

**National Symposium  
on  
Desiring *Bharat*, historicizing the “postcolonial”**

**28-30 September, 2018**



**Organised by:**

**Dr Saswat Samay Das  
Associate Professor  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur  
Kharagpur 721 302, West Bengal, India**

## Overview

It will be interesting to mark the readily available intellectual lenses that we may use to view our nation. The Machiavellian way of coming to terms with our nation will be to view it as a "molarity" or better an organism with firm boundaries. On the other hand, there lies the quasi-populist, mythopoeic, religious and intensely lyrical way of coming to terms with it as a sacred interior space, a way some mockingly call "hagiographic". The hybrid postcolonial poststructuralist way is to reduce the nation to an empty signifier or to view it in creative aesthetical terms, ranging from a lyrical diversity in expanse to a pulsating vibrating busy thoroughfare.

But the question at this juncture is: Are these approaches adequate to understand the strong, confident, technologically advanced, rapidly globalizing nation such as ours, a nation we may proudly pin down as the post-post-colonial Bharat, a fresh cornucopia of possibilities triumphantly distanced from all those prescribed ways of representing the so called postcolonial India? Indeed, how does one need to understand the emergent Bharat in the global times, situated beyond the postcolonial India that according to many remains self deludingly wedded to the notion of messy cultural hybridity? What is the best way for a nation like ours to reconstruct itself in the light of those futural possibilities that many claim that the emergent Bharat holds? Moreover, it is claimed, at this juncture, that our nation seems desirous to engineer a line of flight towards its foundational roots, to what may be called its pure originary non-secular past, blissfully distanced from the post-structuralist gaze? The question for the nation at this juncture is not only how to expand and merge with the borderless globality that Negri calls Empire but how to do that while striving to reclaim its autochthonous self and secure its unique position in the Empire which resembles a rhizome and which continuously gives a sense of being in the middle?





It is also imperative at this juncture to tailor a new grammar to live and encounter the emergent Bharat. It may be argued that the best way to come to terms with Bharat is to foreground it in creative aesthetic terms as an exercise in double articulation. The emergent Bharat could be seen as "a lobster with double pincers". What could this image possibly indicate? In contrast with post-structuralist post colonialist hermeneutics that positions India's cultural diversity on a line of flight leading to a void or an unrecognizable messiness Bharat could be rendered as an assemblage, a formation that works with blocs, stratas, cuts and flows. The emergent Bharat will be a pleasant combination of lyrical, open ended poetic intensity of Vedas, scriptures and ancient texts and equally indelible traces of Machiavellian politics directed towards guarding and disseminating this intensity. It will be a performance that will speak to the rhizomatic global sometime as the Gramscian ideological bloc. And sometimes it will be a performance betraying deep affinity with the Althusserian notion of interest or may even be a reflection of the productive desire. It will essentially be a bharat that will remain permanently elusive to those attempting to contain it, in particular the manipulative pro capitalist hermeneutical strategies. But it will also toy with them for guarding its interest and working with the patterns of connective desire.



## Objective

This symposium will stage interesting ways of articulating the contours of emerging Bharat and will also engineer hermeneutical strategies to encounter it. It will also arrive at a post postcolonial way of arriving at the terminals or stratas of nativity, indigeneity and identity without succumbing the poststructuralist way of figuring them as malignant tumors and lumps that a nation must remove from its body if it wants to be integrated with the existing Empire of incessant flows.

This symposium will make way for lectures, critique and effective interactive sessions from scholars of Indian aesthetics, theory, linguistics, political critics and commentators and some very prominent voices in Indian postcolonial studies. The following areas will be debated, discussed:

### **"Territories"/lecture Content**

1. Archiving the postcolonial
2. Expanding the Indian Conceptual framework
3. De-stratifying the Indian Knowledge systems: Aurobindo, Gandhi and Vivekananda
4. De-stabilizing the "post" of postcolonial in the Indian Context
5. From Schizophrenization to "stability": Self, society and nation in India
6. Schizoanalyzing cultural politics as "the problem field" in modern India
7. De-territorializing India and Reterritorializing "Hindoo-stan"/Bharat: colonialism, post-colonialism and national culture
8. Spiritual politics: Science, spirituality and modernization in India
9. De-gendering India: Women and Vedas
10. Beyond the Western Eyes: Theorizing feminism in Indian context
11. Rethinking Democracy and beyond
12. The thesis of (dis) continuity: Indian Identity and culture continuity in world of philosophy
13. Indian Mysticism and Contemporary western Episteme
14. Reconstructing Ambedkar: Politics of Double articulation



