

# University of Delhi

## **BROCHURE**



### **Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies**

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# **Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies**

## **University of Delhi**

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The Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies is a part of the Arts Faculty, University of Delhi and offers full-time and Part-time Courses in various languages of the Slavonic and Finno-Ugric group of languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Polish, Russian and Hungarian.

### **I. BRIEF HISTORY**

The Department owes its origin in the creation of Department of Russian Language in 1946 at the instance of the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had a vision to spread the study of foreign languages in order to integrate India with the developed countries of the world. It was a matter of great honor and pride that the Founder Head of the Department was none other than Dr. V.A. Shibayev, a polyglot and a close associate of Nikolai Roerich, the world famous Russian painter, poet and philosopher. Within a short span of time, courses in other foreign languages like French, German and Spanish were also introduced and in 1948 the Department was re-named the Department of Modern European Languages. With a growing awareness about the significance of learning foreign languages, there was a demand for expansion and in 1969 new courses in Hungarian and Polish languages were introduced, followed by Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, Portuguese and Romanian languages. Subsequently, with the increase in enrolment, in 1987, a decision was taken to bifurcate the Department of Modern European Languages into two departments, the Department of Germanic and Romance Studies and the Department of Slavic Studies. The Department of Slavic Studies was later re-named the Department of Slavonic & Finno-Ugrian Studies. This gave an impetus to the Department to expand its teaching programme and soon One Year Full-time Intensive course in Russian language and M.A. in Russian Studies were launched. Along with this, other languages of the Department were offered as optional courses to promote interdisciplinary studies. Research programmes like M.Phil and Ph.D in Russian Studies were also added to the Department's academic schedule. Later a full-time Intensive language course in Bulgarian was introduced. Today, this is the only Department in India, which has qualified faculty offering courses in Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian and Polish languages, besides Russian.

### **II. COURSES**

The Department conducts the following courses:

#### **Full-Time:**

1. Ph.D. in Russian Studies  
M. Phil in Russian Studies  
M.A. in Russian Studies

## **2. One Year Intensive Advanced Diploma Courses:**

Intensive Advanced Diploma in Russian

Regular Intensive Advanced Diploma in Bulgarian

### **Part-Time:**

3. Certificate, Diploma & Advanced Diploma in: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish, Russian.
4. Part -Time Courses in Russian are also offered in selected colleges of the University of Delhi.
5. The Department also organizes, on request and as per the rules of the University of Delhi, Short-Term courses (duration: 2-6 months) in various languages taught here.

All the courses in the above- mentioned foreign languages are designed in such a way so that the students may acquire adequate knowledge of the literature and culture of the concerned country as well as communicative skills to use the language. These courses also prove to be beneficial for students wishing to engage themselves in translation and research activities in the field of humanities or in professions where knowledge of these languages is required.

Students who have passed out from the Department in the past have found profitable employment in several prestigious Government organisations as translation-officers, schools and universities as teachers and in several private organisations and the tourism industry, including medical tourism, in various capacities.

