



ARTISTIC EXPLORATION IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

PROF. BITASTA DAS

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
IISc Bangalore

TYPE OF COURSE : New | Elective | UG**COURSE DURATION** : 4 weeks (29 Jul'19 - 23 Aug'19)**EXAM DATE** : 29 Sep 2019**PRE-REQUISITES** : Interest in Scientific Concepts and creativity**INTENDED AUDIENCE** : Any stream Under Graduate**INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO** : Folk Art**COURSE OUTLINE :**

Human-nature interaction exudes various outcomes. One of them is folk arts. Folklore, among all the human sciences, is probably one of the rare fields of inquiry that transcends disciplinary boundaries tying all expressive forms together. It encompasses not just the formal and standardized forms but also the rudimentary and fundamental expressive modes. Folklore is a significant tool to arrive at credible nuances about what it means to be “human” and about human expressive behaviour. In a country like India where majority of the population resides in rural, technologically untouched societies, it is the folk lexicon that gives expression to their worldview. The two domains of knowledge—Science and Art are seemingly different. While the objective of Science is to arrive at absolute truth, for Arts it is aesthetic expressions. This course brings together these two distant domains of knowledge and explores the aesthetics of science through Indian folk art.

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Dr. Bitasta Das is presently an Instructor in Undergraduate Programme at Indian Institute Science, Bangalore in the Humanities discipline. She teaches “Ethnographic Methods”, “People and Nature” and a course titled “Mapping India through the Folk Arts”. She has doctoral degree in Cultural Studies from Manipal University and she is a gold medallist from Tezpur University, Assam. Arting Science is an area of work introduced by her at IISc where the students work in the interface of art and science to produce Arte-Facts; songs, dance, play and Painting that has scientific research and technology as its subject. She has many research papers and four books to her credit.

COURSE PLAN :**Week 1:** Science and Art - emergence of the two domains**Week 2:** Folk art: Theory and perspectives; Understanding the diverse Indian folk art**Week 3:** Science and Indian folk art: Facilitating a dialogue**Week 4:** Exploring science through folk arts; Learning to create