



Five-Day Online International Seminar on OPHIOLATRY TRADITIONS IN INDIA

Organised by Amrita Darshanam, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Bengaluru Campus

As a part of the project 'A Study of Ophiolatry Manuscripts of India'

funded by Central Sanskrit University

14th to 18th of October, 2024

About The Seminar

The inherent nature of snakes, coupled with the fear and wonder they evoke, has significantly influenced their unique status in human society. Consequently, snake worship, or ophiolatry, has been a widespread practice across various cultures and religions worldwide since ancient times. In India, ophiolatry is deeply rooted in the country's religious and cultural history.

The earliest literary evidence of this practice dates back to the Vedic period, with the Atharvaveda containing hymns that address snakes, reflecting their dual role as both protectors and threats. Ancient Indian texts, including the Veda-s, Purāṇa-s, and epics, frequently mention serpents, highlighting their symbolism related to fertility, protection, and rebirth. Archaeological findings further support the historical reverence for snakes, evidenced by the rich iconography found in temples and artefacts. In Tantric traditions, the Kuṇḍalinī serpent symbolizes dormant spiritual energy, while Puranic texts narrate mythological stories of serpent deities. Both, Buddhism and Jainism doctrines as well as art venerates the snakes. Additionally, numerous narratives explore the fear, wonder, myths, and mysticism surrounding snakes, which have been depicted in various forms of literature, art, architecture, sculpture, folklore, and traditional paintings.

The proposed seminar aims to explore the origins and evolution of ophiolatry in India, emphasizing the multifaceted aspects of serpent worship and its enduring legacy in Indian culture.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is a multi-campus, multi-disciplinary research academia. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has been accredited (Cycle-3) with an A++ the highest grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Amrita has also been selected by the Indian Government as an Institution of Eminence (IoE) to be developed into a world-class institution which would put India on the global education map. This puts Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham under Category 1 Autonomy Higher Education Institution in India and will fulfil our mission to provide value-based education and align to the educational outlook of Amrita's Chancellor Sadguru Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) namely "Education for Life and not just Education for a Living". Founded by Amma, one of the prominent spiritual leaders of our times, the University is spread across eight campuses in five states and one Union Territory of India – Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi NCR, and Karnataka, with the University headquarters at Ettimadai, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. It continuously collaborates with top US universities including Ivy League universities and top European universities for regular student exchange programs and has emerged as one of the fastest-growing institutions of higher learning in India. It has been ranked India's 7th best university in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2024 approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. In 2020, Amrita was adjudged as one of the "Top 10 Universities in India" for the fourth consecutive year. In the overall category, Amrita secured 13th place moving up two places from last year's position. In 2018, UGC has granted the full autonomy to the University which has maintained high standards of excellence.

Link www.amrita.edu

Amrita Darshanam

Amrita Darshanam, International Centre for Spiritual Studies (ICSS), has been established under the guidance of Amma. The Centre serves as an academic platform for study and research in the domains of philosophy, culture, arts, literature and society under the broad canopy of India Studies. It offers various Ph.D. and post-graduate programs in Indian knowledge systems, humanities courses, seminars, conferences, and seminars to facilitate scholarly exchange and integrated education for students. The centre has been recognized as the 'Amrita Centre of Indian Knowledge System' by AICTE, Ministry of Education. It also works with other national and international organizations on manuscript preservation, projects and collaborations, and research of the highest standard. Currently, the Centre has branches in seven university campuses, namely Amritapuri, Coimbatore, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Amaravati, Kochi, and Chennai. Link <https://www.amrita.edu/center/amrita-darshanam-international-center-for-spiritual-studies/>



Invited Scholars



Dr. Dominic Goodall

Traces of Ophiolatry in the Literature of the Śaivasiddhānta



Dr. Gauri Mahulikar

Serpentine Sanctity: Ophiolatry in the Purāṇa-s



Dr. Gauri Moghe

Serpents in the Mahabharata: A spiral procession of the narrative



Dr. Manvi Seth

Safeguarding and representation of ICH related to Ophiolatry Traditions in India



Dr. Mugdha Gadgil

Serpents and the Trayī Tradition



Dr. Preeta Nayar

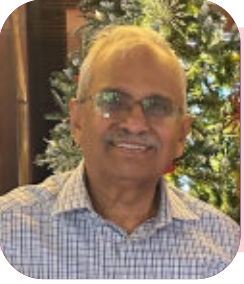
Nagas as Allies, Adversaries and Adornments of Hindu Deities in Sculptural Art of Kerala

Invited Scholars



Dr. Priya Thakur

Snake Stone tradition in Karnataka in Archaeological Context



Dr. Rajendran C

Where the snakes rejoice: Perceptions and Representations of Snakes in Śriharṣa's Nāgānanda



Dr. Rohini Kar

Mystery, Medicine and Manasa: The Serpent Lore of Bengal



Dr. Selvakumar V.

Snakes in Early Tamil Texts and archaeological context



Shilpa Sumant

Atharvaveda and Ophiolatry



Dr. Shrikant Ganvir

Protecting the Laity: Veneration to Nāgas in Early Buddhist Visual Art and Texts

Invited Scholars



Dr. T S Ravishankar

Ophiolatry from the Epigraphical perspective



Dr. Tanashree Redij

Exploring the Serpent Worship: A Survey of Sanskrit Ophiolatry Manuscripts in India



Dr. Manish Rajan Walvekar

Exploring the Serpent Worship: A Survey of Sanskrit Ophiolatry Manuscripts in India



Seminar Details

Date : 14th to 18th of October, 2024

Platform :  zoom

Meeting details : Zoom ID - <https://shorturl.at/tgVpk>

Meeting ID: 871 9069 4965 **Passcode:** 849572



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All participants attending all sessions will be awarded a certificate

		16:00 to 16.30	16:30 to 17:15 IST	17:30 to 18:15 IST	18:30 to 19:15 IST	19:30 to 20:15 IST
	Session Chair		Invited Scholars			
14-Oct-2024	Dr. Nirmala Kulkarni	Inauguration	Dr. Gauri Moghe	Dr. Gauri Mahulikar	Dr. Dominic Goodall	
15-Oct-2024	Dr. Abhijit Dandekar			Dr. Shrikant Ganvir	Dr. T. S. Ravishankar	
16-Oct-2024	Dr. R. H. Kulkarni		Dr. Priya Thakur	Dr. Manvi Seth	Dr. Preeta Nayar	
17-Oct-2024	Dr. Madhavi Kolhatkar		Dr. Selvakumar	Dr. Mugdha Gadgil	Dr. Shilpa Sumant	
18-Oct-2024	Dr. Ravi Korisetar		Dr. Rohini Kar	Dr. Rajendran C	Dr. Tanashree Redij & Dr. Manish Rajan Walvekar	Valedictory

For more details, please contact

Dr. Tanashree Redij

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Dr. Manish Rajan Walvekar

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