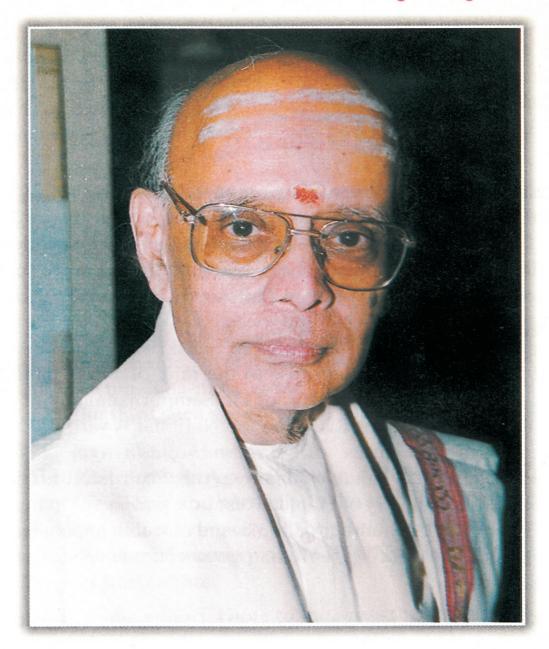
''मरणं प्रकृतिः शरीरिणां विकृतिजीवितमुच्यते बुधैः''



Dedicated with Great Respect and Admiration to the Sacred Memory

of

Padmaśrī Prof. V. Venkatachalam

A Scholar of Par-excellence and An Embodiment of Indian Culture

# Jñāna-Pravāha Flows on

Following the preceding convention, the activities of Jñāna-Pravāha continued to augment in the academic year 2001-2002 (from August 1, 2001 to July 31, 2002). The success has been achieved with the grace of Lord Viśvanātha and blessings of Gaṅgā Mā, besides the cooperation lent by the scholars, participants, students from different organizations and other distinguished guests. This issue of the Bulletin, No. 5, covers the period from July 2001 to June 2002.

## 1. SEMINARS

## 1.1 Radiance of Kāśī: Vaiṣṇava Contribution

The academic session of Jñāna-Pravāha began on August 1, 2001 with a two-day symposium on Vaiṣṇava Contribution to Kāśī, which was a part of our annual feature, i.e. 'Radiance of Kāśī'. It was inaugurated by Padmabhushan Prof. Vidya Nivas Misra who also delivered the Keynote Address and was presided over by Goswami Sri Shyam Manohar Maharaj of Gopal Mandir, Varanasi. The symposium was coordinated by Dr. Bhanu Shankar Mehta and Dr. Kamal Giri. The participation was as under:

<u>Participants</u>
पद्मभूषण प्रो. विद्यानिवास मिश्र
गोस्वामी श्री श्याम मनोहर जी महाराज
प्रो. वासुदेव सिंह

4. आचार्य गङ्गाशरण शास्त्री5. प्रो. श्याम सुन्दर शुक्ल

6. प्रो. युगेश्वर

7. प्रो. श्रीनिवास पाण्डेय

8. प्रो. ब्रजरल दास गुप्त

9. प्रो. राय आनन्द कृष्ण

10. प्रो. प्रदीप कुमार दीक्षित

11. डा. भानुशंकर मेहता

12. डा. कमल गिरि

13. डा. नीलकण्ठ पुरुषोत्तम जोशी

14. Prof. R.C. Sharma

15. Dr. M.N.P. Tiwari

16. Dr. Pranati Ghosal

# Title of Paper

प्रास्ताविक सम्बोधन अध्यक्षीय सम्बोधन

मध्यकालीन वैष्णव भक्ति आन्दोलन और काशी

काशी की वैष्णव उपासना कबीर का वैष्णव चिन्तन काशी का वैष्णव स्वरूप काशी के वैष्णव कवि

काशी की पुष्टिमार्गीय वैष्णव परम्परा

काशी में चित्रित भागवत (भाखा) की एक प्रति

काशी में हवेली संगीत काशी की वैष्णव लीलाएं

काशी की लोक परम्परा में वैष्णव भाव

महाराष्ट्र के वैष्णव सन्तों का काशी को योगदान

Vaiṣṇava Texture of Kāśī-An Antiquarian

Perspective

Viṣṇu in the Art of Kāśī

Splendour of Kāśī in Mahābhārata

# 1.2 Kālidāsa Parva: Abhijñānaśākuntalam

A two-day symposium on the celebrated work of great poet Kālidāsa, **Abhijñānaśākuntalam** was held on October 30-31, 2001. This was the follow-up of an annual feature of Jñāna Pravāha, namely 'Kālidāsa Parva.' It was coordinated by Prof. K.D. Tripathi and Prof. Yugal Kishor Misra. The participation was as under:

1.	Participants पद्मश्री प्रो. वी. वेङ्कटाचलम्	<u>Title of Paper</u> विषय प्रवर्तन
	प्रो. युगल किशोर मिश्र	भारतीय संस्कृति के व्याख्याता कालिदास
	· ·	(अभिज्ञान-शाकुन्तल के सन्दर्भ में)
3.	डा. कपिल देव पाण्डेय	शाकुन्तले पर्यावरण प्रतिबद्धता
4.	प्रो. शिवजी उपाध्याय	अभिज्ञानशाकुन्तले राज्यशासन दिग्दर्शनम्
5.	प्रो. राय आनन्द कृष्ण	अभिज्ञानशाकुन्तल में चित्र सन्दर्भ
6.	डा. कमला पाण्डेय	शांकुन्तल में नारी के विविध रूप
7.	डा. कृष्णकान्त शर्मा	अभिज्ञानशाकुन्तल की प्रस्तुति में पारम्परिक रंग दृष्टि
8.	Prof. R.C. Sharma	Human Emotions in Abhijñānaśākuntalam

The play was staged after the inauguration of the new building on November 1, 2001 when His Excellency, the Governor of U.P. Prof. Vishnu Kant Shastri was the guest-in-chief. The Seminar was followed by the presentation of a small comedy *Who is Kaliḍāsā?* coordinated by Dr. Bhanu Shankar Mehta and presented by Dr. Meera Gupta.

