



**The Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature
University of Calcutta**

Organises

In collaboration with

Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, Kolkata

A Two-Day National Seminar

On

The Context of Chaitanya-Vaishnavism: Bhakti in Bhārata

15-16 February 2018

Concept Note

Bhakti as an emotive-experiential concept and as a socio-cultural movement has a resonating influence upon Indian literature and culture. Bhakti includes in its meaning notions like worship, spirituality, patterns of thought, behaviour, or faith, and even desire. Similarly, Bhakti Movement has a magnitude spanning several centuries of historical time and spatially mapping almost the entire Indian sub-continent. Different traditions like Nirguna, Saiva, Vaishnava and countless variations of those all are included under the umbrella term of Bhakti.

The spatial, temporal and generic multiplicity makes Bhakti essentially heterogeneous. From north to south, east to west, India has been flooded by bhakti. According to the scholars, this movement began in the Southern parts of India; traversed through Central, North and North-West India and finally it reached Bengal and Assam in the Eastern parts. This journey has been significant in case of Indian Literatures written in many languages. Especially in the medieval period, the Modern Indian Languages have largely been influenced and formed by Bhakti poets, sadhakas and saints.

Bhakti in Bengal being synonymous with Sri Chaitanyadeva and the Vaishnava movement spearheaded by him, Chaitanya Vaishnavism is the primary focus of this seminar. This is an attempt to explore different ideals of Bhakti as well as genres of literature across India as intersecting but autonomous phenomena. This seminar further seeks to encourage a dialogue on different aspects of Bhakti as an entry point to the idea of Comparative Indian Literature.

Call for Papers

Abstracts within 500 words are invited from interested faculty members/scholars/students latest by 5th February 2018. Abstracts (in Bengali/ English) are to be sent to cill.cu2005@gmail.com. The papers may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

Themes and Sub-themes:

➤ **History of Bhakti**

- Historiography of Bhakti
- Transmission of Bhakti
- Bhakti: Socio-Political Reading
- Caste, Gender and Bhakti

➤ **Comparing Indian Literature and Bhakti**

- Bhakti and Emergence of Literary Genres
- Bhakti and Bhasha Literature
- Bhakti and Translation
- Representation of Bhakti in Contemporary Indian Literature
- Studying Indian Literature from the location of Bhakti
- Bhakti and Performance
- Bhakti and Cultural Transactions

➤ **Chaitanyadeva**

- Chaitanyadeva and His Times
- Chaitanya Vaishnavism and Bhakti
- Chaitanyadeva: Connecting Cultures
- Chaitanyadeva and the Indian Context
- Chaitanya Literature in Bengali and other Languages
- Chaitanyadeva and Kirtana

➤ **Bhakti Philosophy**

- Bhakti and Rasa
- Bhakti: Shastriya and Lokayata
- Bhakti: Local and Universal
- Bhakti: Convergence and Divergence
- Bhakti and Modernity
- Concept of Bhakti in Colonial and Postcolonial Context

➤ **Intimation of Acceptance** by 7th February 2018

➤ **Registration fees:** Faculty Members-500/-; Research Scholars-300/-; Students-200/-

➤ No TA/DA/Accommodation to paper presenters/participants can be provided.

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