

**THE TENTH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SANSKRIT STUDIES**

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REPORT ON THE TENTH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

The Xth World Sanskrit Conference (WSC) took place in Bangalore, India, from January 3-9, 1997. It was attended by about 1000 scholars from all over the world. The venue of the conference was the Taralabalu Kendra, an important Centre for the promotion of the Indian cultural heritage and academic research, situated in the Rabindranath Tagore Nagar area of the capital or Karnataka. It was here and in the neighbouring educational institutions that all the sessions were held. The Director of the Tarabalabalu Kendra and Honorary President of the Conference, Dr. Shivamurthy Swamiji, and his staff spared no pain to facilitate the work of the Conference and to render the numerous meetings pleasant as well as successful. It was characteristic of the extremely generous atmosphere of the Bangalore venue that, after each morning or afternoon session, lunch or dinner respectively was offered free of charge to all participants, including their spouses, in the large dining hall of the Kendra.

The subject areas of the Conference had been classified into twenty sections, namely (1) Agamas and Tantras, (2) Art, Architecture and Archaeology, (3) Buddhist Studies, (4) Classical Sanskrit Literature, (5) Dharma Shastra and Artha Shastra, (6) Epics and Puranas, (7) Hindu Studies, (8) Jaina Studies, (9) Manuscripts and Historical Resources, (10) Modern Sanskrit Literature, (11) Music and Performing Arts, (12) Philosophy, (13) Poetics and Aesthetics, (14) Sanskrit and Regional Languages, (15) Sanskrit

Scientific Literature, (16) Sanskrit Medical Literature, (17) Sanskrit and the Environment, (18) Sanskrit and Computers, (19) Veda and Vedangas and, finally, (20) Vyakarana and Linguistics. In addition to these sections, there were three special panels devoted to (1) Contributions of Karnataka to Sanskrit Literature, (2) Sanskrit and Computing and (3) Sanskrit and Agriculture as well as a Sanskrit-Parishad which met almost every evening. Dr.K.K.Mishra, the Director or the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan in Delhi, kindly agreed to publish the numerous papers presented.

Evenings were free but various cultural programmes with Indian music, Indian dance and theatre performances, most skilfully executed by students of the Taralabalu Kendra, were arranged by the local organization committee on the evenings of January 4th, 5th, 7th and 8th. On January 6th, sightseeing tours were organized to visit (1) the City of Bangalore, (2) Sravanabelagola-Belur-Halebid, (3) Tirupati or (4) Mysore-Srirangapatnam.

After the registration of the participants and a get-together followed by dinner in the Taralabalu Kendra on the first conference day, the Xth World Sanskrit Conference was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Deve Gowda, in the Vidhana Soudha, the Karnataka State Legislature building. On the evening preceding the inauguration a book exhibition was opened at which the participants were able to become acquainted with new publications.

The Board and the General Body, that is to say, Board, Consultative Committee and individual members, of the IASS were called to two meetings. The meeting of the Board took place in the late afternoon of January, 4th, the joint meeting of the Board and the General Body in the afternoon of January, 7th. The main issues of these two meetings were the modification of § 13 of the Statute of the IASS, the date and the place of the XIth World Sanskrit Conference and, thirdly, a discussion of various possibilities to encrease IASS membership.

The Valedictory Ceremony was held on January 8th, 6:00 p.m. After the Honorary President of the Conference, Dr.Shivamurthy Swamiji, had presented garlands to distinguished guests, the Board Members, Members of the Consultative Committee and some other delegates, Dr. K.P.A.Menon, Former Defence Secretary, Government

of India, distributed a number of recent Indian publications. The list of speakers was long. The President of the IASS, Prof. R.K.Sharma, commented on the Bangalore Conference. Profs. A.N. Aklujkar (Canada), J.Bronkhorst (Switzerland), (Mrs.) T.S.Rukmani (Canada) and P.Bilimoria (Australia) delivered short speeches, welcoming the initiative of the local organizers in holding the meeting, while Dr.D.Wujastyk (England) read out the resolutions passed during the Conference. The Secretary General, Prof.S.Lienhard (Sweden), made some remarks on the work of the IASS and also announced to the assembly that the XIth World Sanskrit Conference will be held in Turin, Italy, in the year 2000. The ceremony was concluded by a presidential address by Dr.Shivamurthy Swamiji, a valedictory address by H.E.Shri Kurshid Alam Khan, Governor, Karnataka, and a vote of thanks expressed by Prof. Shrinivasa Rao, the Executive Secretary of the Bangalore Conference.

Minutes
on the Meeting of the Board of the IASS
Bangalore, 4.1.1997

Present: Prof. R.K.Sharma, President; Prof. C.Caillat, Treasurer; Prof. S.Lienhard, Secretary General; Prof. T.Y.Elizarenkova, Prof. M.Hara, Prof. J.M.de Mora. Also present: Prof. T.S.Rukmani.

1. The President opened the meeting.
2. Report of the Secretary General on the IXth World Sanskrit Conference held in Melbourne, Australia, in 1994.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Modification of § 13 of the Statute of the IASS.
§ 13 has been modified to read as follows: 'The General Assembly of the IASS shall elect the Board composed of the

President, a Treasurer, a Secretary General and six Regional Directors'. It was decided already in the Plenary Session of January 15th, 1994 in Melbourne that the offices of the Vice-Presidents be transformed into those of Regional Directors.

