



CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLITICAL THEORY  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI



In Collaboration with

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (ICSSR)

Organizes a Two Day-Workshop on

**THE ROLE OF KUMBHA IN SHAPING OF SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL  
NATIONALISM OF BHARAT**

तिथि: नवमी एवं दशमी, आषाढ़, शुक्ल पक्ष, विक्रम संवत् 2081 (शक संवत् 1946)

Date: 15th and 16th July, 2024

Venue: UGC-MMTTC, JNU  
(formerly HRDC)



**Chief Patron**  
**Prof. Shantishree D. Pandit**  
Vice Chancellor JNU, New Delhi



**Key Note Address**  
**Prof. Srinivasa Varakhedi**  
Vice Chancellor, SLBSN  
Sanskrit University, Delhi



**Chief Guest**  
**Valedictory Session**  
**Prof. Dinesh P. Saklani**  
Director NCERT  
New Delhi



**Convenor**  
**Dr Ravi Rameshchandra**  
Chairperson, CCPPT, SIS  
JNU, New Delhi



**Patron**  
**Prof. Amitabh Mattoo**  
Dean SIS, JNU, New Delhi



**Valedictory address**  
**Prof. Girishwer Mishra**  
Ex VC MGAV Wardha,  
Maharashtra

## Concept Note

Kumbh Mela is the world's most significant act of faith. While looking into the historicity of Indian civilization, especially its cultural life, we find various cultural and religious practices and fests connecting Bharat Bhoomi (from North to South and East to West) with a special bond of spiritualism and culturalism. Cultural fests like Kumbh and Magh Mela have significantly influenced the cultural and spiritual integration between North and South and East to West Bharat since ancient times. The Kumbh Mela (the festival of the sacred pitcher) is in Hindu scriptures like Padma Purana and Mahabharata. Nevertheless, it gained popularity during the reigns of King Harshwardhan (6th Century AD), who used to visit the Kumbh Mela and make enormous donations to promote Hindu values and culture across Bharat. It is held at Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the legendary Sarasvati in Uttar Pradesh; Haridwar on the Ganges in Uttarakhand; Ujjain on the Shipra in Madhya Pradesh; Nashik on the Godavari in Maharashtra.

The celebrations in each location are based on a unique set of astrological positions for the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter. Since this is regarded as the holiest time in Hinduism, the celebrations take place at the precise moment when all of these positions are filled. The Kumbh Mela is a celebration that is fundamentally infused with the knowledge of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, and socio-cultural norms and practices. In addition to Sadhus (saints) and Naga Sadhus, who practice "sadhana" and fervently adhere to a strict path of spiritual discipline, pilgrims to the Kumbh Mela also include seekers of spirituality, common Hindus who practice their religion, and Hermits who only come out of seclusion to visit civilization during the Kumbh Mela. The study of these fests has the potential to contribute to understanding the role of cultural and spiritual congregations in making Bharat an ancient cultural nation based on the 'Sanatan' value system. People from all over Bharat and the world, cutting across caste, creed, race, language, and nationalities, visit Kumbh Fest with voluntary enthusiasm. That results in enormous economic, spiritual, and socio-cultural activities. The proposed study aims to explore the impact of these fests in the present scenario of Bharat, where cultural fusion through pilgrimage, tourism, and the exchange of socio-cultural values from different parts of Bharat.

### About the Workshop

The proposed workshop is being organized for the fulfillment of the Major Research Project sponsored by ICSSR, New Delhi. It aims at the congregation of academicians, experts, spiritual leaders, academic activists, and think tanks to deliberate upon the ideas, methods, tools, and importance of Kumbh not just as a sacred fest but also as a never-ending source of social aggregation and nationalism in Bharat since the ancient period. It aims at the compilation of sources, resources, archival information, and work done so far. However, it is focused on understanding the role of Kumbh in shaping the spiritual and cultural nationalism of Bharat.

Hence, the participants are expected to dwell upon the theme and its objectives. We look forward to the scholars, academia, and individuals who are interested in participating in this two-day workshop. The academic churning and training would empower the participants to develop research methodology, research techniques, and technology implied in empirical research.

### **About JNU**

The Jawaharlal Nehru University, constituted under the Jawaharlal Nehru University Act 1966 (53 of 1966), came into existence in 1969. The University fosters the composite culture of India and has established departments or institutions. The approach of the University has been to evolve policies and programs that will make Jawaharlal Nehru University a distinct addition to the national resources in higher education rather than a mere quantitative expansion of facilities that already exist. The University has identified and is concentrating on some major academic programs that are of relevance to national progress and development. The basic academic units of the University are not single discipline departments but multi-disciplinary Schools of Studies. A School has been visualized as a community of scholars from disciplines that are linked with each other organically in terms of their subject matter and methodology as well as in terms of problem areas. Some Schools are made up of a number of Centers, which constitute the units operating within the broad framework of a school. A Centre has been defined as a community of scholars, irrespective of their disciplines, engaged in clearly identified inter-disciplinary programs of research and teaching. The Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory (CCPPT) is a part of the School of International Studies, which is the oldest school in India. It offers a range of courses in theory and comparative areas to scholars at the MA and PhD levels.

### **How to Participate:**

The scholars desiring to participate are requested to register themselves online. You are requested to send a small write-up of not more than 500 words on any of the sub-themes, along with a brief resume for the screening and selection on [jnumrpkmkumbha@gmail.com](mailto:jnumrpkmkumbha@gmail.com). Only 40 participants will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. No Travelling allowance shall be paid to the participants. However, accommodation and food will be provided by the Organizers.

