

Inaugural Programme



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Jñāna-Pravāha stands for the promotion and dissemination of the Centuries old message of Kashi in *Sanātana Dharma*, streams of Indian philosophy, Literature, Art, Music and Culture. It seeks to explore unity in diversity through special and extension lectures, symposia and seminars, panel discussions, demonstrations and stage performances. A nuclear library of books, audio-video library and a collection of Indian Musical Instruments are also attached to this Centre.

Following the above concepts, the annual activities for the academic year 1997-98 started with Dr. I. Panduranga Rao's inaugural lecture on '*Rāmāyaṇa : The Song of Life*' (16.04.1997), projecting broad perspectives of the Epic and its poetic nuances and highlighting the concept of righteousness.

A series of lectures by Dr. Rao on *Vālmīki's Rāmāyaṇa*, started with the episode of *Rāma's* exiled life at *Citrakūṭa (Ayodhyā Kāṇḍa)*. The Centre aims at a complete study of *Rāmāyaṇa* with Dr. Rao's commentary. The discourses are archived. They are getting more and more popular in their quarterly frequency.

Weekly in-depth lectures by Prof. Kedar Nath Mishra backed up by his intense study of *Śrīmad Bhāgavat* are held in the Centre.

A symposium on *Bhagavad-Gītā* was organised (24.07.1997), projecting the diverse nature of the text including the concepts of *Jñāna*, *Bhakti*, *Niṣkāma karma*, *Karma yoga* etc.

The Centre organised a symposium on 'The Concept of Myth' in collaboration with the Tri-Ratna Trust (23.09.1997).

Introductory courses on aspects of Indian Culture were envisaged. Prof. (Km.) Prem Lata Sharma 's lectures on 'Appreciation of Indian Music and Dance ' started on 02.10.1997, followed by a short course by Dr. K.N. Mishra on Sanskrit Grammar and Language. The Centre aims to attract a bigger number of students in the following years by streamlining the courses and further popularizing them.

Mr. Koenraad Elst of Belgium lectured on 'The Origins of Indian Culture '(30.12.1997 to 01.01.1998). Many questions were raised by the knowledgeable audience.

The famous architect, Shri B.V. Doshi lectured on 'Aesthetics in Architecture ' (28.02.1998), with his philosophy of architecture as the background.

Traditional Vedic recitation or *Vasanta Pūjā* (11.10.1997), a new technique of Vedic Singing by Dr. Krishnamurthy, Dhrupad recital by Dr. Ritwik Sanyal and *Hari-Kathā Kalākṣepam* by Smt. Uma Maheswari of Andhra Pradesh were organised and were audio taped for the *Jñāna-Pravāha* archives.

The current Academic year commenced with a seminar on '*Saṁskāra* 'on April 9-10 and was attended by a large number of audience and speakers. Prof. Dharma Pal (Vice-Chancellor, Gurukul Kangri University) gave a lecture on The Indian Traditional Educational System (prior to the British Rule) and its relevance to the contemporary man (27.04.1998). This was followed by Prof. (Km.) Prem Lata sharma 's Lecture on 'The Concept of *Loka* in *Bharata 's Nāṭya-śāstra* ' (25.05.1998) Prof. Arindam Chakravarti of Hawaii University delivered lecture on 'Contemporary Concept of *Devatā and Yajña* ' (01.06.1998).

A demonstration of *Hari-Kathā Kalākṣepam* by Smt. Uma Maheshwari of Andhra Pradesh is scheduled in Oct. 1998. This will be fully documented for our archives.

Shri Kala Krishna 's Kuchipudi performance is also planned for the same time.

Further special and Extension lectures are planned for the Academic year 1998-99. A Seminar on 'Dhvani' is being envisaged.

असतो मा सद् गमय,

तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ।

मृत्योर्माऽमृतं गमय ॥

asato mā sad gamaya,

tamaso mā jyotirgamaya ।

mṛtyormāâmrtaṁ gamaya ॥