

ICLA Standing Research Committee
on
South Asian Literature and Culture
Report (2022-2023)
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I. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR EVENTS ON SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE HELD DURING THE YEAR 2022-2023

- Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University organised an international conference on **Dalit Studies** on 3-4 November 2022.
- Department of English, in collaboration with Indian Council for Social Sciences Research, organized a national seminar on '**Environment @75: Ecocritical Discourses and the Posthuman Turn**' on 19-20 Jan 2023 Jadavpur University with the University of East Anglia and the UK India Business Council organized a seminar on 'University Social Responsibility and Academic Social Responsibility' in March 2023.
- International Conference on the theme: **Indian Literary Studies from Orality to Textuality – A Civilisational Watershed** during March 27-29, 2023 was held at Bhagat Phool Singh Women University, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat. The conference was inaugurated by eminent Indologist and Literary Critic Prof. Kapil Kapoor and graced by Pro. M.K Byrski from the University of Warsaw, Poland and it attracted larger participation of senior scholars and research students. It was directed and coordinated by **Prof. Ravi Bhushan**.
- The Department of English in collaboration with National Translation Mission, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Ministry of Education, Mysuru organized an International Conference on **Translating Cultures: Exploring the Intersections of Indian Language and Literature** at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad during May 25-26, 2023. Coordinators: Prof. Shugufta Shaheen and Dr. Aslam K.
- Public Lecture on **Prem Chand, Tagore and Iqbal: A Comparative Perspective**, by Prof. Harish Trivedi, delivered at India Habitat Centre, under the auspices of Pashyantee Bilingual Forum on May 20, 2023.
- **Forthcoming CLAI International Conference** is to be held at Central University, Sikkim (Gangtok) during November 20-22, 2023 on the theme: **Interplay of Community, Textuality and Orality: Comparative Perspectives on History, Culture and Society**. Impressive participation and academic presentation are expected from the scholars from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **Convenors: Saswati Saha and Rosy Chamling**.

II. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- a) **INDIA:** Under **SAMHiTA: South Asian Manuscript Histories and Textual Archive**, a research and documentation project supervised by Dr Sudha Gopalakrishnan, the IIC-International Research Division (IIC-IRD), is convening an exhibition on manuscript cultures in September, which will be accompanied by a meeting of experts and master classes on manuscripts. Under the monthly lecture series, '**Kriti-SAMHiTA: The Plurality of Indic Knowledge Traditions**', there have been ten speakers on subjects ranging from Syrian Christian manuscripts, to the travel and translation of texts across Asia, to Sanskrit lexicography.
- In November 2024, in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, the IIC-IRD is convening a seminar, '**The Spoken and the Written in Modern Indian Fiction: A Dialogic**

Exchange', as part of the series, **'The Modern Indian Writer in Translation: Context, Issues and Problematics'**, curated by Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar and Dr Chandana Dutta. The IIC-International Research Division is convening an international conference in February 2024, **'Asia on the Move: Histories of Mobility and the Making of Asia'**, to bring out stories of Asians whose journeys as pilgrims, traders, artists and political leaders contributed to the diffusion of arts, ideas and ways of life, and a sense of Asian identity.

- b) **BANGLADESH: "The Pleasures and the Perils of the Net: A Critical Survey of Bangladeshi Cyber Literary Work"**. Coordinator: Prof. Mashrur S Hossain.

III. **BOOKS/VOLUMES/PAPERS UNDER PUBLICATION :**

- a) **Echoes of Nalanda** by Kavita A Sharma, Rupa Publications, New Delhi.
- b) **South Asian Literatures as World Literature** (selected papers presented at a special session in the ICLA Conference held at Macau, ed. by E.V. Ramakrishnan, Chandra Mohan and Prof Mashrur S. Hussain (Publisher: Primus Books,. New Delhi).
- c) **Transnationalism: The Languages and Literatures of Global South and South Indian Perspectives** (Publisher: Routledge). The volume contains selected papers presented in a special session at the ICLA Conference held at Tbilisi (Georgia) 2022, ed. by E.V. Ramakrishnan and Chandra Mohan.
- d) The paper titled: **Focusing cultural affinity among South Asian cultures cutting across geo-spatial barrier: Rabindranath Tagore and his multi-dimensional creativity**, presented by **Prof. Tapati Mukherjee** at ICLA International Conference held at Tbilisi (Georgia) during July 2022 has been accepted for publication in the forthcoming volume of the ICLA Conference.

IV. **RECENTLY PUBLISHED WORKS:**

- a) **Multiple Modernism** by Jasbir Jain (Rawat Publication, Jaipur) 2022. This impressive research based book refers to the studies done in the context of South Asian and the world renowned authors.
- b) **Hazaar Rag Shaairi: The Wonderful World of the Urdu Nazm** (2022, New Delhi: HarperCollins India). This book is a sequel to **Hazaaron Khwahishein Aisi: The Wonderful World of Urdu Ghazals** (2019, New Delhi, HarperCollins India). Both the books together showcase the best of Urdu poetry from the very beginnings in the sixteenth century to now in English translation.

Submitted to the ICLA EC for its meeting on June 19-21, 2023.

**Chandra Mohan, Chair and E.V. Ramakrishnan, Co-Chair
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