

## **English Department Association Events 2019-2020**

**Association-in-charge 2019-2020: Sanjukta Naskar, Ruchi Kalita, Anuj Kumar**

Social Media Handle: <https://www.instagram.com/eda.jdmc/>

**Title of the Lecture: "Shakespeare in Germany and the Invention of Politics", and "Re-inventing Shakespeare's Magic, Music and Media in The Reception of A Midsummer's Night's Dream"**

**Department of English**

**12 September 2019**

On 12 September 2019, Professor Peter W. Marx and Dr. T. Sofie Taubert, from the University of Cologne Germany, visited Janki Devi Memorial College to deliver a public lecture organized by the college's Department of English. The title of their lecture was "Shakespeare in Germany and the Invention of Politics", and "Re-inventing Shakespeare's Magic, Music and Media in The Reception of A Midsummer's Night's Dream" respectively. Both the speakers before their lecture planted a sapling in the college; as part of the college's greenery drive. Dr. Swati Pal, the principal of the college exchanged a few words and gifts of appreciation before the commencement of the session. Dr. Indu Jain introduced the speakers to the attending scholars comprising of literature students and faculty.

Dr. Taubert took the initiative to start the session by her insightful lecture on the fairies of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The highlights of her lecture revolved around challenging the notions of fairy magic on stage. Her research was diverse and it spanned from the sound, movement, entomology and dance of the fairies on stage to other media adaptations. She added that the fairy magic in Shakespeare's play allowed aesthetic experimentation in later adaptation which transcended to actual physics and laws of nature. Her concluding remarks were of self-reflection on theatre, as well as on media technology in general.

Professor Marx's lecture was inclined towards Shakespeare's History plays, in particular Richard III. His research was oriented towards the quest of a heroic ideal in Shakespeare's works, which he called "the Shakespeare Cycle". Through Richard II, he delivered a discourse on the rise of the hero in a fascist world. His lecture gradually transitioned from the will power of a hero to contemporary idealism of a hero, especially in the post WWII

scenario. Professor Marx's examples were diverse and contemporary including the popular TV show Game of Thrones to the poster of Donald Trump.

Both the speakers sat for a joint Q&A session after the lecture. A diverse set of questions were asked by various faculty members and the attending students. The answers of the speakers were insightful and it gave a new perspective to attending scholars about the Shakespearean studies.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/axQiWszxvAw>





**Title of the Lecture: "What has History Ever Done for Us"**

**Department of English**

**17 October 2019**

Under its Distinguished Lecture Series, on 17th October 2019, the department of English of Janki Devi Memorial College invited the prolific historian Dr. Benjamin Zachariah. The title of the public lecture that Dr. Zachariah delivered was "What has History Ever Done for Us". Dr. Swati Pal received the guest and offered the distinguished speaker a set of gifts as a token of appreciation before the commencement of his lecture. Together Dr. Pal and Dr. Zachariah planted a sapling in the college as part of the college's greenery initiative. Dr. Sanjukta Naskar introduced Dr. Zachariah to the audience enlisting his various research works and ongoing projects to the attending teachers and students from various disciplines.



Dr. Benjamin Zachariah started his lecture by throwing light on the problematic aspect of Interdisciplinarity and the notion of historical studies. To put forth his arguments he cited diverse examples such as Monty Python's Life of Brian, the history of Jews, and his fellow contemporary historians. A particular highlight of his lecture, especially for the English department, was his argument where he compared historians to the literary critics. Towards the latter half of his lecture he discussed the profession of a historian and how it worries him. Some of his concerns were regarding the linguistic aspect of historical discourses in contemporary times. He ended his lecture by relating his own research in the contemporary and turbulent times, and what does it mean for him to be a historian.

After the lecture, the floor was opened for a Q&A session which was chaired by Ms. Indu Jain from the English department. The attending academicians including teachers and students asked a diverse set of questions to which Dr. Zachariah replied insightfully. The overall event was enriching and insightful.

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/hGEidaBBQLg>





**JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**

*presents*

**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

**"WHAT HAS HISTORY EVER  
DONE FOR US?"**

**PUBLIC LECTURE**  
*BY*

**BENJAMIN ZACHARIAH**

(NOTED HISTORIAN, RESEARCH FELLOW, TRIER UNIVERSITY, AUTHOR OF  
NEHRU AND PLAYING THE NATION GAME.)

**(ORGANISED BY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, JDMC)**

-----

**Date : 17 October, 2019 (Thursday)**  
**Time : 11:00 am onwards**  
**Venue : Seminar Room**

**Title of the Lecture: Using RTI- Exercising The Right to Question**

**Department of English,**

**4 September 2019**

Anjali Bhardwaj, founder of the Satark Nagrik Sangathan, a citizen's forum committed to transparency in governance, met with students and faculty of JDMC on 4th September 2019, as a part of the college's Distinguished Speaker Series. The title of her session was "Using RTI- Exercising the Right to Question". As part of the college's tradition, Mrs. Bhardwaj planted a sapling in the college with the principal Dr. Swati Pal. Dr. Sanjukta Naskar introduced Mrs. Bhardwaj to the attendants before the commencement of her interactive session.

