

## **International Conference, 2018**

<http://www.sraofoundation.org/international-conference.html>

**Dr. S.R.Rao Memorial Foundation for Indian Archaeology, Art and Culture** held an International Conference on The Growth and Development of Indian Culture: Historical and Literary Perspectives (Prehistoric Period – 12<sup>th</sup> C CE.) 29<sup>th</sup> June - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. Bengaluru, India. The Conference was a big success and the participants presented excellent papers.

Some of the statements made by participants:

“I would like to thank you for the most wonderful conference.”

“The two days paper presentations in S.R. Rao international conference was an eye opener as to the interest people have in varied subjects and the passion with which they pursue them. For me it was an exhilarating and enlightening experience. I was also awed and nervous to be presenting my paper in front of such erudite scholars on such a prestigious platform.”

During the two and a half days, the following events took place:

1. Inauguration in The Mythic Society on June 29, 2018
2. Academic Sessions on June 30 and July 1, 2018 when 67 papers were read
3. A Book and Two Art Exhibitions
4. A Cultural Program

The Committee had received 81 abstracts among which 72 were accepted. A total of 67 papers were read by scholars in (53 in English, and 14 papers in Kannada) by 72 participants (some having two participants). Discussions by 19 chairs of various sessions were stimulating. An addition of about 31 outside scholars (i.e., non-participants) attended on June 30 and about 12 outside scholars on July 1. Among the 67 presenters, 14 were from abroad.

The Sessions followed the planned approach that was attached to the website in the Call for papers, and were divided into Indian Archaeology, Language and Literature, Ancient Texts and Concepts, Ideas and Practices, Science and Heritage, Indian Art and Society, Text Books in U.S.A. and Interpretations, Art, Crafts and Society, Ancient Goddesses, Buddhism and Jainism, Archaeology and Science, Philosophy and Religion, historical Methodology, Indian Archaeology and History, Discourse on Women and Indian History, Indian Art and Visual Culture.

The theme of the conference pertained to the interaction between various cultural traditions and local influences that have inspired the growth of Indian culture, and its self- definition. Scholars have agreed that over centuries, ancient and early medieval Indian culture has been re-framed and re-interpreted which has posed challenges to scholars to re-discover on the basis of historical evidences its complex system of traditions, networks, and organizations. The ancient history of communities in India is particularly challenging, and the leadership of historians, archaeologists, and literary scholars can help in providing insight into their tangible and intangible heritage. A

multi-disciplinary approach in the conference provided new insights into ideas and practices that have stimulated its growth and development as a cultural process and a way of life.

The Co-sponsors of the International Conference included Indian Council of Historical Research, National Museum Institute, New Delhi, Soka University of America (CA, USA), Dharma Civilization Foundation, (USA), Taksha Institute (USA). The host of the Inaugural Event was The Mythic Society, and IGNCA- organized the Art Exhibition on the works of Rabindranath Tagore. The Board Members of the Foundation are grateful to the Co-sponsors for their immense help in making the conference a success.

Some other Remarks by participants

“Thank you very much for the opening you have given to many of us who are just budding researchers. The conference has given me the incentive and encouragement to strive towards excellence in my chosen field.”

“I could not thank all of you in the Foundation personally. Please do accept and pass on to everyone else....., my sincere thank you for the opportunity to present my work, as well as for all the hard labor that has gone into making the event a success. Particularly so, when it is a very small group of people.”

“The conference had an overwhelming success. Hearty congratulations to your tremendous efforts.”

The Board Members of the Foundation: Dr. Nalini Rao, Chairperson; Dr. K.P. Poonacha, Vice Chairman; Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal, Secretary; Dr. Sundara Adiga, Head of Advisory Board; S.Gopal Rao, Managing Trustee; Meena Rao, Treasurer.