# 1.3 Bliss of Upanișads: Īśāvāsya

The Bliss of Upaniṣads is one of the annual features and during the year under review, a two-day colloquy on **Īśāvāsya Upaniṣad** was organized on December 4-5, 2001. It was coordinated by Padmashri Prof. V. Venkatachalam and Prof. Bettina Bāumer. The participation was as under:

	<u>Participants</u>	Title of Paper
1.	Prof. V. Venkatachalam	First two mantras of the Īśāvāsya Upaniṣad
2.	Prof. B. Bäumer	Three last hymns of Īśāvāsya
3.	प्रो. सुधांशु शेखर शास्त्री	काण्वमाध्यन्दिनपरम्परानुसारम् ईशावास्योपनिषदो
		मन्त्रक्रममन्त्रपाठयोर्भेदस्तत् समीक्षा च
4.	प्रो. एन.आर. श्रीनिवासन	ईशावास्योपनिषदस्तात्पर्यं सगुणब्रह्मोपासनायां न तु निर्गुण ब्रह्मणि
5.	प्रो. कमलेश दत्त त्रिपाठी	तान्त्रिक दृष्टिकोण से ईशावास्य उपनिषद्
6.	प्रो. पारसनाथ द्विवेदी	ईशावास्योपनिषदि ज्ञानकर्मसमुच्चय पक्ष
7.	स्वामी प्रणव चैतन्य पुरी	ईशावास्योपनिषद् में विद्या-अविद्या, सम्भूति-असम्भूति तथा आत्महन की
		निष्कृष्ट व्याख्या
8.	डा. एस. विजयकुमार	ईशावास्योपनिषद् पर कुछ प्रमुख आधुनिक विचारकों का चिन्तन
9.	डा. भानुशंकर मेहता	पुष्पाञ्जलि

# 1.4 Veda Vidyā: Reflection of Vedas in Sanskrit Literature

Veda Vidyā is also one of the annual features and each year a theme related to Vedas is taken up for discussion. Accordingly, a seminar titled Reflection of Vedas in Sanskrit Literature was organized on January 1 and 2, 2002. It was inaugurated with a thoughtful note by Padmabhushan Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and President of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi. The programme was coordinated by Dr. H. R. Sharma and Padmashri Prof. V. Venkatachalam was in Chair. The participants of the Seminar were as under:

#### **Participants** Title of Paper 1. पद्मभूषण डा. लक्ष्मीमल्ल सिंघवी उद्बोधन भाषण 2. पद्मश्री प्रो. वी. वेङ्कटाचलम् प्रास्ताविक सम्बोधन 3. Prof. R.C. Sharma Vedic Impact on Gītā 4. Dr. S. Chattopadhyay Impact of Vedas on Rāmāyana of Vālmīki 5. Dr. N.C. Panda Vedic Influence on Mahābhārata (Sānti Parva) 6. डा. कपिल देव पाण्डेय शाक्त पुराणों पर वैदिक प्रभाव 7. प्रो. कमलेश दत्त त्रिपाठी नाट्यशास्त्र में वैदिक चिन्तन 8. प्रो. शिवजी उपाध्याय राजशेखरे वैदिकदर्शनस्य प्रभावः 9. Dr. Pranati Ghosal Traces of Vedic Thoughts and Traditions as Reflected in Kālidāsa 10. डा. मनुलता शर्मा नैषधीयचरित पर छान्दस प्रभाव शिश्पालवध में वेदों का प्रभाव 11. डा. चन्द्रकान्ता राय भासनाटक चक्र में वैदिक आलोक 12. प्रो. गङ्गाधर पण्डा भागवतपुराण में वेदच्छाया 13. डा. हृदय रञ्जन शर्मा शैवपुराणों में वैदिक प्रभाव 14. डा. गङ्गासागर राय स्तोत्र साहित्य में वेदच्छाया 15. डा. कमला पाण्डेय नीति साहित्य में वेदच्छाया 16. डा. प्रभनाथ द्विवेदी

## 1.5 Purāņa Parva: Agni Purāņa

Purāṇa Parva is another important annual feature of Jñāna-Pravāha in which, one Purāṇa is selected for cultural study. In the year under review, a symposium on the Cultural Glimpses from the Agni Purāṇa was held on March 16-17, 2002 and was coordinated by Dr. Neelkantha Purushottam Joshi. It was participated as under:

	<u>Participants</u>	Title of Paper
1.	पद्मभूषण प्रो. विद्यानिवास मिश्र	प्रास्ताविक सम्बोधन
2.	डा. कपिल देव पाण्डेय	अग्निपुराणे नाट्य निरूपणम्
3.	डा. कृष्णकान्त शर्मा	अग्निपुराण में अष्टाङ्ग योग
4.	Dr. Rama Ghosh	Tvaritā in Agni Purāņa
5.	Dr. S. Chattopadhyay	Grammatical Discussion in Agni Purāṇa
6.	डा. प्रभुनाथ द्विवेदी	अग्निपुराण में चर्चित व्रतों का माहात्म्य
7.	Dr. Pranati Ghosal	Monistic Concepts in Agni Purāņa
8.	Dr. N.P. Joshi	Iconographic Features in Agni Purāṇa
9.	Prof. R.C. Sharma	Architecture in Agni Purāņa
10.	Prof. K.R. Sharma	Ayurvedic Concepts and Treatment in
		Agni Purāņa
11.	डा. मनुलता शर्मा	अग्निपुराण में युद्ध और धनुवेंद
12.	डा. गङ्गासागर राय	अग्निपुराण और वह्निपुराण
13.	प्रो. शिवजी उपाध्याय	अग्निपुराणे अवतारवादः

#### 2. LECTURES

During the last academic year several important lectures were arranged on different topics.

