

IGNCA BHARAT VIDYA PRAYOJANA

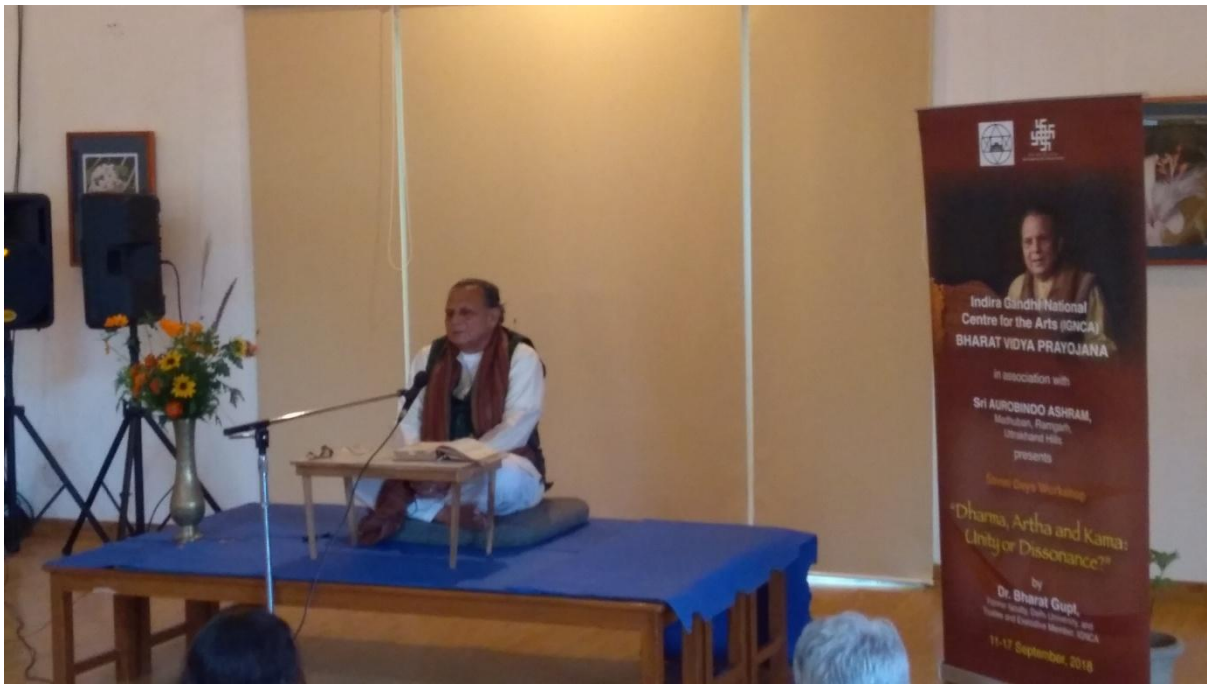
Seven days workshop on “*Dharma, Artha and Kama: Unity or Dissonance?*” A Report

-- Arun Kumar,
Project Assistant,
Bharat Vidya Prayojana, IGNCA
Email: bhaviprayojana@gmail.com

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi in association with Sri Aurobindo Ashram organized a **seven days workshop on the Dharma, Artha and Kama: Unity or Dissonance?** from 11th September to 17th September 2018 at Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Madhuban, Uttarakhand. A group of twenty-two senior scholars and young researchers belonging to various disciplines -- theatre, literature, dance, music, engineering, journalism, policy-making and event-management -- participated. For the first time in the recent history of studies on the Dharmashastra (*Manusmriti*), Kamashastra (*Kamasutra*) and Arthashastra; an exercise to understand all the three shastras, not as three independent entities, but, as a unified whole comprising formulae for a successful life; by a group of specialists of diverse disciplines; was attempted through this workshop. The participants hailed from Delhi, Telangana, Bangalore and other places of the country.

In his opening remarks Dr. Bharat Gupt, Trustee and EC member of the IGNCA, sought to explore the natural and close relationship of Dharmashastra, Kamasutra and Arthashastra in life. He explained that he chose these three Shastras because these three seems to be conflicting to us and we should know how to get rid of the perennial dilemma of ‘what is wrong and what is right’. He further explained Purusharthas, namely the **Dharma**, **Artha** and **Kama** as the goals of human existence and also dilated upon as to how later the fourth element of **Moksha** was added in the fold. He also added that Shastras do not prescribe but they describe and tell us how human can attain excellence in a particular area. Best of compositions are always universal. Dr. Gupt explained each and every chapter of three Indian classical texts. He explained the relevance of three Indian classical texts’ relevance to modern day situation of Human life in all aspects viz., social, economic, political, cultural as well as psychological.

In the valedictory session held in the afternoon of 11th September 2018, the participants narrated experiences about the Workshop. Dr. Bharat Gupt described the workshop as an event of historical importance and hoped that the outcome of the workshop would gradually come. It was envisaged that this would lead to a reconstruction of thought-process about the unity of Dharma, Artha and Kama. Dr. Gupt also emphasized the need for organising more such workshops in a wider cross-cultural perspective. Mr. Arun Kumar, Project Assistant, Bharat Vidya Prayojana, and Sh. Vinod Rawat, S. O. (BVP) were deputed at the workshop venue on behalf of IGNCA, for overall supervision of event and to provide administrative support to the participants during the workshop.



Dr. Bharat Gupta during Workshop



Participants During Workshop