

*Section VII*

**ICHR SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA/CONFERENCES  
ETC. 2008-09**

## **ICHR SEMINARS/SYMPOSIA/CONFERENCES ETC. 2008-09**

### **A. WORKSHOP ON HISTORIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

In pursuance of the mandate of 1972 i.e. the academic agenda which was explicit in the founding charter of ICHR, the Memorandum of Association (MoA) to provide for “**institutional arrangement for training in research methodology**”, the ICHR has successfully completed a “Workshop on Historiography and Research Methodology” in Delhi for a fortnight, from 23<sup>rd</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2008. For the above said Workshop, the ICHR selected thirty Ph.D. scholars and college lecturers from mainly Punjab, Haryana and Delhi, out of eighty who had applied for participation in our Methodology Workshop. They attended lectures delivered by thirty five distinguished experts (mainly from University of Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, Bombay University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Kurukshetra University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. The syllabus of study and lecture schedule devised by the ICHR consisted of four parts: a series of lectures on historiography from Greco-Roman, Chinese and ancient Indian tradition, through the Arabic tradition and medieval Indian Historiography to twentieth century; another set of lectures and readings addressed the growth of modern schools of historiography from colonial and nationalist to contemporary subaltern approaches; the third set consisted of lectures on history in relation to other social sciences such as economics, sociology demography etc. and finally there were lectures on varieties of historical sources ranging from archaeology to modern archives, data collection, bibliographic protocol, etc. as well as general problems of interpretation such as the notions of objectivity and bias in writing history.

The above Workshop on Historiography and Research Methodology held in Delhi was followed by another Workshop on “**Historiography and Research Methods**” between 16<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in our Southern Regional Centre (SRC) in Bangalore. Twenty six selected participants from the southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Pudusserry attended the Workshop for Eighteen days. Workshop was divided into two sessions per day for thematic lectures/ presentation on various respects of historiography and research methods. The experts from many universities were invited to deliver lectures on various topics covered in the workshop.

An important item on the list of objectives of the ICHR was to undertake survey of historical research. This has been periodically done by our sister institution, the Indian Council of Social Science Research. In the 1970s the ICHR commissioned about half a dozen such surveys on selected themes of research. The ICHR has decided to resume this effort systematically.

The ICHR has just launched **Survey of Indian Historiography** as a project. An Advisory Committee was constituted of eminent historians: Professors Romila Thapar, Irfan Habib, Y. Subbarayalu, R. Champakalashmi, Mushirul Hasan, Benoy Bhushan Chaudhuri, and Om Prakash. About fifty articles on selected areas of study have been commissioned from area experts with a request to provide comprehensive bibliographies along with a critical review of historiography. This is likely to be of great help to young researchers who need an overview of the area they intend to specialise in. In the long run this may also help the ICHR to identify important historical works for translation into Indian languages so as to cater to the needs of a vast number of college and university students who are today virtually monolingual and limit their readings to the only Indian language they know. Further, the cumulative output of the

surveys will make available an essential bibliographic aid which the ICHR can put in the public domain through our website.

## **B. SYMPOSIUM ON MAHARASHTRA IN 1857**

In continuation of academic activities on '1857 programme' the Southern Regional Centre of ICHR has organized a symposium on "Maharashtra in 1857". The programme was held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008 in Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune. (The details may be seen in Section X of the Annual Report)

## **C. WORKSHOP ON 'HISTORIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS'**

The Council's important academic programme of Workshop on **Historiography & Research Methods** was organized by Southern Regional Centre in Bangalore. The workshop was held between 16<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Professor Sabayasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR inaugurated the workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2009. (The details may be seen in Section X of the Annual Report)