

## **PRESS NOTE**

The Sanskrit discipline of the School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies, Goa University, in association with Abhivyaktee – Panaji, organized a one-day workshop on “**Introduction to the Angika Abhinaya of the Natyasastra**” on Monday, 28th July 2025, at the Chemistry Auditorium, Block E, Goa University. The workshop witnessed the participation of over 30 individuals, including not only students and faculty members of the university but also enthusiasts and professionals from diverse fields beyond academia, reflecting the wide-ranging interest in the classical art form.

Prof. Koshy Tharakan, Dean of the School of Sanskrit, Philosophy and Indic Studies (SSPIS), Goa University, addressed everyone and extended a warm welcome. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Yogita Chhatre, Assistant Professor and Programme Director at SSPIS. Participants had the opportunity to learn from three accomplished instructors. Dr. Saish Deshpande, a renowned theatre director, music designer, and academician, served as the workshop facilitator. He was joined by two Bharatanatyam experts, Vaishnavi Joshi and Gautami Khandeparkar, both of whom have attained advanced qualifications in classical dance. Their collective expertise enriched the workshop and offered participants a deep insight into the detailed aspects of Angika Abhinaya.

The session began with an introduction to the Natyasastra, focusing particularly on the concept of Angika Abhinaya. Participants were first familiarised with how theatres were designed in the past, how the stage space was used, and how performances took place in those times. Various visual aids, such as videos and images, were presented, which helped the audience understand the concepts more effectively. The workshop included several engaging activities where participants were invited on stage to actively demonstrate what they had learned. These interactive segments allowed everyone to creatively express themselves and apply the techniques taught during the session. Towards the end, a group activity was conducted where each participant was encouraged to contribute, resulting in an enjoyable and dynamic exchange of ideas and performances. The session proved to be highly interactive and inspiring, leaving participants with a sense of enthusiasm and a deeper appreciation for the richness of classical Indian theatre.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory function, graced by Prof. Sunder Dhuri, Registrar of Goa University, as the Chief Guest. In his brief address, Prof. Dhuri appreciated the efforts of the Discipline of Sanskrit and commended it for the dedication shown in organising such an insightful and enriching workshop. He strongly felt that there are many talented students from across the state, especially from rural areas, who would benefit greatly from such workshops. He believed that initiatives like these provide much-needed exposure and learning opportunities for them.