

# Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

## Eastern Regional Centre, Varanasi

IGNCA, Varanasi started its journey in 1987 as a project under Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath and achieved the status of a separate Institute in 1988 with a group of active researchers and employees under the competent leadership of Dr. Bettina Bäumer and started working as a branch office of Kalākośa division, IGNCA, New Delhi to undertake research and publication programmes of reference works, glossaries, dictionaries and encyclopaedia concerning the arts, humanities and general cultural heritage.

At the outset, main concern of IGNCA, Varanasi was to prepare and publish Kalātattvakośa (to be completed in about 25 vols), containing approximately 250 terms on fundamental concepts of Indian arts. Six volumes have been published so far; Vol. VIIth and VIIIth are under process. Beside Kalātattvakośa the Centre is carrying out other activities like editing of some of the texts of Kalāmūla Śāstra Series, preparing a Glossary of Key Art Terms and above all the task of reference collection from various Indological disciplines for IGNCA's other projects with the help of experts. Apart from this, it is organizing periodical lectures, Seminars, meetings and workshops etc.

In course of its about 20 years' journey IGNCA, Varanasi came in contact with four expert coordinators. Dr. Bettina Bäumer was the first coordinator who worked in IGNCA, Varanasi from 1988 up to 1995. During her coordinatorship IGNCA, Varanasi has published Kalātattvakośa Vols. I-III, Prakṛti, Vol III (Seminar Vol.) and Śilparatnakośa – all these texts were edited by Dr. Bettina Bäumer.

Prof. R.C. Sharma took the charge of Hony. Coordinator IGNCA, Varanasi in the April, 1995 and continued up to July, 2003. In this period IGNCA, Varanasi has published Kalātattvakośa IV & V, revised edition of Kalātattvakośa I & II and A.K. Coomaraswamy's Perception of Vedas.

In 2003 Prof. V.N. Misra joined as Hony. Coordinator of IGNCA, Varanasi and continued till his last breath on 14.2.2005. During his time, Kalātattvakośa VI took its shape. Apart from Kalātattvakośa VI, at this period IGNCA, Varanasi started the project of Glossary of Key Art Terms (under his supervision) which is on the way of completion.

Prof. K.D. Tripathi has joined IGNCA, Varanasi in the June, 2007 in the capacity of Hony. Coordinator. By this time status of IGNCA, Varanasi has been elevated as a Regional Centre. The Member Secretary elevated his status as Advisor in the August, 2008. The Insti-

tute arranged a huge scholars' meet in the September 2007 and another three days' colloquium on Kalātattvakośa was held for the review and analysis of Kalātattvakośa forthcoming volumes in the last week of December, 2007. In 2008, two Kalātattvakośa Saṃgoṣṭhī were held based on *Sthāna-āyatana* and *Pratīka-abhiprāya* in the month of October and November. In this year Kalātattvakośa VI saw the light of day edited by Dr. S. Chattopadhyay and Dr. N.C. Panda.

Besides the preparation of Kalātattvakośa remaining volumes from VIIth to XVth IGNCA, Varanasi has expanded its activities. In that scheduled scheme a continuous seminar was planned on Vākyapadīya and Indian Philosophy of Language which not only made an effort to preserve the Kāśī tradition of Vākyapadīya but made a survey of the entire work done on the text so far. The project intended to examine the Vākyapadīya in the context of entire philosophy of language. In that series, so far IGNCA, Varanasi last year arranged three lecture series on Vākyapadīya in which at least 20 lectures were delivered in three phases by subject experts. This year also a 4 day colloquium on Vākyapadīya and Indian Philosophy of Languages is scheduled to be held in the month of January, 2009.

**Staff-Members of IGNCA Eastern Regional Centre, Varanasi**

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