A Brief Report

21st India Conference of WAVES, 10-12 December, 2017

'**Practical Aspects of Vedic Knowledge**'

21st India Conference of WAVES was organized by 'Wider Association for Vedic Studies' (WAVES) in collaboration with Centre for Indology, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), New Delhi, and Haryana Sarasvati Heritage Development Board (HSHDB), Govt. of Haryana. The three-day conference was held from 10th to 12th December, 2017 at Munshi Memorial Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi on the theme '*Practical Aspects of Vedic Knowledge*'.

The conference was inaugurated in the morning of 10th Dec. with the 'Lighting of the Lamp' by dignitaries and Vedic scholars. Students of Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi presented *Sarasvati Vandana* as invocation. Inaugural session was chaired by Shri Ashok Pradhan, Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Prof. P N Shastri, Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan graced the occasion as chief guest; and Guest of Honours were Dr. Bhaskarnath Bhattacharyya, Acting Director, Rabindra Bharti University, Kolkata, and Vice-President, WAVES India; Prof. Milena Bratoeva**,** Head, Classical East Dept., University of Sofia, Bulgaria; and Prof. Girish C. Pant, Head, Sanskrit Dept., Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Keynote address was given by Prof. K.B. Subbarayudu**,** Principal, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Dev Prayag, Pauri Garwal, Uttarakhand, and Former Registrar, RSkS, Delhi.

Inaugural Session and Souvenir Released

The inaugural session started with the introduction of theme and welcome of dignitaries done by **Prof. Shashi Tiwari**, President WAVES. She said that the theme of the conference is extremely significant and expedient. When there is only memory and no assimilation, man becomes merely a storehouse. It is, therefore, essential to deliberate upon the practical aspects of Vedic knowledge, and to also ponder about how the Vedic seers proposed a meaningful and happy life for human beings. Chief Guest, **Prof P. N. Shastri** indicated that Vedas depict science and true knowledge. Correct meaning and accurate recitation of Vedic verses is important; but we should also practice its teachings for the establishment of peace and harmony in society and world. **Dr. Bhaskarnath Bhattacharyya** emphasised that all are equal according to Vedic vision because *Veda-jyani* becomes a Yogi. **Prof. Milena Bratoeva** who is teaching Indology for the last thirty years**,** talked about its value for leading a good life. **Prof. Girish C. Pant** praised the contribution of BVB in spreading Indian culture and philosophy through education and other related programs. Delivering Keynote address, **Prof. K.B. Subbarayudu** stated that this world needs both *Sat* and *Asat. Parmartha* is the essence of Sanskrit Vidya though practicality is essential while we are living in the world. Vedas advocate how to maintain balance between the two.

In his presidential address, **Shri Ashok Pradhan** pointed out that education of ancient Indian disciplines raises the feelings of self-confidence and pride among young generation. Aspects of technical education in Sanskrit should also be highlighted. **Prof. Shashi Bala**, Convener of Conference, and Dean, Centre for Indology, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, New Delhi proposed vote of thanks for all guests and participants. During this session, the souvenir of the conference containing 173 summaries of papers and few messages was released by dignitaries. **Dr. Ranjit Behera**, Secretary, WAVES coordinated the program beautifully in Sanskrit, Hindi and English.

About 200 delegates from different parts of country participated in WAVES conference of 2017. Young researchers from various Universities and Institutes, such as University of Delhi, Delhi; Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh; Guahati University, Assam; Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi; Uttrakhand Sanskrit University, Uttrakhand; Shri Lal Bahadur Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Delhi; North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong; Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata; Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi; Jivaji University, Gwalior; Allahabad University, Allahabad; Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi; Bansathali Vidyapeeth, Rajasthan; Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar; University of Mumbai, Mumbai; Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerela; Institute of Advanced Sciences, Dartmouth, USA etc. participated and presented their papers in the conference.

