

Overview of Hindustani Music: Lec-dem by Chandrima Sanyal Dutta



In a lec-dem session for students of 2nd year Communication Studies on the 23rd of September conducted from 11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m, Chandrima Ji taught the students the basic knowledge upon which Indian music is built, including Islamic influences, colonialism and bifurcation of musical styles. She dove into key concepts such as Raag, Alaap, and Swar and taught the structure of an ordinary Hindustani classical music concert.

To begin the lecture and provide insight on the instruments being used, she performed the Ganapati Vandan based on Raag Raman Kalyan. She then proceeded with the lecture by explaining how Carnatic music blends with Hindustani music, followed by the introduction of Hindustani music. She then proceeded to differentiate between the two categories of sound: noise and music, emphasising pleasant sounds. During the conversation, we delved into terms such as shrutis, which refer to 22 microtones, as well as sudh swar saptha, and more. She took the time to clarify any misconceptions students had about terms like taal, alaaps, and samay chakra. She also mentioned different forms of music such as the dhrupad, qayal, and also mentioned connoisseurs of music such as Gulam Ali, Amir Khusrow etc.

Throughout the lecture-demonstration, Chandrima Ji focused on teaching the students the basics of Hindustani music. She not only explained the concepts but also provided

examples, making it an enriching experience for both those familiar with Hindustani music and those who were new to it. Chandrima Ji not only encouraged us to hum along and follow the taal as she sang, but she also created a magical atmosphere. To conclude the lecture, she mesmerised us with her rendition of "Aaj Jane Ki Zidd Na Karo" by Farida Khanum, a Bollywood song based on a gazal. Everyone joined in and sang along before calling it a day.