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IGNCA, Varanasi started its journey in 1987 as a project under Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath. It achieved the status of a separate Institute in 1988 with a group of active researchers and employees under the competent leadership of Dr. Bettina Bäumer and started working as a branch office of Kalākośa division, IGNCA, New Delhi to undertake research and publication programmes of reference works, glossaries, dictionaries and encyclopaedia concerning the arts, humanities and general cultural heritage.

At the outset, main concern of IGNCA, Varanasi was to prepare and publish Kalātattvakośa (to be completed in about 15 vols), containing approximately 261 terms on fundamental concepts of Indian arts. Six volumes have been published so far; Vol. VIIth has gone to press and VIIIth is under process. Beside Kalātattvakośa the Centre is carrying out other activities like editing of some of the texts of Kalāmūla Śāstra Series, the task of reference collection from various Indological disciplines for IGNCA's other projects with the help of experts. Apart from this, it is organizing periodical lectures, Seminars, meetings and workshops etc.

In course of its about 28 years' journey IGNCA, Varanasi came in contact with four expert coordinators. Dr. Bettina Bäumer was the first coordinator who worked in IGNCA, Varanasi from 1988 up to 1995. During her coordinatorship IGNCA, Varanasi has published Kalātattvakośa Vols. I-III, Prakṛti, Vol III (Seminar Vol.) and Śilparatnakośa – all these texts were edited by Dr. Bettina Bäumer.

Prof. R.C. Sharma took the charge of Hony. Coordinator IGNCA, Varanasi in the April, 1995 and continued up to July, 2003. In this period IGNCA, Varanasi has published Kalātattvakośa IV & V, revised edition of Kalātattvakośa I & II and A.K. Coomaraswamy's Perception of Vedas.

In 2003 Prof. V.N. Misra joined as Hony. Coordinator of IGNCA, Varanasi and continued till his last breath on 14.2.2005. During his time, Kalātattvakośa VI took its shape. Apart from Kalātattvakośa VI, at this period IGNCA, Varanasi started the project of Glossary of Key Art Terms (under his supervision) which is on the way of completion.

Prof. K.D. Tripathi has joined IGNCA, Varanasi in the June, 2007 in the capacity of Hony. Coordinator. By this time status of IGNCA, Varanasi has been elevated as a Regional Centre. The Member Secretary elevated his status as Advisor in the August, 2008. Prof. Tripathi is serving the institution till date.

I. Kalātattvakośa

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is mandated, among other tasks, to explore and expound the multi-layered and multi-dimensional nature of Indian arts, while highlighting their holistic approach. Amongst its series of publications the **Kalātattvakośa** (KTK) occupies a significant position as a multi-volume encyclopaedic lexicon of the fundamental concepts of Indian arts, which are essential for their appropriate contextual understanding.

These timeless concepts, denoted in terms of pervasive keywords, have been culled out from various textual sources of Sanskrit, Pāli and Prākṛta following extensive discus-

sions with eminent subject experts. The entire KTK project is thematically structured and every volume is a conceptual continuation and extension of the previous one, rather than being a stand-alone compilation of related articles. So far, six volumes have been published and the themes concerned with terms on *Vyāpti* (Pervasiveness) KTK I, *Deśa-Kāla* (Space and Time) KTK II, *Mahābhūta* (Primal Elements) KTK III, *Sṛṣṭi-Vistāra* (Manifestations of Nature) KTKIV, *Ākāra-ākṛti* (Form/Shape) KTK V and *Ābhāsa* (Appearance/Symbolic Form) VI have been brought out in this series.

The VIIth volume is dedicated to the terms related to the theme *Sthāna/Āyatana* (Substratum/ Abode) has gone to press, for next publication. At present IGNCA, ERC concentrates in preparing *Kalātattvakośa* Vol VIII. Apart from *Kalātattvakośa* some other new projects have been taken up details of which is given below.

