

**ICLA Standing Research Committee
on South Asian Literature and Culture
Report (2019-2021)
Chandra Mohan and E.V.Ramakrishnan**

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(1) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE MAJOR EVENTS ON SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE HELD DURING THE YEAR 2019-20

INDIA

1. A Special Session on South Asian Literature as World Literature': Issues of Recognition, Reception and Resistance at XXII Congress of International Comparative Literature Association, Macau, China during 29 July-02 August, 2019. The papers presented at this event include: (a) Bardic Literature in South Asia: A Comparison with Welsh Bardic compositions by Dr. Abhimanyu Singh Arha, Jaipur (Rajasthan); (b) Disorienting *Dharma* through Narrative: *Mahabharata* and South Asian religious traditions by Abhinaba Chatterjee, Delhi; (c) Critiquing South Asian Diasporic Novels from a Multi-cultural perspective: A Comparative Study of Jhumpa Lahiri's "Namesake" And Monica Ali's "Brick Lane" by Dr. Mahjabeen Neshat Anjum, Bodh Gaya, Bihar; (d) (Re)constructing the Immigrant & the problematic of construction: A Comparative study of select women writers of the South Asian Diaspora by Dr. Aparna Lanjewar Bose, Hyderabad; (e) What's Cooking? Food as a tool of Recognition in South Asian Writings by Asha Sundaram, Tonk (Rajasthan); (f) Curating the Soundtracks of Human Lives: The Fiction of Amit Chaudhuri and Kazuo Ishiguro by Bandana Chakravarty, Jaipur (Rajasthan); (g) New Cosmopolitanism of the South Asian Diaspora in the USA by Chandra Mohan, Delhi; (h) Translating the Global Fictional Representation of Trans-national Themes in South Asian Literature by E.V. Ramakrishnan; (i) The Planetary and the Global: Towards and New World Literature in the Anthropocene by Prasad Pannian (j) World Literature Canon in Indian Literature by T.S. Satyanath (k) Comparative Perspective of the Ideology of Upanishads and Sufi Saints and its World Significance by Krishna Gopal Sharma, Jaipur (Rajasthan); (l) What "Tomijer Baap" was trying to disperse: Akhtaruzzaman Elias' *Khowabnama* to meet World Literature by Mashrur Shahid Hussain, Bangladesh; (m) Women as Subaltern in Patriarchal Construct : A Comparative Study of Mahasweta Devi's *Mother of 1084* and Tehmina Durrani's *Blasphemy* by Neeraj Kumar, Bodh Gaya, Bihar; (n) Imperial games and Trade War in South Asia and the World Ghosh's *River of Smoke* and Ishiguro's *When We Were Orphans* by Urmil Talwar, Jaipur (Rajasthan); (o) Scarred and Shadowed: Polyphonic Cauldron in *Midnight's Children* and *Burnt Shadow* by Vandana Sharma, Jammu; (p) *Romancing the (Auto)biographies of Two Women from Pakistan & Myanmar: A Comparative Study* by Vinita Gupta Chaturvedi, University of Delhi, Delhi. The aforesaid papers are being edited by the Editorial Panel for publication of the Volume on SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE AS WORLD LITERATURE: ISSUES OF RECOGNITION, RECEPTION AND RESISTANCE.
2. An International Conference on Life narratives in South Asia was organized at Central University of Jammu by Prof. Vandana Sharma, Member of the Research Committee, South Asian Literature and Culture during November 6-7, 2019. The presentations and deliberations focussed on varied aspects of life narratives in South Asia and 95 papers were presented in the conference, highlighting Autobiography as a narrative of personalized memory, socio biography and also deliberated how the self is navigated in biographies, memoirs and diaries. Moving in time and space across South Asia, the deliberations on life narratives varied from indigenous autobiographies to transgender autobiographical

narratives, Dalit life narratives and many others. A plenary panel session on Interplay of Self, Society and History: Life Narratives in South Asia provided a platform to eminent academics and thinkers from across the South Asia to reflect and deliberate on the seminal aspects of South Asian writings. Moreover, a session on Dogri life narratives imparted global perspective and holistic understanding to the theme. 'There is a need to re-conceive our literary genres and Life writing can enable the promotion of an ethical imagination', said Prof. EV Ramakrishan, in his valedictory address. The chair, Prof. Chandra Mohan described the event a unique in its larger perspective touching upon the counter claims of truth put forward in the autobiography, social perspectives as investment in collective act of resistance and literary theories taking shape in the epistemology of the critical discourse.

