

## PANEL DISCUSSION ON CULTURE

**Title of Panel :** Culture as a repository of values and Ethos

**Guests :** Nalini- Kamalini, Kathak Maestros

**Moderator :** Dr Gauri D Chakraborty

**Co Moderators :** Ms Chaya Chordia & Ms Sushmita Sen

Date : October 15, 2020

Time : 5 to 6 pm

### Background

The Indian subcontinent has been the bedrock of existential concepts from the beginning of civilization. Segmented into culturally diverse spaces with nuanced codes, culture as we know it has been an amalgamation of various seers, gurus, thinkers and statesmen. The values of the Indic way of life are embedded in the structures of art and culture seamlessly but it is the only thru the Guru or the mentor , that the individual perceives these nuggets of life.

The panel is a conversation with performing artists of the classical forms, World renowned kathak dancers Nalini-Kamalini, disciples of Kathak Maestro Guru Jitendra Maharaj. The discussion will explore the essence of the Indic tradition of Guru Shishya Parampara, 'Sadhna' and the value systems within Indian classical dance forms.

Considered as *Sampurna Yoga*, these forms which have largely been reinterpreted or fused/experimented within the modern edifice of society, still contain the elixir of blending rational and the irrational. The panel will discuss the essence of the forms of dance as an expression of core human values and aesthetic rendition of basic ethos of life. The subjects brought to the fore will be :

- Classical forms as representative of spiritual enlightenment
- Classical forms and performance
- India's soft power
- Value systems in the process of imbibing the forms
- Amalgamations and cultural hegemonies
- New interpretations and representations of the forms on Stage
- Influence of digital media on the 'message within'.

Kamilini Asthana is also the Chairperson of Kathak Kendra and the panel discussion will touch base on the institutionalization of Indian culture by both state and private patrons.

Guidelines :

1. The panel discussion is open to public
2. Artists , practitioners and academicians will be preferred as participants
3. Registration is a must on common ALF to be attendee for the session
4. Questions can be submitted pre discussion to moderator at [gchakraborty@amity.edu](mailto:gchakraborty@amity.edu) or [cchhaya@amity.edu](mailto:cchhaya@amity.edu)

Highlights

The panel will include short pieces of classical Indian dance as demonstration.