

Shastri News -January 2011

Springtime in the Ottawa Valley — CMC 2011

Mark your calendars. CMC 2011 will take place on June 19th in our Nation's Capital. Hosted by Carleton University's, the CMC, followed by Shastri's AGM, will be held in conjunction with the opening of Carleton's Canada-India Centre of Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy. Unique to Canada, the centre "will raise awareness of bilateral studies and public diplomacy, and develop initiatives to build a better understanding of both countries."

Shastri will send out programming details and member packages in the early spring.

Engaging India Continues — Atlantic Canada Next, National to Follow

Preliminary plans are now underway for Shastri to include the national Engaging India Symposium prior to CMC. , led by President Sunaina Singh, to bring a delegation of Indian Vice- Chancellors to Canada in a move similar to the visit to India by 15 Canadian university presidents in November of 2010.

President Prof. Sunaina Singh made a presentation on SICI discussing the broad objectives, activities, strategies and future vision of Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute at the "Briefing Session" of AUCC to the 14 Presidents from various universities in Canada and many Indian delegates present in the Session. This was held in November 2010 in India.

Expect more information to be forthcoming in future newsletters.

President Singh at Higher Education Summit 2010

Also in November, Shastri participated in the Higher Education Summit 2010 organised by FICCI. President Singh was invited to Chair a session on "Globalising Indian Higher Education: Creating Brand in Higher Education." In her initial remarks, she highlighted on some of the frameworks and parameters that the Indian Higher Education system needs to set in order to be well branded. FICCI's Higher Education Summit on "Renovations in Indian Higher Education: Renewed Focus on Autonomy, Accountability and Partnerships," was inaugurated by Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Human Resource Development, GOI and was also attended by well acclaimed scholars from around the world including: India, Canada, US, Britain, Scotland, and Bhutan

Shastri Follows-up December EC Meeting with Presentation

A three-day International Conference was organized in collaboration with Kakatiya University, Warangal from 16-18 December 2010. The theme of the Conference was "Diversity in New Literatures." Shastri President Sunaina Singh was the Chief Guest of the Conference. While inaugurating the Conference, Prof. Singh highlighted that „diversity is the key factor of globalization“. In her analysis of the globalization at the local level, she claimed that "as the world shrinks into the „glocal“ reality there is blurring of borders and boundaries giving rise to diversity in the socio-political environment."

She went on to add, that on the cultural front post-modernism is celebrated as the end of imperialistic modernism. The diversity of post-modern culture has seen the emergence of new voices in the form of re-emergence of women's writing, black poetics, ecology, and „life politics.“ She also added that the focus on new literatures could lead to polarities between the 'west' and the 'rest' and we need to be careful on that. Mr. Rick Butler, former Executive Director of Shastri also attended the conference as the guest of Honour.

Web Portal Project Moves Forward — RFP Due Out

Following the recommendation of Shastri's Executive Council a Request for Proposal has been drafted and will be released to the public shortly. CMC and IMC members can expect a copy to be sent to them to forward to any interested parties. The full document will also be available on the Shastri website. Deadline for submissions: February 21, 2011.

Brief Updates...

Shastri will once again be in the spotlight as the India Office organizes a reception and dinner in honour of His Excellency Mr. Stewart Beck, Canadian High Commissioner to India on February 3rd 2011, 6PM – 9.30 P.M. The event will be preceded by the inaugural Kanta Marwah Lecture by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi.

*Under the Canadian Studies Programme Development Grant (PDG), Banaras Hindu University organizes an International Seminar on "Public Health Care in India and Canada" from 5-6 February 2011. Shastri President Prof. Sunaina Singh has been invited as the Chief Guest to grace the seminar. Contact Prof. Rajani Ranjan Jha, Director, Canadian Studies Development Programme, Dept. of Political Science, BHU for more information.

The Canadian Studies Programme Development Grant will also underwrite Jadavpur University's International Seminar on "Building Bridges: Negotiating Cultural Memories in Canada and India" from 16-17 February 2011.

Finally, another PDG has been extended to the Xavier Institute of Management for its national conference on "Management of Workforce Diversity" from Feb 18-20, 2011. Prof. Sunaina Singh, President of Shastri will be the Chief Guest at the Conference.

Shastri Funding in Action

Under the Canadian Studies Programme Development Grant (PDG) a two day International Conference on „India-Canada Trade and FDI Bilateral Flows: Performance, Prospects and Proactive strategies“ was organized at M. S. University of Baroda on 10-11 January, 2011. President Prof. Sunaina Singh was honourably invited to be the Guest of Honour at the Conference, but other pressing engagements kept her away from the Conference. But she sent her message and best wishes for the Conference.

