and what constitutes research. She explained the *Tool Box Approach of Historical Techniques* as also the format and components of research. Prof. GSL Devra delivered

one lecture on *Regional History: Material and Research*. Mr. K.K. Das of History Department, Manipur University kindly consented to give one lecture as Prof. Devra was unable to deliver two lectures because of his illness. Lecture theme: *Nature of Sources and Historical Construction/Reconstruction* with special reference to Archaeology in Ancient India.

On the last day Prof. Sajal Nag delivered two lectures on *Objectivity in History* emphasizing the criteria for objectivity and how in fact it emerged. The other lecture was on the *Annales School of History*, focusing on the contribution of Lucien Febvre and Marc Bloch. Febvre was greatly attracted to the idea of synthetic integrated history whereas Bloch's work on feudal societies was a sketch work and Historians craft an unfinished manuscript where he described history as a science of man in time. After the lecture was over, all the participants went on a study tour of the Kangla Fort at Imphal and the tour of the Battle of Imphal.

ICHR Lecture Series

In keeping with its avowed aim of expanding and reinforcing its existing academic activities, the ICHR started a lecture series in 2007. During this period under report, the following lectures were organised:

- 'Race, Empire and the Komagata Maru- An Illustrated Talk on the History of Early

South Asian Immigration to Canada from 1897 to 1914' by Prof. Ali Kazimi on 12 February 2015.

- 'Language and Religious Identity in Colonial Punjab: A Study of Hindi-Hindu Discourse' by Prof. Kundan.L. Tuteja on 5 February 2015.

Major Projects

Dictionary of Social Economic and Administrative Terms in Indian/ South Asian Inscriptions

Professor Y. Subbarayalu has sent a report pertaining to the South Indian Inscriptions volume of the project and mentioned that entry of data cards has been completed and he is in the process of proof-reading the same. Earlier it was estimated that the total number of cards prepared and kept under the custody of Late Dr K V Ramesh would be around 20,000 but in totality it has now reached 25000 and odd. As per the editor's report the further course of action taken is distribution of the existing work to three language experts for finalizing the entries.

Professor K.M. Shrimali, editor of the North Indian Inscriptions volumes has reported that during the period between 1 January, 2015 and 31 March, 2015, he has completed the editing of 40 terms.

For the volume on Persian and Arabic terms; Professor Irfan Habib has mentioned that

enough material has been collected for the preparation of definitions and presentation of citation. Now, Dr. Jabir Raza is preparing the entries.

Translation of Dutch Sources

The Editor, Professor Om Prakash has reported that "This Project involves the collection, annotation and editing of the Dutch East Company documentation preserved at the National Archives, The Hague, The Netherlands. The work on the project has continued satisfactorily between 1 January, 2015 to 31 March, 2015. The documents collected, annotated and edited pertained mainly to the year 1628, though a certain amount of work has also been done on the documents pertaining to the year 1629".

Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)

During the period under report the Central Research Team has been working on the bulk of the entries supplied by the researchers of the Zonal teams for Volume 4 (covering Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam and the North Eastern Hill States) and for Volume 5 (covering Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka).

To fill in the gaps and add further entries, the Research Team, beside visiting continuously the National Archives of India, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library and other

repositories in Delhi for consulting the sources available there has also undertaken trips to (i) Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai, to collect research material on the Martyrs of the Southern States, and (ii) Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, to gather information on the Martyrs of the Eastern States.

The Research team is currently working hard to complete Volumes 4 & 5 within the scheduled time.

Documents on Economic History During British Rule in Northern and Western India in the Late Nineteenth Century: Quality of Life

In the 70th General Meeting of the Council held on 27 March 2012, it was decided that the ICHR would launch a Project in Collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, for collecting 'Documents on Economic History during the British Rule in Northern and Western India in the Late Nineteenth Century: Quality of Life'.

