

Indic Academy presents

On the Enduring Meaning of the Mahābhārata

Mahābhārata is a text which claims to contain all knowledge and comprehensive consideration of all goals of human existence in dharma, artha, kāma, and mokṣa. Among all great works of world literature, it appears surprisingly contemporary as it presents an apocalyptic world conflict set in a time of ecological distress. It addresses the question of how to live in a world poisoned by greed, politics, and ecological distress. How can we dwell poetically as humans and ethically as stewards of the planet today? As we face the challenges of modernity, the epic serves to remind us once again of who we were and who we could be.

The lecture discusses how the Mahābhārata is an elaborate literary and philosophical project which continues to have enduring meaning for humanity beyond ethnic, cultural, and religious boundaries.

A lecture by

Vishwa Adluri

Professor of Philosophy, Religion and Art History
Hunter College, New York

When: At 5:00 PM on Saturday August 5th, 2017

Where: Auditorium, MIT ADT University Campus, Loni Kalbhor

This lecture is part of a series in July-August by Prof. Adluri traveling in India -- IGNC (Delhi), JNU (Delhi), IIC (Delhi), Hyderabad, NIAS (Bangalore), Chinmaya University (Kochi), International Convention Centre (Pune), MIT ADT University (Pune). Prof. Adluri is also conducting two courses in Mahabharata -- one at IGNC (New Delhi) July 27-30th and one at National Institute of Advanced Studies - NIAS (Bangalore) July 24-25th.

PROFILE OF THE SPEAKER

Prof. Vishwa Adluri is a well known Mahabharata scholar who speaks of how the Mahabharata, though ancient, appears surprisingly contemporary; a text which continues to have enduring meaning for humanity beyond ethnic, cultural, and religious boundaries. He is an accomplished philosopher and author of the well acclaimed book "The Nay Science: A History of German Indology, New York: Oxford University Press (2014)" which is a devastating criticism of Indology and the "critical" methods which result in devaluation of texts of Indian tradition. Prof. Adluri studied the Western philosophical tradition and ancient Greek classics (Heidegger, Nietzsche, Homer and the Pre-Socratics) from great teachers within that tradition. Together with his student Dr. Joydeep Bagchee, Prof. Adluri mapped the Western reception of the Mahābhārata, showing how a pseudoscience called "Indology" was created to replace Indian notions of time, history, and personhood with concepts borrowed from Christianity.

Dr. Adluri holds three PhDs (in Philosophy, Indology and Sanskrit Lexicography) and has published numerous books, edited volumes, and articles on Greek and twentieth-century philosophy, the Mahābhārata, Orientalism, and the Western reception of Indian texts, working in Sanskrit, English, German, French and ancient Greek languages.