

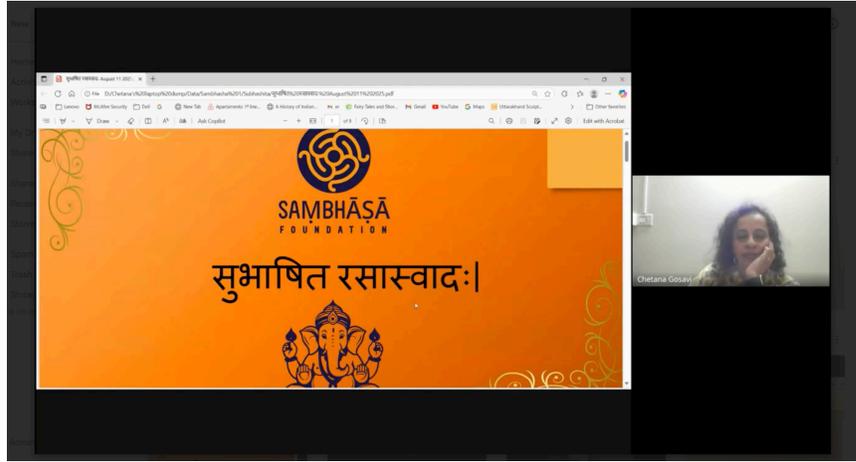
Subhāṣita Rasāsvādāna

August 4 - October 13, 2025

Mode - Online

Commenced on 4th August 2025, lectures Subhāṣita Rasāsvādāna are about enjoying and understanding the beauty of Sanskrit subhāṣitas, short verses that share wisdom, values, and lessons for life. The speaker explained their meanings, language, and background, showing how these verses, though written long ago, are still useful today for guidance in ethics, relationships, and daily life.

The sessions were both informative and practical, keeping the audience interested throughout. Participants not only learned more about Sanskrit literature but also experienced the joy and timeless relevance of these verses.



Introduction to Ancient Indian Iconography

September 8 to October 12, 2025

Mode - Online

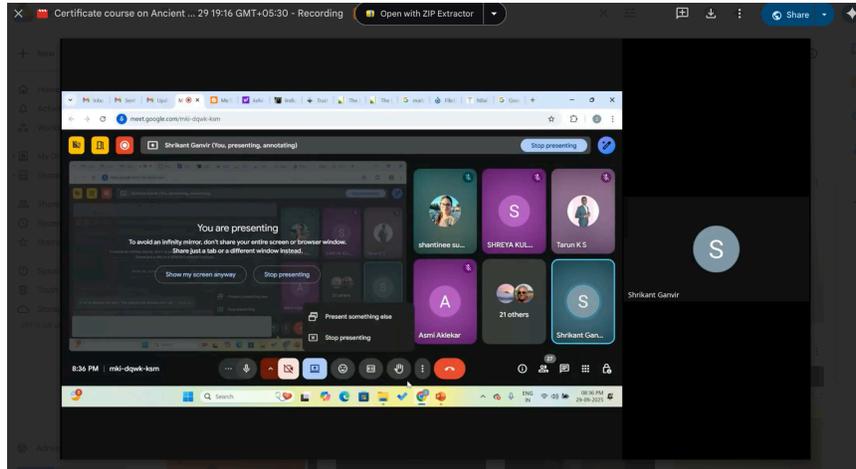
The **30-session certificate course** titled *Introduction to Ancient Indian Iconography* commenced on **8th September** and is currently ongoing. The programme is academically oriented, aiming to introduce participants to the iconographic traditions of Ancient India and to trace the development and evolution of symbols within the **Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain** traditions.

The sessions are being facilitated by an invited panel of **distinguished faculty from across India**, representing diverse specialisations in art history, archaeology, and cultural studies.

Course Objectives:

- To familiarise participants with the terminology and conceptual framework of Ancient Indian iconography.

- To explore the semiotics of forms, gestures (*mudrās*), attributes (*āyudhas*), and narrative depictions.
- To understand the evolution and development of the sculptural culture in Ancient India.
- To interpret visual material in its historical and cultural contexts.



