REPORT

UGC B.Voc Scheme National seminar on VATTEZHUTH organized by the department of Malayalam,St.Josephs college(Autonomous), Irinjalakuda in collaboration with Oriental Research Institute, Mysore

The Department of Malayalam, St.Josephs college (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda organized a seven day national seminar on Vattezhuth under UGC B.Voc scheme in collaboration with Oriental Research Institute, Mysore from 20th October 2020 to 27th October 2020.The seminar was inaugurated by Dr.S.Shivarajappa ,Director, Oriental Research Institute, Mysore on 20th October 2020. Smt. Litty Chacko,Head of the department of Malayalam welcomed the gathering. Dr.Sr.Asha Therese, Principal, St.Josephs college (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda delivered the presidential address. Dr.Afina Mary Saju, Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam proposed the vote of thanks. More than one hundred delegates from various colleges and research centres were participated each day of the seven day seminar. Dr.T.Pavithran, Project Director,Centre of excellence studies in classical Malayalam, Dr.Arun Mohan, Assistant Professor & Head of the department of Malayalam, R.G.M.Govt.college, Attappadi, Dr.Murukesh S., Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam, N.S.S.college, Nenmara, Mr.Santhosh Koramangalam, Research scholar, Kannur university, Dr.K.S.Midhun, Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam, Sree Krishna College,Guruvayur, Mr.Cibu C.J., Malayalam computing expert were the resource persons of the seminar.

The Key note address was delivered by Dr. S.Shivarajappa on Vattezhuth.In his talk he explained the relevance of Vattezhuth script and the scope of the Unicode encoding of the same. He also described the characteristics of various scripts like Brahmi, Grandha, Kolezhuth etc. These ancient scripts had significant role in the cultural history of India.

Dr.T.Pavithran, Project Director, Centre of excellence studies in classical Malayalam, delivered lecture on Vattezhuth-Practising script. He described the history of vattezhuth script. The words Vattam and Mukkal vattam represent temples and vattezhuth inscription are engraved in vattom or Mukkal vattam. Scholars believed that the vattezhuth was originated from brahmi in the fourth century AD. And that was a practical session, focused on the writing training of vattezhuth script.

Dr.Arun Mohan, Head of the department of Malayalam ,R.G.M. Govt.College, Attappadi delivered lecture on Vattezhuth documented studies-a general history.He discussed about the background of Indian epigraphy, Keralas ancient scripts, evolution of Vattezhuth from Dakshina Brahmi etc. The You Tube link of the session given below.

https://youtu.be/x07xuSdh-E4

Dr.Murukesh S, Assistant Professor,Department of Malayalam, N.S.S.College, Nenmara delivered lecture on Units and measurements on Vattezhuth. He stated that Vattezhuth is believed to have been in use from the eighth century to the eighteenth century, a period during which some of the finest literature including royal declarations in the entire South Indian region was written. This script is proof that it has been changes over generations and old kingdoms getting dismantled and new ones being formed. There have been changes to structures of each letter as time passed. The You Tube link of the session given below.

https://youtu.be/-RLXk77gIJ4

Dr.Santhosh Koramangalam,Research scholar, Kannur university delivered lecture on From vattezhuth to Malayalam –History of the evolution of script. In his talk, he clarified that when the available written evidence is examined, it can be seen that there is an inseperable link between the vattezhuth script and Malayalam. The You Tube link of the session given below

https://youtu.be/H4fRbX4aKLY

Dr.Midhun K.S., Asssistant Professor, Department of Malayalam, Sree Krishna College, Guruvayur delivered lecture on History of ancient script and Sangham literature. His talk was an exploration of the history of the South Indian script through SanghamLiterature, Sasanasand Coinage. The You Tube link of the session given below

https://youtu.be/yH39w_ck0TE

Dr. C.J.Cibu, Google Software engineer, delivered lecture on Vattezhuth and Unicode. His talk was aimed at recognizing the cultural significance of Vattezhuth and its Unicode encoding obligations. The You Tube link of the session given below

https://youtu.be/XLml0-5_d9o

On 27th [th]October ie the last day of the seminar, a panel discussion on the futural plan and research on vattezhuth was arranged. All the resource persons in the seminar participated in the discussion also. Most of the participants are interacted with the invited speakers. Smt. Litty Chacko delivered the valedictory address. She told that the subsequent series, later this year, would cast the spotlight on Tamil and Kannada languages, whose origins of the written word also lay in vattezhuth.

A portal is being created as the outcome of the seminar. And the Department took initiative to coordinate the researches and studies of Vattezhuth.