

TWENTY SECOND INDIA CONFERENCE
VEDIC PERSPECTIVE OF INDIAN ARTS

22nd India Conference of WAVES was organized by ‘Wider Association for Vedic Studies’ (WAVES) in collaboration with Bharat Vidya Prayojana, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, (IGNCA), New Delhi. The three-day conference was held from 27th–29th November, 2018 at IGNCA, New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated with the ‘Lighting of the Lamp’ in the IGNCA Auditorium. Students of University of Delhi presented *Sarasvati Vandana* and *Samveda mantras* as invocation. The inaugural session started with the introduction of theme and welcome of dignitaries done by Prof. Shashi Tiwari, President, WAVES.

On this occasion, **Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi**, Member Secretary, IGNCA gave Inaugural address. He correlated the concept of creativity with the theme of the conference and highlighted the urgent need to reconnect ourselves with our Vedic roots and disconnect ourselves with the extensive use of technology; a point which was greatly appreciated by all the audiences. He said that all traditional art forms are originated from Vedic literature, therefore Indian knowledge is recognized today for this precious gift.

Shri Ashok Pradhan, (I.A.S. Retd.), Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi graced the occasion as chief guest. In his address, he congratulated WAVES and IGNCA for collaborating for the conference. He highlighted the contributions of BVB in the field of Indology. Sixty four arts (*Kalā*) are mentioned in ancient Indian texts which include minute art form of *Sasvar-patha*. **Dr. Samhitashastri Arjunprasad Bastola**, Vedic Scholar, from Kathmandu, Nepal as Guest of Honour spoke on the importance of *Krishni-Kalā* which was invented by Maharshi Vyas. Due to this art human beings are civilized and free from hunger. He introduced the audiences to the rich Vedic traditions of Nepal.

Keynote address was given by **Prof. S. R. Bhatt**, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR). Prof. Bhatt explained the deep interconnections of knowledge, arts and supreme bliss on metaphysical and material levels. The purpose of arts is to achieve ‘*Ananda*’. In Indian approach both physical and spiritual aspects can go together. Presidential address was delivered by **Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma**, Founder President of WAVES. He focussed the need to free ourselves from colonial baggage. **Dr. Sudhir Lall**, Convener of Conference, and Project Director, Bharat Vidya Prayojana, IGNCA proposed vote of thanks for all guests and participants. During this session, the souvenir of the conference containing 108 summaries of papers and few messages was released by dignitaries. **Dr. Ranjit Behera**, Ass. Prof. of Sanskrit, University of Delhi and Secretary, WAVES moderated this session.

The conference has parallel sessions organized at three venues in IGNCA. More than 130 delegates from different parts of country participated in this conference of WAVES, 2018. Delegates and young researchers from various universities and institutes, such as University of Delhi, Delhi; Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; Guahati University, Assam; Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi; Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi; Maharishi Adhyatma Vishwavidyalay, Goa; K.K. Handique Govt, Sanskrit College, Guwahati, Assam; IGNOU, Delhi; Sri Sri University, Cuttack; M.L.N. College, Radaur; DAV College, Faridabad; Uttrakhand Sanskrit University, Uttrakhand; Shri Lal Bahadur Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Delhi; Rashtriya

Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi; Allahabad University, Allahabad; Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala; Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, USA etc. participated and presented their papers in the conference.

Names of few eminent International and National scholars who participated as chair, moderator or paper-presenter are: *Dr. Raj Vedam, USA; Dr. Come Carpentier de Gourdon, France; Dr. Samhitashastri Arjunprasad Bastola, Nepal; Dr. Asha Rani Tripathi, Lucknow; Prof. Ram Sewak Dubey, Allahabad; Dr. Radhey Shyam Kaushal, Delhi; Dr. Ram Gopal, Jodhpur; Dr. Chand Bhardwaj, Delhi; Dr. Ganesh Dutt Sharma, Ghaziabad; Dr. Anita Khurana, Ajmer, Shri Vidya Sagar Verma, Delhi; Dr. Urmila Rustagi, Delhi; Dr. Ranjan Lata, Gorakhpur; Dr. Pravesh Saxena, Delhi; Dr. Vedwati Vaidik, Gurgaon; Dr. Richa Sikri, Haryana; Dr. Meena Kumari, Delhi; Dr. Bharati Sharma, Roorkee; Dr. Shakuntala Punjani, Delhi; Dr. Pratibha Shukla, Haridwar; Dr. Ajay Jha, Delhi; Dr. Sushma Choudhary, Delhi; Dr. Vijay Shankar Dwivedi, Delhi; Dr. Asha Lata Pandey, Delhi; Dr. Saroj Gulati, Delhi and Prof. Shashi Bala, Delhi.*

