

Section X

**ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL CENTRES OF
ICHR
2008-2009**

REGIONAL CENTRES OF ICHR

With a view to reaching out to the far-flung areas of the country, the Council established two regional centres, one at Bangalore and the other at Guwahati. Both the centres have been actively involved in helping scholars to carry out their researches by providing efficient services and organizing regional and state level seminars. The Southern Regional Centre (SRC), Bangalore, and the North-East Regional Centre (NERC), Guwahati, are headed by Dr S.K. Aruni Asst. Director (Research) and Shri Uttam Bathari Asst. Director (Research) respectively. Details regarding the academic activities performed by both the Regional Centres of ICHR are given below:

A. SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, BANGALORE

The Southern Regional Centre of ICHR, since its inception has engaged itself in various academic and research activities in the southern part of India. Various academic programmes were organized during the said period. The details are given below:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

(A) Symposium on “*Maharashtra in 1857*”

In continuation of academic activities on ‘1857 programme’ the centre has organized a symposium on “Maharashtra in 1857”. The programme was held on 16th August 2008 in Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune. The programme was inaugurated by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR. Professor K. Paddayya, Member ICHR and Director of the Deccan College PG & RI Pune welcomed the participants. Following scholars have presented their research papers:

Professor A. Dikshit, Dept of History, Pune University- ‘*Maharashtra in 1857*’

Professor Arun Bhosale Shivaji University-Kolhapur *Satara Before & during the Uprising of 1857*

Dr. Avinash Patil - ‘*British [Mis] Perception of the 1857 Rebellion in the Princely state of Kolhapur*’

A CD of important ‘**Archival Published Books & Pictures on 1857**’ was released and distributed by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR during the programme. The CD was prepared by Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore. The programme was attended by research students, scholars, faculty member of Deccan College PG & RI. Pune.

(B) Symposium on “*New Trends in Historical Thinking*”

One-day symposium on ‘*New Trends in Historical Thinking*’ was organized during the Indian History Congress’s 69th Annual Session held at Kannur University, Kannur [Kerala] on 30th December 2009. The theme of the symposium was introduced by Professor Saybyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR. Dr. Ishrat Alam, Member Secretary, ICHR welcomed the gathering. Professor K. N. Panikkar presided the programme. Dr. S. K. Aruni, Asst. Director (R) coordinated the programme.

Following scholars presented their research papers:

Professor Rajan Gurukkal VC Kottayam

Dr. Biswamoy Pati [Delhi]

Dr. Lata Singh [Delhi]

Professor K.N. Ganesh Calicut University [Kerala] &

Dr. P.J. Cherian, Director KCHR [Kerala].

The Council's new publication '*Towards Freedom 1946 Vol. 2*'. Edited by Dr. Sumit Sarkar and the *Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers Volume-2* Edited by Srinivas Ritti & B.R. Gopal were released in this symposium programme by Professor K. N. Panikkar.

LECTURE SERIES PROGRAMME

(a) Lecture Series-21

Lecture Series programme was held On 6th June 2008, **Dr. Aya Ikegame**, University of Edinburgh, U.K. delivered a lecture on "*Royalty in Colonial Mysore: An Interpretation of Dasara as a Public Ritual*". The programme was chaired by Dr. Aswathanaryana, Reader, Dept of History, Bangalore University. Various scholars and historians participated in the programme. How the private ritual of *Dasara* became the public ritual in the Wodeyars of Mysore and its importance in the public domain was focused in the lecture by the scholar, Aya Ikegame. The lecture was followed by discussion and presidential address.

(b) Lecture Series-22

22nd lecture programme under the Series was held on 8th December 2008. **Dr. Adam Hardy** of Cardiff University, U.K. delivered a lecture on "*Movement in Indian Temple Architecture- The Karnat-Dravida Traditions*". The lecture was focused on various temple style traditions and developments in Indian art. The programme was attended by the scholars like Dr. P.K. Srinivasan former Chief Epigraphist, Govt. of India, and by ninety other scholars.

PUBLICATIONS

The Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers Volume- 3

Third volume of the *Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers* Edited by Srinivas Ritti & B.R. Gopal was published by the Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore during reporting period. The present volume is the third in the series of Kannada inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers prepared under the Inscriptions Programme planned by the ICHR. With this volume part of the Project relating to the volumes of Kannada inscriptions is complete. The present volume contains 148 inscriptions belong to the Aravidu dynasty of Vijayanagara empire and covers period between 1569 and 1682 A.D. The volume is of 300 pages and it is priced Rs. 500/- [Rupees Five hundred only] and copies are available for sale.

