



INDIAN COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH



NEWSLETTER

समाचार

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

The New Year 2016 heralded new enthusiasm and spirit in the multifarious activities and functions of the ICHR. After quite a long gap of many years, it is heartening to note that the new Council has envisaged and commissioned new research projects in significant areas of historical research, like Environmental Studies, Development of Indian Science and Technology, Politics of Demography, Native India and Princely States, etc. These projects are expected to be completed in about 2 to 3 years, strictly adhering to the scheduled timeline.

Apart from the original research, the Council has also considered to enrich our data store for historical researches by undertaking translation of seminal historical works from European languages, like French, Dutch, German to provide multilingual sources to Indian history. The Council has expressed its empathy for the discouraging trends and the diminishing prospects for its basic sub-disciplines, like Archaeology, Epigraphy and Numismatics. The Council has planned to organize training course cum workshops in



these areas for the benefit of young scholars and teachers. One such programme, a 21-day workshop on Epigraphy, is slated for July 2016 by selecting about 25-30 candidates inviting applications through a web-notification.

The period under report is also significant in respect of our collaborating academic programmes with foreign academic centres and professional associations, like German Research Council (DFG), Germany, Japan Society for Promotion of Science ((JSPS), Japan, and Arts & Humanities Research



Council (AHRC), U.K. We are also hoping for similar collaborative endeavours promoting historical research with other foreign research organizations from Russia, Turkey and Iran. We already acknowledged and welcomed the proposals from these official agencies. We are looking forward to furthering our age-old cultural relations and historical ties with these countries and peoples.

The ICHR has also profited by deputing their supervisory staff members for professional training workshops conducted by EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP). The Council has also sponsored our expert specialists to take part in the professional conferences held outside India.

Besides sponsoring and organizing national conferences and seminars, celebrating the Foundation Day of the ICHR deserves a special mention. This Day is celebrated in the central office at Delhi and also in its regional centres by organizing both academic and staff events. This year the Foundation Day was celebrated on 29 March 2016 with staff events for a week culminating on the Day. The Foundation Day lecture was delivered by an eminent octogenarian Professor of

History, Sri Satish Chandra Mittal, who surveyed and critiqued the trends in Indian historiography in his special lecture.

Apart from chronicling the activities and programmes of ICHR in this Newsletter, I would rather prefer to make it more interactive among our fraternity. It could also serve as a platform for expressing the news and views regarding the latest historical finds and trends of modern historical writings. The members of family of historians are welcome to express their views and suggestions to make this Newsletter more informative and vibrant.

Further, professional bodies and university departments of History may also send brief reports on their major academic activities like special lectures, seminars, workshops, research projects, etc. with a few photographs. They can also notify their up-coming events through this Newsletter. I earnestly hope that such interaction would promote healthy growth and development of historical studies and writings in our country.

Jai Hind

Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao



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SELECTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN'S DIARY

One of the major objectives of ICHR is reviewing the progress of historical research from time to time and indicating neglected or new areas where research needs to be specially promoted. Keeping in mind this objective, the Chairman, ICHR, right since the time he took over as Head of ICHR in June 2014, has been taking an active part in various academic activities like attending seminars, conferences, symposia, etc. held in different parts of the country and personally interacting with scholars and researchers to get a first-hand idea of historical research being done in different parts of the country and the areas where in-depth research is required to be done. During the period

under report also, the Chairman attended some academic events and interacted with scholars, the brief accounts of which are given below:

ICHR-JSPS International Symposium on, "Economic History", hosted and organized by ICHR, IIC complex, New Delhi: 5 January 2016

Though the Chairman could not be personally present in this symposium because of indisposition, yet he sent a message to be read out in his absence during the inaugural function of the International Symposium. The following message of the Chairman was read in the inaugural session:

"Most distinguished scholars and honourable invitees,

I, on behalf of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Govt. of India and on my personal behalf, extend a hearty and warm welcome to you all for this two-day seminar on economic studies on modern India under the joint collaboration of *Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS)* and the ICHR.

Though our countries have been closely connected with each other for centuries with strong cultural ties, the present opening of a new area where we could share our scientific studies on mutually beneficial grounds has begun with the visit of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, to Japan, a year ago. We thank both the Governments for taking initiative for the academic exchanges



between the scholars of two countries on areas of common interest. True to the spirit of friendship between the governments and peoples of our two countries, the JSPS and ICHR have been very active in cooperating with each other in formulating academic programmes ever since we signed an MoU with the guidance of both Governments.

For the ensuing seminar, we chose to exchange views on the economic developments in India in the last two centuries specifically keeping in view the colonial phase of India.

The ICHR has been running a major project on the various aspects of this study since three years and published seminal documents relating to economic aspects mostly pertaining to the British ruled part of India. The other part of India directly ruled by Princes was known as 'Native India'. We have yet to draw the attention of our economic historians to this mostly unexplored area of study. Whatever economic studies are available on this part of India are meager and deal only with the last phase of our freedom struggle and when the Princes also started adopting the British policies and frame-work on revenue matters.

India and Japan share common cultural spirit and ethos. The diversity in the cultural and social framework is only apparent. But in the light of the developments that have taken place in both the countries since the late 19th century, both are perceived in different ways. Isolated for several centuries, Japan entered into a new phase with accelerated growth engines in every

aspect of economic development under native rule; India, in contrast, made slow progress in the economic field under foreign yoke but only to serve the imperial interests. The early nationalist studies like those of Dadabhaiji and Romesh Chandra Dutt on Indian economy sub-serving the Master Nation do not come under development economics. They were mostly defensive and appealed to the sensibilities of the English rulers. At the same time some efforts were also in the offing from the alien groups in the infrastructural sectors in India under 'protective mode'.

Even after independence, we gave preference to foreign strategies for economic progress. While Meiji's reforms in Japan were guided by the experience of the 'Have countries', Japan in course of time indigenized the systems to suit to the needs of the nation. In a few decades Japan emerged as a mighty force to reckon with among the comity of nations.



Seated on the dais are Dr Meenakshi Jain (centre); to her right are Mr. Hiroshi Kamiyo and Mr. Takaaki Iwasa; to her left are Mr. Wakimura and Prof. Satyanarayana



We are very hopeful that the seminar would open up new areas for more interaction between the specialists of both countries in the field of science”.

Two-day National Seminar on “Iconography of the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains” at CPR Institute of Indological Research, Chennai: 8 January 2016

In his inaugural address, the Chairman gave the following message: “Art history is history with a difference. While the modern genre of history is considered more of a science dealing with the material world, Art history takes one to abstract heights, into a different realm. Art history is the finest amalgam of both science and art. Among various forms of art, iconography needs a special mention. An ‘icon’ is a clear symbol of a concept or a phenomenon.

Especially Hindu iconography has evolved purely out of the cosmological, philosophical and metaphysical knowledge that has emerged from the Vedas. Therefore Hindu iconology is considered Veda (the knowledge) by itself. The Veda in a literal form gives a graphic description of the cosmic phenomenon whereas the iconography presents a visual description of the same phenomenon. The iconography is thus meant to convey the abstract, subjective truths realized by a philosopher or Rishi, to the common man. Thus, Hindu iconography since time immemorial has been inseparably associated with the spiritual pursuit and elevation of the people in this culture.