## **III. SCHOLARSHIPS**

**The following scholarships are available for the students of the Department:**

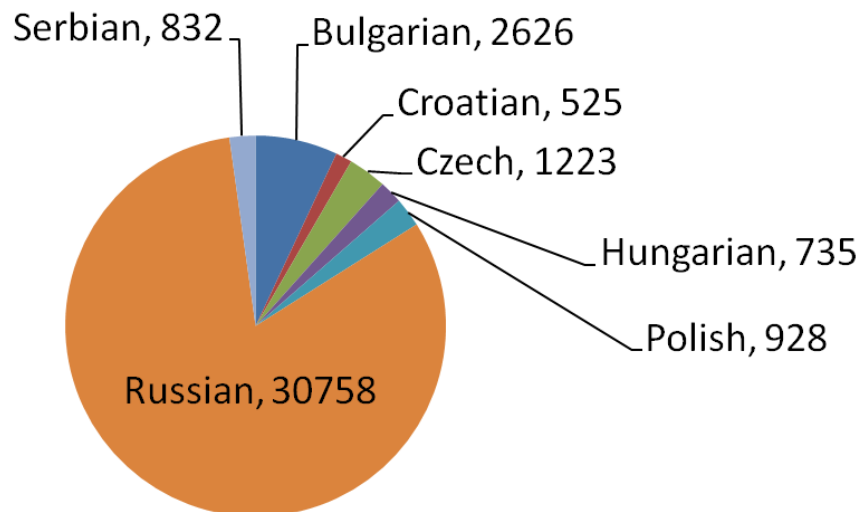
1. UGC sponsored Bulgarian Scholarships under the CEP programme to participate in the summer seminars in Bulgaria.
2. A three-month merit scholarship for a Croatian language course in Croatia.
3. Merit scholarships to the students of Czech language offered by the Czech Government from time to time.
4. Merit scholarships offered by the Hungarian Government and Institutes from time to time.
5. Merit scholarships offered by the Polish Government for Polish Language Courses in different universities in Poland.

Besides these, there are Non-NET scholarships awarded by the University of Delhi to research scholars of the Department enrolled in M.Phil or Ph.D.

## **IV. LIBRARY**

The Library of the Department is a rich source of primary and secondary material on the language, literature and culture of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Slovakia. It has material of pre- and post- communist era from these countries. In addition to housing a large number of books in these languages, the library regularly subscribes to important

academic journals of these countries to keep the faculty members and students updated with academic, social and cultural information.



No. of books in different languages

## V. ABOUT THE LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN THE DEPARTMENT

### 1. BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

Bulgarian language is one of the South Slavonic languages, descendent of Old Bulgarian (Old Church Slavonic). It belongs to the family of Indo-European languages and is one of the most important languages of Slavonic group of languages. Bulgarian is the official language of the Republic of Bulgaria. With Bulgaria joining the European Union on 1 January 2007 Bulgarian is today one of the official languages of the European Union. Bulgarian is officially recognized as minority language in Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Albania and Kosovo. Apart from these countries there is a large section of Bulgarian diaspora across the world. Bulgaria is spoken by more than 10 million people.

Bulgarian and Slavonic script developed after the creation of the Cyrillic alphabet by the legendary brothers St. Cyril and Methodius in the ninth century. The modern Bulgarian literary language evolved during the epoch of National Revival. The Cyrillic alphabet with 28 to 44 letters was codified into 32 letters by Marin Drinov (1870), which gained popularity but later was reduced to 30. Important contributions have been made by Bulgarian writers like P. Slaveikov, L. Karavelov, Hristo Botev, Ivan Vazov, Elin Pelin, Nikola Vaptsarov, P. Yavorov, G. Milev, Elizaveta Bragyanina and many others in the development of Bulgarian language and literature.

### **Courses offered in Bulgarian**

- Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma
- Full-time Regular Intensive Advanced Diploma Course.
- One of the elective subjects for M.A. in Russian Studies.

## **2. CROATIAN LANGUAGE**

Croatian language is a southern Slavonic language used by over 5.5 million people. It is an official language of the Republic of Croatia and one of the official languages of the European Union since 2013, when Croatia joined the EU. It is also used by Croatian ethnic and minority groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Italy, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, USA, Australia and other countries.

Croatia can boast of being the motherland of famous scientists like Nikola Tesla (electricity), Slavoljub Penkala (ballpoint pen) and Andrija Mohorovicic (seismologist). Some Croatian artists have also made a significant contribution to the world of arts: Miroslav Krleža (literature), Ivo Andrić (literature), Dubravka Ugrešić (literature), Ivo Pogorelec (music), and Ivan Mestrovic (sculpture).

Croatian language can help students to better understand the functioning of the Slavonic Grammatical system. It can also help them in understanding and appreciating the phenomenon of the multicultural identity of Europe and the European Union. Students are offered scholarships to pursue higher studies in Croatia.

### **Courses offered in Croatian**

- Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma
- One of the elective subjects for M.A. in Russian Studies.

