

Indira Gandhi National Centre For the Arts Project Mausam

Brainstorming Session on Creation of a Comprehensive Data Base of Coastal Sites

18th June 2018

As part of the Action Plan for Project Mausam, a Brainstorming session was conducted on 18-06-2018 in the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi to discuss the avenues for creation of a comprehensive Data base of Coastal Sites in India.

Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA Chaired the event and the panellists included K.K. Thapilayal, Emeritus Profesor & Academic Committee Member (Project Mausam), K.S.Mathew, formerly Head of Department of History at Central Universities of Hyderabad and Pondicherry, K. Rajan, Professor of History at Pondicherry Central University, K.P.Rao, Professor of History at Hyderabad Central University, Sila Tripathi, Chief Technical Officer, NIO, V.Selvakumar, Associate Professor of Marine Archaeology at Thanjavur University, Sundaresh, Principal Technical Officer, Under Water Excavations,NIO, Ramesh Gaur, UNESCO (Member), Memory of the World Programme, and Joy Kuriakose, Project Director (Mausam), IGNCA.

The Chairperson welcomed the Experts and explained to them the nature and status of the Project Mausam. He also emphasized on the need to create a data base of the coastal sites of India, looking at the growing importance of Maritime expansion and preservation of heritage. Project Director (Mausam), IGNCA, an Alumnus of London School of Economics briefly introduced the topic and made a power point presentation, outlining the goals and themes of Project Mausam and requested the scholars assembled to share their knowledge to fine tune the Project.

The erudite scholars unanimously agreed to give priority to create a data base on Coastal sites, as it is the basic requirement for meeting the other objectives of Project Mausam. The plan is to create this data base within a period of twelve months from the date of its financial approval. To meet other objectives like documentation of hinterland production centres, marketing centres, Indian contacts with other port towns of Indian Ocean countries, trade and trade routes, navigational techniques etc., this data base is a pre-requisite.

* to create an extensive data base of the coastal sites of India, in the first phase, containing locational aspects of the sites(like geo- coordination, Taluk, District, State and approach to the Site), geology and geomorphology of the sites (like paleo- channel, river migration, sea level fluctuation etc.), primary sources drawn from literary, archaeological, epigraphical, numismatic, historical, archival, and ethnographic and oral traditions.

*The IGNCA may create software based on the template, suggested by the experts. All the relevant data will be uploaded by the domain experts identified, directly into the database so as to reduce the duplications and oversight errors.

*The database also carry illustrative documents (images, videos, maps and figures) of tangible and intangible evidences, collected directly from the field.

*All the information both published and unpublished may be consolidated as a part of Bibliography. The data generated through the projects will be exchanged with the Ministry of external Affairs, Ministry of Shipping and Transport, Ministry of Earth Science and all other Government user departments like State Archaeology departments and Universities.