Date	Title of Lecture	Speaker	Chairperson
11.09.2001	Lost Sarasvatī and its Civilization	Prof. T. P. Verma	Prof. Vibha Tripathi
26.02.2002	Yogic Aspect of Gītā	Pt. S. Shastri	
27.02.2002	Yoga as Represented in Art	Prof. R. C. Sharma -	
22.03.2002	Gangā Viṣṇupadī Nāginī	Dr. G. Bhattacharya Prof. P. K. Agrawala	
23.03.2002	Oriental Studies in Germany and their Prospect	Dr. G. Bhattacharya	Dr. N. P. Joshi
02.04.2002	प्रसाद के काव्यसंग्रहों व नाटकों में गीत	Sri J. D. Sadani	Prof. Anand Krishna
03.04.2002	Problems of Translation of Kāmāyanī and Ānsū	Sri J. D. Sadani	Sri Purushottam Das Modi

Dr. Bhanu Shankar Mehta coordinated the presentation of  $\bar{A}\dot{n}s\bar{u}$  after the lectures of Sri J. D. Sadani.

# 3. LECTURES ON REQUEST

Prof. R.C. Sharma, Hon. Director/Acharya, delivered a series of lecture at Jñāna-Pravāha to M.A. Tourism students on special request from the Banaras Hindu University. These were as under:

<u>Date</u>	Title of Lecture
20.09.2001	Jñāna Pravāha as Cultural Centre
06.10.2001	Mathura as Tourist Place
01.12.2001	Mathura Museum
08.12.2001	Mathura Museum (continued)
15.12.2001	Indian Museum, Calcutta
18.12.2001	Indian Museum, Calcutta (continued)
09.02.2002	Mount Abu
16.02.2002	Elephanta Caves
02.03.2002	Sarnath
05.03.2002	Sarnath (Continued)

Prof. Sharma, also delivered a special lecture on the contribution of 'James Prinsep to Banaras' to the Rotarians of Varanasi (Centre) on June 16, 2000.

## 4. IN-DEPTH STUDY COURSES

The Jñāna-Pravāha is reputed for organizing a good number of specialized or indepth study courses or camps. The in-depth study of a subject is unfortunately, becoming a rare feature not only in colleges but also at the university level due to a number of factors. This vacuum is being filled-up to a great extent by the conducting in-depth study courses or special camps on a particular subject. Since 1999, twelve such courses/camps have been organized and the response of the participants has been quite encouraging. In the year 2001-2002, four such courses were arranged. All the lectures in the in-depth study course are profusely illustrated with slides, transparencies and charts. The participants are encouraged to ask question and also to present the gist of the contents of lectures.

## 4.1 International Conference on Buddhism and Gandhara Art

The most important academic event of the year was the organization of International Conference on Buddhism and Gandhāra Art in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. It was held in the first week of November 2001 and coincided with the inauguration of the new building of the Institution, *Pratīcī*. One day, session was hosted by the Bharat Kala Bhavan, B.H.U. and another afternoon session was hosted by the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath. The Archaeological Survey of India also received the delegates and there was a good deal of interaction on the explorations and excavations in India and Pakistan. The Conference was coordinated by Prof. V. C. Srivastava, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla and Prof. R. C. Sharma, Hon. Director/Ācārya, Jñāna-Pravāha. The event also served as an in-depth study course for Gandhāra Art and it was attended by 39 participants besides the guest speakers. The six day seminar was represented by the following scholars from India and abroad:

Date	Name of Participants	Chairperson	Title of Paper
02.11.2001	Prof. R. C. Sharma	Prof. A. K. Narain	Keynote Address
	Prof. T. P. Verma	Dr. S. P: Gupta	Physical and Historical Geography of Gandhāra
	Prof. Farid Khan	Prof. Anand Krishna	Sites of Gandhāra Region Yielding Sculptural Remains
1411 (6)	Dr. S. P. Gupta	-do-	Different Styles in Gandhāra Art
03.11.2001	Dr. N.P. Joshi	Prof. G. N. Samten	Spread of Buddhism in Gandhāra
	Dr. Pranati Ghosal	-do-	Society of Gandhāra Region
	Prof.Charles Willmen	Dr. T. K. Biswas	Central Asia—Buddhism and Gandhāra Art
	Dr. B.R. Mani	Prof.Charles Willmen	Excavations at Ambaran-Akhnur

Date	Name of Participants	Chairperson	Title of Paper
04.11.2001	Dr. T. K. Biswas & Dr. Savita Sharma	Dr. S. D. Trivedi	Kuṣāṇa Portraits in Coins
	Dr. Pushpa Tiwari	-do-	Origin of Buddha Image
	Dr. I. K. Sarma	-do-	Images of Buddha and Gandharan Influences
	Prof. Rai Anand Krishna	Dr.Rashmi Poddar	भारतीय बौद्ध चित्रों पर गान्धार कला का प्रभाव
	Dr. S. D. Trivedi	-do-	Decorative Elements in Sculptural Art of Gandhāra
	Prof.V.C.Srivastava	-do-	Bodhisattva Cult in Afghanistan
	Dr. N. P. Joshi	Dr I. K. Sarma	Brahmanic Sculpture in Gandhāra
,	Dr. Preeti Trivedi through Dr. B. S. Mehta	-do-	Svastika-An Enigma of Gandhāra Art
	Dr. Anamika Roy	Prof. Devendra Handa	Lady Holding the Mirror (Ivories from Gandhāra)
	Dr. Deenabandhu Pandey	-do-	Early Medieval Trends in Gandhāra
05.11.2001	Prof. K. K. Thaplyal	Prof. C. S. Upasak	Early Inscription from Gandhāra Region
	Prof. Devendra Handa	-do-	Copper Hoards from Gandharan Region
	Prof. R. C. Sharma	Dr. V. K. Sharma	Gandhāra and Mathurā School of Art: A Comparison
06.11.2001	Dr. V. K. Sharma	Prof. Farid Khan	Islamic Gandhāra
	Sri Kranti Kumar	-do-	Islam and Iconoclasm
	Dr.R.D. Chaudhury	Dr. N. P. Joshi	Gandhāra Art in National Museum, New Delhi
	Dr. Anasua Das	-do-	Dīpaṅkara Jātaka in Gandhāra
	Sri V. N. Singh	-do-	Documentation of Gandhāra Sculpture in Chandigarh Museum
	Prof.Vibha Tripathi	Prof. K.K.Thaplyal	Metals in Gandhāra Art
	Dr. Kamal Giri	-do-	Toiletries from Gandhāra Region
	Prof. R. C. Sharma	-do-	Origin of Buddha Image

On this occasion Prof. V. C. Srivastava, Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla declared Jñāna-Pravāha as its Collaborating Institution.