## **3. CZECH LANGUAGE**

Czech language belongs to the family of Indo-European languages and is one of the most important Western Slav languages. It is the official language of the Czech Republic. About 10 million people in Czech Republic use Czech as their native language.

Czech has been influenced by a number of languages, especially Old Church Slavonic (introduced into the area by Constantine and Methodius in the 9th century), Latin (once the Pan-European language of learning), and German (the language of numerous colonists, as well as the main language of the Habsburg empire). From the 14th century on, Czech has been the language of a continuous stream of literary production.

The Czech Republic was a part of Czechoslovakia between 1981 and 1993. Václav Havel, the first President of the Czech Republic, was also renowned playwright who was actively involved in publication of Czech samizdat literature during the censorship period. The Czech Republic joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. Now Czech language is one of the 24 official

languages in the European Union. Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic is known as “The Heart of Europe”.

The Czech people have made a considerable contribution in the field of art and culture: musicians - B. Smetana, A. Dvorák; dramatists - Voskovec and Werich, film director - M. Forman and educationist - J. A. Komenský. Some famous writers who have made a mark and enjoy popular readership are: J. K. Tyl, A. Jirásek, J. Seifert, J. Hašek, K. Capek, F. Kafka, J. Škvorecký, M. Kundera, V. Havel, B. Hrabal. The Czech Republic is also famous in the world thanks to Škoda cars (E. Škoda) and Bata shoes (T. Bata).

Czech language was introduced in 1970s in the Department of Modern European Languages, University of Delhi. Czech studies are now an important part of the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies.

### **Courses offered in Czech**

- Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma course.
- One of the elective subjects for M.A. in Russian Studies.

## **4. HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE**

Hungarian is the Western - most branch of the Uralic and Finno-Ugrian languages. It is principally spoken in the Carpathian Basin as the mother tongue of 10 million people in Hungary and by about 4 million people beyond the boundaries of Hungary in Slovakia, Austria, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. When King Stephen (1000-1038 AD) converted the Magyar people to Catholicism, records in runic writing were destroyed and the Latin script established. The oldest written record in Hungarian is a fragment in the Establishing charter of the Abbey of Tihany (1055). The Hungarian language reform in the first half of the nineteenth century enlarged the vocabulary, reformed the spelling and raised the language as the official language of Hungary in 1844. Now it is one of the twenty four official languages of the European Union.

Hungary became a member of the European Union on May 1, 2004 after the Round-Table discussions in 1989 and after it adopted the trade policy requirements, regulations and conventions of the EU. Hungary has now a liberal democracy with a multi-party system.

Hungary is famous for its composers: Franz Liszt, Béla Bartók and Zoltán Kodály, its scientists: Edward Teller, John von Neumann, John von Neumann and George Kemény and its film directors: Zoltán Fábri, Miklós Jancsó, Béla Tarr and Márta Mészáros. The founder of Indian modernism, Amrita Shergil was half Hungarian. Hungary has a rich tradition of prose and poetry, and a number of works, the poems of Sándor Petőfi, Endre Ady, Attila József, János Pilinszky, Gábor Garai, Ferenc Juhász and János Házy, novels and short stories by Kálmán Mikszáth, Zsigmond Móricz, Dezső Kosztolányi, Sándor Márai, Péter Esterházy and Margit Kaffka have been translated into Hindi and English. The works of Imre Kertész (Nobel Prize Winner 2002) are also available in Hindi and English.

The Balassi Institute of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Budapest and in New Delhi supports the work of the Department with concerts, film shows and lectures on various fields of Hungarian literature, history, and culture.

Hungarian language was introduced in University of Delhi in 1969. Studying the Hungarian courses offers students an opportunity to go to Hungary for long term courses in the Hungarian language and post-graduate studies in other subjects.

#### **Courses offered in Hungarian**

- Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma.
- One of the elective subjects for M.A. in Russian Studies.

