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Completion Report of the 2nd Two-Day International Conference on

Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland



Organized by:

**Department of English & Centre for Scottish Studies, Swami Vivekananda
University**

Conference Dates: 20–21 February, 2026

Mode: Blended

**Venue: Swami Vivekananda University, Telinipara, Barrackpore–Barasat Road, West
Bengal**

Introduction

The Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University organised the 2nd International Conference titled “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*” on 20–21 February 2026. The conference aimed to explore the cultural, literary, and historical significance of myths, folklore, and landscapes in shaping Scottish cultural identity and collective memory.

The event sought to examine how traditional narratives, legends, and oral storytelling practices interact with geographical landscapes to influence cultural imagination and national identity. By focusing on the relationship between folklore traditions and ecological environments, the conference encouraged scholars to analyze how landscapes contribute to the formation of mythic narratives and historical consciousness.

Scholars, researchers, and students from various institutions participated in the conference and engaged in discussions related to Scottish folklore, mythic landscapes, cultural memory, ecological imagination, and comparative folklore traditions. The conference provided an important platform for academic dialogue and interdisciplinary exchange, highlighting the relevance of folklore studies in understanding cultural history, identity formation, and literary traditions.

Mission

The mission of the International Conference on “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*”, organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University, was to establish a dynamic interdisciplinary platform for scholars, researchers, and students to engage in critical discussions on the complex relationship between myths, folklore, landscapes, and cultural identity. The conference aimed to bring together academics from diverse fields to explore how mythic narratives and folklore traditions influence cultural imagination, historical consciousness, and social identity within the Scottish context and beyond.

One of the central objectives of the conference was to investigate the ways in which myths, legends, and oral storytelling traditions contribute to the formation of national consciousness and cultural memory. Folklore traditions often serve as repositories of collective experiences and shared values,

preserving the historical and cultural heritage of communities across generations. By examining these narratives, scholars sought to understand how mythic traditions function not only as literary and cultural expressions but also as important tools for interpreting social history and collective identity.

The conference also focused on the significant role of landscapes in shaping folklore traditions. In many cultural contexts, geographical environments such as mountains, forests, rivers, and coastal regions become integral elements of mythological narratives. These natural landscapes often provide symbolic settings for legendary events and mythical figures, thereby influencing the way stories are constructed and remembered within communities. Through interdisciplinary discussions, the conference aimed to explore how ecological settings and natural environments shape storytelling traditions and cultural imagination.

Another important aspect of the conference mission was to encourage scholarly dialogue across multiple academic disciplines, including literature, folklore studies, cultural studies, history, and environmental humanities. By bringing together experts from these diverse fields, the conference promoted a holistic approach to folklore research. Participants examined myths and legends not only as narrative traditions but also as cultural texts that reflect social values, historical transformations, and ecological awareness.

Through keynote lectures, plenary sessions, and technical paper presentations, the conference explored the intersections of folklore, environment, national identity, and historical interactions between India and Scotland. These discussions highlighted the importance of comparative cultural studies in understanding how folklore traditions evolve through cultural exchange and historical contact. By examining the connections between Scottish and Indian storytelling traditions, scholars were able to identify shared narrative patterns and cultural themes that transcend geographical boundaries.

The conference also aimed to emphasize the enduring relevance of mythic traditions in contemporary cultural discourse. In an era of rapid globalization and technological advancement, traditional narratives continue to play an important role in shaping cultural identity and collective memory. By analyzing folklore within modern academic frameworks, the conference sought to demonstrate how myths and legends remain vital sources of cultural knowledge and artistic inspiration.

Furthermore, the conference intended to provide a supportive platform for young researchers and students to present their research and engage with established scholars. By encouraging active participation from emerging academics, the event contributed to the development of new perspectives and innovative research approaches within the field of folklore studies.

Overall, the mission of the conference was to foster meaningful academic dialogue and interdisciplinary collaboration in the study of myths, folklore, and landscapes. By bringing together scholars from different intellectual traditions and cultural backgrounds, the conference sought to deepen understanding of how storytelling traditions shape cultural identities, historical narratives, and collective imagination across societies.

Vision

The vision of the International Conference on “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*”, organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University, was to deepen global academic engagement with Scottish cultural studies by examining myths, folklore, and landscapes as dynamic and evolving forces in the formation of national and cultural identities. The conference aimed to provide an intellectual platform where scholars from diverse academic backgrounds could explore how folklore traditions shape social narratives, historical memory, and cultural imagination.

One of the central aspects of the conference vision was to encourage critical scholarly reflection on the role of myths and folklore in the construction of cultural identity. Folklore traditions often serve as repositories of collective memory, preserving the beliefs, values, and experiences of communities across generations. Through legends, myths, and oral storytelling practices, societies articulate their understanding of history, nature, and social relationships. The conference therefore sought to examine how these narrative traditions contribute to the development of cultural consciousness and national identity.

Another important dimension of the conference vision was to explore the relationship between folklore and ecological awareness. Landscapes frequently function as symbolic and narrative spaces within folklore traditions. Mountains, rivers, forests, and rural environments often become integral elements of mythic storytelling, shaping the cultural imagination of communities. By examining the connections between landscape and narrative traditions, the conference aimed to highlight the role of folklore in promoting ecological consciousness and environmental awareness.

