**International Conference**

**In the Mirror of Dharma: Indian Culture through the Ages**

**Sofia, 29 February – 1 March 2016**

***Organized by the Indology Department, Sofia University in cooperation with***

***the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Indian Embassy in Sofia, the “East-West”***

***Indological Foundation, Sofia, and the Bulgarian National Gallery - Kvadrat 500***

**Conference venue:**  Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” (main building),

Session Hall One, 15, Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd.

**Programme**

**29 February 2016 (Monday)**

**09:00-09:30 Inauguration of the conference** **– Chair: Prof Alexander Fedotoff”**

Address by Prof Anastas Gerdjikov, Dr. Habil, Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”

Address by H.E. Rajesh K. Sachdeva, Ambassador of India

**09:30-10:00** Coffee-break

**10:00-12:00 Panel 1 – Chair: Prof Tatyana Evtimova**

10:00-10:20 Prof Shashibala

Transcendence in Life - the Inner Dimension of Dharma

10:20-10:40 Prof Anand Vardhan Sharma

Literature and Dharma

10:40-11:00 Prof Alexander Fedotoff

On the Tibetan Book *Dharma Poetry* (chos-kyi snyan-ngag)

11:00-11:20 Prof Audrius Beinorius

*Dharma* and *Jyotiṣa:* on the Status, Duties and Qualifications of Indian Astrologer

11:20-12:00 Discussion

**12:00-13:00** Lunch break

**13:00-15:00 Panel 2 – Chair: Prof Shashibala**

13:00-13:20 Prof Boris Zakharin

On Connections between *Vyākaraņa* and *Dharma* in Pataňjali’s “Mahābhāșya”

13:20-13:40 Dr Monika Nowakowska

*Dharma* and *ātma-tuṣṭi* – Kumārila’s Discussion of the Sources of Dharma

13:40-14:00 Prof Tatyana Evtimova

A Personal Speculation on Dharma in the Mirror of Folk Tales

14:00-14:20 Prof Mannar Venkateshwar

The Influence of the Epics (Ramayana & Mahabharata) on Indian Life and Literature

14:20-15:00 Discussion

**15:00-15:30** Coffee-break

**15:30-17:30** **Panel 3 – Chair: Prof Audrius Beinorius**

15:30-15:50 Prof Milena Bratoeva

The King Hariścandra in Varuṇa’s pāśa: the Myth of Śunaḥśepa in the Perspective of the Relation *Dharma – Dharmapati – Kṣatriya*

15:50-16:10 Assist. Prof Boryana Kamova

Dharma as Duty and a Source of Social and Political Practices in Ancient India

16:10-16:30 Dr Ramendra Pandey

A Study of Mandhata Myth – a Scientific Explanation

16:30-16:50 Dr Mauna Kaushik

Indian Heritage of Ayurveda: Significance of Agni in Ayurveda

16:50-17:30 Discussion

**1March 2016 (Tuesday)**

**09:00-11:00** **Panel 4 – Chair: Assoc. Prof Galina Rousseva-Sokolova**

09:00-09:20 Assoc. Prof Gergana Ruseva

On Death and Birth of the Cyclic Time

09:20-09:40 Dr Lyudmila Klasanova

Dharmodaya: the Source of Reality in Tantric Buddhism

09:40-10:00 Dr Usha Sharma

Dharma and Environment

10:00-10:20 Nikolay Yankov

The Problem with Purushamedha in the Context of Indological Studies

10:20-11:00 Discussion

**11:00-11:30** Coffee-break

**11:30-13:30** **Panel 5 – Chair: Prof Anand Vardhan Sharma**

11:30-11:50 Prof Liudmila Khokhlova

The Concept of *Dharma* in Sikhism

11:50-12:10 Dr Alexandre Elizariev

Pahar: Reading of Sikh Sacred Texts in the Aspect of Semantic Rhyme

12:10-12:30 Dr Valentina Todorova-Marinova

The Concept of “Dharma” *(Dharam, Dhamma)*in Hindi Proverbs

12:30-12:50 Assist. Prof Vanya Gancheva

On “Righteousness”, “Order” and “Harmony” as Part of the Concept of Dharma in Hindi Idiomatics

12:50-13:30 Discussion

**13:30-14:30** Lunch break

**14:30-16:30 Panel 6 – Chair: Prof Milena Bratoeva**

14:30-14:50 Dr Purushottam Agrawal

Dharma and Bhakti in Kabir

14:50-15:10 Assoc. Prof Galina Rousseva-Sokolova

Women, Dharma and Bhakti

15:10-15:30 Liliya Deneva

How a Woman Should (Not) Behave: A Glimpse to Saadat Hasan Manto’s Women Characters

15:30-15:50 Dr Roumiana Damianova

Aṣțanвyikв: Bridging Universal and Sociocultural Perspectives

15:50-16:30 Discussion and closing of the conference

**18:00** Opening of the Exhibition “The Creator and the Destroyer of the Universe”

Venue: National Gallery - Kvadrat 500, hall 19, St. Alexander Nevsky Sq.,

1, February 19th Str.