### **5. POLISH LANGUAGE**

The Polish language (along with Czech and Slovak) belongs to the Western Slavonic group of languages. It is spoken by about 50 million people, mainly in Poland but large Polish-speaking communities can also be found in USA, Canada, Great Britain, Israel, Argentina, Brazil and Belarus. In 2004 Poland became a full member of the European Union and three years later it joined the Schengen Area. The country has since grown into an important international trading nation with Polish language establishing itself as one of the most important languages of the European Union. Poland boasts of being one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

Learning Polish is an important step toward understanding Eastern and Central European society.

Poland is also the place of birth of many distinguished personalities such as – Mikolaj Kopernik, Fryderyk Chopin, Maria Sklodowska-Curie, Lech Walesa, and Pope John Paul II. Polish writers like Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Slowacki, and Jan Kochanowski are famous around the world and four of them —Wisława Szymborska, Władysław Reymont, Henryk Sienkiewicz and Czesław Miłosz— were awarded Nobel Prizes in Literature.

Polish language is an important part of Slavonic Studies in the Department. Meritorious students are offered scholarships for intensive study of language courses in Poland.

#### **Courses offered in Polish**

- Certificate, Diploma and Advanced Diploma.
- One of the elective subjects for M.A. in Russian Students.

### **6. RUSSIAN LANGUAGE**

Russian is one of the most important languages of the Slav family of languages. It is one of the six working languages of the UNO and its organizations. After the disintegration of the former Soviet Union Russian language has become a language of functional application in all the 15 countries that comprised the former USSR and are now part of the CIS.

Russian literature is one of the richest literatures of the world. The works of writers and poets like A. Pushkin, Y. Lermontov, N.Gogol, F.Dostoevsky, I. Turgenev, L.Tolstoy, A. Chekhov, M. Gorky, V. Mayakovsky, M. Sholokhov, A. Platonov, B. Pasternak, I. Bunin, A. Solzhenitsyn, A.



Akhmatova, M. Tsvetaeva and many others are widely read and acclaimed as masterpieces among the classics of world literature. Reading and appreciating them in the original Russian is an experience that is unparalleled. Russian cinema continues to fascinate film lovers and win accolades at International Festivals. Similarly, Russian ballets, folk dances, classical as well as folk music are enjoyed by a large audience all over the world.

The pragmatic uses of the Russian language are also well-recognized. Russian is extensively used in the field of trade, scientific research and international relations. After globalization Russian plays a significant role in other aspects of modern life as well - the cultural, academic, social, hospitality and travel-related activities. New opportunities for employment for people with knowledge of Russian language are emerging every day.

India and Russia have enjoyed a special relationship through the centuries, starting from the famous voyage of the Russian trader Afanasii Nikiten way back in 1466 to the fascination of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of Independent India with the Soviet model for development. Later, the twenty year treaty of friendship cooperation and peace between India and the Soviet Union further boosted the ties and opened new avenues for exchange. Today the two countries continue to enjoy a relationship of mutual understanding and trust, which manifests itself in regular cultural and economic exchange programmes. Presently they also play a key role in the BRICS association.

### **ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT 2017-18**

Besides the routine class room learning the Department organizes several extra curricular activities related to imparting knowledge about the history, culture and arts of these countries. These include special lectures and talks, film shows, quizz programmes, workshops, symposia and conferences.

During the academic year 2017-18 some of the major activities were as follows:

- **11<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2017**

The Czech Republic (former Czechoslovakia) and India celebrated their 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

The students from the Czech section with the Czech teacher participated at the inauguration of the exhibition "All the Beauties of the World" featuring the life and work of Czech writer Jaroslav Seifert winner of Nobel Prize for Literature. The exhibition was opened by the Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic Daniel Herman at Gandhi Smriti Memorial in New Delhi

The students gave a brief presentation about their relation with the Czech language and Czech culture.



- **11<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2017**

The students viewed the Live Telecast by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on **“Young India – New India – A Resurgent Nation: from Sankalp to Siddhi”** on the occasion of 125<sup>th</sup> year of Swami Vivekanand's and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Centenary Celebrations in the Audio-visual room of the Department.



