

Paradigms of Consciousness and its Cultural and Aesthetic Expressions
9 -11 April 2025

VI International Conference of the Caesurae Collective Society

www.caesurae.org



(Registered under West Bengal Act XXVI of 1961
S/2L/No: 58832 of 2016-2017)

Jointly organized by the Centre for Indian Arts and Cultural Studies (CIACS), Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Department of English, Cooch Behar College (affiliated to the university) and Caesurae Collective Society in collaboration with Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation, Chennai.

Venue: Cooch Behar College

Concept Note



The conference '*Paradigms of Consciousness and Its Cultural and Aesthetic Expressions*' seeks to investigate the diverse ways in which consciousness and spirituality are understood, experienced, and articulated across disciplines and cultures. Consciousness, as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, transcends disciplinary boundaries, integrating philosophical, artistic, scientific, cultural and psychological perspectives. This conference offers a platform to explore these intersections, delving into the deep connections between the mind, self, and the world, as expressed through various cultural and aesthetic forms.

Consciousness finds vibrant expression in interdisciplinary research and creative activities. Literature, visual art, music, film, and performance become mirrors of human experience and pathways to transcendence.

Presentations are invited on artistic practices and their role in embodying the nuances of consciousness. Traditional art forms rooted in spiritual traditions along with contemporary explorations that challenge normative aesthetics serve as both a reflection and a means of transformation of consciousness. How do cultural paradigms influence artistic expressions of inner experience, and how do these expressions, in turn, shape collective understanding?

The dialogue between cognitive science and spirituality opens avenues to understand consciousness through the lens of empirical and theoretical inquiry. The conference encourages exploration of topics such as the neural correlates of consciousness, the role of the brain in spiritual practices, and how advancements in artificial intelligence reshape our understanding of human awareness. It also seeks to bridge the empirical rigour of science with the experiential richness of spiritual practices, interrogating the role of technology for disseminating ancient spiritual wisdom, and improving the common masses' understanding of consciousness in the modern age.

Consciousness is also deeply embedded in cultural practices, rituals, and narratives, where it takes form as both personal and collective experiences. How do the traditions of self-discovery (whether through meditation, yoga, storytelling, or communal rituals) serve as frameworks for understanding the self and its relation to the cosmos? How do myths, symbols, and rituals function as tools for awakening and transformation, and how do these practices evolve across cultures?

Finally, philosophy provides the foundation for exploring the nature and scope of consciousness, raising questions about the self, mind, and universe. Discussions on the metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical dimensions of consciousness are welcome. Comparative explorations of Eastern and Western philosophical traditions (e.g.: Advaita Vedanta, Tantra Traditions, Kriya/ Kundalini Yoga, Phenomenology, and Existentialism) promise to reveal new insights into the non-dualistic, relational, dualistic and transcendental aspects of consciousness. What does it mean to 'know the self,' and how do diverse philosophies and psychology as a discipline reflected in art, architecture and iconography address the tensions between unity and multiplicity, immanence and transcendence?

This conference will embrace the radical pauses and intersections where theoretical and artistic trajectories converge. The gaps and ruptures that creative and intellectual pursuits uncover become spaces for new dialogues and possibilities, allowing the diverse expressions of consciousness to blend and clash in dynamic interplay. By examining these paradigms in depth, the conference aspires to foster a rich understanding of how consciousness shapes and is shaped by our cultural and aesthetic worlds. Invited and selected presentations will be coupled with Art Exhibition on the theme of the conference, Rhythm and Indian Classical Music Workshops so that the theoretical understanding of Consciousness Studies is matched with praxis or cultural and aesthetic expressions.