The conference also envisioned creating an academic space where scholars could engage in comparative cultural studies, particularly by examining the connections between Scottish and Indian folklore traditions. Although these two regions belong to distinct cultural and historical contexts, they share rich storytelling traditions that reflect their respective landscapes, histories, and cultural identities. Through comparative analysis, the conference encouraged participants to explore the similarities and differences in narrative structures, mythological motifs, and cultural themes present in both traditions.

Furthermore, the conference sought to strengthen international academic collaboration by bringing together scholars from different countries and research institutions. By fostering dialogue among academics working in fields such as literature, folklore studies, cultural studies, history, and environmental humanities, the conference aimed to promote interdisciplinary approaches to folklore research.

Ultimately, the vision of the conference was to encourage future research on folklore, cultural identity, and environmental narratives. By highlighting the significance of myths and folklore within broader cultural and historical contexts, the conference sought to inspire scholars and students to pursue innovative research that examines the complex relationships between storytelling traditions, landscapes, and cultural memory.

Concept Note

Myths and folklore have long played a significant role in shaping the cultural identity and imaginative landscape of societies. Through oral storytelling traditions, legends, and mythological narratives, communities preserve their historical experiences, moral values, and cultural beliefs. These narratives often function as powerful cultural tools that help individuals and communities interpret their past, understand their present, and envision their future. In many societies, folklore traditions provide a framework through which people make sense of their relationship with the natural world and their surrounding environments.

Scotland possesses a particularly rich tradition of myths, legends, and folklore narratives that are deeply connected with its geographical landscapes. From the rugged Highlands and mist-covered mountains to rivers, forests, and coastal regions, the Scottish landscape has inspired countless myths and legends that continue to shape the nation's cultural imagination. These mythic narratives often reflect the historical, ecological, and social experiences of the Scottish people, creating a unique cultural heritage that has influenced literature, art, and historical discourse.

Scholars have frequently observed that folklore and landscape are closely interconnected. Natural environments often serve as symbolic settings where mythological events occur and where legendary figures interact with the human world. In many cases, specific geographical locations become associated with particular myths or historical legends, transforming landscapes into cultural and narrative spaces. This relationship between landscape and folklore demonstrates how storytelling traditions are shaped not only by cultural beliefs but also by the physical environments in which communities live.

The conference therefore sought to explore the complex relationship between myths, folklore, landscapes, and historical narratives within the Scottish cultural context. By bringing together scholars from different academic disciplines, the event encouraged participants to examine folklore from multiple perspectives, including literary analysis, cultural history, ecological studies, and comparative mythology.

Several important thematic areas were addressed during the conference. These included the study of Gaelic myths and storytelling traditions, the role of ecological imagination in folklore narratives, and the representation of landscapes in literature and cartography. Scholars also examined the relationship between legends and nationhood, exploring how mythic narratives contribute to the formation of national identity and cultural consciousness.

Another important theme of the conference was the examination of Scottish folklore within colonial and postcolonial contexts. The historical interactions between Scotland and India during the colonial period created opportunities for cultural exchange and intellectual engagement. Through these interactions, myths, narratives, and cultural knowledge circulated between the two regions, influencing literary traditions and cultural understanding in complex ways.

The conference therefore emphasized the importance of exploring the cultural connections between Scotland and India. By analyzing the similarities and differences between Scottish and Indian folklore traditions, scholars were able to identify shared narrative patterns and cultural themes that transcend geographical boundaries. These comparative perspectives provided valuable insights into the ways in which different societies interpret their landscapes, histories, and cultural identities.

Ultimately, the conference encouraged scholars to rethink folklore not merely as traditional storytelling but as a powerful medium for understanding identity, memory, and cultural history. By examining myths and legends within broader cultural, historical, and environmental contexts, the conference demonstrated how folklore continues to influence contemporary cultural discourse and academic research.

Through interdisciplinary dialogue and collaborative research, the conference contributed to a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of myths and folklore in shaping societies across the world. It also reaffirmed the importance of preserving and studying folklore traditions as vital components of cultural heritage and intellectual history.

Speaker Details:



Bashabi Fraser is the Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing and Director of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs) at Edinburgh Napier University. She has received the UK-India Educational Research Initiatives (UKIERI) grant for a Knowledge Transfer programme with Visva-Bharati (Tagore's university) in Tagore Studies. Prof. Fraser specializes in Postcolonial Literature and Theory, Tagore Studies, Personal Narratives and Creative Practice. Her research and writing reflect her interest in transnationalism and diaspora as she explores the intermeshings of culture and identity, dislocation and relocation, belonging and otherness, memory and nostalgia and conflicts and freedoms.

Having taught in Calcutta University and Rabindra Bharati University in India, Prof. Fraser moved to Britain where she had done research and published and taught at The Open University in Scotland and the West Midlands and Edinburgh University, before she joined Edinburgh Napier University's English Subject Group as a permanent member of staff.

