

19th All India Summer Schools on Prakrit Language & Literature organized by Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi

The Bhogilal Leherchand Institute of Indology, Delhi, conducted its 19th annual All India Summer Schools on Prakrit Language & Literature, from 13th May 2007 to 3rd June 2007. The inaugural function was held on 13th May 2007 at 10.00 A.M. at the BLII Library Hall. Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Director, National Manuscripts Mission, Govt. of India, New Delhi was the Chief Guest.

Shri N. P. Jain, Vice-Chairman, BLII, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries present on the occasion followed by the lightening of lamp. He also gave a brief account of the activities of the Smarak Campus alongwith BLII. The Chief Guest and Dr. J. B. Shah, Director, L. D. Institute of Indology were accorded floral welcome.

Dr. J. B. Shah spoke about the course and how it was conducted and its importance to the students and audience. He gave his scholarly speech, which was appreciated by all. Gp. Capt. V. K. Jain described the various activities and achievements of the Institute.

Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, the Chief Guest, noted the activities of the BLII and requested the authorities to continue with such plans and programmes for the coming years.

There were 22 students in the Elementary Course and 13 students in the Advanced Course. Most of the students hail from different parts of the country. The faculties who taught in this course were Prof. Dayanand Bhargava, Dr. Damodar Shastri, Dr. Dina Nath Sharma, Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Jain, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh and Dr. Vanita Kaushal.

The Valedictory Function was held on Sunday, 3rd June 2007 at BLII Library. Mr. Keshav Desiraju, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource & Development was the Chief Guest. Mr. Desiraju stressed the need of Prakrit language and is hopeful for establishing a National Centre for Higher Studies in Prakrit Language and Literature.

Shri N. P. Jain, Vice Chairman of the BLII, welcomed all the distinguished guests, faculties and others present on the occasion. Shri Raj Kumar Jain, Secretary General, Vijay Vallabh Smarak, spoke about the Smarak and the arrangements made for the students for their comfortable stay, food etc. He also gave the details of the excellent results produced by the Jain Bharati Mrigawati School located within the Smarak complex.

Later on some of the student viz. Dr. Manju Nahata, Km. Shalini sharma, Km. Yumi Fuzimoto, Shri Pulak Goel expressed their views about the course and the arrangements made by the BLII. Most of them appreciated the arrangements made by the authorities for their boarding and lodging within the complex and they were highly thankful for the hospitality given to them.

Dr. Balaji Ganorkar announced the results of the 19th All India Summer School on Prakrit Language and Literature and the prize distribution were awarded to the candidates according to

merit.

The following participants were the Prize winners in different Courses:

Advance Course in Prakrit Language & Literature:

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| 1. First Prize in Advance Course: | Km. Shalini Sharma (Delhi) |
| 2. Second Prize in Advance Course: | Km. Neeraj (Shimala) |
| 3. Third Prize in Advance Course: | Shri Rahul Kumar Singh (Varanasi) |

Elementary Course in Prakrit Language & Literature:

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| 1. First Prize in Elementary Course: | Km. Shefali Sharma (Delhi) |
| 2. Second Prize in Elementary Course: | Shri Tarun Kumar Dwivedi (Delhi) |
| 3. Third Prize in Elementary Course: | Shri Mihir Upadhyaya (Baroda) |

Dr. Balaji also announced about the activities of Prakrit Alumni which was founded in 2007. On the 2nd June, the first Prakrit Quiz was organized in BLII. The first prize won by the team of Shri Pulak Goel (Jaipur) and Shri Mihir Upadhyaya (Baroda). The second Prize went to Dr. Manju Nahata (Kolkata) and Km. Shalini Sharma (Delhi). The third Prize was earned by Shri Rahul Singh and Shri Naveen Shrivastava of BHU (Varanasi).

Prof. J.P. Vidyalkar gave a vivid account about the Prakrit literature and the significance of its study. He gave his vast experience of about 45 years in Sanskrit Language and how it is interconnected with the language of Prakrit. He requested the students to continue their studies on Prakrit language and pursue their career in the same field.

At the end, Gp. Capt. V. K. Jain, Deputy Chairman of the BLII accorded the vote of thanks to the Audience and the Management and concluded the programme. The Function ended with lunch hosted by Vallabh Smarak.