3. The workshop on the Interface between classical Tamil poetics and other Indian language literary traditions, named "Porul: This 'thing' called Literature", was hosted by Prof. Ipshita Chanda, Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies, The English and Foreign Languages University and scheduled for two consecutive days, 24th and 25th November 2020. The workshop was chaired by Prof. T. Samson, Dean, School of Literary Studies and the resource persons and the participants were officially welcomed by Prof. B.S. Sherin, Assistant Professor from the Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies, EFLU.

The first day was a panel on interface between classical Tamil and other Indian literary traditions. The speakers were, David D. Shulman, Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, P. Ananda Kumar, Dean of the School of Tamil and Indian Languages in Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu and Torsten Tschacher who has just finished a term as Junior Professor for Muslim Culture and Society in South Asia at the Institute of Islamic Studies, Freie University, Berlin, Germany.

The first presentation, "Classical Tamil Poetics, Tamil and Sanskrit" by Dr Shulman discussed the blend of poetic techniques of both the languages, bringing in the concept of "alankara". He concluded with the influence of Jain philosophy on Tamil Literature, referring to the epic "Civaka Cintamani". The second presentation by Professor P. Ananda Kumar, dealt with "Influences of Buddhist Philosophy on Tamil Literature" where he discussed specific chapters of the work "Manimekalai" which showed the presence of Buddhist epistemology in Tamil Literature. The third session was delivered on "The Interface with Islam" by Dr Torsten Tschacher. He discussed the question of poetics and translation with respect to Islamic Tamil Literature, using five theses. He concluded by pointing out that Tamil and Arabic are conceived of as equivalent systems of grammar and poetics capable of expressing the same truth, but incapable of being mixed in a "whole", i.e. in a single text.

The second day of the workshop, comprised a reading session led by Dr David D. Shulman, reading Tamil poetry with reference to Tolkappiyam and beginning with Sangam literature. Referring to the five Tinais in classical Tamil, he traced the change in poetic grammar in literary works across centuries and how old poetic techniques evolved in the medieval period by bringing in examples from the Tamil anthology "Kuruntokkai" and "Kamba Ramayanam" and ending with a 16th century early modern text in which the influence of Dandin's alamkarshastra was shown. The session was informative and interesting with the recital of Tamil poems and the inclusion of several anecdotes of the poets and their composition. The

workshop ended with a question answer session followed by a vote of thanks by Arundhathi, second year MA student from the department.

4. Workshop on Guftagoo-e-Adab: Conversations Around Literature; organized at EFL University, Dept of Comparative Literature, February 13, 2020 by Prof. Ipshita Chanda, Member of the Research Committee, South Asian Literature and Culture. “Let’s not talk about Ghalib. Let’s listen to him.” said Prof. Mahmood Alam (English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad), speaking on "Trends in Indo-Persian Literature" at the workshop, Guftagoo-e-Adab, organized by the Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies of the English and Foreign Languages University. The event comprised a melange of lectures by academicians and performances by local poets. Sajjad Shahid, a heritage activist, writer and visiting professor at University of Hyderabad, delivered the keynote address on "Urdu Adab - A Confluence of Indian and Perso-Arabic Cultures", where he spoke about the formation of Urdu and Dakhni independently. Anjuman e fanan, a group of young talented Urdu poets from Hyderabad, stole the hearts of the audience with their mesmerizing rendition of poetry and also short prose which included songs and letters written by Ghalib. Emphasising the need for preserving Urdu language, these young poets proclaimed “One may not understand Urdu but will definitely enjoy listening to the poems because the language is just beautiful”. Contrary to the perception that Urdu seems to be dying, Urdu poetry has become a part of social media aesthetics in recent times. Their performance demonstrated the influence of Persian and Arabic on the origin and use of different genres in Urdu poetry, finally ending the session with an English ghazal. Dr. Fatima Parveen (Osmania University) in her talk "Urdu Zaban o Adab par Farsi ke Asaraat" discussed how Indian languages when influenced by Persian picked up only what suited them. She gave the example of the metaphor used for eyes and hair in Persian poetry and how it differed greatly from the metaphors used in Urdu. In his lecture, Prof Raof Khair (SRR College, Hyderabad) explained how in the process of being influenced, many Arabic and Persian words and phrases were taken out of context and given new meanings in Urdu. Prof. Muzaffar Alam (EFLU) informed the audience about the "Salient features of Indo-Arabic Literature". The department organized this workshop to shed light on the way the Perso-Arabic literary tradition has come in contact with all the different languages in the country. The conviction behind this event was to highlight and actively practise the plurality that identifies us as a nation and enables us to live as ‘Indians’.