## 4.2 Workshop on Nathadwara Paintings

Two well-known experts, namely, Dr. Yugal Kishore Sharma and Sri Raja Ram Sharma came from Nathadwara, Rajasthan and conducted a weeklong workshop from December 25 to 31, 2001 which was attended by 29 senior participants from different institutions. The camp was supervised by Dr. Anjan Chakraverty with the assistance of Sri Navneet Raman. The certificates at the termination of the course were awarded by Padmabhushan Dr. L. M. Singhvi, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and President of IGNCA, New Delhi. The list of participants can be seen at the end of the Bulletin.

#### 4.3 Indian Terracottas

A specialized course on Indian Terracottas was organized from January 10 to 23, 2002 and was coordinated by Dr. N. P. Joshi, Dr. S. S. Biswas from Delhi and Prof. R.C. Sharma. The topics included social & religious significance, definition and purpose, technique, categorization, important sites, archaic figurines, Mauryan, Shungan, Kuṣāṇa and Gupta clay art, regional trends, architectural components, brick decorative panels, seals and sealings, iconography in terracotta art, classical, religious and secular traits, comparison of terracotta with stone sculpture, Indian terracottas abroad, modern trends, the problems faced by the art and their possible solution. Prof. T. P. Verma spoke on seals and their significance. The special feature of the Camp was the interaction of participants with the potters at Jñāna-Pravāha and also at their own working places. Twenty-two participants attended the course, the details of which can be seen at the end of the Bulletin.

# 4.4 Gandhāra Art Specialized Course

The International Seminar on Buddhism and Gandhāra Art granted an opportunity to the upcoming scholars who attended all the sessions of the Seminar as participants to the Special Course. Prof. Farid Khan from Peshawar kindly agreed to be a coordinator of this special academic pursuit. The number of participants was 39, the list of which can be seen at the end of the Bulletin.

# **4.5 Early Indian Coins**

An in-depth study course on Early Indian Coins was organized from February 1-10, 2002, and was conducted by Prof. K. K. Thaplyal from Lucknow and Prof. T. P. Verma, Varanasi. Prof. Thaplyal delivered lectures on the following subjects: definition of coins, coins as source of history, origin and antiquity of coinage in India, issuing authority, metals used, weight standard, technique of manufacturing, punch-marked coins, tribal coins, local coins and art & art motifs in Ancient Indian coins. The topics discussed by Prof. T. P. Verma were: Indo-Greek coinage, Indo-Scythian, Indo-Parthian, Kuṣāṇa coins, Śaka coins, Sātavāhana coins, Gupta coins, and coins in the post-Gupta period upto 650 A.D. A special lecture in the course was delivered by Prof. H. C. Bharadwaj on metallurgy and technology of coins. The course was attended by 26 participants, the list of which is to be seen at the end of the Bulletin.

#### 5. EVENTS

## 5.1 Inauguration of the New Building, 'Pratīcī'

The most important event of the year under review was the inauguration of the new building of Jñāna-Pravāha, *Pratīcī* by H. E., the Governor of U. P., Prof. Vishnu Kant Shastri on November 1, 2001. The plan was conceived by Sri B. V. Doshi, the renowned architect from Ahmedabad and it forms the union of Śiva and Pārvatī, i.e., the harmony of male and female aspects. It also follows the scheme of cave pattern of architecture, the remarkable feature of which is vaulted roof (*gajapṛṣṭhākāra*), i.e., looking like the back of the elephant. The conspicuous feature of the three-storeyed building is that from every hall one can have the panoramic view of Gaṅgā, Ramnagar Fort, line of ghats of Varanasi city, beautiful lawns of Jñāna-Pravāha and its majestic earlier building, *Prācī*. Besides the fascinating view from inside, some auspicious motifs copied from early Indian sculptures have been given prominent place at the entrance. One also finds less than life size statues of Gaṅgā and Yamunā standing on their vehicles, crocodile and tortoise, respectively.

The new building houses Reception, Amphitheatre, Cafeteria, Administrative Block, temporary Exhibition area, Conference hall, Seminar room, Library and on top the Museum and the Art Gallery, displaying sculpture, terracottas, coins, inscriptions, paintings, textiles, manuscripts, Banaras unit including the Vedic traditions and a unit highlighting the contribution of India in Science & Technology in early period. The display is being planned by Sri M. C. Pande, Dr. Anjan Chakraverty and Prof. R. C. Sharma. Its inauguration is proposed on the auspicious day of Śaratpūrnimā, October 21, 2002. The Museum floor has provision of conservation for treatment of objects. Sri Ram Chandra, traditional artist of Banaras, prepared some excellent paintings, which are on view at different places in the new building, *Pratīcī*. Similarly, Sri Raja Ram Sharma from Nathadwara, during his stay for conduction of a workshop in the last week of December 2001, prepared a beautiful *Pichhavai* of Śrīnāthajī and presented it to Jñāna-Pravāha. This is also on view of the visitors.