- **19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2017**

An Elocution Competition on the topic **“Health and Hygiene are the real Wealth”** was organized as a part of the Ministry of HRD Programme **“Swachhta Pakhwada”**.

The students of all courses participated in the competition. Certificates of participation and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes were distributed to the students.



- **21<sup>st</sup> Sept, 2017**

A team of two experts Prof Natalia Novikova and Prof. Vladimir Meskin from the Peoples Friendship University, Moscow, Russia, conducted a one day Seminar cum Master Class in the field of Teaching Russian language and literature abroad.

Certificates of participation were given to the students.

- **12th October, 2017**

Participation by students at an Olympiad “Days of Russia in India” organized at The Centre of Russian Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indo-Russian Diplomatic relations.

Students received prizes in the Olympiad and certificates of participation.

- **6th Oct, 2017**

A presentation by the students of Bulgarian language who participated in the Summer Seminar in Bulgaria, narrating their learning and living experience in Bulgaria.

All the students of Bulgarian Language attended the presentation.

- **23<sup>rd</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2017**

Annual Film Festival: Little Europe, 2016-17 “Diaspora in Cinema” with active support from the Embassy of the Czech Republic and the Embassies of the Russian Federation, The Republic of Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Croatia in India. Each screening was followed by a workshop conducted by the department teachers and invited film scholars and experts.

- 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Monday, 2017. 11.00 a.m – Inauguration of Film-Festival “Diaspora in Cinema” by H.E. Ambassador of Czech Republic Mr. Milan Hovorka. The key note address was delivered by Prof. Meenakshi Thapan, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi. The inaugural function was followed by the Screening of the Czech Film: **Kawasaki’s Rose** (2009), followed by workshop by Film Scholar
- 24<sup>th</sup> October, Tuesday, 2017. 01.15 p.m. – Inauguration of the Documentary exhibition “Hope of Freedom” by H.E. Ambassador of Hungary Mr. Gyula Petho, followed by the Screening of the Hungarian Film: **Daniel Takes a Train** (2007), followed by workshop and tea.
- 25<sup>th</sup> October, Wednesday, 2017, 1.30 p.m -Screening of the Polish Film: **A Bar at the Victoria Station** (2003), followed by workshop and tea.
- 26<sup>th</sup> October, Thursday, 2017. 1.30 p.m – Screening of the Croatian Film: **My Uncle’s Legacy** followed by workshop and tea.
- 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. 1.30 p.m– Screening of the Russian Film: **Passport** (1990), followed by workshop and tea.



- 30<sup>th</sup> October, Monday, 2017. 1.30 p.m – Screening of the Bulgarian Film: **Forecast** (2009), followed by workshop and tea.
- 31<sup>st</sup> October, Tuesday, 2017, Presentation by the students and closing of the Film-Festival.

Awards for the best presentation were given to the respective students



- **30<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2017**

Ms. Violeta Halacheva from University of Sofia, Bulgaria gave a talk on “Modern Technology in Foreign Language Teaching” with special reference to Bulgarian Language

The students of Bulgarian Language as well as other languages attended the talk.

- **27<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2017**

A workshop on translation of Bulgarian Poems, folktales and short stories by the students of Bulgarian Language conducted by Prof. Milena Bratoeva (Head) Department of Classical Eastern Studies, Sofia University “St. Kliment Okhrid” Bulgaria

Dr. Vimlesh Kanti Verma was the special invitee for the workshop.

Dr. Rashmi Joshi and Dr. Galina Molhova coordinated the programme.

- **05<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017**

➤ A lecture by Hungarian writer “Mr. Gabor Lanczkor “Amrita Sher Gil as I see her” on the basis of his novel.

➤ A flute recital by Ms. Krisztina Lanczkor-Kocsis, musicologist from Hungary “Concert Etudes for Flute”.





- **13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017**

Musical performance of the renowned **Hungarian Ensemble Kalaka and Indian Musicians** in collaboration with Department of Music, Faculty of Music & Fine Arts, University of Delhi. Performance was held at the Concert Hall, Department of Music.

