

INDIAN PHILOSOPHICAL CONGRESS
GOLDEN JUBILEE SESSION :
WORLD PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE

December 28, 1975 to January 3, 1976

DELHI

A Brief Report

The Golden Jubilee Session of the Indian Philosophical Congress was held on the Campus of the Delhi University under the auspices of the Delhi University on the completion of 50 years of the Congress, from 28th December, 1975 to 3rd January, 1976. This was the Joint 49th and 50th Session of the Congress, and was also held as "World Philosophy Conference". The Session was attended by more than 525 delegates who had assembled in Delhi not only from all the parts of India, but as many as 75 delegates had come from foreign countries also.

Being the Golden Jubilee Session, it lasted for a week. The Plenary Sessions were held in the morning from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., and afternoon Sessions were devoted to Sectional Meetings. There were six Plenary Sessions, one being held on each day, and sectional meetings for the various sections were held every afternoon to present and discuss the papers of which Abstracts were already published by the Congress in a book entitled, "Abstracts".

At the inaugural function the delegates were welcomed by Prof. R. C. Mehrotra, the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University, and the Inaugural Address was delivered by Prof. Sava Ganovski from Bulgaria, the Chairman of the Federation of the International Philosophical Societies. Dr. R. C. Pandeya, the General Secretary, Indian Philosophical Congress, welcomed the Delegates on behalf of the Congress and presented a Report of the activities of the Congress. Dr. A. G. Javadekar, the Chairman, Indian Philosophical Congress, delivered his address on 'Philosophy of Ecology'. The Souvenir, brought out on the occasion, was dedicated to the memory of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan by Dr. D. S. Kothari.

Each one of the six Plenary Sessions was presided over by an eminent Indian Philosopher, who had the honour of being a General President of the Indian Philosophical Congress in the past.

The subjects for the Plenary Sessions were : Knowledge and Truth, Science, Technology and Value, Vidyā and Avidyā, Language, Culture and Man, Commitment and Action, and Theory and Praxis. They were presided over by distinguished Indian Philosophers such as Dr. T. R. V. Murti, Prof. D. D. Vadekar, Dr. T. M. P. Mahadevan, Dr. S. Vahiuddin, Dr. P. T. Raju and Dr. A. K. Sarkar respectively. Dr. Sarkar presided in place of Dr. B. L. Atreya who could not attend the session on account of his ill health.

In each of the Plenary Sessions there were 4 to 6 main speakers, and at least two participants were from abroad. The foreign delegates were invited to take active part in all the deliberations by presenting their papers, and most of them presented their papers and made the deliberations lively and fruitful. In addition to the six Plenary sessions there were also two Panel Discussions on (1) Buddhism and Vedānta and (2) Myths and Symbols, for which main speakers were invited to present their papers.

Another feature of the Session was Sectional meetings held every day in the afternoon from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. There were six sections and each one was presided over by members of the Congress. The Sections were as under : Morality and Culture; Religion, Science and Man; Language, Thought and Reality; Logic and Experience; Education and Human Development; Aesthetic Theory and Art, and the sectional meetings were presided over by Dr. N. K. Devaraja, Dr. Santosh Sengupta, Dr. K. K. Banerjee, Prof. D. Y. Deshpande, Dr. K. Sacchidananda Murty and Dr. Nagendra respectively. Almost all the members of the Congress who had contributed their papers were given opportunity to present their papers in these sectional meetings. One morning-session was specially devoted to the celebration of the 2500th anniversary of Lord Mahāvīra, and papers of Acharya Tulsi and Upadhyaya Muni Shri Vidyanandaji were presented on this occasion. Similarly during the same session homage was paid to the sacred memory of Shri Guru Teg Bahadur and papers on Sikh Philosophy and Religion were presented.

History (1925-75) is prepared by Dr. Basant Kumar Lal of the Patna University. It gives an account of the activities and developments of the Indian Philosophical Congress through the last 50 years including its annual sessions. (4) A Directory of Indian Philosophers—compiled by Dr. G. N. Joshi of Fergusson College, Poona. It contains biodata of more than 1000 living teachers of Philosophy in Universities and Colleges in India. Such a Directory has been prepared in this subject for the first-time in India. (5) Abstracts—It contains abstracts of 185 papers which were presented and discussed in the various sectional meetings. They were edited by Dr. K. K. Mittal of the University of Delhi. No. (3), (4) and (5) publications are published by the Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi.

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Poona

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