

Section VI

**ICHR SPECIAL
RESEARCH
PROJECTS
2008-2009**

ICHR SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

- A. TOWARDS FREEDOM PROJECT**
- B. DOCUMENTS ON ECONOMIC HISTORY OF BRITISH RULE IN INDIA 1858-1947**
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- E. DICTIONARY OF MARTYRS: INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE (1857-1947)**

ICHR SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS 2008-2009

The special research projects being executed by the Council have made satisfactory progress under the supervision of eminent scholars. The details are given below:

1. Towards Freedom Project

The following volumes were brought out during the year 2008-2009:

1. *Towards Freedom: Documents on the Movement for Independence in India-1946, Part II*, Edited by Professor Sumit Sarkar
2. *Towards Freedom: Documents on the Movement for Independence in India-1939, Part II*, Edited by Professor Mushirul Hasan
3. *Towards Freedom: Documents on the Movement for Independence in India-1940, Part I*, Edited by Professor K.N. Panikkar

During this period, the *volume for 1941, Part I*, Edited by Professors Amit K. Gupta and Arjun Dev, was made ready for publication and work to finalize *Part II of the volume for 1940* was initiated. The work on the preparation of the *volumes for 1942*, Edited by Professor Bipan Chandra and *1947*, Edited by Professor Sucheta Mahajan was continued.

2. Documents on Economic History of British Rule in India, 1858-1947

The project was conceived in April 1992 to compile and publish series volumes affecting the economic life of India during the British Rule: 1858-1947 on the themes of:

Documents on Population; Prices and Wages; Agriculture; Irrigation, Tenancy, Rent and Settlement; Famines; Exchange and Currency; Banking, Credit and Capital Movement; Railways; Tariffs and Fiscal Policies; Handicraft Industries; Modern Industries; Mines; Plantation; Foreign Trade and Tributes; Condition of Life; National Per Capita Income and Debts.

The above project is being executed under the General Editorship of Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, Director of Development of Studies, Kolkata, and Professor Arun Bandopadhyaya as Joint Editor and Dr. Bhubanes Misra as Editor of Railway Volumes. So far the Council has published four volumes on Railway Construction and Acts and one volume on Document on Economic History entitled *Eastern India Volume I, Part I*. The final manuscript of volume I, Part II, has also been received in the Council which is under copy editing etc.. A volume each on *Agriculture and Irrigation* are also under process of publication.

3. Dictionary of Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in Indian/South Asian Inscriptions

The Council had taken up a Major Project on *Dictionary of Social, Economic and Administrative Terms in Indian/South Asian Inscriptions* which has made very good progress during the period under report. Approximately, 5000 cards have been computerized in Delhi up to 31st March, 2009 for the *volume pertaining to North Indian Inscriptions* which is being done under the Editorship of Professor K.M. Shrimali. Dr K.V. Ramesh, Main Editor for South Indian Inscriptions, has also assured the Council to submit the manuscript of volume I by the end of 2009. The Aligarh Unit, which is being looked after by Professor Irfan Habib, as an honorary General Editor has also made satisfactory progress in the *volume pertaining to Arabic, Persian and Urdu Inscriptions*. The volume is expected to be received by the end of this year.

4. The 1857 Project

During the year under report the Council organized exhibitions, entrusted Research Projects on the theme of 1857 and extended financial assistance to various Universities/Institutions for organizing the seminars, symposia, conferences etc. in different parts of the country under the ICHR's Special Project 1857. The details are given below:-