**Workshop Dates:** 15th and 16th July, 2024

**Receiving of write-up:** 22nd June to 30th June 2024.

**Confirmation and Registration of the selected participants:** 3rd-5th July, 2024

*\*The participants will be provided the Registration and payment link based on recommendations made by the screening committee after evaluating the write-ups.*

### **Registration Fees:**

Students: INR 500.00

Research Scholars: 1000.00

Teachers /Academicians etc.: INR 1500.00

# Schedule of the Programme

15th July 2024

DAY - I

08:30 –09:15	Registration	
09:30– 10:30	Inaugural Session	<b>Inaugural Address:</b> Professor Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit Vice Chancellor, JNU  <b>Key Note Address:</b> Professor Srinivasa Varakhedi Vice Chancellor, SLBSN Sanskrit University, Delhi.  <b>Special Address:</b> Professor Amitabh Mattoo Dean, SIS, JNU
10:30–11:00	High Tea	
11:00– 12:15	Documentation of Oral History of Fests with reference to Kumbha	<b>Speaker: Professor Heeraman Tiwari</b> Dean, ABVSME, Chairperson, CHS, SSS, JNU  <b>Chair: Shri Prafulla Ketkar</b> Editor, Organiser (Weekly)
12:15- 13:30	Contribution of Kumbha to Bharatiya Culture	<b>Speaker: Professor Brajesh Kumar Pandey,</b> Dean, School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies, JNU  <b>Chair: Professor Dipendra Nath Das</b> Rector II, JNU
13:30– 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30- 15:45	Fests and Economy with reference to Kumbha	<b>Speaker: Dr. Mahendra R. Mishra</b> K. J. Somaiya College, Mumbai  <b>Chair: Professor Neha Jagtiani</b> Principal, R.D. National College, Mumbai
15:45- 16:15	Tea Break	
16:15 - 17:30	Spiritual and Psychological Importance of Kumbha	<b>Speaker: Professor Arvind Mishra</b> ZHCES, SSS, JNU  <b>Chair: Dr. Reeta Sony, A.L.</b> CSLG, JNU

09:00 – 10:30	Statistics and Data analysis	<p><b>Speaker: Professor Indrani Roy Chowdhary</b> CSRSD, SSS, JNU</p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Bhaswati Das</b> CSRSD, SSS, JNU</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Tea Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Field Survey: Methods, Techniques and Technology	<p><b>Speaker: Mr. K. Varghese</b> CSRSD, SSS, JNU</p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. Ajit Kumar Sahoo</b> CITD, JNU</p>
12:30 – 13:30	Kumbha as a Source of National Integration	<p><b>Speaker: Professor Himanshu Prasad Roy</b> CPS, SSS, JNU</p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Shantesh Singh</b> CIPOD, SIS, JNU</p>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14:30 – 15:15	Management of Kumbha Mela	<p><b>Speaker: Dr. Satya Narayan Sabat</b> IPS, DG, UP Police</p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Vandana Mishra</b> CPS, SSS, JNU. Member UGC, New Delhi.</p>
15:15 – 16:15	Geographical Importance of Kumbha sites	<p><b>Speaker: Professor Kaushal Kumar Sharma</b> Dean, School of Social Science, JNU</p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Ravi Shekhar</b> CSRSD, SSS, JNU</p>
16:15 - 16:40	Tea Break	
16:40 – 16:50	Report Presentation	By Rapporteur/s
16:50 - 17:50	Valedictory Address	<p><b>Chief Guest: Professor Dinesh Prasad Saklani</b> Director NCERT, Chairperson NCTE (AC)</p> <p><b>Valedictory Address: Professor Girishwer Mishra</b> Ex VC MGAV, Wardha, Maharashtra</p> <p><b>Chair: Professor Satish Chandra Garkoti</b> Rector I, JNU</p>
17:50 – 17:55	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Ravi Rameshchandra Shukla, Convenor
18:00- 18: 30	Certificate Distribution	

## **The Advisory Committee**

Chief Patron Prof. Shantishree Dhulipudi Pandit, Vice – Chancellor, JNU  
Patron Prof. Satich Chandra Garkoti, Rector I, JNU  
Patron Prof. Dipendra Nath Das, Rector II, JNU  
Patron Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Dean, SIS, JNU  
Prof. Brajesh Kumar Pandey, Dean, SSIS, JNU  
Prof. Ravi Shekhar, Director, MMTTC, JNU  
Prof. Sharad Kumar Soni, CIAS, SIS, JNU  
Prof. Shantesh Kumar Singh, CIPOD, SIS, JNU  
Prof. Sapna Ratan Shah, Director, Project division, JNU  
Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh, Assistant Professor, SOL, DU

## **The Organizing Committee**

Dr. Ravi Rameshchandra Shukla, Convener & PI, ICSSR-MRP  
Dr. Mahendra R. Mishra, Co-Convener and Co PI, ICSSR MRP  
Dr. Pradeep Kumar Parida, Associate Professor, CCPPT, SIS, JNU  
Dr. Pravesh Kumar Chaudhary, Assistant Professor, CCPPT, SIS, JNU  
Dr. Surabhi Parihar, Research Consultant, GBPSSI, Prayagraj, UP  
Mr. Parth, Research Scholar, Central University of Haryana  
Mr. Vivek Mishra, Research Associate, ICSSR – MRP  
Mr. Siddharth Mishra, Research Assistant, ICSSR – MRP  
Mr. Ashutosh Mishra, MA, SLL&CS, JNU  
Mr. Abhishek Yadav, MA, SIS, JNU  
Mr. Kishan Kumar Tiwari, MA, SIS, JNU  
Ms. Anshika Agrawal, MA, SIS, JNU  
Ms. Kirti Sharma, MA, SIS, JNU  
Mr. Ghulam Murtiza, PhD, CCPPT, SIS, JNU  
Mr. Mayank Panchal, PhD, CCPPT, SIS, JNU



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