

Study Week on 'Relevance of Indian Theories of Art/Literature Today With Special Reference to Rasa, Dhvani, Auchitya and Bhartrihari's Vakyapadiya'(05-11 April 2019)

Concept Note:

The above-mentioned study-week is aimed at disseminating and critically examining the relevance of Indian theories of art/literature with special reference to "Rasa", "Dhvani", "Auchitya" and *Vakyapadiya*. In Indic civilizational traditions, all kinds of Indian systems of knowledge or jnana/vijnana, including theories and practices of art/literature are firmly grounded in the ethical-spiritual polycentric discourses of "dharma" (one of the untranslatable terms that characterise the Indic worldview) that, inter alia, signifies, righteousness/duty/morality/ spirituality/justice etc. Another loaded term that lies at the core of Indic theories of literature/art is "purushartha" (or the primary objective, of life). Moreover, the socio-cultural-spiritual significance of literature or art is further reinforced in most of the theories of art/literature that overtly as well as covertly emphasize that literary/artistic representations should help human beings attain the four purusharthas (the primary objectives of life, that is, dharma or righteousness, artha or political economy including generation of wealth, kama or desire, and moksha or liberation). Moreover, Indian Theories of Literature/Art, because of their holistic and inclusive nature, do not admit of being classified into two oppositional categories – marga (shastra) and desi (loka) or classical and folk.

Needless to say, Indian theories of literature/art include and explain the representational dynamics of all human situations where questions of caste, class, religion, gender, race, place, culture, nation, ecology etc. in a holistic, and not in an anthropocentric, manner. Thus, Indian theories of art/literature (or Indian poetics) viz, "Rasa", "Dhvani", "Auchitya", and the theories of meaning described in *Vakroktijivitam* and *Vakyapadiya* are interdisciplinary, both in their amazingly logical conceptualization as well as their application to all kinds of literary/artistic representations in their

multiple contexts. Indian theories of literature, in this sense, may be said to be universally applicable because of their emphasis on “samagra evam ekatma-jeevan-darshan” (integral and holistic worldview) and appeal that are free from any kind of ideological bias or bigotry. Suffice to say, the Indian theories of meaning/art/literature are not the products of dogmatic ideological narratives or “isms” that characterise such Euro-Americo-centric critical theories/approaches as modernism/postmodernism/ left/new left/liberal/feminism/post-feminism/structuralism/post-structuralism/historicism/new-historicism/colonialism/postcolonialism/humanism/post-humanism/post-truth (ism?)/ nationalism/post-nationalism or globalism etc. that are imposed on the institutionalized structures of learning and research all over the world as only available universal discourses in order to strengthen and perpetuate Euro-Americo-centric cultural hegemony.

A Study Week was organized at the IAS on “*Relevance of Indian Theories of Art/Literature Today with Special Reference to Rasa, Dhvani, Auchitya and Bhartrihari’s Vakyapadiya*” was organized at IAS from 5th to 11th April 2019. Professor Sudhir Kumar, Punjab University, Chandigarh, Convener of this workshop delivered the Welcome Address and Inaugural Address was delivered by Professor Makarand R. Paranjape, Director, IAS. Vote of thanks was delivered by Professor Sudhir Kumar, Convener of the Seminar.

Resource Persons:

- Professor Gurpal Singh, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Dr. Ramaswamy Subramony, Associate Professor of English, Department of English, Madura College, Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
- Professor Shrawana Kumar Sharma, Department of English, Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar (U.K.)
- Professor Jagbir Singh, Delhi University, Delhi
- Professor Shankar Sharan, Professor of Political Science, NCERT, New Delhi

- Dr. Balram Shukla, Assistant Professor of Sanskrit, Department of Sanskrit, University of Delhi, Delhi
- Professor Ambikadutt Sharma, Professor of Philosophy, H.S. Gaur Central University, Sagaur (M.P.)
- Professor Shankarji Jha, Professor of Sanskrit and Dean, University Instructions, Panjab University Chandigarh
- Dr. Bir Pal Singh Yadav, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi and Comparative Literature, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha
- Professor Priti Sagar, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Gandhi Hills Wardha, Maharashtra
- Professor C.K. Raju, Tagore Fellow, IAS

Participants:

- Ms. Shraddha Singh, Research Scholar, Department of English and Other European Languages, Dr. Harisingh Gour University (A Central University) Sagar, M. P.
- Ms. Durgawati Singh, Research Scholar, Department of English, Dr. H.S.Gour Central University, Sagar, M.P.
- Mr. Subhankar Roy, Research Scholar, Adamas University, West Bengal.
- Ms. Richa Biswal, Research Scholar, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Allahabad, Allahabad
- Ms. Deepali Kujur, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra
- Dr. Sujit Kumar Singh, Assistant professor, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj
- Dr. Santosh Tandale, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra
- Dr. Prabha Shankar Dwivedi, Assistant Professor of English, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati, Tirupati
- Pravin Shekhar, 105/14-B, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, George Town, Allahabad/Prayagraj
- Dr. Amitesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi and Modern Indian Languages, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj
- Mr. Rindon Kundu, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

- Dr. Subroto Roy, 06, Purushottam Apts., 18, Shilavihar Colony, Pune
- Dr. Sonu Jeswani, VMV College, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Mr. Krishna Mohan, R.N. Pandey, Gali No. 08, Ganganagar, Rajapur, Allahabad
- Mr. Kadam Gajanan Sahebrao, Mahatama Gandhi Antrrashtriya Hindei Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, Maharashtra
- Dr. Ashima Shrawan, Assistant Professor, Department of English , Shri Bhagwan Das Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Haridwar
- Dr. Amit Narula, Dav College, Chandigarh