

Concept Paper

A two day National Seminar titled '**Indian Arts enshrined in Textual Traditions: with special reference to Odisha**' is being organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi in association with Post Graduate Department of Sanskrit, Utkal University, Bhubaneshwar, at Odisha from 30th to 31st January, 2017. Also, under the aegis of **Shastra and Prayoga programme**, based on **Performative Traditions of Odisha** will also be organized on both the evenings.

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.

A series of seminars has been initiated by the Kalakosa of the IGNCA, in which subject experts of a particular region are 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 Thirdly, many invaluable regional texts related to Indian arts, hitherto unpublished, might come to light and could be included in the master-list of the Kalamulasastra series.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 Seminar at Odisha is the fourth seminar in this series and logically so, as the Odisha region has ensured safeguarding, sustenance and onward transmission of intellectual and artistic traditions. Till now Seminars have been successfully organized at Kerala, Vadodara and Varanasi (for North-East India). The papers presented in these Seminars have been gathered and are in the final stage of editing.

The two day Seminar will address itself to various aspects of the textual wealth of Odisha, which has enshrined a multitude of traditional art forms and Indian artistic heritage. About 20 noted scholars will make presentations on any of the following broader themes, highlighting the contribution of Odisha 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, presented in the pristine ambience of some traditional performative space.

Shastra and Prayoga programme

The **Shastra and Prayoga** Programme of IGNCA is an endeavour to highlight the interactive and dialogical nature of the concepts of theory and practice of the arts in Indian context and brings the experience of arts, codified in texts, to the experiential level of spectator, by arranging lectures, demonstrations and performances based on texts on the arts, published under its various series.

As mentioned above, under the aegis of this programme, a two day programme is being proposed based on **Performative Traditions of Odisha**, which will attempt to look at the theme from the points of view of artistic theories and practices. It may be mentioned here that the IGNCA has published seminal texts like the *Natyaśāstra* (Nevari version, Volume I), *Kavi Karner Pala*, *Sangitanarayana*, *Silparatnakosa* and *Silpaprakasa* in its *Kalamulasastra* series. This series of the IGNCA aims to bring to light primary and fundamental texts in the fields of arts, especially architecture, sculpture, painting, music and dance; in a manner that the insularity between the theory and practice, the textual and the oral, the creative and the critical, and the expressed and the experienced can be broken and the dynamic interplay and complementarity of both the traditions is established.

May this endeavour prove fruitful.