Deha or body can be understood in many ways. Conceptually, it may denote a self-reflexive mode of articulation that invokes and recreates history, heritage, region, culture, and politics. Alternately, deha can also be a descriptive and representative category denoting participation in transcultural frames that link with different regions and categories. Deha, that is about the self and the other, can be considered central to the discursive formation of modern Maharashtra.

With deha as the theme for this 21st International Conference on Maharashtra, we invite thought-provoking and original scholarship on topics that include but are not limited to caste, gender, sexuality, labour, health, migration, technology, representation, ritual, performance, and the anthropocene.

Some broad questions presenters may want to engage with are as follows:

1. Deha, caste, and gender: How is the body represented in caste and gender movements, and how does this representation renew the Marathi public domain as a revolutionary space?

2. Deha, labour, and health: How is the body invoked within the health, and labour/agrarian movements of Maharashtra? Can the individual body be transcended to form collectives?

3. Deha and representation: How is the body represented in artistic, structural, vernacular, and literary forms? How does this representation produce the Marathi region?

4. Deha and technology: How has technology, for example urban transport changed ideas about the body, transforming culture, consumption, and social relations?

5. Deha and migration: How has migration into and out of Maharashtra produced the region’s body politic?

6. Deha and ritual: Are historical/contemporary perceptions of the body changed through rituals? Do rituals and performances transform the body?

7. Deha and the anthropocene: How have human, animal, and ecological interrelations in Maharashtra produced/continue to produce and represent the body?

Please send us your proposals (title, abstract, name and institution of participant) by 30th September 2024 at dehaicmbody@gmail.com. Your abstract should be no longer than 200 words.

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