According to the Associate Editor's report they have collected a considerable volume of documents relating to agriculture, irrigation, revenue, forests, police and jails, education, public health, mortality, public works, income tax, female infanticide, famine and daily life of common people of North-Western Provinces and Oudh for Part II of the volume (1880s-1890s). Documents

have been collected from a wide spectrum of human activity giving special information on the quality of life including daily life in North Indian villages. Work has progressed on the collation and editing of the materials so far collected.

Documents are procured from the National Library, Kolkata, National Archives of India, New Delhi, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi; West Bengal Secretariat Library, Kolkata; Internet Access; UN Geneva Library and Archives; Cambridge University Library, Google Archives etc.

Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP)

The ICHR is a nodal agency for implementation of various Cultural Exchange Programmes signed by the Govt. of India with other Countries.

During the period under review, the ICHR has undertaken various steps to accelerate the CEP signed with other countries.

With Russia

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between **Russia Historical Association (RHA)** and **ICHR** on 27 February 2015

With UK

ICHR-AHRC (Art and Humanities Research Council UK) Workshop on 'Cultural Heritage and Rapid Urbanisation in India' 2-4 March 2015, Maidens Hotel, Delhi

The ICHR and the AHRC signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation on 14 October 2014 and this workshop was the first activity undertaken together by the two organisations. The Research Councils, UK (India) and the Newton Bhabha Fund were also collaborative partner in this workshop.

The workshop was held to focus on how rapid urbanisation has impacted upon urban heritage. Historians, architects and conservators were invited to address this situation, and examine the many implications of the urban revolution in the sub-continent in the last 100 years. Participants discussed the ways in which 'history' and 'heritage' can be brought closer while problematizing the very concept of 'heritage'.

Twenty nine scholars from UK and twenty five from India discussed various aspects of the theme in five sessions: Urbanisation and History, Public Spaces and Urban Planning, Architectural History and the Conservation of Built Heritage, and Urbanisation and Intangible Heritage.

Three presentations were made in the session on 'Digitisation of heritage and

urban processes' by Dr Ratish Nanda, Aga Khan Trust for Culture; Presentation by Ms Nora Rose Daly and Dr Catherine Eagleton, British Library; Dr Satish Kumar, Queen's University, Belfast and Prof David Frohlich, University of Surrey.

In the showcase (session) we had three presentations: 'My Sweet Home' a book project by Ms Samina Mishra; AHRC funded research projects: Prof Jerri Daboo, University of Exeter: 'The Southall Story' / 'Southall and Beyond'; Prof Adam Hardy, Cardiff University: 'The Indian Temple: Production, Place and Patronage'

The welcome address and introductory remarks to the workshop was delivered by Dr Nafees Meah, Director, RCUK India, Prof Y Sudhershnan Rao, Chairman, ICHR and Adam Walker, Head of International, AHRC.

The academic leads for the workshop were Dr Rebecca Madgin, University of Glasgow (UK) and Prof Narayani Gupta, formerly of Jamia Millia Islamia (India).

Prof Gopinath Ravindran, Member Secretary, ICHR and Mr Adam Walker, Head of International, AHRC gave a vote of thanks.

Publications

During the period under report, the following publications were brought out by the Publication Unit of ICHR.

Books

1. *Southern India in the Late Nineteenth Century*, Volume I, Part II-A: 1880s-1890s, ed. Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Arun Bandopadhyay
2. *Southern India in the Late Nineteenth Century*, Volume I, Part II-B: 1880s-1890s, ed. Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Arun Bandopadhyay

Publication unit of the Council received an amount of Rs 24,537/- from direct sales and also put up a stall at NMML on the occasion of the Foundation Day of the Council.

Library-cum-Documentation Centre

This year has been a time of consolidation and growth for ICHR library. Many of the key services that we offer have seen significant uptake over this period. ICHR Library has developed an improved technical infrastructure to support Open Access work flow for the scholars and library team.