The Kalaka ensemble later gave a performance of poems of Sergei Yesenin and Attila Jozsef set to music in the A.V. Room of the Department.



- **8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018 – Meet the Writers**

- Panel Discussion “Imaginary Homelands” in collaboration with Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi, with writers from France, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, Portugal and Hungary in Room No-22 of Arts Faculty.
- Book reading session and close interaction with the Polish writer **Mr. Jakub Matecki**, Slovenian writer **Mr. Evald Flisar** and Hungarian writer **Mr. Attila Bartis** in the Department.





- **11<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018**

To mark 100 years of the Russian Revolution, A film show “Ten Days that Shook the World” based on the novel by John Reed (dubbed in Hindi) was screened for the students.

The film was presented and discussed by **Mr. Vineet Tiwari** (Senior Journalist, Socio-Political Analyst) and **Dr. Jaya Mehta** (Prof. at Joshi Adhikari-Institute of Social Studies).



- **29<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**

A lecture by Prof. Zoja Karanovic (University of Novy Sad, Serbia) on “Tales told by Plants”.





- **9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

Students of the Department participated in various competitions (Essay- “Russia through my eyes” Poster: “Russian Winter”, Translation, Quiz, Olympiad, Dance and Song) organized by the Russian Centre of Science and Culture as a part of the Olympiad “Days of Russian Language, Literature and Culture-2018”.

The students won prizes in different categories and were awarded prizes and certificates.





- **16<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

H.E. Mr. Adam Burakowski, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland was invited to deliver a lecture: “Contemporary Poland”. All teachers and students attended.



- **21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018**

A special master-class “Let us write for the newspaper” for the students of M.A. Russian Studies was conducted by Prof. Galina Trofimova, Visiting Professor, People’s Friendship University, Moscow.

Students were given Certificates of participation.



- **27<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

Slava, 2018 Annual Quiz Competition for the students of all languages (Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Russian) covering questions on History, Geography and Culture of these countries.

Student's teams were conferred with I, II and III prizes.



- **28<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

A delegation from The Margarita Al Literary Society from Russia under the aegis of “Eurasian Peoples’ Assembly” conducted a talk and an interactive session on “100 years of Russian Avant-garde”





- **09<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

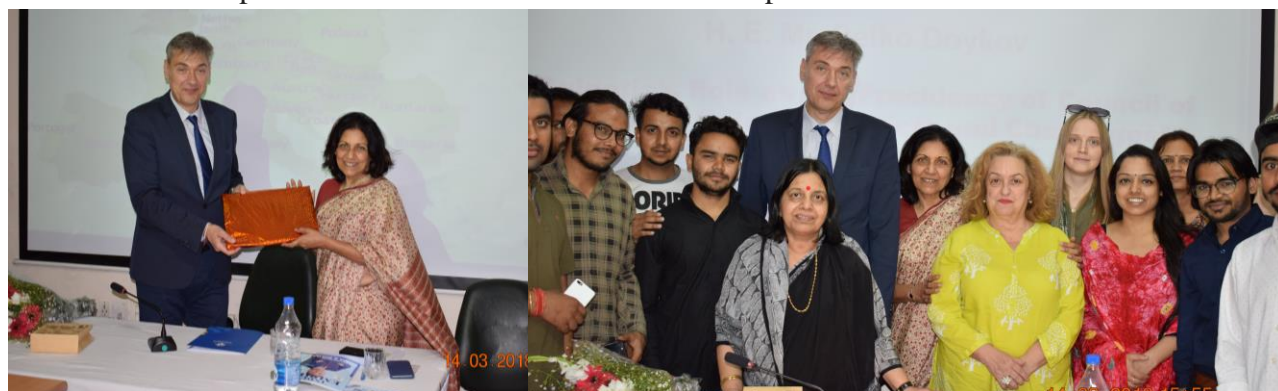
Azbuka, 2018 Annual Quiz Competition for the students of Russian Language. The students from the department as well colleges participated in the Quiz Competition.

