

R E P O R T

International Seminar

INDO-MONGOL COLLOQUIUM—

Some Unexplored Areas of Research

(1st-4th February ,2012)

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An International “ Indo-Mongol Colloquium – on Some Unexplored Areas of Research “ was organised by Kala Kosa Division, IGNC A on 1st-4th February,2012.. The Seminar had been planned as culminating part of the celebrations of fifty fifth Anniversary of Indo-Mongol Diplomatic Relations. Despite discouraging distances, India had long standing multidimensional relations with Mongolia though very little is commonly known about these close age-old connections .The Seminar had this simple justification and an aim to highlight these linkages by undertaking deeper studies and in depth researches. Ever since its rise, Buddhism with all its concomitants had engulfed Mongolia and continued to play a significant role in the development of a country where it remains to be the national religion even today. In every sphere , eg.literature, Medical sciences, fine arts, and others glimpses of Indian culture, ethos and faith , therefore continue to flicker through its socio-religious elements --be it yogic practices, Buddhist philosophy, Vajrayana, emphasis on Tara,and tantrism , Shramanism / Shamanism , translations of Indian religious and scholarly works and treatises, Buddhist and other Sanskrit texts in Mongolia, impact of Indian thought seems to pervade all along-- considerably enriching Indo- Mongolian cultural sphere.

Similarly, in India, the imprint of Mongol polity, language and customs lingered throughout the Mughal period. The Yasai Chingizi was a piece of medieval statesmanship. Babur highly appreciated Chingiz Khan in his memoirs and the laws formulated by him were always recalled by the Timurid chroniclers as Qanuni Tashrifat – ceremonial practices and prevalent and recommended code of conduct. Yasa continued to hover over the Mughal administrative structure. The other constructive measures taken by Mongol Khans after their conquests, their contribution to the sphere of architecture, monumental paintings; medicine, astronomy, (eg.the Maragha observatory) and above all the impact of Mongol vocabulary on Indian languages and administrative institutions are few examples of the remnants of the cultural legacy left by the Mongols. From spirituality to the art of warfare , from conquest to consolidation, from commercial enterprises to experiments in art and culture and from legal to administrative matters, Chingiz khan and his successors did not lag behind and were like

any other medieval rulers in statesmanship and management. Most modern attitude towards administrative and religious matters were adopted by Chingiz and he may be rightfully distinguished and designated as the harbinger of Anna baptism.

Unlike other world conquerors, Chingiz Khan was not merely an adventurous warrior , a conqueror who never faced a Waterloo but a law-giver ,an Empire-builder and one who established strong administrative machinery and bound his vast kingdom stretching over three continents into one string . Yet, ironically enough distortions of historical facts and intentional records played their part here also – presenting and remembering him and his successors only as the blood thirsty horrendous creatures . Much to the chagrin of Mongols, their history was compiled largely by aggrieved historians of conquered countries and no contradictory compilations or objective descriptions were available to assess the Mongol rule in correct perspectives. There were no court histories compiled during the reign of Chingiz khan. The accounts written by later chroniclers or by Mongols themselves were not widely known or used. Even the chronicles like Secret History of the Mongol Dynasty was kept concealed till misconstrued descriptions blurred the vision and exaggerated accounts of destructions allegedly caused by the Mongols turned into facts of history . There is the need to adopt an insightful approach to various aspects of Indo- Mongol relations and to remove certain historical misconceptions hovering over the image of Chingiz khan and his successors and this needs Researchers' zeal and enthusiastic urge to fill up the desideratum of history. Our share in the glories of each others' culture necessitates fresh look at the historical sources anew and to produce objective analysis of the available raw material and this was intended to be the purpose and further contribution of the Seminar which seems to have been successfully initiated.

