



Monthly Report

Integral Humanism Initiative

(March, 2024)

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Centre for Human Sciences
Rishihood University
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Executive Summary

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT March 2024

Major Activities of this Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Second batch of interns completed their internship period➤ Conference preparation going on➤ Jagadguru Shankaracharya Lecture Series and Poster Exhibition
Next Month Task (April 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Further content creation for khol-khel game development.➤ Conducting thematic session by eminent speaker as part of Ekatma Manav Darshan Series.➤ Conference organisation➤ Publication field study report➤ Publication of edited book consisting contributed papers

Interaction with Prof. Sushil Mittal

Date: 28th March 2024

Details: Dr. Sushil Mittal, Professor from Religion at James Madison University, USA. Discussed the topic "Hindu Studies, An Academic Field: Its Beginning" with his life story. Professor Sushil Mittal stands as a luminary figure in the academic landscape, renowned for his profound contributions to Hindu Studies and Gandhian Thought. Born in Canada, Mittal's academic journey has been marked by a deep-rooted commitment to his Hindu identity and a relentless pursuit of scholarly excellence. Having obtained his B.A. from McGill University and his Ph.D. from the Université de Montréal, Mittal's academic foundation spans multiple prestigious institutions. His scholarly journey commenced with a vision to establish scholarly journals that would redefine the discourse on Hindu civilization and Gandhian philosophy. Prof. Mittal's administrative acumen is evident in his efforts to foster academic communication through the establishment of groundbreaking journals. Despite initial challenges, he successfully launched the International Journal of Hindu Studies and the International Journal of Gandhi Studies, thereby reshaping the academic landscape and promoting interdisciplinary dialogue.

Key Points

- Scholarly Journals serve as Catalysts for Academic Dialogue.
- Innovative academic programs can serve as platforms for international collaboration and dialogue.
- Interdisciplinary research and student-centered learning fosters a deeper understanding of complex ideas.

Furthermore, Prof. Mittal's leadership extends to the creation of academic programs such as the Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence at James Madison University. Under his guidance, the center became a hub for international conferences, prestigious awards, and meaningful dialogue among diverse civilizations. Professor Mittal's scholarly endeavors encompass a wide array of collaborative projects and groundbreaking publications. His trilogy on Hinduism and numerous scholarly articles have not only redefined the study of Hindu civilization but have also provided invaluable insights into Gandhian thought. Mittal's commitment to comparative analysis and interdisciplinary research has significantly enriched academic discourse in these fields. Professor Mittal's teaching philosophy reflects a deep commitment to nurturing student-centered learning and fostering cultural understanding. Through courses on Hindu traditions, ethics, and Gandhian philosophy, he encourages students to engage critically with complex ideas and diverse perspectives. Mittal's dedication to experiential learning opportunities further enhances students' practical knowledge and global awareness.

Jagadguru Shankaracharya Lecture Series and Poster Exhibition

Date: 20/03/2024

Details: The Jagadguru Shankaracharya Lecture Series, organized by Centre for Human science, Rishihood University, and Indian Language Institute, Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed to delve into the profound philosophy and impact of Jagadguru Shankaracharya's teachings. Two distinguished speakers shed light on various aspects of Shankaracharya's contributions, providing insights into his philosophy and its relevance in contemporary times. Acharya Pradeep Kumar Shastri, Principal of Panini Mahavidyalaya in Rewari, Sonipat, Haryana, delivered an enlightening discourse on the life and teachings of Jagadguru Shankaracharya. He provided a comprehensive overview of

Shankaracharya's life, emphasizing his role in reviving and propagating the principles of Advaita Vedanta. Acharya Shastri highlighted Shankaracharya's contributions to Indian philosophy and spirituality, emphasizing the relevance of his teachings in navigating the complexities of modern life. Dr. Baldevanand Sagar, National President of the World Sanskrit Journalism Council, delivered an insightful talk on the Advaita philosophy of Adi Shankaracharya and its profound influence on Indian languages. Dr. Sagar explored the foundational principles of Advaita Vedanta, emphasizing the concept of

non-dualism and its implications for understanding the nature of reality. He discussed how Shankaracharya's philosophy permeates various Indian languages, influencing literature, poetry, and spiritual discourse. Dr. Sagar's talk underscored the enduring impact of Shankaracharya's teachings on Indian cultural heritage. Shri Shobhit Mathur, Honorable Chancellor of Rishihood University, graced the event with his presence, adding prestige and significance to the lecture series. Prof. Sampadananda Mishra, Director of Centre for Human science, Rishihood University, played a pivotal role in organizing and facilitating the lecture series, ensuring its success and smooth execution.