Yaksha

October 31, November 1 and 2, 2025

Mode - Online

A three-day lecture series was conducted by *Dr. Pratishtha Mukherjee* on the evolution of the Yakṣa and Yakṣī traditions, offering an interdisciplinary perspective through art history, archaeology, and cultural anthropology. The sessions traced their origins as independent nature deities associated with fertility and prosperity, their subsequent transformation within Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain religious frameworks, and finally their continued presence in contemporary cultural practices, folklore, and ritual traditions across India. The series effectively highlighted how these sacred forms have adapted over time while retaining their symbolic significance, contributing to a deeper understanding of the continuity of belief systems and visual iconography.

Kalakatha

October 4, 11 and 25, 2025

Mode - Online

Sambhasha Foundation collaborated with Citi–CSMVS Museum on Wheels outreach initiative to commence the *Kalā Kathā* series in September.

Designed as an eight-session online programme, *Kalā Kathā* focuses on exploring the rich and diverse traditions of Indian arts and crafts through an interdisciplinary and child-centred approach.

The sessions aim to help young learners understand the cultural, historical, and geographical contexts that have shaped India's artistic heritage. The programme encourages curiosity, creativity, and appreciation for traditional knowledge systems while connecting them to contemporary ideas and practices.

During the month of October, three sessions were conducted:

Storytelling Through Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Techniques: hand-painting, resist-dyeing, weaving, printing● Stories, mythology, and social customs woven into cloth.
Wooden craft and craft	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wood as storytelling and devotional material● Mobile shrines, sacred cards, and folk music tools
The Metal Craft Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Craft processes: wax casting, inlaying, moulding● Functional art: lamps, figurines, jewellery

All sessions received enthusiastic participation from students, with interactive discussions and creative activities that helped them connect artistic expression with the world around them.

Research Projects

PGKM School Project based learning programme 'Exploring Maharashtra' Grade V

Building on the success of the previous year's project-based social science learning programme conducted with Grade VI students of PGKM school, this ongoing initiative aims to explore the impact of early experiential learning in shaping foundational social science understanding among younger learners. Observations from earlier programmes have indicated that introducing students to the study of their surroundings and their formation through activities, interaction, and storytelling significantly enriches the overall learning experience.

In response to this, Sambhasha Foundation has designed a customised curriculum titled "**Exploring Maharashtra,**" developed specifically for Grade V students, conducted with Grade V students of PGKM school. The programme adopts a project-based learning framework that connects key concepts of social science with students' lived experiences, thereby emphasising the relevance of historical and geographical knowledge in their immediate surroundings.

The programme is being implemented in close alignment with the school's monthly interdisciplinary themes to ensure that learning remains both meaningful and integrated. By linking social science concepts with other subjects such as environmental studies, language, and art, *Exploring Maharashtra* seeks to create a holistic and contextually rich educational experience for young learners.

Ethnoarchaeological Survey of Traditional Communities in Pune

Mode - Offline

The research project of the Ethnoarchaeological Survey of Traditional Communities in Pune commenced this month. Pune, often referred to as the “Cultural Capital of Maharashtra,” is home to diverse traditional communities who have preserved their ancestral professions. These professions, ranging from pottery and metalwork to weaving and making jewellery, show the rich cultural heritage of the region. However, with rapid urbanization and modernization, many of these traditions are at risk of fading away. The purpose of this project is to conduct an ethnoarchaeological survey of 10 traditional communities in Pune. The aim is to document their cultural practices, tools, techniques, and the historical significance of their professions. This study will help in understanding how these professions have evolved over time and the challenges faced by these communities today. The fieldwork is scheduled every Wednesday, when the old town is explored in search of these communities. This month, the communities like Burud (basket makers), Tambat (coppersmiths), Kumbhar (potters), and Attarwale (perfume makers) were being surveyed.

This month, we have successfully documented the traditional practices of two communities as part of our ongoing ethnoarchaeological project. The documentation has been carried out digitally, with the processes visually represented through detailed illustrations. These have been compiled into informative brochures. Additionally, the script for the documentary is in its final stages, and we look forward to beginning production soon.





River Diary Merchandise.

Designed a special Nadi Katha Diary, celebrating the stories and spirit of India's rivers. Each section is dedicated to a different river, featuring original illustrations, mythological narratives, and cultural insights that reveal how rivers have shaped India's history, faith, and daily life.

A total of 100 copies were printed as part of the Foundation's Diwali merchandise collection, offered for sale and gifting. The diary was warmly received for its thoughtful concept and artistic design, blending storytelling, tradition, and creativity.

