

Distinguished Lecture Series

Lecture by Prof (Dr.) Projit Kumar Palit

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Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India



Prof (Dr.) Projit Kumar Palit addressing the students and the faculty members

The 25th Lecture of Distinguished Lecture Series was organised by Dev Sangha Institute of Professional Studies and Educational Research, Deoghar on 27th June 2024, on the topic “**Traditional Knowledge System and Heritage History in India: A Judgement**”, Prof (Dr.) Projit Kumar Palit, Professor & Director Centre for Indo-logical Studies, Deptt. of History, Jodunath Sarkar School of Social Sciences, Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India

Prof (Dr.) Projit Kumar Palit began his lecture with the comparative analysis of the ancient knowledge system of Greek and India. He elaborated that western archaeologist presented a biased view of the ancient Indian knowledge system and supporting the grandeur ancient Greek Civilization but through the Indian archaeological sites he proved the worth of ancient Knowledge system reflected through different archaeological sites like Mohenzodaro, Harappa, Lothal, Nalanda etc. through his lecture he proved that ancient Indian people were better architect, business strategist, and Rulers. They were the better administrators and town planners and farmers. They were aware about the environment and natural calamities and they prepare themselves to face those calamities successfully. For instance, ancient people constructed reservoir with the help of breaks in the form of ponds, wells, Bauries etc. They were good tradesman and buy-sell their goods by exchanging currencies. They used Seals for different purposes like trade, administration, tax collections etc. They developed Standard weights and measures based on ratio of 1/16th.

The bricks used in construction were either sun-dried or baked, and their dimensions were off a standardized ratio. Brick's length was 4 times its height, while its breadth was 2 times its height. Such bricks were used at all the settlements of the Harappan Civilization. Bricks were made in such a way that they have lasted for thousands of years. They were laid in an “interlocking pattern”, intersecting at right angles, which made the walls strong. About a hundred and fifty years ago, the majority of the bricks were taken away by engineers.

Further he describes Vedic knowledge system and importance of values and ethics in ancient India. Right from the Vedic age it has been discovered two basic universal truths of life - 1. Divinity of all souls. 2. Universe of all life. The interrelation of Body, Mind and Soul was reflected through different scriptures like **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**, the two great epics of India. Whether it is literature – both Sanskrit and vernacular arts, crafts, painting, music, dance, and drama, or temple motifs, no aspect of Indian culture has escaped the stamp of their influence. The simple village folk who shed tears while listening to the ballads on the banishment of Sita or the highly skilled artisans working on the temple motifs depicting the Kuruksetra war, are both responding to a dynamic and continue culture of these epics.

The lecture was highly informative as well as interactive as it was in face to face mode, and was attended by Teachers and Students and intellectuals of Management Body of Dev Sangha Institute of Professional Studies and Educational Research. The programme was anchored by Smt. Sneha Rani Assistant Professor. The programme was successfully coordinated by Shri Kumud Ranjan Jha, Coordinator, DLS Programme.