BOOK RELEASE PROGRAMME

The centre has brought out the **Second Volume** of the *Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers* Edited by Srinivas Ritti & B.R. Gopal. The releasing function of the book was organized on 1st December 2008 in Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore. Professor G. Venkatasubbaiah, eminent lexicographer and eminent scholar released the book and Dr. K.V Ramesh, Former Joint-Director General of ASI, presented a review on the volume and its importance in the epigraphical sources research. Professor Srinivas Ritti was present. Dr. S. K. Aruni, Asst. Director (R) coordinated the programme.

WORKSHOP ON 'HISTORIOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH METHODS'

The Council's important academic programme of Workshop on '**Historiography & Research Methods**' was organized by Southern Regional Centre in Bangalore. The workshop was held between 16th February and 5th March 2009. Professor Sabayasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman,

ICHR inaugurated the workshop on 16th February 2009. Twenty-six selected participants from the southern states attended the workshop. The participants are- Ms. P. Uma-Maheswari; Ms. P. Rajakumari; Mr. S. Purushotham; Mr. V. Kantharaju; Mr. R.D. Pavamana; Ms. N. Renuka; Ms.D.K. Radhamma; Mr. Sridhara; Mr. Jammanna; Dr. Balaram Lamani; Mr. R. Ezhilaman; Ms. S. Arunakumari; Ms. H. Sushma; Mr. S. Narayanamoorthy; Mr. R. Ravi; Mr. Y. Umesh Pattar; Mr. T.R. Reddeppa; Mr. B.N. Naveen; Mr. J. Jagadish; Mr. P.K. Karabari; Ms. Vanajakshi V. Baramgagoudar; Ms. Savitribai N. Olekar; Ms. Gomathi Manohar; Mr. B. Deena Dayalan; Mr. K. Ashok; & Ms. G. B. Satyamma. All costs such as their travel costs to Bangalore; the cost of their board and lodging in Bangalore for 18days were taken care by the Council. Eighteen days workshop was divided into two sessions per day for thematic lecture/presentation on various aspects of historiography and research methods in historical research. The experts from many Universities were invited and following topics were covered during the workshop:

1. *'Colonial School of History'* by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Chairman, ICHR.
2. *'Nationalist Historiography of Indian History'* by Professor B. Surendra Rao [Mangalore University]
3. *Vijayanagara Landscape: Farming & Food in the making of Urban land'* by Dr. Kathleen D. Morrison [University of Chicago]
4. *'Trends in Economic History'* by Professor Sebastian Joseph [Mysore University]
5. *'Mysore in the Historical Perspective'* by Dr. Aswathnarayana [Bangalore University]
6. *'Sources of Kerala History'* by Professor M.G.S. Narayanan Former Chairman, ICHR
7. *'Psycho-History: Historical Motivation'* by Professor P.P. Sudhakaran Former Joint-Director, Collegiate of Education, Govt. of Kerala,
8. *'Historiography of Stone Age Studies in India'* by Professor K.Paddayya [Deccan College, PG & RI, Pune]
9. *'Recent Trends in Subaltern History'* by Dr. T. P. Vijaya [Kannada University, Hampi]
10. *'Archival Source of Modern History'* by Professor N. Rajendran [Bharatidasan University, Thiruchirapalli]
11. *Mughal Historiography'* by Professor Najaf Haider [New Delhi]
12. *'Origin of History Writing in Islam & Indo-Persian Historiography during the Delhi Sultanate Period'* by Dr. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui [Aligarh Muslim University]
13. Application of Internet based Digital Sources and use of Archival Images for Historical Archaeological Study: South India-A Case Study, by S.K. Aruni [Bangalore]
14. *'Mapping Ancient Sites'* by Professor Y. Subbarayalu [French Institute Pondicherry]
15. *'Maratha Historiography'* by Professor M.A. Lohar [Shivaji University, Kolhapur]
16. *'Archival Sources of Karnataka History'* by Professor S. Chandrasekhar [Bangalore University]
17. *'Post-Modern Historical Knowledge'* by Professor Rajan Gurukkal, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam]
18. *'Gender and Writing of History in South India'* by Professor Vijaya Ramaswami [JNU New Delhi] *'Pre-Modern European Historiography Tradition'* by Dr. Arvind Sinha [JNU New Delhi]
19. *'The Pre-Modern Chinese Tradition of Historiography'* by Dr. Madhavi Thampi [New Delhi]
20. *'Sangam Texts and Archaeology: Methodological Issues'* by Dr. V. Selvakumar, [Tamil University, Thanjavur]
21. *'References, Bibliography Index' & 'Marxist Impact on Indian Historiography'* by Professor Shireen Moosvi [Aligarh Muslim University]