Chairman delivering the inaugural speech at the CPR Institute

In India, the earliest icons, dating back five millennia, clearly convey such philosophical and metaphysical concepts. The images of the Yogi and the Dancing Girl from Harappan times reveal the secret of their transcending link with spirituality. Vedic background of Hindu iconology is quite evident in the development of the science of Art in the later phase of Vedic period. The figurines of gods and goddesses in metal or stone are designed according to the *dhyanaslokas* adopted from the Veda. The *dhyanaslokas* are literary descriptions of the godheads. Thus, Hindu icons are not just idols or mere art pieces.

Aesthetics are added to the science of this art, probably after Harappan times, to please the eye as the civilization matured. The relevant *sastras*, *sutras* and other scientific literatures came up in the course of time. Considerable scientific and mathematical applications (such as Iconometry) are involved in the making of divine icons as intrinsic as the *yagnavedikas* according to Vedic injunctions. In Hindu iconology, the base of art is science, which, in turn, is based on the Vedic knowledge. Its aim is



spirituality. This could be found as a general characteristic feature of all Hindu classical forms of Art.

The nature of Indian (Hindu) Art is transcendental, from matter to non-matter. Music, dance, painting, sculpture, poetry etc., are treated as equivalent to *dhyana*, *tapas* and *yoga* for realizing the Ultimate. The Hindu iconography is placed on a high pedestal among all other forms as a path of realization of the Self not only for the artist but also for those who are attracted to his piece of art and meditate on its form. This has become a popular form of Hindu worship within reach of the common man.

The icon, though it is in human form, should not be treated as a mere idol. The iconic worship is directed to a cosmic phenomenon. Others may understand this as idol worship. Common practitioners of Hinduism must also be educated to know what icons mean in their religious practices. We need authoritative and simple popular writings to familiarize people with the significance of Hindu Iconography. In this regard, we can cite one such effort by Pandit Rama Ramanuja Achari's recent work, *Hindu Iconology* (Simha Publications, 2015).

Hindu iconography, besides depicting the *tattvas* of divine manifestations, includes the symbolic representation of mythological legends like *avataras*, cosmic phenomenon like *Manthan*, *Puranic* stories, events and personalities, etc. In all these depictions, the spiritual underpinning is found prominent. The Hindu iconology has influenced the art of later religions like Jainism and Buddhism.

Therefore, the Hindu Art historian shoulders great responsibility while interpreting an icon to the general readership. He has to be well acquainted with the traditional scholarship. John F. Mosteller reiterates the significance of ancient texts for interpreting a piece of art in the Indian context. (Mosteller, 'Future of Indian Art History', *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, Vol. 109, No. 4, October - December 1989, pp. 597-602).

40th Annual Session of AP History Congress (APHC) at Govt. Women's College, Srikakulam: 9 January 2016

While inaugurating the annual session of the APHC, the Chairman spoke about the significance of the regional and micro-level studies to enrich the macro or national history. During the freedom struggle there was a spurt in the research activity. Mostly the writers and poets took up the task of writing popular series of books on various events and personalities to carry message of the historical heritage of this nation to the knowledge of common man to awaken in him patriotic fervour and inspire him to take active part in the struggle. Further, they applied the folk theatric art forms to reach the unlettered Indian masses. Many historic heroic deeds were dramatized to inspire people. Even in the intellectual circles, the literary works were brought out on the elitist culture and ancient sciences and history of ancient civilization to educate the educated with the purpose of motivating them to become informed leaders in the struggle. After three decades of the attainment of independence, regional history came to the stage as a main pursuit of professional



historians. Attention is now being paid to many areas in history; besides many themes and different perspectives have also been developed. Now junior scholars in various universities are studying micro areas in their regions leaving no area, both historical and geographical, uncovered.



Chairman inaugurating the seminar by igniting the traditional lamp

However, the Chairman emphasized that new scholars should not ignore the work of the earlier generations in bringing out their contribution to historical studies. In cases where further examination is necessary for authentication, they should revisit them and establish the 'truth', because 'truth'



Chairman delivering the inaugural speech at the 40th Session of APHC

should be the aim of historical research and perspectives should not come in the way of establishing the 'truth'.

Birth Centenary celebrations of Komaragiri Venkata Bhupal Rao, former Director, Dept. of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, at Warangal: 16 March 2016

The *Mahamantri* Madanna Trust (established in 1982), Hyderabad, founded by the Late K. V. Bhupal Rao (b. 1916), who contributed a great deal to historical research of the Telangana region of erstwhile state of Andhra Pradesh, celebrated the birth centenary of this great stalwart on 16 March 2016.

The celebrations were held at a place opposite Subedari, Hanamkonda, where the statues of *Mahamantri* Madanna are installed; he served as Prime Minister under the last ruler of Qutb Shahis, Abul Hasan Tanasha. He was brutally killed by the Mughal army when Golkonda fell to Aurangzeb in 1687. *Mahamantri* Madanna was well-known for his efficient and skilful administration.

K. V. Bhupal Rao earned gold medal in MA (History) from Osmania University, Hyderabad, and conducted admirable research to ignite memories of those times through his hard work and devotion to the cause of history writing. He had also contributed his utmost to erect the statue of *Mahamantri* Madanna in Warangal town. Besides this, he was a great researcher in the field of ancient and medieval history of



the region. He was well versed in Sanskrit, Persian, Arabi, Dutch, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Lambada and Urdu besides English and Telugu. He was a prolific writer. He was decorated with President's Seva Medal in 1960. In recognition of his selfless service to the society, a fast growing industrial township in Telangana is named after him.

The Chairman, paying rich tributes to Sri K. V. Bhupal Rao, appealed to the present generation of historians to emulate his ideals as a man and as a devoted researcher. He said that Bhupal Rao had exemplarily shown us that local or regional study as a part of national history, also, could contribute to national spirit and unity.



Chairman participating in Birth Centenary celebrations of Late K.V. Bhupal Rao at Warangal

National Seminar on "Socio-Cultural transformation in 20th century South India", Department of Indian History, University of Madras, Chennai: 23 March 2016

The seminar was organized in connection with the centenary celebrations of the Department of Indian History, University of Madras, Chennai.

The Chairman, in his inaugural address, congratulated the staff and students for being associated with an illustrious Department of Indian History in South India, which turned hundred this year. The Madras University is the first of its kind in the South and this Department of History is almost like a mother to all South Indian departments of history. Thus, it is a pioneer and also premier institution for studies in history of India. Credit goes to the stalwarts who manned this Department for setting up a healthy and scientific trend to pursue study and research in history.