The library took a major reshelving operation where the books which were earlier stacked according to Colon Classification system has been reshelved according to Dewey Decimal Classification scheme after the laborious task of reclassification of the entire collection.

The library has received 60 M.Phil / Ph.D Thesis/Dissertations from Grants-in-Aid

units of the Council, which are collected by various units under different schemes of financial grant during the review period. ICHR library has received 160 books related to history from the collection of YMCA London donated by Mr. Michael Ashfield.

The library has also been providing xerox copies of academic reference to the scholars on demand at a nominal rate of one rupee per page of normal size. About 7148 (Approx) exposures were delivered to 564 scholars for their research requirement with complete satisfactory report from January to March 2015.

The reading room of ICHR library is kept open from 9.30 to 5.30 pm on all days with the exception of Sundays and gazetted holidays. Scholars are welcome to offer suggestions for improvement of the library.

Documentation Centre

1. *New Journals have been added during the period of Jan to April, 2015.*

1. Journal of Interdisciplinary History
2. STHAPATYAM: Journal of the Indian Science of Architecture & Allied Science

2. *Microfilms/Microfiche Digitization*

Documentation centre is continuing with digitisation of Microfilm/Microfiche by converting it into digital form. The digital copies are available in Local area networking

server to be accessible to the scholars for reading. During the period, there are more than 40000 folio which are converted from tif into pdf format.

3. Digitization Rare books & Manuscripts

Documentation centre is continuing with digitisation of rare books by means of scanning. During the period, there are 500 pages which are converted into digital format. The digital copies are available in Local area networking server to be accessible to the scholars for reading.

4. Online Access of Indiastat Database

During this period, Documentation centre subscribes to the online Indiastat database services. It serves with authentic and perhaps the most comprehensive compilation of secondary level socio-economic statistical information about India and its states on various socio-economic parameters. These parameters are: General Info, Demographics, Economy, Agriculture, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Environment and Forest, Industries, Infrastructure, Companies, Education, Health, Housing, Labour and Workforce, Polity, Media, Insurance, Tourism, Crime & Law, Social Welfare & Developmental Schemes etc. The interested scholars can approach the documentation centre for its access.

5. During this period the Council has been facilitated with an unique statistical & non numerical tools namely SPSS,

Nvivo, EViews in the documentation Centre. The scholars can avail this opportunity for their research.

6. During this period, the compactors are installed in the documentation centre for bound volumes of journals & proceedings.

7. During this period, the head of the Documentation centre has published the following papers in international conferences.

- A) Challenges in setting up the Web based Online Public Access Catalogue (Web OPAC) at Library cum Documentation Centre of ICHR: A Case Study at the International Conference on What's next in libraries? Trends, Space, and partnerships (WNL 2015, January 21-23, 2015, NIT Silchar, Assam)
- B) Digital Preservation of Microfilms & Microfiches at Indian Council of Historical Research: Major issues, Challenges and Possible Solution in Digital Environment at the International Conference on the Convergence of Libraries, Archives and Museums: Innovative Ideas, Technologies and Services (ICLAM 2015), IGNC, New Delhi.

Regional Centres

With a view to reaching out to far-flung areas of the country, the Council runs two

regional centres, one at Bengaluru and the other at Guwahati. Both the centres have been actively involved in helping scholars carry out their research by providing library infrastructure and organising regional and state level seminars. The Southern Regional centre, Bengaluru and the North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati are headed by Dr S.K.Aruni and Shri Uttam Bathari respectively.

Southern Regional Centre, Bengaluru

The Southern Regional Centre is actively promoting various research schemes of ICHR and is also organising workshops, seminar, symposiums and lecture programmes. The Library-cum-Documentation unit of Centre is also being added with several new titles, journals, etc. The details of the activities undertaken by the Southern Regional Centre is as follows-

I. Orientation Course on 'Research Methods in History'

In continuation of holding the short-term Orientation Course programmes on '*Research Methods in History*' in southern states, the Southern Regional Centre continued to organize the programmes in collaboration with the state Universities. During the reporting period two more Orientation Course programmes were conducted.

