

**National Seminar
on
Poeming the World:
Jayanta Mahapatra's Contribution to
Indian English Poetry**

(Hybrid Mode)

12 - 13 March 2024



**Organised by
Dept. of English & Modern European Languages
Senate Campus, Faculty of Arts,
University of Allahabad
Prayagraj-211002, India
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Concept Note

Poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action.

- Audre Lorde, "Poetry is Not a Luxury" (1977)

A poem, at its best, may be seen as a metaphor for the ideal in worldly existence. Poetry, therefore, is the perennial human endeavour towards perfection, not just as a wish-fulfilment exercise but as a commitment to imagining amelioration of the world. Significantly, human civilisation has been evolving through the human effort at poeming the world. We humans dream, act, err, make amends and move on, just like the lines of poetry. Poetry has not only been cheering humanity through its triumphs but seeing it through its travails as well. If the world today is plagued by challenges ranging from the geopolitical to the ecological, then there are poets who are appealing to our collective imagination to seek creative ways of addressing them. Gopal Lahiri, the inaugural winner of Jayanta Mahapatra National Award for Literature appositely avers that 'in times of distress, poetry can trigger conversations and heal your wounds'. The earth scientist and eco-poet, therefore, pleads: "Poetry, like bread, should be for everyone".

Jayanta Mahapatra (22 October 1928 - 27 August 2023) is a name to reckon with, in the English-speaking world. Someone who belongs to the community known as poets dedicated to dreaming of a better world through their pursuit of poeming it. The first Indian poet to win the Sahitya Akademi Award for English poetry, Mahapatra was a physicist by training and a poet by calling. Along with A. K. Ramanujan and R. Parthasarathy, he formed the trio of poets credited with founding what has been canonised as Indian English Poetry. Mahapatra stands out for what Meena Alexandar argues, in her article published in *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, 18 (1), 42 - 47, as 'poetry of decreation'. Decreation denotes a certain quality of attention, an emptying out of the self, an almost mystical waiting. No wonder, Mahapatra Studies has become a burgeoning field. The two-day seminar proposes to provide a platform for conversations on Indian poetry in English foregrounding Jayanta Mahapatra. Research papers can address to topics such as follows:

- Poetry and History
- Poetry as Activism
- History of Indian Poetry in English
- Decolonising English through Poetry
- Poetry as Trans-disciplinarity
- The Subaltern Voice in Mahapatra's Poetry
- Mahapatra and Eco-poetics
- Feminist Concerns in Mahapatra's Oeuvre
- Portrayal of Odisha in Mahapatra's Poetry
- Mahapatra's Poetry as Political Commentary
- Mahapatra's Poetic Techniques
- Religion in Mahapatra's Poetry
- Mahapatra and Other Poets: A Comparison
- The Autobiographical in Mahapatra's Poetry
- Cultural Identity in Mahapatra's Poetry

Patron



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Prayagraj, UP, India

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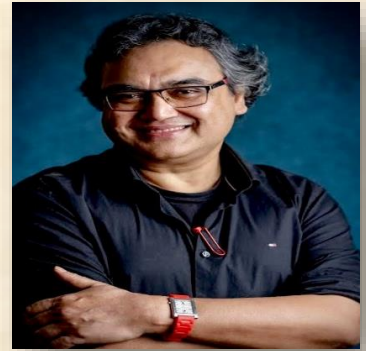
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Dr. Hariom Singh

Keynote Speaker

Sudeep Sen is a prolific poet who has published over fifteen volumes and chapbooks of poetry. He studied literature in New Delhi and the USA, and later completed an MS as an Inlaks scholar from the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia. Sen has become a prominent figure in the literary world since the release of his first book, *The Lunar Visitations*, in 1990 (after a modest début in 1983). Throughout his career, he has assumed various roles including poet, translator, editor, and reviewer, among others.



Speakers



Prof. Smita Agarwal (Retd.)
University of Allahabad, India



Prof. Sravani Biswas
Tezpur University, India



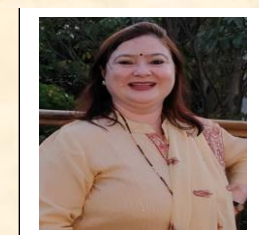
Prof. Binod Mishra
IIT, Roorkee, India



Prof. Priyadarshi Pattnaik
IIT, Kharagpur, India



Prof. Krishna Mohan Pandey
Banaras Hindu University, India



Prof. Ranu Uniyal
University of Lucknow, India

Guidelines for Abstract Submission:

The abstract of 300 words should be sent as a word file (font style: Times New Roman, font size: 12) to engmelseminar@gmail.com by **March 3, 2024**. Each abstract should contain the title of the paper, name of the author(s), affiliation, country of residence, email address, and a short bio-note of a maximum of 50 words.

Link for Seminar Registration:

<https://forms.gle/6dtko7a72vnqiBdUS6>



***Papers selected through blind peer review will come out as an edited book with a reputed publisher.*

Registration Fee:

For Teachers: Rs. 1500/-

For Research Scholars: Rs. 1000/ -

For M. A. Students: Rs. 750/-

The Registration fee shall take care of Conference Kit, Tea, and Working Lunch on 12 and 13 March 2024.

The payments should be made to:

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