

RGNUL, Punjab organises 5-day International Capacity Building Program on Poetry, Pedagogy and Profession

20-25 August 2022

Public Relations and Department of English, Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab (RGNUL), Punjab in collaboration with Mary Immaculate College (MIC), University of Limerick, Ireland, Intercultural Poetry and Performance Library (IPPL), Kolkata, State Bank of India, Patiala and Manipal University, Jaipur organised 5-day International Capacity Building Program (CBP) on "Poetry, Pedagogy and Profession: Understanding Rhyme and Reason across Cultures" from 20th-25th August 2022. This unique program was organized with the objective to promote reading, writing and teaching of poetry. The 5-day program advanced National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandate regarding building of competencies. Mr Sudeep Sen, internationally acclaimed poet and contemporary voice of Indian Poetry, was Chief Guest for the inaugural session.

Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Vice-Chancellor, RGNUL welcomed the guests. Citing Dylan Thomas, Prof. Bajpai remarked, "A good poem is a contribution to reality. It helps to change the shape of universe." While addressing academicians, researchers, students and professionals, he observed that poetry immensely maximized talent and critical abilities. Voicing concern regarding artificial intelligence and impact of new technologies, Prof. Bajpai said that the knack of interpreting poetry and understanding complex issues can fortify competencies. Mr. Sudeep Sen read poems from his books, *Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion and Consolation* and *Fractals*. In a conversation with Dr Navleen Multani, Assistant Professor in English and Public Relation Officer, RGNUL and Dr Jhilam Chattaraj, Assistant Professor, RBVRR Women's College Hyderabad, poet Sudeep Sen spoke about creative process, artistic defamiliarization and language usage in poetry. Sen also referred to his recently edited anthology *Converse* and contemplated on Indian writings. While responding to question regarding challenges in writing poems on social and cultural issues, Mr Sudeep Sen alluded to poet's subtle blurring of semiotic boundaries that explore promises, perils and create an alternative discourse. He also delved into the kind of poetry prominently figuring on Facebook in the present times.

Prof Eugene O' Brien, Director, Mary Immaculate Institute of Irish Studies; Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, Convenor, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi; Dr Anjana Neira Dev, Gargi College, Delhi and Dr Basudhara Roy, Karim City College, Jamshedpur; Dr Jaydeep Sarangi, Vice-President IPPL; Dr Nishi Pulugurtha, Secretary, IPPL; Dr Nabanita Sengupta, University of Calcutta; Prof Desmond L Kharmawphlang, NEHU, Shillong; Dr Manju, CU; Dr Sunaina Jain, MCM Chandigarh; Prof Prasannanshu, NLU Delhi, Prof Pramod Kumar, IGNOU and Prof Bootheina Majoul, University of Carthage were resource persons for the technical sessions. Prof. Eugene O' Brien delivered a discourse on "Poetic Thinking: Towards an Understanding of Language of the Unconscious" during the first technical session. "Poetic thinking is all about knowledge and truth. Poetry accesses the realm of repressed emotions, unconscious desires and prejudices," observed Prof. Brien. Elucidating the conceptualizations of Martin Heidegger, Jacques Derrida, Deleuze and Guattari, Prof. Eugene O' Brien said, "Poetry deconstructs binaries, allows interaction of rational/irrational and makes space for philosophy." Prof. Brien focused on the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta deliberated on poetry as a learning experience. Dr. Anjana Neira Dev, Dr. Navleen Multani and Dr. Basudhara Roy responded to the presentations. Dr Jaydeep Sarangi expanded on new poets in Indian English poetry. Dr Nishi Pulugurtha delved into poetry and activism. She also raised a concern for dementia and recited her poems on this issue. Dr Nabanita Sengupta responded to the presentations on the second day of the program. Dr Anjana Neira Dev elaborated on the geometry of poetry. Prof Desmond read a few of his compositions on folklore and alluded to poetry as identity.

Distinguished Poet, Dinesh Devghariya, presented poems on freedom fighters and epics during the RGNUL and SBI Poetry session on the third day. RGNUL students, faculty and staff presented self composed poems. Dr Sunaina Jain delineated pathway of holistic growth through reading and understanding of poetry. Poetry workshop was conducted by Prof Prasannanshu. Multilingual poetry session in collaboration with P3 group was also held on the fourth day of the program. Prof Parmod Kumar dwelled on poetry as world literature. Prof Majoul talked about the paramount importance of poetry in the digital era. Prof Eugene O' Brien made observations on bog bodies and The Northern Irish Troubles with reference to the poetry of Seamus Heaney. Dr S Chitra, Assistant Professor, Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan, presented concluding remarks during the last session of the event. She eulogised the significant academic endeavour of RGNUL to promote study of poetry for the holistic development of teachers and learners. A total of 60 participants from Adamas

University; Hansraj College, University of Delhi; Hislop College Nagpur; B.N.P.G.College, Udaipur; Panjab University, Chandigarh; Delhi University; MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh; IASE, Pune, Maharashtra; Department of English, University of Delhi; Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning; National Law University, Delhi; Govt. Degree College for Women, Pulwama ;Symbiosis Law School, Pune; Xavier Business School Sxuk Kolkata;IGNOU; Sherubtse College, Bhutan; St. Stephens' College, DU and RGNUL, Punjab attended the 5 day program.

Prof. Anand Pawar, Registrar, RGNUL, faculty members, research scholars, research associates, students and academicians from various institutes, India and abroad, were also present during the deliberations. Dr Navleen Multani, Coordinator, extended a vote of thanks.

Event Coordinator


26/8/2022
Dr Navleen Multani

Assistant Professor in English

Public Relation Officer

Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Punjab