(a) Orientation Course programme in collaboration with the Dept. of History, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana:

In collaboration with the Dept. of History & Tourism Management, Kakatiya University, Warangal (Telangana) the Southern Regional Centre conducted three-day Orientation Course on '*Research Methods in History*' from 11th to 13th January 2015. Professor Y. Sudershan Rao inaugurated the programme and Key-Note address was given by our Member Secretary, Prof. Gopinath Ravindran. Aim of the programme was to encourage the young scholars to apply the recent research methods for their doctoral research and also provide them the new trends in the historical research. The participants of the programme were the doctoral students in history and its allied subjects. A total of 50 Ph.D. students enrolled for the programme and attended for three days. The senior scholars and subject experts were invited to give lectures on the theme. Lectures on various topics were delivered in the programme. Some important topics were *History and Folklore: Issues in Research Methodologies* by Prof. Y.A.Sudhakar Reddy, Dean, Centre for Folk Studies, University of Hyderabad; *Aspects and Approaches in the Researches of Regional Histories with Special Reference to the History of the Telugu People* by Dr. Kollur Suryanarayana, Former Professor of Andhra University, Waltair; *Concepts and Techniques in Thesis Writing* by Dr. Arvind Kumar, Dept. of History, Archaeology & Culture, Dravidian University, Kuppam;



Foundation Day [Bengaluru] Professor Kiran Kranth C. and Dr. Choodamani N. gracing the Foundation Day programme at SRC Bengaluru



Foundation Day Lecture at Bengaluru Centre delivered by Prof. Kiran Kranth Choudary



Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR, delivering inaugural address on the occasion of the Orientation Course programme at Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu [21st - 23rd January 2015]



Inauguration of the Orientation Course programme at Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana [11th to 13th January 2015].



Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairperson, ICHR, inaugurating the programme at the ICHR Panel Discussion Programme held on 2nd January 2015.



Prof. Rajan Gurukkal presenting his paper at the ICHR Panel Discussion Programme held on 2nd January 2015

Methods and Theory for Archaeological Studies by Prof. M.L.K. Murty, Professor (Rtd), Centre for Regional Studies, University of Hyderabad; *Beyond Subaltern: Writing Dalit History in Modern Andhra* by Prof. A. Satyanarayana, Dept. of History (Rtd), Osmania University, Hyderabad; *Objectivity in History* by Prof. Sudharshan Reddy, Dept. of History, Osmania University, Hyderabad; *Oral History and Folklore-An Analysis* by Dr. Bhakthavatsala Reddy, Director of Institute for Indian Folklore, Tirupathi; *Research Methods in Cultural and Tourism Studies* by Dr. A. Raghu, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Tourism, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh; *Application of GIS and Digital Cartographic Techniques in Historical Research* by Prof. K.P. Rao, Dept. of History, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad.

A discussion with the participants was organized in this course. The Chairperson Prof. Y. S. Rao chaired and discussed with the students and interacted with the students. The discussion programme was coordinated by Dr P.Sadanandam, Head of the Deptt. of Kakatiya University, Warangal. In the Valedictory Session, Prof. V. Kishan Rao, former Registrar & Professor of History, Osmania University, Hyderabad participated as Guest of Honour and delivered a talk on the concepts of research and selection of research topics. The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. K.P. Rao of University of Hyderabad.

(b) *Orientation Course programme in collaboration with the Dept. of Epigraphy and Archaeology, Tamil University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu [21st - 23rd January 2015].*

The programme was conducted from 21st to 23rd January 2015, at Tamil University Campus, Thanjavur. The programme was inaugurated by the Chairperson Professor Y. Sudershan Rao. The key note address was given by Prof. Y. Subbarayalu. Prof. S. Ganeshram, Registrar of the University, presided over the function. Prof. N Rajendran, Chairperson of School of Social Sciences and Head of Dept. of History, Bharatidasan University, Tiruchirappalli was the Chief Guest and Dr. S. Rajavelu, Professor, Faculty of Manuscriptology, Tamil University was the Guest of Honour on the occasion.