Names of few eminent scholars who participated as chairperson, moderator or paper-presenter are: Dr. Bhakti Niskama Shanta, Bangalore; Dr. Bhakti Vijnana Muni, Bangalore; Dr. Shilpi Saxena, Delhi; Mr. Tushar Mukherjee, Mumbai; Dr. Asha Rani Tripathi, Lucknow; Prof. Ram Sewak Dubey, Allahabad; Dr. Radhey Shyam Kaushal, Delhi; Dr. Satyamurti, JNU, Delhi_; Prof. Ramesh Bhardwaj, Delhi; Dr. Ram Gopal, Jodhpur; Dr. Anita Khurana, Ajmer, Dr Nandita Singhvi, Bikaner ;Prof. Sharda Sharma, Delhi; Shri Vidya Sagar Verma, Delhi; Prof. Sudhir Kumar, JNU, Delhi; Dr.Urmila Rustagi, Delhi; Dr. Pravesh Saxena, Delhi; Dr. Maitreyee Sharma, Assam; Dr.Vedwati Vaidik, Gurgaon; Dr.Shakuntala Punjani, Delhi; Dr. Lalita Kumari Juneja, Faridabad; Dr.Pratibha Shukla, Haridwar; Dr.Anju Seth, Delhi; Dr. Ajay Jha, Delhi; Dr. Sushma Choudhary, Delhi; Dr. Vijay Shankar Dwivedi, Delhi; Prof. Dinesh Chandra Shastri, Haridwar, Dr.Asha Lata Pandey, Delhi; Dr.Saroj Gulati, Delhi; Dr. Vandana S.Bhan, Delhi; Mr. Tilak Parekh, Gujrat; Dr. R.D. Sunil Kumar, Kalady, Kerala; Dr Dolly Jain,Vanasthali, Rajasthan; and Prof. M.M. Bajaj.

Delegates

The deliberation of the three-day national conference was coherently scheduled in eighteen sessions which were divided into well-designed twelve parallel, three plenary and one special session. Details of some plenary speakers and their topics are as follows –

1. **Dr. Bhakti Niskama Shanta,** General Secretary, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Institute, Bengaluru, Karnataka - *Scientist is Still a Scientific Mystery: Exploring the Limits of Mechanistic Explanation in the Light of Bhagavat Vedānta Conception*
2. **Dr. Bhakti Vijnana Muni,** President, Sri Chaitanya Saraswat Institute, Bengaluru, Karnataka - *Towards a more Harmonious Concept through the Synthesis of Vedanta and Science*
3. **Dr.Shilpi Saxena**, Center for Advanced Studies, University of Delhi - *Scientific Critique of the Darwinian Illusory Concept of Evolution and Mechanistic View of Life*
4. **Dr. M. D. Thomas**, Director, Institute of Harmony and Peace Institute, Delhi – *Kabir ke Samanvay-vad per Veda Ka Prabhav*
5. **Dr. Satyamurti,** Sanskrit**,** JNU, Delhi - *Research Methodology in The Śāstric Tradition of Sanskrit*
6. **Prof. Milena Bratoeva,** Sofia University, Bulgaria – *Māṇḍūkyopaniṣad in the Perspective of the Contemporary Speech-Act Theory*
7. **Dr.Mahesh Maheshwari** and **Dr.Prasanna Chandra Gautam** (Authors) - *Rigveda :YatharthAnuvaad Vol. II* (Introduction and release of vol.)
8. **Dr. Kanta Bhatia**, Vice-Chairperson, Delhi Sanskrit Academy- *Vaidik Ganit ki vyavharika upyogita*
9. **Prof. R.P. Singh**, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi - *On Education in Vedas: Practical - Integral Approach*
10. **Dr. Bhaskarnath Bhattacharya,** Acting Director, R. Bharti University Kolkata - *Ayurvedic Components in the Satapatha Brahmana*

On the first day, a Special Session on '***Vaidik Sarasvati : Our Heritage***' was organized by HSHDB in the afternoon, where **Honourable Prof. Ram Bilas Sharma**, Education Minister, Govt. of Haryana graced the occasion as chief Guest. **Mr. Prashant Bhardwaj,** Deputy Chairman, HSHDB, Govt. of Haryana chaired the session. **Dr. Shashi Tiwari,** President, WAVES and Former Professor of Delhi University moderated the proceedings. Scientist, Sanskrit scholars, historians and archaeologists were among invited panellists, such as -

1. **Dr. A. K. Gupta,** Member, Technical committee, HSHDB & Former Scientist, ISRO;
2. **Dr. M.R. Rao**, Executive Director (Retd.), ONGC;
3. **Prof. Dr. A.R. Chaudhari,** Director, Centre of Excellence for Research on Saraswati River, Dept. of Geology, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra ;
4. **Prof. Ramesh Bharadwaj**, Head, Dept. of Sanskrit, South Campus, University of Delhi;
5. **Mrs. Suvrata Vinod,** Member, Ananavan Society of Veda-Vijyan Critical Study, Varanasi;
6. **Dr. Shreyansh Dwivedi,** Vice-Chairman, Sanskrit Academy, Haryana

Prof. Sharma, Hon'able Education Minister of Haryana

Invited Panelists of Saraswati Session

It was an informative session where authentic course of Vedic river Sarsavati was discussed on the basis of Vedic texts, excavations, satellite images and scientific evidences. Sarasvati is not only our

heritage but it is a part of our tradition and culture. Chief Guest, Prof Ram Bilas Sharma said that today Sarasvati is not a mythological river; therefore, it is essential to know more and more about it through such conferences. Chairman, Mr. P. Bharadwaj emphasised on the importance of analytical and historical studies done in this respect.