The deliberation of the three-day national conference was coherently scheduled in thirteen sessions which were divided into well-designed seven academic, three plenary and three young scholars' sessions. Details of some plenary speakers and their topics are as follows:–

- Dr. Come Carpentier De Gourdon (France), Convener of the International Editorial Board, World Affairs Journal – *The Vedic Philosophy Of Aesthetics*
- Prof. Lallan Prasad, Former Dean, Business Economics, University of Delhi -*Art of Earning and Spending in Vedas*
- Dr. Prativa Manjari Rath, Professor of Sanskrit, Sri Sri University, Cuttack - *Traces of Art (kala) in Vedic Silpa-vidya*
- Prof. Raghwendra Pratap Singh, Centre for Philosophy, JNU, New Delhi - *Vedic-Upanishadic Foundation for Diversity in Indian Culture*
- Prof. L. Sudharmany, Prof. of Sanskrit-Sahitya, S. S. University of Sanskrit, Kerala - *Role of Vedas in Sculpting Arts and Culture of Modern India*
- Mr. Vedveer Arya, IDAS, Joint Secretary & FM (MS), Ministry of Defence, New Delhi - *The Sheet Anchors of the Vedic and Post Vedic Chronology*
- Dr. Meera Dwivedi, Sanskrit, University of Delhi – रसानथर्वणादपि : एक चिन्तन
- Prof. Kamla Bhardwaj, Sanskrit, SLBSRS Vidyapeethi- *Vedashu Sthapatya Kala*

Closing ceremony on third day begun with the invocation done by **Dr. Rishiraj Pathak** of SPM, DU under the chairmanship of **Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma**. **Dr. Sudhir Lall**, Co-Convener of conference welcomed guests and talked about some aspects of the main theme. **Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar**, Former Vice Chancellor, Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Bhopal in her valedictory address highlighted the co-relation of conduct (*Aachar*) and thought (*Vichar*). Veda emphasises on the union of these two for perfection in person which is the essence of all arts. **Dr. Jeet Ram Bhatt**, Secretary, Delhi Sanskrit Academy as Guest of Honour during closing ceremony, explained about the importance of such conferences which focus on a subject to know it extensively. He said that certain concepts such as *Vidyā, Avidyā, Kalā, Jñāna* etc. leave their distinctive characteristics and seem connected after some time of understanding, **Dr. Raj Vedam**, Indian History Awareness & Research, Katy, TX, USA presented an inspiring valedictory address on '*Roots of Music*' and highlighted the long history of the Indian civilization , and how Vedic India influenced

populations in other parts of the world, in which music too was a key part. **Prof. Ram Gopal** from Jodhpur appreciated the contribution of ancient sages in different disciplines for the success of human beings. This session was coordinated by **Dr. Aparna (Dhir) Khandelwal**, Secretary, WAVES.

This year, '*Svargiya Mrs. Kusum Sharma Memorial Award-2018*' for outstanding papers presented by young scholars were given by Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma in memory of his wife. Committee of Judges consisted of three members:

- Dr. Dharma, Ex Faculty, Sanskrit, Laxmi Bai College, Delhi University
- Dr. Anju Seth, Faculty, Sanskrit, Satyavati College., Delhi University
- Dr. Pankaj Mishra, Faculty, Sanskrit, St. Stephens College, Delhi University

On the basis of selection, awards were given to five young scholars in closing ceremony:

- ❖ 1st Prize – Ms. Khushboo Shukla, JNU (Rs.3000)
- ❖ 2nd Prize –Dr. Uditā Bhattacharya, K.K.H.G.S.C, Guwahati (Rs.2000)
- ❖ 3rd Prize – Dr. Ashok Kumar, JNU (Rs.1000)
- ❖ Encouragement Prize – Dr. Rishiraj Pathak, DU (Rs.500)
- ❖ Encouragement Prize – Mr.Yogendra Bhardwaj, JNU (Rs.500)

At the closing of event, **Prof. Shashi Tiwari**, President, WAVES proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of WAVES to all guests, delegates, and participants of conference, and especially to the authorities of Bharat Vidya Prayojana and IGNC A for their support and contribution in this big academic program. The conference concluded with the recitation of Shanti Mantra and National anthem.