इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

Cordially invites you to

Prof. Suniti Kumar Chatterji Memorial Lecture

on

Can Rhetoric Decide Authorship? Sri Aurobindo and the Problem of the Mahabharata

by

Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty

Vice Chancellor, Central University of Orissa, Koraput, Orissa

Tuesday, 30 January 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Venue

IGNCA Auditorium, Gate No. 1- C.V. Mess, Janpath

New Delhi 110001

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Can Rhetoric Decide Authorship? Sri Aurobindo and the Problem of the Mahabharata

How do you date a literary text and determine its authorship? This has been a problematic area in literary and language studies. Students of philology, history, comparative literature and linguistics have all attempted their own answers. The present lecture, devoted to the memory of the renowned scholar, Prof. Suniti Kumari Chatterji, would examine this question with regards to the early 20th century history of the iconic classical text, the Mahabharata, as handled by Sri Aurobindo, one of the major figures of the Indian Renaissance.

Indeed, the Mahabharata permeates through image, metaphor and arguments as large part of Sri Aurobindo's craft. His treatment of the Mahabharata has not received the deserved attention in the scholarly circles. The epic itself was of considerable interest to Sri Aurobindo, both as a literary form and as a source of intellectual engagement with issues that continue to have contemporary relevance. These relate to the idea of authorship, single or multiple, the question of the cohesiveness of the text, the art of translation issues that have cotemporary resonance. Most of all, it brings in the question whether rhetoric can decide the idea of authorship in the absence of historical documentation of sources.

The powerful appeal that the twin epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata made in Sri Aurobindo's case, throughout his writing career, is indicative of the fact that epics are not a thing of the past and of antiquarian value. Without being a blind adherent to an older model, fixed in time and place, the epic like the Mahabharata, in Sri Aurobindo's case, reveals the working of Indian modernity. This modernity does not discard the past entirely but through creative engagements and adaptation comes up with innovative forms in literature.

'Notes on the Mahabharata' represents an extremely fascinating treatment of seminal importance of the Indian epic form. That this epic, influences an once Anglicized Bengali so deeply that it leaves a lasting impression on his philosophical, literary and political career; marks a relatively minor but significant chapter in India's intellectual history.

Professor Sachidananda Mohanty

Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty is the VC of the Central University of Orissa at Koraput, Orissa. He was recently nominated as a member for India's Commission on Education for UNESCO by the President of India. A member of the Governing Board of the Auroville Foundation, under MHRD, Govt. of India.

Prof. Mohanty is the former Head, Dept. of English, University of Hyderabad & former Academic Associate at the ASRC, Hyderabad. He is the recipient of several national and international awards including those from the British Council, the Salzburg, the Katha and the Fulbright. He has to his credit 29 books in English & Odia. He has lectured at a number of leading Universities abroad including Cornell University, Pittsburgh University, the City University of New York, California State University, University of New Mexico at Taos, Loyola University at Chicago and Australia National University, Canberra etc.

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प्रो० सुनीति कुमार चटर्जी स्मारक व्याख्यान

मंगलवार, 30 जनवरी 2018 सायं 03:00 बजे

इन्दिरा गाँधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

प्रो० सुनीति कुमार चटर्जी स्मारक व्याख्यान

में

आपको सादर आमन्त्रित करता है।

विषय

साहित्यशास्त्र द्वारा ग्रन्थकारिता का निर्धारण ?
महाभारत के परिप्रेक्ष्य में श्री अरविन्द के विचार

व्याख्याता

प्रो० सच्चिदानन्द मोहन्ती
कुलपति
केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय ओड़िशा, कोरापुट, ओड़िशा

मंगलवार, 30 जनवरी 2018 सायं 3:00 बजे

स्थान

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नजदीकी: मेट्रो स्टेशन केन्द्रीय सचिवालय, गेट सं0–2 एवं जनपथ गेट सं0–1 और 4

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