



Central University of Jammu

**International Seminar on
Kashmir Philosophy with Special
Reference to Abhinavagupta**

23-24th March, 2017

**Organized By
Centre for Comparative Religion and Civilization
Central University of Jammu**

About the Conference

Kashmir is world famous for its great philosophers, aesthetes and mystics. As a laboratory of inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue in which some of the major world religions participated, it is unique in the world. Traditionally it has been called Śārda-Pītha. But in this land of knowledge, this paradise of aesthetes, philosophers and mystics today there is very little in the name of infrastructure public or private for preserving, consolidating and developing the great legacy that made Kashmir world centre of philosophy and mysticism in ancient and medieval times. Comprehensive conception of “Kashmiriyat” requires understanding the tradition, the metaphysics that underlies diverse religious and philosophical expression that we find here. Riṣiyyat, the philosophical basis of the shared space and sensibility informed by timeless human values is an ideal, at once ethical, spiritual and metaphysical, thus it can't be understood in non-philosophical terms. Very little work has been done on metaphysical core of Kashmir culture or in integrating diverse traditions from Buddhism and Śaivism to Islam in a unified framework which can't be developed except by turning to philosophical tools. Seeing Riṣiyyat as key to Kashmir religion and philosophy, different contributors to pluralist religious-cultural landscape are put in proper perspective and seen as complimenting one another and still impacting its rich culture. In this long history of Kashmir speculative and mystical thought, there are moments of intellectual achievement that seem beyond measure. They deserve recognition and serious engagement. One of such figure is Āchārya Abhinavagupta, a philosopher of unparalleled proportions, an art critic, aesthete, and devotee of early medieval India. His range of writings is so expansive that we cannot keep him in one category. To recognize the outstanding contributions of Kashmir and especially that of Āchārya Abhinavagupta to philosophy, spirituality, aesthetics, tantra, *yoga*, music, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and cognitive science.

There is a need to examine and appropriate this whole tradition of Kashmir's speculative philosophy which is an inalienable part of our cultural mosaic, with this objective the Centre for Comparative Religion and Civilization has decided to hold a two days International Seminar on “Kashmir Philosophy with Special Reference to Abhinavagupta”.

Suggested Themes

- A dialogue between Buddhism and Śaivism in the context of Īśvarapratyabhijñānkārikā of Utpaldeva.
 - The philosophical schools of Śaivism.
 - Importance of Ācharya Somānand in the Kashmirian Śaiva tradition.
 - Tantra's and their importance in the development of philosophical thought in Kashmir with special reference to Abhinavagupta.
 - Mystico- philosophical thought of Abhinavagupta and its impact.
 - The concept of Dhvani as developed by Ānandvardhan and Abhinavagupta.
 - Lal ded as a Neo-Śaivist.
 - Impact of Kashmir Śaivism on Islamic mysticism in Kashmir.
 - Nund Rishi's contribution to the Kashmirian Mystic thought.
 - Bhāskarī: Abhinavagupta and Bhāskarnāth kantha
 - Indigenous influences on mystic poets of Kashmir from 15th century to present day.
 - Laxman Joo Raina the contemporary Śaivite, mystic and thinker.
 - Swami Laxam joo's role in preservation and popularization of Kashmir Śaivism.
- **Papers on related themes are also welcome**

Submission of Paper

The abstract and paper may be sent by email in world file (Unicode format) to Singhdiaspora83@gmail.com

Abstract Submission : 25.02.2017

Abstract Acceptance : 28.02.2017

Full Length Paper : 14.03.2017

Note: Upon acceptance of abstract, you are requested to submit full length paper of the same by 14.03.2017. The deadlines are not to be extended in any circumstances.