5. Prof. Mythili Rao, Dean, Languages, Research Coordinator, Jain University, Bangaluru and Member of the Research Committee reported: A two day event on North-East and Southern Poets Meet, jointly organised by Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru and JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) was held on 28th and 29th December 2019. This program in organized by Sahitya Akademi once in two years to recognize the contribution of literature in presenting the synthesis of complex trends and traditions of the cultural heritage of India. Dr. Siddalingaiah, Convenor, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave a brief introduction of the entire event and welcomed all the delegates and poets to this two day event. He eulogized the contribution of North east poetry to the literary fabric of India. He expressed how this kind of a platform of recitation of poetry both in mother-language and English fosters greater

understanding and thereby unity while presenting the imagination and creativity of the poets in presenting experiences in the most aesthetic manner. The inaugural speech was given by Sri Sirpi Balasubramaniam, Convenor of Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, drew the attention of the audience towards the unique position of India in the world map wherein the rest of the world speaks in only 3-4 languages but India has hundreds – major, minor and dialects. India is therefore writing in many languages since thousands of years. This linguistic diversity should be celebrated by way of such events. The event saw a mix of paper presentations and poetry readings. Papers were presented by Kh. Kunjo Singh from Manipur, Arindam Borkataki, the renowned Assamese poet, Dhanajoy Bramha Bodo Poet, Rupesh Sharma from Nepal, G. Lakshminarasaih, well known critical thinker of Telegu Literature, S. R. Vijayshankar gave an overview of the new trends in Kannada poetry. The paper presentations saw an enthusiastic response from the audience during the interaction where a number of comments and questions were addressed to the speakers.

Besides, Poetry was recited by S. V. Aryambika of Malayalam, Palakhi Basumatary read out the poetry in Bodo; Koushik Kishalay in Assamese; Kathyayani Kunjibettu in Kannada; Khwairakpam Sunita Devi in Manipuri, Kamala Tamang in Nepali, Hindi and English; Andal Priyadarshini in Tamil and Siddartha in Telegu, DigantaSaikia in Assamese, Newton K Basumatary read his poetry in Bodo, Mahadeva Shankanapura of Kannada Santhosh Kumar Subadana Devi of Manipur showed how women experience truth through her poem ‘Atom bomb tears’; Sathiyamohan read his poetry in Tamil, BalasudhakarMouli, the biology teacher from North Andhra Pradesh. One session of poetry reading was Chaired by Makarand Paranjape. While offering the vote of thanks S. R. Vijayshankar, Director – SHABDANA, commented on how these two days were testimony to the fact that geographies do not matter, experiences, symbols and imagery unify us. India is a vast country with multiplicity of experiences, but acceptance will lead to co-existence and for that we need to have love and respect for all. These two days gave a perspective on the possibilities of building bridges and interacting with each other irrespective of the land or language that we belong to.