Mahila Shanti Sena Issues December Newsletter

MSS Newsletter-December2010

Mahila Shanti Sena mourns the loss of Acharya Ramamurti and Ravindra Upadhyay The first national get together of Mahila Shanti, without Acharyaji and Ravindrabhai, took place at Gandhi Niddhi Foundation under the chairmanship of Shri Rachandra Rahi, Chairman of Gandhi

Nidhi, at Rajghat, New Delhi on November 9, 2010. Among those who attended included Anupam Mishra (Gandhi Nidhi), T.M. Tripathi (AVARD), Satyapal (Lajpat Foundation), Krishnakumar, Ram Gulam Singh and Dr. Rajnarain Singh (Secretary- Shrambharati), Dr. Dipak Malik and Dr. Muniza Khan (Gandhian Studies Institute), Chelsea Rothwell and Rae Kathleen Mitchell (AUCC/CIDA Interns from Canada) and Rama Singh (McMaster University).

The purpose of the meeting was to touch base with the core group, to plan future activities and to put together an India-level coordinating committee (MSS-India) to provide leadership to MSS programs. It was a small meeting and each person was invited to take turn and speak about his/her feeling about MSS program and its future. Raha ji expressed deep sorrow about the loss of both leaders and said that their loss has left a great vacuum in the Gandhian constructive movement. He underscored the uniqueness of the vision and concept of Mahila Shanti Sena and its potential for building peace. He emphasized that wherever possible MSS work should proceed in collaboration with Gandhian organizations.

Dr. Rajnarain Singh brought us up-to-date about the problem faced by Shrambharati and Rama Singh briefed the group about the MSS-Canada (Women's Peace Brigade International Foundation). Dr. Dipak MALik and Muniza Khan talked about the work of Gandhian Studies Institute (Varanasi) and Dr. Rava Joshi talked about her work on MSS and Education in Canada and about her current involvement with Ekta Parishad (India). Krishnakumar talked about the unfinished editorial/publication work of Acharyaji's dictations. It was decided that Acharyaji's recent book "Mahila Shanti ena" should be translated in different languages, such as Odishi, Bangla and Assami.

MSS Objective:

To train women to improve their self-esteem, to form core groups for community building and learn on women's empowerment in a peaceful and non-violent manner and to engage in village panchayats.

Training:

Consists of building self esteem, forming groups to figure out and analyse problems facing women and their plausible solutions, learning the concept of Mahila Shanti Sena, analyzing qualities of a good leader and sharing experience with previous MSSmembers and preparing an action plan for next six months. The duration is three days.

A case study:

The residents of Majhi Sahi which is part of Jhatiada village in Mayurbhanj District are living a marginalized existence socially and economically. The men folk are addicted to country liquor and shirk household responsibilities. In this scenario, the women were reluctant to form a SHG. However, Gayatri Behera who was exposed to MSS along with some women took the leadership and motivated others in forming a SHG. The success as reported by Unnayan has been phenomenal in bringing both social and economic transformation in the community. According to Gayatri, they saved enough money so that they are no longer dependent on the local money lenders for basic needs such as emergency medical expenses, education for children and share cropping in summer. Getting some training from Unnayan on management and gender issues, they have been able to earn from group income generation activities and able to participate in domestic decision making process. A significant change is occurring in the attitude of the male members towards them. The members are becoming aware of value of education, good hygiene practices and basic healthcare. Due to the boost in their self-reliance and self esteem, it has become easier for them to interact with the village Panchayat. By individual contribution, they are proud to build a thatched hall for community activities. Above all, that her untouchable community is now accepted by the neighbours

and at times their members are invited to solve problems in other villages is most fulfilling for her.

Rama Singh

President- MSS (International)

<http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/gandhi>

Calls and Classifieds

Shastri Fellow Releases New Sanskrit Program I am proud to announce the release of my System for Input of Classical Sanskrit which is available for Free download at:

<http://andregarzia.on-rev.com/richmond/dwriterfree.html>

and the DEMO of the Professional version:

<http://andregarzia.on-rev.com/richmond/dwriterpro.html>

[details of how to purchase the Pro version of Devawriter are contained within the demo program]

Sincerely, Richmond Mathewson.

Global India Foundation – New Academic Content Now Online

Global India Foundation in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies will be organising an international conference entitled “Emergence of India as a Global Player,” at the H.L. Roy Auditorium, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, in March 2011. You are kindly requested to visit the link below for further details of the same.

<http://www.globalindiafoundation.org/globalplayerconference.htm>

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