### 5.2 Kāśī Exhibition

The inauguration of the new building coincided with the opening of a large Exhibition on Kāśī on November 1, 2001. It represented different aspects of Kāśī or Banārasī culture known for its academic eminence, confluence of different traditions, religions, ghats, temples, educational institutions, textiles, folk arts, archaeology, terracottas and coins. The exhibition continued upto March 31, 2002 and was visited by a number of visitors and specially, the group of students from different Institutions. It was coordinated by Dr. B. S. Mehta, Dr. Kamal Giri and Dr. Anjan Chakraverty and dedicated to the late Kāśī Nareśa Dr. Vibhuti Narayan Singh.

#### 5.3 Gandhāra Art Exhibition

The International Conference on Buddhism and Gandhāra Art was organized not only to discuss the role of Buddhism, its spread and the well known school of sculpture in the Gandhāra Region, but also to express grief for the brutal attack on the Buddhist remains in the Gandhāra Region including the famous Bamiyan Buddha statues by the mad

fundamentalists in the Taliban regime of Afghanistan. An exhibition of important remains, destroyed or lost in Afghanistan, was put up during the Seminar. The photographs for the exhibition were downloaded through computer by Smt. Bimla Poddar, Founder and Managing Trustee of Jñāna-Pravāha.

## **5.4 James Prinsep Exhibition**

James Prinsep came to Varanasi in 1820 at the young age of twenty and stayed for ten years. His contribution to Banaras is unique and splendid. A photographic exhibition on the stairs between the 1st and 2nd floor has been arranged. The specimens are from his famous book **Benares Illustrated** and these impart an interesting glimpse of the city in the early 19th century.

## 5.5 Staging of Abhijñānaśākuntalam

A very important and rare occasion was when the celebrated work of Kālidāsa, Śākuntalam was staged in the evening of November 1, 2001 after the inauguration of the new building, *Pratīcī*. It was said that all the seven acts of Śākuntalam were staged after a gap of more than half a century at Banaras. The admirers enjoyed and appreciated the performance to the extent of ecstasy. The play was directed mainly by Dr. K. K. Sharma, but the help was rendered by Dr. B. S. Mehta and Prof. K. D. Tripathi. The list of actors is given in the Appendices.

#### 5.6 Prachi Mehta's Dance

During course of Gandhāra Art International Conference, Ms Prachi Mehta from Mumbai, who was one of the course participants, presented several dance items on November 4, 2001.

# 5.7 Śrauta Yāga (Vedic Yajña)

A Vedic yajña was organized on January 10-11, 2002. This sarvapṛṣṭheṣṭi aimed at establishing harmony, peace and cordiality in the society and was coordinated by Dr. H. R. Sharma. Since then, the yajñaśālā has become a permanent holy place and fire is kept alive day and night.

# 5.8 Vasanta Pūjā

The event was organized on February 7, 2002 when 30 learned *pandits* assembled and recited the portion from the four Vedas in accordance with different conventions in northern and southern India. This was organized when a group of twenty-two ladies visited Jñāna-Pravāha and was coordinated by Smt. Divya Jalan, Mumbai.

# 5.9 Yoga Camp

A camp on yoga was held in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Govt. of U. P. on February 26-27, 2002. This was participated by some foreigners and Indians interested in the yogic practices. Yogirāja Rakesh Ji demonstrated a number of yogic exercises, which were followed by the participants. Two special lectures were delivered by Pandit Anand Subrahmanyam Shastri and Prof. R. C. Sharma.

**5.10** A group of ladies of *Mahilā Maṇḍala*, Varanasi visited Jñāna-Pravāha on March 9, 2002 and interacted at length with the Hon. Director on some aspects of Indian art and culture.

# 6. LIPI PRAVĀHA

## (Study of Early and Obscure Scripts)

The In-depth Study Courses in Jñāna-Pravāha started with the commencement of a special course on early and obscure scripts in November 1999. Since then, some classes are held as per convenience of the participants to revive and revise their acquaintance with old scripts. The course on Early Indian Coins organized in February 2002, also dealt with palaeography briefly. It was decided that regular classes should be held during the summer time when the students are free from their examinations. The coordinator of this course was Prof. R. C. Sharma. Sanskrit teaching helpful in deciphering the old inscriptions is a new feature. Well known scholar and Member of Academic Committee of Jñāna-Pravāha Prof. B. N. Bhattacharya conducted the Sanskrit class. The certificates of Brāhmī course were awarded by Prof. P. Ramachandra Rao, Vice Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University on June 22, 2002. The valediction preceded a written performance test. The Jñāna-Pravāha Lipi panel comprising Prof. R. C. Sharma, Dr. Pranati Ghosal and Sri Niraj Kumar Pandey deciphered the recently discovered Copper Plate of Emperor Harṣa. The research paper on this rare historical document of early 7th century A.D. finds place in this issue of the Bulletin.

# 7. PRERANĀ PRAVĀHA

## (Youth Service)

A special programme to inspire the students and younger generation towards good sacraments, sincerity, honesty and ideal life was launched on September 26, 2000 and since then, it is going on with satisfaction in or outside Jñāna-Pravāha. The coordinators of this programme are Prof. A. N. Tripathi, Smt. Manju Sundaram and Sri Navneet Raman.

