

## School on 'Bhāsa In Performance' (29 August to 11 September 2016)

### Concept Note:

The rediscovery of Bhāsa's plays in the first decades of the 20th century is the most remarkable event in the history of Indian classical theatre. Since then all thirteen plays of Bhāsa, some based on the Mahābhārata, others on the Rāmāyana and Bruhadakathā have been widely performed across the country and abroad. Modern attempts at staging Bhāsa's plays for contemporary audience in different styles include following:

- (a) Productions inspired by a sort of mixed classical-regional dramatic and rituals forms, for example the productions of K.N. Panikkar, RatanThiyam, Habib Tanvir, B.V. Karanth, Bhumikeshwar Singh, AnjalaMaharshi, etc.
- (b) Production style based on pure classical dance or dance-drama, such as Kanak Rele's productions.
- (c) Productions based on the Nātyashāstric tradition, for example the productions of Shanta Gandhi, Govardhana Panchal, S.R. Leela, etc.
- (d) A sort of free style evolved by taking elements of different traditional forms including 44 acrobatics and blending them in a stylized form. The productions of M.K. Raina and Bansi Kaul provide such instances.
- (e) Plays produced in proscenium theatres or on improvised proscenium stage with formal settings in semi-realistic style: the productions of Waman Kendre and Nadira Babbar. Over and above these modern attempts, Bhāsa plays are also performed on the Kutiyattam stage especially his Rāmāyana plays.

School on 'Bhāsa in Performance' was organized at IAS during 29 August to 11 September 2016. Professor Mahesh Champaklal, Fellow, IAS was the Convener of the school. The welcome address was given by Professor Chetan Singh, Director, IAS. Professor Mahesh Champaklal, Convener of the seminar gave introductory remarks.

### PARTICIPANTS

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- Ms. Sangeeta Gundecha, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Bhopal
- Professor Radhavallabh Tripathi, 21, Land Mark City, (Near Bhel Sangam Society), Bhopal
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