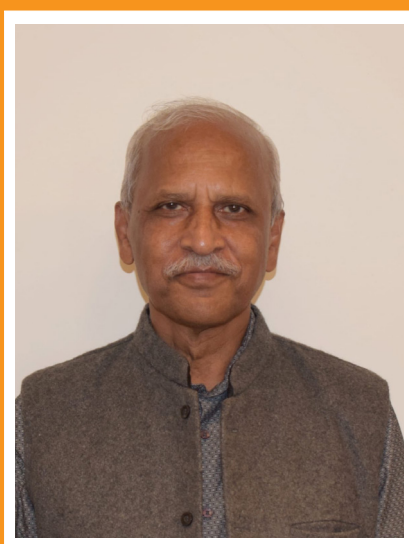


Seminar series of the Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity

“Decolonizing approaches to studying history and linguistic-cultural heritage. Methods, tools, results and challenges”



Panchanan Mohanty

Nalanda University
India

*Wall, gate, or door:
the role of the English language
in Indian society and education*

The Times of India, Hyderabad, reported on August 16, 2015 that only 0.9% engineering graduates of the city could get the highest grade whereas 25.6% secured the lowest one. Though India has implemented a three-language formula involving the state language, Hindi, and English, its 2011 national bilingualism and trilingualism figures are 26.01% and 7.10% respectively. W. R. Parker (1961) of the Modern Language Association of America stated: “One language makes a wall; it takes to make a gate”. Adding ‘door’ to Parker’s statement, this paper discusses the role of English, i.e. whether a wall, a gate, or a door in India’s social and educational system.

DATE: APRIL 10, 16:45 (CET)

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