- **7.1** Interaction with the students of Tulsi Vidya Niketan was organized in the school itself on September 21, 2001 in which, the practicability of value-based life was discussed.
- **7.2** Between November 2001 and March 2002, the students from Sunbeam, Bhagwanpur; SOS Hermann Gmeiner, Chaubeypur; Vasant Kanya Vidyalaya, Kamachha and Tulsi Vidya Niketan, Nagwan visited to see the exhibition on Kāśī. Before they were taken round the exhibition, a long interaction took place between the Hon. Director and the students about the fundamental characteristics of Banaras and Indian culture. The students were extremely happy as the discussions were in a simple language and befitting their standard of education.
- 7.3 An important programme under the auspices of Preraṇā-Pravāha was a workshop on Water Harvesting organized in collaboration with the Banyan Tree, N.G.O. and Science and Environment, Varanasi. About hundred students from different institutions assembled and presented their views on water resources, their care and maintenance of ecology and environment. Prof. Pramod Chandra, a well-known authority on Indian Art and Culture from Harvard University, awarded the certificates of participation as the Guest-in-Chief. The schools, which participated, include Sunbeam, Annapurna Nagar; Sunbeam, Bhagawanpur; Balvidya Higher Secondary School; Rajghat Vasant School; W. H. Smith Memorial School, Sigra and Little Flower House, Kakarmatta. The workshop was held on January 29, 2002.
- 7.4 A Children's Workshop on Media, Environment and Cultural Heritage was organized under the joint auspices of Jñāna-Pravāha, Centre for Science & Environment, New Delhi and the Banyan Tree, Varanasi from April 22 to 27, 2002. The students from different organizations of Varanasi attended the indoor and fieldwork activities. Smt. P. Sudha Rao,

w/o Prof. P. Ramachandra Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University inaugurated the workshop on April 22. Mrs. Mary Carmen Lyn Chandra from Harvard, U.S.A. gave valedictory address on April 27. Thirty-five students participated and prepared report after a weeklong survey and interviews on water pollution, air pollution, garbage dumping and care of cultural heritage. Five instructors came from New Delhi to guide the students in their extensive fieldwork. A news bulletin 'Gobar Times' informing the activities of workshop was also released on the occasion.

#### 8. DOCUMENTATION

- 8.1 A visual record of the items is kept in the Institution, whether in exhibition or in reserve.
- **8.2** Slides and transparencies are prepared for the use of guest speakers who are invited to deliver lectures under different programmes.
- **8.3** The lectures are generally recorded and their copies are prepared after transcription to be used in publication.
- 8.4 Functions and events are documented and these are used in academic activities.
- 8.5 Ms Shivani Grover came from Harvard under the advice of Prof. Pramod Chandra and stayed for about a month to prepare a computerized database of slides of Jñāna-Pravāha. At the local level, she was helped by Dr. Chaitanya Maheshwari, Sri Chandraneel Sharma and Sri Navneet Raman. The website of the Institution is being updated by Prof. R. C. Sharma, Smt. Bimla Poddar, Ms Shivani Grover and Dr. Chaitanya Maheshwari. Just before submitting the script of this Bulletin to press the news came of the sad and untimely demise of Dr. Maheshwari on July 8, 2002. The Jñāna-Pravāha deeply mourns the passing away of this great well wisher and enthusiastic expert who was the Honorary consultant communication of the organisation.

# 9. SURVEY OF ANTIQUARIAN REMAINS

The Jñāna-Pravāha has undertaken a project for survey of antiquarian remains, loose sculptures, temples and the project is being conducted by Dr. Kamal Giri, Member of Governing Council, with the help of Dr. Vijay Singh and Dr. Pramod Giri. The photographs are being kept in albums with captions for identification. This will serve as the basic and useful record for the pursuit of research by the upcoming scholars.

#### 10. PUBLICATIONS

The resources with Jñāna-Pravāha at present do not permit to take up an ambitious project of publication, although manifold academic activities, like symposia, seminars and workshops are organized every year. Only a few publications are brought out as per pressing requirement on the priority basis.

## 10.1 Jñāna-Pravāha Bulletin No. 4, 2000 2001

The fourth issue of the Annual Bulletin of Jñāna-Pravāha was released on the opening of the Academic Session on August 1, 2001. Being the mouth organ of the Institute, it incorporates a number of useful informations and sections as under:

(A) Introduction of Jñāna-Pravāha with explanation of its Emblem and Motto, Jñāna-Pravāha Bodies, Ode to Jñāna-Pravāha, Oblation to Gaṅgā and Oblation to Kāśī.

- (B) Flow of Jñāna-Pravāha including the progress report for the year 2000-2001. The Section includes the reporting on seminars, lectures, in-depth study courses, events, refresher courses, survey and documentation, youth service, library, publication, etc.
- (C) The opinions and observations.
- (D) The representative papers read in seminars.
- (E) Concept papers on courses.
- (F) Appendices: This section includes some useful informations, like Academic Roster for the year 2001-2002, Library rules, List of participants to the courses, etc.

## 10.2 Proceedings of Seminars

An important feature of the reporting year is the release of proceedings of seven seminars in six volumes in facsimile form. Some copies are kept ready and more can be prepared as per demand. These are as under:

- (1) Jaina Contribution to Varanasi (Seminar proceedings of April 11-12, 2000).
- (2) Proceedings of Seminar on Raghuvamsa and Meghaduta in 1999 2000.
- (3) Chāndogya Upaniṣad (Proceedings of Symposium held on October 13-14, 2000).
- (4) Interaction between Nigama and Āgama (Seminar proceedings of January 1-2, 2001).
- (5) Śaiva Concept in Vāyu Purāņa (Proceedings of Seminar held on March 25-26, 2000).
- (6) Cultural Gleanings from Kūrma Purāṇa (Proceedings of Seminar held on March 26-27, 2001).
- 10.3 A new brochure on the Institution was brought out and released on November 1, 2001. Its revised edition was brought out in March 2002. Another revision is to follow.
- 10.4 Periodical Academic Rosters are printed for distribution among the scholars and participants. These are also sent by mail. Generally, one-year programmes are circulated in advance.
- 10.5 Dr. V. K. Sharma completed the writing of eleven chapters on the glimpses of the evolution of Indian culture from its dawn to the Gupta period. The matter is to be used in multiple ways.

## 11. LIBRARY

The Institution possesses a reference library on Indian philosophy, art, culture, literature and allied subjects. The number of volumes exceeds 6500. During the year under review, the library was enriched by 554 books, of which 369 have been gifted and 165 purchased. Through the generosity of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi more than 70 books have been received from their publishers and some are awaited. The Jñāna-Pravāha expresses deep gratitude for this wonderful donation. Sri Jagdish Prasad Sharma and Sri Trilok Sharma examined 120 manuscripts.

