



Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature  
University of Calcutta

Organises

A Three-Day National Level

**Centenary Commemoration Seminar on the Establishment of the Department  
of Modern Indian Languages at the University of Calcutta**

**In Collaboration with  
Central Institute of Indian Languages**

On

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

### **Concept Note**

Indian Literature as an academic area of study was introduced at the University of Calcutta for the first time in history as the Department of Modern Indian Languages in 1919. Later the department turned into the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literature. Gradually, with the development of different Indian languages in the academic disciplines in different universities across the nation and also with the increasing number of universities, the department at the University of Calcutta was getting less number of students from different linguistic communities. The languages and literatures taught under this department also developed gradually and claimed their position as independent discipline of study. On the eve of 150 years celebration of the University of Calcutta, the university commemorates the legacy and re-contextualises the significance and necessity of studying Indian Literatures together under the umbrella of one single department. Therefore, a full-time M.A. course in Comparative Indian Language and Literature was introduced under the Department of Bengali Language and Literature. The course turned into a full-fledged department in 2015. The university reiterates to address the polyphony of Indian Literature time and again since the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The very idea of 'Jatiya Sahitya' was proposed by Sir Asutosh Mookerjee, the then Vice-Chancellor (1906-1914), of the University, to imagine Bengali Literature, the Bengali community and land with the languages and literatures of other parts of India for strengthening the idea of nation in unity. Learning different languages and translation between Indian languages was perceived by Sir Mookerjee as two most powerful methods of constructing Indian Literature as an academic discipline.

On the eve of 100 years of the Department of Modern Indian Languages, the Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature understands it as a responsibility to commemorate the history of the discipline to address the gaps in the study of Indian literature or Comparative Literature in India. Indian Literature as an area of study is still in its infancy in Indian academics; therefore, we would like to address the possibility and necessity of Indian Literature in knowledge practice in higher education in India.

Besides this, the seminar is intended to look into the history of growth and development of each Indian Literature as a single literature department, like the development of North-East Indian literatures, literatures of other scheduled and non-scheduled languages in academic disciplines.

One of the objectives of the seminar is to explore the role of publishing houses, book fairs, literary festivals, NGOs, and Government-initiatives in building the idea of Indian Literature as well as confirming the rights of the marginal communities in enriching their languages and literatures. Thus the seminar tries to initiate dialogues between languages and literatures, between modernity and indigeneity, and also between academic and public.

### **Call for Papers**

The Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta calls for papers from the students, research scholars, independent scholars and early or mid-career faculty members on the below mentioned sub-themes or any topics relevant to the title of the seminar. Abstract should be written within **300 words** and paper within **2500-3000 words** for 15 minutes presentation followed by 5 minutes discussion. Abstract should be submitted on or before **20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019** to [cillacademic@caluniv.ac.in](mailto:cillacademic@caluniv.ac.in) with subject title "abstract/full paper for Commemorating MIL". The

information regarding selection of the abstract will be intimated by **22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019**. The selected participants are required to submit their full papers for circulating among the session-chairs by **2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019**. The papers must be written either in English or in Bengali. The papers in English should be written in MS word 12 point font in Times New Roman or Garamond font with 1.5 line spacing. The papers must follow MLA 7<sup>th</sup> edition style sheet. The paper written in Bangla must be typed in unicode in 12 point with 1.5 line-spacing. Authors writing in Bangla may follow Banga-bidya style sheet or any other standard style sheet. The selected papers are likely to be published from a reputed publishing house after the seminar in separate volumes each for English and Bengali. Final paper for publication should be written between **3000-5000 words** and has to be submitted by the **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019** to the aforementioned email id with subject line **“Full Paper for MIL Seminar”** without fail.

### **Sub-Themes**

- MIL at the University of Calcutta
- Methodology of Studying MILs
- History of Literary Studies at the University of Calcutta
- Translation and Indian Literature
- History of Translating Indian Literatures into Indian Languages
- On defining Comparative Indian Literature
- Language as Paradigm of Comparative Indian Literature
- Nation, Literature and National Literature
- Addressing Home and the World in the Scope of Indian Literature
- Publishing Houses and Indian Literature
- Language Diversity, Endangered Languages and Literary Study
- Language Documentation and Role of Literary Study
- Role of NGOs in Language and Literary Study in India

### **Registration**

Registration fees for attending the seminar are as follows:

**Students:** Free

**Research Scholars:** 300/- INR

**Teachers:** 500/- INR

**General Participants:** 400/- INR

All the participants are required to fill-up a Google form following the link mentioned below. Please note there is no provision for spot registration. All the participants and paper presenters are required to submit Google form. Seats for Non-Paper presenters are limited and will be accommodated as first come first serve basis. Link for submitting registration fees through online bank transaction will be provided later.

**All the registration formalities must be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.**

**Google Form Link:** <https://goo.gl/forms/7S47Xf5C7Ijh7PPC3>

### **Travel and Accommodation**

Limited number of travel bursaries is available for the out-station participants. Organisers are not in a position to offer any accommodation for the participants, though one can write to the organisers for their suggestions about most convenient accommodation facilities available in College Street and nearby areas.

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