

National seminar on Abhinavagupta organized at SMVDU

Excelsior Correspondent

KATRA, Sept 4: A two-day national seminar on "Abhinavagupta: The Genius of Kashmir" was organized by the Department of Philosophy & Culture, SMVDU, in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.

As this is the millennium year of Abhinavagupta, a great saint and noted philosopher of the Kashmir Shaivism tradition, IGNCA is conducting national seminars at four distinct places in India this year. This was the first in series.

Total 17 papers were presented by scholars from all across the country and from the region and a range of topics were covered, including Abhinavagupta's contribution to aesthetics, poetry, linguistics, epistemology, metaphysics, soteriology and spiritual aspects of his philosophy. The importance of his contribution to Indian theater arts, his influence on the later philosophical thinking and spiritual practices and shaping the Indian philosophy of art was also highlighted.

The seminar was enriched by presentations by Prof. Ram Pratap, former Head of Sanskrit Dept in University of Jammu,

Prof. Ram Bahadur Shukla from Sanskrit Dept JU and a number of research scholars from the same department. Dr Krishna Murari Mani Tripathi and Dr D Dayanath, Dr Ratan Pandey, Dr Nigam Pandey from Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Jammu, Dr Rajneesh Shukla from JNU, Dr Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi from Department of Languages and Literature SMVDU, Dr M M Chaturvedi, Dr Anil K. Tewari and Dr. V K Tripathi from Dept of Philosophy & Culture also presented scholarly papers.

The seminar concluded with a report presentation by Dr Anil K. Tewari, a valedictory address by Dr Bharat Gupta and Dr Shiv Nirmohi, a vote of thanks by Dr V K Tripathi and a concluding prayer 'Bhairava-stotra' by Dr Advaitavadini Kaul.

The seminar was inaugurated yesterday with a welcome note by Dr V K Tripathi, Head, Dept of Philosophy & Culture, a theme presentation by Dr Anil Kumar Tewari, presentation about IGNCA by Dr Advaitavadini Kaul, address by Dr N. D. Sharma from IGNCA, keynote address by Dr Bharat Gupta, Trustee IGNCA and inaugural address by Prof Shiv Nirmohi.