

Inaugural International Conference on Indic Chronology -- A Report

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The Vedic Heritage Portal and Bharat Vidya Prayojana of the IGNCA, New Delhi organized a three days 'Shanka Naad -- Bharatiya Kalakrama' or the 'Inaugural Conference on Indic Chronology' from 22nd February to 24th February, 2019 in collaboration with Indian History Awareness and Research (IHAR). A diverse, inclusive body of scholars, groups, institutions, academicians, think tanks, authors, and stakeholders who care deeply about the Indic identity were invited. The Conference was thematically designed to establish the centrality of chronology in building a tenable Indic narrative. The papers were presented in English, Hindi and Sanskrit and eminent scholars from India and abroad dwelt upon various themes, such as, Archaeology, Architecture, Ayurveda, Agriculture, Darshana, Economy, Governance, Trade, Education and Indian Epistemology, Genetics and Life Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Individual and Society, Mathematics, Astronomy, Music & Arts, Public Works, Sanitation, and Town Planning, Purana, Itihaasa, Sanskrit, Literature and Linguistics etc.

On 22nd February the conference was inaugurated at the IGNCA auditorium in the gracious presence of Padma Bhushan Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam, eminent artist & trustee, IGNCA, Dr. Subroto Gangopadhyaya, President, IHAR and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member-Secretary, IGNCA. The Conference commenced with the blowing of conch, which is considered auspicious along with traditional Vedic chanting. Dr. Sudhir Lall, Project Director, Vedic Heritage Portal and Bharat Vidya Prayojana, IGNCA welcomed the dignitaries and stressed on the relevance and importance of the Conference. Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi in his opening remarks recapitulated various academic activities being carried out to create and explore new paradigms of study, research, and dissemination from 'Indian perspective' under the various academic initiatives of the IGNCA. He also outlined the importance of such inter and multidisciplinary dialog, as this Conference and wished everyone well. Dr. Subroto Gangopadhyaya presented the background of the conference in lucid Hindi, and expressed his gratitude to IGNCA for collaboration. Dr. Padma Subrahmanyam congratulated IGNCA and IHAR for having conceptualized such a Conference and she dilated upon the date of Bharatamuni, the composer of

Natyashastra in her profound address. She suggested that such a dialog should also be organized at various other centres across India and offered her full cooperation for a similar event at Chennai. She also gifted a rare copy of some writings to IGNCA for further investigation and subsequent publication.

The inaugural session was followed by a specially curated session highlighting the Vedic System of Examination prevailing in Kerala – the Keraliya Anyonyam. Prof. C. M. Neelakandhan and a group of two Acharyas and six Vedic students demonstrated the traditional system. Prof. Kapil Kapoor, Prof. Gaya Charan Tripathi, Prof. V. N. Jha, Prof. Dileep Chakrabarti, Dr. Vishwa Adluri, Dr. Joydeep Baghchi, Prof. Joy Sen, Prof. C. K. Raju, Prof. Madhu Khanna, Prof. K. D. Tripathi, Dr. K. S. Kannan, Dr. Wim Borsboom, Dr. Bizoy Sonkar Shastri addressed the Conference in Plenary sessions. Four panel discussions were also organized during the Conference which revolved around the themes – Systems of Inquiry - I (Dr. Sarita Sheshgiri, Dr. Adluri, Dr. Baghchee, Dr. Sudhir Lall, Dr. Neeraj Atri); Systems of Inquiry – II (Dr. Sushma Jatoo, Prof. Girish Nath Jha, Mr. Virendra Bangroo); Legal Systems -- Identities and Rights in constitutional republic (Dr. J. Sai Deepak, Dr. Rajiv Srinivasan, Sh. Arihant Pawariya, Dr. Sanjay Dixit); and Shastra Charcha (Dr. Abhijit Dixit, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Dr. Mani Shankar Dwivedi, Sh. Indresh and Sh. Krishna). The Conference had three parallel academic sessions held in the IGNCA Auditorium, Conference hall and Lecture Hall for all the three days. Around forty-five scholars from India and abroad presented their researches in a very crisp and professional manner in various academic sessions.

A special performance of Padma Vibhushan Dr. (Smt.) Sonal Mansingh, Member of Rajya Sabha, noted artist and Trustee, IGNCA was organized at Dr. Ambedkar Bhawan in the evening of 22nd February. On the evening of 23rd February, Violin maestro Sri R. Kumaresh and Veena virtuoso Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, two of the foremost instrumentalists in their respective fields presented a special session on the origin and development of Veena; a journey of thoughts, ideas and debates with different viewpoints and exciting climaxes – all in the language of Carnatic music along with Shri Jayachandra Rao on Mridangam and Shri Trichy Krishnaswamy on Ghatam. The concert overall was a great experience and unique in its own way.

The Conference concluded with an intense scholars' round table discussion on various aspects of History : 1) Strengthening Sanskritic lenses for framing narratives, 2) Developing new

research initiatives and research grant proposals, and 3) Empowering traditional and regional language scholars. The scholars and volunteers participated in these with great enthusiasm.