## Speakers

1. **Professor Kapil Kapoor**  
Center for linguistics and English, JNU  
Chairman of Indian Institute of Advanced studies, Shimla, India
2. **Professor Makrand Paranjape**  
Center for English Studies, JNU  
School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, New Delhi, India
3. **Professor Chadrakala Padia**  
Department of Political Science, BHU  
Ex Chairperson of Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla  
Member, National Advisory Board of Education, MHRD, New Delhi  
Member, Indian National Commission for co-operation with UNESCO, MHRD, New Delhi
4. **Professor SR Bhatt**  
Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, MHRD, Government of India  
Chairman of Indian and Asian Philosophy Congress
5. **Professor Kalyan Kumar Das**  
Professor of English, Presidency University, Kolkata
6. **Mr Swapan Dasgupta**  
Senior Indian journalist, editor and a Member of Parliament
7. **Professor Madhavi Menon**  
Professor of English, Ashoka University New Delhi



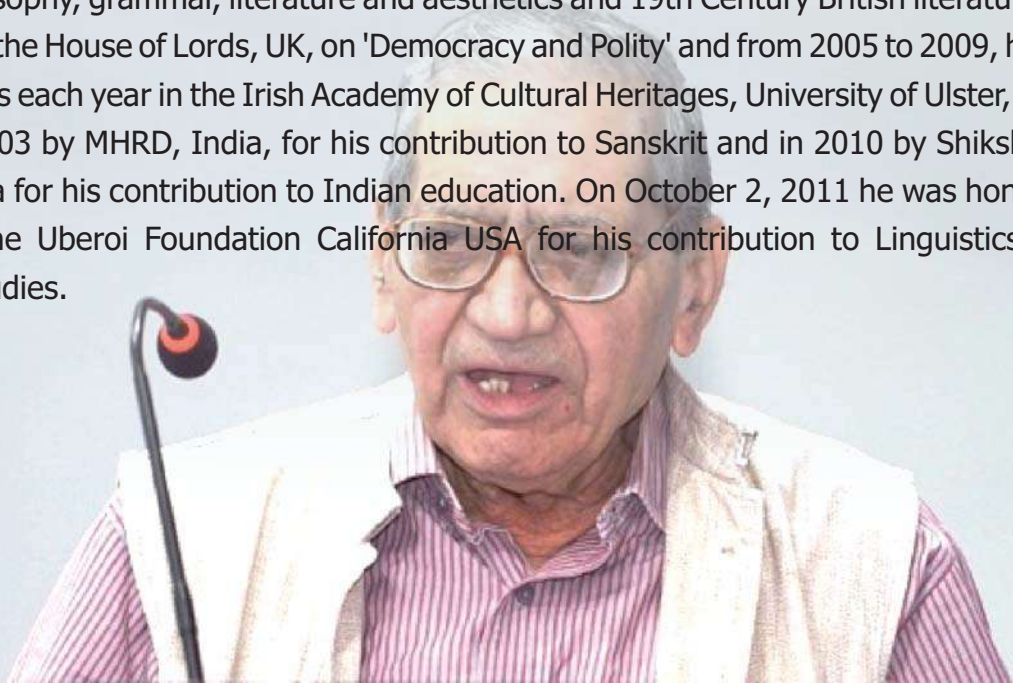
# Professor Kapil Kapoor



Presently **Professor Kapil Kapoor** is the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Indian Institute of advanced Studies, Shimla.

Prof Kapoor was the former Professor of English, Centre for Linguistics and English, and concurrent Professor, Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He was Dean of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, from 1996-1999 and Rector (Pro-Vice-Chancellor) of the University from 1999- 2002. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the 11-Volume Encyclopedia of Hinduism (sponsored by Parmarth Niketan/Indian Heritage Research Foundation, USA) that has recently (January 2012) been published. He is the Chief Editor of the Sahitya Akademi sponsored Encyclopedia of Indian Poetics, a UNESCO project, that is under publication. He is a nominated Visiting Professor at the Irish