The three-day Orientation Course programme was divided into eleven academic sessions and discussion programmes. The following themes were presented during the programme- *Research Methods in Epigraphy* by Prof. Y. Subbarayalu, Head, Dept. of Indology, French Institute of Pondicherry; *Numismatic as Source for Historical Research: Methods and Approaches* by Dr. P. Shanmugam, Former Professor and Head, Dept. of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai; *Research in History: Structure, Style and Content of Dissertations* by Dr. L. Thyagarajan, Principal [Retd.], Govt. Arts College, Ariyalur,

Tamilnadu; *Objectivity in Historical Research* by Dr. Lakshman Moorthy, Associate Professor of History, AVMM Sri Pushpam College, Poondy, Tamilnadu; *Research Methods for Art historical and Architectural Studies (Spl. Reference to South India)* by Dr. S. Kannan, Dept. of History, Annamalai University, Annamalainagar; *Literature and Research Methods for the Reconstruction of the Past* by Prof. K.N. Ganesh, Former Professor and Head, Dept. of History, Calicut University, Kerala; *Research Methods for South Indian Medieval Archaeology – Some Issues* by Dr. S.K. Aruni, Dy. Director, ICHR, Bengaluru; *Research Methods on Material Culture in History* by Dr. P. D. Balaji, Head, Dept. of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Madras, Chennai; *Research Methods for the Reconstruction of History of Fine Arts in South India* by Dr. G. Sethuraman, Emeritus Professor, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; *Modern Science and Technology: A Historical Perspective* by Dr. T. Ashokan, Dept. of History, Bharatidasan University, Thiruchirappalli; *Survey of Ancient Measurement System and Building Technology: Methodological Issues* by Dr. Jagadish, Dept. of Archaeology, Museums & Heritage, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru; *Valedictory address* by Prof. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Adyar, Chennai. A Special Lecture was conducted on 22nd Jan at 4-00 PM. Prof. P. Jagadeesan, Former Vice-Chancellor of Bharatidasan University, Thiruchirappalli was invited to address the students. Professor Jagadeesan

presented his lecture on *Trends and Theories in Modern Indian Historiography – An Analysis*.

Forthcoming Orientation Course programmes.

Two more Orientation Course programmes are planned in the forthcoming months. The Centre has approached the PG departments of the Dravidian University, Kuppam, the Kannada University, Hampi, for collaboration. Soon the programmes will be conducted.

II. Exhibitions

The Southern Regional Centre of ICHR has been conducting various academic programmes to promote historical awareness and also promoting scientific research in history in its jurisdiction. During the reporting period following photographic exhibitions were conducted in collaboration with local institutions and colleges. During the reporting period, an exhibition on 'Archival Documents of Bengaluru' on 26th February 2015 was organized at the Government First Grade College, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. Historical documents on Bengaluru City were exhibited on this occasion.

III. Panel Discussion Programme

A Panel Discussion Programme on 'Regional Literary Sources for Medieval South Indian History' was conducted on 2nd January 2015. Our Chairman Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, inaugurated the programme and following topics were presented in the programme -

Theme of Discussion	Scholar
<i>Research Methodological Aspects of Literary Sources for History</i>	Professor Rajan Gurukkal, Former Vice-Chancellor, MG University, Kottayam, Visiting Professor, IISc, Bengaluru.
<i>Telugu Vernacular Sources for the History of Medieval Andhradesa</i>	Professor P. Hymavathi, Dept. of History and Tourism Management, Kakatiya University, Warangal.
<i>Utility of 'Samarangana Sutradhara' for Understanding of Temples in Karnataka</i>	Professor Shrinivas V. Padigar, ICHR Senior Fellow & Professor of Ancient/ Indian History & Epigraphy, (Rtd) Karnatak University, Dharwad.