Besides the preparation of *Kalātattvakośa*'s remaining volumes IGNCA, ERC proposes to expand its activities through several unique and challenging projects.

II. Edition of Nāṭyaśāstra

Under the scheme of *Kalāmūlaśāstra* a number of texts have been published by IGNCA, New Delhi. From the very beginning, *Nāṭyaśāstra* of Bharata has been included in this scheme as the most important primary text. Now, IGNCA, ERC has undertaken the project to prepare the *Nāṭyaśāstra* text on the basis of unpublished selected manuscripts from Nepal and a few other unpublished manuscripts available in Hindi region. In this series first volume is sent to press, IIInd Volume is under process of Editing. Besides, preparing the critically edited text of NS Nepal version, IGNCA, ERC has been working on the *Prayoga* (performing aspects) of Sanskrit theatre also. Accordingly a month-long Workshop (15.1.2014 - 16.2.2014) on Indian traditional theatre based on *Chau* dance under the name *Śāstra* and *Prayoga* was ordy IGNCA, ERC which was concluded with a stage performance of Sanskrit play *Veṇī Saṃhāra* at Nagari Natak Mandali on 16.2.14.

III. Publication of other volumes:

Two Monographs, (1) a Special lecture volume, i.e. "Meaning & Beauty: Shasric Foundation of Indian Aesthetics" and (2) a National Seminar Proceedings, i.e. "Indian and Western Philosophy of Language" have been ready for publication.

IV. Computerization of Reference Cards:

At present IGNCA, ERC, Varanasi possesses 68000 Reference cards as ready-materials for the Research Scholars of our country, especially for the Indological Study. All these cards have been computerized and linked to the website of IGNCA, for the consultation of scholars from all over the World.

V. The Documents of the Regional Folk Tradition of Narratives and Music:

IGNCA, ERC, Varanasi has started another fresh programme of the documentation of the folk traditions scattered all over the Eastern part of U.P. and Bihar, Chattisgarh and Bundelkhand. As a part of the programme IGNCA, ERC has started the *lokākhāna* project in which the documentation of narrative tradition of *Birahā* of South Varanasi and the adjacent areas of Mirzapur and Allahabad and so on have to be documented. This programme includes the documentation of "*Chanaini*" a tradition of Chattisgarh. Another project of *Saṅgīta-deśī* will also be implemented under which the documnetation of the semi-classical tradition of folk tradition of Varanasi has been taken. *Kājavārī*, *chaiti*, *hori*, *Thumrī* and *dādrā* has been included under this scheme of documentation, So far four recital of folk narrative has taken place:-

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| 1. | Birahā | 2009 |
| 2. | Lorik-Chanda | 2011 |
| 3. | Various Forms of Folk Songs of Eastern UP | Feb. 2012 |
| 4. | Folk Dances and Theatrical Forms of UP and Central India | Oct. 2012 |

Every year the Institute arranges (i) seminars concentrating on the themes of Kalātattvakośa, (ii) special lectures and (iii) lecture-series on various facets of Indian Aesthetics, Vākyapadīya and Indian Philosophy of Language. Since time immemorial, Kāśī has been a centre of traditional studies. Generations after generations have studied and preserved its Shāstric tradition. Vākyapadīya is such an exemplary text. Hencer, IGNCA, ERC has taken up a programme of full documentation of present knowledge tradition of Kāśī through its scheme of Kāśī seminars. In this way IGNCA, ERC, Varanasi is treading onwards and carrying forward its mission for which it has been setup.

Staff-Members of IGNCA, Eastern Regional Centre, Varanasi

Prof. K.D. Tripathi – Advisor

Academic Staff

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|----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Pranati Ghosal | – Assistant Professor (G - I) |
| 2. | Dr. Narendra Dutt Tiwari | – Research Officer |
| 3. | Dr. Rama Dubey | – Project Associate |
| 4. | Dr. Rajani Kant Tripathi | – Project Assistant |
| 5. | Dr. Trilochan Pradhan | – Project Assistant |

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