She is an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for South Asian Studies at Edinburgh University working on collaborative research projects and teaching Postcolonial Literature in inter-disciplinary courses. Prof. Fraser is also a Royal Literary fellow, based at the University of Dundee.



Prof Dr. Neil Fraser Neil Fraser is retired from being Senior Lecturer, School of Social and Political Studies, University of Edinburgh. He has published several academic books and articles and is the author of ‘Social Security through Guaranteed Employment, India’s National Rural Employment Guarantee Act’ Social Policy and Administration, Nov. 2015 and a contributor and advisor to A Confluence of Minds The Rabindranath Tagore and Patrick Geddes Reader on Education and Environment (Edinburgh: Luath Press, 2018).



Prof. Alan Riach (b.1957) Poet and Professor of Scottish Literature, Glasgow University. Born in Airdrie, Lanarkshire, studied at the Universities of Cambridge and Glasgow, worked at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, 1986-2000, returned to Scotland 2001. Books include poetry: The MacDiarmid Memorandum (2023), The Winter Book (2017), Wild Blue: Selected Poems (2014) and Homecoming (2009); and criticism: Hugh MacDiarmid’s Epic Poetry (1991), Representing Scotland (2005), and co-authored with Alexander Moffat, Arts of Resistance: Poets, Portraits and Landscapes of Modern Scotland (2008), described in the Times Literary Supplement as ‘a landmark book’, and Arts of Independence: The Cultural Argument and Why It Matters Most (2014). His 734-page Scottish Literature: An Introduction (2022) was described in The Times as ‘magisterial’.



Dr Saptarshi Mallick is an Assistant Professor at the Department of American Studies (Research Area for American Literary and Cultural History with a Focus on (Trans-)Nationality and Space), University of Graz, Austria. His recent publications are *Connecting Spaces: The Travelogues and Letters of Lady Abala Bose* (Routledge, 2024; monograph) and *Finding Philosophers in Global Fiction: Redefining the Philosopher in Multi-cultural Contexts* (Bloomsbury, 2024; edited anthology). He is an Associate Editor of *Gitanjali and Beyond*, the online, peer reviewed international journal of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs), Edinburgh.



Dr Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee works on the ideas/problems of how one sees the nation, concept of a nation, and theoretical ideas on nationalism. Her focus areas of research are postcolonial theories through particular histories of colonial empire in India and literary works, Intellectual debates among early 20th century Indian thinkers, Rabindranath Tagore, South Asian Studies. She is currently an Assistant Professor at South Asian University, New Delhi.



Dr. Kaberi Chatterjee is Associate Professor of English at Scottish Church College, Kolkata, with over thirty-four years of teaching experience at the undergraduate level and prior postgraduate teaching experience at the University of Calcutta. She completed her B.A. (Hons) at Presidency College, Kolkata, her M.A. from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and her M.Phil. and Ph.D. from the University of Calcutta.

Her research interests include American Literature, African American Women's Writing, Gender Studies, Indian Writing in English, and Scottish missionary activity and education in colonial Bengal. She has published widely on feminism, transnational literary dialogues, and Scoto-Indian cultural interrelationships, with recent contributions to volumes published by Routledge and Luath Press.

Dr. Chatterjee has presented papers at international conferences in the USA, UK, and Poland, including the American Literature Association and NeMLA conventions. She serves on academic boards and editorial committees and has been actively involved in research initiatives supported by the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.



Dr. Nandini Sen (social anthropologist) is an Edinburgh based author who performs and reads her own poems and creative writings in different local and international poetry platforms (The Loud Poets, and Rock the Boat Out- Edinburgh International Book Festival and University of Edinburgh). She is part of the local authors based Citizen Project Group, Edinburgh and many other community-based groups where they collaboratively write and influence writing for different age groups. Nandini's poems, and non-fictions are published by various international academic journals and literary magazines like Scottish Poetry Library and Scottish Book Trust.



Dr. Amrit Sen is presently Professor, former Head of the Department of English and former Officiating Director of Granthana Vibhaga (Publishing Department) at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan. Interested in Eighteenth century Studies, Travel Writing, Tagore Studies and the History of Science, he has won the outstanding research award for his doctoral dissertation, “The Narcissistic Mode: Metafiction as a Strategy in *Moll Flanders*, *Tom Jones* and *Tristram Shandy*,” published by Worldview in 2007. He has been awarded the UGC Research Award for his project titled “The Self and the world in Tagore's Travel Writings”. His major publications include *The Narcissistic Mode: Moll Flanders, Tom Jones and Tristram Shandy* (Worldview, 2007), *Gitanjali: The Centenary Edition* (, Visva-Bharati, 2012), *Rathindranath Tagore: The Unsung Hero* (Visva-Bharati, 2013), *Rabindranath Tagore and His Circle* (Visva-Bharati, 2015), *Rabindra Balaye Biddadjan* (Visva-Bharati, 2016) *Sharing the Dream: The Remarkable Women of Santiniketan* (Visva-Bharati, 2016) and *The Scottish Enlightenment and the Bengal Renaissance: The Continuum of Ideas* (Luath Press, Scotland, 2017). He has also edited the special issues on Rabindranath Tagore for *Muse India* and *Rupkatha* and a volume of essays on *The River in Indian Literature* (2014). He was Joint Coordinator of the UGC-UKIERI project on “The Scotland-India Continuum: Tagore and His Circle” and the Deputy Coordinator of the UGC-SAP Project on “Rabindranath Tagore: The East-West Confluence” at the Department of English.

