

**Call for Papers**  
**A One Day National Seminar**  
**on**  
**Literature and Performing Arts in Twentieth-Century India**  
**28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**  
**The Department of English**  
**Behala College, Kolkata**

Art and Literature are two such things that are intrinsically intertwined with the history of the Indian subcontinent. Much of the Indian culture is dominated by performing arts which primarily incorporate dance, music, song, movies, theatre, and others that have now in the modern times permeated our daily lives. When we look into the history of performing arts, it can be noticed that human psychology is greatly involved in the depiction of these arts: our innate need to express ourselves took to performing arts as a source of output, refining and polishing them over and over again. The large spectrum of the elements of performing arts defines us on the national as well as the international level. The introduction of modern methods of performing arts in the form of film and media, also have had a profound impact on our cultural identity.

From Mahabharata and Ramayana to the novels and poetries of Rabindranath Tagore, Indian literature has always been scrupulous in reflecting the zeitgeist or the spirit of the age. At the height of the British Empire in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, literature started to flourish once again playing a very important role in inducing the sense of patriotism and nationalism within the minds of common people. The Pioneers of Indian Literature like Tagore, R.K. Narayan, and Mulk Raj Anand in their works echoed the condition of Indian society in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: the robust features, as well as the flaws and problems, were highlighted to a great extent, which brought the attention of the general populace of the country. With the vivid combination of words in literary texts; Literature has a lion's share in forming the rich cultural, social, political, and economic milieu of India as a truly diverse nation.

Literature and Performing Art are entangled together in a seamless web, acting as the pillars of the Indian heritage. Literature is itself a performance. The juxtaposition of one word after the other also creates a rhythm. Literature like *Natyashashtra* and *Sangeetratnakara* are the

means to understand the sources from which the tradition draws its inspiration. Centuries of scientific and technical evolution have continued to refine the performing art, enhancing the richness of its different components. Culminating in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, literature in tandem with performing arts represents a transformative and dynamic epoch in the cultural history of India.

The conference wishes to understand what promises to be a momentous gathering of minds, a celebration of India's literary and artistic heritage, and an exploration of its profound impact on the world stage. Together, let us uncover the intricate narratives, artistic expressions, and transformative experiences of 20th-century Indian Literature and Performing Arts. Studies related to performing arts and literary text encompass a wide range of academic and practical disciplines focused on the exploration, understanding, and advancement of various forms of performances and their interrelation with literature. These studies probe into the creative, historical, cultural, and technical aspects of literature and performing arts offering a comprehensive understanding of this vibrant interdisciplinary field. Our conference aims to get a better understanding of the involvement of Literature and Performing Arts and their versatile contribution, in the backdrop of 20<sup>th</sup> century India, with a focus on but not limited to the following themes:

1. Theatre Studies
2. Dance Studies
3. Music Performance and Musicology
4. Film and Media Studies
6. Ethnomusicology
7. Theatrical Design and Production
8. Performance Theory
9. Arts Administration
10. Interdisciplinary fields
11. Literature itself as a performing art
12. Folk Performances

## **Important Dates and Guidelines**

Abstract submission deadline: 15.10.2023

Abstract length: 250 words with keywords

Full paper submission deadline: 25.11.2023

Full paper length: 3000-4000 words

All submissions should be in English.

Format: MLA 8<sup>th</sup>, MS Word, Times New Roman 12

**\*The Seminar proceedings will go for publication. Submissions dead line will be notified.**

### **Registration:**

Registration Fee:

Faculty and Research Scholars – 500 INR

Students – 250 INR

Registration fee includes a seminar kit, refreshments, and lunch

Registration Form Link- <https://forms.gle/c7h6mUX6YecoUPF6A>

### **Contact Information:**

For submission of the papers, please contact us at [engdeptconference.bc@gmail.com](mailto:engdeptconference.bc@gmail.com)

For Inquiries: 8100052153