

Department of Sanskrit

University of Mumbai

Syllabus for the Post-graduate Diploma and Post-graduate Advanced Diploma Course in Mysticism

Post graduate Diploma Course in Mysticism (w.e.f. 2019-2020)

- 1) **Eligibility:** A candidate to be eligible for the Post graduate Diploma Course in Mysticism should be a graduate from any faculty from an institution which is recognized by the UGC or equivalent.
- 2) Every student admitted to the course for the Post graduate Diploma in Mysticism shall first register himself as such with the University
- 3) Duration: 3 hrs a week (once a week, I Academic year, Approx 90 hrs)
- 4) Fees: Rs. 3,000/- per student (for the whole/entire course) + Rs. 500/- examination fees for issuing mark-sheets and certificates etc

Preamble:

Bertrand Russell, a philosopher who cannot be suspected of sentimentality, or of soft-headedness, or of a bias in favour of mysticism, wrote in a famous essay as follows: The greatest men who have been philosophers have felt the need both of science and of mysticism (Russell: 1921). The union of Mystic and the man of Science inspires whatever is best in a human being. Greatest of poets saints like Dnyaneshvar, Mirabai, Kabir and poet laureates like Rabindranath Tagore, saintly thinkers like Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Ranade have been Mystics.

These Mystic personalities have undoubtedly derived their inspiration from the Upanisads, Vedanta and Agamic traditions composed or encoded in Sanskrit. The metaphysical speculations regarding God, Atman and Brahman, Maya, embodied Soul i.e. the Jivataman have been thoroughly discussed in the Sanskrit sources, which have inspired the thought-processes of many a Mystic.

Apart from Sanskrit Indian traditions, mysticism has been a mode of practice in different cultures. The beatified saints in Christianity, the Sufi saints of Islam, Zen Buddhist tradition have embedded mysticism in their practices. Apart from this, a variety of meditative techniques used for self-realisation have firm roots in Mysticism. One of the greatest role played by Mysticism is that, it has provided

a Spiritual Background to the Renaissance and Reformist movements during the British Rule.

This course in Mysticism designed at two levels, throws light on Mystics as well as Mysticism theories of India and also of different cultures. The Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses offered by the Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai is one of its kind in India.

Syllabus Details:

Post-graduate Diploma in Mysticism

Paper I : Essentials of Mysticism

Topics:

- 1) Understanding Mysticism: Marks 25
 - a. Its definition and characteristics,
 - b. Principles of Mysticism,
 - c. Scope of Mysticism,
 - d. Mysticism and Language,
 - e. Symbolism in Mysticism
- 2) Sanskrit texts and Mysticism: Marks 25
 - a. Vedic ritual and Spiritual literature s
 - b. Special stress on
 - i. Upanishads;
 - ii. Bhagavadgita,
 - iii. Yogavasishta,
 - iv. Stotra and
 - v. Other Bhakti literature
- 3) Sufism: and Islam Marks 25
 - a. Personal Interpretation of Divine,
 - b. Concept of *fana*, (notion of oneself in the Divinity)
 - c. *dhikr* (Remembrance of God)
 - d. Different stages to achieve Mystical state
- 4) Mysticism in: Marks 25

- a. Buddhist Tradition –
- b. Jain Tradition –

Paper II: Multi-dimensional World and Mysticism

Topics:

- 1) Mysticism in the West: Marks 25
 - a. Mysticism in Greek thought –
 - i. Heraclitus,
 - ii. Parmenides,
 - iii. Plato
 - iv. Spinoza,
 - b. Metaphysical speculation;
 - c. Logical differentiation of Mystical experiences,
 - d. Christian Mysticism Mystics like following will be covered ; Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah
 - i. St Teresa,
 - ii. Thomas Aquinas
 - iii. St John of the Cross

- 2) Mysticism and Psychology: Marks 25
 - a. Neurological Research
 - b. Morality
 - c. Visions and Voices,
 - d. Raptures,
 - e. Trances and
 - f. Hyper-emotionalism

- 3) Mysticism and Saint Literature: Marks 25
 - a. Compositions of Saint poets
 - i. Chakradharaswami,
 - ii. Varkari Saints,
 - iii. Alvars,
 - iv. Meerabai and
 - v. Kabir

4) Modern Indian Mystics: Marks 25

- a. Ramakrishna Paramahansa,
- b. Sri Aurobindo,
- c. Gurudev Ranade

Paper-pattern

A. Paper I (Marks 100 Duration 3 hrs)

(Out of six questions any four are to be attempted)

1. General Question on the Understanding of Mysticism---- Marks 25
2. General Question on Sanskrit Texts and Mysticism---- Marks 25
3. General Question on Sufism----- Marks 25
4. General Question on Mysticism and Buddhist and Jain traditions --- Marks 25
5. Critical notes on any two out of four topics prescribed for Paper I --- Marks 25
6. Critical notes on any two out of four topics prescribed for Paper I ----Marks 25

B. Paper II (Marks 100 Duration 3 hours)

(Out of six questions, any four are to be attempted)

1. General question on Mysticism in the West---- Marks 25
2. General question on Mysticism and Psychology--- Marks 25
3. General Question on Mysticism and Saint Literature---- Marks 25
4. General Question on Modern Indian Mystics---- Marks 25
5. Critical notes on any two out of four topics prescribed for Paper II--- Marks 25
6. Critical notes on any two out of four topics prescribed for Paper II ---- Marks 25

Dissertation: Marks 50