He recalled the efforts made by the early generation of scholar-historians in exploring original sources for historical material and presenting facts and figures as they appeared. They were different from the modern generation of historians who attach more importance to epistemology than exploring original sources. He cautioned that the interpretations and commentaries of original sources should not develop cleavages in society. The modern studies that focus on the dark spots of history should enable them to find a respectable place as a part of the whole rather than alienating those from the mainstream. The sectional, regional and local studies should encourage us to learn lessons from the past experiences facilitating integration for common good. The modern studies, thus, should promote inclusive character of the society. He laid emphasis on the point that historians have an important role to play in achieving this noble goal of the society.





Chairman with the organizers of the seminar at the University of Madras

MAJOR PROJECTS

ICHR, apart from providing fellowships and financial assistance to young teachers in colleges, universities and registered research organizations through its various Grants-in-Aid schemes, has also been undertaking, for the benefit of scholars and researchers in history, Special Research Projects. In recent times, the RPC of the Council approved some special projects like 'History of Science and Technology', 'Environmental History of India', 'Translation of Foreign Sources on India', etc.

During the period under report, progress was made in the 'Dictionary of Martyrs' project, a brief report of which is given below.

DICTIONARY OF MARTYRS--INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE(1857-1947)

This project was initiated by the National Implementation Committee for the implementation of the celebrations of the

150th anniversary of the Uprising of 1857 with the basic purpose of bringing to the fore contributions made by thousands of freedom fighters and martyrs from remote areas of the country whose names have remained obscure in the annals of Indian history.

During the period under report, the Central Research Team (CRT) received the composed copy of Volume 4 covering Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura (1857-1947) from the press in January 2016 and read three proofs till the middle of March, 2016. The cover design too was finalized during this period.

After sending the third proof to the publisher, the CRT started incorporating the suggestions of the Experts, Coordinators and the Ministry of Culture into the type-script of Volume 5 covering Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala (1857-1947); the final proofs shall be sent to the press for composition by April 2016. After the composition work is over, the CRT will again read the proofs meticulously, word by word, at least three times to ensure that the quality of publication is high.

Since the Dictionary is scheduled to cover the martyrs till 15 August 1947, the CRT, in order to incorporate the contributions of those martyrs who joined the independent union of India between September 1947 and December 1961, took pains during January-February 2016 in preparing, at the instance of the Council and Central Ministry of Culture, an additional sub-project



of one Volume, for their consideration, consisting of martyrs from Telangana and Marathawada of the erstwhile Hyderabad State and from the French and Portuguese Indian possessions.

ICHR FOUNDATION DAY

It was on 27th March 1972 that the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) was established by the Government of India as an autonomous organization to encourage objective and scientific research in various aspects of our history. Little wonder then that the Foundation Day is by far the most important event of ICHR which is celebrated every year on or around 27th March with great enthusiasm and fanfare. The special feature of the Foundation Day celebration is that every year a scholar of great eminence is invited to deliver the Foundation Day Lecture.

The ICHR celebrated its 44th Foundation Day on Tuesday, 29 March 2016, at the India International Centre (Lecture Room

II, Annexe, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi). **Professor Satish Chandra Mittal**, eminent Historian, delivered the Foundation Day Lecture and spoke on the topic 'Interpreting the Indian National Movement: A Study of Shifting and Changing Trends'. The lecture was very thought-provoking and the audience listened to it with rapt attention. Many distinguished historians and scholars from various academic institutions and universities were present in the gathering.

The abstract of the lecture is reproduced below:

“According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Nationalism is an ideology that is based on the premise that the individual's loyalty and devotion to the nation-state surpass other individual or group interests. In Indian literature also it is said that 'Nationalism' is a sacred and the divine sentiment towards the motherland. In Vedic literature and other Sanskrit works, the word 'nation' is called as 'Rastra'. The concepts of 'nation' and 'nationalism' are thus as old as the Vedic civilization. In modern times, some of the outstanding personalities of India like Swami Vivekananda, Lokmanya Tilak, Aurobindo and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay propagated ideas regarding the concepts of 'nation' and 'nationalism' of India. Cambridge historians, however, opine that there was no idea of existence of Nationalism in India, nor any type of national feeling prevailing in India and that the concepts of 'nation' or 'nationalism' were European which developed during the 19th century during the British rule in India. Sir Alfred C. Lyall, Sir J.R. Selley and A.O.



Prof. Mittal delivering the Foundation Day Lecture; to his left are Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao and Dr. Ali Dehgahi; to his right is Dr. S.K. Aruni



Hume believed that there was total absence of nationalities in India. In the works of Mill and Hunter too very little place is given to Indian aspirations or Indian nationalism. In short, the Cambridge historians looked at the Indian National Movement as an opportunity for the elitist classes to make material gains.

Marxist historians on the other hand opined that Indian National Congress was founded with the purpose of safeguarding the capitalist class. They believed that it gave voice only to the upper strata of the Indian society. Sumit Sarkar in his work, *'The Swadeshi Movement in Bengal 1903-1908'* points out clearly that the National Movement was a 'Bhadralok affair', which could not become a mass movement. Gandhi too remained a controversial figure among the Marxists. He was perceived as having a dual character-- as anti imperialist and also as a person who had a tendency to compromise. One should not overlook the fact that the objectives of the East India Company were patronization and exploitation of the provincial peoples for the stability and extension of the British rule in India. British

historians and Marxist thinkers sowed the seeds of poison that led to the creation of many myths, wrong notions, distortion of facts and misinformation that continue to haunt the Indian mind. In order therefore to see things in their true perspective, it is important that historical writings are based on facts and sound interpretation, devoid of bias and prejudice".



The audience listening with rapt attention to Prof. Mittal

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, who presided over the function, extended a warm welcome to the august gathering of erudite scholars. He thanked the speaker profusely for delivering a very informative, inspiring and thought-provoking talk on modern Indian historiography which was acknowledged by a standing ovation by the audience.

The Chairman said that it was a matter of great concern that we are not attempting to write our history perusing our indigenous sources from our own perspective. Even after 60 years of our independence, we are only following the Western views and methods to interpret our sources. The modern history writing has become more



The audience listening with rapt attention to Prof. Mittal



and more interpretative following one or the other Western social and political theories mostly developed during the Enlightenment phase of modern Europe. These theories are based more on romanticism than any sound material evidence. The later theories that emerged in 20th and 21st centuries, though based on empiricism, the physical, geographical and human factors being different from place to place in the world, cannot be applied unilaterally throughout.

The Chairman felt that the Indian situation was also different in many ways from the experiences of other countries. Indian history, which was moulded during its colonial phase, continued to stay as basis for our history writing even after independence. Besides this, after independence, history writing in India took a new dimension as the writing was dominated by the Marxist tools of analysis and understanding of history. Thus, Indian history has all through been alien to India.

The Chairman further said that the current and contemporary history has been promoted with more emphasis on economic aspects and the other areas, historic periods and aspects have been neglected. He reiterated that there was a need to write and study Indian history from Indian perspectives and the colonial and post colonial interests should be replaced by national interests so that India could thrive as a shining example with power, prestige and self-respect among the comity of nations. He opined that the purpose of history writing should be to shape the character of people and in turn their nation.

