

Concept Note

Workshop on Trika Philosophy of Kashmir

Reading of Abhinavagupta's *Īśvara-pratyabhijñā-vimarśinī* Jñānādhikāra (last 4 chapters)

The ICPR is organizing a fourteen-day workshop on Pratyabhijñā philosophy, the epistemological school of the Trika Śaivism. The workshop constitutes the Phase-II of the Level Three annual workshop as part of the four-year programme that aims at studying in-depth the entire text of the *Īśvara-pratyabhijñā-vimarśinī* by the celebrated Abhinavagupta on his master Utpaladeva's *Īśvara-pratyabhijñā-kārikā*, the path-setting *prasthāna* text of the system. The sole purpose in phase-II is to cover the last 4 chapters of the Book on Knowledge called *Jñānādhikāra*. In this part, our masters deconstruct the established paradigms of Indian philosophical discourse (especially those of Buddhist logicians) and reconstruct a system of logic defined by life-affirming worldview via core concepts of Prakāśa, Vimarśa, Vikalpa, Vāk et al. encompassing within their ambit issues of logic, language, metaphysics and aesthetics, fully underscoring the need of "bringing psychology in accord with metaphysics" (to borrow an expression from Prof. TRV Murti) as integrated within a robust system of philosophical discipline which could be construed as integral dynamic absolutism. Understood in this way, the Vimarśinī claiming to be a *samyak vyākhyāna* (proper and comprehensive exposition) of the original Pratyabhijñā-Kārikās (a text in the āgamic tradition), offers a counter perspective to the prevalent narrative of Kashmir Śaivism as a tantra-based doctrinal school and projects Utpala and Abhinavagupta as logician-metaphysicians par excellence in their own right.

The workshop will primarily have two parts – namely, reading of the core text and concerted theme lectures covering the issues raised in the text and/or the prima facie standpoints necessary for navigating the text.

The basic purpose of these workshops including the one in hand is to prepare the new generation of young Indian scholars in an area which is suffering from acute scholarship-deficit by enabling them to have first-hand exposure to the original thought structure and methodology of the masters through their primary textual articulations.

The workshop will be conducted at the Lucknow Academic Centre of ICPR by Prof. Navjivan Rastogi, the Course Director and Coordinator, together with other eminent scholars such as Goswami Shyam Manohar ji, Professors K.D. Tripathi, Rajneesh Kr. Shukla, Mithilesh Chaturvedi, Ambikadatta Sharma, Sacchidanand Mishra, Prakash Pandey, and Drs. Meera Rastogi, Balram Shukla and others. Besides, participants would be encouraged to proactively interact among themselves. For this a few sessions could be exclusively earmarked.

Each day of the workshop will have two academic sessions i.e., from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a lunch break from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The workshop will be open to all those who are interested in Kashmir Śaivism. As such, faculty members and research scholars in the departments of philosophy/Indian philosophy, departments of Sanskrit with philosophy as one of its courses (including Sanskrit Universities) and also those who are connected with academic centres and institutions operating in the similar field will be eligible to apply. However, preference will be given to the participants of earlier workshops. The candidates must bear in mind that this workshop constitutes the 2nd leg of a four-year workshop programme. Hence those candidates who have participated in earlier workshops and undertake to participate in future ones as well will claim preference.

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