

Concept Note

A two day National Seminar titled '**Indian Arts enshrined in Textual Traditions: with special reference to Gujarat**' is proposed to be organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi at Gujarat in the month of December, 2014.

The IGNCA is a premier research institute and through its various and extensive programmes of research, documentation and dissemination, it proposes to re-contextualize the Indian arts in their holistic, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspective, which had been obliterated and misinterpreted due to narrow specializations and fragmentary approach. The Kalakosa Division of the IGNCA is dedicated to intellectual preservation and promulgation of fundamental texts of Indian arts, in a critically edited and translated form. About thirty-two such texts have been published so far in its Kalamulasastra series, which include texts from Vedic Samhitas and allied literature, Puranas, Tantras and Agamas, Silpa, Sangitasastra and regional texts.

Since last year, a series of seminars has been initiated by the Kalakosa of the IGNCA, in which subject experts of a particular region will be invited to present their papers on such texts of Indian arts, which have played a pivotal role in preservation and propagation of some specific art-form. The idea of holding seminars at culturally well-endowed regions has more than one benefit for the IGNCA. First, these will help in creating awareness about the academic activities of the IGNCA across that region. Secondly, this intellectual exercise will enable widening of IGNCA's scholar base, as, during the course of the seminar, an attempt will be made to identify and if possible, engage traditional scholars of a particular region in the academic projects of the IGNCA. Thirdly, many invaluable regional texts related to Indian arts, hitherto unpublished, might come to light and could be included in the master-list of the Kalamulasastra series.

The first Seminar in this series was organized at Kerala in January, 2014, which was a hugely successful seminar in terms of participation of scholars and the level of deliberations. Some interesting presentations were made on lesser known art forms of Kerala, like Kalamelazutthu etc. Also complementing the Seminar, under the umbrella of the Shastra and Prayoga Programme of the IGNCA, (which focuses on the interactions between the theoretical and practical aspects of Indian arts) live performances of Carnatic Vocal music, Kudiyattam and Mohiniyattam were organized in the evening of the first day. The programme was highly appreciated by all the scholars and audience at large. A huge *Dhulicitra* (traditional ephemeral art of Kerala) was prepared by the traditional artists of Kerala, which adorned the foyer of the Seminar venue.

The proposed second Seminar will address itself to various aspects of the textual wealth of Gujarat, which has enshrined a multitude of traditional art forms and Indian artistic heritage.

We propose to invite about 15-20 noted scholars, who will make presentations on any of the following broader themes, highlighting the contribution of Gujarat to that particular discipline: a) Vedic and Agamic literature, b) Epics, Puranas and Classical literature, c) Vastu and Silpa, d) Performing arts, e) Fine arts and f) Regional traditions. Special emphasis may be given to some presentations in the lecture-demonstration style. Also, some traditional performances under the Shastra and Prayoga Programme could be organized to complement the Seminar.