

International Ramlila Conference
23rd – 29th November, 2015

Venue: Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
1, C. V. Mess, Janpath, New Delhi

Day One- 23 November, 2015

9:00-9:30 Registration: Conference Hall

9:30-10:00 Tea

10:00-12:15 Inaugural Session

Chair: Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

Lighting of the Lamp

Ram Stuti by Abhay Manke and Amrita Manke

Welcome Address and Introduction to the Conference by Smt. Veena Joshi

Felicitation of His Highness Kashi Naresh Maharaja Dr. Anant Narain Singh

Keynote Addresses on **Epic as Civilizational Discourse** by:

Satyavrat Shastri

Moderator: Shrivatsa Goswami

Address by the Chair

Vote of Thanks by Molly Kaushal

12:15-1:00 Film Screening on **Ramnagar Ramlila** by Media Centre, IGNCA followed by discussion with Shri Basharat Ahmed

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00 Interaction with **Nakkatiya artists**: A Processional Ramlila from Varanasi

3:00-3:15 Tea

3:15-5:30 Film Screening: **Lila in Kheriya** by Molly Kaushal- Hindu-Muslim Ramlila tradition in U.P.

6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Mathura Ramlila** by Swastic Rangmandal, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

Day Two- 24 November, 2015

9:30-10:30 **Experiencing and Understanding Lila:** Shrivatsa Goswami

Chair: Shail Mayaram

10:30-10:45 Tea

Lila and Region Specific Aesthetics

Chair: Kavita Sharma

10:45-11:05 Mohan Swaroop Bhatia: Ramlila of Mathura- Salient Features

11:05-11:25 Durganandan Tiwari: फतेहपुर स्थित खजुहा की रामलीला का वैशिष्ट्य: धार्मिक, सामाजिक एवं कलात्मक सन्दर्भ में

11:25-11:45 Chandra Prakash Deval: राम के आख्यान की लोक प्रत्यावर्तनता: संदर्भ अटूरु की राजस्थानी धनुष लीला

11:45-12:05 Chura Mani Bandhu: Rama Katha in Nepali with Special Reference to Balun Performances

12:05-12:25 H M D R Herath: Ramlila Epic and Sri Lankan Society: Community, identity and Aesthetic Experience

12:25-1:15 Discussion

1:15-2:15 Lunch

2:15-3:30 Panel Discussion: **Ramayana on TV**

Discussants: Prem Sagar and Madhukar Lele

Moderator: Ira Bhaskar

3:30-3:45 Tea

Kashi Ki Lila

Chair: Mohan Swaroop Bhatia

3:45-4:05 Nandini Majumdar: 'Children Playing Gods': The Community Ramlilas of Banaras

4:05-4:25 Kamal Giri: Facets of Kasi Ramlila (special reference to Art & Craft & Community Involvement)

4:25-4:45 Bhargav Rani: The Affirmation of Play: Transgressions of Structure in the Ramnagar Ramlila

4:45-5:20 Discussion

5:30-6:15 Special Lecture by **Ira Bhaskar**

6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Satna Ramlila**, Madhya Pradesh

Day Three: 25 November, 2015

9:30-10:30 **Performance of *Lilā, Rāmalilā* and Sanskrit Theatre:** Radhavallabh Tripathi
Chair: K. D. Tripathi

10:30-10:45 Tea

Kashi Ki Lila

Chair: K. D. Tripathi

10:45-11:05 Maruti Nandan Prasad Tiwari: Living Tradition of *Ramlila* in Varanasi with Reference to *Nakkataiya*

11:05-11:15 Discussion

11:15-1:00

Text and Performance

Chair: Rustom Bharucha

11:15-11:35 Paula Richman: Place, Aesthetics, and Episode Choice in Enacting the Story of Rama and Sita

11:35-11:55 G Venu: The Story of Ramayana through Mudra-s in Kutiyattam Theatre' based on the ancient Attaprakaram (Acting Manual)

11:55-12:15 C Rajendran: The Wondrous Crest Jewel: Kerala's theatre Experience of *Rāmāyaṇa*

12:15-12:30 Sudha Gopalakrishnan: An Intervention

12:30-1:00 Discussion

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00

Lecture demonstration by Shobha Deepak Singh
Spatiality and Aesthetics in Staging of the Ramayana

Chair: Malashri Lal

3:00-3:15 Tea

3:15-4:15

Lecture demonstration by Gopal Sharman and Jalabala Vaidya
A Ramayana for Our Time

Chair: Malashri Lal

Text and Performance

Chair: Sudha Gopalakrishnan

4:15-4:35 Rizio Yohannan Raj: Sita, the Satyagrahi: Decreating Swadharma in the times of Violence

4:35-4:55 Urmimala Sarkar: Revisiting 'Being Rama': Accessing Memory in a Changing World

4:55-5:15 Discussion

5:15-6:00 Special Lecture: **D Venkat Rao:** Teleocultural Mediations: *In* Performing Tradition of Ramayana

Chair: Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar

6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Kutiyattam**, Kerala

Day Four – 26 November 2015

9:30-11:00 **Framing and Staging Lila:** Linda Hess and Purushottam Agrawal
Chair: Anuradha Kapur

11:00-11:15 Tea

Text and Performance

Chair: Purushottam Agrawal

11:15-11:35 Pamela Lothspeich: The Rādheśyām Rāmāyaṇ: a source book for Rāmlilās in Pandit Radheshyam's Bareilly

11:35-11:55 Ayodhya Prasad Gupt 'Kumud': 'कोंच की रामलीला' और सत्तावनी क्रान्ति

11:55-12:15 Shanti Swaroop Sinha: जौनपुर स्थित सराय हरखू की रामलीला का वैशिष्ट्य (पारंपरिक, सामाजिक एवं धार्मिक सन्दर्भ में)

