



**CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE  
BHASHA BHAVANA  
VISVA-BHARATI**

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LITERATURE AND DANCE**

**Coordinators: Dr Dheeman Bhattacharyya and Dr Nilanjana  
Bhattacharya**

**A Concept Note**

In the history of Visva-Bharati, lessons on dance began *almost* simultaneously with lessons of languages, literature, and sciences; although initially the dance lessons had to be disguised as “physical exercises” (*vyayama*). This draws attention to the challenges that an academic institution – even an academic institution with an explicit objective of being anti-colonial – faced to situate dance practices on the same platform with “academic” practices. Eventually, dance has been recognised by the Indian academia as a discipline requiring structured training, and like many other universities, Visva-Bharati also provides “academic degrees” on dance. Paradoxically, however, in this long and turbulent process of gaining academic recognition, a rupture took place between dance and other disciplines, especially the art forms.

Comparative Literature, with its very broad approach towards “literature” and emphasis on methodology, seeks to redress the rupture, calling for a holistic approach that initially characterized Visva-Bharati, and also many of the literary traditions of the world. Going beyond attempts of tracing inter-relationships between literature and dance, this symposium therefore, seeks to raise questions regarding generic approaches to dance and literature, issues of historicism, and problems of representation in the practices and pedagogy of dance and literature. Needless to add that these factors (which are merely indicative and not exhaustive) would vary depending on the forms of dance and literature. Instead of focusing on any specific form of dance and literature, this symposium would attempt to highlight the plurality, and to address that within academic discourses. To that end, we invite practitioners and scholars from a varied background, including representatives of “classical” dance forms like Bharatnatyam, Odissi, Mohiniyattam, as well as contemporary dance forms. Deliberations will take place in two halves, one in a more “academic” format, and the other in a more “performative” format, emphasizing the need to challenge such categories.

**Date of the Symposium: December 4, 2024**

**Venue: Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan**

Interested individuals are requested to fill up the following Google form within **November 11, 2024** to participate in the symposium.

<https://forms.gle/hwbxebsMnSV2QhaA9>

Registration Fee:

Faculty Members and Others: INR 1200/-

Students and Research Scholars: INR 500/-

Foreign Participants: USD 20

This fee will cover conference kit and refreshments. Please note that selected participants will have to arrange for their own accommodation.

After the screening, selected participants will be notified about the account details to submit their registration fee.

For any queries, please contact us at [symposiumliteraturedancecl@gmail.com](mailto:symposiumliteraturedancecl@gmail.com).

