

GANDHI CENTRE FOR NORTH - EASTERN LANGUAGES

GANDHI CENTRE FOR NORTH-EASTERN LANGUAGES is set up by **Dr. Tanuja Majumdar, Head of the Hindi Department**, Presidency College on 7th February 2008. It is a joint collaboration of **Presidency College** and **Gandhi Smriti Evam Darshan Samiti**, New Delhi. The centre is now a part of Presidency University. The objective of the centre is to enhance, promote and encourage the development of North-Eastern Languages and literature along with Bengali, Santhali and Hindi. The North-Eastern languages include Assamese, Kokborak, Manipuri, Mizo, Garo, Bodo, Khasi, Nagamese, Karbi, Nepali, Haflong Hindi and all other oral languages of North-East. Bengali and Santhali are included in this panorama because Bengali is also one of the prominent languages in Tripura, Assam and Manipur. Along with North-Eastern languages Santhali had a nourished age-old oral and folk literature. A comparative and inter-linguistic, inter-literary and inter-cultural study can be accomplished between different regional folk languages with Hindi as the centralized 'lingua franca' being the medium of expression in all these studies. Apart from Hindi and Bengali, the Centre is also working in Urdu and English because Urdu is a sister language of Hindi and English is the state language of many north-eastern states like Nagaland & Manipur. Most of the north-eastern states prefer English as the language 'en masse'. Centre also aims to promote comparative study of Gandhian thoughts with Rabindranath Tagore and other great social thinkers of India.

Completed Projects :

1. Mahatma Gandhi and Indian Literature. (Published)
2. Mahatma Gandhi and Bangla Literature. (Published)
3. Non Co-operation Movement : North-Eastern, Eastern, Hindi and Urdu Literature. (Published)
4. Henry Louis Vivian Derozio and Indian Renaissance. (Published in 2 Vols .)
5. Poems of National Award Winner Assamese poet **Nilim Kumar**. (Published)
6. Poems of Sahitya Academy Award Winner Kokborak poet of Tripura **Chandrakant Mura Singh**. (Published)
7. Bengali translation of the Book 'Asadharan Din Ke Sadharan Din' by **Tara Gandhi**. (Published)
8. Hindi translation of Contemporary Assamese Short Stories. (Published)
9. Bengali translation of Contemporary Assamese Short Stories. (Published)
10. History of Manipuri Literature. (Under Publication)
11. History of Kokborak Literature of Tripura. (Under Publication)
12. Najrul Islam's Dhoomketu & Mahatma Gandhi. (Under Publication)
13. Tagore in Hindi Literature (Under Publication)

On Going Research Projects :

1. History of Nepali Literature
2. Contemporary Nepali Short Stories
3. Folktales of Nepali, Sherpa & Lepcha
4. Thoughts on Rural Reconstruction of Tagore

National Seminars :

1. **‘Impact of Non Co-operation Movement on North-Eastern, Bengali, Oriya, Hindi and Urdu Literature’** was held on 7th & 8th February 2008.
2. **‘Mutual Relation Between India and Bangladesh at Present Context’** was held on 7th August 2008 at Taki Govt. College, Basirhat.
3. **‘Tagore and Gandhi : Thoughts on Rural Reconstruction’** was held on 22nd September 2008 jointly with **Tagore and Gandhi Centre for Extramural Activities Studies & Training**, Rabindra Bharati University at Sarada kaksha Hall, Rabindra Bharati University.
4. **‘Role of Literature in the Context of Icelandic Literature’** was held on 5th December, 2009. The seminar was presided by **Mr. Finnbogi Rutur Arnarson**, the Minister-Counselor of Embassy of Iceland and two Books on Hindi translation of Ice landing Poetry were released by him.
5. **‘Women Empowerment in Hindi Literature’** was held on 28th May, 2010. Eminent Hindi Writer Chitra Mudgal delivered Keynote Address.
6. **‘Relevance of Hind Svaraj’** was held on 2nd October, 2010 at Presidency University on the occasion of International Non-Violence Day of UNO. Eminent Gandhian Writer Bhagwan Das delivered Keynote Address.
7. **‘Mother Tongues : Marginalized Languages-Cultures of W. Bengal’** was held on 13th March 2014 at North-Bengal University, Siliguri jointly with Jadavpur University. Eminent scholar Ganesh Devi delivered Keynote Address.
8. **‘The Bazar and Bari : Calcutta, Marwaris & the World of Hindi Letters’** was held on 22th August, 2014. Rahul Parson from USA was invited as Special Speaker.
9. **‘Kavita Se Sarokar’** was held on 28th August, 2014. Gyanpith Award recipient Hindi poet Kedarnath Singh was invited on this occasion.
10. **‘Translation of Tagore’s Geetanjali in Tripura’s Tribal Language Kokborak’** was held on 14th January 2015. Sahitya Academy Award recipient Chandrakant Mura Singh was invited on this occasion.