There were twenty participants from Mongolia, USA, Austria, Japan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and other places . There were Indian scholars (four outstation and fifteen local scholars) too all of whom contributed papers on different themes but within the purview of the subject. Unfortunately , many scholars could not come because of certain unavoidable reasons but their valuable papers form part of the Proceedings. A galaxy of scholars and diplomats came from Mongolia. These included Prof Dr. T. Dorj, Vice-President of Academy of sciences, Mongolia, Dr BatKhishing, Ambassador at large; Dr. Nyamdaava Oidov, Dr. Sambhudorj, Prof. Haisandai, Prof. Khuldorj, Dr. Odbayaar Zandraa, Prof. Chulun. S. and others. The Delegation from Mongolia has enthusiastically participated in the seminar. Prof T.Dorj's article on "Mongolian and Indian Studies "presents an interesting indirect view of Indo-Mongol lingual connections and translated works. Academician Jadambaa B. Of Mongolian State University, has contributed a paper on education for sustainable development in Mongolian Nomadic Context. Prof .Dr. O. Sambu Dorj (Mongolia) spoke

on 'Problems in the Standard and Variant Pronunciation Of Modern Mongolian Words'. Several Mongolian and Indian scholars presented valuable articles on foreign policy and economic relations. To mention a few: Prof. Badam Dorj Baitkhishig 's (Mongolia) paper on "New Concepts on Foreign Policy of Mongolia and its Relations with India" opened up a new and constructively progressive approach ; Prof . D. Haisandai (Mongolia)"Mongolia's Asia Policy"Prof. L. Khaisandai (Mongolia)"The National Interest and Foreign Policy of Mongolia : Some Issues of History and Present Day";Prof. Balganjav Khuldorj (Mongolia) "Indo-Mongolian Economic Relations –Current Trends and Perspective" .Prof.Tuvd Dorj (Mongolia)'s views on "Consequences and Outcome of Economic Transition in Mongolia" ;Dr. Sharad Kumar Soni (Delhi, India)**The 'Third Neighbour' Orientation of Mongolia's Foreign Policy** Prof. K.N. Pandita's paper"India and Mongolia :Strategic Partnerships, Prof. ; DR. Sunita Dwivedi (Delhi, India)'s paper on "Mongols And Trade On The Silk Road" are insightful and informative.

Numerous questions had hitherto boggled the minds of the researchers. The problem of "image" of Chingiz Khan and the Mongols as mentioned above and the controversial issue whether the Mongol invasions were essentially destructive--the myths so easily converted into a reality. Adding to the confusion are the medieval chroniclers providing both kinds of information to suit contradictory conclusions –condemning Mongols-glorifying Chingiz but the very fact that Chingiz was not an exception but to a lesser or larger degree representing medieval sovereigns' syndrome absolves him of all such allegations. Moreover the aftermath of the Mongol invasion was not so gloomy and devastating and the recovery of a conquered town from the shock waves of war was not so neglected as mentioned in the sources. Several articles have been presented on this theme. The articles of Prof Beatrice Forbes Manz of USA which compared the conquest of Khurasan with that of Khwarazm explicitly presenting and analyzing the reasons for igniting Chingiz and subsequently the resultant onslaught and the paper presented by Dr. Suchandana Chatterjee of Abulkalam Azad Institute of Calcutta on "***THE MONGOL PAX IN EURASIA: A RENEWED FIELD OF ENQUIRY -are both brilliant papers*** . In his scholarly paper, Prof. Sattar Mazhitov of Kazakhstan had highlighted the difficulties involved in the studies relating to Chingiz Khan because of extreme views held by the historians. He had recounted the various opinions of scholars and provided clues to these controversies. Prof. Mashrabov, the President of Babur Foundation , Uzbekistan had ably discussed various aspects of history of Chingiz Khan in a concise way and had surveyed the close ties existing through the ages between India and Uzbekistan. Many valuable and informative articles on the Mongols and about their origin and genesis as depicted in the historical sources of different countries were also presented. These include: Prof. Jean Louis Bacque Grammont (Paris, France)'s interesting article on "The Discourse on the " Other"-- The Tartars and the people of Gog and Magog In the Ottoman Literature" ;Yuki

