



जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

International Conference on

“Yeats and India”

Organised by UGC-SAP-DSA-I, Centre for English Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-India

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University of Limerick, Limerick-Ireland

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In India, in Indian literature and philosophy, W. B. Yeats discovered a rich source for his creative ideas, and a confirmation of his aesthetic and esoteric beliefs. As a postcolonial poet and thinker, critical of Western Enlightenment, modernity and attendant mercantilism, which underlined the political and cultural subjugation of Ireland, Yeats found in the *Upanishads* and other knowledge texts such as the *Yogasutras* ideas and systems that resonated with his efforts towards reviving Celtic cultural archetypes deep-rooted in his anti-colonial consciousness.

India, in W.B. Yeats's creative imagination, is a repository of philosophical symbols and mystical experiences. Yeats embarked on an Eastern journey in his early twenties, and his associations with H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophical Society and later, his esoteric experiments in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, made his mystical and philosophical pilgrimage even more intense. He realized that a vast array of literary images sprung forth from such extraordinary encounters. His early Indian poems such as “Anasuya and Vijaya” and “The Indian Upon God” offer glimpses of Yeats's later explorations of ancient Indian and Eastern knowledge systems in his poetry and plays like *Supernatural Songs* and *The Herne's Egg*, and in his introductory essays on Indian philosophy. His exploration of India and the East culminates in his magnum opus *A Vision*.

Yeats longed to visit India but could not, owing to his failing health. The Conference hopes to bring Yeats to India, 80 years after his death, through a confluence of scholars to address a wide range of issues.

Topics may include:

1. Yeats's Transnational Imagination: The East and the West in Yeats's Creative Imagination
2. Yeats's Quest for Eastern Mystical/Metaphysical Knowledge
3. Yeats's Oeuvre vis-à-vis the Rise of Western Interest in Eastern Knowledge Systems
4. Yeats's Early Indian Poems and the Theosophical Society
5. Eastern Ideas in Yeats's *A Vision*
6. An Eastern Interpretation of Yeats's Later Poetry and Plays
7. The Influence of Mohini Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore and Purohit Swami on Yeats's life and works
8. Yeats and Theosophy
9. Yeats and the Golden Dawn
10. Yeats and Buddhist Philosophy
11. Indian Philosophical Ideas as Interpreted in Yeats's Works
12. Western Scholars/Biographers on the Influence of the East on Yeats's Creative Mind
13. Yeats as a Postcolonial Writer/Thinker
14. Yeats's Influence on Indian Writers

Please send abstracts on the aforementioned topics or related themes in not more than 250-300 words, along with brief biographies to yeatsandindiaconference2019@gmail.com before January 5, 2019. The decisions of the Conference committee will be intimated by January 15, 2019.