

EDITORIAL

The Summer issue of *SHSS*, in a fresh garb, and under the stewardship of the new Director, Prof Himanshu Chaturvedi, also the Chief Editor of the journal, engages with a number of themes across disciplines.

The issue offers a range of concepts and views as it throws up questions fundamental to ideas of identity, rootedness, inevitable change. It also implicitly touches upon the significance of a dynamic, flowing channel of ideas, views the challenges of contemporary society through a multi-disciplinary lens, and explores viable solutions and explanations to modern-day concerns, whether individual or collective.

Along with providing significant information about some of the forgotten struggles against colonial rule, there is the attempt to analyse issues that are of great significance to our society and well-being. There are philosophical concepts – and their value in resolving existential questions that many of us grapple with. Masculinity and the ramifications of that term, and what it signifies - both to men and women, and to the laws of our country - is discussed in depth with references to history, societal customs and expectations, theorists, and lawmakers.

There is the ever-questioning look at *Bhārtiyatā*, and the wisdom of this ancient land of ours which embraced so many and added to its own light, all beams of knowledge no matter whence it came. Whether it be the science of *Ayurveda*, our indigenous games and martial art forms, our ancient texts and scriptures, our traditions, they can all – in spite of having undergone historical transformations - yet be re-looked, re-interpreted, re-told in terms of contemporary relevance and still hold out lessons for a better society, and consequently, better individuals and family structures. We come to realize that the past and the present are equally valuable as we strive to face a future that is often filled with uncertainties, feeling better equipped with the insights gained over generations.

MALATI MATHUR
Editor, *SHSS*