

Editor's Note

The IAS *Review* 'Summerhill' had been designed to communicate to the outside scholars and young academics the scholarship the Institute sponsors – in terms of specific studies by the Fellows, high-level seminars, workshops, and study weeks on crucial themes, and lectures by distinguished scholars from both within and outside India. It also aims to reflect the work done under the Inter-University-Centre scheme supported by the UGC.

In this issue, too, the select reviews and articles follow the design. Dr Priynka Vaidya has reviewed the life and work of Sister Nivedita, the great disciple of Swami Vivekananda, pointing out the significance of her legacy. Prof. Ravinder Singh, in his paper, has brought to fore a neglected perspective about the *Sindhu-Sarasvati* or Indic Civilisation. Once a part of the land mass known as *Jambudweep*, it is the oldest surviving civilization. As intellectuals, politicians and academicians continue to debate the idea of India, the paper provides an essential viewpoint for young scholars. Sajad Ahmed Dar delves into the history of the British India in order to understand the scenario around Aligarh where some sections of the Indian society remained loyal to the British while others took the opposite, anti-British stand. Ananya Parida has dealt into autobiographical narratives in view of Indian literary canon. It is interesting to note that letters, memoirs and autobiographies are considered as 'low' literature among current Indian scholarship, yet some of them are popular among the readers. Shelly Narang has reviewed Meena Alexander's poems to underline the trauma therein in a constant flow of emotions and troubled feelings. Aziz Mahdi has found a resemblance in the cultures of India and Persia, the old Iran. Analyzing the national festivals of both the countries he located some old connections.

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Nishtha Saxena and Anshuman delineated the idea of cultural *Swaraj* in view of the increasing dominance of English language in the current Indian intellectual plane. They have tried to present it as a Gandhian critique of the situation. Dr Sumit brought to fore a very interesting history of the royal women of Rajputana. She has described, using extant documents and first hand sources, about the significant contributions made by royal ladies to the welfare of society. Reviewing the latest book of Arun Shourie, Utpal Kumar revisited the not so distant past when he was considered as the single most formidable opposition to the ruling establishment in the country. Events of the era are still relevant to understand the malaise of the Indian polity. Dr Kundan Lal Chowdhary's literary-political-sociological works has been reviewed by Surinder Chowdhary, who had edited most of the published works of Dr Chowdhury. His poems and stories, all based on real events and direct experiences, are very illuminating to understand the gradual but radical transformation during recent decades in Kashmir. On the similar theme is the contribution by Sushil Pandit. He has tried to explain the curious phenomenon of The Kashmir Files and why it made its mark on the public psyche. Shyamsunder Dattatry has reviewed the Himalayan travelogue of Sukhnandan Singh. Although travelogue is now a genre in decline, yet some contributions appear time to time successfully drawing attention.

The book 'Kipling in India: India in Kipling' is a collection of essays, written by scholars from four continents, mostly presented at a conference held at the Institute, in 2016, in collaboration with the Kipling Society, UK. The review underlines the importance of this significant academic event, facilitated by the Institute, reminding that 'history passes but literature remains'. And finally, Dr Koenraad Elst, the well-known Belgian Indologist, has contributed a brief review of Srikant Talageri's findings about the RigVeda. He especially noted Talageri's sharpened position on the chronological

layeredness of the RigVeda, as in his 'The chronological gulf between the old RigVeda and the new RigVeda'.

The issue also carries brief information about the academic activities during the first half of the year.

Weekly seminars, lectures by Visiting Professors, Visiting Scholars, Guest Fellows, presentations by the Associates in the UGC-Inter-University Centre, and special events at the Institute.