Among his major awards, he has won the Outstanding Thesis Award by the Government of India, the Research Award by the UGC, the Oxford Eighteenth Century Bursary and a host of academic recognitions. He has travelled extensively as Project Coordinator for the UKIERI award to Edinburgh, Scotland, as invited speaker to the University of Oxford and Twickenham, Tongji University, Shanghai China, Sri Lanka and has also delivered the Tagore Memorial Lectures at the Rabindranath Tagore Institute at Mauritius, Tagore Centre, Cairo and Casa de la India, Valladolid.

Seminar Report on the International Conference

Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland

The two-day International Conference on “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*” was organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University and held on 20th and 21st February 2026. The conference aimed to provide an academic platform for scholars, researchers, and students to engage in meaningful discussions on the cultural significance of myths, folklore traditions, and landscapes in shaping social identities and historical narratives.

Folklore and mythology form an integral part of the cultural heritage of any society. Through stories, legends, oral traditions, and mythic narratives, communities preserve their historical experiences, belief systems, and collective memories. These narratives often reflect the relationship between people and their surrounding environment, demonstrating how landscapes influence cultural imagination and storytelling traditions. The theme of this conference focused particularly on the Scottish cultural context, where myths and folklore have historically been intertwined with geographical landscapes such as mountains, rivers, forests, and rural terrains.

The conference brought together distinguished scholars, academics, and students from different institutions who shared their insights on Scottish folklore, ecological imagination, cultural memory, and comparative folklore studies. The event encouraged interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars working in literature, cultural studies, history, folklore studies, and environmental humanities. By examining folklore traditions from both local and global perspectives, the conference created an intellectually stimulating environment for scholarly exchange and collaborative learning.

Through keynote lectures, plenary sessions, technical paper presentations, and interactive discussions, the conference explored how myths and folklore function as cultural narratives that shape collective identity and preserve historical knowledge. The event also highlighted the importance of comparative studies, particularly the connections between Scottish folklore traditions and those found in other cultural contexts such as India.

Day 1: 20th February 2026

The first day of the conference began with a breakfast session from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. This informal gathering provided participants with an opportunity to interact with one another and establish academic connections before the formal proceedings commenced. Scholars, faculty members, and students engaged in preliminary discussions about their research interests and expectations from the conference.

The inaugural ceremony started at 11:30 AM and officially marked the beginning of the conference. During the inauguration, the organizers welcomed all the distinguished speakers, guests, and participants. The session emphasized the significance of the conference theme and highlighted the growing importance of folklore studies within the broader field of cultural and literary research. The inauguration created an enthusiastic and intellectually vibrant atmosphere that set the tone for the sessions that followed.

The first keynote address was delivered by Bashabi Fraser, a distinguished scholar of Scottish literature and cultural studies. Her lecture offered valuable insights into the role of folklore and mythology in shaping Scottish national identity. She discussed how traditional narratives and oral

histories contribute to the preservation of cultural memory and the construction of national imagination. According to her, folklore acts as a living cultural archive that records the collective experiences of communities. She also emphasized that myths and legends often serve as symbolic representations of social values, cultural beliefs, and historical transformations. Her lecture highlighted the continuing relevance of folklore traditions in contemporary cultural discourse.

The second keynote address was delivered by Alan Riach, who explored the relationship between literature, folklore, and cultural identity in Scotland. His lecture emphasized that myths and legends function not only as imaginative narratives but also as important cultural texts that preserve historical experiences and communal values. He explained how Scottish literary traditions have been deeply influenced by folklore narratives and mythological motifs. By examining the works of various Scottish writers, he demonstrated how literature often draws upon folklore to represent cultural identity and national consciousness. His presentation highlighted the role of storytelling traditions in shaping literary creativity and cultural continuity.

Following the keynote sessions, Neil Fraser delivered a plenary address focusing on the interaction between folklore and landscape in Scotland. His lecture highlighted the ecological and geographical dimensions of Scottish mythic traditions and their influence on literary and cultural narratives. He discussed how specific landscapes such as mountains, valleys, rivers, and coastal regions frequently appear in Scottish myths and legends. According to him, landscapes play a crucial role in shaping cultural imagination, as natural environments often become symbolic spaces where mythological events unfold. His lecture demonstrated how folklore narratives are closely connected to ecological awareness and environmental understanding.

Another important plenary session was delivered by Saptarshi Mallick, who examined the role of folklore in shaping cultural narratives and historical memory. His presentation provided a

comparative perspective on folklore traditions, highlighting similarities between Scottish myths and those found in other cultural contexts. He discussed how folklore traditions across cultures share common narrative structures, symbolic motifs, and moral themes. By drawing comparisons between Scottish and Indian storytelling traditions, he illustrated how folklore functions as a universal cultural expression while also reflecting local cultural identities.

