



International Sanskrit Seminar
“Indian Knowledge System - impact & influence of Sanskrit in Poland”

Organized jointly by
University of Calcutta
&
Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Kolkata

In association with
International Centre of Bhāratīya Jñāna Parampara (IKS)
Department of Sanskrit
University of Calcutta

Tuesday, 25th August, 2026

Senate Hall, University of Calcutta



H.E. Dr. Piotr A. Switalski



Prof. Ashutosh Ghosh



Prof. Debasish Das



Prof. Mou Das Gupta



Mr. Joydeep Roy

INAUGURAL SESSION:

2.00 PM: Welcome and felicitation of Dignitaries

Prof Mau Das Gupta

Head of Department, Sanskrit, University of Calcutta

2.10 PM: Introduction:

Mr. Joydeep Roy

Chief Consular Officer, Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Kolkata

2.15 PM: Address by the Chair:

Prof. Ashutosh Ghosh

Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta

2.25 PM: Inaugural Address:

H.E. Dr. Piotr A. Świtalski

Head of Mission. Embassy of the Republic of Poland in New Delhi

2.40 PM: Vote of Thanks:

Prof Debasish Das

Registrar, University of Calcutta

THEMATIC SESSION:

2.50 PM

- **Prof. Maria C. Byrski**, Former Ambassador of Poland to India, Indologist & Padma Shri Awardee
- **Prof. Joanna Jurewicz**, Chair - South Asia Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw
- **Prof. Kamal Kishore Mishra**, Professor of Sanskrit & Director, International Centre of Excellence for IKS
- **Remarks by Session Chair: Prof. Gopal Chandra Misra**, Ex Vice Chancellor, Gour Banga University

3.30 PM:

Interactions

3.45 PM:

Vote of Thanks: Prof Dipankar Mukhopadhyay, Department of Sanskrit, University of Calcutta

4.00 PM:

Tea & Refreshments

Background:

The Sanskrit Seminar aims to capture the development of Indian literary studies in Poland and how the interest for Sanskrit studies have grown over the years, while being taught at several leading Universities in there. Plans are being made to explore the possibilities of academic cooperation between the University of Calcutta and Polish Universities – focusing on research and advanced studies concerning Sanskrit and other ancient Indian languages. With both India & Poland having a strong historical linguistic lineage - the scope of “academic engagement” in this segment is expected to be immense.

Historically speaking, the journey of connectivity between the two countries goes back to the Renaissance period of 16th century – when a small number of Poland's nobility, statesmen, writers, etc. visited India and fostered the abiding interest of Polish people in the civilization, philosophy, spiritual traditions, art, and culture of India. As early as 1611, the Polish Catholic priest, translator, and poet, Stanisław Grochowski, published a book titled *Cudowne wiersze z indyjskiego języka* (Wonderful Verses from Indian Language). It was a translation of the Bhagavad Gita, which had first been translated from Sanskrit into Medieval Latin by the Italian poet and Jesuit missionary Francisco Benci (1542-1594).

Poland has a long history of Indological studies – focusing on its languages, literature, history, art, culture, different religious traditions and much more. Jagiellonian University held its first Sanskrit grammar lectures in from 1860 to 1862. A Chair of Sanskrit was set up in 1893 at the Jagiellonian University (JU), Kraków. The first Sanskrit Chair in Poland was founded with Professor Leon Mańkowski, a Doctor of Law & Philosophy, of the University of Leipzig. He was succeeded by Professor Andrzej Gawroński who in 1916 became an Associate Professor of Old Indian philology. Gawroński wrote several academic papers and carried out studies about Sanskrit Buddhist Literature, Buddhacarita and Rāmāyaṇa or Origins of Indian drama and the problem of Greek influences. Prof. Gawroński was a Polish Indologist, linguist and Polyglot – who was the author of the first Polish handbook on Sanskrit (*Podręcznik sanskrytu*, 1932), which remains in use to this day in Poland. He could speak, write and understand around 100 languages and was the Founder of Polish Oriental Society (1922) and one of the Founders of the Polish Linguistic Society (1925).

Helena Willman-Grabowska, the first woman in the history of the Jagiellonian University to receive the title of full Professor (1937), was appointed to the Chair of Sanskrit and Indian Philology in 1928. She at her own expense created a Centre for Indian studies at the JU. She introduced an Indology library and expanded the Sanskrit studies by incorporating lectures on India's cultural, economic and social issues. She further created a curriculum incorporating the history of Buddhism, the Pali language and modern Indian languages, among them the ones belonging to the Dravidian family.

The Indology Department of the Oriental Institute at the University of Warsaw, which was established in 1932, remains the largest center for Indian studies in Central Europe. The study of Indian languages, literature, culture, and Indology is also offered at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and the University of Wrocław in Poland. The late Vedic Sanskrit texts of Hindu philosophy were inscribed on the wall of the library of Warsaw University, Poland. Today, studies & research in Indian languages and literature have developed at the Universities of Kraków, Warsaw, Wrocław and Poznań in Poland.