Academy of Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, U.K. and Nominated Member, Advisory Board for India Studies, Trinity College Dublin. He was nominated Birla Foundation Fellow in 2007 and UGC Emeritus Fellow at JNU, his parent university, 2007-2009. He is Adviser to CBSE, New Delhi for English since 2000. He has been nominated by Punjabi University Patiala as a Fellow for the S. S. Noor Fellowship for 2011-2013. Dr. Kapil Kapoor has been a nominated Member of the Governing Body of Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla and of the Governing Body of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), a Member of the Monitoring and Planning Committee of Central University of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath. He was nominated member of the Academic Council of the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad and of the Executive Councils of Central University of Hyderabad and of Gurukula Kangri, Haridwar. He is currently Chairman of India Policy Foundation and Member of the Planning Committee of the proposed Sanchi University of Buddhist Studies. His teaching and research interests include literary and linguistic theories, both Indian and Western, philosophy of language, nineteenth century British life, literature and thought and Indian intellectual traditions. He has delivered lectures by invitation in several universities in India, including IITs, and published around 90 articles in the areas of Indian and Western philosophy, grammar, literature and aesthetics and 19th Century British literature. In 2008, he lectured in the House of Lords, UK, on 'Democracy and Polity' and from 2005 to 2009, he delivered invited lectures each year in the Irish Academy of Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster, UK. He was honored in 2003 by MHRD, India, for his contribution to Sanskrit and in 2010 by Shiksha Sanskriti Utthana Nyasa for his contribution to Indian education. On October 2, 2011 he was honored at Los Angeles by the Uberoi Foundation California USA for his contribution to Linguistics and Indic Civilization Studies.



# Professor Makrand R Paranjape



**Professor Makarand R. Paranjape** is currently the director of Indian Institute of advanced studies Shimla. He also happens to be a Professor of English at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for English at the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies. He has been a Homi Bhabha Fellow for literature and held visiting appointments/fellowships at several institutions including the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Carleton University, Iowa University, University of Texas-Austin, Ball State University, University of Sao Paolo, Federal University of Minas Gerias, Murdoch University, Autonomous University of Barcelona, the Oxford Centre of Hindu Studies, and Universitat des Sarlandes.. Makarand has been productive as a critic, poet, novelist, short-story writer, literary columnist, and reviewer. He has edited or authored about

thirty-five books and published more than 100 academic papers both in India and abroad, in addition to poems, short stories, and more than 250 periodical essays, reviews, and other publications. Makarand has organized and coordinated several international conferences. He has also been an invited speaker and presented academic papers all over India and in over fifty countries abroad. He served as Chair, Centre for Linguistics and English and of the Centre for English Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, as well as the Coordinator of the UGC Special Assistance Programme from 2003-2008. In addition, he has been the Principal Investigator in an international project called

Indian Perspectives on Science and Spirituality. For several years, he has also been a member and active participant in the Alliance for Responsible, Plural and United World. He was also Joint Coordinator of the China-India Intercultural Dialogue for five years under the auspices of the Alliance. He was founding editor of Evam: Forum on Indian Representations, an international biannual journal as also the Managing Trustee of the non-profit Samvad India Foundation.





# Professor Chandrakala Padia

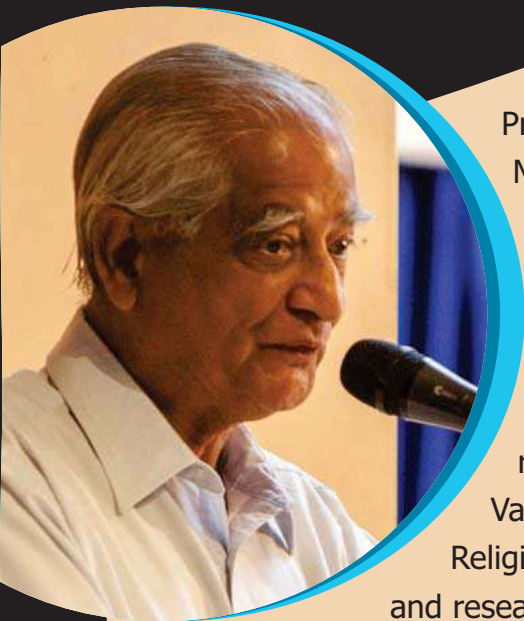


Presently, **Prof. Chandrakala Padia** is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. She was the Chairperson of the Governing Body of Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla and the Vice-Chancellor, M.G.S. University, Bikaner, Rajasthan. Earlier she served as Professor and Head, Dept. of Political Science in Banaras Hindu University; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Director, Centre for Integrated Rural Development; Director, Centre for Women's Studies and Development; Core Member, Human Rights Cell in the same University. She also served as Chairperson, UGC Standing Committee on Women's Studies. She has been a Visiting Professor to the Universities of McMaster, Toronto, Chicago and Stockholm. She has been on many Advisory Committees of U.G.C, ICSSR, and Planning Commission etc. and