6. Prof. Anisur Rahman, Member, Research Committee reported his participation in the following events:

- (i) Inaugural Web Talk on “Literary Text and Historical Context, National Webinar on “Impact of Social Changes on Literature” June 22, 2020, CCS University, Meerut;
- (ii) Invited Web Poetry Reading Session “Kavi Sandhi” followed by conversation with Professor Malashri Lal and Professor Sanjukta Dasgupta, July 04, 2020, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, July 04, 2020;
- (iii) Invited Web Talk on “Agley Zamaaney Mein Koyi Meer Bhi Tha”, organized by Muktangan, August 16, 2020;
- (iv) Plenary Web Address on “On Translating Ghalib”, International Conference on “Translation and the Glocal: Text, Identity and Cultural Survival” organized by Department of English, Karim City College, Jamshedpur, 29 August, 2020.
- (v) Invited Web Talk on Meer Taqi Meer, “Mat Sehl Hamein Jaano” organized by Shaheen, Mehfil-e Yaaraan-e Urdu, September 19, 2020;
- (vi) Invited Web Talk on “How to Develop a Research Prpopsal” organized by Gour Banga University, September 25, 2020;
- (vii) Plenary Web Address on “Does Diaspora Write from the Margins?: Reflections on Diasporic Imagination”, international webinar on *Diaspora, Gender and Marginality* organized by English and Foreign Languages Uiversity, Hyderabad,

September 26, 2020; (viii) Invited Web Talk on “Is Goddess a Pretty Girl: The Poetics and Politics of Translation” under the Mezzaterra Conversations Sans Borders series organized by Christ University, Bengaluru, September 30, 2020; (ix) Invited Web Interview on facebook live “Awargi with Danish” conducted by Jawaid Danish under the aegis of Rangmanch Canada, October 17, 2020; (x) Invited Web Talk on “Remembering Firaq Gorakhpuri”, organized by Mukhtangan, October 25, 2020; (xi) Invited Web Talk on “Translating Poetry: My Search for a Methodology” organized by Department of English, Jahangir Nagar University, Dhaka, November 08, 2020. Invited to deliver the Web Valedictory Address, Refresher course in English Literature and Language on “Reimagining the Margins: Perspectives from Literature, Culture and Society” organized by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 10 December, 2020.

(2) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS:

a) INDIA

Dr. Sayantan Dasgupta, Member, Research Committee on South Asian Literature and Culture and HOD, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, reported that, as Principal Investigator of project on Academic Social Responsibility and the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a New Humanities in India was granted as part of the UGC RUSA program. The project adopts an interdisciplinary approach to archiving, translation and research on South Asia in order to see how the pedagogy of the Humanities in India may be reframed.

Further, as co-investigator of the project on Comparative Literature: Texts, Contexts, Concepts, he has undertaken it as part of the activities of the Centre of Advanced Study, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University. This project seeks to compile an archive of core discursive texts related to Comparative Literature from various South Asian literature.

Besides, as Principal Investigator of project on contemporary Bodo literature, undertaken by the Centre for Translation of Indian Literatures in collaboration with the Asiatic Society, Kolkata.

b) BANGLADESH

Prof. Mashrur Shahid Hossain, Member of the Research Committee on South Asian Literature and Culture reported:

The research based projects on Comparative Literature in the context of South Asian Literature continued. The ongoing one, funded by the University Grants Commission, Bangladesh, is a critical study on Bangla Harijan/Dalit literatures with a view to exploring a ‘Harijan/Dalit Aesthetics’. Taking into account the debates around ‘Dalit’ and ‘Harijan’ in India and Bangladesh, the project concentrates on the literatures from and by Banglophone Harijan/Dalit writers. On the one hand, it traces the unnoticed and systemically ignored lives and cultures of Harijan/Dalit as represented in literatures produced by Harijan/Dalit writers. On the other, it formulates a Harijan/Dalit Aesthetics, not as a homogenizing master framework rather as an alternative set of aesthetic mechanisms that may help approach Harijan/Dalit literatures and

destabilize the very premise of high literary aesthetics that is often exclusionary and allegedly 'elitist'.

