

Inauguration of Interpretation Centre, Ramnagar, and A lecture delivered under Kashi Vayakhyanamala series.

Folk arts make human life full of happiness. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, an autonomous trust under Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has established Interpretation Centre at Ramnagar for promotion of the world renowned Ramlila form of Ramnagar. Its inaugural function was held on 22nd November, 2016 at Shri Prabhunaranyan Government Inter College, Ramnagar.

On this occasion, the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated the Centre. The chief guest observed while taking round the currently established Centre that it will offer its valuable contribution in preservation and promulgation of Ramlila. He also remarked that the Government of India should declare the "Ramlila of Ramnagar" as national heritage, just like UNESCO, which has recognised it as cultural heritage of the world to develop and preserve it.

On this occasion, a lecture was also organised on 'importance of Ramnagar ki Ramlila' under Kashi Vyakhyanamala series. The lecture was started with the lighting of the lamp (Jnana-deepa) by the guests on the dais followed by 'mangalacharan' by the student of the college.

On this occasion, the Chief guest, Learned speaker, Guest of Honour and the President were felicitated. The convener of the programme introduced the dignitaries on the dais and the topic as well. Cultural programme was also organised in the form of Manas Path. The episode of Dhanusha-bhanga from Ramacarita Manas was recited by a student of the college.

The learned speaker, Prof. Jitendra Nath Mishra, former head, Department of Hindi, DAV Post Graduate College, Varanasi, spoke on 'importance of Ramnagar ki Ramlila'. While delivering his lecture he said that the present form of this Ramlila is continuing from 200 years.

He further elaborated that there are two traditions of Ramlila. The first tradition which was established by Goswami Tulasidas, based on glimpse of Rama Katha. The second one is in the form of narration of his own exploits as it occurs in Kakabhushundi and Garuda Samvada.

Prof Hari Ram Dwivedi, the chief guest of the function and renowned poet of Hindi and Bhojpuri language, described the personality of Rama through his own poems.

Prof. Maruti Nandan Prasad Tiwari, the guest of honour and Professor Emeritus, Department of History of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, observed that Rama Katha is available not only in all the Indian languages but also in Asian languages besides

Ramayana of Valmiki and Ramcharitamanas of Tulsi Das. All the characters of Ramlila present the ideals of lila. They are symbol of familial and social ideal behaviour. Each and every episode of Ramlila inspires us to become an ideal and righteous citizen of the country. We must watch, understand and realize the Ramlila.

Prof. Kamalesha Datta Tripathi, president of the function and advisor of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre, Varanasi, made his presidential remark in the form of conversation with young students. He inspired the students to watch, participate in and practice the ideals of the Ramlila. He asked the students to perform the Ramlila in keeping with the Ramnagar form of lila.

Further he compared the Ramlila of Prayaga with Ramlila of Ramnagar. Ramlila of Prayag was inspired by Ramlila of Ramnagar, but now no more Ramlila is being performed in old style. He also shared his reminiscences regarding Ramlila of Ramnagar as an audience.

The function was concluded with the vote of thanks extended by the principal of Shri Prabhunarayan Government Inter College. On this occasion many other distinguished guests like Prof Kamal Giri, Director of Jnana-pravah and Mr. Anand Tiwari, members of Ramlilla Committee of Ramnagar and citizens of Ramnagar besides members of IGNCA, RC, Varanasi and students & teachers of the college were also present.