12:15-12:35 Anil Mishra: रामलीलायें : चयन, आर्थिक, राजनैतिक एवं विविध पहलू

12:35-1:15 Discussion

1:15-2:15 Lunch

2:15-3:15

Lecture Demonstration by Gouranga Dash
Ravana Chaya of Odisha

3:15-3:30 Tea

Interlinkages

Chair: Sukrita Paul Kumar

3:30-3:50 Sonali Dutta Roy: Stories of Love and Demons: Epic versus Graphic

3:50-4:10 Sarah Haq: Writing Mythologies, Performing Cultures: Exploring the Symbolic place of the Ramayana in Folk and Tribal Tattooing

4:10-4:30 Discussion

4:30-4:45 Tea

4:45-5:45

Lecture Demonstration by P.C. Lal Yadav
Ramnamis of Chattisgarh

6:30-7:30 Evening Performance: **Daspalla Ramlila**, Odisha

7:30-8:30 Evening Performance: **Kheriya Ramlila**, Firozabad, UP

Day Five – 27 November 2015

9:30-11:00 **Lila, Community and Aesthetics:** KD Tripathi and William Sax
Chair: H. S. Shivaprakash

11:00-11:15 Tea

Lila and Community Identity

Chair: Pushpesh Pant

11:15-11:35 Shekhar Pathak: उत्तराखण्ड में रामलीला: एक समन्वित सांस्कृतिक अभिव्यक्ति

11:35-11:55 Dinesh Prasad Saklani: Performing Traditions of Ramayana in Garhwal Himalaya

11:55-12:15 Lokesh Ohri: Ramlila on the Precipice in Pandava Country: A Crisis of Sustenance and Identity in the Valley of Dehradun

12:15-12:35 Tulsi Raman: हिमाचल की रामलीला और लोक रामायण

12:35-1:15 Discussion

1:15-2:15 Lunch

2:15-3:15 Lecture Demonstration by Himanshu Joshi and Prem Matiyani
Kumaoni Ramlila

3:15-3:30 Tea

Lila and Community Identity

Chair: Guru Singhajit Singh

3:30-3:50 Pradip Jyoti Mahanta: Ramlila in Assam: Plurality of Forms in a Multi-Cultural Matrix

3:50-4:10 M Gourachandra: Manipur's Contribution to the Ramayana Tradition: Text and Cultural Resonances

4:10-4:30 Lokendra Arambam: The Woman in Rama Tellings: Negotiating History, Patriarchy and Identity in Manipur Performances

4:30-5:00 Discussion

5:00-5:15 Tea

5:15-6:00 Film Screening: **Tradition of Ram Katha in North-East India** by Bappa Ray

6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Mukha Bhaona**, Assam

Day Six – 28 November 2015

Global Processes and Diasporic Experience

Chair: Paula Richman

- 9:30-9:50 Satnaraine Balkaransingh: Ramlila: Community Identity and Aesthetic Experience
The First Felicity Ramleela of Trinbago
9:50-10:10 Primnath Goptar: Ramleela in Trinidad: Traditions vs. Modernity -A case study of
the Ramleela in the rural community of Sangre Grande
10:10-10:30 Usha Jeetah
10:30-10:50 Vinoo Arun: Ramayana and Ramlila: A Mauritian Perspective
- 10:50-11:30 Discussion
- 11:30- 11:45 Tea

Global Processes and Diasporic Experience

Chair: Satnaraine Balkaransingh

- 11:45-12:05 David Mason: Play and Resistance in Ram Lila
12:05-12:25 Mrinal Pande: Mobile Trajectory of the Ramkatha: Diasporic Practices in a
Comparative Context
12:25-12:45 Nalini Mohabir: Colonial and Postcolonial *Ramleelas* in Guyana: Implications for
the Diasporic Archive
- 12:45-1:15 Discussion
- 1:15-2:15 Lunch
- 2:15-3:15 Interaction with Madhubani Ramlila Artists
- 3:15-3:30 Tea
- 3:30-4:00 Film Screening: **Bali Yatra**- A Film by Media Centre

Ramayana Theatre in South East and East Asia

Chair: Malini Saran

- 4:00-5:00 Special Lecture by **Eddin Khoo**: I Am, I Am Not My Father's Son: Deification and
Secularization in the Rama Traditions of Southeast Asia
- 5:00-5:15 Tea
- 5:15-6:00 Performance by IGNCA artists
- 6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Madhubani Ramlila**, Bihar

Day Seven- 29 November 2015
Ramayana Theatre in South East and East Asia
Chair: Eddin Khoo

9:30-9:50 Ghulam Sarwar Yousof: The Dalang's Ramayana, with special Reference to Rama and Rawana in the Kelantan Shadow Play

9:50-10:10 Sal Murgiyanto: Re-Reading Ramayana: An Indonesian Perspective

10:10-10:30 Malini Saran: Epic Transformations in the Concept of Kingship in the Ramayanas of Java

10:30-11:00 Discussion

11:00-11:15 Tea

11:15-11:35 Yogendra Pratap Singh: Global Journey of the Ramayana

11:35-11:55 Gisa Jaehnichen: The Phalak Phalam Dance Drama in Laos

11:55-12:15 Pornrat Damrhung: Reimagining the Ramakien beyond Stories of Rama

12:15-12:45 Discussion

1:00-2:00 Lunch

2:00-3:00 Lecture Demonstration by Pichet Klunchun (Thailand)
I am a Demon

3:00-3:15 Tea

3:15-5:00 Valedictory

6:30-8:00 Evening Performance: **Ram Ki Shakti Puja**