Presentations may include but may not be limited to the following rubrics:

- Self-realization, Practice and Cultural Expressions
- Śāstra and Prayoga
- Diverse World Cultures and Rituals of Divine Sacrifice
- Spirituality and Aesthetics
- Exploring Consciousness beyond the materialistic Brain and its aesthetic renditions
- Comparative models of Consciousness Studies in the Eastern and Western Cultures and their artistic expressions
- Visualizations, atavistic memory, Cultural Aesthetics
- Supramental Consciousness and Aesthetics
- The role of Physics, AI and Neuroscience in Consciousness Studies and Aesthetic Expressions
- Cognitive Science, Psychology, Consciousness and Cultural Expressions
- Semiotic Expressions, Culture and Consciousness Studies

- Environment, Ethics, Culture and Consciousness Studies
- States of Consciousness, Spiritual dilemmas and their renditions in music, art and architecture

Selected papers will be published in a volume by an international publisher and in our ejournal: *Caesurae: Poetics of Cultural Translation (ISSN 2454-9495)*

- Please send your Abstracts in about 500 words to conferencecaesurae2025@gmail.com
- **Deadline: 20 February 2025**
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- **Acceptance of Abstracts by 26 February 2025**
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- *Registration process should be completed within 7 days of acceptance of Abstracts*
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- **Registration Fees – Rs 2000 for participants in India and 25 \$ for overseas participants + Caesurae Membership Fee -Annual (Rs 500 / \$6 for overseas participants) /Life (Rs 5000 / \$ 60 for overseas participants).**
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- **Accommodation (On request) for twin sharing rooms: Rs 3500**

(Registration fees will cover access to the plenaries and panels of the Conference, including the musical, literary and Zoom sessions of the international speakers, as well as a Participation Certificate. A working lunch will be provided and a conference kit.)

***** It is mandatory to take Caesurae membership for participating in our conferences. If you are a Life Member you must only pay the Registration Fee. If you are an Annual Member and have not renewed your membership either you become a Life Member or take an Annual Membership.***

- **How to pay Registration fee and Membership fee?**

Once we accept your abstract, we will send you our Bank details and a Google Form link.

- ✓ For Registration and Caesurae Annual Membership: Rs 2500/-
- ✓ For Registration and Caesurae Life Membership: Rs 7000/-
- ✓ For Registration + Annual Membership + Accommodation: Rs 6000/-
- ✓ For Registration + Life Membership + Accommodation: Rs 10,500/-

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS CONFERENCE

- ✓ Academic Sessions
- ✓ Music and Rhythm Workshop (details to be provided soon!)
- ✓ Cultural Events in the Evenings
- ✓ Art Exhibition based on the theme of the Conference (details to be provided soon!)
- ✓ Poetry Readings & Book Launches
- ✓ Lecture Demonstrations

INVITED SPEAKERS/ RESOURCE PERSONS

Academic Sessions

1. Dr. Pushpa Misra
Former Principal, Bethune College,
Former President,
Indian Psychoanalytical Society.
1. Dr. Madhumita Chattopadhyay
Professor of Philosophy,
Jadavpur University.
2. Dr. Godabarisha Mishra
Professor and Dean, School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and
Comparative Religion, Nalanda University.
3. Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha
Historian, Publishing Director (South Asia), Routledge,
Taylor and Francis Group.
4. Mahesh Venkataraman,
Managing Director, Accenture.
5. Professor Himadri Lahiri
Department of English
Netaji Subhas Open University.
6. Professor Goutam Ghosal
Former Professor in the Department of English
Visva Bharati University.
7. Professor Sivasish Biswas
Pro-Vice Chancellor & Professor of English,
Assam University (Diphu Campus).

Zoom Sessions (date, time and names of other overseas speakers will be announced later)



8. Professor Debasish Banerjee
Haridas Chaudhuri Professor of Indian Philosophies and Cultures and Doshi Professor of Asian
Art, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco.
9. Professor Sthaneswar Timalisina
Nirmal K. and Augustina Mattoo Endowed Chair in Classical Indic Humanities, Stony Brook
University, New York.
10. Ishwor Chandra Shreshtha
A Harvard University Graduate,
Translator, Spiritual Counsellor and Instructor
Former Lecturer, Lumbini University
Kathmandu Nepal.

Music Workshops/ Lecture Demonstrations/ Performances



Shri Nishaant Singh – the youngest and first Fulbright Associate in Pakhawaj
for *Rhythm Workshop and a performance*



***“Nrityato Bhairavakrite”*: Self-Recognition through Dance**

A lecture-demonstration by **Smt. Nandita Banerjee**, a senior Bharatnatyam dancer and choreographer,
hailing from the lineage of Dr. Padma Subramanyam.



