

Savitribai Phule Pune University
Department of Sanskrit and Prakrit (CASS)
Report of Gune lecture-series

Details of the lecture-series-

Dept. of Sanskrit and Prakrit, S. P. Pune University organizes two prestigious lecture series every alternate year. Prominently the core areas for these series are Veda, Grammar and Linguistics. The activity is going on for last almost 40 years. Gune lecture series in one of those. In the academic year 2020-21, the department organized it in February 2021. It took place between 24th and 28th February 2021.

About the speaker -

The erudite speaker invited by the department was Prof. Malhar Kulkarni who is Professor at the Department of Humanities, IIT, Mumbai. He is famous world-wide for his expertise in subjects such as Sanskrit grammar, Natural Language Processing and Digital Humanities.

Summary of the lectures -

Contents of the four lectures could be summarized as follows- Compositionality is a principle that is used to explain the relationship between part and whole. In the context of Language, we invoke it to explain the complexity of higher units that are stated to have been formed from smaller units. Through these lectures this principle was elaborated. It was done in the light of the tradition of Paninian grammar which derives a वाक्य from the respective पदs and पदs in their turn from the respective प्रकृतिs and प्रत्ययs. Similar can be said about the अर्थ as well as स्वर which was also be included in the course of these lectures.

The lecture series was organized through the online platform according to the government protocol during the Covid 19 pandemic. The series was well received by senior scholars as well as post-graduation and research students from Pune, Mumbai and all over Maharashtra. Being an online programme there was no limit regarding time or place. As a result, some participants attended it even from the abroad places. The number of students were approximately 50. It was overall a successful academic activity.