## 12. HOSTEL FACILITIES

Addition of hostel facilities to the guest speakers, course participants and researchers has been a notable achievement of the year under review. Fifteen persons can be accommodated with their arrangement of boarding.

# 13. ACQUISITION OF ART OBJECTS

The Jñāna-Pravāha feels proud of possessing the rich art collection of Sri Suresh Neotia, Chairman, Jñāna-Pravāha Trust and most of its items were in view in *Prācī Kalāmaṇḍapa* as well. During the year under review, several new objects have seen their way to the Museum from different sources. These include some sculptures of South India, Central India, some woodcarvings, etc. A silver token, commemorating the Agriculture Exhibition organized on the occasion of All India Congress Session in 1905 at Varanasi, has been gifted by Sri Jawahar Lal Munshi. The most important is a copper plate of the Year 23 of Emperor Harṣa with royal seal. This has been deciphered by the Jñāna-Pravāha research team. The notable items which saw their way to the Jñāna-Pravāha museum include: a zodiac (leo) gold coin of Jahangir with his old age portrait, some gold auspicious motifs from Kausambi terracottas from different early sites, one album of high quality items of nobility, a small female figure (deity or *Vṛkṣikā*) of gold of Kuṣāṇa-Gupta age etc. Some objects, like ritual utensils, domestic vessels, wooden and earthen toys, a painting representing Gaṅgā, etc. were purchased for Kāśī Exhibition and some of them found place in the museum. These objects are being registered and documented.

#### 14. CHARITABLE DISPENSARY

The Institution runs a charitable homeopathic dispensary just at the entrance and it is headed by Dr. Purnendu Chakravorty in the forenoon daily, except on Monday. The average number of daily patients is seventy. In winter, it shoots to 125 and in summer the number is about 50. The facility of the dispensary is availed of, beside the members of staff, by the residents of neighbourhood. The treatment in most cases is reported to be quite effective.

#### 15. OVERFLOW/OUTREACH PROGRAMMES

The activities of Jñāna-Pravāha are not confined merely to its campus but often reach outside as per demand and occasion. Most of such events are coordinated or conducted by Prof. R. C. Sharma, Hon. Director/Ācārya. The important ones are as follows:

S.No.	Topic of Lecture	Date	Place
1.	As Visiting Professor:  (i) Antiquarian Approach to Kṛṣṇa  (ii) Raghu-Kautsa Episode  (iii) Interaction between Mathurā  and Gandhāra Art	August 2001	Indian Institute of Advanced Study ,Shimla, B.H.U.
2.	जीवन मूल्यों की संवाहिका-कला	18/09/2001	Malaviya Bhavan, B.H.U.
3.	भारतीय इतिहास के निर्माण में जैन ग्रंथ, प्रशस्ति एवं शिलालेख- Presidential Comments	29/09/2001	Ganesh Varni Jaina Sansthan, Varanasi

S.No.	<b>Topic of Lecture</b>	Date	Place
4.	Chief Guest's Address on Children Education	10.11.2001	Nava Sādhanā Kalā Kendra,Marhauli,Varanasi
5.	Inspected the Department of Museology of Calcutta as U.G.C. Expert	20/12/2001 and 21/12/2001	Calcutta
6.	Presidential Address on Significance of National Flag	26/01/2002	SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, Chaubeypur
7.	Tradition of Sarasvatī Pūjā Antiquarian and Historical Aspect	14/02/2002	Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, Varanasi
8.	Presidential Address on Women in Early India	11/03/2002	Agrasena Girls P.G. College, Varanasi
9.	Visit to Turkey: Participated in the International Conference on Turkology and visited different cities and archaeological monuments	26/03/2002 to 01/04/2002	Ankara, Turkey
10.	Art Purchase Committee Meeting at Allahabad Museum	07/05/2002 & 08/05/2002	Allahabad
11.	Expert Member in N.M.I. Selection Committee	09/05/2002	New Delhi
12.	Chief Speaker on Museum A.S.I.	18/05/2002	Sarnath
13.	U.G.C. Expert for Academic Work	20/05/2002	New Delhi
14.	Keynote Address on the way of the Buddha	26/05/2002	Mahabodhi Society, Sarnath

Hon. Director also participated in several meetings in the office of the Commissioner, Varanasi relating to World Heritage proposal of Varanasi and gave his observations as Member, Board of Advisors.

Smt. Bimla Poddar, Managing Trustee, visited Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia and China and went round important archaeological sites, monuments, museums and art galleries.

The Femina Magazine (July 2001), Mumbai brought out a special feature on Smt. Poddar and Jñāna-Pravāha.





Lokārpaṇa of new building Pratīcī on 1-11-2001 by H.E. Governor of U.P. Prof. Vishnukant Shastri

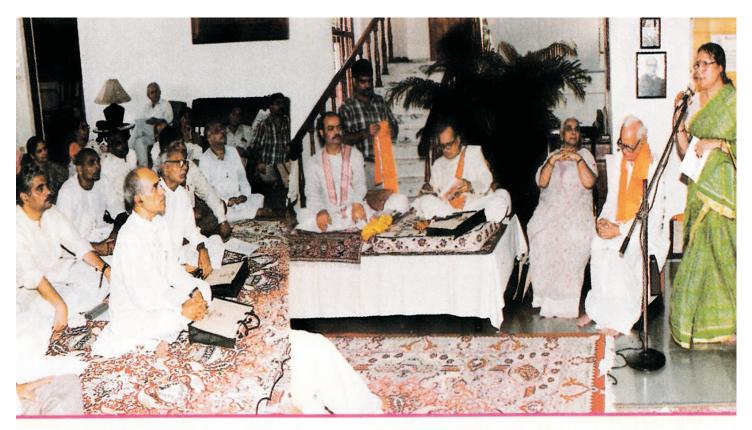








Kāśī Exhibition



Opening of Academic Session and Release of Bulletin Seminar on Vaiṣṇava Contribution to Kāśī, 1-08-2001



