

## *UGC and ICHR sponsored*

Second Biennial National Conference

2-3 April 2011

## **Mithila Itihas Sansthan**

*Organized By*

**Department of History, MLSM College, Darbhanga**

*In Collaboration with*

**Mithila Itihas Sansthan, Darbhanga**

### **Proceedings**

Mithila Itihas Sansthan is a well reputed association of professional historians and young researchers. In collaboration with it, Department of History, MLSM College, Darbhanga splendidly organized the UGC and ICHR sponsored Second Biennial National Conference of Mithila Itihas Sansthan on 2-3 April 2011. Preparations for organising the Conference began in August 2010 after the consensus between the Department of History, M.L.S.M. College and the Sansthan for holding it in joint collaboration. An organising committee was formed under the Patronship of Dr. Samrendra Pratap Singh, Vice-Chancellor, L. N. Mithila University with Dr. Vidya Nath Jha, Principal, MLSM College and Dr. Shesh Narayan Jha, HOD History of the College as president and secretary respectively. It was previously decided to hold the Conference on 22-23 January 2011, but due to acute financial crisis, the date of the conference was extended to 2-3 April 2011. The Vice-chancellor of LNMU assured substantial support and the UGC as well as the ICHR also signalled considerable financial assistance. It was decided that apart from the assistance by the University and income by the

advertisement in the Souvenir and delegate fee, expenditure may also be incurred in anticipation of the UGC and the ICHR grants. Accordingly, circulars, brochure, invitation letters were issued to the dignitaries and members of the Sansthan, the proposed guests and the teachers and researchers of history in general. The teachers and non-teaching staffs and students of MLSM College as well as activists associated with Dr. Dharmendra Kumar, Secretary, Mithila Itihas Sansthan worked hard with team spirit to make all arrangements properly fit and vigorous efforts were carried out to forge the Conference a grand success.

## I

The Second Biennial National Conference of Mithila Itihas Sansthan started on 2 April 2012 at 10.00AM with much enthusiasm and exuberance in Multipurpose Hall, situated nearby MLSM College under the Presidentship of highly esteemed sociologist and authority of sociological historiography Professor Hetukar Jha. Dr. Samrendra Pratap Singh, Vice-chancellor and Patron inaugurated the Conference by lightening the lamp. Familier singer of Mithila region Dr. Mamta Thakur presented the *Sansthan Geet* and welcome song. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar, Secretary, Mithila Itihas Sansthan and Dr. Vidyanath Jha, Principal, MLSM College welcomed the dignitaries, guests and delegates of the Conference. Dr. Binod Kumar Choudhary, MLC and Dr. Baidyanath Choudhary, member Syndicate, LNMU felicitated the august gathering and extended their compliments and wishes for fruitful achievement of the Conference. In his inaugural speech the vice-chancellor, Dr. Samrendra Pratap Singh recalled the rich cultural heritage of Mithila and appealed the historians to reconstruct the history for the proper placement of the marginalised social groups and community in history as well as for the high projection of the history and culture of Mithila. The Chief Guest, Prof. S.C. Mishra of Delhi University, paid great tribute to Mithila culture by recalling

the contributions of Mithila to the fields of Indian philosophy and *Dharmashastra* through the ages in his erudite speech. Prof. Hetukar Jha expounded the evolution of sociological historiography and exhaustively analysed the social formation of medieval Mithila in his rigorous presidential address, चौदहवीं-पन्द्रहवीं सदी और उसके बाद मिथिला की सामाजिक स्थिति: एक समाजशास्त्रीय अवलोकन- According to him, in medieval Mithila, a large number of digests and treatises were composed to tighten the brahmanic social structure causing contradictions which further aggravated by the growth of localism, but at the same time liberal ideas and *bhakti movement* specially tantricism helped in harmonizing the social contradictions to some extent, inspite of a general decadence in medieval Mithila society. Organizing Secretary, Dr. Shesh Narayan Jha extended the vote of thanks and Dr. Dharmendra Kumar conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session.

On the occasion, the Souvenir of the conference and the proceedings of the First Biennial Conference of Sansthan, मिथिला इतिहास विमर्श, अंक-1 were released. Prof. Vijay Kumar Thakur Memorial Prize and Prof. Madneshwar Mishra Memorial Prize were also awarded to the authors of best papers in Ancient Mithila and Modern Mithila sections of the First Biennial conference of the Sansthan respectively. Dr. Niraj Kumar, Dr. Narendra Nath Jha and Shri Amit Kumar received the Prof. Vijay Kumar Thakur Memorial Prize in Ancient Mithila section whereas Dr. Poonam Jha and Dr. Poonam Kumari (jointly with Dr. Avnindra Kumar Jha) got Prof. Madneshwar Mishra Memorial Prize in Modern Mithila Section. Apart from a huge gathering of teachers and students of L.N.Mithila University, intellectuals and media persons of Darbhanga town and the dignitaries and guests of the conference, 318 delegates from various parts of the country attended the inaugural session.

## II.

Inaugural session was followed by paper presentation session, which was conducted in four sections simultaneously, i.e., Section I: *Ancient Mithila*, Section II: *Medieval Mithila*, Section III: *Modern Mithila* and Section IV: *History other than Mithila*. All four sections started with their respective presidential address. Dr. Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Director, K. P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna delivered his presidential lecture in the Ancient Mithila section on *Some Aspects of the Archaeology of Mithila*. In the medieval Mithila section, Prof. Bishwambhar Jha, Deptt. of History, L. N. Mithila University presented his presidential paper on ओड़नवास्कालीन कृषि संरचना और कृषक. The Modern Mithila Section was presided over by Prof. Pramod Kumar Poddar, Deptt. of History, Patna University and he presented his paper on *Peasant Mobilisation and Struggles in Mithila (1867-1947) : An Overview*, while Prof. Bhojnandan Pd. Singh, HOD History, L. S. College Muzaffarpur delivered his presidential address in History other than Mithila Section on *Tagore and Gandhi on Indian National Regeneration and Liberation*. All the presidential addresses were scholarly written and splendidly presented.