IV. ICHR Foundation Day Programme

The Centre celebrated the Foundation Day on 27 March 2015. The Foundation Day Lecture was given by Professor D. Kiran Kranth Choudary Professor Emeritus, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. He spoke on the topic 'Ramayana: Its Depiction in Art'. Professor Choodamani Nandagopal, Art Historian and Dean, Humanities and Social Sciences, Jain University, Bengaluru, presided over

the programme. The programme was well attended by the scholars, historians and students.

V. Dictionary of the Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in South Indian Inscriptions Project

The Southern Regional Centre extended its assistance in completion of the project during the reporting period, the Centre contacted the project coordinator for the development of project work. The data entry work is being continued. Soon the draft of the data collection will be received and forwarded to Head Office.

VI. Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947) Project

The Centre is assisting in completion of the project. During the reporting period, the Centre had assisted for the data collection in the Tamil Nadu. The Centre arranged the local assistance at Chennai for the Central team visit. And also a new book on martyrs has been forwarded to the Head Office.

VII. Council's JRF/PDF Exam Coordination

Our Council identified Bengaluru as one of the examination Centre for the newly started JRF/PDF for the research scholars. The Regional Centre coordinated to organise the exam in Bengaluru. For the year 2015-16, the exam was held on 8 February 2015 in the Government Arts College, Dr. Ambedkar

Veedhi, Bengaluru. A total of 122 candidates attended these examinations at Bengaluru.

VIII. Training

A week long training programme was conducted by the Head Office from 23 to 27 March 2015. The following staff members attended the week-long training at Head Office.

- Sri. K. Sangappa, Sr. Lib. & Inf. Asst.
- Sri. N.S. Babu, Stenography (Accounts In-charge) and
- Smt. K. N. Parimala, Accounts Clerk

IX. Library-cum-documentation Unit

The Library Book Selection Committee in its recent meeting held on 20 March 2015, made a selection of nearly 500 books recommended for the SRC library. These selected books comprise both vernacular and English publications.

The library has renewed all the fourteen journals/periodical. It has also purchased twenty new books and 11 books have been received as complimentary from scholars and institutions. It has extended its facilities including photocopies of articles, chapters, etc., to the scholars. The library also has kept open the access to the *J-Stor* to the readers.

The PG students of history and archaeology of Tumkur University visited the library on 12 March 2015. They visited the Centre's library to obtain the information about the

functions of the Council and also about the library's collection.

Similarly seventeen students' batch of the undergraduate college of Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, visited the Centre's library on 25 February 2015, for the information about the ICHR and library activities.

Apart from these students, nearly 190 scholars have consulted the library and around 960 photocopies have been served to the scholars.

X. 21-days Workshop on Research Methods and Historiography

The Southern Regional Centre has received a communication from the Head Office that, the RPC in its 140th Meeting has approved and sanctioned the Workshop for the Ph.D. students and young teachers. The arrangements for the programme have been undertaken.

XI. Publication Sales

A total amount of Rs. 42,737/- has been collected by SRC. The Centre had put up ICHR publication exhibition stalls at the following programmes/ conferences to reach out to the history delegates-

1. Kakatiya University during the ICHR Orientation Course Programme [11th to 13th January 2015] &
2. The 35th Annual Conference of *South Indian History Congress* held at Department of History & Tourism Management,

Kakatiya University, Vidyananyapuri,
Warangal [20th to 22nd February 2015]



Seven Day Workshop on *Historical Research Methodology* in Manipur University

North Eastern Regional Centre (Guwahati)

1. *Building up of the Library of the Centre*

- i. During this period bar coding and spine labeling of approximately 2000 nos. of books has been completed.
- ii. 15 titles have been added to the library by means of purchase and complimentary receipts.

