



CENTRE FOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH (CMDR)

Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Nagar, Near Yalakki Shettar Colony, Dhrwad – 580004
<http://www.cmdr.ac.in>

Founder's Day Lecture

In Respectful Memory of

Vidyaratna Shri R S Panchamukhi
Founder President, CMDR, Dharwad

**“SACRED LANDSCAPES OF INDIA EXPOSITION
AND EXPERIENCES OF COSMIC GEOMETRY
AND PILGRIMAGE TRADITIONS”**

by

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh

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Dr.Ashok Dalawai IAS (Retd)

Chairman,

*Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) Bangaluru and
(Chairman, Karnataka Agriculture Price Commission, GoK)*

Has kindly agreed to Preside

You are cordially invited for the lecture

Shri V.T.Hungund
Registrar

Prof.Basavaprabhu Jirli
Director

Date : 26th July 2025 4.00 pm onwards
Venue : Seminar Hall, Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)
Dr.VKRV Rao Road, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore

DINNER : 7.30 PM Onwards

Location Map



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**Founder's Day Lecture *In Respectful Memory of Vidyaratna*
Shri R S Panchamukhi, Founder President, CMDR, Dharwad**

“Sacred landscapes of India: Exposition and experiences of cosmic geometry and pilgrimage traditions”

CMDR Founder's Day Lecture on “Sacred Landscapes of India – Exposition and Experiences of Cosmic Geometry and Pilgrimage Traditions” was organised on 26th July 2025 at ISEC, Bengaluru, as a part of Vidyaratna Sh. R S Panchamukhi Endowment.

Vidyaratna Sri R. S. Panchamukhi was an erudite scholar of Sanskrit, Indology, History, Epigraphy, and Archaeology. He was probably one of the earliest indologists who emphasized that history should be an account of development of the society, culture, economy and polity. He interpreted the long freedom struggle of India as the process of interaction of two cultures and the resultant conflicts - *a Sanskriti Sangrama*.

After serving as Epigraphist in the Department of Archaeology in Madras and Otacmund, Vidyaratna Sri Panchamukhi became the first Director of the Kannada Research Institute (KRI), Dharwad. Under his able intellectual stewardship, KRI soon earned a place of honour on the Archaeological and Research Map of India. A number of discoveries of crucial historical importance were made by KRI through extensive excavations and collection of rare manuscripts, inscriptions and monuments. A unique Archaeological Museum was established at the KRI - a resource for researchers in archaeology and history After retirement from this KRI in 1963, he was invited by the Karnatak Historical Research Society (KHRS), Dharwad, to be its Chairman and the Chief Editor. Later on he also served as the President of KHRS.

Vidyaratna Panchamukhi authored more than twenty-five books, a large number of research papers, and edited several rare manuscripts of literary, philosophical, and historical value. His scholarly contributions include *Haridasa Sahitya of Karnataka*, *Sanskriti Sangrama*, *Karnatakada Arsumanetanagalu* (Dynasties of Karnataka), jointly with another noted historian of his time, viz., Sri Lakshminarayan Rao, *Vedaapoursheyattva Vadah* (in Sanskrit), *History of Karnataka*, *Guru Sarvabhouma Sapta Ratrotsava Champu* (a philosophical and a literary work in Sanskrit). He supervised several Ph. D. students and trained the young and the old alike in Indian philosophy and culture in particular, and Indology in general, including epigraphy, paleography, etc. The hallmark of his historical and indological research was undoubtedly his concern for a study of the people in a holistic perspective.

Duly recognizing his contributions to society, he was honoured with titles such as, *Vidyaratna*, *Vidyabhushana*, *Mahamahimopadhyaya*, *Haridasa Sahityalankara*, *Panditaraja*, etc., by the all-India institutions and scholars' community throughout the country. In 1978, he was elected as the President of the All India Epigraphical Society. In 1980, he was awarded the coveted

Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit by the then President of India. In 1981, the Government of Karnataka honoured him with the State Award of Man of *Scholarship and Research*.

CMDR has been organizing Founder's Day Lectures in memory of Vidyaratna Sri R.S.Panchamukhi, its Founder President, by distinguished social scientists on themes of fundamental interest to the researchers in different disciplines and also policy makers.

Dr. Ashok Dalawai, IAS (Rtd), Chairman, ISEC, Bengaluru, presided over the Founders Day lecture. Dr. Dalawai emphasized preserving the history of the nation. Bharat is the storehouse of information, knowledge, and wisdom. People from other parts of the earth derived the meaning of life from Bharat. But for many unknown reasons in the past, about 3-4 centuries, other civilisations have taken the lead over Bharat. The key factor behind is “forgetting one's own history”. The cosmic geographical aspects of religious places in Bharat were really enlightening and eye-openers. The science, culture, religion, spirituality, and sociological aspects of the sacredness of a place need to be understood along with maintaining the religious practices. When we follow them blindly, it may vanish over a period of time.

Prof. P. R. Panchamukhi, former Chairman and Director of CMDR, Dharwad, spoke about the endowment in respectful memory of Sh. R. S. Panchamukhi. Also revealed the stories behind the establishment of the institution CMDR and its contribution to the state and nation as a whole.

Prof. Prof. Dr. Rana P.B. Singh, PhD (Bhu), FJF (Japan), FIRFS (Japan), FAAI (Italy), FACLA (Korea), 'Ganga Ratna' (GMS Ind), 'Koshal Ratna' (Koshal Inst.), Sharda Centenary Award-2024 (Sharda S-Pith JK), Visiting Professor, Centre of South Asian Studies, Gifu Women's University, Japan, (*former*) Professor of Geography, Cultural Landscapes & Heritage Studies], & Head-Geography- Inst. of Sc., Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, was the resource person on the occasion.

Prof. Rana spoke about the deeper sense of geographic concerns is employed to investigate the inherent power of sacred places by searching for cosmic geometries embedded in ritual landscapes and the spatial orientations towards astronomical phenomena. Such sacred cities can be considered a mesocosm, geometrically linking the celestial realm of the macrocosm with the microcosmic realm of human consciousness and cultural traditions, including texts, traditions, and rituals. The present study explores this perspective through case studies of Kashi (Varanasi), Gaya, Chitrakut, Vindhyachal, and Khajuraho. Through the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), the lecture demonstrates with high precision how natural topography, ritual movement, and festival calendars combine to establish large-scale geometries. Strong correspondences between physical and ritual landscapes are explained vividly. The process of self-organised complexity in establishing interactions between spatial structure and symbolic meaning has also been considered and illustrated with the functional human networks of the *pilgrimage mandala*, which refers to the sacred dimension of landscape and human belief systems. These frames can be easily compared with Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvius Man and City map of Imola, which shows strong correspondences, providing a way to understand the links between the East and the West.

Dr. MV Nadakarni, Former Chairman, CMDR, Prof. M. R. Gangadhar, Member GC, CMDR, and Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Chamarajnaragar University, Prof. Taranath, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Hasan University, Dr. Abdul Aziz, Dr. Shaivanna, Dr. Devendra Babu, Dr Gowrish,

Dr. Siddaraju, Director, PME, Prof. Basavaraj Benni, Professor from Bengaluru University, Principal and Professor Pushkarani from RV College, Bengaluru, Prof. Keshav from Christ University, Research scholars, well-wishers, and relatives of Prof. PR Panchamukhi, and 74 scholars attended the programme.

Dr. Basavaprabhu Jirli welcomed the guests, and Dr. NS Nayak delivered a vote of thanks. Dr. Jai Prabhakar was the master of ceremony.