5. Time and place of the XIth World Sanskrit Conference.
After having discussed the matter in detail, the Board requested Prof.T.S.Rukmani, Prof.M.Hara and Prof.C.Caillat to explore by telephone the possibility of holding the next World Sanskrit Conference in Montreal, Tokyo or Turin respectively.
6. The Secretary General informed the Board that the 35th ICANAS (International Congress of Asian and North African Studies) will be held in Budapest, 7 - 12 July, 1997.
7. Date and place of the Meeting of the Board and the General Body.
The Board decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday, 7.1. 1997, afternoon or early evening, in the Taralabalu Kendra.
8. The President closed the meeting.

Minutes

on the Meeting of the Board and the General Body of the IASS
Bangalore , 7.1.1997

Present: Prof. R.K.Sharma, President; Prof. C.Caillat, Treasurer; Prof. S.Lienhard, Secretary General; Prof. T.Y.Elizarenkova, Prof. M.Hara, Prof. J.M.de Mora, Prof. A.N.Aklujkar, Dr.G.M.Bailey, Prof. N.Balbir, Dr. K.P.A.Menon, Dr. K.K.Mishra, Prof. A.Parpola, Prof. V.Rajopadhyay, Prof. T.S.Rukmani, Dr. Koshalya Walli.

1. The President opened the meeting.

2. Report of the Secretary General on the IXth World Sanskrit Conference held in Melbourne, Australia, in 1994.

The Secretary General also informed the participants of this meeting that § 13 of the Statute of the IASS has been changed as decided in the Plenary Session of January 15th, 1994 in Melbourne (cf. Minutes of the Meeting of the Board, Bangalore, 4.1.1977).

3. Report of the Treasurer.

The participants of the meeting agreed to the proposal that membership fees remain unchanged: 150 FF for individual members and 450 FF for national associations. Thereafter, a long discussion took place on various modes of increasing IASS membership. Among other proposals it was suggested that, wherever possible, fund raising campaigns should be started and that the Regional Directors of the IASS should encourage scholars to become members of the IASS.

4. Time and place of the XIth World Sanskrit Conference.

Prof. C.Caillat reported that Prof. Oscar Botto, Regional Director of the Board and President of the CESMEO, has kindly offered to host **the XIth World Sanskrit Conference in Turin, Italy, in the year 2000**. Moreover, Prof. A. Parpola, Member of the Consultative Committee, announced that he intends organizing the XIIth World Sanskrit Conference in Helsinki, Finland. The members present in this meeting accepted both these invitations unanimously and with gratitude.

5. The Secretary General informed the participants of the meeting that the 35th ICANAS (International Congress of Asian and North African Studies) will be held in Budapest, 7 - 12 July, 1997.

6. The President closed the meeting.

Resolutions
passed during the Xth World Sanskrit Conference
Bangalore, January 1997

1 . The New Catalogus Catalogorum project of the University of Madras has already published fourteen volumes covering letters 'a' to 'pa' . These volumes have been of great help in the preparation of critical editions of texts, etc. , and scholars would like to see the work completed without delay. Scholars gathered from different parts of India and other countries in this Conference request the University of Madras to expedite the work of sanctioning the full quota of staff and offering other facilities needed. The Conference requests the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan and Government of India to take up the matter with the Government of Tamil Nadu and the University of Madras and offer the necessary help and support for the completion of this project of international importance.

2. This Conference takes special note of the distinct contribution made by Prof.Muneo Tokunaga of Kyoto, Japan, who has taken great pains to type out the entire text of the Critical Editions of the Mahabharata and Ramayana and feed it into the computer and so generously made it available to the entire world community free of cost, through the Internet. The Conference places on record its grateful admiration for this mammoth scholarly achievement and strongly recommends that he should be conferred the due recognition he eminently deserves, both at the national and international levels. The Government of India is specially requested to take the first initiative in this behalf.

3. Taking into consideration the growing interest in Sanskrit and other classical studies this Conference strongly recommends that the year 2000 A.D. should be declared as the year of Sanskrit and other classical studies.

4. Taking into consideration the vital role being played by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Samsthan, both at the national and international

levels, the Conference recommends that expeditious action be taken to formally declare the Samsthan as an Institution of National Importance.

5. The Conference strongly feels that Sanskrit should form an integral part of school curriculums.

6. The Conference recognises that Sanskrit manuscripts form the bedrock of most branches of Sanskrit studies and wishes to encourage all projects involving the discovery, cataloguing and preservation of manuscripts. Special mention is made of the project directed by Prof.D.Pingree at Brown University and the American committee for South Asian Manuscripts in fulfilment of the Resolution passed at the Conference on Indian Studies, Trivandrum 1994. This project will catalogue, preserve, microfilm and digitise all the estimated 40 or 50 thousand South Asian manuscripts in North America. Prof.Pingree calls on colleagues in all regions to start similar projects. In India, the work will be co-ordinated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Librarians and curators in all libraries holding South Asian manuscripts are urged to cooperate in spirit of joint endeavour with these projects as well as with individual scholars.

7. This Conference is dismayed by the disappearance in Western countries of several professional chairs in Sanskrit some of which had formed centres of excellence for many scores of years.

This Conference urges the Government of India to use whatever means it may, diplomatic or other, to encourage the preservation of professional chairs in Sanskrit in Western countries which may be under threat, or which may already have disappeared.