c) NEPAL

Prof. Dhruba Karki, Member, Research Committee on South Asian Literature and Culture from Nepal reported about the ongoing research projects such as "An Iconic Pop Culture Hero in the Marketplace". Prof. Karki highlights an amalgam of images of the hero and icon in industrial products in the modern time market economy. It exposes the current status of the youth culture in the modern entertainment industry, turning the hero and icon into cultural embodiments, and crossing the divide between the high and the low, and the West and East. He refers to his research paper, "The Hero Myth in Popular Culture: The Hong Kong Action Hero in *Shaolin Soccer* and the Hollywood Kung Fu Champion in *The Matrix*" that appears in the *Tribhuvan University Curriculum Development Center's Journal* in its 42nd Issue, 2020. Further, he gave a keynote speech during the Tsinghua University Symposium and the Asian Youth Roundtable events as a part of the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilization (CDAS) Beijing, China on 19th May 2019. In his address, he highlighted inherent connections between athletics and dancing in mythic resonance and geometric structure to unravel shared values and common patterns in the world cultures and civilizations now and then. Recently, he submitted an ethnographic Research Report entitled, "Dancing in Cinema: The Folk and Popular Connecting the Rural and Urban," to the University Grants Commission, Nepal on 26 July 2020. In this collaborative project, he involved a couple of ethnic students and a couple of co-researchers to investigate links between the folklore and popular culture, stage and screen. In anthropology of dance, this visual art form becomes popular in all times and cultures because of its dazzling feats with images and sounds blended. The current research explores the folk dance shots in Ethnic Nepali cinemas, including *Paate* and *Kanchhi*, and ethnic Newari films, such as *Silu* and *Rajamati*. These cinemas feature some of the most moving folk dance shots. Lately, he edited a couple of journals of the Nepali Army, including *The Soldier* and *Unity* during the Spring Session 2020. These publications incorporate articles on diplomacy, development, governance, history, national security, strategic studies and civil-military relations. Currently, Prof. Karki has been working with some of the noted professors to bring out next issues of these scholarly publications for the Nepali Army. Working with his colleagues, Prof. Karki is bringing out *The Journal of Arts and Humanities*, a bio-annual publication of Central Department of English, and *DSRC Journal*. He added that the researchers are revising TU's Graduate and Undergraduate Programs English courses, incorporating arts and letters from South Asia, including visual arts and popular cultures.

(3) PUBLICATIONS IN THE AREA OF SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE AND CULTURE:

1. *Interpreting Cinema: Adaptations, Intertextualities, Art Moments*, by Jasbir Jain, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2020. It is a collection of seminal essays which explore the academic aspect of film studies in South Asia. The volume takes up adaptations from fiction and drama both from within the same culture and across cultures.
2. "The World View of Lao Tzu and the Vedic Sages: A Comparative Perspective" by Chandra Mohan appeared in the India International Centre, IIC Quarterly, Summer Autumn 2020. The article succinctly exemplifies that there is a profound similarity at the deep instinctual level, an innate sameness in the ideational orientation of the collective unconscious of the two great traditions and civilizations, East Asia and South Asia, China and India.

