



Activity Report Department of English ELA 2021

The ELA released its bi-annual newsletter, *The Carrel*, with a special emphasis on Popular and Queer Literature with interviews from eminent personalities like Queer studies' theorist Judith Butler and LGBTQ+ activist Sharif Rangnekar.

The ELA festival Pantheon was organised in virtual mode on 25th of February, 2021 centered around the theme Goth and Otherness. Kavya Sharma was the judge for the Slam Poetry competition. She has completed her masters in Creative Writing from the University of Nottingham, England. She has authored two books, and her poems/short fictions have been featured in various anthologies and literary magazines. Sharma has been recognized as the 100 Most Inspiring Authors of Indian, 2018 by *The Indian Awaaz*, Author of the Year by NE8X and has also been awarded The Honourable Mention by Delhi Poetry Slam for excellence in poetry in their Free Verse Poetry Contest. She is also the Founder and Editor-in-chief of *Verse of Silence*, a literary platform which comes out with a creative magazine quarterly and also conducts poetry readings and online competitions across India. A paper presentation Competition on "Goth and Otherness" was also organized as part of the fest. Students from across the university and various other Indian universities participated in the competition.

The ELA began 2021 by observing Women's Day on 8th march 2021. The goal of the celebration was to create awareness about a gender-equal world. It is about celebrating a woman's success and raising awareness against bias. The English Literary Association

celebrated and honored women by featuring write-ups and poems by various students on the department's Instagram handle.

Next in the list was the Pride Month. It is the celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people—and the history, culture, and contributions of these people and their communities. ELA showed their support through the celebration of Pride. Various posts were created by talented members of the English department of DCAC. The Instagram handle of the Department conveyed our enthusiasm and accurately delivered our support to the community.

On 4th August, 2021, ELA hosted an intriguing and informative event on **The long shadow of Gandhi** with Dr. Gautam Choubey, ARSD College, Delhi University, who disseminated many insightful thoughts. Gandhian philosophy is complex and it is near impossible for anyone to completely comprehend Gandhi and speak convincingly of him. Gandhi's perception among people changed over years. Initially he was a leader that Mahanlal Chaturvedi and Rabindranath Tagore anticipated to unite India against the British Empire.

On the 4th of September, 2021 an online event was held with **Ms. Rimina Mohapatra**, author, editor and Publishing Manager, Routledge India, Taylor & Francis Group, Informa plc. on **The Hitchhiker's Guide to Publishing**. Ms. Mohapatra, a University of Delhi alumni, author and a UGC-JRF holder, took us through a ride from history of publishing to the types and complicity of it. The readership of a certain genre, working of publishing houses and the process of making a book from selecting and designing the cover to editing the book were also a part of her enlightening talk.

Another event held by ELA this year was **Approaching European Classical Literature: A Historical Overview by Dr. Lalit Kumar**, DDU College, Delhi University on 28th October 2021. Dr. Kumar apprised the students about the etymology and contexts of the term 'classic' and discussed the Pre-Classical, Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman chronological classifications of the Greco-Roman literary period concerning the literary and philosophical works of Homer, Hesiod, Horace, Virgil, Ovid, and others

Following this on 18th November, 2021, ELA organized **the slam Poetry competition on Odes**. The poetry competition commenced in two rounds with enthusiastic participation from students. The judges gave the participants valuable insights into their pieces. Soon after, the judges announced the result. Mira Price won the competition.

A talk on the **Cultural and Aesthetic aspects of Utopia in Gandhi's Writings** was held on 18th September 2021 to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Professor C.S. Dubey, our esteemed speaker for the event acquainted the students with Gandhi's notable works, its historical perspectives, how he aimed his writings to reform society, and how he influenced the masses with his ideologies.

On 24th January, 2022, **Slam poetry competition** was held on the "Unsung Heroes: Role of women in India's freedom struggle", an Ode to and celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The event commenced with our HOD Dr. Smita Banerjee's address to the gathering. After this, the judges were introduced and the rules were reiterated for the participants and the audience. This was followed by the participants reciting their spellbinding pieces. The competition commenced in three rounds with fervent participation from the students. This beautiful session full of unleashed creativity ended with the announcement of the winners.

Finally, The English Literary Association of Delhi College of Arts & Commerce organized its annual fest, Pantheon'22 virtually for the second time on 28 February 2022. The theme for the fest was 'Exploring Literature in Bhashas,' and the various events delved deeper into the intricacies and complexities of the works of literature written in the various vernacular languages of India. The fest commenced with Dr. Smita Banerjee (TIC), Prof. Rajiv Chopra (Principal), and Mr Srikant Pandey (Convenor, IQAC) addressing the gathering. This was followed by the first event, the keynote session, which began with an introduction of Prof. B Mangalam, who enlightened the gathering with many insightful things on "***The Relevance of Translation: The Context of India.***" After the keynote session, the second half of the fest comprised the 'Paper Presentation' and 'Introduction of an Indian Text' competitions. While the participants of the 'Paper Presentation' talked about the history and tradition of bhasha literature, the 'Introduction of an Indian Text' saw the participants introducing and analyzing their favourite piece of regional literature in great depth.

The participants also received valuable insights from the judges on their presentation. The day-long fest ended with the Closing Ceremony, where gathering was once again taken through all the events organized by the English Literary Association in the year 2021-22. After this came the most-awaited moment, the declaration of the results. The fest ended with the announcement of the winners of the 'Paper Presentation,' 'Introduction of an Indian Text,' and 'Translation of an Indian Text.'