



Chairman's Message

I have great pleasure in presenting this volume of papers to be read at the UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Post-Independence Indian Literature' to be held under the auspices of VPM Arts and Commerce College on 16-17 Jan 2009.

It is our policy to have a National Seminar every year, with two workshops, in an endeavour to promote academic and research excellence. The topic of this year's seminar – post-independence Indian literature — is very important because through literature the entire gamut of sociocultural issues and their intricacies can be creatively expressed.

Literature helps in introspection and promotes self-knowledge, both individual and social, besides creating awareness of pressing social problems. The entire scenario of post-independence India – whether religion or science; economics or culture; women, caste or social hierarchy; mysticism or spiritualism; family, marriage, divorce, sex and gender; social oppression – all these issues have been creatively tackled by post independence Indian writers.

India has a rich linguistic heritage, right from the Vedic period till the modern. The entire range of social, economic, ethical and philosophical problems that concern mankind have been discussed, in the simplest as well as the most complicated manner, in the Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharatha, Puranas, Darshanas, Panchatantra, as also in today's literature on modernism, dalit, regional and tribal writings, feminism, contemporary literature and its critique.

It is for us to study and introspect on all these issues. This two-day National Seminar will definitely help the delegates present, as also the thinkers of our society at large, to better understand our past and plan out a brighter future for India and Indian literature.

I wish its deliberations all success.

Vijay Bedekar

Chairman,

Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Thane.