A. Seminars/Symposia/Conferences etc.

1. A National Seminar on '*The 19th Century Maharashtra: A Reassessment*' was organised by the Post-Graduate Department of History, Tilak Maharashtra University, Pune (Maharashtra) on 15-12-2007. It was inaugurated by Dr. Deepak Tilak, the Vice-Chancellor who also addressed the audience. In his key-note address, Professor G.P. Deshpande reassessed the 19th century reform movements as well as the national movement. Around 15 research papers were presented by the scholars, such as Doctors Raja Dixit, Merin Simi Raj, Dileep Chavan, Shradha Kumbhojkar, Aravind Ganachari etc. Various Sessions were chaired by the eminent scholars such as Professors Raosaheb Kasbe and Combrade Kalindi Deshpande. It was attended by a number of students, faculty members, research scholars and historians who took keen interest in discussion particularly on the Uprising of 1857 (Rs.50,000/-).
2. The ICHR Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore organized a one day Symposium on '*Maharashtra in 1857*' at the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College PG&RI (Deemed University), Pune on 16th August 2008. Professor Padayya welcomed the participants and introduced the theme of symposium. It was chaired by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman ICHR, who explained the importance of history of 1857 in Maharashtra. Professor A. Dikshit in his paper discussed the theoretical and critical analysis of the events of 1857. Dr. Arun Bhosale and Dr. Avansh Patil examined various revolts that took place in Satara and Kolhapur State, and also highlighted the available sources on this subject. It was attended by students, scholars, teachers and media correspondents who widely published the programme in both print and electronic media (fully financed by ICHR).
3. A two day National Seminar on '*The First War of Independence with a special reference to Poorvanchal (UP)*' was organized by the Post-Graduate College, Ghazipur (UP) during 28-29 November, 2008. Many eminent scholars were invited to present their research papers on the above theme such as Professors Saraswati, Uma Shankar Singh and Doctors Anand Shanker Singh, S.A.H. Zaidi, S. Pathak, Atul Saklani and P.K. Shukla. The scholars discussed the theme in detail and highlighted the contributions of Eastern Uttar Pradesh in the Uprising of 1857. A large number of historians, teachers, research scholars, P.G. students and media persons attended the seminar and took keen interest in the discussion (Rs.50,000/-).
4. A one day Symposium on '*The Outbreak of 1857 with a special reference to anti-British Rebellions that preceded it*' was organized by the Post-Graduate & Research Department of History, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) on 3rd December, 2008. It was inaugurated by Professor G.J.Sudhakar of Dravidian University. The key-note address was delivered by Professor K. Mohan Ram. The prominent speakers were Professors N. Balasubramanian, B. Shobhanan and Dr. T. Ilangovan (Rs.40,000/-).
5. A one day Symposium on '*1857 Revolt*' was organised by S. K. G. S. Arts College, Thoodhukudi (Tamil Nadu) on 5 March 2009. The key-note address was delivered by Dr. K. Sadasivan. Shri K. Lakshminathan Bharthi and Dr. S. Sankaranarayanan highlighted the importance and relevance of the Revolt of 1857. Many other scholars presented their research papers on the said theme, the prominent of them were Professor Pitchai Savasiammal, Dr. Parvathi Sanbaga, Dr. T. S. Rajeswari etc., (Rs.15,000/-).

6. A one day National Seminar on '*Consequences of 1857 Revolt with reference to Ex- Hyderabad State*' was organised by Nutan Mahavidyalaya, Sailu (Maharashtra) on 7 March 2009. It was inaugurated by Dr. B. S. Dhengle, who elaborated the theme of the Seminar in his inaugural address. The key-note address was delivered by Dr. V. L. Dharurkar. Many scholars such as Dr. Wagha, Dr. S.M. Loya, Miss Bharahate etc. presented their research papers on the above theme. Many scholars attended the Seminar and actively participated in the discussion (Rs.30,000/-).
7. A one day National Seminar on '*Shahjahanabad and Delhi College during the Rebellion of 1857*' was organised by Zakir Husain College (University of Delhi) on 19 March 2009. Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, the Chairman ICHR inaugurated the Seminar and also addressed the audience. The welcome address was given by Dr. Aslam Parvaiz, the principal of the College. Professor Irfan Habib delivered the key-note address. The theme of the Seminar was introduced by Professor S. Z. H. Jafri. The other prominent speakers were Dr. Madhukar Upadhyaya, Dr. S. Irfan Habib, Dr. Madhu Prasad etc. This Seminar was attended by a large number of students, scholars, historians and media persons. Shri Shabi Ahmad, Incharge, 1857 Project and other staff members of ICHR also attended it (Rs.50,000/-).

B. Exhibition on 1857:

1. An Exhibition on 1857 was organized by the ICHR in collaboration with its North East Regional Centre, Guwahati. The exhibition was organized at the Department of History, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh (Assam) during 6-8 November, 2008 on the occasion of 29th Session of North East Indian History Association. It was inaugurated by the Prof. K.K. Deka, Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University. A large number of delegates, faculty members, research scholars, students and media persons visited the venue of exhibition. It received due coverage in regional as well as national newspapers.
2. In collaboration with Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar (New Delhi) the ICHR organized an Exhibition on 1857 during 22-23 December, 2008. A large number of school children visited the venue and shown keen interest in each exhibit. It also received good response from teachers, scholars, media persons and common masses who praised the ICHR for the collection of exhibits. It was reported to be widely covered in various newspapers.
3. The ICHR with its Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore organized an Exhibition on 1857 at Kannur University, Kannur (Kerala) on the occasion of 69th Session of Indian History Congress, during 28-30 December 2008. It was inaugurated by Professor B. P. Sahu, General Secretary of the Indian History Congress on 27th December, at 4.p.m. The inaugural function was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University. Alongwith the VC, the Kannur MLA and other dignitaries visited the exhibition venue and showed keen interest in the collections and display. Over 1000 visitors visited the exhibition venue including a large number of students, teachers and delegates of the IHC as well as school children and local residents. Some important visitors were Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Professors Romila Thapar, K. N. Panikkar, Irfan Habib, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, K. K. N. Kurup, Rajan Gurukul and others. Catalogues of the exhibits were also distributed amongst the visitors. Both electronic and print media covered the event extensively.
4. One set of Exhibition Visuals on 1857 has been transferred to Nehru Centre, Mumbai for prominently displaying on regular basis at the Centre, with due acknowledgement to ICHR.

