



**International Conference**  
**India-Laos : Inter-cultural Linkages**  
11-12 December, 2015, at IGNCA, New Delhi, India  
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6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015

Dear Participants,

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, in collaboration with Shri Bharatvarshiya Digambar Jain Teerth Sanrakshini Mahasabha, Connaught Place, New Delhi, is organising a two-days International Conference on ‘**India-Laos : Inter-cultural Linkages.**’ Laos is a land locked country bounded by Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and China. India and Laos shared a common cultural heritage over the centuries. Monsieur George Coedes, a French savant, has described Laos as an ‘Out-post of Indian Culture’. Trade and commerce played a significant role in the establishment of constant cultural Linkages.

India-Laos cross-cultural linkages resulted into the establishment of Singhalese Buddhism having strains of the Indian customs, traditions, religious practices, beliefs . The Ramayana and the Mahabharata, many literary works in Pali, Prakirt and Sanskrit languages became the part of common heritage.

Besides Buddhism, Jainism also flourished side by side with Hinduism. Moreover, scholars have not studied from the point of Jainism in Laos. Since trade was the most important factor for the spread of Indian culture, traders’ community, who were mostly Jain, must have introduced Jainism and worshipped *Tirthankars*. There are hardly any distinctive features seen on the Buddhist and Jain art and architecture. Thus, scholars have not studied Laos from the point of view Jainism. This Conference would have a fresh look of Lao culture from the point of view of Jainism.

The Laotian culture has been focus of studies and conferences in the field of history, language, religion, culture, art and architecture. However, its inner connections and Inter-cultural Linkages have so far not been studied in depth. The International Conference on “India-Laos : Inter-cultural Linkages” has been planned to explore cultural interface which distinguishes Laotian culture.

We have the pleasure to invite you as a participant of the Conference and present an academic paper on any of the sub-themes mentioned in the attached concept note.

You are requested to send the abstract of your paper along with brief CV and passport details in the enclosed format at your early convenience. Passport details are required only from the foreign participants. The full paper should be prepared not more than 20 pages in 1.5 spaces in 12 point Times New Roman in MS office 2007 version and sent to us by 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

The Digambar Jain Mahasabha will be pleased to provide travel expenses and local hospitality to the participants during the Conference days in New Delhi. The Venue of the Conference is Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, CV Mess Conference Hall, Janpath, New Delhi, India.

With best regards,

Dr. Bachchan Kumar  
Coordinator, IGNC

Dr. N. K. Jain  
Coordinator, Jain Mahasabha

Dr. Sangh Mitra  
Coordinator, Jain Mahasabha