Glimpses of Sarva-pṛṣṭheṣṭi yajña 10-11.1.2002





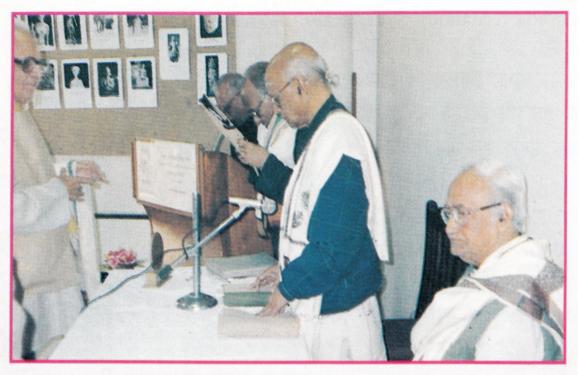
International Seminar on Buddhism and Gandhāra Art In collaboration with Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Simla 1-6.11.2002



Dance performance by Ms. Prachi Mehta







Veda-vidyā saṁgoṣṭhī 1-2.1.2002

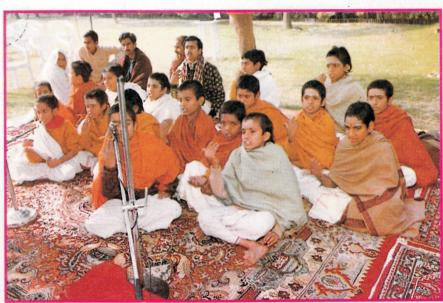




Release of Seminar Proceedings on the occasion of Agni-Purāṇa Paricarcā 16-17.3.2002



Vasant-pūjā (Vedic recitation) 7.2.2002



Brahmacārīs Reciting Vedas 11.1.2002



A special lecture by Dr. Gouriswar Bhattacharya From Berlin, 22-23.3.2002



Lecture on Jaishankar Prasad by Sri J. D. Sadani, 2-3.4.2002



Visit of Shri J. K. Kaul, President of SOS, 9.4.2002



Visit of Mahilā-Maṇḍala on International Womens' Day, 9.3.2002



Visit of Rotarians, Varanasi Central 16.6.2002



Experts participating in a study camp







Camp on Nathadvara Paintings 25-31.12.2001

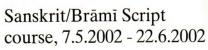




In-depth study course on Indian Terracotas 10-23.1.2002



In-depth study course on Early Indian Coins, 1-10.2.2002

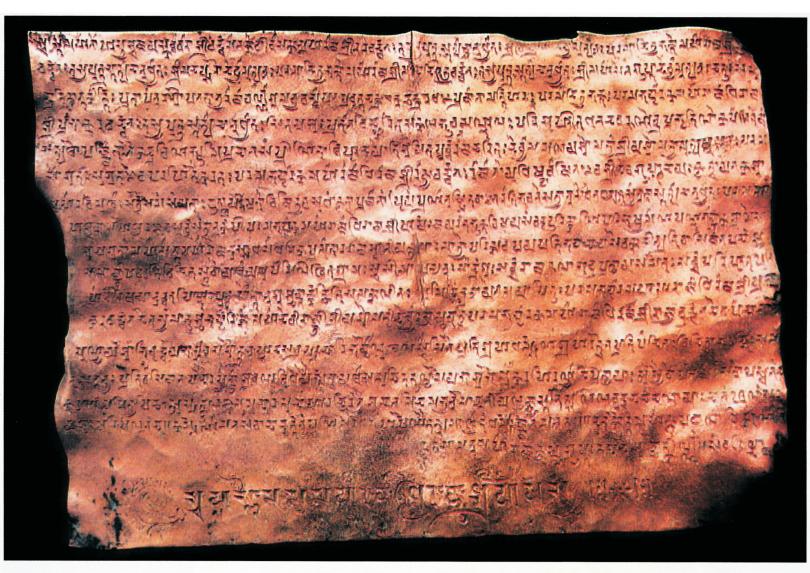




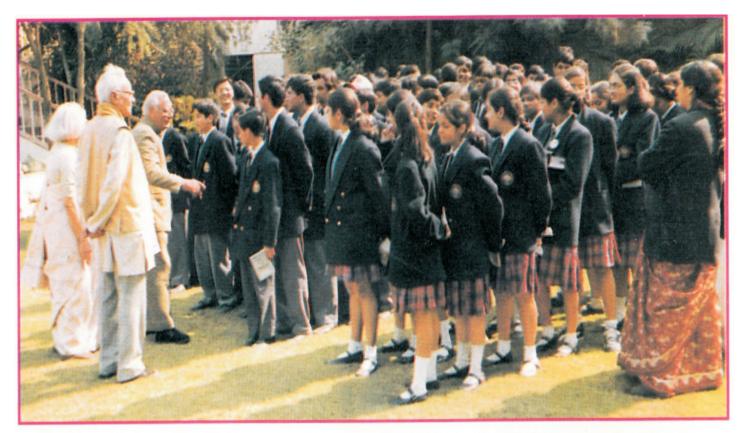
# **OUTSTANDING ACQUISITION**

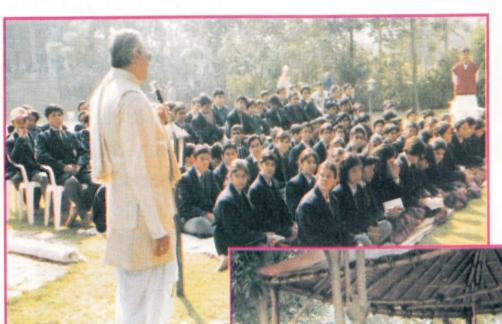


Seal of Emperor Harşa



Copper Plate of Emperor Harşa of year 23





Preraṇā-Pravāha youth service programme

Students' Visit



Valediction of Workshop on Water harvesting, 29.1.2002



Childrens' Workshop on Media, Environment & Cultural Heritage 22-27.4.2002