The first day of the conference concluded with a technical session in which scholars and students presented research papers on various aspects of Scottish folklore and cultural traditions. These presentations provided an opportunity for emerging researchers to share their work and receive feedback from experienced academics.

Among the papers presented, **Anasuya Guha** (Assistant Professor from NSHM Knowledge Campus) and **Sayantani Sengupta** (Assistant Professor from NSHM Knowledge Campus) discussed “*The Ecological Echoes of Scottish Folklore in Global Preservation.*” Their presentation explored how traditional folklore reflects ecological knowledge and environmental awareness. They argued that many folklore narratives contain symbolic representations of environmental ethics and sustainable relationships between humans and nature. Their research demonstrated how folklore can contribute to contemporary discussions on environmental preservation and ecological consciousness.

Another paper was presented by **Atanu Kumar Roy**, a student of M.A. Semester II at Swami Vivekananda University. His paper titled “*The Northern Merlin: Lailoken and the Triple Death in Scotland’s Caledonian Landscape*” analyzed mythic figures and their connection with Scottish landscapes. He examined the legend of Lailoken and the concept of the “triple death,” exploring how mythological narratives often intertwine with geographical locations and cultural beliefs.

Shaheli Nag a student of M.A. Semester II at Swami Vivekananda University also presented a paper titled “*Legends as Cultural Archives: Remembering Scotland through Folklore in an Indian Comparative Frame.*” Her presentation explored how folklore acts as a repository of cultural memory. By adopting a comparative framework, she examined similarities between Scottish folklore traditions and Indian storytelling practices. Her research highlighted how legends and myths function as cultural archives that preserve historical experiences, social values, and collective identities.

The discussions that followed the technical session created a vibrant exchange of ideas among participants. Scholars engaged in thoughtful debates on the interpretation of folklore narratives, the role of mythology in shaping cultural identity, and the significance of landscape in storytelling traditions. The interactive nature of the session encouraged participants to explore new research perspectives and interdisciplinary approaches.

Day 2: 21st February 2026

The second day of the conference began with breakfast at 10:30 AM, providing participants with an opportunity to continue their informal interactions and academic discussions. The day’s programme included a series of plenary lectures and special addresses that further expanded upon the themes introduced during the first day.

The first plenary lecture was delivered by Kaberi Chatterjee, who explored the intersections between folklore narratives and cultural identity formation. Her lecture emphasized that myths and

legends play a significant role in shaping the collective consciousness of communities. She explained how folklore narratives often reflect social values, ethical beliefs, and historical experiences. By analyzing various folklore traditions, she demonstrated how storytelling practices contribute to the construction of cultural identity and social cohesion.

The second plenary lecture was presented by Payel C. Mukherjee, who discussed the role of mythic narratives in shaping literary traditions and cultural memory. Her presentation examined how myths and legends have influenced literary works across different historical periods. She highlighted the ways in which writers reinterpret traditional narratives to address contemporary social and cultural issues. Her lecture demonstrated the continuing relevance of mythological motifs within modern literary discourse.

The conference also featured a special address by Nandini Sen, who offered valuable insights into Scottish literature, folklore, and their global cultural significance. She emphasized the importance of studying folklore within a broader transnational and comparative framework. Her lecture highlighted how Scottish folklore traditions have influenced literary and cultural studies beyond Scotland, contributing to global academic discourse.

The valedictory address was delivered by Amrit Sen, who summarized the key discussions that took place during the conference. He reflected on the major themes explored throughout the sessions, including folklore traditions, ecological landscapes, cultural memory, and interdisciplinary research approaches. He emphasized the importance of continued scholarly engagement with folklore studies and highlighted the need for further comparative research across cultures.

The conference concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Rituparna Chakraborty, Deputy Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies. In her address, she expressed sincere gratitude to all the keynote speakers, plenary presenters, research scholars, and participants who contributed to the success of the conference. She also acknowledged the efforts of the organizing committee, faculty members, and student volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth conduct of the event.



Fig 1: The conference commenced with an inaugural song performed by the special guests.

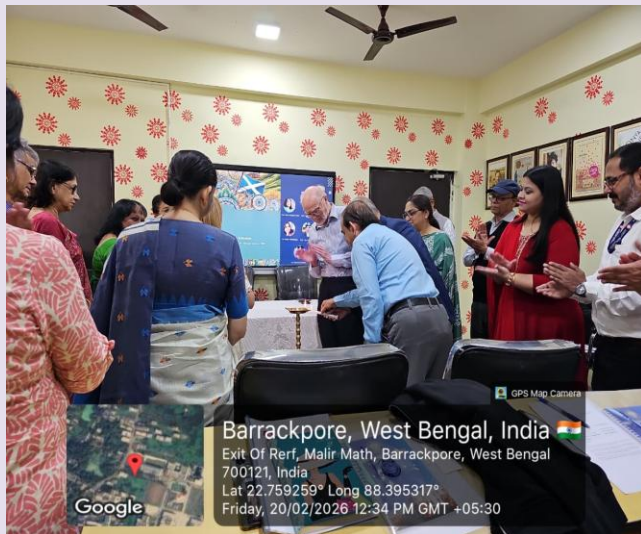


Fig 2: The inauguration ceremony was marked by the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the distinguished guests.

