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PROSE

SEMESTER- IV

ENGLISH

BLOCK 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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BLOCK INTRODUCTION

The second block of the Course on Prose consists of eight units which specifically throws light on a variety of prose pieces and aims to familiarise the learners with a wide range of thematic concerns. The eight unit deals with one of the renowned Indian writers, Amitav Ghosh who has not only essays to his credit but also has novels, travel narratives and journalistic documents. The ninth unit includes Amitav Ghosh's essay "The Diaspora in Indian Culture" which deals with significant and sensitive issues like the diaspora, cultural representation of space, migration, cosmopolitanism and takes up the past and present cultural relationship between India and the Indian diaspora. The tenth unit is based on a lecture by Max Muller to the candidates of the Indian Civil Service where he emphasises on how India is a storehouse of both knowledge and wisdom and touches upon aspects such as language, literature, religion, philosophy, ancient Vedic mythology, primitive arts and sciences, customs, folklores and legends, archaeology, ethnology, geology, etc. The eleventh unit takes up George Orwell's essay "Politics and the English Language" where he attempts to explore the importance of language as a tool for manipulation and emphasises on the clarity of expression and lucidity of style in writing English. The twelfth unit on "Ramanujan" will unravel the interesting journey of the self taught mathematician Ramanujan from that of a poor clerk in Madras to a graduate of Trinity College and then an elected fellow of the Royal Society of England. The thirteenth unit deals with one of the most prominent modern authors, Virginia Woolf providing a detailed idea regarding her life and works particularly highlighting the first chapter of her famous book *A Room of One's Own*. The fourteenth unit is an extension of the previous unit and deals in details with the first chapter of Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, which engages with the idea of 'women and fiction' and acquaints the learners with Woolf's 'stream of consciousnes' technique. The fifteenth unit is an extract from the book *Elements of Literature* which reflects upon the various mechanism that comprise film making as well as movie production and also film editing.

After going through these units, you will be able to analyse the different subject matter that is being encompassed by the essays included in this block. While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read about some relevant ideas and concepts in "LET US KNOW" along with the text. We have kept "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" questions in each unit. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study.