

### Sub Themes

1. A place of Respite and Socio-Cultural Exchange.
2. Society, Temples and Purta Karma.
3. Society as Depicted in various strata's of Architecture and Sculptures.
4. Study of Iconography as representative of Socio-cultural traditions
5. Social Institutions associated with temples.
6. Temples as representatives of Socio-Cultural synthesis
7. Temple and Performing Arts
8. Popular Literature & Culture depicted in Temple.
9. Temples and participation of Sub-alterns.
10. Temple as an Economic Institution
11. Fairs, festivals and their socio-economic concerns
12. The Folk element in development of Temples
13. Depiction of Military system
14. Architectural Design and Science of Engineering & Technology.
15. Temple as Institution of Environment Ecology.
16. Temples as cradles of scientific evolution in Indian society.
17. Musical instruments as depicted in the temple architecture.
18. Language and literary presentation technology as reflected from India temples.
19. Grants of lands and landscaping of famous temples.
20. Newly discovered unknown famous temples.
21. Unique Bhagwan Braham Dev, Sun temples of India.
22. Lokdevata temples of Rajasthan.
23. Caves temples of India.
24. Imaginary animals, humans and exotic figures depicted in the temples of India.
25. Temples and their influences of propagating ethics and morals in society.

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### **Details of Intended Programme**

**25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

- 08:30-09:00 a.m. - Registration  
Registration Fee Rs. 800/-
- 10:00-12:00 p.m. - Inaugural Function  
Keynote Speaker - Prof. Himanshu Chaturvedi,  
Gorakhpur University
- Chief Guest - His Highness Maharaja Gaj  
Singh Marwar-Jodhpur
- President - Prof. K.L. Srivastav, Vice  
Chancellor, Jai Narain Vyas  
University, Jodhpur
- 12:00-12:30 p.m. - High Tea
- 12:30-01:30 p.m. - 1<sup>st</sup> Technical Session (Prof.  
R.P. Vyas Memorial Lecture  
By Professor Vijay Laxmi  
Singh on : Buddhist Cultural  
Heritage of Ancient Raja-  
sthan-Built and Imagined  
Spaces)
- 01:30-02:30 p.m. - Lunch
- 02:30-04:00 p.m. - 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical Session
- 04:00-04:15 p.m. - Tea
- 04:15-5:30 p.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Session

**26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

- 08:30-09:30 a.m. - Breakfast
- 09:30-11:00 a.m. - 4<sup>th</sup> Technical Session
- 11:00-11:15 a.m. - Tea
- 11:15-01:45 p.m. - 5<sup>th</sup> Technical Session
- 01:45-2:30 p.m. - Lunch
- 02:30-3:45 p.m. - 6<sup>th</sup> Technical Session
- 04:00 p.m. - Valedictory



## **Two Days National Seminar** **On** **Temples as Institutions of** **Cultural and Social History**

**(25-26<sup>th</sup> July 2023)**

**Organized by :**

**Mahila PG Mahavidyalaya**

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## **About the Mahila PG Mahavidyalaya**

Mahila P.G. Mahavidyalaya is a realization of the dream of Shri Jai Narain Vyas, notable freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Rajasthan. His vision of women empowerment came to fruition with the establishment of the largest women's college in Western Rajasthan. Established on 2nd October, 1987, Mahila P.G. Mahavidyalaya offers undergraduate and post graduate courses in Science, Social Sciences & Commerce. Every year students from the college get absorbed in notable institutions and banks through various Campus placement drives. This year, 28 students from the college bagged scholarships for their academic proficiencies. The National Skill Development Course under the PMKVY program is run throughout the year at the college premises and benefits not just college students but women keen on making a mark in the society. We are also centre for TISS. The college has won NSS state awards and is committed to raise social awareness through blood donation camps., Anemia free campus campaigns and the AIDS awareness programs have led to the reorganization of our college as Star College by NAACO.

We have been awarded Marwar Ratna under the Category of Rajmata Krishna Kumari Award for institution dedicated to women education. we are also a center for regular studies of Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). The college has hosted 15 national level seminars and several sessions of the Rajasthan History Congress. It is an institution committed to education and empowerment of girls so that they rise to become efficient and skilled citizens of the nation as our motto signifies- "Sanskrita Stree Para Shakti".

## **Temples as Institutions of Cultural and Social History**

Temples are sacred spaces, inadvertently associated with the religious inclinations of a group or groups of people. They have been depicted as places of worship and have been studied largely in this reference only. A visible diversion is found the study of iconography and architectural plans and designs, as represented in the classical literature, pertaining to the construction of temples.

Temples are not mere sacred spaces, they are representatives of socio-cultural-economic interconnectedness with the group or groups of people with them. These Brown spaces become inadvertently connected with 'Blue Spaces' and 'Green Spaces', thus they become catalysts for environment conservation and protection. Water bodies and gardens become part of religious topography. Social customs, traditions, dress, hair styles, jewelry etc. are represented in classical, contemporary and local styles. The depiction of musical instruments in classical style (as marked by the presence of Gandharvas and Apsaras) as well as local showcase the variety of cultural representations. The panels outside and inside the temple portray the popular literature. Stories of Ramayana, Mahabharata, various Puranas, engraved in form of panels, on the towers of the Gupuram or Vimana and the base of the Shikhara portray the representation of popular literature.

Temples of Folk dieties represent an altogether new format of architecture, cultural representation and sacredness. These sacred places might not be constructed on the lines of classical temple architecture, but they represent the religious ideas and sacredness attached to those common men/women, who sacrificed their life for the protection of their people and honour or dedicated themselves for the upliftment of the subalterns. These temples are in form of Thans, sacred, stones and pillars. Fairs and festivals held at these

places create an economic dimension.

Temples have been centres of various cultural activities. The Mandapa and the area beyond were used for public performances of various arts. In other words, the temple structures provided the modern day facilities of a 'Town Hall'. These were the ideal places for social and cultural gatherings exchange and synthesis.

The involvement of State, Provincial and local administration like Panchkula, social/political institutions groups of Sresththis and Kulika, Nigam, common people, in creation and maintenance of temples, showcase a complex socio-cultural interconnectedness. Land Grants by the state and social groups, Devasthanas etc. create a altogether different landscape of social behavior and customs. These sacred places are sanctums of morality, ethics and peace, thereby providing socio-psycho analytical opportunities to study human behavior & psyche.

Association of the Subalterns (Women, Third Gender & artisans) and other socio economic groups (businessmen, masons, Banjaras etc.) with temple construction and maintenance again creates an interesting area of study and research. Temples were places of respite for travelers. They become the food providing and earning centres for the economically weaker section of the society.

Temples are representative of the Science of Engineering, Technology and architectural designing of a particular or time. They also represent a particular school of construction and design and give information pertaining to the architect (Gajdhar) and artisans (Shilpkars) involved. The study of evolution of temple architecture from the simple pyramedical or stupa formation to elaborate, ornamental- Nagara, Dravida, Vesara, and many local styles give us an insight into the evolution and growth of different engineering styles. This Seminar strives to bring forth these unresearched areas associated with Temples as institutions of Social and Cultural history.