During the session Mrs. Bhardwaj spoke extensively on the RTI Act, and its several facets. Beginning with defining the RTI, and contextualising its implications and meaning. She extensively focused on the people's movement behind its implementation. She shed light on its significance, especially for those citizens whose accessibility to information is continually denied on the basis of social exclusion. She elaborated on the struggles of two exemplary women, who were the pioneers to exercise the RTI, for ration information. Towards the latter half of her session she spoke on the need for systematic accountability vis-a-vis modes of governance, and took the discussion forward by addressing several questions that the students raised.

After the end of her lecture the formal Q&A session with the speaker took place. Mrs. Bhardwaj responses were critical and enlightening. She seamlessly translated technicalities of the RTI to be understood in simple terms through examples and discussion. It was enriching for both the attending faculty and students.







**Title of the Lecture: Translation and the World**

**Department of English**

**20<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

**YouTube Video Link: <https://youtu.be/w6utfADt67M>**

Following the suit of its distinguished lecture series, the English Department of Janki Devi Memorial College organized its second public lecture on 20th August, titled “Translation and the World” with Mr. Arunava Sinha, who is a distinguished translator of Bengali fiction and nonfiction into English.

Abiding to the environmental protection principles of the college, Mr. Sinha planted a sapling in the college before the beginning of his lecture. He was received by Dr. Swati Pal, the principal of the college, where they exchanged a few words of gratitude and tokens of appreciation. He was further introduced to the attending scholars by Dr. Sanjukta Naskar who enlisted Mr. Sinha’s literary accomplishments and told the audience that by far he has

translated more than 50 works and has received multiple national and international awards such as “Muse India Translation Awards”.

Mr. Arunava Sinha began his lecture with a story of Mahmoud Darwish, in which he gradually transitioned to the role of a translator in the contemporary literary domain. He enthusiastically engaged with the audience to make his lecture relatable to the attending scholars from multiple disciplines. The audience interaction involved translating Bengali phrases into English. Some of his highlights into the world of translation included the questions of authorship, the factor of authenticity between the subject matter and linguistics, and the interplay of generic conventions through the act of translation. One of the highlights of Mr. Sinha’s lecture was about his critical perspective on authorial intentions versus the translator’s interpretation, which was explained in detail through his slideshow presentation. After the lecture the floor was opened for a Q&A session with the guest, which the audience availed to their maximum benefit, asking a range of questions spanning from classical to contemporary translations. The event culminated with a token of thanks from the faculty members, expressing their gratitude for Mr. Sinha who imparted his invaluable knowledge into this distinct field of literature.





## **Title of the Lecture: Graphic Fiction**

**Department of English**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

On 25th July the Department of English of Janki Devi Memorial College began the celebration of college's 60th year anniversary by inviting the prolific graphic novelist Mr. Sarnath Banerjee under its itinerary of the distinguished lecture series. Mr. Banerjee is a prolific graphic novelist with 7 renowned graphic novels under his authorship. His public lecture in the college was entitled "Graphic Fiction" where he provided his valuable insights into the sub-genre of graphic fiction in India.

For his lecture, Mr. Sarnath Banerjee was received by Dr. Swati Pal and together they started the tradition of this year's greenery drive of college by planting a sapling. After the exchange of hospitality and gifts of appreciation, Mr. Banerjee was introduced to the diverse crowd gathered to attend the public lecture by Dr. Sanjukta Naskar. Ms. Ruchi Kalita chaired the event and engaged Mr. Banerjee to discuss some pressing issues surrounding the genre of graphic narrative.

Mr. Sarnath Banerjee has a distinct canvas of themes for his graphic novels. His works tends to focus on the cityscapes and its cultural values along with his own touch of mythologies to his fictional world. The highlights of his lecture were the insights on the form of graphic novel, the combination of visual with texts and how this hybridity plays out with each other in some of his books. Using the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Banerjee showed the visuals from his graphic novel "All Quiet in Vikaspuri" and explained how he played with the spatial space provided by the medium of graphic narrative. Through his anecdotes, Mr. Banerjee also introduced some of the preliminaries to the attending scholars about the act of writing and organizing the work. The lecture was culminated by Mr. Banerjee with introduction to his latest novel "Doab Dil" and some of his future projects and his methodologies.

Towards the end the floor was opened for Q&A session with the speaker to which both the faculty and the students participated enthusiastically. The lecture ended with both the faculty and the students expressing their humble gratitude to the speaker for taking his time out and providing such an engaging lecture.





A workshop on legal-literacy was organised on April 22, 2019 for Second Year Hons students who had opted for the English GEC Contemporary India: Women and Empowerment. Ms Diksha Lamba interacted with the students on various legal issues regarding Indian women.

