



Report of Two day National Seminar on

'Indian Arts enshrined in Textual Traditions:

with special reference to Gujarat'

29-30th of December, 2014, Vadodara

A Two day National Seminar on 'Indian Arts enshrined in Textual Traditions: with special reference to Gujarat' was organized by Kalakosa of IGNCA, New Delhi in association with Oriental Institute, Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara from 29th to 30th December, 2014 at the Oriental Institute, MS University, Vadodara.

In 2014, 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. Ultimately all the regional seminars will converge into a big National/International Seminar with exclusive focus on texts and artistic traditions. The organization of such seminars at culturally well-endowed regions helps the IGNCA in creating awareness about its academic activities and enables it to widen its scholar base. It is also hoped that some invaluable regional texts related to Indian arts, hitherto unpublished, might come to light and the same could be included in the master-list of the Kalamulasastra series. The present Seminar at Gujarat addressed itself to various aspects of the textual wealth of Gujarat along with traditional art forms, which constitute an integral part of Indian artistic heritage.

Ms. Veena Joshi, Joint Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi was the Chief Guest for the Seminar and Prof. Sharad Bansal, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Director of International Affaris, the M. S. University presided over the Inaugural session. The ceremonial *Deep-Prajvaalana* was carried out by the dignitaries on the dais amidst

the rendering of benedictory verses. Prof. Deven Patel, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania, U. S. A. was the special invitee to deliver the Keynote Address. The programme began with the University Song sung by students and faculty present. Dr. Sweta Prajapati, Director (I/C) of the Oriental Institute, Vadodara formally welcomed the distinguished Guests and participants. The students and faculty members of M. S. University offered a Vaidika Manglacharana.

Dr. Sushma Jatoo, Joint Coordinator of the Seminar made a Presentation about the Introduction of IGNCA. Dr. Sudhir Lall, Coordinator of the Seminar introduced the theme of the Seminar to the audiences. Then Prof. Deven Patel delivered a very erudite Keynote Address titled “**Transfers of knowledge between Sanskrit and Gujarati Literary Culture**”, in which he made a brilliant presentation with the help of visuals from rare scrolls of illustrated manuscripts of *Vasantavilasa*. Prof. Sharad Bansal delivered the Presidential address. Ms. Veena Joshi in her address expressed her optimism about the quality and output of the Seminar and requested all the participating scholars to submit their revised presentations to the Organizers at the earliest. She also stated that this coming together of two noted institutions working in the field of Indology will be mutually beneficial and will facilitate a long standing collaboration on research projects. Dr. Sharmila Bagchi of the Oriental Institute compeered the Inaugural session, which drew to a close with the National Anthem.

For the Seminar, about 15-20 noted scholars were invited for making presentations on the broader themes of Textual Traditions, Performing Arts and Fine Arts, highlighting the contribution of Gujarat to those particular disciplines. Special emphasis was given to presentations in the lecture-demonstration style and Prof. Mahesh Champaklal, Prof. Parul Shah, Prof. Gaurang Bhavsar and Sh. Kaladhar Mutwa made brilliant live presentations along with their textual matter. The Seminar was thematically classified in six technical sessions.

Under the aegis 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 different art-forms are organized along with the intellectual deliberations. In the present Seminar, on the evening of the first day, performances of traditional art-forms was organised by the Performing Arts department in Shri Dindayal Upadhyaya Auditorium, Vadodara. Live performances of Bhavai (the

traditional theatre form of Gujarat), Garba, Tippani and Raas (traditional dance forms of Gujarat) and Gujarati folk songs were presented by trained professionals specially invited from Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The programme was highly appreciated by all the scholars and observers.

Scholars from both the institutions, namely, the IGNSA and the Oriental Institute benefitted a lot by organization of this particular Seminar at Vadodara as both the organizations carry out similar kind of research work and fresh possibilities of collaborative research emerged through the creative and critical dialogue that happened during the course of this two day academic exercise. In this way, the Seminar was a great success.

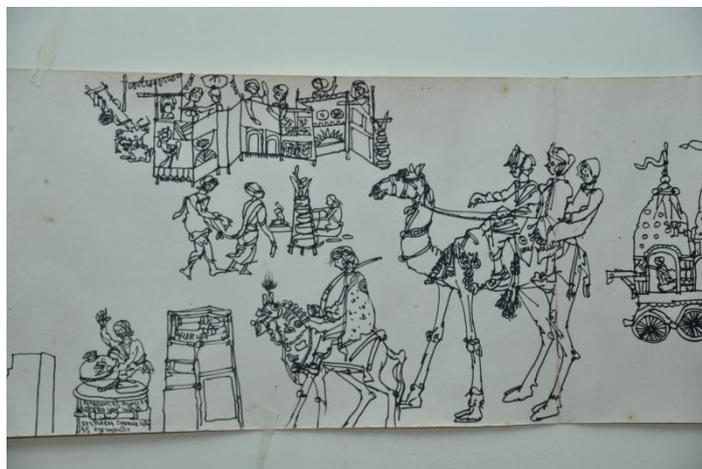
Following presentations* were made by scholars in the Technical Sessions:

1. R.K. Panda -- **Jain Mahakavyas of Gujarat**
2. Shweta Jejurkar – **Iconographical Peculiarities of Surya With Special Reference to Suryopanisad**
3. Sharmila Bagchi -- **Jain Sanskrit Dramatists of Medieval Gujarat**
4. Meena Pathak -- **Sthalapurana, Jnatipurana and Mahatmyas of Gujarat: An Overview**
5. Sweta Prajapati -- **Vijnaptipatras: Socio-cultural portrait of Western India**
6. Mahesh Champaklal -- **Purvaranga in Bhavai**
7. Parul Shah -- **Dance in Gujarat : From Then to Now**
8. Gaurang Bhavsar & Kedar Mukadam -- **Lokvadhyas of Gujarat**
9. Ratan Parimoo -- **Jain Manuscript Paintings**
10. Dipak Kannal -- **Yaska and His Nirukta: Origin of Indian Iconography**
11. Reena N. Bhatiya -- **Revitalization of Saudagiri: The Trade Textile of Gujarat**
12. Kaladhar Mutwa -- **Embroidery and Textile Tradition of Banni and Kutch**
13. Jayram Poduval -- **Shift of Patronage: Development of the Art of Book in Gujarat**
14. Ambika Patel -- **Buddhist Art and Architecture of Gujarat**
15. Rajesh Kelkar -- **Gujarat: Contribution to Indian Musicology**

*(Full text of these presentations will be available soon)

- In the Valedictory session **Shri Jayant Parikh**, eminent Artist of Vadodara made an illuminating presentation in which he showed an 11ft. Long scroll which he had sketched long ago. He also prepared a pencil sketch in just 3 minutes and at the conclusion of the programme presented the same to **Ms. Veena Joshi**, JS, IGNCA.

(Scroll displayed by Sh. Jayant Parikh)



Scroll presented to IGNCA by Sh. Jayant Parikh

