

Conference Report

Report of the '6th Indian School of Logic and its Applications (Part II)'

The '6th Indian School of Logic and its Applications (Part II)' was held in the Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University for five days, from the 22nd to the 27th August, 2016 (25th August was an off day). The school was organized by *Calcutta Logic Circle* and *Association for Logic in India* in collaboration with the *School of Cognitive Science*, Jadavpur University, and the *Sivotosh Mookerjee Science Centre*, Kolkata. The school was formally dedicated to the memory of Late Professor Bimal Krishna Matilal as a tribute to him on his 25th death anniversary. A major part of financial support for organizing the school was extended by Mrs. Karabi Matilal, widow of late Professor Bimal Krishna Matilal. The *Sivotosh Mookerjee Science Centre, Kolkata* also gave some financial support for conducting the school. Professor Mihir Kumar Chakraborty, Visiting Professor, School of Cognitive Science, Jadavpur University and Professor Jayanta Sen, Professor, Taki Government College were the Convenors for the entire Programme.



Professor Bimal Krishna Matilal

Late Professor Bimal Krishna Matilal was an internationally famous Indian philosopher whose influential writings presented Indian philosophical tradition as being concerned with the same issues as had been the theme in Western philosophy. He was born on 1st June, 1935 in a family of Sanskrit scholars at Joynagar, a small village in the southern part of West Bengal. After graduating from the Central Calcutta College (presently known as Maulana Azad College) with Sanskrit and Mathematics, he completed M. A. in Sanskrit from the University of Calcutta, in 1956. He joined the Government Sanskrit College in Calcutta as a lecturer in Sanskrit in 1957. Simultaneously, he joined the Oriental Section of the same College and was taught *Navya-Nyāya* by some eminent scholars like Pandit Taranath Tarkatirtha, Pandit Kalipada Tarkacharya and others. In 1962, after completing these studies, he received the traditional degree '*Tarkatīrtha*'. Being a good student of Mathematics, Bimal

Krishna Matilal wanted to study Mathematical Logic and Analytic Western Philosophy. During his tenure at the Sanskrit College, he came in contact with Daniel H. Ingalls of the Harvard University. Advised by Ingalls, he tried and obtained the Fulbright Scholarship and in 1962, he went to the Harvard University in the USA, to carry out research in *Navya-Nyāya*. He started working under the supervision of Daniel H. Ingalls, who was an expert in that area. While preparing his doctoral thesis, B. K. Matilal also learnt Mathematical Logic and Analytic Philosophy from eminent philosophers and logicians like W. V. O. Quine, Nelson Goodman and Dogfinn Follesdal. In 1965, he was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the Harvard University for his thesis entitled '*The Navya-Nyāya Theory of Negation*'. Later in 1968, his thesis was published as a book in the Harvard Oriental Series. After completing his studies in the Harvard University, Bimal Krishna Matilal started teaching Philosophy in the University of Toronto in Canada and in the University of Pennsylvania in the USA. In 1971, he authored and published a second book titled '*Epistemology, Logic and Grammar in Indian Philosophical Analysis*'. In 1973, he became the Founder-editor of the widely acclaimed *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, where Indian Philosophy was treated as philosophy proper and not as only a branch of Indology, or Classical Philology, or Oriental Studies. In 1976, he became the 'Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics' at the Oxford University. He was also made a Fellow of 'All Soul's College' in Oxford. He served the Oxford University till the time of his untimely death due to spinal cancer in 1991. He had published many important works related to Jaina Philosophy, Logic, Language, Reality and on classical Indian theories of knowledge. Some of the major works published during his life time are a critical edition of the Sanskrit text *Nyāyasiddhāntadīpa* by Śāśadhara with

a commentary by Gunaratnasūri (1976); *The Central Philosophy of Jainism* (1981); *Logical and Ethical Issues of Religious Belief* (1982); *Logic, Language and Reality* (1985); *Perception: An Essay on Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge* (1986); and *Word and the World: India's Contribution to Study of Language* (1991). Professor Matilal fervently opposed the wide-spread and deep-rooted misconception among many western philosophers that the so-called 'Indian Philosophy' is essentially spiritualistic, where the world is considered to be illusory like a magical show; and which is based either primarily on scriptures, or on 'mystic truths' revealed in ecstatic intuitions that are supposed to result from some sort of 'transcendental meditation'; and not on observations or arguments. Professor B. K. Matilal presented Indian philosophical thought more as a synthesis than a mere exposition.

This helped create a vibrant revival of interest in Indian philosophical tradition as a relevant source of ideas rather than a dead discipline.

Now as regards the school of Indian Logic which was organized as a tribute to the great philosopher and scholar, whose life and contributions have been discussed briefly, was very well-attended with large number of participants from West Bengal and some from other states of India. The names of invited speakers and the titles of the talks delivered by them are given below.

After a brief introductory formality, the technical sessions started, the inaugural talk being delivered by Professor R. Ramanujan of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai. He spoke on '*Philosophical Logic*'.

Thereafter, the other invited speakers delivered their talks in various sessions spread over the five days of the 'School'.

In the session devoted to '*Philosophical*

Logic, Professor Biswambar Pahi, Retired Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, delivered a very interesting talk on '*Vyapti as a central notion of Indian logic*'. Professor Prabal Kumar Sen, Retired Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Calcutta, spoke on '*Types of argument in Indian Philosophy*'.

In the session devoted to '*Algebraic Logic*', Professor Mahua Banerjee, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur delivered a series of interesting lectures on '*Rough Set Theory: A Journey through Algebras and Logics*'. Professor Minghui Ma, Professor, Institute for Logic and Intelligence, South West University, China in a series of lectures discussed '*Algebraic Foundations of Logic*'. Professor Sujata Ghosh, Indian Statistical Institute, Chennai gave an interesting talk on '*Harmonizing logic and cognition: To be or not to be*'. Professor Nageswara Rao of IIT, Kanpur spoke on '*Investigations of fuzzy implications satisfying Generalised Hypothetical Syllogism*'. Professor Arun Kumar of the Banaras Hindu

University, Benaras delivered a talk on '*Kleene Algebras and Logic*'. Purbita Jana of Calcutta University spoke on '*Graded frame and Logic*', Reetu Bhattacharya of Jadavpur University delivered a talk on '*Diagram System Venn-i with a non-standard Symantics*'. Professor Lopamudra Choudhury also from Jadavpur University spoke on an identical topic. A. Mani from the University of Calcutta delivered a talk on '*Mereology and Rough sets*'. Professor Mihir Kumar Chakrabarty spoke on the *notion of consequence in many valued context*, which falls within the category of algebraic logic.

On the whole it was a vibrant, well-attended and informative scholastic exercise which has definitely benefited the scholars and researchers in the field. The organizers and the sponsors of the event deserve to be congratulated for their thoughtful initiative.

Reported by
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