Student's teams were conferred with I, II and III prizes.



- **14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

H.E. Mr. Petko Doykov, Ambassador of Bulgaria in India, delivered a lecture on “Bulgaria’s Role as the Presidency of Council of European Union: Prospects and Challenges”. The lecture was open to all students and teachers of the Department.





- **19th March, 2018**

The Department in collaboration with Croatian Embassy organized a programme “Celebrating 20 years of Croatian language in Delhi University”. H.E. Mr. Petar Ljubicic, Ambassador of Croatia inaugurated the function as Chief Guest.

The two day celebration was marked by exhibition of books, photographs and poetry reading session by the students and a lecture 'A Short Survey / History of Croatian Indology' by the special invitee Prof. Mislav Jezic (eminent indologist from Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts)





- **22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018**

Annual Students Cultural Programme “RADUGA” (A Cultural Interface) in Shankar Lal Hall, University of Delhi. All the students of the department as well as the colleges where classes in Russian language are being conducted, participated in the programme, showcasing their talent in various cultural activities.





- **11<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

A prize distribution ceremony in collaboration with the Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre, New Delhi, to confer prizes to the department students who participated in the essay writing competition organized by the Balassi Institute.

The prizes were distributed by Dr. Zoltan Wilhem (Director of Hungarian Information and Cultural Centre). Following this, the audience heard a lecture by special invitee Dr. Janos Kubassek (Director, Erd Geographical Museum, Hungary) on Alexander Csoma. The department students also performed a play in Hungarian.



This academic year the Department celebrated seventy years of the establishment of the Russian Language Department (the first in the country) in Delhi University along with seventy years of diplomatic relations between India and Russia. Several events were organized to mark this event.

1. **Exhibition: “Tolstoy-Gandhi: Preachers of Non-Violence” (18<sup>th</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018)** in collaboration with Embassy of Russia in India, The Leo Tolstoy House Museum Yasnaya Polyana, Russia, the National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi and Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University.

The Photo-exhibition was inaugurated by the Honorable Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Yogesh K. Tyagi** & Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian federation in India **Mr. Sergey Karmalito**.

Keynote lecture was delivered by **Mr. Annamalai A.**, Director, National Gandhi Museum.

A cultural programme comprising of a theatrical performance, bhajans, Russian and Indian songs and dances was presented by the department students and students of Russian Embassy School. On other days there was a Round table discussion: “Tolstoy-Gandhi: Interface in 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, a poster-competition: “Non-violence on canvas” and a look-alike competition.



The closing and prize distribution ceremony was held on the concluding day (22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018) in the presence of Ms. Nana Mgeladze, Counsellor (Culture) Embassy of Russia in India, Mr. Annamalai, A., Director of National Gandhi Museum and teachers of the Department.







18.01.2018 11:40



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22.01.2018



22.01.2018 16:41





2. **A quiz competition: “Druzba - Dosti” (8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018)**, in collaboration with St. Stephens College, University of Delhi, comprising of questions based on 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and Russia was held in St. Stephen’s College.



Teams comprising of students from the Department, different colleges as well as the Russian Embassy School participated in the Quiz.

The winning teams were conferred with prizes and certificates of participation were given to all.











3. **An interactive session (15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018)** in collaboration with the Russian Embassy School, New delhi.

interactive Four teachers - **Mr. Yuri Moscherikov, Ms. Irina Nazmova, Mr. Oleg Manzyuk and Ms. Lyudmila Moiseeva** from the Russian Embassy School, New Delhi conducted master classes and sessions with the students of M.A. Russian on the topics: Sergei Esenin – Russian Poet of the Silver age. Communicating in Russian



#### 4. **An International Conference: "India and Russia: Cross-Cultural Synergies(22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018)**

