

Commemorating the Writer Series

Department of English celebrates an Eminent Odia poet Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra

Date - 30th September 2022

Convener – Prof. M.A.A. Farooq

Co-Convener- Sonam Sharma (Research Scholar)

Under the “Commemorating the Writer Series, the Department of English celebrated the birth anniversary of the much acclaimed Odia poet Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra. Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra, born on September 17, 1937, is a prolific poet and critic in Odia and English, who is at his best while portraying the ethos of Orissan tradition. The religious and mystical tradition of ancient Indian poetry, the lyrical modernism of European poetry and the Odiya folk poetry contribute equally to the formation of his poetic sensibility and style.

He is the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Jnanpith Award (1993), Sahitya Akademi Award (1974), Padma Bhushan (2002) and Padma Vibhushan (2011). He is a versatile litterateur and his literary corpus boasts of over 20 anthologies of poems, 9 essay collections on literature and culture, 4 travelogues, and over 30 contemplative works, apart from numerous translations. His poetry has been published in several Indian languages and also widely translated in English and other non-Indian languages.

The event commenced with a welcome address followed by a documentary that focussed on the life, works and thematic concerns of Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra.

A presentation that explored the tribal oral poetry penned and translated by Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra in the anthology, *The Awakened Wind: The Oral Poetry of The Indian Tribes* (1983) was made by a student of 3rd Semester.

“The Other View: Yashoda’s Soliloquy”, a famous mythological poem from the anthology, *The Ruined Temple and Other Poems* (1996) by Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra was performed on stage by a group of students of the 3rd Semester.

A short Quiz on Dr.Sitakant Mahapatra was conducted in which the students participated.

The event was attended by the faculty, students and scholars. The event ended with valuable feedback and vote of thanks by Prof. M.A.A. Farooq.



