



Indo – Baltic Cultural Meet, Conference Report

English
Pune, India

Summary

Subsequent to the visit of ICCS Pune delegates to Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in June 2015, a group of 12 delegates from Latvia visited Pune on 5th February 2016. On this occasion ICCS Pune organized the Indo Baltic cultural Meet – A two day conference on 9&10 February 2016.

As the Baltic countries claim strong Vedic links with India, The conference was a unique event comprising cultural and academic interaction. Scholars of Sanskrit-Vedas and Upavedas, Indology, archaeology, history participated in the academic programs.

Conference Program

Venue –Deccan College Yerwada Pune

Welcome Address: Dr. G B Deglurkar –Honorable Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Deemed University

Chief Guest- Dr. Valdis Steins-, the leader of the Latvian delegations, a former Member of Parliament as well as a social leader and guru -Latvia

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Vasant Shinde- Honourable Vice Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Deemed University.



Inauguration

On TUESDAY-9/2/2016 after Breakfast-9-9.30 AM the conference was inaugurated. The Master of Ceremony was Dr. Manjushree Sardeshpande. She introduced the guests on the dais.

Deep Prajwan- lighting the sacred lamp was followed by Saraswati Vandana by Manjushree herself. Shloka chanting– Gayatri Mantra– was rendered by **Mrs. Hema Shah**. The Vice President Pune Center, **Mrs. Jayashree Bhole** welcomed the guests and the dignitaries. She presented beautifully decorated vials of aromatic essence of different flowers to the dignitaries and others

Dr. Lata Dani made the introductory speech the **Prastavik**. In her speech, she spoke about the formation of the ICCS NGO and its activities and projects like WCEACTC and RIWATCH. She also informed the audience about the Pune Center and its activities.

Dr. G.B. Deglurkar, Chancellor, Deccan University gave the welcome address. He expressed his great interest and curiosity in the work of ICCS in general and the Pune Center in particular.

Dr. Valdis Steins the chief guest from Latvia, spoke of the ancient Latvian culture and its Vedic connection. He referred to the common elements like, language, customs, traditions, deities and emphasized the need for joint research activity to establish the truth about the Indo Baltic connection.

Dr. Vasant Shinde Vice chancellor of the same University was to deliver the keynote address but some urgent work took him out of town. However, he spoke at the plenary session on 10th February and established excellent rapport with the guest delegates.

Dr. Prasad Joshi, Professor of Linguistics at the same University proposed a vote of thanks... **Session 1- 10.45 AM to 11.45 AM.**

To mark the beginning of this cultural Exchange, there was Ved Pathan by Raghav Ramdasi Deccan College Ph. D. Student- **Dr. Jayashree Sathe** Pro- vice chancellor, gave a very lucid commentary and elaborated the mantras sung from the Saam Veda.

The next Speaker was –**Dr. Valdis Steins**, who gave detailed relevant information of the history Of Latvia and her culture.

Session 2- 11.45 to 12.45

First Speaker was **Dr. Jayashree Sathe–Pro Vice Chancellor-** Dr. Sathe spoke of the significance of Agni in Vedic culture. It was a very interesting revelation of the importance of Agni and fire worship rituals in the Vedic period.

Dr. Sathe's speech was followed by a pictorial presentation of Indian Temples including Angkor Vat in Cambodia by **Prof Udayan Indurkar**. The presentation generated huge interest among the audience. There were many questions coming from the audience and Prof Indurkar gave pertinent answers.

Session 3--2.00 PM-3.00 PM

The first speaker in this post lunch session was Mr. Janis Brikmanis of Latvia. Janis gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on science of songs and silence in Nature.



The Second speaker in this session was -Dr. Prasad Joshi who talked about the Linguistic connection between India and Latvia.

Session-4---3.00 to 4.00 PM

Dr. **Avinash Lele**- spoke about his own tours to various countries for teaching Ayurveda.

Dr. Hema Kshirsagar gave a very interesting speech about women's Education in ancient India, stating that in ancient India Women had a right to Education. It was during the period that women were confined to homes and the right to Education was denied to them.

4pm -5pm- Cultural Program- - Presentations: Mrs. Pradnya Kulkarni of Deccan College gave a very interesting presentation on the theme of Indian and Latvian culture and History as revealed in her collection of postal stamps of the two countries. It was indeed a very valuable collection displayed on screen.

Day one ended with Latvian music and dance.

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Day-2-Wednesday 10/02/2016 –

The Second Day of the Conference started after breakfast with **Session-1** -10.30-11.30 AM: **Ramants Jansons** of Latvia and his brother Martinis gave a speech on-Latvian Culture and its expression in their Calendar.

In the second part of the session **Dr. Manjushree Sardeshpande** enlightened the audience with her studied presentation on Comparative Study of Latvian Poet Laureate Aspazija and India's Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. With her command over language she held the audience spell bound. She also recited her own award winning poem: Man Fears Man

Session 2 –11.15AM -12.15pm

The Speaker-**Dr. Ranjana Date** gave a beautiful rendering of the Gayatri Mantra- The means for Universal Protection. She explained in detail the meaning of each letter in the mantra, thus bringing out the significance of Gayatri as a powerful mantra. She also showed the way to sing the mantra with proper intonations, inflections and modulations in sound.

