

Call for Abstracts

The Institute of Kashmir Studies, University of Kashmir is pleased to announce the call for abstracts for the Two-Day National seminar on “Reshi and Sufi Traditions in Kashmir: A Historical and Philosophical Perspective” September 2-3, 2025. The Seminar is sponsored by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi.

The seminar seeks to bring together academics and researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, with the aim to explore Kashmir’s rich Reshi and Sufi traditions. Alongside its rich and distinct historiographic traditions and archaeology, Kashmir region is synonymous with syncretism in religious, cultural, and philosophical thought and practice. The fulcrum of this syncretism is Reshi and Sufi traditions in Kashmir, which reflect a convergence of deep mysticism and spirituality traversing Buddhist, Shaivite, and Muslim thought.

In Kashmiri vernacular literature, poetic forms like Lal Ded's *Vaakh* and Sheik-ul-Alam's *Shruk* (from the 13-14th Century AD) reflect the syncretism of Kashmir and carry deep philosophical undertones. The orality of this vernacular circulates meanings of mutual co-existence, tolerance, and shared cultural knowledges. At the same time, the hagiographies of saints and mystics are reflective of a history of the development of syncretic tradition and convergence of philosophical systems. This deep syncretism also finds expression through the landscape of shrines across Kashmir, from Mata Kheer Bhawani shrine (at Tulmulla, Ganderbal) to shrine of Noor ud Din (at Chrar e-Sharief, Budgam). In local parlance, the feeling of belonging to this syncretism and mysticism qualifies Kashmir as a *peer vaer*, a sacred spiritual space.

The present seminar seeks to understand the histories of the development of this syncretic space and locates the same through a discussion of archival material across various historical periods (Early, Medieval, and Contemporary), oral histories and ethnographic explorations.

Seminar Themes

- Kashmiri Shaivism & Kashmiri Sufism
- Role of Historians like Kalhana, Jonaraja, Shrivara and Shuka Pandit in Kashmir History Writing
- Influences of Indian philosophical traditions on Abhinava Gupta's understanding of Shaiva Siddhanta.
- Historical and Philosophical Approach of Lal Ded and Nund Reshi
- Hagiographies of Saints and Mystics
- Texts and Textual Practices
- Ethnographies of Shrines and Shrine Practices

The themes are only indicative and the seminar welcomes contributions from a wide array of disciplinary interests.

The seminar is *multi-disciplinary* and is open to researchers and academics from Social Sciences and Humanities, and allied disciplines.

Abstract Submission:

The abstract should be uploaded on the following link: <https://forms.gle/nA2U8ANoFHRuELFM7>.

Alternatively, you can mail the abstract along with a brief bio on **seminarkashmirstudies@gmail.com**

Please note down the **guidelines for submission of abstracts:**

- The abstract should have a clear and concise title, and 3-4 keywords
- For the abstract, word limit is 300-500 Words
- Times New Roman: 12
- For Abstracts in Hindu/Urdu/Kashmiri, etc., please share a scanned copy on the below mentioned link

Important Dates:

- Last Date for Submission of Abstract: **20st August 2025**
- Confirmation on Acceptance of Abstract: **23rd August 2025**
- Submission of Full Paper: **29th August 2025**

Please Note:

- For Paper Presenters, there is a Registration Fee of Rs 500. For co-authors, there is a registration fee of Rs 350 per co-author. For participation without paper presentation, there is a registration fee of Rs 1000.
- The Fees is Payable at the Registration Desk (on Seminar Date) or in the office of the coordinator at Institute of Kashmir Studies, University of Kashmir.

Contact Information:

For any queries/information, contact Dr. M. Ibrahim Wani, Seminar Coordinator (M: 9987510323. Email: ibrahim@uok.edu.in)