also as President's Nominee/Expert Member of Selection Committees for the post of Vice-Chancellors and Professors. She is one of the founder members of "International Forum for India's Heritage; one of the core members of Malviya Centre for Value Education, B.H.U.; and Director, Banaras Chapter, Bertrand Russell Society, USA. In 2016, she has been given Higher Education Leadership Award at 7<sup>th</sup> World Education Summit held at Le Meridian Hotel, New Delhi. In 2016 itself, she is recipient of US Fellowship under their program 'Women Administrators in Higher Education in South Asia' to share her administrative experiences with U.S. Women Administrators at University of Nebraska at Omaha, U.S. from 15-31 May 2016. She has been the recipient of a number of International fellowships and awards, to name a few, US Fulbright Award, Salzburg Award, Indo-Shastri Canadian Fellowship, Indo-French Fellowship, D.P. Mukherjee Award of Indian Social Science Association for contribution to Political Theory and Feminist Theory. She has a brilliant career throughout. She has been invited to deliver lectures abroad under globally recognized prestigious lecture series such as Political Theory Lecture Series of Chicago University, U.S.A; Law Lecture Series of Toronto University, Canada; Women Studies Lecture Series of McMaster University, Canada etc. She has been the Indian representative to deliver the inaugural address at an International Conference on 'Women in Indian Culture and Philosophy' at Pedagogical University, Cracow, Poland; and has the privilege of inaugurating the 'Second fl;'Human Empowerment Conference' at Los Angeles, U.S.A. She has extensively worked on Gandhi, Human Rights, Indian and Western Political Thought and Third World Feminism. She has presented 47 Research Papers in International Conferences, 119 Research Papers in National Conferences, published 53 articles in National and International Journals, Chaired 79 Conferences within India and abroad, supervised 25 Ph.D. which have been duly awarded. She has been an acclaimed social scientist both in India and abroad.



# Professor SR Bhatt



**Professor S.R.Bhatt** is an eminent philosopher and Sanskritist. Presently he is Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, Ministry of Human Resource development, Government of India. He is also Chairman of Indian Philosophy Congress and Asian Philosophy Conference. He was earlier General President of All India Philosophy Association. He retired as Professor and Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi, Delhi. He is internationally known as an authority on Ancient Indian Culture, Buddhism, Jainism and Vedanta. His research areas include Indian Philosophy, Logic, Epistemology, Ethics, Value-theory, Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Religion, Social and Political Thought etc. He has lectured in many universities and research institutes of United States, Canada, Trinidad, Finland, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand. He is a member of many national and international associations. He is a Member of Board of Advisors of Council for Research in Values and Philosophy, Washington D.C., USA, which has brought out 300 volumes on world cultures and civilizations.



# Kalyan Kumar Das



**Dr Kalyan Kumar Das** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Presidency University. Das has also been a visiting faculty at the department of English, University of Delhi. At Presidency, he teaches Literature, cultural studies and philosophy. His primary research areas are- historiography, Ambedkar, Dalit studies, Subaltern Studies, post-Nietzsche continental philosophy, American pragmatism, post-Marxist ideas etc. Some of his research articles have been published in journals like Economic and Political Weekly, Bangla Journal etc.





# Mr Swapan Dasgupta



**Mr Swapan Dasgupta** is a senior Indian journalist, editor and a Member of Parliament, a Presidential Nominee to the Rajya Sabha (Council of States, or India's Upper House of Parliament). At various points in his career, he has held editorial posts at The Statesman, The Daily Telegraph, The Times of India, The Indian Express and India Today, where he was Managing Editor till 2003. He has published his works in The Pioneer, The Telegraph, Dainik Jagran, The Times of India, The New Indian Express, Outlook, The Free Press Journal and several other newspapers and magazines, and is currently a freelance writer for various publications. Over the last decade, he has acquired the fame of being one of the most frequently appearing faces on Indian television. He is seen in all major political debates featured in the English electronic media, and was well

known for appearing on NDTV's weekly segment, Politically Incorrect, with Mani Shankar Aiyar. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in the field of Literature and Education in 2015. A self-professed believer in British Conservatism, he has often been seen to be supportive of the BJP and its politics, though has on a number of occasions taken stands that are contrary to the party line. Dasgupta was awarded Padma Bhushan (India's third highest civilian award) in 2015, for his contribution to Literature and Education.