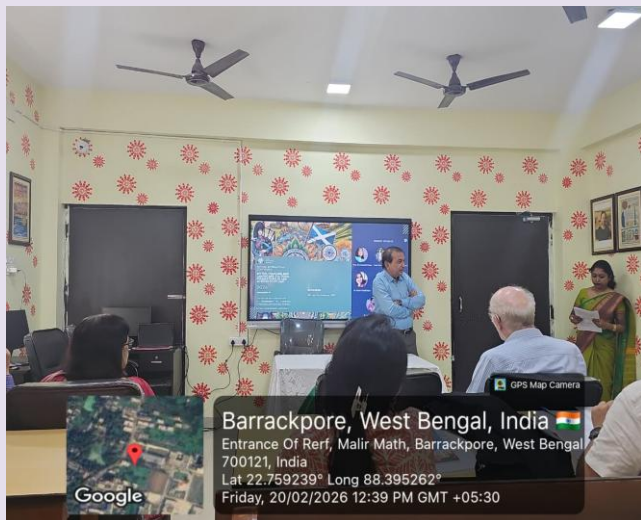


Fig 3: The conference began with an inaugural address by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Subrata Kumar Dey.



Fig 4: The conference honoured Prof. Bashabi Fraser with a felicitation ceremony in recognition of her academic contributions



Fig 5: The conference honoured Prof. Kaberi Chatterjee with a felicitation ceremony in recognition of her academic contributions.



Fig 6: Prof. Deb Narayan Bandhopadhyay addressing the gathering during the conference.



Fig 7: Dr. Payel C. Mukherjee delivering her special address during the conference.



Fig 8: Dr. Saptarshi Mallick delivering his special address during the conference.



Fig 9: Prof. Bashabi Fraser delivering her keynote address during the conference.



Fig 10: Prof. Neil Fraser felicitating Dr. Payel C. Mukherjee



Fig 11: Dr. Pramiti Roy addressing the gathering during the conference.

Few glimpses of the **Two-Day International Conference on “Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland”**

Programme Outcome

The two-day International Conference on “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*”, organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University, produced several significant academic outcomes. Through keynote lectures, plenary discussions, and technical paper presentations, the conference created a productive environment for intellectual exchange and scholarly engagement. The event contributed meaningfully to the advancement of folklore studies, cultural research, and interdisciplinary academic dialogue.

1. Interdisciplinary Dialogue

One of the most important outcomes of the conference was the promotion of interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars and researchers from diverse academic backgrounds. The conference brought together experts in literature, folklore studies, cultural studies, history, and environmental humanities. Through various sessions and discussions, participants explored how myths and folklore intersect with other fields of study such as ecological studies, cultural memory, and historical narratives.

The interdisciplinary nature of the conference encouraged participants to examine folklore not merely as a form of storytelling but as an important cultural and intellectual resource. By integrating perspectives from different academic disciplines, scholars were able to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the role of folklore in shaping social and cultural identities.

2. New Perspectives on Folklore Studies

Another significant outcome of the conference was the exploration of innovative perspectives in folklore studies. The presentations and discussions emphasized that folklore should be studied not only as a traditional narrative form but also as a dynamic cultural phenomenon that reflects social, historical, and environmental realities.

Several scholars examined the relationship between myths, landscapes, and ecological consciousness. They demonstrated how folklore narratives often contain symbolic representations of natural environments and ecological knowledge. By analyzing these connections, the conference encouraged new approaches to understanding folklore within the broader framework of environmental humanities and cultural ecology.

The discussions also highlighted the evolving role of folklore in contemporary society. Scholars emphasized that traditional narratives continue to influence modern literature, cultural identity, and artistic expression, thereby reaffirming the continuing relevance of folklore in the modern world.

3. Strengthening India–Scotland Academic Connections

The conference also played an important role in strengthening academic and cultural connections

between India and Scotland. By focusing on Scottish myths and folklore within a global context, the conference encouraged comparative discussions between Scottish storytelling traditions and those found in other cultures, particularly India.

These discussions revealed several similarities in narrative structures, mythological motifs, and cultural themes present in both traditions. Scholars highlighted how folklore from different regions often reflects shared human experiences and universal cultural values. Such comparative perspectives opened new avenues for collaborative research and international academic partnerships between institutions in India and Scotland.

The conference therefore contributed to the development of cross-cultural academic dialogue, fostering greater understanding of the historical and cultural connections that exist between different literary traditions.

4. Encouraging Young Researchers

Another important achievement of the conference was the encouragement and support provided to young researchers and students. The technical sessions offered emerging scholars an opportunity to present their research work in a formal academic setting. This platform allowed students to share their ideas, receive constructive feedback from experienced scholars, and engage in meaningful academic discussions.

For many students and early-career researchers, the conference served as an important learning experience. It provided them with exposure to contemporary research trends in folklore studies and cultural research. Interaction with established academics also helped them develop critical thinking skills and encouraged them to pursue further research in the field.

By promoting the participation of young scholars, the conference played a vital role in nurturing the next generation of researchers in literary and cultural studies.