Sound, Music and Wellness – A lecture demonstration by **Dr. Sanchita Choudhury**, an Indian
Classical Vocalist and Ethnomusicologist.

About Caesurae Collective Society



Caesurae Collective Society is a registered non-profit organization devoted to academic and cultural activities. We organize academic seminars, creative writing, music, dance, film, graphic arts, photography, and art workshops and events. Our organization prides itself on members who come from different disciplines. We have academicians who are creatively inclined, and we have professionals from different cultural streams. Caesurae Collective Society intends to bring together creative arts with academic discursiveness on culture and cultural translation. If you have the creative and/or academic zeal in you, and wish to become one of “us”, you just have to write to mail@caesurae.org with your interests and a brief note about yourself. Our multi-media E-Journal (International, double blind peer reviewed journal), *Caesurae: Poetics of Cultural Translation*(ISSN 2454-9495), is free for readers and contributors. However, one is required to become a member to participate in our conferences and workshops.

About Cooch Behar



Located in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, this was a princely kingdom ruled by the Koch dynasty. It was transformed from its princely status to a district in West Bengal in August 1949. The region holds attraction for the tourists for the Palace and the Madan Mohan temple and the dooars forests. Historically it has a connection with Rajasthan as the princess Gayatri Devi was married to Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II of Jaipur.

For Queries WhatsApp 91 8017147503 or email to conferencecaesurae2025@gmail.com



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - Poetry Anthology

PRISM OF CONSCIOUSNESS

We are thrilled to announce a call for submissions for the poetry anthology **Prism of Consciousness**. This anthology will accompany the upcoming **VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CAESURAE COLLECTIVE SOCIETY**, jointly organised by the **Centre for Indian Arts and Cultural Studies (CIACS)**, **Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, Department of English, Cooch Behar College** (affiliated to the university), and **Caesurae Collective Society** in collaboration with **Sri Vishnu Mohan Foundation, Chennai**. The conference will be held from 9–11 April 2025 at Cooch Behar, the erstwhile princely state in West Bengal, India.

The anthology seeks to weave a fabric of poetic expressions that resonate with the theme of consciousness—exploring the mind, the self, and the infinite cosmos—weaving together poetic voices that reflect on what it means to be aware, alive, and interconnected.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CAESURAE COLLECTIVE SOCIETY

Date : 9, 10, & 11 April 2025

Venue : Cooch Behar College

Place : Cooch Behar, the erstwhile princely state in West Bengal, India

THEME

Prism of Consciousness—a profound interaction of thought, emotion, and awareness that shapes our experience of reality. We invite poets to explore this theme in all its dimensions.

SUBMISSION CONTENT

Poem(s), bio, photo, declaration, and personal information.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

10th February 2025.

BOOK LAUNCH, POETRY READING, AND DISCUSSIONS

The book will be launched during the conference in Cooch Behar, with featured poets invited to participate in a special poetry reading session and discussions.

PARTICIPATION DETAILS @ Cooch Behar

Please note that the poetry reading session and discussion will include participants whose work has been selected for the anthology Prism of Consciousness.

If your poem has been selected and you wish to participate in the conference at Cooch Behar, kindly email us. We will send you the registration form.

FOR REGISTRATION:

Same as the conference email.

REGISTRATION FEE:

Same as the conference registration fee.

Registration will close on 22nd February 2025.

CONTACT

Email: orbindo.ganga@gmail.com

Whatsapp: + 91 9895290371



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

*The conference is an interdisciplinary gathering of thinkers, researchers, philosophers, and artists, united in the pursuit of unraveling the mysteries of consciousness. It will feature **academic sessions, poetry readings and discussions, book launches, music workshops, an exhibition based on the theme, lecture demonstrations, and cultural events**. By linking this anthology to the conference, we aim to celebrate the poetic voice as an essential element in exploring human awareness.*

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE

Indian participants : ₹ 2500

Overseas participants : \$ 31

CONTACT

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