

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF ODISHA, KORAPUT

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The International Conference on "Imagining and Translating the 'Other': Engaging with Contemporary Indian Literature" inaugurated at CUO

English language is an international language by which we can reflect our rich culture and literature to the world: Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi

The International Conference on "Imagining and Translating the 'Other': Engaging with Contemporary Indian Literature" of the Department of English Language and Literature (DELL), Central University of Odisha, Koraput kicked off at 2.30 P.M. on 20 March 2023. The engaging and stimulating curtain raiser was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of CUO, Prof Chakradhara Tripathi. He highlighted the significant features of Indian and western literature and the importance of the English language. He said, "The English language is an international language by which we can reflect our rich culture and literature to the world. So, translation plays an important role in maintaining a balance between two cultures". A perfect human culture will be developed through the mixture of East and Western cultures. And it is possible only by means of translation, he added. He emphasized the cosmopolitan nature of English and its role in connecting the local with the global. In addition to this, he explained the mission and the vision of the University. He hoped the Conference will look at the whole range of subject matters that have animated modern Indian literature, thereby helping to build bridges across regions and imagine a nation that is truly unified in its diversity.

The inaugural session of the conference was carried forward stylishly by a galaxy of luminaries of the subject present on the dais: Prof. N. Nagaraju, Vice Chancellor, G.M. University, Sambalpur; Mr. Chandrahas Choudhury, UK-based Indian Writer in English and Prof. Alessandro Vescovi from the State University of Milan, Italy.

Prof. Nagaraju focused on the significance of environmentalism in Literature in context of Koraput, as well as he highlighted on the need to introduce eco-criticism in the courses of the Universities in India. Mr. Choudhury appreciated the concept of the conference shedding light upon the role of writers and translators in the contemporary times. Prof. Vescovi, began with an anecdote from his classroom, back in Italy. He referred to the challenges of translating a 16th concept to the students of 21st century.

The director of the conference, Prof Himansu Mohapatra, introduced the guests and the conference theme. The Head of the Department Mr. Sanjeet Kumar Das welcomed the delegates and participants. Prof N.C. Panda, Head of the Department of Sanskrit and Dean of School of Languages, CUO presided over the inaugural session and gave his rich insights.

Four books – CUO Newsletter, The Book of Abstracts, *Following My Heart*; an English translation of *Manua* by Himansu S. Mohapatra and Paul St. Pierre and *Niranjana* an English translation of *Tata Niranjana* by Mr. Sanjeet Kumar Das, were launched by the dignitaries present on the dais.

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