A brief report highlighting the activities of the ICHR in 2015-16 was presented by **Dr. S.K. Aruni**, Member Secretary (Officiating).

Professor Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma, Member, ICHR, did the honour of introducing the distinguished speaker, Professor S.C. Mittal, and **Dr. Jyotsna Arora**, Deputy Director (Library), ICHR, introduced the Guest of Honour of the function, **Dr. Ali Dehgahi**, Cultural



Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao (Chairman) addressing the audience; on the dais are Dr. Ali Dehgahi, Prof. Satish Chandra Mittal and Dr. S.K. Aruni



Dr Dehgahi addressing the audience



Counselor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi. He gave an inspiring speech which was applauded by the entire gathering. The Chairman felicitated Prof. Mittal and Dr. Dehgahi with shawls and mementos. The vote of thanks was proposed by **Dr Rajesh Kumar**, Deputy Director (Research), ICHR.



Dr. Dehgahi releasing the book; to his right are Prof. Rao, Prof. Mittal and Dr. S.K. Aruni



Chairman presenting a memento to Dr. Dehgahi



Prof. Rao and Dr. S.K. Aruni presenting a shawl to Prof. Mittal; Dr. Dehgahi is also seen in the picture

During the course of the Foundation Day celebration, an ICHR publication “*Madan Mohan Malaviya and the Indian Freedom Movement*” by J.P. Mishra (published in collaboration with OUP) was released by **Dr. Ali Dehgahi**.

PUBLICATIONS

ICHR, a premier institution in the field of historical studies, provides lead in fostering research on all aspects of Indian history. A number of research projects are undertaken or sponsored every year and new findings are brought out in print. ICHR has brought out many such publications. These publications fall broadly into the following categories:

1. Publication of research works and sources commissioned by the Council;
2. Publication of books on Indian History translated into various Indian languages;
3. Publication of works for which financial subsidy has been awarded by the Council; and
4. Publication of two biannual journals—*Indian Historical Review* in English and *Itihas* in Hindi—and newsletter.

During the period under report, the



following work was done under different heads:

PUBLICATION SUBSIDY

ICHR has been helping authors to publish books under its Publication Subsidy scheme. The majority of these are doctoral dissertations approved by the Council after rigorous scrutiny. Apart from doctoral dissertations, the following categories of works relating to History are also covered under this scheme: monograph and other research work; proceedings of seminar/symposium/conference; critically edited/ translated source material; bibliographical and documentation work; periodical publication; any other research-oriented work; and translation into any Indian language or into English of an important work on History

During the period under report, subsidy was extended to 18 scholars/institutes under the Publication Subsidy Scheme of ICHR.

INDIAN HISTORICAL REVIEW(IHR), Vol. 43, No. 1(June 2016)*

**listed in Thomson Reuters Citation Index*

The IHR, brought out since 1974 by the ICHR, has been an important means of transmitting results of researches in history. It has won wide recognition for its comprehensive and balanced coverage of different periods, as well as its high academic and editorial standards. It is indeed among the most prestigious publications of ICHR and is perhaps the only journal of its kind that has been published continuously for

more than 40 years. It is one of the few journals in India with an elaborate system of referral of all contributions to experts.

The IHR will continue to serve a broad range of research interest in Indian history from early times to contemporary history, and in the various specializations or sub-disciplines which have developed in the area of historical studies.

Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarti(Professor Emeritus of South Asian Archaeology, Cambridge University, UK) is the Editor-in-Chief of IHR. The technical work of production and marketing is taken care of by Sage Publications(India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

During the period under report, Vol. 43, No. 1 (June 2016) of IHR was prepared and edited. This issue contains 8 articles and 21 reviews of books. The 8 articles are listed below:

1. Basudev Lal Das: *A Study of the Administrative Posts during the Sena Period in the Kingdom of Makawanpur*
2. Rashmi Upadhyaya: *Thakkura: Its Varying Significance in Early Medieval Northern India*
3. Aparajita Majumdar: *The Colonial State and Resource Frontiers: Tracing the Politics of Appropriating Rubber in the North-Eastern Frontier of British India 1810-1884*
4. Manas Dutta: *Political Turbulences and Rebelliousness of the Madras Presidency*



Army: An Interpretation of the Great Uprising of 1857 in Colonial South India

5. Michael Lunminthang: *Rethinking the Political History of Northeast India: Historical Review of Kuki Country*
6. Raj Kumar Thakur: *Whose 'Hills' Whose 'Plains'? The Politics of Border*
7. Sunil Rao: *The Kargil Incident—Historical Analysis*
8. Jaysagar Wary: *Incredible Tram of Goalpara Forest*

ITIHAS (Hindi Journal of History)

The Editorial Board meeting of *Itihas (Shodh Patrika)* that was held on 13 May 2015 resolved to revive the *Itihas* from 2015 for which a request was made to all the scholars of Historical Research to submit their original research papers for consideration by the Editorial Board for their publication in the coming issues.

ICHR received 34 articles which are in process. All these articles were sent to experts, nominated by the competent authority of the ICHR, for evaluation. After having received the assessment reports from the experts, the articles were placed before the Editorial Board meeting held on 24-03-2016 at ICHR, New Delhi.

The Board decided that the present volume of *Itihas* should be given a number in continuation of the earlier numbers of *Itihas* rather than starting a fresh series. This is because the publication of *Itihas* was started

way back in 1992 and now, after some gap, it is being revived. The Board also authorized the Member Secretary, ICHR, to finalize the publisher and mode of subscription of the journal as per rules. Thereafter, the Member Secretary requested senior historians (who have worked in Hindi) to contribute their articles in *Itihas*. A good number of scholars gave a positive response by sending their articles. These were placed before the Subcommittee meeting of the Editorial Board of *Itihas* held on 20, 21 and 22 April 2016 at ICHR, New Delhi. The Committee selected eight articles, two book reviews and an obituary for inclusion in *Itihas*. The Council has initiated the process of entering into a formal agreement with a publisher for the publication of *Itihas* and the manuscript has been given to Manak Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

ICHR MONOGRAPH SERIES

Under this series the following book was published in collaboration with OUP: J.P. Mishra, *Madan Mohan Malviya and the Indian Freedom Struggle*. This was formally released on 29th March 2016 during the course of ICHR's Foundation Day celebrations.

Display and Sale of ICHR Publications

Apart from publishing books and journals and extending subsidy, the Publications Unit of ICHR also plays a big role by way of organizing make-shift book-stalls (on various occasions like seminars, workshops, special lectures, conferences, etc.) where ICHR publications are displayed and sold.



At the World Book Fair held from 9th January to 17th January 2016, the Publications Unit of ICHR had opened a bookstall where ICHR publications were displayed and sold. During the period under report an amount of Rs 58, 609/- was collected from the sale of ICHR publications.



Dr S.K. Aruni with Mr. Srivastava and Mr. Nardev at the ICHR Bookstall at the World Book Fair

Royalty amount received through publishers

During the period under report, an amount of Rs 2,033/- was received by way of royalty from publishers.