5. Promoting Cultural Studies Research

The conference also contributed significantly to the promotion of cultural studies research within academic institutions. By focusing on the themes of myths, folklore, and landscapes, the event highlighted the importance of studying cultural narratives within broader historical and social contexts.

The discussions emphasized that folklore traditions are not merely relics of the past but active components of contemporary cultural identity. Through scholarly analysis, participants explored how folklore continues to shape literary traditions, social values, and collective memory.

Furthermore, the conference strengthened the academic profile of the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University by establishing it as an important hub for research in Scottish literature and cultural studies. The event demonstrated the growing interest in Scottish studies within Indian academia and encouraged further research collaborations in this field.

Overall, the conference successfully promoted academic engagement with folklore studies and cultural research, contributing to the expansion of knowledge in these interdisciplinary fields.

Budget Report for the International Conference on

Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland

Outflow of Money

1. Travel Allowance

- Flight Tickets for Speakers: ₹ 1,82,000
- Local Transportation (Car Rent): ₹4,040

Total Travel Allowance: ₹1,86,040

2. Conference Fooding

- Conference Day 1: ₹600 per plate per day × 40 guests = ₹24,000
- Conference Day 2: ₹600 per plate per day × 40 guests = ₹24,000

Total Fooding Cost: ₹48,000

Total Outflow

- Travel Allowance: ₹1,86,040
- Conference Fooding: ₹48,000

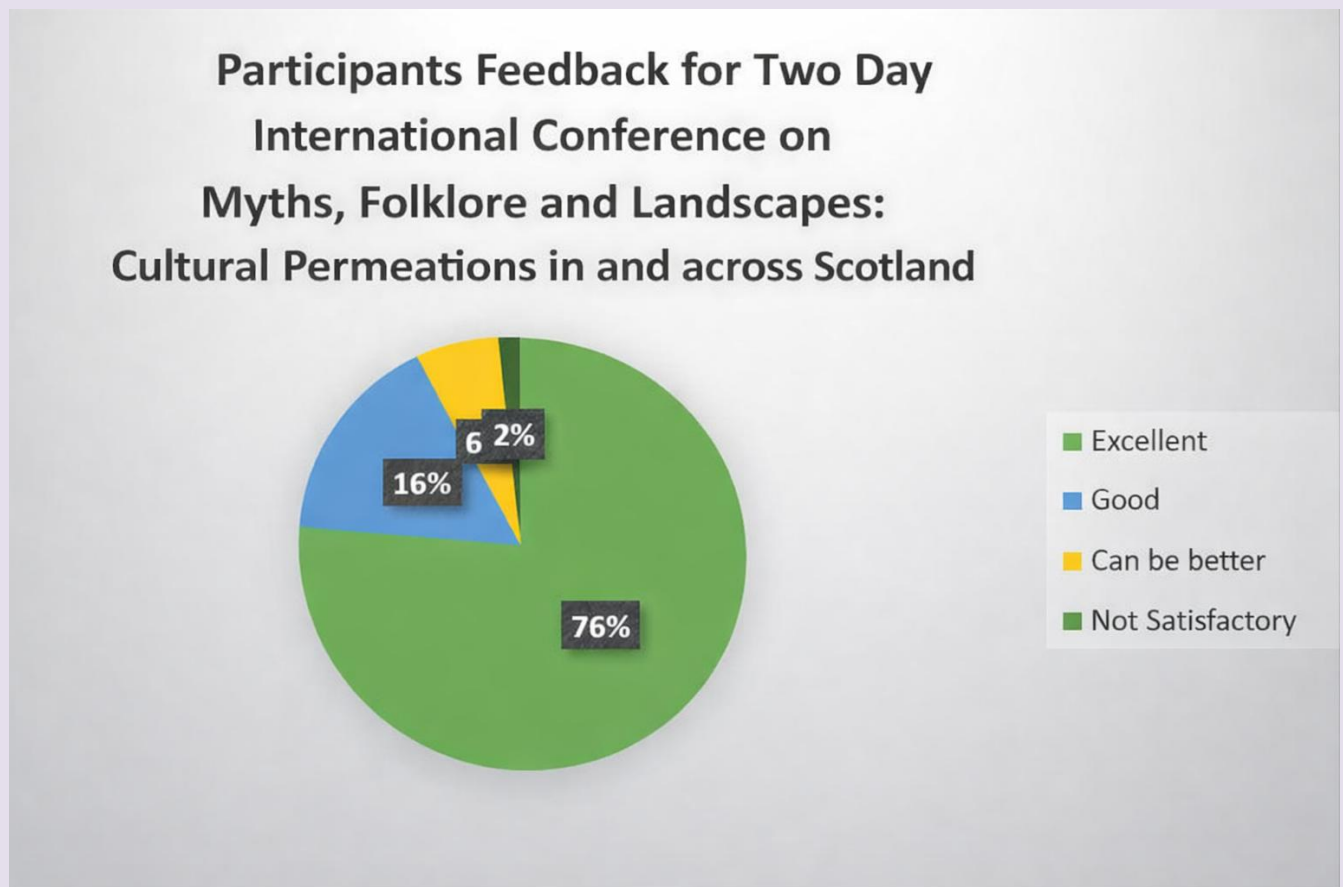
Grand Total: ₹2,34,040

Paper Submission and Publication:

Total number of papers submitted for publication: 79 (from students, research scholars and faculty members)

The papers were published in various International Peer Reviewed Journals.

