

The 2nd Event of Acharya Devendra Nath Sharma Birth Centenary Activity at Ranchi July 2017

An All India Seminar (**the second event in the series**) was organised by the Ranchi University, Jharkhand, in collaboration with DK International Foundation on the 21st and 22nd of July, 2017 as a part of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Acharya Devendra Nath Sharma. That a very large numbers of scholars braved inclement weather to attend, in significant numbers, was a heart warming testimony of their commitment to scholarship and values that Acharya Sharma stood for.

The Seminar was '*Alankar Shastra ki Parampara aur Alankar Muktaivali*' (The Traditions of Poetics and "*Alankar Muktaivali*" (one of Acharya Sharma's classic books) on the first day and '*Puranon ki katha*' (Stories of Puranas) on the second day. Clearly, like few things which epitomised Acharyajee's approach to everything the first day was a scholastic explorations and the second gave the Indian antecedents of the present craft of story telling in the field of skill formation.

The Seminar was inaugurated by **Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey, Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University**. He emphasised on the importance of holding such academic programmes which go a long way in encouraging the younger generation in undertaking serious research in their field of interest. **Prof. Gopal Pathak, Vice Chancellor of Technical University, Ranchi** was the special guest on this occasion. He was of the view that Sanskrit studies have universal appeal. He shared his experience of how he had found immense curiosity and interest in academic circles in America in the Indian knowledge systems. **Former Vice Chancellor of Puri Sanskrit University, Prof. Gangadhar Panda** was the guest of honour in the inaugural session. Being an acclaimed expert on Puranic studies he highlighted the social as well as Shastric relevance of stories narrated in the Puranas. Prof. Dipti S. Tripathi, SG, DKIF and former Director National Manuscript Mission was the Chief Guest. She elaborated upon the multifaceted personality of Acharya Devendra Nath Sharma, who was, amongst other things, an erudite scholar of Sanskrit and Hindi. He combined in his persona the best of tradition and modernity. He had enriched Hindi poetics and linguistics by incorporating the best in Sanskrit tradition in both the fields. She also gave a glimpse of Acharya's immensely disciplined life and exemplary communication skills as a teacher and an orator. **Prof. Chandrakant Shukla, President of All India Oriental Conference, presided over the inaugural session**. He highlighted the importance of *Alankar Muktaivali* in Hindi poetics and was of the opinion that **even after more than fifty years of the publication of the book there is no other text** in Hindi which could rival it in lucidity and clarity while incorporating the main features of Alankar tradition. **Dr. Meena Shukla, Head, Department of Sanskrit, Ranchi University as part of her keynote address** presented a scholarly paper on the Alankar tradition of poetics and the importance of the text *Alankar Muktaivali* of Acharya Devendra Nath Sharma.

(Continued on next page)



The inaugural session in the morning was followed by paper reading sessions in the afternoon and the forenoon of the next day. Senior scholars like Prof. Ram Ashish Pandey, Prof. Maya Prasad, Prof. Jungbahadur Pandey, Prof. Ashok Priyadarshi and others presided over various sessions. **Worth mentioning was a paper presented by Prof. Tarakant Shukla, Head of the department of Sanskrit at Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh on Acharya Devendra Nath Sharma's original and unique interpretation of the definition of poetry given by Bhamaha in *Kavyalankara*.**

The valedictory session had the Pro Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University Prof. Kamini Kumar as the Chief Guest. Prof. Amar Kumar Chaudhary, Registrar of Ranchi University was the guest of honour in the session which was presided over by Prof. Vindhyavasini Nandan Pandey, Dean of the faculty of Arts.