LIBRARY-CUM-DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Among the various academic activities of the Council, one of the most important is the maintenance of a Library-cum-Documentation Centre that has, over the years, proved to be of great help to both students and researchers in the area of history.

Established almost four decades back, the

ICHR library has a unique, updated and a rich collection of books and journals pertaining to various aspects of history. It is indeed the intellectual hub of the ICHR that provides comprehensive access to books, journals, theses and dissertations covering diverse disciplines. The library offers a serene and congenial environment to scholars in pursuit of knowledge by providing a quiet corner for research and writing.

The library receives about 100 periodicals through subscription and gifts. Of these, the scholarly/academic periodicals are bound regularly and preserved for reference. The library purchased about 450 books during the period under report and received six books as complimentary.

The library has been extending reading, reference and consultation services to scholars. During the said period, 425 visits were made to the library by a select group of students/ scholars from various universities/ institutions pursuing their studies in various aspects of historical research. Besides telephonic and postal queries, personalized reference service has also been rendered to the neighbouring libraries and scholars. The library has also been providing photocopies of academic reference to scholars on demand at a nominal rate of Re 1/- per page. About 9895 exposures were delivered to scholars for their research requirement in the said period.

It has been the constant endeavour of the library to increase its readership by providing simple and efficient access to its resources.



The library is fully automated and has the Online Public Access Catalogue(OPAC) available on the web, which not only provides bibliographic information on the books, but also bibliographic information of the important articles from important journals available in our collection.

The library has access to the e-resources available on JSTOR and Project Muse database services. Interested scholars can approach the Documentation Centre for its access.

Being a member of the DELNET (Developing Library Network), the library has an advantage of accessing bibliographical information on books and can borrow books on Inter-Library-Loan basis from different libraries of Delhi and also from some of the libraries in other parts of the country.

The Documentation Centre has received 25 M.Phil. / Ph.D. thesis/dissertations from Grants-in-Aid units of the Council, which were collected by various units under different schemes of financial grant during this period. Documentation Centre is continuing with digitization of Microfilm/ Microfiche by converting it into digital form. The digital copies are available in Local Area Networking Server that are accessible to scholars for reading. During the period under report, more than 1000 folios were converted from tiff into pdf format.

The Documentation Centre has taken up digitization of rare books by means of scanning. During the period under report, 1000 pages were converted into the digital format. The digital copies are available in

Local Area Networking Server for reference to the scholars.

The Documentation Centre is being facilitated with data analysis tools, both statistical and non numerical packages, namely SPSS, Nvivo, EViews. Interested scholars may avail themselves of the opportunity to access the tools for their research work.

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. Through these CEPs the Council has been contributing significantly in the development of cultural relations between India and various countries of the world.

During the period under report, the ICHR undertook various steps to accelerate the CEPs signed with other countries.

a) EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP)

ICHR has become an Associate Partner of the EqUIP

EU-India Platform: In order to encourage closer cooperation between India and Europe in the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) disciplines at a global level, the EU-India Platform for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EqUIP) brings together research funding and support



organizations in Europe and India in order to develop a stronger strategic partnership. The EqUIP, therefore, seeks to enhance collaboration and to expand, including other organizations as associate members. Associate membership in the Platform is open to all organizations – governmental or non-governmental funding agencies – based in India, in the EU Member States, as well as in Associated Countries to the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The geographical focus of this Platform requires the identification of SSH networks in India. The ICSSR acts as nodal link between EU and ICSSR's regional institutions associated with the ICSSR, other research councils (particularly, Research Councils of Humanities such as the Indian Council of Historical Research and the Indian Council of Philosophical Research) and universities.

b) ICHR-DFG (German Research Foundation)

i. Indo-German Lecture Series

The ICHR is an active partner to implement the Indo-German Cultural Exchange Programme of the Government of India in the realm of History, particularly the exchange of historians, holding Joint Seminars / Workshops.

Professor Sebastian Conrad, the German scholar, visited India from 20th February to 29th February 2016 in connection with ICHR-DFG (German Research Foundation) Lecture Series. During the course of his stay in India, he delivered lectures in Delhi,

Guwahati and Bengaluru.

1. The lecture in Delhi was delivered by Professor Conrad on 22 February at the ICHR. The topic was: 'German Nationalism in a Global Age'. The lecture was presided over by the Chairman, Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, while Dr. Saradindu Mukherji, Member of ICHR, was the Discussant.



Dr. Saradindu Mukherji introducing Prof. Conrad to the participants; to the right of Dr. Mukherji is Dr. S.K. Aruni and to the left of Dr. Mukherji is Prof. Conrad

2. The lecture in Guwahati was delivered at the North-East Regional Centre of ICHR on 24th February 2016 on the topic: 'Enlightenment in Global History'. It was presided over by Professor Basudev Chatterjee.
3. In Bengaluru two lectures were delivered by Professor Conrad. The first one was delivered at the Southern Regional Centre of ICHR on 26th February 2016 on the topic: 'What is Global History'? This was presided over by Professor Aswathanarayana of Bangalore University. Mr. Heinrich



Bassler, Vice President of the Leibniz Association and also Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Bengaluru, graced the occasion by his presence.

The second one was delivered at the Department of History, University of Bangalore, on 27th February 2016, on the topic: 'Enlightenment in Global History'.

ii. Meeting

Dr. Torsten Fischer, DFG, Bonn, and Professor Martin Schulze-Wessel, Chairman, German History Association, visited ICHR on 31st March 2016 to meet Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, ICHR.

Professor Schulze-Wessel proposed to organize a **panel-discussion** of two hours at the German History Congress, Hamburg, on the topic 'How do we write a transnational History in India and Germany'? He invited the Chairman to Chair the panel and two Indian scholars nominated by the Council to participate in the Indo-German panel at the German History Congress in September 2016.

Dr. Fischer invited the Chairman and the Member Secretary to Hamburg and proposed to arrange a meeting with German scholars and German Steering Committee members.

Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, ICHR, Dr. Saradindu Mukherjee, Member of the Council, ICHR, Dr. S.K. Aruni, Member Secretary (Officiating), Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Director (Research) and German

delegates discussed various activities to be undertaken under this academic collaboration.

c) Indo-Japan Cultural Exchange Programme

ICHR-JSPS International symposium on 'Economic History' on 5-6 January 2016

The ICHR, in collaboration with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), organized an international symposium on 'Economic History' on 5-6 January 2016 at the Indian International Centre (Annexe), New Delhi. The symposium was a huge success in terms of the participation of scholars, range and quality of the issues discussed and the prospects for future cooperation that it holds out.

The symposium began with welcome address and Introductory Remarks delivered by Professor A. Satyanarayana, Coordinator of the Symposium, and Inaugural Address by Professor R. S. Agrawal, Member, ICHR.



Prof. A. Satyanarayana delivering the Welcome Address; on the dais are Prof. R.S. Agrawal(centre); to Prof. Agrawal's left are Mr Takaaki Iwasa and Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu(Hon'ble Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary); to his right are Mr. Sugata Bose and Mr. Hiroshi Kamiyo



The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Hiroshi Kamiyo, Deputy Director-General, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, and Mr. Takaaki Iwasa, Executive Director of JSPS, Japan, as Guest of Honour.

