

REPORT

ICLA Research Committee: Literary and Cultural Inter-Relationships between India, its Neighbouring Countries and the World

The Research Project evoked an exciting interest, as a result we received an overwhelming response from the senior theorists and scholars of the Comparative Literature in India and its sub-continent countries, particularly from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

I am pleased to report that for the efficient execution of this prestigious project, a priority status has been identified in the Academic Centres of excellence which have a solid base in Comparative Literary Studies and are adequately equipped with special assistance programs from the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India, located in various departments of Humanities in several accredited universities across the country.

It is heartening and encouraging to report that the following five (5) leading Centres/Departments have come forward to provide institutional support in undertaking research, holding seminars/workshops with national and international participants and bring out meaningful publications in the thematic areas related to the main theme of the project.

- 1. Centre of Advanced Study in Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata (West Bengal).**
- 2. Department of English and Comparative Literature, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod (Kerala).**
- 3. The School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies and Centre for Comparative Literature, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad).**
- 4. The School of Translation and Training, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Midan Garhi, New Delhi.**
- 5. Department of English, Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh, Ajmer (Rajasthan).**

ACADEMIC YEAR 2011 -2012

- 1. In conformity with the objectives of the Research Committee proposal, the Centre of Advanced Study in Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University has been creating resources for the teaching of Nepali language and literature throughout the academic year 2011-12. As a An undergraduate course in Nepali language and literature has been introduced in the Department of Comparative Literature in the academic session July-December 2012, resulting from an attachment of students from Southfield College Darjeeling in August September 2011. The students participated in a workshop for translation of stories from Nepali into English, Hindi and Bangla, in collaboration with the Centre for Translation in Indian languages, located in the Dept. of Comparative Literature. The Centre of Advanced Study has also prepared audio-visual teaching aids for the undergraduate course and a**

textbook of Nepali literature and culture , which may be used both in the Nepali literature course, and in courses on Indian literatures, is in press. In the International conference organized by CLAI – Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh, Ajmer on the subject:

2. The international conference organized by CLAI and the Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh during March 2012, received an overwhelming response including the following seminal papers which pertained to the theme of the ICLA research project. These papers are likely to be published in a volume by the organizers of the conference.
 - a) Living in Times of Terror : Writings of the Indian Subcontinent (S. Akhtar (Bangladesh), Nadeem Aslam (Pakistan), Khalid Hussaeni (Afghanistan), Jean Arasanaganayam (Srilanka), Temsula Ao (India), by Prof. Jasbir Jain (India)
 - b) Dismantling ‘Difference’: Ethics of Compassion and ‘Interbeing’ in Roy’s and Khan’s Fiction by Dr.Munazza Yaqoob (Pakistan).
 - c) Alternative Discourses of Power: A Comparative Reading of Select Muslim Asian Texts by Prof. Ameena Khazi Ansari (India).
 - d) Minority Discourse: Late Twentieth Century Constructions of Indian Muslims by Prof . Anisur Rahman (India).
 - e) Japan and the Indian Subcontinent : Direct and Indirect Cultural Intercourse for 1450 Years by Prof Kenichi Kamigaito (Japan).
 - f) The Relation of Centre and Periphery in Taslima Nasrin’s *Lajja* and Tehmina Durrani’s *Blasphamy* by Dr. Sudhir Sadashiv Lendave (India).
 - g) Discourse Analysis: Muslim and Hindu Minorities Across the Border by Dr. Tanzina Tahereen (Bangladesh).

ACADEMIC YEAR : Year 2012-2013

1. The Department of Comparative Literature of the Central University of Kerala will be hosting the CLAI initiative on the intensive and outcome-oriented plan of the Research Committee constituted by the International Comparative Literature Association, on the main theme: "Literary and Cultural Interrelationships between India and its Neighbouring Countries and the World" in its three day international seminar "three-day International seminar on “Traditions of Dissent in Sub-continental Literatures and Cultures” from 15 October to 17 October 2012 at Kasaragod, Kerala.

This event will be unique in attracting participation of eminent scholars from India and abroad as per the details given below.

Foreign scholars

Prof. Dorothy Figueira, Georgia University, Athens (USA)

Dr. Munazza Yaqoob, Department of English, Female Campus, International Islamic University, Islamabad (Pakistan).

Prof. Fakrul Alam, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr. Senath Walter Perera, Professor, Department of English, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Indian scholars

Prof. Jancy James, Vice Chancellor, CUK and President Comparative Literature Association of India.

Prof. Jasbir Jain, Director, Institute for Research in Interdisciplinary Studies, 3/89, Jai Jawan Colony, Jaipur-302018 (India).

Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar (Ahmedabad).

Prof. Ipshta Chanda, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata-32.

Prof. Anisur Rahman, Professor of English, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.

Prof. Subha C. Dasgupta, currently visiting professor M.I.L. Department, University of Delhi,

Prof. Chandra Mohan, currently Advisor, International Higher Education, CUG, Gandhinagar,

Prof. Avadhesh K. Singh, Director, School of Translation Studies, IGNOU, New Delhi,

Participants from CU Kerala Departments

Dr. Joseph Koyippally Joseph, Dr. Prasad Pannian, Dr. Vellikkel Raghavan, Dr. Asha S, Dr. Shalini M, Prof. VR Prabodhachandran Nair, Dr. Sreenathan M, Dr. Vijay Kumar CP,

Participants from other Universities in Kerala

Prof. PP Ravindran (MG U), Prof. Meena T Pillai (Kerala U), Prof. Kishori Nayak (Mangalore University).

THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO BRING OUT A VOLUME FOR PUBLICATION AFTER THE SEMINAR / WORKSHOP WITH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO ICLA AND CLAI.

2. **Special Group (Workshop at ICLA, Paris)**

This event will show the culmination of this year's efforts in the workshop (special group) scheduled to be held at the ICLA congress to be held in Sorbonne-Paris) in August 2013. In this special workshop, 15 solid presentations will be made by eminent scholars and writers hailing from India and its subcontinents countries particularly from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka / Canada. The details are given the enclosed list (as attachment) of the Abstracts for the Workshop (Group Section) at the ICLA Congress 2013, Paris. It will be pleasure to bring out a volume of the papers presented at the ICLA Congress, 2013.

3. **CLAI International Conference at Jadavpur, Kolkata, January 2013**

The forthcoming international conference on Comparative Literature to be held at Jadavpur University, Kolkata on the theme: The Journey of Comparative Literature, January 16-18, 2013 will have a special session on the theme of the ICLA Research Committee Project.

It may be concluded that the research work and academic activities relating to the theme of the Research Committee Proposal started extremely well during the year 2011-2012 as per details given above. An impressive academic program involving six centres of Comparative Literature appears in the year 2012-2013 (as described above). This reflects a productive outcome of the execution of Research Committee Project in a meaningful way.

With best regards,
Chandra Mohan
Coordinator, ICLA Research Committee (India)