22. '*Approaches to Historical Writing on Dalits*' by Professor A. Satyanarayana [Osmania University, Hyderabad]
23. '*Paradigm Shift in Indian Pre-historical Studies*' by Professor Ravi Korisetar [Karnatak University, Dharwad]
24. '*Historiography of Ancient India*' by Professor K.N. Ganesh [Calicut University]
25. '*Epigraphical Sources on Indian History*' by Dr. Madhav N. Katti [Former Director, Epigraphy, ASI, Mysore]
26. '*Gender History*' by Dr. M. Jamuna [Bangalore University]
27. '*Quality Education in Higher Education*' by Dr. Siddalingaswami [Bangalore] &
28. '*Vijayanagara Inscriptions*' by Professor S. H. Ritti, [Karnatak University, Dharwad]

The valedictory session was held on 5th March 2009. Dr. Ishrat Alam, Member Secretary, ICHR delivered the valedictory address and Professor S. H. Ritti, Karnatak University, Dharwad and Dr. B.K. Pandeya, former Deputy Director (Research), ICHR were chief-guests. Dr. S. K. Aruni, Asst. Director (Research) was the Convener of the Workshop.

MEETINGS

(a) Meeting of Publication of Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers Volume Three

The meeting of *Publication of Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers Volume Three* was conducted on 6th March 2009. Dr. Ishrat Alam, Member Secretary, ICHR chaired the meeting, Professor S. H. Ritti, Dr. B.K. Pandeya, Co-ordinator, Indian Council of Historical Research and Dr. S.K. Aruni Asst. Director, SRC attended the meeting. The Committee recommended the Southern Regional Centre to take-up the task of publishing the *Inscriptions of the Vijayanagara Rulers Volume* Ed. By S.H. Ritti & B.R. Gopal.

(b) Meeting of Library Books Selection-cum-Purchase Committee

The Meeting of Library Books Selection-cum-Purchase Committee was held on 27th March 2009. Dr. Aswathanarayana, Reader, Bangalore University; Dr. Jaganath, Editor, Gazetteer Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Dr. Sasidhar, Reader, Bangalore University; Dr. Narasimhamurthy, Secretary, Karnataka Ganaka Parishat, Bangalore member attended the meeting. The Committee recommended and selected new books on history and its allied subjects for Centre's library-cum-documentation Unit.

BOOK EXHIBITIONS

The Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore is taking the Council's Publications like published books, journals, Research Funding Rules booklets, CDs on *Epigraphia Carnatica*, etc. to various academic annual conferences/seminars in the southern India. The programme is aimed to give wide publicity to Council's various schemes for research in history and its promotional activities for the cause of historical research to local scholars in the southern part of the country. Voluntarily Southern Regional Centre goes to these academic bodies, conferences make/arrange book exhibitions in separate stall. In these places, the Southern Regional Centre provide place to consult the scholars for their research schemes or guidance. During the period under report the Centre organized exhibition-cum-sale of Council publications in the following Conferences/Seminars:

1. 'ICHR Symposium on Maharashtra in 1857' held at Deccan college, PG & RI, Pune on 16th August 2008.
2. '69th Session of the Indian History of Congress', held at Kannur University, Kerala from 28th to 30th December 2008.
3. 'South Indian History Congress' held at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu from 30th January to 1st February 2009.

Publications Sales

The centre has collected Rs. 63,266/- [Rupees sixty-three thousand two hundred and sixty-six only] from sales of the ICHR publications viz., CDs, on *Epigraphica Carnatica*, *Lecture Series*, *Towards Freedom*, *Sources*, *IHR Journals*, *RFR booklets* during the period under report.