Keynote Address was delivered by Professor Sugata Bose, Member of Parliament and eminent historian on 'The History of India-Japan Relations in Modern Times'.



Prof. Sugata Bose delivering the keynote address

Eminent scholars from Japan such as Dr. Tsukasa Mizushima, Professor, The University of Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Kohei Wakimura, Professor, Osaka City University, Japan; Dr. Akio Tanabe, Professor, Kyoto University, Japan; Dr. Michihiro Ogawa, Research Fellow, NIHU, The University of Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Ryuto Shimada, Associate Professor, The University of Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Sayoko Kanda, Professor, Keio University, Japan; Mr. Takashi Oishi, Associate Professor, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, Japan; Dr. Michihiro Ogawa, Research Fellow, NIHU, The University of Tokyo, Japan and scholars from India like Professor Om Prakash, Delhi;

Dr. Chittabrata Palit, Professor of History (Retd.), Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Dr. A. Satyanarayana, Professor of History (Retd.), Osmania University, Hyderabad; Dr. Raj Sekhar Basu, Associate Professor, Centre for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, SSS, JNU, New Delhi; Dr. Swati Prakash, JNU, New Delhi; and Dr. Sharmila Shrivastav, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, Delhi, made thoughtful and stimulating presentations. Special lectures were delivered by Mr. Shigeharu AOYAMA, President, Japan's Independent Institute Inc., Japan and Mr. Yasushi TOMIYAMA, Councilor, Japan Institute for National Fundamentals, Japan.

Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Member of ICHR, was Guest of Honour for the Valedictory Session. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. S. K. Aruni, Member Secretary (Officiating), ICHR.

Spread over five sessions, a variety of presentations were made at the symposium which was well executed by the team of JSPS and Member Secretary and the staff of the ICHR.

d) Indo-Iran

During the period under report, Dr Ali Dehgahi, Cultural Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited ICHR and met the Chairman and the Member Secretary to discuss the possibility of establishing a mutual academic understanding between the two countries.

e) Meeting with Chinese delegation

A Chinese delegation led by Prof. Wang



Wei, Shanghai Archaeology Forum, Director, Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and Professor Shinde, Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College, visited ICHR to meet Prof. Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, ICHR, and Dr. S.K Aruni, Member Secretary(Officiating), ICHR, on 31 March 2016, to discuss the possibility of establishing a mutual academic understanding between the two countries.

Chairman, ICHR, suggested that the remote sensing will be very resourceful to explore the settlement and movement of ancient civilization in India. He suggested that there are layers of civilizations built, destroyed and re-built.

The Shanghai Archaeology Forum (SAF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the investigation, presentation, and protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. The initiation of SAF is credited to Prof. Wang Wei.

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 organizing regional and state level seminars, symposia, workshops, exhibitions, etc.

For the benefit of regional scholars, these

centres, from time to time, organize lecture programmes by inviting scholars and historians of eminence to their centres to deliver lectures in their respective areas of specialization. This affords an opportunity for the local scholars, students and researchers to interact with these erudite and experienced historians and thereby become more knowledgeable.

Above all, these two centres have been rendering yeoman's service to ICHR by publicizing different schemes of the Council by liberally distributing the ICHR Newsletter and other ICHR booklets and catalogues among the history departments of universities and other research organizations based in southern and eastern regions of the country.

The Southern Regional centre, Bengaluru, and the North East Regional Centre, Guwahati, are headed by Dr. S.K. Aruni and Dr. Uttam Bathari respectively. And since the time Dr. Aruni took over as officiating Member Secretary of ICHR, the SRC is being looked after by Dr. Jyotsna Arora, Dy Director(Library), ICHR

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE(SRC), BENGALURU

The Southern Regional Centre has been complementing the work of ICHR by actively taking part in various research schemes of ICHR. The Centre's endeavour has been to promote scientific research in history.

A brief report of the activities undertaken by the SRC during the period under report is given below:



I ICHR-DFG PROGRAMME

(i) Lecture Programme at SRC, Bengaluru

The Southern Regional Centre successfully conducted one more lecture in the year 2015-16 under the ICHR-DFG Lecture Series programme. Professor Sebastian Conrad, Professor of History, Freie University, Berlin, Germany, delivered a lecture on ‘*What is Global History?*’ along with power-point presentation on 26th February 2016. The lecture programme was followed by interactive session between the audience and the speaker. Professor Aswathanarayana, Department of History, Bangalore University, presided over the programme. Dr. Jyotsna Arora, Dy. Director (Library) & I/c SRC, Bengaluru(New Delhi), conducted the programme. Around 52 scholars, including students, attended the programme.

(ii) Special Lecture Programme at Bangalore University

During the visit of Professor Conrad, one more special lecture programme, in collaboration with the Department of History, Bangalore University, was organized on 27th February 2016. Dr. Jyotsna Arora attended the programme. Professor M.V. Ushadevi, Chairperson, Department of History, Bangalore University, coordinated the event. Research students, PG students and faculty members attended the programme.



Prof. Conrad with Dr. Jyotsna Arora(ICHR), Vijayalakshmi, Ushadevi, Sheikh Mastan, Jamuna and Munirajappa of Bangalore University



Prof. Conrad delivering the lecture at Bangalore University

II MEETINGS

(a) Meeting of the SRC Monitoring/ Advisory Committee

The Chairman convened the Southern Regional Centre’s 15th Monitoring/Advisory Committee Meeting on 9th March 2016 at SRC, Bengaluru. The Committee Members, Professor P.T. Haridas (Calicut), Professor M. D. Srinivas (Chennai) and Dr. Saradindu Mukherji (New Delhi), attended the meeting. Dr. S. K. Aruni, Member



Secretary (Officiating), Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Dy. Director (Research) and Dr. Jyotsna Arora, Dy. Director (Library) & I/c, SRC (Bengaluru), from New Delhi, attended the meeting. Various topics like seminars, projects, workshops, lecture programmes, etc. were discussed and important decisions were taken and recommendations made by the Committee.

(b) Meeting of the Editorial Sub-Committee of Dictionary of the Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in South Indian Inscriptions.

The Chairman convened the Editorial Sub-Committee meeting of *Dictionary of the Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in South Indian Inscriptions* project on 9th March 2016 at SRC, Bengaluru. The Committee Members, Professor Y. Subbarayalu (Coimbatore), Professor S. V. Padigar (Dharwad) and Professor M. R. Raghava Varier (Kerala), attended the meeting. Dr. S. K. Aruni, Dr. Rajesh Kumar and Dr. Jyotsna Arora attended the meeting. Various important decisions were taken and recommendations made by the Committee.