# Profssor Madhavi Menon

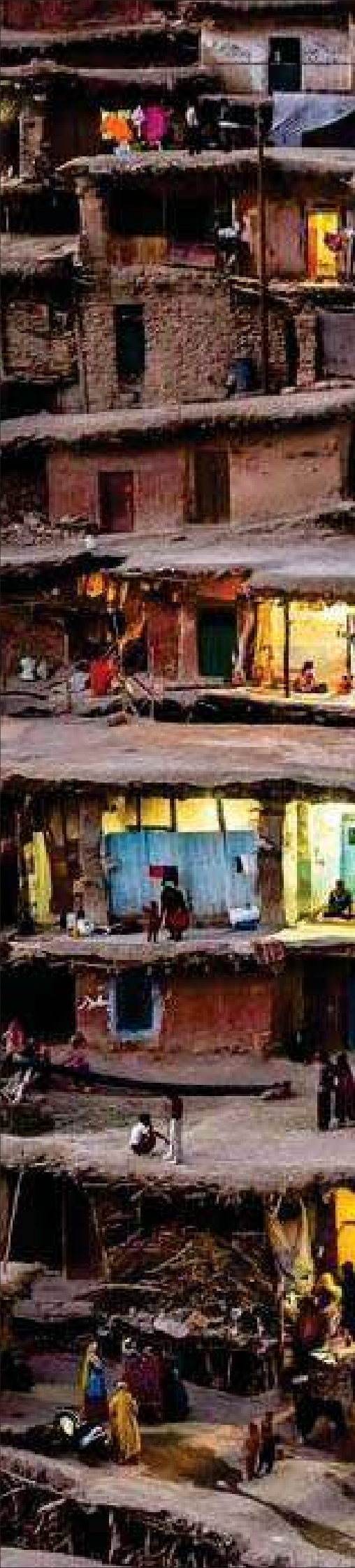


**Profssor Madhavi Menon** works at the intersection of identity, desire, politics, and literature. She is the author of *Wanton Words: Rhetoric and Sexuality in English Renaissance Drama* (Toronto 2004), *Unhistorical Shakespeare: Queer Theory in Shakespearean Literature and Film* (Palgrave 2008), and *Indifference to Difference: On Queer Universalism* (Minnesota, 2015). She is also the editor of *Shakespeare: A Queer Companion to The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (Duke 2010), which put queer theory in conversation with every one of Shakespeare's poems and plays. Named a 'monumental' book by CHOICE magazine, *Shakespeare* is already in its second print run. Her current book project is titled *A History of Desire in India*

and puts into conversation the major ideas of queer theory with the history of ideas in India. Professor Menon teaches classes on queer theory, the politics of desire and identity, literary theory, Renaissance literature, and Shakespeare. She has taught at Ithaca College and American University. Prior to completing her Ph.D from Tufts University in Boston, she did her B.A. and M.A. in English from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, where she stood first in College in her BA, and was a University gold-medalist in her M.A.







**Participants:** Faculty, Phd and Mphil scholars, MA students from Universities and Colleges across India working on Indian studies and Politics.

**Venue:** Seminar Hall, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, West Bengal, India

**Coordinator:** Dr Saswat Samay Das, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

**Registration fee:** ₹ 3000/- Faculty from Universities and Colleges across India, ₹ 1000/- Students and Phd Research Scholars from Universities. No fee from Faculty, Students and Scholars of IIT Kharagpur

**Registration Fee payment process:** The course fee can be paid through IIT Kharagpur by following the steps given below: Course coordinator Dr Saswat Samay Das 09434019044, 07318909158 saswatdas.bapi@gmail.com, ssd@hss.iitkgp.ernet.in Candidates should apply "online" by clicking "APPLY for CE Events" under EVENTS section in the Institute website [www.iitkgp.ac.in](http://www.iitkgp.ac.in). Click on How to apply at the top the page. Follow the instructions given there for signing up and editing your profile. Scroll down to the Symposium on Desiring Bharat, historicizing the "postcolonial". Click on the "Apply Now" Button and follow point no. 6 mentioned in the instruction page available at the How to Apply link

**Accommodation:** We have double bedded AC and non ac rooms. So if you wish to stay single it will cost you ₹ 400/- per day and if you wish to share your room with someone you shall pay ₹ 300/- per day. On the other hand, if you wish to stay single in NON AC it will cost you ₹ 250/ and if you stay with someone you shall have to pay ₹ 150/-

**Payment:** Payment shall be made through debit cards. Participants are requested to get their ATM Debit Cards

**Food:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are available in the Guest House. There are around 7-8 eateries and restaurants in the campus

**Travel:** Participants are requested to take care of their own Travel, accommodation and food

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