2. As per recommendation of the 10th RAC held on 8 December 2014, a seven days workshop on *Historical Research Methodology* was organised in Manipur University. The DD (R) was deputed to attend the workshop held from 16 to 22 March 2015.

3. *JRF & PDF Examination*

The Centre provided assistance in conducting the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Post Doctoral Research Fellowship (PDF) examination which was held on 16 February 2015. The written test was held in the ICHR, North East Regional Centre office.

4. *Project on the Survey, Collection and Documentation of Archival Sources*

The NERC has been supervising this project and regularly sending reports on progress to the head office on weekly basis.

5. *Staff Training*

The following employees of the NERC were invited for training in the library and

accounts section at head office in Delhi from 23 to 27 March 2015.

1. Sri Mukti Nath Sarma, Sr. Library and Information Assistant.
2. Sri Jyoti Kumar Das, Accounts Clerk.

Staff News

Training Programmes

The following officials attended a Two Day basic Training/Orientation Programme for sensitisation of the Personnel working in Vigilance, from 24-25 February 2015, at CVC Headquarter, Satarkata Bhavan, GPO, New Delhi

- i. Dr. Jyotsna Arora, Dy. Director (Library)/ CVO
- ii. Shri Dharmender Singh, Assistant

Employees who retired

Shri Bharat Bhushan, Assistant

Shri Bharat Bhushan was appointed as Hindi Typist in the Council on 14.06.1985. He was promoted as UDC on 18.04.2012. He served the Council as Assistant (ad hoc) w.e.f. 07.10.2014, when he retired on superannuation on 28.02.2015. He served the Council with utmost devotion and sincerity.

Smt. Davinder Kaur, Assistant Cash

Smt. Davinder Kaur, Assistant Cash was appointed as LDC on 30.01.1976. She was promoted as Accounts Clerk w.e.f. 12.08.1999. She served the Council as Assistant Cash w.e.f. 30.09.2014, when she retired on superannuation on 28.02.2015. She served the Council with utmost devotion.

Research Funding Schemes

Supporting historical research is one of the important functions of the ICHR. The grants in-aid, as mentioned below, are awarded to scholars/institutions and are released through affiliating agencies, like research institutions, universities or colleges. The ICHR has introduced a new system for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Post Doctoral (General) Fellowship (PDF) is held by short listing candidates to be interviewed and final decision is taken on the basis of addition of marks obtained in written examination and interviews. The selection process for Senior Academic Fellowship too has undergone a change. Under the new scheme, applications are invited and the proposals received are referred to the experts appointed by the ICHR. On the basis of their assessments, selected candidates are requested to make a presentation on the proposed subject of research before the Research Projects Committee (RPC).

The Revised Research Funding Rules and the revised calendar for accepting funding application has been uploaded on our website. The revised funding calendar is given below:

Last date for application for grants *Seminar/ / *STG/ Publication/Research Project)
31st December
31st March
30th June
30th September

Maximum Processing Time: Three Months,

- * FTG (Foreign Travel Grant : Minimum processing time four months)
- * STG : Study Travel Grant

The different Research Funding Schemes of the ICHR are as follows:

Fellowship/ Grants	Eligibility Criteria	Amount	Mode of Selection
Junior Research Fellowship	Registered in Ph.D or equivalent in an Indian University	Rs 16,000/- p.m + contingency of Rs 15,000/- per annum	All India Examination
General (Post-Doctoral Fellowship	Ph.D or equivalent thereof from Indian or Foreign University or has published work of equivalent merit	Rs 28,000/- p.m + contingency of Rs 20,000/- per annum	All India Examination
Senior Academic Fellowship	Senior Scholar of repute through published research work	Rs 40,000/- p.m + contingency of Rs 40,000/- per annum	Shortlisted applicants interviewed and asked to give presentations
National Fellowship	Indian Scholar of distinction who wishes to undertake further research of a fundamental or innovative character	Rs 55,000/- p.m + contingency of Rs 60,000/- per annum	Nominated by ICHR
Research Projects	(i) The Research Projects Committee may award a grant for a project of research in History or on a theme substantively including an aspect or aspects of History, undertaken within India, under a scholar as Project Director, upon an application made by or on behalf of the said scholar in accordance with the proforma given in Annexure V in Research Funding Rules of ICHR.	Maximum of Rs 5,00,000/-	Screening of applications by the Research projects Committee on recommendation of Experts