Two cultural events were planned by members of WAVES. On 10th December, 2017 "*Kathak-Yatra :Mandir Darwar and Manch*" was presented by, **Dr. Supriya Sanju**, Guru Dinesh Parihar, Ms.Roshani and Ms.Sambhavi. On 11th December, 2017 *Sruti-Sandhya* (*Vaidika Mantra Patha*) was performed by **Dr. Rishiraj Pathak** in association with Mr. Muniraj Pathak, Mr.Yogesh Sharma and Mr. Satyarth Grover.

Dance group with convener

Sasvar Veda-Path

At the closing of conference, valedictory session was presided over by **Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma**, renowned mathematician and Former President, WAVES–USA. **Prof. Shashi Bala**, Co-Convener of conference welcomed guests and introduced them. On this occasion, new theme song of WAVES was released and sang by **Dr. Reena Sahay** and her students from Patna. Song was appreciated for its words, tune and melody.

Valedictory Session

Welcome of VC Prof. Ramesh K Pandey by Prof. B.D. Sharma

During closing ceremony, **Prof. Ramesh K. Pandey**, Vice-Chancellor, SLBSRS Vidyapeeth, Delhi was present as Chief Guest. He talked about the real meaning of Dharma as duty. True education is that which brings noble qualities. Vedas instruct for action with knowledge. **Shri Ramakant Goswami,** General Secretary, Akhil Bhartiya Sanskrit Sahitya Sammelan addressed audience as Distinguished Guest. He said that Vedic and Sanskrit wisdom presents accurate principles. A J*yotishi* can be wrong, but not the *Shastra Jyotish*. **Prof. Viktoria Demenova,** Dean, Faculty of History of Arts and Cultural Studies, Ural Federal University, Russia; **Dr. P.V. Joshi**, Former Ambassador, Madagascar & Guyana, Delhi; and **Prof. Sharda Sharma**, Head, Sanskrit Dept, University of Delhi were Guests of Honour during closing function. They highlighted variously importance and impact of Sanskrit in India and world. **Prof. Shashi Prabha Kumar,** Founder Vice Chancellor, Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Bhopal, presented an impressive

valedictory address. She said that Vedic views are well-known for their universal significance. They communicate ideas for the welfare of whole creation. '*Manurbhava*' is a short but powerful message for our civilization. This session was nicely coordinated by **Dr. Aparna Dhir**, Secretary, WAVES.

WAVES Book-Release

Section of Audience

WAVES's two new publications entitled '*Science and Spirituality in Vedic Traditions* (Vol. VI) and *Vaidik Parampar*ā *me Vijn*ā*na aur Adhy*ā*tma* (Vol.VII) published by Pratibha Prakshan of Delhi were released by the renowned dignitaries present on the dias. These publications are dedicated for the honour and felicitation of two senior members, Prof. Bhu Dev Sharma and Prof. Lallan Prasad respectively. This year, WAVES has announced '*Svargiya Shri Rameshwer Das Gupta Memorial Award–2017*' for outstanding papers presented by young scholars. For this an amount of Rs. 13000/- has been donated by Dr. Vedawati Vaidik. Committee of Judges consisted of six members: Dr. Asha Rani Tripathi, Dr. Dharma Sharma, Dr. Urmila Rustagi, Dr. Pankaj Mishra, Prof. Dinesh C. Shastri, and Dr. Anju Seth. Following eight young scholars were selected by judges. In closing ceremony Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik gave awards to these scholars:

- 1st Prize- Mr.Tahasin Mondal, AMU, Aligarh (Rs.3000)
- 1st Prize- Ms. Sandhya Gupta, JNU, Delhi (Rs.3000)
- 2nd Prize - Ms.Niharika, JNU, Delhi (Rs.2000)
- 2nd Prize- Ms. Nandini Das, JNU, Delhi(Rs.2000)
- 3rd Prize- Mr. Neeteesh Kumar, DU, Delhi (Rs.1000)
- 3rd Prize- Dr. Rishiraj Pathak, SPM College, DU, Delhi(Rs.1000)
- Encouragement Prize-Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, NCERT, Delhi(Rs.500)
- Encouragement Prize -Dr.Arpita Chakraborty, Dibrugarh University, Assam(Rs.500)

(*From above*) ***Vidvat- Samman*** ***Prize winners with Judges & Dr. Vaidik***

On behalf of WAVES, Prof. Shashi Tiwari, President, WAVES proposed a vote of thanks to all guests, delegates, and participants of conference, members of WAVES, and authorities of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan for their support and contribution in this big academic event. The conference concluded with the recitation of Shanti Mantra and National Anthem.

Report by WAVES-India