The value and significance of Aesthetic thought in human life is noteworthy. Frankly speaking, a life wholly devoid of aesthetic thought is unthinkable. In the life process, man occasionally enjoys aesthetic happiness at the sight and sound of the objects of beauty. This experience however momentary it may be, lifts him up from the cares and worries of mundane existence and exalts him to a state where he enjoys beatitude.

The scholars of both the east and the west have devoted seriously to the study of the nature of aesthetic thought for centuries. The questions which have knocked them are: What are the main characteristics of aesthetic thought? Under what conditions aesthetic thought emerges? What is the nature of the mental state during aesthetic enjoyment? What is its role in artistic creation? What is the relation between aesthetic experience and other human experiences? The enquiry into these problems give rise to the discipline called 'Aesthetics'. Aesthetics studies the problems that arise out of man's interest in beauty, its creation and appreciation. All the problems of creative process, creation and appreciation of art, also belong to aesthetic thought.

In the present work, an attempt has been made to present the aesthetic thoughts of a few recent Indian thinkers,
viz., Rabindra Nath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Sri Aurobindo, Sir Mohammad Iqbal, Ananda Coomaraswamy and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

I have collected materials and references for my work from the following libraries:

Gauhati University library, Guwahati
National library, Calcutta
Allahabad University library, Allahabad
Aurobindo Pathagar, Shillong
State library, Guwahati
Harekrishna Das Memorial library, Panbazar, Guwahati.

I must acknowledge the timely help and co-operation which I have got from the staff of the abovementioned libraries.

The staff of the library of Pandu College (where I serve as a lecturer in the department of Philosophy) has helped me to their best. I must thank them for their kind help.

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My thesis embodies six chapters besides introduction and conclusion. A bibliography is appended at the end.