



Call for Papers
International Seminar
Development of Art, Literature, Culture and Science
Under the Mughals in India
(30th & 31st March, 2017)

Organized by

*Dept. Arabic, Persian, Urdu & Islamic Studies, Bhasha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati University,
Santiniketan, W.B. India*

In collaboration with

Rumi Foundation Trust, P.O. Santiniketan, Distt. Birbhum, W.B., India

Dear Madam/Sir

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It is a great pleasure for us to inform you that the Department of Arabic, Persian, Urdu & Islamic Studies, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, WB. India is going to organize a two day International Seminar on the above mentioned topic on 30th & 31 March 2017 in collaboration with Rumi Foundation, P.O. Santiniketan, W.B. India at the Department of Arabic, Persian, Urdu & Islamic Studies, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan.

The Mughal Empire self-designated as Gurkani was an empire in the Indian subcontinent, established and ruled by a Muslim Turkic dynasty of Chagatai Turko-Mongol origin from Central Asia. The Mughal Empire was founded by Babur, a Central Asian ruler who was descended from the Turko-Mongol conqueror Timur on his father's side and from Chaghtai, the second son of the Mongol ruler Changis on his mother's side.

Akbar's reign was golden period of Persian language and literature in India. New dimensions in different genres of poetry and prose writings may be noticed emerging in this period. It was the time when Iran was ruled by the Safavi dynasty and literature and poetry were not much encouraged in that country at the time. As a result, hundreds of migrant Iranian scholars and poets came and settled in India. Persian made inroads not only among scholars and poets but also among the common people.

Great poets like Naziri, Faizi, Ghazali Mashhadi, Urfi, Maili Heravi, Aneesi Shamloo, Shekabai Isfahani, and others are just a few names from the galaxy of accomplished poets belonging to Akbar's reign. Faizi brother of Abul Fazl and Akbar's poet laureate composed beautiful ghazals and his masnavi, Nal Daman narrating the love story of Raja Nal Daman and Damyanti, is one of the most famous Persian masnavis in India.

As you know Sabk-e-Hindi is the style of writing prevalent in India, Asfahan, Hmadan, Shiraz and central Asia. Besides, other regions of Azarbaijan, Tabrez and Changis were also the centre of this style.

The origin of Indian art can be traced to pre-historic Hominid settlements in the 3rd millennium BC. On its way to modern times, Indian art has had cultural influences (e.g., Indus Valley and Hellenistic), as well as religious influences such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Islam. In spite of this complex mixture of religious traditions, generally the prevailing artistic style at any time and place has been shared by the major religious groups.

Literary works such as the *Razm nama* Persian translation of the *Mahabharata* to historical texts, including an illustrated version of the memoirs of his reign, the *Tuzuk-i Jahangiri*. But more common from his era are lavishly finished albums containing paintings and calligraphy samples mounted onto pages with decorative borders and then bound with covers of stamped and gilded or painted and lacquered leather.

A major Mughal contribution to the Indian subcontinent was their unique architecture. Many monuments were built by the Muslim emperors, especially Shah Jahan, during the Mughal era including the UNESCO World Heritage Site Taj Mahal, which is known to be one of the finer examples of Mughal architecture. By the time of Akbar knowledge of Persian had become so wide spread in North India that he dispensed with the tradition of keeping revenue records in local language Hindavi in addition to Persian. Persian prose and poetry reached a climax under the Akbar's reign. Abul Fazal was a great scholar and a stylist as well as the leading historian of the age, set a style of prose writing which was emulated for many generations. The leading poet of the age was his brother Faizi who also helped in the translation of the Mahabharata. Urfi and Naziri were the leading Persian poets of this period .

In this connection, we may mention the name of 'Malik Muhammad Jayasi who in his Padmavat describes the story of Padmini, and Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan whose exquisite Dohas are still read and admired all over northern India. It was Akbar's patronage that gave a vigorous stimulus to literary activity. The Persian literature of his reign comprised historical works, translations and poetry. The great historical works of his reign are the Akbar- namah and Ain-i-Akbari of Abul Fazal, the Muntkhab-ul-Twarikh by Badauni and Tabaqat-i-Akbari. by Nizam-ud-din Ahmed. Akbar was a keen student of Hindu culture and so by his orders many Sanskrit works were translated into Persian. Badauni translated Ramayana and Faizi the Lilavati. The Mahabharata was translated and renamed Razm-namah. The translator of the Atharva Veda was Haji Ibrahim Sarhindi. Other works translated were Rajatarangini and Panchatantra. Among the important poets of the period were Ghazali, Faizi and Muhammad Hussain Naziri. Jahangir also had a fine taste for literature and his memoirs are second only to that of Babur. During Shah Jahan's period many historical works were composed i.e. Padshahnamah by Abdul Hamid Lahori, Shah-Jahan-namah. by Inayat Khan etc.

Sub themes:

1. Development of Indo-Persian literature under Akbar the Great.
2. Historiography during 17th & 18th century India.
3. Music, Art and Architecture during the Mughal period.
4. Definition of Sbk-e-Hindi and contribution of poets of Sabk-e-Hindi in Persian.

5. Translations of Sanskrit classics into Persian.
6. Islamic impact on the architecture of India under the Mughals.
7. Indian philosophy and Islamic mysticism.
8. Development of Calligraphy and painting under the Mughals.
9. Buddhist and Islamic thoughts and practice during Mughal India.
10. Development of Arabic literature in Mughal India.
11. Historiography patronized as genre by Indians during the 17th & 18th century.
12. Development of Persian Lexicography in India.
13. Hindus contribution to the development of Persian.
14. Persian Ghazal writings during Mughal India.
15. Tazkira (biography) writing in Persian during the medieval period in India.
16. Malfuz literature during the Mughal period.
17. Influence of Persian on Indian languages.
18. Role of Scholars to the development of Islamic learning in India.
19. Contribution of Dara Shikoh to the development of national integration and composite culture.
20. Cultural relation of India with Iran.
21. Contribution of Persian language and literature to the composite culture of India.
22. Humanism and Universal brotherhood in Persian Sufi literature in the 17th & 18th century India.
23. Bengal's contribution to Persian/Arabic/Urdu during the Mughal period.
24. New trends in Indo-Persian historiography during the 18th century.
25. Influence of Iran on Indian art and architecture.
26. Any other topic relevant to the Seminar.

We shall provide local hospitality and reimburse (only for Indians) for travelling expenses three AC Railway tickets as per UGC norms. Kindly submit your tickets for reimbursement.

Kindly note down that the Registration fee shall be charged Rs.2000 from Scholars & Research scholars both.

We assure you of academic interaction in the seminar and local hospitality for two days. Looking forward to an early response.

Important dates: Submission of Abstracts 10th March, 2017

Last intimation date for acceptance 15th March, 2017

Last date for full paper 20th March, 2017 (Seminar proceeding book will be published and it will provide to the contributors at inaugural session of the seminar)

Note: *Papers are invited in Persian/Urdu/ English /Hindi/Bengali languages*

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With regards

Yours Sincerely

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