

**Two-day
National Seminar
on
Nation, Culture and Identity:
Theory and Text in the 21st Century**

**11 - 12 February 2017
(Sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi)**



**Organized by
Department of English
Pt. Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University
Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur**

To,

Sender :

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Pt. Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University
Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur
Koni-Birkona Road
Bilaspur 495009
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Convener

Dr. Ashutosh Singh
Head
Department of English
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website: www.pssou.ac.in

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Dr. Gouri Sharma

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Dr. Pushkar Dubey

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Dr. Preeti Mishra

7587365320

Invited Speakers:

Prof. Girishwar Misra

Vice Chancellor
Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University
Wardha

Prof. R.N.Rai

Former Head
Department of English
Banaras Hindu University

Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh

(Former Vice Chancellor, Dr. Babasheb Ambedkar Open University)
School of Translation Studies and Training
IGNOU, New Delhi

Prof. Shambhu Nath Singh

(Former Vice Chancellor, Patna University)
School of Journalism and New Media Studies
IGNOU, New Delhi

Prof. Anita Singh

(Nehru Fulbright Fellow)
Department of English
&
Co-Coordinator
Centre for Women Studies and Development
Banaras Hindu University

Prof. Manish Shrivastava

Dean, School of Arts
Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya
(A Central University)
Bilaspur (C.G.)

Prof. Krishna Singh

Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Philology
Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
Amarkantak (M.P.)

About the University

Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University Chhattisgarh is located in Bilaspur and was established by an Act of the State Legislative Assembly (Act 26 of 2004). The University was formally inaugurated by the former Vice Prime Minister, Govt. of India, Shri Lal Krishna Advani on 20th January, 2005 in the 55th year of the republic of India. It offers several programmes/courses in ODL mode through 6 Regional Centres and 106 Study Centres in the entire region of Chhattisgarh. The university is appropriately named to honor Pandit Sundarlal Sharma (1881-1940). He was among the stalwarts of Indian freedom fighter who stood for social justice, equality and non-violence. He is epitomized as the '*Ghandhi of Chhattisgarh*' for his unique contribution to society.

About Bilaspur

Bilaspur is the second largest city of importance in Chhattisgarh. It is known as the judicial as well as the cultural capital of the state (*Nyayadhani* and *Sanskardhani*), and is rich in etiquette & hospitality. The Bilaspur High Court is the largest High Court of Asia. This city is also the headquarters for South East Central Railway Zone and South Eastern Coalfields Limited. Ever since the creation of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur has progressed by leaps and bounds. Bilaspur is the third cleanest railway station of India. It is well known for handloom woven colourful soft *Kosa* silk saris and for its rich heritage and culture. This city has also developed as educational hub of Chhattisgarh. The place is a nice amalgamation of a fast developing city and at the same time of a region having natural beauty and spiritual importance.

Tourist spots in and around Bilaspur include:

- *Ratanpur (Mahamaya Temple) – about 22 Km from the University and one of the Shakti peeth.
- *Malhar - about 14 Km from Bilaspur rich in remnants of Temples (Pataleshwar KedarDevrani Jetharani etc.)
- *Giraudhpuri - a religious place for Satnami and birthplace of Sant Guru Ghasidas having a monument called "Jaithkhamb" (Taller than Qutub Minar).

Route Direction

How to reach Bilaspur

By Train: Bilaspur is well-connected by Railways/Road transport, and situated on the Mumbai -Nagpur-Howrah route of the Indian Railways. Another nearby station is Usalapur.

By Air : Nearest airport is at Raipur (Swami Vivekanand Airport) which is about 126 Km away from Bilaspur City.

How to reach the University from Bilaspur city:

The University is located at Koni-Birkona Road which is approximately 10 km from the railway station. Prepaid autos are available at railway station charging around Rs. 100 for coming upto the University. Bilaspur also has city buses that ply regularly from Railway station to the University Main Gate.

Concept Note

Changing social, economic, ecological and political conditions of the world pose before us the idea of *Global Nations*. Everything including the food we eat, the television serial we watch, or the clothes we wear speak of the global-local interface. Our daily life is being affected by events that happen in any part of the world including the more fluid world of cyberspace. However, globalisation is happening, reassessing the national boundaries, and the question of national identity is becoming more vociferous. There are many who see globalisation as a dangerously homogeneous process which poses a serious threat to local or national cultures. They therefore indulge in emotional rhetoric of culture preservation. Thus dilemmas of globalisation are affecting the nations and their cultural identities inherently shared across national and many other boundaries.

The question of nation, culture and identity gains significance from the fact that a person's national identity results directly from the presence of elements like national symbols, language, colours, nation's history, blood-ties, culture, music, cuisine, and so on. Under various social influences, people incorporate national identity into their personal identities by adopting beliefs, values, assumptions and expectations which align with one's national identity. People, with the identification of their nation, view national beliefs and values as personally meaningful, and translate these beliefs and values into daily practices. In the modern day debate, various facets of national and cultural identity have been discussed in scholarly circles in almost every disciplinary area including literature, cultural studies, history, sociology, and political science. The advent of literary and cultural theories in the literary field has brought major changes in the way of reading, interpreting and understanding literature and culture.

The seminar looks for presentations that explore and investigate new meanings and assumptions regarding the nuances of globalisation, nation and the construction of identities, as well as papers that analyse the ideas, issues and theories related to the concept of Global Nations.

Possible topics may include but are not restricted to the following issues:

- ❖ Race, Nation and Ethnicity
- ❖ Nation, Border and Globalization
- ❖ Gender, Nation and Identity
- ❖ Education, Nation and Society
- ❖ Religion, Philosophy, Ethics and Cultural Identity