

Press Report

**All India Workshop on
Manuscriptology and Paleography**

(20th December 2009 to 10th January 2010)

organized by

Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology

in collaboration with

**National Mission for Manuscripts,
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi**

Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi has organised an All India Workshop on Manuscriptology and Paleography from 20th December 2009 to 10th January 2010 in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts, IGNC, New Delhi. The valedictory function was held on 10.01.2010 at 10.30 A.M. The function started with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries and followed by Saraswati Vandana by Km. Leena Jain, Km. Priyanka and Km. Kaushiki.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Godabarish Misra, Member Secretary, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, emphasised the need for preserving and publishing the uncatalogued manuscripts which are in the custody of several private individuals as well as government and non-government organizations. Dr Misra expressed that preservation of Manuscripts is preservation of knowledge and this is a necessary activity for any culture. The manuscripts are preserved for over 1000 years in India. The traditional learning of the concept is definitely older than any other concepts. The Jaina Prakrit and Abhabramsha are much older than our known history. Jains have contributed to Indian culture the following three important principles: Idea of Non-violence, Concept of vegetarianism and Culture. Jain Traditions enriched the Indian culture. Just merely collecting of the Manuscripts, nothing will happen. Even digitalization of manuscripts nothing will happen. We have to work on the manuscripts which will be instrumental for propagation of our ancient heritage. We should also prepare the critical editions of texts by using the manuscripts. A fresh team of tradition of manuscriptology and palaeography is to be taken seriously in our tradition. Traditions of Manuscripts tell us because of writing. Shrutu Parampara or style has advantage in doing oral. We have the advantage of writing and speech.

Writing and speech interact with each other. How do you dig out history? Truth of preservation of manuscripts of knowledge and part of them to do we have on manuscripts on truth and knowledge. He congratulated the participants and organizers of the seminar for doing wonderful efforts for the preservation of the traditions and nurturing the knowledge.

Sri N. P. Jain, Vice-Chairman of BLII welcomed the guests and audience. He briefed about the activities of the Institute.

Dr. J. B. Shah, Vice-Chairman, of BLII, requested the participants to make use of the training they achieved by participating this workshop when they go back to their respective places.

Shri Raj Kumar Jain, Secretary General of the Smarak gave a brief account of the activities of the Smarak, School, Bhojanshala and other offices functioning within the complex.

Dr. Balaji Ganorkar, Director, BLII announced the names of successful candidates of 1st, second, third and consolation prizes, according to the merit. The prize money of Rs.2,100/-, Rs.1,500/-, Rs.1,100/- and Rs.500/- was given by Enkay Charitable Foundation, New Delhi.

The event was presided over by Prof. Gayacharan Tripathi, Advisor, IGNC, New Delhi. He explained about the four types of Vidyas, namely Vak, Madhyama, Vasanti, and Para. In Rigveda, Vak said she is everything. According to Vak the Granthas are the actual Goddess of Saraswati and this is the reason even today the books are kept in front of the Goddess Sarawati during the Vasant Panchami and Gyan Panchami days. He informed the participants about the ancient Kings who donate the land to the poor people and priests along with a tamrapatra which contains the full details of the giver and receiver so that nobody can snatch the property from the beneficiary. He told that all the participants have gained good knowledge and will keep it in their hearts and also should increase their energy to preserve, conserve and edit the manuscripts so that the proper messages of the Manuscripts could be delivered to the public. Dr. Tripathi said this is not the valedictory function but it is the starting flame of the endeavour in Manuscriptology & Palaeography.

Dr. Vijay Shankar Shuka, Director, National Mission for Manuscripts, IGNC, New Delhi, explained the activities of the National Mission for Manuscripts. He said it is the aim of the mission to publish 100 books to be edited and published every year.

Prof. J. P. Vidyalankar, Advisor, BLII, accorded the vote of thanks. Dr. Balaji Ganorkar organized and anchored this program nicely. During the 22 days long workshop following faculties have delivered their learned deliberations:

1. Prof. Hampa Nagarajaiah Bangalore
2. Prof. Satkari Mukhopadhyaya New Delhi
3. Prof. G.C. Tripathi New Delhi
4. Prof. B. B. Choubey Hoshairpur
5. Prof. Satya Pal Narang New Delhi
6. Dr. Vijay Shankar Shuka New Delhi
7. Dr. Baldevanand Sagar New Delhi
8. Dr. Preeti Pancholi Ahmedabad
9. Dr. Uttam Singh Ahmedabad
10. Prof. Nalin K Shastri Bodh Gaya
11. Dr. Abhay Doshi Mumbai
12. Shri Iliyas Ahmed New Delhi
13. Prof. J. P. Vidyalankar New Delhi
14. Dr. Jitendrabhai Shah Ahmedabad
15. Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh New Delhi
16. Dr. Mohan Pandey New Delhi
17. Dr. Balaji Ganorkar New Delhi