(c) Meeting of the Research Projects Committee (RPC)

The Chairman convened the 144th Research Projects Committee Meeting on 10th March 2016 in SRC, Bengaluru. The Committee Members, Professor P. T. Haridas (Calicut), Professor Rahman Ali (Bhopal), Professor R. S. Agrawal (New Delhi), Dr. C. I. Issac (Kottayam), Dr. Meenakshi Jain (New Delhi), Professor Kiran Kranth Choudhary

(Tirupati) and Professor E. Sudha Rani (Hyderabad), attended the meeting. Dr. S. K. Aruni and Dr. Rajesh Kumar from New Delhi also attended the meeting. Various important decisions were taken and recommendations made by the Committee.

III LIBRARY-CUM-DOCUMENTATION UNIT

During the period under report:

- a) Eight books were purchased for SRC library.
- b) Ten books were received by the SRC library as complimentary.
- c) Library also continued subscription of 37 journals/periodicals for the current year.
- d) 297 scholars consulted the library.
- e) The library served around 1230 photocopies to the scholars.

Facilities like 'J-Stor', 'Historical Abstract' and photocopy are extended to the library readers.

The entire library collection has been fed in the Special Library *Libsys* software.

The bar coding and classification for around 300 books were completed during the said period.

Apart from these, important and rare Paintings, Old Photographs, E-book CDs, Photographic slides are also available for the use of scholars. The Centre has also



collected individual articles from various research scholars and also has a collection of Bibliographies.

IV DISPLAY AND SALE OF ICHR PUBLICATIONS

During the period under report, the SRC opened make-shift bookstalls at annual History Congress Conferences held at different places in south India where ICHR publications were displayed and sold. Besides, some ICHR publications were also sold at the Centre's office. A total amount of Rs 15, 511/- (Rupees fifteen thousand five hundred and eleven only) was collected from such sales.

The display-cum-sales counters of the ICHR publications were put up at:

- a. *40th Annual Conference of Andhra Pradesh History Congress* held at Govt. College for Women, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh [9th & 10th January 2016];
- b. *World Book Fair* held at New Delhi [9th to 17th January 2016];
- c. *36th Annual Conference of South Indian History Congress* held at Tagore Art College, Lawspet, Puducherry [4th to 6th March 2016] &
- d. Centenary Celebrations and Conference on '*Socio-Cultural Transformation in 20th Century of South India*' held at University of Madras, Chennai (Tamil Nadu) [23rd & 24th March 2016].

V PUBLICITY WORK

The Regional Centre forwarded catalogues of ICHR Publications to various PG departments, research institutes and universities, informing them about the available publications kept for sales and the discounts offered on these publications. Besides, the Centre liberally circulated the latest ICHR Newsletter among research scholars, research institutes and universities in south India. Also, copies of the Newsletter were distributed among the scholars during the various programmes organized by the Centre and also at the History Congress Sessions and Conferences held in different parts of south India.

VI FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

Periodical Lecture Series Programme: Professor Saradindu Mukherji (New Delhi), Professor M. D. Srinivas (Chennai) and Professor P.T. Haridas (Calicut) gave consent to deliver lectures at SRC, Bengaluru.

Book Discussion Programme: The Centre is also planning to organize Book Discussion Programme on the following books:

1. *Southern India in the Late Nineteenth Century, Vol.1, Part 1: 1860s-1870s* edited by Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Arun Bandopadhyay;
2. *Resonances of the Raj--India in the English Musical Imagination, 1897-1947* by Nalini Ghuman;
3. *India--Science and Technology, Vols. 2-3* edited by Sanjib Pohit, Kavita Mehra



and Parthasarathi Banerjee;

4. *Rashtrakutas Re-Visited by Nagarajaiah Hampa; Manuscripts, Memory and History – Classical Tamil Literature in Colonial India* by Rajesh V; and
5. *Halagannada Lipi, Lipikara, Lipi Vyavasaya (Ancient Kannada Script, Scribe and Cultivation of Letters)* by S. Settar.

NORTH EAST REGIONAL CENTRE (NERC), GUWAHATI

1. Lecture programme:

Special Lecture: *Enlightenment in Global History*

Prof. Sebastian Conrad, Professor of History at the Freie University, Berlin, delivered a lecture on 24th February 2016 on the topic: *Enlightenment in Global History*. The lecture, a part of ICHR-DFG (German Research Foundation) exchange programme, was presided over by Professor Basudev



Dr. Uttam Bathari introducing Prof. Conrad to the participants

Chatterji, former Chairman of ICHR. The lecture was attended by a number of students and scholars and a lively discussion followed the lecture.

Lecture XXXVII: *Peopling of Northeast India: Piecing together the multidisciplinary evidences*

The lecture was organized by the Centre on 11th March 2016 at 2.30 p.m. which was delivered by Dr. Manjil Hazarika, Cotton College State University, Guwahati. The lecture was presided over by Dr. Sukanya Sharma, Department of HSS, IITG, Guwahati. The lecture was well attended and a lively discussion followed the lecture.



Dr. Manzil Hazarika delivering the lecture; to his left is Dr. Sukanya Sharma

2. Project

Survey, Collection and Documentation of Archival Sources in North East India

THE NERC has been supervising this project and regularly sending reports on progress to the Head Office on a regular basis. During



the period under report, the following work was done:

- a) Sorting out work was done from 127 volumes of letters received from the Government.
- b) Summary of a total of 1605 pages of letters received from the Government was prepared.
- c) Work on the following volumes was completed: Vol. 1 (1823), Vol. 3 (1825), Vol. 5, Part 1 (1827), Vol. 6, Part III (1823-34), Vol. 11, Parts I&II (1836), Vol. 8 (A), Part II (1832).

The work at a glance since its inception

| Nature of document | No. of files/volumes | No. of pages | Pages after summary |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Files | 2703 | 105537 approx | 2703 |
| Volumes* | 18 | 3481 | 360 approx. |

3. Martyrs' Project

The NERC vetted the Assam and Bengal section of the report on Martyrs' Project. A total of 905 entries was vetted.

4. Building up the Library-cum-Documentation Unit

During the period under report:

- a) Bar-coding and spine labeling of approximately 598 books was completed.

- b) Four titles were received by the Centre during this period:

Complimentary copies : 3 books

Journal received from HO : 1 copy

- c) Xerox copies(6151 pages) from 257 books were provided to students/researchers.
- d) With a view to make the library more rich, the NERC selected 566 new books for purchase.

5. Other activities:

- a) *Number of Visitors:* Around 897 scholars visited the Centre for consulting the library. Besides, the Centre also attended to 52 visitors who came to inquire about the various Grants-in-Aid schemes of ICHR.

- b) *Receipt of applications:* Three applications for grant in different categories were received and forwarded to the Head Office.

- c) *Newsletter Distribution:* ICHR Newsletters--Vol. 12, No. 2, Vol. 12, Nos. 3 & 4, and Vol. 12, No. 5—were distributed among students and scholars who visited the Centre.

6. Republic Day Celebrations:

Like previous years the Centre also celebrated the Republic Day with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. National Anthem was sung with deep feelings of love for the motherland and the national flag was hoisted.



7. Participation in seminar/conference etc.:

The NERC has been actively taking part in different seminars/ symposia/conferences/ workshops conducted in the university and research institutes of the North-East, especially in Guwahati.