Key Points

- The lecture series illuminated Shankaracharya's role in rejuvenating Advaita Vedanta, highlighting its applicability in modern societal and personal challenges.
- It showcased the deep influence of Shankaracharya's philosophy on India's cultural and linguistic heritage, enriching its spiritual and literary landscapes.
- The event linked Shankaracharya's teachings with integral humanism, advocating for a holistic approach to development that aligns individual growth with societal harmony.

In the context of integral humanism, Shankaracharya's teachings resonate deeply, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all beings and the importance of holistic development encompassing the spiritual, intellectual, and material dimensions of life. As integral humanism seeks to harmonize the individual with society and nature, Shankaracharya's philosophy of Advaita Vedanta offers valuable insights into achieving this synthesis. The event served as a reminder of the timeless wisdom embodied in Shankaracharya's teachings, inspiring individuals to contemplate and integrate his principles into their lives, thereby contributing to the realization of integral humanism in contemporary society.

Two Days National Workshop on “NEP 2020 Model Curriculum: Content in Philosophy (Role and Relevance of Philosophy in Other Disciplines of Higher Education)”

Dates: 29th - 30th March 2024

Venue: Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida

Organizers: Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan, in collaboration with Centre for Hindu Studies, Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, and Indian Council for Philosophical Research (ICPR)

Details:

The seminar on Philosophy Curriculum Reforms for Cultural Integration, held at Vidya Bharati Uchcha Shiksha Sansthan, aimed to address critical issues surrounding philosophy education in India. The event brought together scholars, educators, and policymakers to deliberate on the need for reform in philosophy curricula to better align with India's cultural heritage.

Day 1:

The inaugural session commenced with esteemed speakers, including Mananiya Sunil Ambekar, Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh, RSS, and Prof. R. K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of Gautam Buddha University. Prof. Sachchidananda Mishra from ICPR delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of integrating indigenous philosophical perspectives into academic discourse. The subsequent sessions explored themes such as the foundation of disciplines in philosophy, the present scenario versus the future roadmap, and core concepts of Bharatiya Darshan Shastra.

Key Points

- **Philosophy as the Foundation of Disciplines:** Scholars explored the foundational role of philosophy in shaping various academic disciplines and advocated for multidisciplinary knowledge.
- **Present Scenario and Future Roadmap:** Discussions focused on the need for change in philosophy education to align with contemporary challenges and aspirations.
- **Core Concepts of Bharatiya Darshan Shastra:** Speakers delved into the intricacies of Indian philosophical thought, emphasizing its relevance in today's world.

Day 2:

The second day featured discussions on 19th-century India's higher education under colonial influence, the role of teachers in delivering philosophical mandates, and an open house for interactive discourse. The valedictory session, graced by Mananiya K. N. Raghunandan and Swami Vedatattwananda Puri Ji, highlighted the significance of cultural integration in education.

Program Highlights:

The seminar underscored the imperative of integrating indigenous philosophical perspectives into the curriculum to promote cultural integration and foster a deeper understanding of India's rich heritage. By embracing diverse philosophical traditions and revisiting colonial legacies, the seminar laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and culturally grounded philosophy education system in India.

In-House Internship Program Report: Completion of Second Month

Date: 04/03/2024

Details:

Successful completion of the second month of our In-House Internship Program at the Integral Humanism Initiative (IHI).

Interns: Pihu Soni (School of Entrepreneurship)& Vamsi Krishna Reddy. S (School of Entrepreneurship)

Activities:

- Develop a short video for social media content on "The Solution of Farmer's Suicide in rural India based on Antyodaya."
- Submitted a research article exploring the implications of Antyodaya in Agriculture Sector.
- Submitted three book reviews content for website.
- Created e- book based on Integral Humanism values and Entrepreneurship.
- Developed a video for introducing Integral Humanism perspectives in Entrepreneurship.

- **Outcome:** Demonstrated deep understanding and commitment to Integral Humanism principles.
- **Next Steps:** Published notification for the next month's internship program.



IHI Conference Update

Details: For the International Conference on "Advancing Integral Humanism in the 21st Century," scheduled to take place from April 12th to 14th, 2024, at Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Delhi Branch, the keynote speakers have been finalized and invited. Additionally, papers have been selected for presentation, and the schedule has been prepared.

ICSSR's project final submission

Date: 1st March 2024

Details: The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) has been a pivotal institution in fostering research and understanding social dynamics in India. In line with its mission, a Short-term Empirical Project has been proposed, focusing on the critical role of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) in advancing the objectives of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana in poverty-stricken backward districts of Uttar Pradesh. This report outlines the details submitted to ICSSR through a Google Form.

Thank You



**Centre for Human Sciences Rishihood
University**