Fellowship/ Grants	Eligibility Criteria	Amount	Mode of Selection
	(ii) Bona fide Institutions with a well established and respected record of historical research may apply for funding for projects.		
Contingency (Study-cum- Travel) Grant	Scholars engaged in M.Phil/ Ph.D/Post-doctoral Work or carrying independent research in History	Maximum of Rs 40,000/- for M.Phil scholars and Rs 50,000/- for Ph.D scholars	Screening of applications by the Research projects Committee on recommendation of Experts
Grants for Foreign Travel and Maintenance Abroad and Visits of Foreign Scholars	Grants for Participation in a conference/workshop Indian Scholar who wishes to visit abroad for collection of source material.	Travel and Maintenance Grant	Screening of applications by the Research projects Committee on recommendation of Experts
Publication Subsidy	Publication of : Doctoral Thesis Monographs and other Research Work Proceedings of a Seminar/ Symposium/Conference Critically Edited or Translated Source Material Bibliography and Documentation Work Periodical Publications	Monographs - Rs 30,000/- or 50 per cent of the costs of production (whichever is less), In exceptional cases a maximum subsidy of Rs 1,00,000/- may be extended.	Screening of applications by the Research projects Committee on recommendation of Experts

Fellowship/ Grants	Eligibility Criteria	Amount	Mode of Selection
	Any Other Research-oriented Work Translation into an Indian Language or into English of an important work on History	The subsidy awarded for periodical publication in or for one year shall not exceed Rupees one lakh (Rs.1,00,000), except in the case of the proceedings of the annual sessions of the professional organizations of historians of national/international repute where the ceiling shall be Rupees one lakh fifty thousand (Rs.1,50,000)	
Seminar, Workshop or Conference Grant	Awarded to Academic and Professional Organisations of Historians at the National, Regional, State and Local Levels	Maximum of Rs 5,00,000/- with the exception of Indian History Congress	Screening of applications by the Research projects Committee on recommendation of Experts

Applications for all categories of grants are received throughout the year. For further details on the research funding schemes, the booklet on Research Funding Rules can be obtained from ICHR on payment of Rs 55/-. Outstation candidates can send a request with

a demand draft of Rs 55/- payable to the Member Secretary, ICHR, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001.

Fellowships Awarded

Name of the Fellowship	Appeared for the Examination	Nos. shortlisted for interview	Awarded
Junior Research Fellowship	369	195	77 (2 seats in ST category and 1 in PWD left vacant as no candidates found suitable under the specified criteria)
Post Doctoral Fellowship	48	31	9
Senior Academic Fellowship	33	12	7 (including 1 SC)
National Fellowship	-	-	-

Grants Awarded /Under Consideration

Name of the Grant	Awarded	Under Consideration
Research Projects		23
Contingency (Study-cum-Travel) Grant		54 (from October 2014 to March 2015)
Seminars/Workshop/Conferences		125 (from October 2014 to March 2015)
Foreign Travel Grant		50 (from October 2014 to March 2015)
Publication Subsidy		21 (Manuscript/Thesis- 10, Journals- 8, Proceedings- 3)

No Research Projects Committee Meeting held since October 2014

Chairperson

Professor Yellapragada Sudershan Rao

Member Secretary

Professor Gopinath Ravindran

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