



Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav-75 Years of Independence



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Sri Aurobindo College (Evening)

(Awarded B+ Grade by NAAC)

A Constituent College of University of Delhi

'Under the aegis of IQAC'

Is Organizing a National Seminar on

LITERATURE, CASTE AND FREEDOM MOVEMENT

On Virtual Mode

On 30th September 2021



Prof. Kusum Lata
Principal



Dr. Jyoti Kulsheshtha
Coordinator



Dr. Mini Gill
Teacher-in-Charge

About the College



Sri Aurobindo College (Evening) was established in 1984 as a constituent College of the University of Delhi, and is B+ grade, NAAC Accredited institution today.

The College began by offering instructions in B.A. (Prog.) and B.Com. (Prog.) Courses, and today, it offers under the CBCS Semester mode: B.Com.(Hons.), B.Com.(Prog.), B.A. (Hons.) Applied Psychology, B.A. (Hons.) Economics, B.A. (Hons.) English, B.A.(Hons.) Hindi and B.A. (Prog.). In all, the college runs 7 courses which are taught by 11 subject departments. An active Internal Quality Assurance cell enables the smooth functioning of the institution. There are a number of societies and clubs for developing the skills and talents of students, and the college regularly hosts workshops, seminars, and extra-curricular events for a well-balanced educational training of the students.

The college upholds philosopher and poet, Sri Aurobindo's views that the first principle of true teaching is "that nothing can be taught." He explains that the knowledge is already dormant within the child and for this reason the teacher is not an instructor or task-master rather "he is a helper and a guide." The role of the teacher "is to suggest and not to impose". He does not actually train the pupil's mind, he only shows him how to perfect the instruments of knowledge and helps him and encourages him in the process. He does not impart knowledge to him; he shows him how to acquire knowledge for himself. With this belief, faculty and non- faculty members at SACE attempt to provide the needed resources to students to help them develop analytical and critical skills, in order to prepare them to become great leaders of tomorrow. The college lays an extra emphasis on the development of integrated and well-rounded personalities of the students, and with the help of student-oriented resources, ensures that they become aligned with their future goals.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

LITERATURE, CASTE AND FREEDOM MOVEMENT

CHIEF GUEST



Prof. Balram Pani

A well-known name in the academic world, in the Department of Chemistry, Prof. Pani is currently the Dean of Colleges, University of Delhi. He has a PhD in Environmental Sciences from JNU, New Delhi. His research interests lie in the field of Environmental Sciences.

He has taught courses in Chemistry, Environmental Studies and Polymer Science.

His project titled "To explore the potential of biosimilars as cost-effective therapeutic products" was awarded as "Most Promising Innovation" in the year 2015-16. He has authored many books, undertaken several projects, and has numerous publications to his credit.

GUEST OF HONOUR

&

Keynote Speaker



Prof. Rajkumar

A renowned academician, is currently the Head of the Department of English, University of Delhi. He completed his PhD from JNU, New Delhi in the year 2006.

His areas of research interest are Dalit literature, Indian literature, Autobiographical Studies, Post-colonial studies, Literary Criticism and Oriya Literature.

He has taught courses in Literary Criticism, Indian Literature to students of MA English and Dalit Literature to students enrolled into the MPhil programme.

He has been a Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla in the year 1999. In his literary journey so far he has authored several books, edited journals and has written and published several academic papers.

CONCEPT NOTE

The proposed one day National Seminar on Literature, Caste and Freedom Movement aims to explore the idea of multidimensional facets and identity of the marginalized class in the various spheres of life in the society. To understand Dalit Literature in a deeper sense, the researcher needs to understand their contribution and existence in the society in a larger context. In fact, Dalit literature emerged in the 1960s in different genres to portray the harsh realities of their lives in the socio-cultural and political background which includes the study of their efforts towards the Freedom movement and towards strengthening themselves.

