

## Dept. of Sanskrit

### Report

#### “Workshop on Indian Aesthetics”

The Department of Sanskrit organized a 5 day *‘Workshop-cum-Credit Course on Indian Aesthetics’* which aims at by-passing religious rites and rituals and investigates the philosophic basis of what is commonly called art in the Indian tradition. It makes the case that the experience of the beautiful through art is a self-standing and transcendent experience equivalent **to brahmananda or the bliss of brahman.**

The coveted speakers for the program were Dr. Harsha Dehejia, certified doctor, currently working as an Adjunct Research Professor at the Department of Religion, Carleton(KARLTON) University, Ottawa, Canada and Prof. Ramesh Ganguli, Professor of Music and Mathematics at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The workshop saw huge and eclectic participation comprising teachers, students, psychologists, artists and doctors. The Inauguration was presided over by Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Vice Chancellor, S.N.D.T. Womens’ University and began with a welcome address by Dr. Shashi Kashyap. Prof Kamat emphasized the importance and need for introducing innovative learning workshops and extended her thanks to the invited faculty and audience. Prof S.A. Upadhyaya –Director, Post Graduate Studies & Research, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai delivered the keynote address and spoke about the concept of Indian aesthetics. The sessions started post a tea break where participants zestfully interacted with the faculty and shared their experiences, views and expectations from the five day workshop.

Through the 3 days, Prof Dehejia covered **concepts of Art, Beauty, Sunder, Saundarya and Saundarya Mimamsa; aesthetics of space, Everyday art and its meanings and shringara Rasa as found in Krishna Shringara**, as the highest aesthetic experience. Aesthetics of dance, mudras and Ashtanayika was beautifully explained through the dance demonstration by a Bharatnatyam artist.

The fourth day was an interesting session taken by Dr. Ramesh Ganguli on aesthetics of music and different concepts of ragas explained through audio music.

The fifth day comprised outdoor learning through visit to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya where the participants explored the concept of how myth becomes alive through painting and sculpture. All assembled in the garden and Prof. Dehejia explained the origin and evolution of paintings which was then followed by a visit to Krishna Art Gallery. Through the tour, the participants understood various forms and emptions depicted through paintings and sculptures.

Through the entire workshop, the participants gained new and enriching perspectives through the use of different and unique learning techniques.

Daphene Alfreda Dias, workshop participant, said, “I was glad to attend the five-day workshop on Indian Aesthetic organized by the Sanskrit department. It was a great experience to have Prof. Harsha Dehejia who took us on the journey of Indian Aesthetic along with his other team.

I thank the Sanskrit dept. for organizing this workshop and giving us the opportunity to have such an interactive session on Indian Aesthetic. I look forward to more such workshop or short courses”.