LIBRARY-CUM-DOCUMENTATION UNIT

The Southern Regional Centre has been focusing on developing the Centre's Library-Cum-Documentation Unit by including in its collection latest publications and reputed periodicals. During the reporting period the Library acquired total **838 new books** and **28 journals** are subscribed and **73** books are received as complimentary from ICHR NERC, A.P. History Congress, Dr. Manoj, Dr. Srinivas & Dr. B.S. Geeta [Bangalore] and Adam Hardy [UK]. Nearly 1500 scholars consulted the library and the library provided 3000 photocopies to readers. The library has purchased 6 glass-door steel Almirahs; 16 slotted-angle racks; 6 steel Book-cases; 400 book-stoppers; 3KVA UPS during the period of report.

'1857' EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

Exhibition of pictorial images of 1857 Revolts entitled 'Representations of 1857: Recovering the Indian Voice' was organized from 27th to 30th December 2008 at Kannur [Kerala] during the 69th Session of the Indian History Congress. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. B.P. Sahu, General Secretary, IHC, and Sri M. Prakashan Master MLA, Kannur was guest and Dr. P. Chandramohan Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University presided over the function. Over 1000 visitors, including a large number of students, teachers and delegates of the IHC visited the exhibition venue. Among the important visitors were Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala Sri Achutanandan, Professors Romila Thapar, K. N. Panikkar, Irfan Habib, K.K.N. Kurup, Rajan Gurukkal (Vice-Chancellor of MG University) and others.

B. NORTH-EAST REGIONAL CENTRE, GUWAHATI

The North East Regional Centre of ICHR, since its inception has engaged itself in various academic and research activities in the region. Various academic programmes were organized during the said period. The details are given below :

I. Academic Activity:

(a) Seminar

National Seminar: *Colonialism, Ethnography and the State in North East India*.

A three-day National Seminar from 2nd October 2008 to 4th October 2008 was organized at Manipur University, Manipur. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. P. K. Shukla, Former Member Secretary, ICHR. Professor Chabungbam Amuba Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University inaugurated the seminar. Professor M. Jitendra Singh, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Manipur University, Manipur, delivered the welcome address. The theme of the seminar was introduced by Sri Uttam Bathari, Asstt. Director (R), ICHR, North East Regional Centre. Professor N. Lokendra Singh, Registrar, Manipur University, proposed the vote of thanks. In total 20 papers were presented in the seminar.

(b) Lecture Series:

The centre organized the following lectures as part of the lecture series program.

(i) XXVI: *River & Environment: Riverine Trade in the Brahmaputra Valley.*

Organized on 21st April 2008, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Alka Micheal Saikia, Gargi College, University of Delhi. The lecture was presided over by Professor Dulal Ch.

Goswami, Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University. In total 42 participants attended the lecture.

(ii) XXVII: *The Khmer Rouge Regime and its Aftermath.*

Organized on 27th June 2008, the lecture was delivered by Miss Triveni Goswami, Research Associate, OKDISCD, Guwahati. The lecture was presided over by Dr. Anil Boro, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University. In total 40 participants attended the lecture.

(iii) XXVIII: *The Brahma Movement & Socio-Religious Reform in Bodo Society in Early Twentieth Century.*

Organized on 1st August 2008, the lecture was delivered by Dr. Anil Boro, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University. The lecture was presided over by Professor Kishor Bhattacharjee, Folklore Research, Gauhati University. In total 40 participants attended the lecture.

(iv) Lecture XXIX: *The Railway General Strike, May 1974: Some Observations.*

Organized on 17th November 2008, the lecture was delivered by Dr. V. Krishna Ananth. The lecture was presided over by Professor Udayaditya Bharali, principal, Cotton College. In total 25 participants attended the lecture.

(v) Lecture XXX: *Coming of the Books in Nineteenth Century Assam.*

Organized on 27th March 2009, the lecture was delivered by Professor Ranjit Deva Goswami, Department of English, Gauhati University to mark the occasion of Foundation Day of the Council. The lecture was presided over by Professor A C Bhagabati. In total 25 participants attended the lecture.

(c) Special Talk:

- (I) Organized on 16th May 2008, the talk was delivered by Dr. Brent Bianchi, Webster University, Thailand.
- (II) Organized on 26th February 2009, the special talk was delivered on *Railway Strike 1984* by Mr. Barmee, a railway union worker, who actively participated in the strike and service retrenched.