3. *Literary Criticism in India: Texts, Trends and Trajectories* Edited by E.V. Ramakrishnan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi (December, 2020)
4. *Aksharavum Aadhunikatayum* (Modernism in Malayalam Literature, Literary Criticism in Malayalam), by E.V. Ramakrishnan, originally published in 1992, Third Edition, Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Thrissur, Kerala. September, 2020.
5. Harish Trivedi: "The 'Classics' in India: Unseen Presence, Cloaked Authority". *Synthesis: an Anglophone Journal of Comparative Literary Studies* [Athens], vol. 12 (2019 [2020]) 42-54. doi:<https://doi.org/10.12681/syn.25257>
6. Kavita Sharma: *Aesthetic Textures: Living Tradition of the Mahabharata*(presented at IGNCA) appears in a volume ed. by Molly Kaushal and Sukrita Paul Kumar, New Delhi : DK Print World, 2019, June, 2020.
7. *Dusk to Dawn: Poetic Voices on the Current Times – South Asia and Beyond*, edited by Chandra Mohan, Rita Malhotra and Anamika, is being published by Heritage Publishers, 2020. The volume mirrors a multilingual poetic journey (in English, Hindi and Urdu) across the South Asia and Beyond, it leaves an indelible mark of poetic expressions of Corona Pandemic Times.
8. Tapati Mukherjee, Pandemic in Indian literature : an overview in Ashoke kumar Mahata ed Anviksha ,Research Journal of The Dept of Sanskrit, Jadavpur University ,xlii,Part 1,January 2021
9. Sayantan Dasgupta: *Dalit Lekhika: Women's Writing from Bengal* (co-ed.). Kolkata: Stree, 2020. (a collection of fiction, poetry and Dalit personal narratives from Bangla in English translation)
10. Sayantan Dasgupta: "Celebrating Nabaneeta Dev Sen: Of Time Travel and Teleportation" (published in *Indian Literature: Sahitya Akademi's Bimonthly Journal* 316, New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, March-April 2020)
11. Sayantan Dasgupta: "A Ghost Story" in Duncan Large, Anna Goode and Johanne Elster Hanson eds., *MY BCLT: Celebrating 30 Years of the British Centre for Literary Translation*. Norwich: University of East Anglia, 2019.
12. Dr. Rizio B. Yohannan, Member, Research Committee on South Asian Literature and Culture, reports that as the head of The Marg Foundation (www.marg-art.org) as well as LILA Foundation for Trans-local Initiatives (www.lilafoundation.in), she has brought out in the capacity of 'Publisher' numerous publications, 3 quarterly issues each of the flagship journals of these two organizations. *Marg*, India's oldest art magazine and *Inter-actions* (online: www.lilainteractions.in) an interdisciplinary quarterly. Marg's issues relate to Infrastructure as Space (Sept 2019); Gandhi and Aesthetics (December 2019), Art and Ecology (March 2020). As part of Marg's publishing program these books have also been published during the report period: A study of the architectures of contemporary Hindu temples; a monograph on the late artist Badri Narayan, and an anthology on Early Modernism. Besides, many events are organized offline and online as part of Marg and LILA's work. Apart from

this, she also participated in events like the Sahitya Akademi All India Young Writers Conference in Dibrugarh, Assam etc.

(4) LECTURES/ADDRESSES DELIVERED AT VARIOUS ACADEMIC EVENTS AND WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS RELATING TO THE THEME OF THE PROJECT:

1. Prof. E.V. Ramakrishnan:
 - a) Participated in a National Panel Discussion organized by Sahitya Akademi (National Academy of Letters), New Delhi on the subject, “How anglicized are Indian Literatures?” on 27 May, 2020 along with Prof. Jatin Nayak and Prof. Anisur Rahman.
 - b) Delivered a series of three lectures on the Literary Theories of Mikhail Bakhtin with special reference to Comparative Study of the Novel, organized by Research Forum, SreeSankara Sanskrit University, Kaladi, Kerala on 28, 29, 30 September, 2020.
 - c) Delivered two lectures on “Comparative Literature and Translation Studies: South Asian Contexts” at the Webinar organized by Academic Staff College, University of Kannur, Kerala, on 12 October, 2020.
 - d) Delivered the key-note address at the National Webinar on “Transnationalism, Nation States and the Global South: Literary and Cultural Dialogues” organized by PSMO College, Tirurangadi, Calicut, Kerala on 26 November, 2020.
 - e) Delivered a lecture as part of the webinar series being organized by the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh on the subject “Translation as Intimate Reading: Texts and Subtexts in Translation Studies” on 29 November, 2020.
 - f) Delivered a webinar on “Inter-semiotic Translation across the Verbal and Visual Media with reference to Poetry and Painting” at the Refresher Course in Arts and Culture organized by Academic Staff College, Calicut University, Kerala on 2 December, 2020.
2. Prof. Kavita A. Sharma, Member, Research Committee, delivered the following lectures:
 - a) Roots of India-China Conflict, August 2020
 - b) Gandhi and Sri Aurobindo-Ahimsa and Non-Cooperation (Satya Graha), 5th October, 2019
 - c) Shiva in Pakistan
 - d) Sozkhwani in India, January 2020
(presented through Boloji.com website)
 - e) Ethical Dilemmas in Mahabharata by Kamla Nehru College, April 2020.
3. Prof. Harish Trivedi, Member Research Committee, delivered the following lectures/presentation made on the WEB:
Year 2020
 - (a) Distinguished Lecture Series.
“World Literature: An Insider’s View”
Hosted by Bharati College, University of Delhi
Time: Aug 31, 2020 03:30 PM India, Entry starts 03:00 PM.
Available at:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TC4_WC70mlCKpxqui_qcQobmlSaMlqYe/view
 - (b) Translation Across Frontiers: Lecture series,
Hosted jointly by Sri Sri University with the University of Hyderabad
“Translation, Comparative Literature, and World Literature.” Date: 5th Oct,2020,
Time: 5 PM (IST)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96626428980?pwd=WTA2OFB1NEZYU0x0WmcvaWV4Rytvdz09>

