

REPORT

Three day National Seminar on 'Oral and Textual Traditions of Veda: with special reference to South India' (under Vedic Heritage Portal)

14-16th November, 2014

A three day **National Seminar on Oral and Textual Traditions of Veda with special reference to South India** was organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi and Kadavallur Anyonya Parishat, Kadavallur, Kerala in the precincts of Shri Ramaswami temple at Kadavallur from 14th to 16th November, 2014 under the aegis of Vedic Heritage Portal. The seminar was an academic precursor of a fortnight-long observance of the Anyonyam, a traditional Vedic pedagogical and ritual competition, unique to Kerala which takes place annually inside the said temple.



Dignitaries and participants at Seminar Venue

During the Anyonyam, two groups of Rgveda Namboothiris belonging to Thrissur and Thirunavaya Brahmasvam Mathas of Kerala meet at this temple and various examinations in the chanting the Rgveda are conducted. This practice helps

in strengthening the memorization of Prakriti and Vikriti modes of Rgveda chanting of Kerala.

The inaugural session was held on 14.11.2014. Dr. K. G. Paulose, Former Vice-Chancellor of Kerala Kalamandalam presided over the function while Ms. Dipali Khanna, the Member-Secretary of IGNCA was the Chief Guest.



Inauguration: from left to right Prof. Neelakandhan, Mr. K. Namboothiripad, Prof. Paulose, Ms. Dipali Khanna, Dr. M. C. Dileep Kumar, Ms. Veena Joshi, Mr. Vasudevan, Dr. Ravindran

In his Presidential speech, Prof. Paulose gave an overview of the Vedic literature and its oral and textual traditions. Addressing the scholars, Chief Guest Ms. Dipali Khanna said that it was owing to IGNCA's expertise in dealing with quality subject research on one hand and proficient technical knowhow of representing the cultural heritage through digital medium that the Ministry of Culture chose the IGNCA to carry out the ambitious project of preservation, documentation and dissemination of India's rich Vedic heritage by means of this Portal. She further said that the Seminar will provide new insights into the continuity of Oral and Textual Traditions of the Vedas; as the participating subject scholars will shed light on either lesser known practices or suggest ways and means of reinforcement and preservation of existing techniques. She also welcomed proposals to take the Portal forward in a positive and constructive manner.



Prof. K. G. Paulose



Dr. M. C. Dileep Kumar

Ms. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary of IGNCA and Chairperson of Steering Committee for the Vedic Heritage Portal was also present. Dr. M.C. Dileep Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracarya University of Sanskrit, Kalady inaugurated the Seminar.



Ms. Dipali Khanna



Ms. Veena Joshi

Prof. C. M. Neelakandhan Former Professor of Sanskrit at SSUS, Kalady delivered the Keynote address in which he highlighted some special methods for preserving the skill of Rgvedic recitation in Kerala. Dr. Vijay Shankar Shukla, Coordinator (Content Committee, Vedic Heritage Portal) talked about the Scope and Relevance of the Vedic Heritage Portal. Dr. Sushma Jatoo, Member (Content Committee, Vedic Heritage Portal) made a Power Point Presentation on the IGNCA's Initiatives for preservation of Vedic Heritage through which she lucidly introduced relevant publications and DVDs etc. published by the IGNCA. Dr. Sudhir Lall, Member (Content Committee, Vedic Heritage Portal) made a Power Point Presentation about the Vedic Portal and its structure. Kanippayyur Krishnan Namboothiripad, Secretary of Anyonya Parishath, Kadavallur offered the formal Vote of thanks.



Dr. V. S. Shukla



Dr. Sushma Jatoo



Dr. Sudhir Lall



**Prof. C. M.
Neelakandhan**

In the Seminar, fourteen scholarly papers were presented by noted scholars as well as by young researchers along with three presentations by members of IGNCA's academic faculty. The Seminar, as the title indicates was focussed on the oral and textual traditions of Veda prevalent in South India and scholars from Hyderabad, Mysore, Pondicherry and Kerala were invited to make presentations on the theme. Prof. C. Rajendran gave the Valedictory Address. After the Valedictory, certificates were distributed to all the participants.

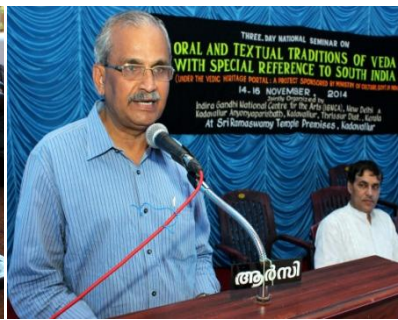
The title of the papers and name of the presentators and Chairpersons are as follows:

Sessions	Chair	Speaker	Topic
Session 1	Dr. R. V. S. S. Avadhanulu	Dr. R. Suresha, Mysore	Oral and textual traditions of Veda – Karnataka region
		Dr. N. Radhakrishna Bhat, Mysore	Vedic ritual tradition of Karnataka
Session 2	Dr. S. A. S. Sarma	Dr. K. A. Ravindran, Kerala	Oral and textual traditions of Veda – Kerala region
		Dr. N. M. Narayanan, Kerala	Vedic ritual tradition of Kerala
		Mr. Nidheesh Kannan, Kerala	Documentation of Jaiminiya Samaveda of Kerala Namboothiris by SSUS, Kalady
Session 3	Dr. Sushma Jatoo	Dr. S. A. S. Sarma, Pondicherry	Oral and textual traditions of Veda – Tamil Nadu region
		Dr. V. Vasudevan, Thiruvananthapuram	Vedic ritual tradition of Tamil Nadu
Session 4	Dr. K. A. Ravindran	Dr. R. V. S. S. Avadhanulu, Hyderabad	Oral and textual traditions of Veda – Andhra region
		Dr. Varalakshmi, Hyderabad	Documentation of the Vedic Tradition – Retrospect and Prospect

Session 5	Dr. V. S. Shukla	Dr. P. V. Ramankutty, Kerala	South Indian Commentaries on Samhitas, Brahmanas and Aranyakas
		Dr. K. P. Parvathy, Kerala	Mudra Recitation of Vedas in Kerala
		Ms. K. M. Revathy, Kerala	Vedic manuscripts in Kerala
Session 6	Dr. Sudhir Lall	Mr. A. M. Keshavan, Kerala	Some Special modes of chanting of Rgveda in Kerala
		Mr. P. P. Rajeev, Kerala	Vedic Studies in Kerala in the Modern Period



Audience



Prof. C. Rajendran



Distribution of Certificates

The full text of all the papers will be made available online shortly.