

Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute
Academic Development Programme
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announces,

Three lecture series on Mahabharat
(27, 28 & 29 November 2019)

Speaker: Dr. Sucheta Paranjpe, previously Lecturer in Sanskrit, Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune, and presently Infosys Fellow, BORI, Pune

Indians know a lot about Mahabharat. Right since our childhood, we hear those stories, read books and these days, also watch it on screen. Even then, can we say for sure that we actually "know" Mahabharat well? Can we make up our mind about where from to start telling the story of Mahabharat? Do we know what an epic is? Why is Mahabharat called an Aarsha epic? Who composed it? (Not Vyasa alone, believe me). When was it composed? And why? Is it just another piece of the vast ocean of Sanskrit literature, or is it a historical narrative? Who were the Kurus?

Many questions arise which confuse us. The more we study and deeper we go, we realize that we do not know much. We have not even read the original Mahabharat, but have just browsed through some texts based on that or watched some versions of that story. So, let us have an overview of as much of Mahabharat as we possibly can.

The first talk talks about the creation of Mahabharat. Why, when and who wrote Mahabharat? Contrary to the common belief, Vyasa was not the author of Mahabharat, he was just one of the many. It is interesting and important to see how the original small text called Jaya grew into Mahabharat, over some centuries. This will also explain the so-called controversies in the text.

The second talk focuses on the women in Mahabharat. Since a lot has already been written about Draupadi, Kunti and Gandhari, I would focus my attention more on the other women, who, though they deserved it, were never in the lime light, neither then, nor in modern times. This is an attempt to give them, at least, some poetical justice.

The third talk aims at dispelling some misunderstandings about Mahabharat. We have wrong ideas and information about many events and characters. There also are some unbelievable stories which are unheard of. All this will give us a deeper knowledge, new vision and a wider dimension to look at the epic and understand it.

Let us know it, know it more and know it better.

Course dates: 27 to 29 November 2019

Time: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Venue: Firodia Hall of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune 411004

Eligibility Criterion: Graduate in any discipline

Last date of registration: 25th November 2019

Registration Fees: Rs. 500/-for physical attendance as well as webinar for Indian participants. USD 50/- for international participants by webinar. Payable in cash or by cheque at BORI office between 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Monday to Friday except on public holidays)

Account details for NEFT:

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