AN ANCIENT TEXT GOES HI-TECH: San Francisco-based computer graphics designer Ranjit Makunni at the opening of his *Gita-Govinda* multimedia exhibition at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts at Janpath in New Delhi on Wednesday. A photograph by G.N. Jha

A Sanskrit classic in multimedia

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 10: A US-based Indian computer expert has created a unique multimedia presentation of the Sanskrit classic *Gita Govinda*.

The multimedia exhibit on display at the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts here consists of six out of the 24 verses of *Gita Govinda*, Jayadeva's 12th century poem on the separation and reunion of Radha and Krishna in different styles and genres.

The verbal imagery, whose content was conceived by Dr Kapila Vatsayan, shows how the poem is interpreted in 19 artistic genres of music, dance and painting. A viewer can click on a specially-created computer screen and choose the interpretation he wants to see. Learned scholars on the screen enlighten the uninitiated into the mysteries of the text.

"Project Gita Govinda has been designed to communicate the multi-layered meanings of ancient texts through computer technology," explains Ranjit Makunni, the San Francisco-based researcher who provided the design and technological expertise for the project. The project is a multi-disciplinary collaboration involving the IGNCA and the multimedia design expertise of the Xerox research centre at Palo Alto, California.

Mr Makunni and Dr Vatsayan