

## **Annual Report for the Academic Year 2018-2019**

### **Department of English, Lakshmibai College**

This academic year too witnessed an array of thought-provoking initiatives from the Department of English, ranging from the academic to the cultural. These include the Departmental Orientation Programme, the Workshop on Creative-Writing , the Poetry Reading and Soliloquy competition, various issue-driven Movie screenings organized by the Film Club and an Inter-College Students' Conference , presented by the Rhetoricians, the English Department Society.

#### **The Orientation Programme**

The one day orientation programme , held on **14.09.2018** was conceptualized keeping in mind all the three year Hons. students as the scope of the lectures covered a diverse spectrum from the pedagogical analysis of Literary Theory to the methodological aspects of theatrical production. The two chief Speakers for the day were, respectively, Prof **Simi Malhotra**, Professor, Jamia Milia Islamia ; Director, Centre for North-East Studies and Policy Research , and **Dr. Sanjay Kumar**, Associate Professor, Hansraj College, University of Delhi; Co-founder of "Pandies", a Delhi-based theatre group.

Dr. Simi Malhotra's lecture entitled "***From Theory to Post-theory***" seamlessly brought together the abstractions of theory and the classroom interventions into these areas. The second session of the orientation programme was more in the nature of an **Interactive Workshop** facilitated by Dr. Sanjay Kumar. Being an activist himself , he stressed on the need of community building and the role that the theatrical space can play in breaking social binds.

#### **The Poetry Reading and Soliloquy Competition**

The intra-college Poetry reading and Soliloquy competition , held on **31.10.2018**, saw a decent turnout of students, across disciplines , eager to demonstrate their zest for recitation and elocution. The poem entitled "**Telephone Conversation**", composed by **Wole Soyinka**, was given to them half an hour prior to the commencement and they were judged on the basis of their pronunciation, intonation and presentation skills. For the "soliloquy" the students were given the choice to perform a soliloquy from any fictional work of their choice.

#### **The Film Club and the Movie Screenings :**

The ever enthusiastic members of the Film Club, run by the Department of English successfully showcased movies pertaining to various genres and socio-political issues, aimed at expanding and stimulating the minds of the young audience of Lakshmibai College.

The first movie of the session, screened on **29.08.2018** was the acclaimed *Hidden Figures*. The idea of three talented women coming from African-American origin breaking the glass ceiling in a NASA hub, struck a chord with the young audience and they interacted and debated fiercely afterwards. The movie was introduced by Ms. Pracheta Bakshi and after the movie she channelized an interactive critical exchange within a literary framework.

The second movie, *Rear Window*, screened on **03.10.2018**, is known to be a classic mystery thriller movie, an Alfred Hitchcock production of 1954 production and it enthralled the audience with moments filled with jumpstarts and suspense. The movie was introduced by Mr. Shubham Pandey, who has also led a discussion on it post the screening.

The third and last movie of the session, *Garm Hava*, a 1973 Indian classic on post-partition trauma, was screened on **11.01.2019**, and was introduced by Ms. Avantika Chamoli. Keeping in mind the Partition Literature paper the department teaches, the discussion before and after the movie explored the textual and cinematic depictions of partition narratives.

### **The Creative Writing Workshop**

The Creative Writing Workshop, held on **02.11.2018**, was led ably and dynamically by **Dr. Anuradha Marwah Roy**, Associate Professor, Zakir Hussain College, University of Delhi. Being an author to works like *Idol Love* and *Dirty Picture*, *Sarkari Feminism*, *A Pipe Dream in Delhi*, she read excerpts from her work and asked the students to interpret it in a medium of their choice. She set interesting writing exercises for the students and encouraged them to peer review their write-ups. The lively, emphatic and bold expression of ideas that took place in the course of the workshop was a measure of its success.

### **The Inter- College Students' Conference –“Speaking of Silence: Speaking From the Silence”**

The Department of English organized on **8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019** an **Inter College Students' Conference** on the theme of Silence –“ **Speaking of Silence: Speaking From the Silence**”, the subtopics ranging from the literary to cultural. The selected papers were divided into four panels —Panel 1, entitled “ **Alternate Idioms**” was chaired by **Dr. Meenakshi Malhotra**,

Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Hansraj college; Panel 2, entitled “**From Silence to Voice: From Voice to Silence**” was chaired by **Dr. Gautam Choubey**, Assistant Professor, ARSD College; Panel 3, entitled “**Between Absence and Presence**” was chaired by **Dr. Sucheta Chaturvedi**, Associate Professor, Lakshmibai College ; and Panel 4 , entitled “**The Sound of Silence**” was chaired by **Dr. Anju**, Assistant Professor, Lakshmibai College. The fluid and inclusive scope of the conference was borne out by the wide range of papers, moving from confessional poetry to the rasas to silenced narratives of partition.

**The Keynote Speaker of the day :**

**Professor Saikat Majumdar**, Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Ashoka University, was the Keynote Speaker. Critic, scholar and novelist, *The Firebird* and *The Scent of God* being among his notable works of fiction, Prof Majumdar offered a persuasive thesis in his talk entitled “Literature as Sin.” Moving between the provincial and the cosmopolitan, between narrative and literature, he urged for a recovery of the traces of the non- or the pre- modern, amongst myriad other philosophical ruminations. His address received a good number of critical observations and questions.