

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi a premier research institute dedicated to holistic understanding and expression of Indian arts in their inter and multi-disciplinary nature. The arts here are understood to comprise the fields of written and oral creative and critical literature; the visual arts; the performing arts in their broadest connotations along with all else that has an artistic dimension. The IGNCA seeks to achieve its objectives through its various academic activities of research, preservation and dissemination of traditional Indian knowledge systems. Vedic heritage can easily be termed as the fountainhead of these knowledge systems and it constitutes an integral part of the academic agenda of the IGNCA along with other related disciplines.

The Cultural Informatics Laboratory (CIL), a Multimedia Research Centre was established with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) multimedia documentation project titled "Strengthening National Facility for Interactive Multimedia Documentation of Cultural Resources". The millennia-old (traditional) systems of knowledge of India's past and vigorous present, is captured in this lab in a computer generated multimedia. Through the computer technology, IGNCA demonstrates the manner in which cultural heritage can be recreated virtually, so as to present and communicate the holistic vision of India. This enabled the IGNCA to bring together scholarship and technology for facilitating communication in a modern world. Serving as the end-point in the assembly line of the IGNCA's activities, the contents developed by CIL are presented to the world through multimedia CDs/DVDs.

For further information on the project kindly contact at the address below:

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॥ वद्वीत हेरिटेज पोर्टल ॥



समेत विश्वा ओजसा पतिं दिवो य एक इद् भूर् अतिथिर्जनानाम् ।
स पूव्यो नूतनम् आजिगीषन् तं वर्तनीर् अनु वावृत एक इत् ॥

सामः १।४।३।३ (३७२)

Come together, ye all, with power of spirit, to the Lord of heaven
Who is only One, the Guest of the people ;
He, the Ancient, desires to come to the new ;
To Him all path-ways turn ; verily He is One.

[Sama, 372]



Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

The IGNCA investigates into Indian textual tradition (through Kalakosa Department) by bringing out critical editions of fundamental texts of Indian arts with English translations. Along with other disciplines like Puranas, Shilpa, Sangita, Nritya, Murtikala, Vastu etc., some important Vedic texts like the Matralakshana, Kanvasatapatha Brahmana, Srauta Sutras of Baudhayana and Latyayana, Pushpasutra, the Ashvalayana Samhita of the Rigveda, the Rudradhyaya of Shankhayana recension etc., have been published so far. Significant amount of audio-visual documentation of oral traditions has been done along with a dedicated project on re-creation of Vedic implements of different parts of India. The IGNCA has also created a niche for itself in the field of digital preservation and dissemination of Indian arts and its Cultural Informatics Department has successfully evolved models for digital presentation of Indian artistic heritage.

Keeping in view the IGNCA's efforts of preservation, study, dissemination and presentation of our rich and variegated cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture has entrusted the IGNCA with a project titled 'Vedic Heritage Portal'. The main focus of the portal will be to present the oral traditions of The Vedas, both recitations (Veda Patha) and rituals (Karmakanda), survived for over 5000 years, across different cultural pockets of India. In addition, textual contents of Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishads with Vedangas will also be made available. The scheme and structure of the Portal are being planned with the help of experts. Creating a synergy between the traditional knowledge and digital technology, it is hoped that through this portal, we will be able to take our heritage to a different level altogether.

Many institutions and scholars at individual level are already working on different aspects of The Vedas (the oldest surviving tradition). To achieve maximum, it is necessary that a network of all concerned is created and they join us creatively, dedicatedly and passionately. This is quite akin to a big Jnana-Sattra, in which oblations of all stakeholders is required to make it successful so that the message enshrined in the Vedic knowledge for the universal well-being is globally accessible.

The portal aims to communicate message enshrined in The Vedas. This portal will be a one-stop solution for the user, who would like to search any information regarding the Vedic heritage, be it the abstract oral traditions, or the textual tradition in the form of publications, manuscripts, implements / Yajna related objects etc.

The main deliverables of the project are:

1. Introduction to structure of the Vedas including Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda.
2. Recitations / chanting (Veda Paath) of Vedas observed in different parts of the country with accent and variations, wherever available. This includes the Prakriti and Vikriti Pathas.
3. Rituals (karmakanda) performed based on Vedas and their Brahmanas, in audiovisual format.
4. Textual details of Vedic Samhitas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas and Upanishadas etc. available in the form of manuscripts and published books.
5. A permanent gallery of Vedic Implements showcasing the actual tools and their use in Yajna (through photographs) will be set up in IGNCA.
6. A lecture series by eminent scholars (from India and abroad) for creating awareness and propagation of the knowledge enshrined in the The Vedas.
7. List of Centres of Vedic Learning and selected List of Scholars will be made available.
8. Vedic Heritage in present context will be explored for further research
9. Free and online access of the above content for universal well-being.

The IGNCA will implement the project on behalf of the Ministry of Culture. A duly constituted Steering Committee of Experts will guide and mentor the project. Institutions and scholars associated with Vedic learning will be involved. These include Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan (Ujjain), Vaidic Samasodhan Mandal (Pune) Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (New Delhi), Sampooranand Sanskrit University (Varanasi) etc., to name a few.