(d) Workshop

A five day workshop on Archeological Ceramics and Stone Tools was organized from 10th November 2008 to 14th November 2008 at IIT, Guwahati, in collaboration with Centre for Archeological Studies & Training in Eastern India (CASTEI), Kolkata and Department of Humanities and Social Science, IITG. The inaugural session of the workshop was chaired by Prof. Archana Sarma, Head, HSS, IITG, who also delivered welcome address. Dr. Gautam Sengupta, Director, CASTEI delivered the inaugural speech. Dr. Sukanya Sarma, Co-ordinator of the workshop explained the theme of the workshop. Sri Uttam Bathari, Asstt. Director (R), ICHR and joint Coordinator of the workshop, outlined the importance of such workshop in the region. Experts from across the region and country were invited to the workshop as resource persons. In total 33 numbers of students and research scholars participated in the workshop. Besides that the many other students Research scholars attended various sessions of the workshop.

II. Exhibition Program:

Exhibition of Paintings on 1857 was conducted from 5th March to 20th March 2008, at the Centre premises. During the period in 357 numbers of persons visited the exhibition program.

Exhibition of Paintings on 1857 was conducted from 7th April to 11th April 2008, at the State Art Gallery (Rabindra Bhawan) in Guwahati. During the period 70 numbers of persons visited the exhibition program.

A five minute interview program on the exhibition program was also recorded with the All India Radio, Guwahati, which was broadcasted on 14th March 2008.

Exhibition of Paintings on 1857 was conducted from 6th May to 9th May 2008, at the North Eastern Hill University, in Shillong. During the period, 250 numbers of persons visited the exhibition program.

Exhibition of Paintings on 1857 was conducted from 6th November to 9th November 2008, at the Dibrugarh University, in Dibrugarh. Around 200 numbers of persons visited the exhibition program.

2. Building up the Library-cum-Documentation Unit:

With a view to build up library of the Centre, several titles have been procured. Procurement of books for the Centre has not been restricted to history alone. Books on other allied science like anthropology, sociology, political science etc. have also been procured keeping the importance of growing need for inter-disciplinary approach. Similarly books on North East along with others also have been made. The following steps have been taken for upgrading the library of the centre during the period from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

- I. In total 420 nos. of books have been purchased for the library of the centre. In total 04 nos. of journals have been purchased.
- II. In total 598 nos. of books as complimentary and donated copy from different sources have been received by the Centre.
- III. A few issues of journals, newsletters and assembly reports from different institutions and scholars have also been received.

3. Digitization of library:

The Center is continuing with digitization of rare books by means of scanning.

4. Reproduction of Rare/Unavailable books:

During the period 43 numbers of **rare and unavailable** books have been collected from different sources and reproduced by means of photocopy for the library of the Centre.

5. Promotional and publicity activity:

I. Display of ICHR Publications:

As part of promotional activity, the Centre displayed all the publications of ICHR, distributed newsletters, publication lists and sold the lecture series publication, on the following occasions.

- (i) During the national seminar on *Colonialism, Ethnography and the State in North East India* held at Manipur University, Manipur from 2nd October 2008 to 4th October 2008.
- (ii) During the 29th session of NEIHA held at Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh from 6th November 2008 to 8th November 2008.
- (iii) Newsletter distribution: The ICHR's Newsletter Vol. 7, No. 2 (October 2007 – March 2008) has been distributed to all history Department of North-Eastern universities and colleges.

II. Receipt & Forwarding of Application:

From 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009 the total **19 numbers** of applications for grant in different categories has been received and forwarded to the head office.

III. Participation in Seminar/Conference etc.:

The NERC actively takes part in different seminars/ symposia/conferences/workshops conducted in the university and research institutes of the North-East, especially in Guwahati.

6. Other Activities:

(a) Number of Visitor:

The centre hosted over the period around 8500 visitors either for consulting the library or to inquire about the ICHR grants etc.

A team of scholars comprising 34 members from Iran and some other middle-east countries visited this library on 2nd February 2009.

(b) Independence Day & Republic Day celebration:

Like previous years the Independence Day and Republic Day was celebrated by the Centre.

(c) Electrical wiring of the Library section for installing computers for readers.

(d) Selection test was conducted by the Centre under the supervision of senior officers from head Office for short listing of candidates to fill up five positions of the Regional Centre.