



Expected outcomes:

1. Consolidation of annual celebration of World Philosophy Day in India
2. Revitalised cooperation between UNESCO and Indian philosophical networks
3. Preparation for World Philosophy Day 2010 (Possible topics for discussion, Partnerships, Events etc.)

Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)

The Indian Council of Philosophical Research is an official organ of the Government of India (Ministry of Human Resource Development) entrusted with the mission of promoting philosophy and philosophical research in the country. It has been active in this mission for about a quarter of a century and has achieved notable success.

The Council promotes research at all levels by student-researchers, teacher-fellows and senior fellows by providing with appropriate research fellowships normally tenable for up to two years. Besides funding such direct research in its own thrust areas, country-wide sharing of knowledge and expertise is encouraged through funding of various seminars, workshops, symposia, orientation courses and summer-winter schools held all over India. ICPR publishes an international level journal with refereed articles by scholars and peer reviewed books from all over the world. Recently the Council has instituted various awards to recognize high level achievements in the field of philosophy such as Life Time Achievement Award, Best Ph.D. Thesis Award, and Best Book Award, among others.

The ICPR runs an active programme of exchange of scholars under which well known scholars from abroad and also from within India are encouraged to visit various university departments and deliver lectures. Participation of reputed Indian scholars in International conferences and events is encouraged. ICPR supports an Academic Centre in Lucknow where academic programmes are arranged periodically. The Centre also hosts a library with an outstanding collection of books on all areas of philosophy, subscribing to more than 100 professional journals from all over the globe.

One of the programmes of the Council is encouraging different philosophy departments in India to celebrate World Philosophy Day and using it as a means of promoting the dissemination of philosophical knowledge and encouraging the spirit of enquiry and research on contemporary philosophical issues.



UNESCO, New Delhi



**Indian Council of Philosophical Research,
New Delhi**



invite you for the Celebration of

WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY

on

23rd November, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

at

India International Centre Annexe

Conference Room No.111

40 Max Mueller Marg

New Delhi

Shri Sunil Kumar,

Joint Secretary, Ministry of HRD

will be the Chief Guest

and

Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan,

Director, Asia Project, India International Centre

will preside.

There will be two Round Tables on:

***Teaching and Learning Philosophy
and
Philosophy for the Future***

Marina Faetanani
Programme Specialist
UNESCO, New Delhi

G. Mishra
Member-Secretary
ICPR, New Delhi

PROGRAMME

1.00pm - 2.00pm Registration and Lunch

2.00pm - 2.30pm Chair and Moderator:

Kapila Vatsyayan, Director, Asia Project, India International Centre

Welcome and Introduction:

G. Mishra, Member Secretary, ICPR, New Delhi
M. Faetanini, Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO New Delhi

Chief Guest's Address:

Sunil Kumar, Joint Secretary (HE), MHRD, Government of India

2.30pm - 3.45pm Round Table I: Teaching and Learning Philosophy

Co-ordinator Deepa Nag Haksar
Participants 1. Srinivasa Rao
2. Ranjit Nair

3.45pm - 4.00pm Tea Break

4.00pm - 5.15pm Round Table II: Philosophy for the Future

Co-ordinator Bhagat Oinam
Participants 1. Douglas Allen
2. Vandana Shiva

Address by the Chairperson:

Kapila Vatsyayan

5.15pm - 5.30pm Planning for the Future:

Armoogam Parsuraman, Director, UNESCO, New Delhi

Vote of Thanks:

Mercy Helen, Director (P&R), ICPR

BACKGROUND

The necessity of a Philosophy Programme at UNESCO was underscored from the very inception of the Organisation. One of the tasks proposed for UNESCO in 1946 by the Preparatory Commission of the first General Conference of that year was for a Philosophy Programme to "imbue the public mind with a certain number of philosophical and moral notions to be regarded as a minimum equipment, and which are calculated to reinforce respect for human personality, love for peace, hatred for narrow nationalism and the rule of brute force, solidarity, and devotion to the ideal of culture." Philosophy, then, can also be considered a school for human solidarity, and as a basis for better mutual understanding and respect which is a fundamental pre-requisite to fostering dialogue among civilizations.

UNESCO interprets Philosophy in a broad sense as dealing with universal problems of human life and existence by instilling independent thinking among individuals. Philosophy is at the very heart of human knowledge, and its scope is simply as wide as UNESCO's own fields of competence. The major issues dealt with by the Organization such as education for all, cultural diversity, the ethics of science, human rights, knowledge societies, democracy, intercultural dialogue and dialogue among civilizations – all these need a solid philosophical foundation derived through analytical and conceptual rigor in human thinking. In its Strategy on Philosophy adopted by the General Conference in 2005, UNESCO clearly identifies three pillars for action:

Pillar I: Philosophy facing world problems: Dialogue, Analysis and Questioning of Contemporary Society;

Pillar II: Teaching philosophy in the world: Fostering Critical Reflection and Independent Thinking;

Pillar III: Promotion of philosophical thought and research (through the World Philosophy Day, for instance);

Objectives

Since 2002, UNESCO has been celebrating World Philosophy Day as a forum for reflection which aims at promoting and popularizing Philosophy. Today's celebration, jointly organized by UNESCO and the Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR), wishes to highlight the contribution of Indian philosophy and Indian philosophers and thinkers to the overall promotion of philosophical thinking and research and to popularize philosophical concepts.

ENVELOPE



I N V I T A T I O N



WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2009

Monday 23 November 2009

2.00 PM - 5.30 PM

India Council of Philosophical Research

Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area,
Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, New Delhi - 110062, India