After the presidential address in each section delegates presented their papers. During two days of the Conference four technical sessions of all the four sections were held. The total number of papers presented in all the sections was 242 in which 31, 48, 61 and 102 papers were presented in sections I, II, III and IV respectively. Numerous aspects of history and culture of Mithila as well as of Indian history were covered by the papers presented in the technical sessions of the Conference. Most of the papers were laboriously written and well presented. Lively discussions on papers presented were held in each section and due attention were paid to all considerable papers. The proceeding of the technical session was well managed, systematized and commendable.

### III.

In the evening of 2 April 2012, three programmes were organised consecutively in Multipurpose Hall of the University. A symposium on **मिथिला में नगरीकरण** was held from 5.00 to 7.00 pm, in which Prof. Baidyanath Labh, Deptt. of Buddhist Studies, Jammu University and Dr. Shailendra Mohan Jha of Delhi University eloquently traced the history of urbanization in ancient Mithila and Prof. Indra Kumar Choudhary, H.O.D History, Ranchi University extensively accounted for the socio-economic and cultural dimensions of urbanization in medieval Mithila whereas Prof. Ranteshwar Mishra, Ex-HOD History, L.N.Mishra University elaborately explained the role of urbanization in modernization of Mithila during colonial period. Immediately after the Symposium, *Dr. Radhakrishna Choudhary Memorial Lecture* started. Prof. S.C. Mishra of Delhi University paid a rich homage to Dr. Radha Krishna Choudhary by recalling his great contributions to Indian historiography as well as history and culture of Mithila. Prof. Vishwa Mohan Jha, Delhi University examined serfdom as a socio-economic category in historical analysis, which was institutionalised in the middle ages. Dr. Surendra Jha, HOD History, SKM University, Dumka (Jharkhand) reappraised the antiquity of Anga, Vaishali and Videha. *Dr. Radhakrishna Choudhary Memorial Lecture* was thought provoking indeed.

In the last, a colourful and attractive cultural programme was organised in the night of 2 April. Acclaimed singers of Mithila region Dr. Mamta Thakur and Dr. Krishnanand Jha presented Maithili songs and cultural group of Madhubani, Dharohar, performed Mithila folk dance, Maithili songs and comedy which delighted and amused the delegates and guests of the Conference.

### IV.

Next day, i.e. on 3 April 2011, panel discussion on 'मैथिली लोक साहित्य की ऐतिहासिकता' was held at 10.00 to 12.00 AM. Prof Tula Krishna Jha, Ex-HOD History, LNMU, Dr. Shankardeo Jha, young journalist and Dr. Dharmendra Kumar presented their papers. Prof. Tulakrishna Jha overviewed the historical elements in Maithili folk literature, whereas Dr Shankadeo Jha and Dr. Dharmendra Kumar analysed the historicity of famous Maithili folk sagas *Raja Salhesh* and *Lokikain* respectively and examined them on both textual and contextual levels. Each paper was followed by lively and expressing discussion. Prof Ratneshwar Mishra, Prof. Rajendra Ram, Retd. Professor of PU, Prof. Rajiv Kumar Sinha. Registrar, T.M.Bhagalpur Univ., Prof. I. K. Choudhary, HOD History, Ranchi Univ., Dr. C.B.P. Roy of Kolkata and others intervened in the panel discussion and made it meaningful.

In the afternoon of 3 April, General Body meeting of Mithila Itihas Sansthan was conducted. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar and Dr. Ushakiran Jha presented Secretary's and Treasurer's Report respectively. General Body elected the office bearers and executive committee members for the next third Biennial Conference of Sansthan. It also authorised the Secretary of the Sansthan to decide the venue of the next conference. The General Body resolved that the Raj Library of L.N.Mithila University be converted into a library cum research institute.

Soon after the General Body meeting, valedictory session of the Conference was convened. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar, Secretary of the Sansthan extended vote of thanks to the host MLSM College, the Vice Chancellor and other officers of L.N. Mithila University, Journalists, activists of the Sansthan and delegates as well as guests and dignitaries of the Sansthan and also the students of the Deptt. Of History, LNMU Special thanks were paid to the UGC and the ICHR for their generous grants and early release of the grants were requested. Delegates

like Prof. S. N. Arya, Magadh University, Dr. Satish Kumar, MU, Dr. Bhojnandan Pd. Singh, HOD History, L.S. College, Muzaffarpur, Dr. K. K. Mandal, TMBU, Prof. Surendra Jha, SKM Univ. and Dr. Sujata Singh, RU expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for grand hospitality availed by MLSM College as well as smooth and well managed proceedings of the Conference. The Vice-principal of MLSM College, Dr. Babu Saheb Choudhary presented the vote of thanks on behalf of the organising committee. The Conference concluded with a firm conviction and hope to meet again in 2013.

Except the technical sessions, all programmes of the Conference were presided over by the President, Prof. Hetukar Jha and conducted by the Secretary of the Sansthan, Dr. Dharmendra Kumar. Dr. Vidya Nath Jha, Principal MLSM College, always remained vigilant and attentive for proper functioning of the Conference. Teachers, employees and students of MLSM College as well as the activists and office bearers of the Sansthan made vigorous efforts to make the Conference memorable. Hence, the 2nd Biennial Conference of Mithila Itihas Sansthan, a joint venture of the Department of History, M.L.S.M. College, Darbhanga and the Sansthan, organised and concluded magnificently and it accomplished a marked attainment in the field of historical studies.

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