STAFF NEWS

1. STAFF MEMBERS SHOULD WORK AS A TEAM:

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao, Chairman, has often expressed the opinion that the role of each staff-member, irrespective of designation, is important and that for an institute to flourish and prosper, it is important that all the staff-members, right from 'safai karamchari' to the Member Secretary, work in a spirit of cooperation to the best of their abilities at high efficiency and output levels. Being inspired by the noble ideals of Prof. Rao, staff-members have realized the importance of quick and efficient disposal of office work in the best interests of the institute.

2. SWACHH BHARAT: In keeping with the policy of the Government of creating a 'swachh bharat', Professor Rao keeps emphasizing on the need to keep the office premises neat and clean. Our respectable Prime Minister said: "Is cleaning only the responsibility of the karamcharis? Do citizens have no role in this? We have to change this mindset."

Inspired by these views, staff-members of ICHR, during the period January-March

2016 made special efforts to ensure that the premises remained neat and clean. The very sight of litter on the corridor was not acceptable. Senior officers too had no inhibitions about themselves picking up litter and consigning it to the dust-bin. Special instructions were given to 'safai karamcharis' to ensure that no bad smell emanated from the toilets. This was indeed a positive step towards the goal of 'swachh bharat'.

"Every road, path, office, home, hut, stream and particle of air around us can and must be kept clean" – President Pranab Mukherjee

3. TRAINING IMPARTED TO ICHR STAFF FROM REGIONAL CENTRES

i) **From SRC, Bengaluru,** Sri K. Sangappa, Senior Library & Information Assistant and Sri N.S. Babu, Private Secretary of the Centre, attended a week long training programme (about the various Grants-in-Aid schemes of ICHR) at ICHR, New Delhi.

ii) **From NERC, Guwahati,** Sri Jyoti Kumar Das, Accounts Clerk, NERC, was deputed for a two-day training programme on 'Brihaspati General Accounting Software' (BGAS) at the ICHR, New Delhi, from 15/02/2016 to 16/02/2016. Also, Sri Gautam Choudhury, Stenographer, and Sri Prabin Kalita, LDC, were deputed for a 5-day training programme to acquire knowledge about the various Grants-in-Aid



schemes of ICHR at the Head Office in New Delhi from 28/03/2016 to 01/04/2016

4. **OBITUARIES:** On the dark side of things, it was regrettably learnt that two staff-members of ICHR (one retired and the other on the brink of retirement) left for their heavenly abode, leaving all the staff-members in a state of shock.

- i) **Dr. K. Maitra:** Born on 1st March 1930, Dr. K. Maitra joined ICHR on 19th May 1976 as Dy. Secretary. After having served the Council for 14 years with utmost dedication, he retired from ICHR on 28th February 1990. Dr. Maitra left this world on 06.01.2016 at the age of 86.



Dr. K. Maitra

- ii) **Shri Prem:** Born on 10th January 1956, Shri Prem joined ICHR on 24th February 1975 as Office Attendant. He was promoted to the post of Daftri w.e.f. 10th June 1993. After having served the Council for more than 40 years with utmost sincerity, he breathed his last on 11.01.2016. He was to retire on 31st January 2016.



Shri Prem

Their memories shall always remain fresh in the minds of ICHR staff-members and we pray to the Almighty that their souls may rest in peace.

RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES

The primary objective of the Council is to promote and give direction to historical research and to encourage and foster objective and scientific writing of history. Enhancing the academic standard of the output of ICHR activities has been the foremost objective of ICHR. In pursuance of this objective, the Council i) provides fellowships and financial assistance to young teachers in colleges, universities and registered research organizations, as well as to senior scholars who might need financial support; ii) brings historians together by providing financial assistance for holding symposia, seminars, workshops, etc. for exchanging views related to history; iii) provides publication subsidy to the seminar proceedings, congress proceedings, journals, etc. so that these publications may reach out to researchers and scholars.

The Grants-in-Aid are awarded to scholars/institutions and are released through affiliating agencies, like research institutes, universities or colleges. The different types



of research funding schemes are explained in the Research Funding Rules book of ICHR. These can also be seen on the ICHR website (www.ichr.ac.in)

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Malati J. Shendge, 1934-2015



“Intellectually vibrant independent India must project our correct history to the world throwing away the yoke of colonial Eurocentric view of her past achievements”, says Dr. Malati J. Shendge who breathed her last in 2015. She stressed that “India’s History begins on the Indian soil as also its culture and Sanskrit, the first known language of the Indian subcontinent”. She lamented that “even after six decades of achieving Independence we could not do much efforts to ‘correct’ the beginnings of India’s history”. She strongly rejected the Indo-European theory attributing to the invaders outside India, Indian culture, the Sanskrit language and even the Rigveda.

Among her several books, *Unsealing the Indus Script: Anatomy of its Decipherment* deserves a special mention.

She was born in 1934 and took her Ph. D. on “Esoteric Buddhism”, popularly known as Buddhist Tantrism, from the University of Delhi. She studied Sanskrit and Pali languages up to the post-graduate level and later acquired knowledge of Tibetan language and literature so very essential for the work on Buddhist Tantras.

She was awarded a fellowship of the University for the period 1960-64. She went to the University of Tokyo – first in 1964 and subsequently in 1983 – where she studied Japanese Esoteric Buddhism (*Shin-gon*). This study resulted in the publication of her famous book in 2009 entitled *Buddhahood in this Body: Japanese Esoteric Buddhism (Shin-gon) in Context*.

In 1966, she received fellowship from the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Later, she was awarded fellowship from the **Indian Council of Historical Research**, New Delhi. With support from the Ford Foundation, she visited the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago as a visiting scholar, first in 1981 and then in 2006.

Dr. Shendge was a faculty member at JNU and Founder Director (Honorary), Rang Datta Wadekar Centre for the Study of Indian Tradition, Pune.

May her soul rest in peace!

Professor Y. Sudershan Rao





Indian Council of Historical Research



Your friendship supports excellence

ICHR hopes to expand into a collective of people with interest in historical studies and related areas. The Council would therefore like to associate with all those who are sensitive to the role of history in the making of the future.

Membership Privileges

1. You will be in the mailing list of ICHR.
2. You will be a special invitee to ICHR Memorial Lectures, Public Lectures, and Colloquiums etc.
3. You can avail a discount of 10% (Annual Members) and 30% (Life Members) on all ICHR publications.
4. You will have free access to ICHR Library and Research Resource Centre.
5. You will be a subscriber of the ICHR newsletter and will be eligible for a subsidised subscription of the proposed research journal.
6. You will have the facility to consult senior scholars in Indian Culture.
7. Life Members will be entitled to get laminated ID card.

Become a member of ICHR by paying a nominal registration fee.

For Indian Nationals

Individual Life Membership : Rs. 500

Individual Annual Membership : Rs. 100

Account payee cheques to be made to 'The Member Secretary, ICHR, NEW DELHI'.

For Foreign Nationals

Individual Life Membership : \$ US 50

Individual Annual Membership : \$ US 10



Indian Council of Historical Research

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