C. Research Projects / Source Collection Programme:

1. A Research Project entitled '*Understanding 1857- the Punjab Case*' has been entrusted to Dr. Bir Good Gill, Department of History, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Punjab).
2. A Research Project entitled '*The Revolt of 1857 in the Southern Maratha Country*' has been entrusted to Dr. Arun Bhosale, Department of History, Shivaji University, Kolhapur (Maharashtra).

D. Books:

1. Under the ICHR publication Subsidy scheme, Proceedings of the National Seminar entitled '*Rajasthan mein 1857: Ek Jan Andolan*' published by SHODHAK, Jaipur, subsidised by ICHR. This Seminar was earlier organised in January 2008 with the financial assistance from ICHR.
2. The Council has decided the reprinting of S.A.A.Rizvi's 5 volumes entitled *Freedom Struggle in Uttar Pradesh*. The service of Shri Shabi Ahmad was appreciated by the Chairman in procuring these volumes for reprinting.

5. Dictionary of Martyrs: India's Freedom Struggle (1857 - 1947)

The project entitled: *Preparation of National Register for Martyrs* was initiated by the National Implementation Committee for the implementation of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the **Uprising of 1857 and 60 years of India's independence**. The ICHR accepted the execution of the project at the request of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The duration of the project is for three years with an esteemed budget of Rs.1, 87, 28,000/.

On the occasion of the Gandhi Centenary Celebrations, the Government of India began a project to compile a '*Who's Who of Indian Martyrs*'. A team of editors including Dr. P.N. Chopra, Professor K.K. Datta, Dr. Fauja Singh, Professor (Ms) Sarojini Regani, Professor P.C. Guha Roy and other eminent historians made a compilation which was published in three parts in 1969, 1972 and 1973. The present project will supplement the earlier compilation (with reference to sources where possible) and make additions in the light of later research and new documentation.

The Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 9.2.2009 decided to extend the definition of 'Martyrs' and

1. to include biographical information according to the circumstances of the martyrdom custodial/non-custodial/non-voluntary deaths,
2. to include persons who died in incidents like Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Additional information (including sources) may form entries to be rewritten or added afresh while older entries in the present Register (P.N. Chopra) may be included (with acknowledgement). The period to be covered by the project would be from 1857.
3. Regarding the format of the Register, it was decided that the entries should be broadly like P.N. Chopra edited volumes. But editors will be free to decide on the size of the entries newly added or amended.
4. It was also decided that for the execution of the project, wherever possible, the various State archives/institutions should be involved while a Central Committee will guide the project. The ICHR will form state level nodal bodies for guiding the work at state level.

The meeting of the Managing Committee was held on 11 May 2009 and the following decisions were taken:

1. Appointments to be made to form a small Central Team of researchers, typists, computer operators, etc. at the ICHR office.
2. The modalities of organizing State level data collection units and their staffing and infrastructure.

3. Estimation of the funding required for the above two purposes.

4. Framing a time schedule for data collection and editing collected matter for publication.

In accordance with the advice of the above Committee the Selection Committee was held on 8.6.2009 and on this basis three Research/Editorial Assistants and two Data Entry-cum-Computer Typists were appointed. The process of setting up units at the State level is under way. The ICHR has requested the Directors/In-charges of all the State Archives of India for their cooperation in this regard. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture (Government of India) and Director General of National Archives of India (New Delhi) have already sent such requests to the State Archives.

The Central Team started work with P. N. Chopra (chief editor)'s volumes, *Who's Who of Indian Martyrs* published by Ministry of Education (Government of India) in 3 volumes, printed in 1969, 1972 and 1973. It has been found in this series that the biographical sketches of the Martyrs mentioned in this series do not contain any references of the sources, and secondly it is felt that there are thousands of other patriots whose names are unknown due to the lack of information but, whose sacrifices in the cause of freedom are no less precious and deserving of our homage. Thus, the primary task has been to consult the Archival Records and the Sources on the list provided in this series of Martyrs and on other unknown Martyrs.

The Project In-charge with his Research team visited the National Archives of India (New Delhi) to get the initial information about the available Archival Records. Dr. Pramod Mehra, Assistant Director (Publication, Records, Exhibition), NAI (New Delhi) very kindly provided information about the available records and guidance as to their access in this connection. He informed about an Album available in the NAI on Martyrs which contained more than 3500 photographs and life sketches, and about an A.I. Ms package on life sketches of Martyrs prepared by the NAI, which would be very useful for information on the Martyrs. He also gave detailed information about 1857 Records, Fortnightly Reports, Home Political and Home Judicial Records, Newspapers, a small collection on Punjab Revolutionaries, and about many other Records available in the NAI. The Research team is consulting Archival Records and other sources and collecting information accordingly.