Meeting ID: 966 2642 8980

Passcode: 373959

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(www.newliteraria.com), with Midnapore College and Assam University on “Re-thinking the Postcolonial: Texts and Contexts” on 25th, 26th & 27th September 2020
“Inaugural Lecture: Postcolonialism Now.”

4. Prof. Mashrur Shahid Hussain presented (Bangladesh):
 - a) Paper on “Exploring how ‘what concerns mankind’ can concern ‘a Bengalee’: A Formalist-Ethical Reading of *The Unfinished Memoirs* and *Prison Dairies*”, PLENARY on 07 November, International Conference on “Multiple Texts and Multiple Selves: Life Narratives in South Asia”, 06-07 November 2019, Central University of Jammu, India.
 - b) Paper on “De-linking Global South Literatures: How to Re-Loot Touchstones and Philosopher’s Stones” on 21 December, XXII International Conference on “Global South Cultural Production and Dialogue,” 18-21 December 2019, *organized by Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, held in Hyderabad, Telengana, India.*

(5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

“Persian-Arabic Poetics in the Context of Indian Poetics: Readings, Recoveries and Re-orientations in South Asian Literatures” at Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (Women’s University), Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat-131305 (Haryana) during March 16-18, 2021. This CLAI International conference focuses on the comparative approach acknowledges the co-existence of diverse entities in our world and takes for its province the understanding of multiple relations between these entities, and the cultures of which they are constituents. Comparative practice demands that difference be respected paving the way for mutuality and understanding. This approach is particularly fruitful in the study of the arts and their nesting cultures in the Asian subcontinent. The inter-relationships between languages, forms of expression and artistic traditions which converge in this geographical area have been studied using categories such as ‘region’ (South Asia, the ‘global South’, the ‘third world’), history (the post-colonial, industrial modernity) or identity (based on caste, race, nation and also various theories of marginalization such as ‘subaltern’, ‘dalit’ etc). In this seminar the focus would be on the contact and relations between languages, traditions and expressive forms, the poetics of making and the aesthetics of dialogue, as principal factors shaping the plural cultures of the sub-continent and beyond: the Ganga-Jamna tehzeeb, the culture of intertextuality resulting from interactions between the Sanskrit, Prakrit and Dravidian cosmologies, the cross-fertilizations of these cultural domains by Persian-Arabic forms of expression, poetics and aesthetics. The hybridized cultural idioms of Dakkhini Urdu, Arabi Malayalam, Miyah poetry of Assam, not to mention the complex interwoven language varieties of the North-East, also demand close examination in the context of the larger role played by Persian-Arabic aesthetics and poetics in South Asia.

Submitted to the ICLA EC for its meeting in July 2021.

Chandra Mohan, Chair and E.V. Ramakrishnan, Co-Chair
ICLA Standing Research Committee on South Asian Literature and Culture