This seminar will focus on the importance of assimilating the marginalized section in the social fabric in the light of the Indian Constitution which was formed in 1950. The seminar will discuss how the struggle of these sections is reflected through literature and how a change has been brought in the social context. How Gandhi and Ambedkar took up issues of Dalit liberation and empowerment? How Dalit intelligentsia worked for the National Movement? When one talks about caste in the Indian context one talks about 'Varnas'.

People according to 'Varnas' are divided into 4 categories - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya, and Shudra. 'Varna' is a classification of the society based on the qualities rather than the birth in a family. 'Varna' was a flexible concept unlike the caste system which crept in by & by is a rigid concept. Maharishi Valmiki who was born in the so called Valmiki community became a revered scholar, a sage of the highest order in the Hindu Dharma. In the same way the writer of Mahabharata, Vyaas was born to a fisher woman. Therefore, the qualities of the individual decided their 'Varnas', whether they would be Rishis or Shudras. It could be an illuminating case study to research on the advent of caste, martial caste etc. There are documented evidences which substantiate the fact that the British used caste as a tool to dismantle the psyche of the Indian society and to be successful in establishing a sustainable colonial rule. Historical and archeological evidences make it very clear that resistance against the foreign aggressors was manifested across the classes, caste, gender, and across regions. There are castes and sub-castes which are divided into various groups and communities. The constitution of India which was formed in 1950 focused on the upliftment of the disadvantaged Dalit.

The contribution of Dalit women writers through their discourse has raised their voice for their identity. "One is not born a woman; rather one becomes a woman" (Simon de Beauvoir) The woman is powerful only when she gives birth to a man but after that man dictates her. The Dalit autobiographies talk about women as "doubly oppressed". Today their discourse has given them a voice and identity. They took caste and gender as challenges. The seminar will provide an intense study and a productive dialogue on the Dalit Women issues too. The history of caste subalterns has attracted the attention of the writers and academicians since a long time and they have adopted the Dalit narratives in their writings. The subjective experience of Dalits and aesthetics form Dalit identity in a distinct manner.

As Dr. Vidyasagar truly said that, "true or complete development of the society can be possible only through literature without any bias" Due to education and literacy the marginalized sections are able to raise their voice against the atrocities meted by them.

Subthemes-

- A review of the system from 'Varna' to Jati to Caste.
- Resistance from tribals against the foreign oppressors.
- Unsung heroes from Jati and region.
- Searching for women identity outside their domestic roles.
- Vernacular Literature and Dalit Response

Attendees must register themselves on this given link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3ahXAWaYqRZ4biRVgwkjhjzc15-LoOCX5-8xX8EdkaaM-JA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Presentations by Scholars on the Subject

**First Session
(10 AM- 1 PM)
SPEAKERS**



Prof. Akshay Kumar
Chairperson, Department of English and Cultural
Studies
Punjab University, Chandigarh



Dr. Perna Malhotra
Assistant Professor, Ram Lal Anand College, DU
President-Centre for Democracy, Pluralism and
Human Rights (CDPHR)



Prof. Kalpana Purohit
HOD, Department of English, Jai Narain Vyas
University, Jodhpur

**Second Session
(2PM-5PM)
SPEAKERS**



Ms. Deeba Zafir
Associate Professor, English, Lakshmbai College,
DU



Dr. Vineeta
Associate Professor, English, C.I.S. Kanya
Mahavidyalaya, Dhand – Dadwana, Kaithal,
Haryana



Prof. Vanashree
Professor Emeritus
Department of English
Banaras Hindu University, Banaras



Prof. Susheel Kumar Sharma
English Department, University of Allahabad,
Prayagraj



Mr. Shankar Pandey
Advocate
Tribal Activist from North East



Shri M S Chaitra
Director, Aarohi Research Foundation.
Senior Fellow, India Studies Unit, Center for
Educational and Social Studies, Bangalore



Prof. Kusum Lata
Principal (SACE)
Host Speaker

E-certificates will be issued only to those Attendees who will fill the Feedback form In the end of both the sessions

*Technical Team- Mr. Chandan Mishra
Mr. Chander Shekhar
Mr. Abhishek Sharma
Ms. Jyoti Kumari*