ॐ श्रीगणेशाय नमः केनेषितमित्यापोपनिषत्परब्रह्मनिषयानकथेति नवमस्याध्याप
 स्पारमः प्रोगतस्मात्कसाणपेक्षतः परिमसापितानि ममस्तकसाधयभुतस्यचप्राणस्या
 पामनात्यक्तानिकसागसामविषयाणि तगायत्रसामविषयद्वीनवेषातमुक्तस्य कार्य
 मविमेतयथोक्तं कर्मवज्ञानेचमस्यगुणितेनिष्कामस्यमुमुक्षोः सत्यशुश्रूषेभवंति स
 कामस्यतज्ज्ञानरहितस्यकेवलानि श्रोतानि स्मार्तानि च कर्माणि दासिण्यसारीप्रतिपत्तये
 पुनरावृत्तये च भवेति जायस्वियस्येतत् तृतीयस्यानमिति श्रुतेः प्रजादीतस्योपत्याय
 श्रीपुरिमन्त्रवर्णानि विष्णुइसत्तस्यतनिष्कामस्यवासादनित्यात्माथसाधनसंवेधादिदृक्
 नात्तर्हताहामेस्कारविशेषाद्वादिदृक्प्रत्यगात्मविषयानि ज्ञासाप्रवृत्तते न दत्त
 इत्यप्यप्रतिवचनलक्षणयाश्रयाप्रदर्शते केनेषितमित्याध्या कादकचाक्तपय
 चित्वाविद्यारण्यस्येभूतस्मात्प्रत्यगात्माप्रतिनोतरात्मन कश्चिद्दीरः प्रत्यगात्मानमेत
 दाहवचनरसतत्त्वमिच्छन् इत्यादि परीत्यलोकान्कर्मवितान्ब्रह्मणानिवेरमायाज्ञास्त
 कृतः कृतेन तद्विज्ञानेसशुकमेवाभिगच्छत्समित्याणिः श्रात्रियुक्त्वनिष्टमित्यायाथवे
 ण एवेदिविरक्तस्यप्रत्यगात्मविषयविज्ञानेश्रोतमेतैविज्ञातृत्तसामर्थ्यमुपपद्यते ना
 न्यथा एतस्माच्चप्रत्यगात्मब्रह्मविज्ञानात्संसारबीजमज्ञानेकामकर्मप्रवृत्तिकारण
 मशेषतानिवर्तते तत्रकासादः कः शोकपकत्वमनुपपद्यते इति मन्त्रवर्णानि तरतिशो
 कमात्मवित् भियतद्दयश्रुतिः तस्मिन्ष्टेपरावरे इत्यादिश्रुतिभ्यश्च कर्मसदितादयिज्ञा

Session Speakers:



Prof. Maria Christopher Byrski is an eminent Indologist, distinguished Sanskrit scholar, and former Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to India (1993-96). A former Professor of Indology at the University of Warsaw, he has made outstanding contributions to Sanskrit studies, Indian philosophy and in promoting Indo-Polish cultural and academic relations. He has taught Polish Indologists and has translated **Manusmriti** and the dramas of **Bhasa** and **Kalidasa** into Polish language. In recognition of his exceptional services in promoting Indian culture ~ strengthening ties between India and Poland, the Government of India honoured him with the **Padma Shri** in 2022, one of India's highest civilian awards.



Prof. Joanna Jurewicz is an eminent Indologist, Sanskrit scholar, Cognitive Linguist serving as Chair of South Asia Studies in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at the University of Warsaw, Poland. An internationally recognized expert on the Vedas, Upanishads, and Indian philosophy, her research has made significant contributions to Vedic studies, Sanskrit literature, and the intellectual traditions of ancient India. A scholar of the oldest Indian thought expressed in Sanskrit texts, she is the author of five monographs and held important positions in leading academic institutions in Poland and elsewhere. Having played a vital role in advancing the study of India's classical knowledge traditions – she was honored with the “Outstanding Indologist Award” by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in 2023.



Prof. Gopal Chandra Misra is Former Vice Chancellor University of Gour Banga and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts Rabindra Bharati University. His areas of work / interest have been in Literature & Literary Criticism; Sanskrit Poetics; Sanskrit Dramaturgy; Modern Sanskrit Literature; Manuscriptology; Aesthetics: East and West; Research Methodology and Translation literature. His major research articles have been published leading International & National Journals from time to time. Over the years, he has been involved in academic program creation, developmental initiatives and other consulting activities for educational institutions in West Bengal and other Eastern Indian States.



Prof. Kamal Krishna Mishra is an academican, Cultural Diplomat and Author. He is currently serving as Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Calcutta and Director, ICAS - Bhāratiye Jñāna Paramparā (BJP-IKS) - CU, GyānaBhāratam (SVICEM - CU), BICCVSR - CU, University of Calcutta. He has been working in the field of Sanskrit and Indic Studies especially Epigraphy, Paleography and Manuscriptology. Under the patronage of Dogra Royal family of J&K in Indian Scholastic tradition, he has several scholarly publications to his credit, which include 11 Volumes of Śrīmadbhāgavadgītā with 21 Rare Sanskrit Commentaries in Original Calligraphy. Among others, he is a Member of International Advisory Board, Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi; UGC Observer– Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Initiative, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad.