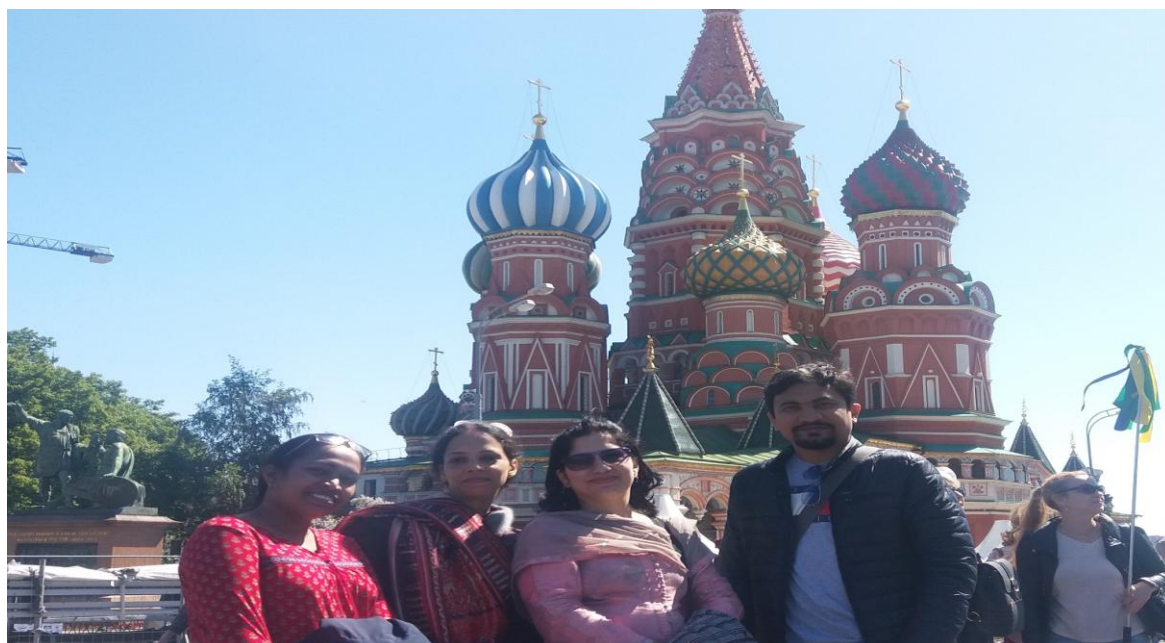


## **Visit of Ph.D. Research Scholars to the Moscow City Pedagogical University, Moscow, Russia (May – June, 2019)**

Four Ph.D scholars from the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, University of Delhi, Mr. Saurabh Naik, Ms. Fahmina Naaz, Ms. Tarawati and Ms. Cheshta, visited Moscow City Pedagogical University, Moscow, for an internship and material collection programme for 30 days. This was facilitated through the recently signed MOU between the University of Delhi and the Moscow City Pedagogical University.



During this period in Moscow, the students were provided with all amenities and other practical support for a fruitful and enjoyable stay. Prof. Alfiya Smirnova, Head of the Department of Russian literature in Moscow City University, assigned supervisors to each of the Ph.D scholars and also prepared a plan for regular classes and consultations with the respective supervisors. Senior teachers of the Department – Prof. Alfiya Smirnova, Prof. Sergei Kalashnikov, Prof. Eleonora Shafranskaya, Prof. Irina Raikova gave much of their valuable time in guiding these scholars.

Key points of the programme were as follows:

- Academic consultation for the scholars.
- Excursions to historical and cultural monuments.
- Meetings with Russian poets and writers whose works are being analysed by the scholars in their respective dissertations, namely, Ms. Svetlana Vasilenko, Mr. Sandjar Yaniyshev and Mr. Viktor Kulle.
- Participation in International Conferences in other universities in Moscow.
- Visit to Peredelkino (writers' village) and home museums of Soviet writers and poets.

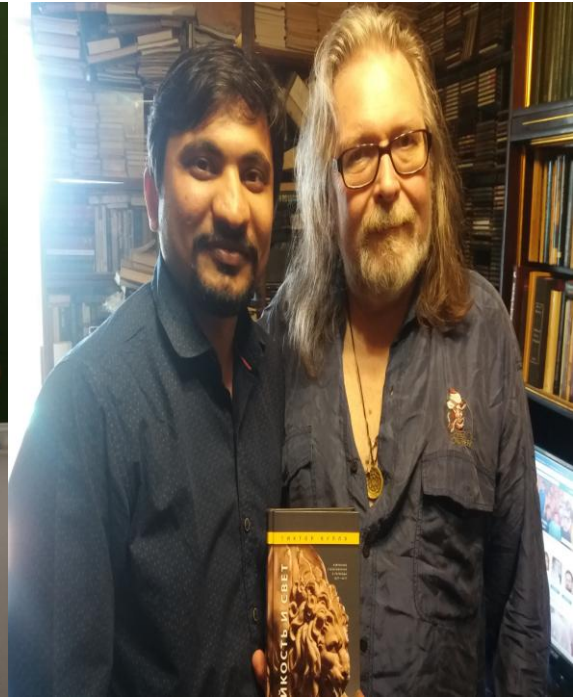


In the last week of their stay in Moscow, the scholars were joined by Dr. Neelakshi Suryanarayan, HOD of the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies and supervisor of some scholars. Dr. Suryanarayan and Prof. Smirnova conducted a joint seminar for the scholars in the presence of the consultants to examine their progress. The scholars made a presentation of their work and were awarded certificates of participation. A special lecture on different approaches to teaching Russian to foreigners was also conducted for them by Dr. Svetlana Kamyshova, member of Russian Language and Culture Institute at the Lomonosov Russian Academy of Sciences.



Mr. Saurabh Naik, Ph.D Scholar in SFUS says: “It was a memorable trip. We were given very special treatment by all the professors of the Moscow City University. It was thrilling to meet Russian writers and poets in person. We were also taken to see Russian ballet. We have come back with numerous wonderful experiences in such a short span.”





Ms. Fahmina Naaz, another Ph.d scholar has this to say: “We were able to practice spoken Russian language amongst the people in the mother country which was an exciting experience. By attending classes and studying in the library, we got a good feel of the Russian university system. I was personally overwhelmed that I could meet and talk to Ms. Svetlana Vasilenko, eminent Russian writer, whose works are a part of my Phd. dissertation.”



Ms. Tarawati is in total awe of the warm hospitality of all the people, starting from the librarian in the university who took special pains in not only finding books needed by them,



but also suggesting some extra readings, to the people on the street, who showed their respect and love for India, by greeting them with the word 'Namaste' "I would love to visit Russia again" says Tarawati.



Ms. Cheshta says that she is sorry she had to cut short her stay because of illness, but in the few days that she spent there, she felt elated by the praise showered upon her by the professors and teachers. Their encouragement and positive attitude towards her work has boosted her confidence. She has all good words for the medical staff as well, who took excellent care of her.



All told, this was a wonderful, once in a life time experience for the scholars. The Department is grateful that the students are getting good opportunities through the MOU's that Delhi University is signing with other Russian Universities, to visit the country for fruitful academic exchange.