The conference was supported by the University of Delhi ; the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR); the Embassy of the Russian Federation in India and the Russian Center for Science and Culture, New Delhi. The conference attracted renowned scholars and practicing scientists and teachers from different cities of Russia such as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Kazan, Ivanov, Murmansk, and Yekaterinburg, as well as from other countries - Georgia, Turkey and Sri Lanka. The discussions in which the international and national delegates participated centered round issues of the mutual influence of the two cultures in literature, philosophy, linguistics, journalism, education, music, painting and cinema. The Special Invitees who graced the Conference and addressed the participants included the Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi, Professor Yogesh Tyagi, H.E.Mr. N.R. Kudashev, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in India and Mr. F.A. Rozovsky, the Director of the Russian Center of Science and Culture. Prof..V.V. Barabash, the Dean of the Philology Faculty of the Russian People's Friendship University also gave valuable comments to the audience and explained the importance of and need for more exchange programmes amongst universities and academics for 'cross the border' learning. The key note address was delivered by the former Education secretary, cultural historian and writer Ms. Achala Moulik, Laureate of the Pushkin Medal – the state award of the Russian Federation for meritorious contribution in the field of culture, liberal arts and literature. Her speech stressed the meaningful role of Russian literature and writers in preserving the social consciousness and imparting moral values.

All the speakers stressed the special relationship between India and Russia in the past and the need to strengthen cooperation between Indian and Russian scholars to take it to a newer and higher level.

The inauguration of the conference was marked by a felicitation ceremony at which the retired professors and teachers of the Department were honored by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Tyagi with presentation of shawls. Prof. A.K. Maurya, Prof. S.K. Vij, Prof. R.K. Nagpal, Dr. Indu Lekha received commendation for their role in strengthening the Department. The staff Dr. A. K. Bhasin, Mr. J.S. Bhateja, Mr. S.S. Solanki, Ms. Manju Bhasin and Ms Anita, who have provided considerable support to the Department, were also honored in recognition of their effort.

Among the plenary speakers were Professor Kalpana Sahni (Center for Russian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University); Dr. E. Yu. Vanina (Center for Indian Studies, the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences); Professor T.A. Gogoladze (State Pedagogical University of Gori, Georgia); Dr S.I. Ryzhakova ( The N.N. Miklukho-Maklai Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences) and Dr. E.Yu. Borzov (Ivanovo State Textile Academy).

The paper reading sections were divided into several parallel sessions and about 70 participants presented their papers. Special attention was paid to interdisciplinary research, as well as the teaching of Russian language and literature in India and the teaching of Hindi in Russia. In addition to well-known scholars and teachers in their respective fields, the conference was attended by many young graduate students and scholars, for whom it was a unique opportunity to enrich themselves with useful knowledge and gain new experience.

Representatives of the Russian publishing houses 'Russian language Courses' and 'Zlatoust' organized an exhibition cum sale of books and textbooks on the Russian language and culture, which attracted the attention of the participants and students. Another counter exhibited books and journals with publications of the teachers of the Russian section of the Department as well as M Phil and Ph D dissertations.

This significant occasion - the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Russian language Department at the University of Delhi and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia served as an impetus for the publishing house Goyal Publishers & Distributors, which specializes in publishing textbooks of foreign languages, including Russian, to announce a scholarship for a young Indian teacher of Russian language to go to Russia to pursue an advanced course in teacher training.

The cultural fare for the participants included a BharataNatyam performance by dancer Padmasri Gita Chandran with her NatyaVriksha ensemble who enthralled the foreign delegates with classical numbers as well as dances set to the music of the famous Russian composer P.I Tchaikovsky. The next day, on 23rd February, at the Russian Center for Science and Culture, the delegates were treated to another breathtaking musical program – a piano recital by Prof. G.N. Trofimova, a Professor at the Peoples' Friendship University and an Honored Worker of Culture of the Russian Federation. This was followed by rendition of Russian songs by poet-songwriter Dr. Mikhail Zagot, literary translator, Associate Professor of Moscow State Linguistic University.

The Conference concluded with a gala banquet for all the participants hosted by H.E. Mr. N. R. Kudashev, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation. The conference veritably demonstrated the special nature of relations between the two countries, which are distinguished by warm, mutual understanding, and would certainly encourage further academic and cultural cooperation.















