

**Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
Regional Centre, Puducherry.**

Title: The Importance of Manuscriptology.

Date: - 27th October, 2021.

The Regional Centre of IGNC A Puducherry has organized an activity on the topic of **The Importance of Manuscriptology** presented by **Dr. K.T.V. Raghavan**, Research Officer, Regional Centre of IGNC A, Puducherry on 27th October-2021.

The inaugural Session of the Presentation had been initiated with a welcome address given by Dr Gopal Jayaraman, Regional Director, Puducherry. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr L. RAVI, Associate Professor in Performing Arts, Pope John Paul II College of Education, Puducherry.

In this solemn presentation, Dr K.T.V. Raghavan said that Manuscripts are the storehouses of Accumulated knowledge on different sciences and lores and have a rich cultural and scientific heritage. These are original documents or scripts written manually in different languages and on different materials mainly like Copper flakes, palm leaf, birch bark, cloth, paper etc.

In order to explain Graphology, Dr Raghavan said that ancient writings were on hard surfaces like rocks, bricks with carved letters, so linear writings were in vogue. Gradual development brought round shapes. Later writings on birch bark, palm leaves, handmade paper, and cloth could have variations.

He emphasised that India has the largest collection of manuscripts in the world. Among these, there are large numbers of unpublished manuscripts related to the different fields of Sastras like Literature, Culture, Medicine, Mathematics, Geography, Meteorology and Economics etc.

While explaining about Languages and Scripts, he mentioned "Mostly Sanskrit is the common language in ancient manuscripts. There are various other regional languages used in the manuscripts based on where it has been written. The most ancient scripts used in the manuscripts are Brahmi, Kaharoshti, Sarada, Grantha and Devanagari. He further mentioned that there are manuscripts available in other scripts like Manipuri, Modi, Newari, Kannada, Telugu, Tigarari particularly Tamil language manuscripts are very informative and it's available mostly at Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur, The Adyar Library and Research Centre (ALRC), Tamil Nadu, Institution of French, Puducherry.

While concluding the presentation, he strongly pointed out that appropriate research on available manuscripts and preservation of existing manuscripts are very essential which will pave the way to understand the hidden truth of manuscripts. Further, he emphasised digitalizing the available manuscripts to the welfare of the forthcoming generation.

At the end of the session **Dr B. RAVICHANDRAN**, Assistant Professor in Fine Arts, Pope John Paul II College of Education, Puducherry has conveyed his vote of thanks to the presenter as well as to the team of IGNCA Regional Centre of Puducherry for organizing the interesting presentation. Around 100 students and artists, researchers have participated in this program. Besides the program has been well received by the audience and it has been applauded by all the faculty and students of Pope John Paul II College of Education and attended researchers.

N.B: - All the precautions against the Covid-19 pandemic have been strictly maintained by RCP, IGNCA.

Prepared by
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