Kongaya(Japan)'s article on the "Oral History of the Natural Environment –the Case of the Ejine River in Inner Mongolia, China"; Prof. Fatima Harrak (Ribat, Morocco)'s paper on "The Mongols in Ibni Batuta's travelogue"; Prof. Aydogdy Kurbanov (Ashgabat, Turkmenistan) "About Mongol origin of Hephthalites "; Prof. Suleyman Demirci (Turkey) 's "Mongol Invasions and the Emergence of the Ottomans : The conquest of Istanbul : The Age of Empire" are some of the valuable pieces presented in summarised form. One of the several ruling dynasties of Chingiz Khan on the female line were the Baburids, commonly called as Timurids or Moghuls and some aspects of whose attainments were also not neglected. Thus Dr. Zaharova of Osh University , Kirghizia had beautifully summed up the details of the buildings as Babur's heritage in Osh . In his scholarly article "" ,Prof. Mansoor Bobohanov of Dushanbe University had described the intellectual atmosphere in Akbar's period and the contribution of Tajik scholars who had enriched it. Mongol women during medieval period found their due place in the article of young and dynamic scholar Dr. Munnever Teskan who had commented upon the fair damsels belonging to fairy land of Mughals and their activities as depicted in Baburnama. The journey from medieval to modern age was , however, a bit different and not the same . Describing the plight of Mongol women during late medieval, modern and contemporary period , Dr. Maqsooda Shiotani of Japan ably continues the discussion over the damsels now mostly in distress. Prof.Vasilii Ploskih of Bishkek had described archaeological wealth deposited in Issyk Kul region . In his paper "Struggle of the Twin Movements and socio-political tendencies in the Mongol Empire ", Prof. Boimatov Loqman of Dushanbe had described various people's movements and uprisings taking place during the Mongol period . The psyche of both the conquerors and the conquered as well as the then prevalent socio-cultural atmosphere both were equally well presented .

The sphere of culture and art was also equally enriched. Prof. Larisa Dodkhudoeva of Dushanbe presented an article on "Indo-Mongol Cultural Relations during medieval Period and their Context ". The paper brings to light some new and refreshing views. Similarly the article presented by Dr. Sara Kuehn from Austria on "The Serpent Dragon in the Art of Central Asia "is both interesting and informative. Prof. Chuluun. S (Ulaanbaatar,Mongolia) submitted a paper on "Photos of Mongolian Monasteries found lately in Russian Archives ".The subject presented an interesting aspect of architectural finesse.Dr. Odbayyar Zandraa (Mongolia) commented upon the "Ceramic Culture of the Mongols" throwing light on the art of Mongolia . The studies in the sphere of fine arts, architecture , painting, astronomy,medicine,socio-religious features, Mongol laws etc. were also paid due attention. Some of the valuable articles are as follow: Dr. Shukla 's article on " Vedic Deities in Mongol Religio-Cultural sphere", Dr. Mojgan Abshavi Shiraz, Iran)" **Architecture, the mirror of human behaviour**",Dr. Nisar Ahmad (Delhi, India)"Mongol Tent Architecture";Dr. Jean Arakelian Paris, France)

