



Kala Nidhi Lecture Series and Outreach Programme



Sir William Jones
(1746- 1794)

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
11, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110001



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

cordially invites you to the

3rd Kala Nidhi Lecture Series and
Outreach Programme

**Topic: A Study of Sir William Jones's Works:
From IGNCA- Kala Nidhi Reference Library Rare Collections**

Speaker: Ms. Seema Chopra
Freelance Journalist

Date: On the Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 3.00 PM

Venue: Lecture Hall, IGNCA
Kala Nidhi Building (Ground Floor)
11, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110001

Chair person: Prof. P.K Walia
Head, Department of Library and Information Science
University of Delhi

will preside over

RSVP:-

Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur

Librarian & Head of Division- Kala Nidhi

011-23388333, 9810487158



इंदिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

तृतीय कलानिधि व्याख्यानमाला एवं आउटरीच कार्यक्रम में
आपका हार्दिक स्वागत करता है

**विषय: इ.गाँ.रा.क.केन्द्र- कलानिधि संदर्भ ग्रंथागार के दुर्लभ संग्रह से
सर विलियम जोन्स के कृतित्व का अध्ययन**

व्याख्यातु: श्रीमती सीमा चोपड़ा
स्वतंत्र पत्रकार

दिनांक: ८ जून, सायं ३.०० बजे

स्थान: व्याख्यान कक्ष (इ.गाँ.रा.क.केन्द्र)
कलानिधि भवन, भूमि तल
11, मानसिंह रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001

अध्यक्षता : प्रो. पी. के. वालिया
विभागाध्यक्ष, पुस्तकालय और सूचना विज्ञान भाग,
दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय

उत्तरापेक्षी:

डा. रमेश चन्द्र गौड़

पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष एवं विभागाध्यक्ष, कलानिधि

011-23328333; 011-23388420

About the topic

Sir William Jones, British Orientalist and jurist who did much to encourage interest in Oriental Studies in the West. He studied at Harrow and University College, Oxford (1764–68), and learned 28 languages, such as Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic and Persian. In 1783 he was knighted and sailed for Calcutta as judge of the Supreme Court. He founded the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Asiatic Society in Calcutta in 1784. In his 1786 presidential discourse to the Asiatic Society of Calcutta he postulated the common ancestry of Sanskrit, Latin, and Greek. His findings provided the impetus for the development of comparative linguistics in the early 19th century. He wrote on the local-Hindustani laws, music, literature, botany, and geography, and made the first Sanskrit- English translations of several important works of Indian literature. He is known for the Sanskrit –english translation of the Manusmriti – the Hindu laws of Manu, the father of Mankind. His other renowned works includes, *Grammar of the Persian Language* and a translation of seven famous pre-Islamic Arabic odes. In 1789 he was the first to translate the *Abhijñānaśākuntalam*, an Indian play (written in a mix of Sanskrit and Prakrit) into English language under the title of *Sacotalá or The Fatal Ring; An Indian Drama by Cálidás* (Kalidasa). He wrote extensively on the Vedas, Purans, Epics- Ramayan and Mahabharat . He encouraged his colleague Charles Wilkins to make the first translation of the Bhagavad Gita into English.

Kala Nidhi serves as a major cultural information/knowledge resource hub to support research objectives and the technical information needs of other units of IGNCAs as well as scholars and institutions in India and abroad. The reference library has an array of primary and secondary material in the broad areas of humanities and the arts. Many scholars have got benefited from the rich resource of IGNCAs. This lecture is an effort to bring to fore the researches and academicians in the field through their literary contributions. The present lecture traverses the literary journey of Sir William Jones as gleaned from the six volumes of the complete works of Sir William Jones. The six volumes not only apprise but also acquaint one with the ancient cultures of India, which by the efforts of Sir William Jones drew the attention of west towards the oriental studies. The discourses of Sir William Jones in the published volumes through ample light not only on the Indian mythology and beliefs but vis-à-vis there is a comparative study with that of East Asia, West Asia and Graco-Roman civilizations. One of his essays gives a chronological table of the kings and rulers of ancient India. The essays on the Indian calendar of festivals, mystical poetry, and account of Mughal kings are equally interesting. Sir William Jones was overwhelmed with the richness and development of Indian literary Treasure that he remarked that it was the East which held the secrets of early history and civilization of man.

About the speaker

Ms. Seema Chopra started her career as a Freelance Journalist and is a member of InSA- Indian society for authors. She has been writing columns on Travel and Indian culture since 1988 for various national and regional newspapers. She has also contributed papers in national and international journals and reference books. She has done research on various forms of Ram Kathas in India, statewide, published as a weekly column in national Hindi daily . Presently, she is reviewing the Rare Books in Kala Nidhi in the IGNCAs. She travels extensively related to her writings. She is Trustee and Member of Advisory Board of Mata Pushpa Gujral Nari Niketan run by the former Prime Minister- Shri I. K . Gujral and Member on Board of the SOS Villages of India . She is a Graduate in Economics and Maths, Diploma holder in Journalism and Textile Designing from University of Delhi.