A lecture-demonstration by Dr Sanjay Kumar, Department of English, Hansraj College was organised for the English Hons third year students on March 30. This was followed by a theatrical performance by Pandies Theatre of scenes from Brecht's *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE  
PRESENTS

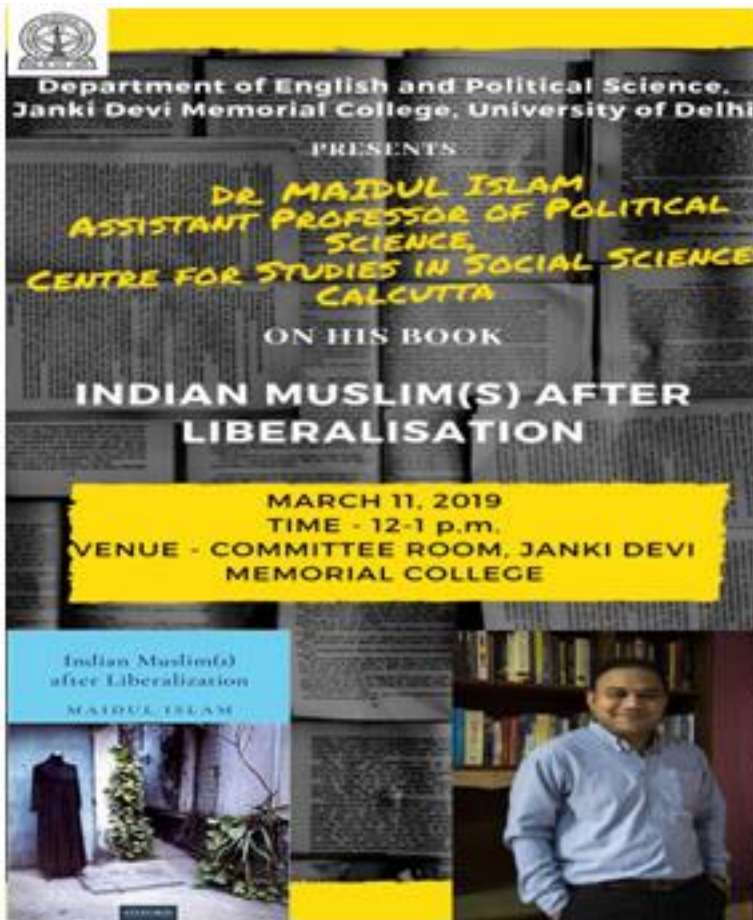
*Lecture and Demo by  
Sanjay Kumar  
on Modern European Drama*

AND PERFORMANCE BY  
PANDIES THEATRE  
(SCENES FROM BERTOLT  
BRECHT'S THE RESISTIBLE RISE  
OF ARTURO UI)

DATE: 30TH MARCH, 2019  
TIME: 11 A.M TO 1 P.M  
VENUE: AUDITORIUM

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Political Science, organised a talk by Dr Maidul Islam, Department of Political Science, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta on March 11. Dr Islam spoke on his book Indian Muslim(s) after Liberalization.





The Association invited Dr Debdatta Chowdhury from the Department of Gender Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. She delivered a lecture on 'Urban Centres across the Indo-Bangladesh Border' to the students on March 5.



A series of public lectures was conceptualised by the Department to facilitate academic discourse amongst the faculty and the students. The broad framework of the series was titled as 'Defining the Urban and Urbanity in the 19th Century'. The first lecture was delivered by Sambudha Sen, Prof and Head, Department of English, Shiv Nadar University on February 26. Prof Sen spoke on the colonial encounter in Bengal as evidenced in Hootum Pyanchar Naksha.



The Department, in collaboration with Iridiscent, organised the second edition of the Writers' Festival on February 14. The event commenced with a panel discussion centered on 'Speaking Truth to Power'. The panel consisted of eminent writers Sidhartha Sarma, Parvati Sharma, Devapriya Roy, Himanjali Sankar, poet Nitoo Das, performance-artist Amitesh Grover, translator Arunava Sinha, journalist Anant Nath and publisher Arpita Das, moderated

by Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, senior editor. The panel engaged in a lively discussion on the challenges, possibilities and responsibilities faced by writers and other creative artists in contemporary times. The event concluded with the students interacting one-on-one with the panelists.



On February 6, the Aruna Chakravarti Intra-College Creative Writing Competition was held. Students of various disciplines participated in the competition. Ms Yamini Negi was adjudged the winner.



Dr Namita Sethi presented a foundation lecture on January 22 to the English Hons second year students on 'The 18th Century Country and City in Visual Arts and Literature'.





Sakhi: The other day when you were drying your tresses and untangling them in your mansion, Krishna came from the forest. The exchange of glances that happened between the two of you didn't go unnoticed. They are talking about this, my friend.