Feedback:



Index:

- Excellent
- Good
- Could be better
- Not Satisfactory

Certificate for the Participants:



Key Takeaways from the Conference

The two-day international conference provided valuable academic insights and intellectual discussions that enriched the understanding of folklore, mythology, and landscape studies. Several important themes and ideas emerged from the keynote lectures, plenary sessions, and technical presentations. The key takeaways from the conference are summarized below.

1. Folklore as a Cultural Archive

One of the most significant insights from the conference was the understanding of folklore as a repository of cultural memory. Myths, legends, and oral narratives preserve historical experiences, social values, and collective beliefs of communities. Scholars emphasized that folklore functions as an archive of cultural knowledge that helps societies interpret their past and maintain continuity with their traditions.

2. The Importance of Landscape in Narrative Traditions

Another important takeaway from the conference was the recognition of the deep connection between landscape and storytelling. Many Scottish myths and legends are closely linked to specific geographical locations such as mountains, forests, lakes, and islands.

These landscapes are not merely physical settings but also symbolic spaces that shape cultural imagination and narrative meaning.

3. Ecological Perspectives in Folklore Studies

Several presentations highlighted the ecological dimensions of folklore. Traditional narratives often reflect environmental awareness and knowledge about nature. Scholars discussed how folklore can contribute to contemporary environmental discussions by providing insights into sustainable relationships between human communities and the natural world.

4. Comparative Folklore Studies between Scotland and India

The conference also revealed interesting parallels between Scottish and Indian folklore traditions. Through comparative analysis, scholars demonstrated how different cultures develop similar mythic structures and narrative motifs. These comparisons highlighted the universality of storytelling while also revealing unique cultural expressions shaped by local histories and landscapes.

5. Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cultural Studies

The discussions during the conference reinforced the importance of interdisciplinary research in understanding myths and folklore. Scholars emphasized that combining perspectives from literature, history, anthropology, environmental studies, and cultural studies allows for a more comprehensive understanding of folklore traditions and their social significance.

6. Strengthening Academic Networks

The conference successfully created a platform for collaboration among scholars from various institutions. The exchange of ideas during panel discussions and informal interactions contributed to the development of new academic connections and potential future research collaborations.

7. Encouraging Future Research

Finally, the conference inspired participants to pursue further research on folklore, mythology, and landscape studies. The presentations demonstrated the relevance of these topics in understanding cultural identity, historical memory, and ecological consciousness in the modern world.

Conclusion

The Two-Day International Conference on “*Myths, Folklore and Landscapes: Cultural Permeations in and across Scotland*” successfully created a vibrant academic platform for the exploration of folklore, mythology, and landscape studies. Organized by the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University, the conference brought together scholars, researchers, and students from different institutions who shared a common interest in the study of cultural narratives and literary traditions.

Through insightful keynote lectures, plenary addresses, and research presentations, the conference highlighted the significant role of myths and folklore in shaping cultural identity and historical narratives. The discussions demonstrated how storytelling traditions function as powerful cultural tools that preserve collective memory, transmit social values, and reflect the historical experiences of communities.

One of the key themes that emerged throughout the conference was the interconnectedness of landscape, ecology, and storytelling traditions. Many presentations emphasized that geographical environments often influence folklore narratives and mythological motifs. By examining these connections, scholars were able to explore the relationship between cultural imagination and natural landscapes in new and meaningful ways.

The conference also fostered meaningful academic collaboration among scholars working in diverse fields such as literature, cultural studies, folklore studies, and environmental humanities. These interdisciplinary discussions broadened the scope of folklore research and encouraged participants to adopt innovative analytical approaches.

Another important contribution of the conference was its emphasis on comparative cultural studies. By examining the similarities and differences between Scottish and Indian folklore traditions, the conference highlighted the universal nature of storytelling while also recognizing the unique cultural contexts that shape these narratives. Such comparative perspectives enriched the academic discussions and opened new possibilities for future research collaborations.

Furthermore, the conference provided valuable opportunities for students and emerging researchers to engage with leading scholars and present their research findings. This experience not only enhanced their academic confidence but also encouraged them to pursue further research in folklore and cultural studies.

Overall, the conference proved to be an intellectually enriching and academically productive event. It deepened participants’ understanding of the cultural and historical significance of myths and

folklore and demonstrated the continuing relevance of traditional narratives in contemporary cultural discourse.

By bringing together scholars from different disciplines and cultural backgrounds, the conference contributed significantly to the advancement of research in folklore studies, cultural studies, and literary studies. It also strengthened the role of the Centre for Scottish Studies at Swami Vivekananda University as a leading platform for academic dialogue and research in Scottish literature and culture.

In conclusion, the conference not only facilitated scholarly exchange but also reinforced the importance of preserving and studying folklore traditions as vital components of cultural heritage. The discussions and insights generated during the event will undoubtedly inspire future research and academic collaboration in the **field of folklore and cultural studies**.

