



# INDIA CANADA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

*...forging close ties among Canadians with an interest in India*

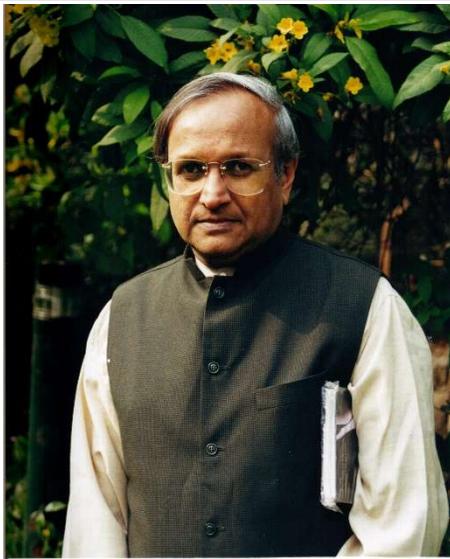
**announces its Book Reading event**

**on Sunday, 18 October 2014, 3:00 – 5:00 PM**

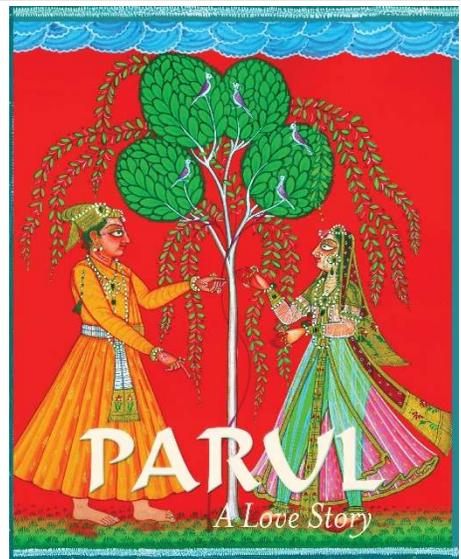
## **Parul: A Love Story**

**Written by Dr. Harsha Dehejia**

**Presented by Kamlesh and Aruna Gupta**



Praful is a Professor, a dyed in the wool academic and shaped by Shankara's Advaita Vedanta a life denying philosophy. Parul, on the other hand, is a sensual, earthy woman who believes in the veracity of love and the reality of the many beautiful things of this life. A chance meeting between the two leads not only to a romantic relationship spread over eleven



purnimas, but becomes a dialogue between two philosophical systems, the Advaita of Shankara and the Madhurya of the Bhagavata Purana. As romantic moments between the two unfold, it is as if intellectuality interacts with sensuality, questioning the validity of each, and as Chaitra moves to Magh, a transformation takes place.

As this romantic story unfolds, where meetings by the Parijata and conversations underneath the Champa, are not only moments of shringara but introspections of the meaning of life, we hear and feel the sensuality of love as it merges seamlessly with the intellectuality of a philosophic discourse. In this heart throbbing and romantic relationship there is the spiritual quest of ultimate reality along with the pleasures of the sound of the wind and the song of a bird. Metaphysical thoughts and tender feelings, evocative colours and resonant sounds, intoxicating aromas and patterned textures, myths and metaphors, intermingle in the hushed conversations of two people in love.

As Parul adorns herself for her romantic rendezvous and the two meet on eleven full moon nights and beautiful moments of togetherness unfold, Parul becomes a mirror for Praful, as he eventually, through the power of her love, discovers his true self.

**About the Speaker:** Dr. Harsha V. Dehejia is well-known and respected in Ottawa and has a double doctorate, one in Medicine and the other in Ancient Indian Culture, both from Mumbai University. He is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of London and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada. He is a practising Physician and Adjunct Professor of Indian Studies in the College of Humanities at Carleton University. He has 20 books, 2 documentaries and has curated many exhibitions.

**Location: Rockcliffe Park Community Centre Hall, 380 Springfield Road, Ottawa**

### **About India Canada Friendship Circle**

India Canada Friendship Circle (ICFC), a non-profit Canadian organization, operating in Ottawa since 2004 and conducting lectures by prominent speakers, encourages dialogue on India in a non-religious, non-partisan and harmonious environment. The words "friendship" and "circle" in its name, convey an explicit desire to forge and maintain close ties among Canadians with an interest in India.

ICFC's mission is to promote an intercultural relationship between India and Canada in the areas of philosophy, history, literature, the arts and sciences through prominent speakers.

*For further details and online registration, please visit our website:*

<http://icfc.ws>