After Lunch break-of one hour the third session began with -**Dr. K Kshirsagar**'s speech about Science in Ancient India. In the same session **Dr. R S Dwivedi** the former president of ICCSUS, spoke about Ancient Indigenous cultures and the role of ICCS in connecting them. He also described the visit of ICCS delegates to Latvia in June 2015. He himself was one of the delegates.

Session 3- Dr. Lata Dani President ICCS Pune Center made the concluding speech. The subject of her presentation was Footprints of Vedic culture in the world. She gave examples of similarities between different indigenous cultures of the world, with specific illustrations from The Aztec, Maya, Maoris and the Druid cultures. She emphasized the need for research in these cultures by bringing out the similarities with each of them to ancient Indian culture.

Plenary Session:

Dr. Vasant Shinde Vice Chancellor was present for the Plenary Session. There was a round table discussion as suggested by Dr. Valdis Steins. Dr. Valdis dwelt upon the Latvian language, Script, Deities mythology etc. and proposed 9 Channels for mutual cooperation in research.



Dr. Shinde gave away **the certificates of participation** to the Latvian delegates and to all those who made presentations in the conference. Dr. Shinde congratulated the organizers of the conference and the participants. He expressed the hope that the Deccan College University and ICCS will work together for the common goal of research in ancient cultures of the World.

The final musical culmination to the conference came when a group of yoga teachers led by **Mrs. Sadhana Lele** an Active life member of ICCS performed yoga postures in accompaniment of music. This was an innovative experiment. Common diseases like Hypertension and diabetes can be cured by performing yoga listening to particular ragas sung by trained singers. The presentation was highly informative, educative and very useful to common man suffering from such and other rampant ailments.

Latvian music and dance followed. It continued till evening.



Latvian scholar identifies similarities between Vedic, Latvian cultures

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Art Culture National



Pune, Feb 17: Addressing the two-day conference on Indo-Baltic cultural similarities Dr Vladis Steins the leader of the Latvian delegation, a former Member of Parliament and a social leader and a guru from Latvia informed the gathering of scholars about similarities between the two cultures, peoples and customs.

The two-day conference was organized by International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS) Pune last week to explore the similarities in Indo-Baltic cultures. Dr Steins spoke at length on ancient Latvian culture and its Vedic connection.

Dr Steins who is referred to the commonalities between Indian and Latvian culture in regard with language, customs, traditions, deities and emphasized the need for joint research activity to establish the truth about Indo-Baltic affinity.

Dr. G B Deglurkar Chancellor of Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, deemed university gave the welcome speech.

Dr. Vasant Shinde, Vice-Chancellor, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, deemed university delivered the key note address.

Jayashree Bhole was the chief organizer of this conference while Master of Ceremony was Dr. Manjushree Sardeshpande. Dr. Prasad Joshi, Professor of Linguistics at the same University proposed a vote of thanks...

As the Baltic countries claim strong Vedic links with India, The conference was a unique event comprising cultural and academic interaction. Scholars of Sanskrit-Vedas and Upavedas, Indology, archaeology, history participated in the academic programs.

After Deep Prajwan and Saraswati Vandana there was Shloka chanting- Gayatri Mantra- rendered by Mrs. Hema Shah. The Vice President Pune Center Jayashree Bhole welcomed the guests and gave gifts to the dignitaries.

Dr. Lata Dani in her introductory speech spoke about the formation of the ICCS and its activities and projects like World Council of Elders of Ancient Cultures and Traditions (WCEACT) and RIWATCH. She also informed the audience about the ICCS Pune Center and its activities. Dr. G.B. Deglurkar, Chancellor, Deccan University gave the welcome address. He expressed his great interest and curiosity in the work of ICCS in general and the Pune Center in particular.

ACADEMIC SESSIONS: Eminent personalities took part in the conference. The topics discussed during the academic sessions were significance of *Agni* in Vedic culture by Dr. Jayashree Sathe, Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Valdis Steins gave detailed relevant information of the history.

Dr. Lata Dani spoke of the footprints of Vedic culture in the world. Dr. Prasad Joshi spoke of linguistic connection between India and Latvia. Dr. Hema Kshirsagar gave a very interesting speech about women's education in ancient India. Dr. Manjushree Sardeshpande enlightened the audience with her studied presentation on Comparative Study of Latvian Poet Laureate Aspazija and India's Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Dr. Ranjana Date talked about the Gayatri Mantra. Dr. R. S. Dwivedi former President ICCSUS also spoke of ICCS and his tour of Latvia.

Plenary Session: Dr. Vasant Shinde Vice Chancellor was present for the Plenary Session. After discussions on various topics of mutual interest Dr. Shinde gave away the certificates of participation to the Latvian delegates and to all those who made presentations in the conference.

Lastly, there was Yoga presentation by Sadhana Lele and her group followed by Latvian Music and dance.

Online News available at: <http://www.news Bharati.com/Encyc/2016/2/17/ICCS-hold-Indo-Baltic-meet>