submitted a paper on “Persian contribution to the field of Indo-Mongol paintings through the works of Hussein Naqqash “.Prof. Lola Dod Khudaeva, Dushanbe, Tajikistan’s paper on “Architecture in Programme of Legitimation of Higher Political Power in Pre-Mongol Central Asia”” **Prof. Askar Ali Rajabov ‘s comments on“The Development of Music in Transoxiana and khurasan during Mongol Period”** ; Alice. C. Hunsberger (USA)’s article on “Jami and the Mystical Thoughts”;Dr. Gaigysyz Jorayev (UK), “Interpretations of History in Post Soviet Central Asia” Prof. Ovez Gundogdiev,(Ashghabat, Turkmenistan)“Spread of Buddhism from Merv to Khatai”; Prof Sarengerile (China)’sarticle on “The influence of Buddhist Culture in Mongolia--- --- Deedu Mongolia culture as an Example “; Dr. Bachchan Kumar (Delhi, India)“Remnants of Mongol Rule in Burma”;Prof. Nazim Naseebullaevich Khabibullaev (Tashkent, Uzbekistan),“The Impact of Timurid Art of Central Asia on the Style of Baburids ‘;Dr. Jinisha Jain, Delhi, India’s article on ,“Medieval Urban Expansion along the G.T. Road”; Prof. U. Nurullaev, Dushanbe, Tajikistan ;Medical Sciences during Medieval Period-Avicenna and AbuMuwaffiq ; Prof. Dr. Shuhrat Ehgamberdiev (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) “Understanding the Scientific heritage of Ulugh Bek :Astronomical Achievements made and Challenges Ahead “; Prof. Mohammad Bagheri (Iran)Exchange of astronomical and mathematical knowledge between India and Iran “; Dr. Purejav (Mongolia);“Oral Messenger (Letter)Tradition in the Secret History Of Mongol Dynasty”, Dr Rafiuddin Makhdumi’s “Dr. Saifullah saifi, (JMI, New Delhi),“Mongols in Ibni Tughri’s Al-nujumuzzahira-The chronicle of Sultans of Egypt”; Prof. Mansura Haidar’s paper on “ Indo-Mongol Relations”; and Dr.Vijay Kumar Bhatia’s article on “India and Mongolia-Relations, Challenges and Prospects In the 21st century”,the articles of Dr. Sushma Jatoo on ‘ ‘ and that of Dr. Sudhir Lal on "" were some of the other aspects highlighted during the Seminar.

With such a wide canvas of themes attempted, the Seminar on “ Indo –Mongol Colloquium –Some unexplored Areas of Research “ came to an end with great academic expectations of collaborative research prospects. The academic and intellectual communication at International level facilitated through this colloquium has certainly reemphasised the requisite harmonising echo of contradictory and conflicting voices in the history of Mongols . It was agreed upon that from amongst the numerous historical myths perpetuated all along, Mongol historical studies need urgent attention of scholars for rectification of misconceptions created by intentional or agreed records . An objective assessment of Persian, Arabic and above all Indian sources with an analytical approach may greatly help us in arranging and analysing the facts in proper order and direction and without a partisan or prejudicial view. A joint effort in this direction with the information available in Mongol sources can pay dividends. The second and most significant objective is that a really valuable work on Indo –Mongol art and culture may be undertaken . It should be noted that the work on philosophy and scriptures of

Buddhism , the art and culture , the monumental paintings and the description of deities, rituals and ceremonies of Buddhism and Vedic traditions , evaluation of the work already done and other works planned can be better revamped by the Indian scholars who had breathed in and brought up in this very culture and circumstance and therefore far surpass those who had just studied it . Thirdly, It was agreed upon that the historical remnants of Mongols with all their cultural components, present status of Mongol diaspora in India both in the outlying regions of north east , Burma and other places and in the interior of India like UP, Kara, Manikpur, Delhi and other places should also be undertaken. . Further, It was decided jointly that the Seminar held at IGNCAs has to accomplish the studies in the much neglected sphere of important aspects of our shared cultural heritage symbolised through multifarious icons of fine arts, different forms of handicrafts, medical sciences ,astronomy, astrology, architecture ,paintings, vedic, Puranic and Buddhist deities, documents, scriptures, Yogic and Tantric traditions and so on. For this , a team of researchers from both the countries with a few experts from other places should join hands and efforts to produce an authentic work. Similarly, the impact of Mongol administrative and cultural machinery too has to be highlighted. Exchange of men ,ideas and commodities as well as trends of translations written and oral traditions all bespeaking our close cultural linkages and interactions have to be revisited through an in depth and vast researches. Last but not the least bilateral Seminars should be organised every alternate year for assessment of furthering and continuing researches and ongoing projects. .

An IGNCAs Delegation is planning to visit Mongolia sometime in August 2013 at the Invitation of Mongol Academy of Sciences. The plans for future will be finally worked out between the group of scholars jointly from the two countries for collaborative researches and programmes for future .