11. **‘Contemporary Indian Tribal Literature’** was held on 30th March, 2015. Eminent writer Ranendra, eminent Santhali writer Subodh Hansda and two Sahitya Academy Award recipients Jamadar Kisku and Badal Hembron invited as special speakers.

International Seminar:

1. **‘Impact of Partition of India on the literature of Indian Sub Continent’** was held from 16th to 18th September, 2010 on the occasion of **150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore**. The inauguration ceremony and first three session of the seminar was held at Rathindra Manch at the premises of Jorasanko Thakur Bari , the birth place of Rabindranath Thakur on 16th September, 2010. The Derozio Hall of Presidency University was venue for the international seminar on 17th and 18th September, 2010. Twenty five resource persons from India and abroad participated in the seminar. Noted Bangladeshi writer Salina Hossain, Maleka Begam and Shahriyar Kabir attended the three day long seminar. Bangladeshi documentary film ‘Potrait of Jihad’ directed by Shahriyar Kabir and film ‘Chitra Nadir Pare’ by Tanveer Mokammel were shown on this occasion to audience at Derozio Hall of Presidency University.
2. **‘Contemporary Literature of Vietnam’** was held on 28th January, 2011 at Presidency University in association with Vietnam Writers Association of Hanoi, Vietnam. Eminent Novelist & Short Stories Writer **Phamtrung Di Nh** was invited as Chief Guest. He is also Director of Publishing House ‘Hoi Nha Van’ and a member of the Executive Committee of Vietnam Writers Association. **Ms. Tranthi Troung** the Novelist , Short Stories Writer & Journalist from Hanoi, Vietnam ; **Ms. Dothi Tac**, the Poetess & President of Association of Art & Literature of Lai Chau Province, Vietnam and **Dr. Do Thu Ha**, Professor, Faculty of Oriental Studies and Dean of Vietnam National University, Hanoi were invited as speakers.
3. **‘Globalization & Literature’** was held from 11th -12th January, 2012 at AJC Bose Auditorium of Presidency University. The seminar was inaugurated by the Honourable Vice Chancellor **Prof. Malabika Sarkar**. Prof. Mesbah Kamal, History Deptt, Dhaka University delivered Keynote Address. Lectures were delivered by Prof. Tyler W. William, Hindi Department, Columbia University, USA; Dr. Rajashree Shukla, Hindi Deptt, Calcutta University; Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi, Hindi Department, Visva Bharati; Prof. Sheela Misra, Hindi Department, Osmania University; Prof. Dilip Kumar Barua, English Department, Burdwan University; Prof. Sucharita Chattopadhyay, Comparative Literature Department, Jadavpur University; Dr. Indrani Das, English & Other European Languages Department, Visva Bharati; Dr. Debashish Bandyopadhyay, English Department, Presidency University; Prof. Suman Gun, Bengali Department, Assam University, Silchar; Dr. Dipankar Mullick, Bengali Department, Ramkrishna Mission Vidya Mandir, Belur; Dr. Manjusree Mukhopadhyay, Bengali Department, Presidency University ; Dr. Shraboni Ray, Bengali Department, Presidency University were invited as Speakers. Local participants presented 17 research papers in the seminar.
4. **‘The Song of the Phynix : Remembering Saadat Hasan Manto’** was held on 21st January, 2013 at AJC Bose Auditorium of Presidency University on the occasion of **Birth Centenary of S. H. Manto**, organized jointly with Center of Advanced Study, Comparative Literature Department of Jadavpur University. Prof. Harish Trivedy, English Department, Delhi University; Prof. Abdul Bismillaha, Hindi Department, Jamia Millia Islamia University; Prof. Arun Kamal, English Department, Patna University, Prof. Chandrakala Pandey, Calcutta University, Prof.

Sucheta Bhattacharya, Comparative Literature Department of Jadavpur University Prof. Ipsita Chanda, Comparative Literature Department of Jadavpur University; Prof. Kunal Chattopadhyay, Comparative Literature Department, Jadavpur University; Bilal Hashmi, Mc Craken Fellow, Comparative Literature Department, New York University, USA; & Mostak Ahmad, Bengali Department, Presidency University were the speakers of the Seminar.

5. **‘The Voice of Enlightenment : Remembering Ram Vilas Sharma’** was held from 14th – 15th February 2013 at AJC Bose Auditorium of Presidency University on the occasion of **Birth Centenary of Ramvilas Sharma**, jointly organized with Central Hindi Institute, Agra, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India. Prof. Hideaki Ishida, Daito Bunka University, Tokyo, Japan; Udayprakash, Eminent Hindi Writer; Dr. Vijay Mohan Sharma, son of Ramvilas Sharma and Prof. Mohan, Director of Central Hindi Institute were the chief speakers. Prof. Damodar Mishra, Hindi Department, Vidyasagar University; Dr. Subhach Chandra Ray, Hindi Bhawan, Visva Bharati; Dr. Arjun Kumar, Hindi Bhavan, Visva Bharati; Dr. Sanjay Jaisval, Hindi Department Visva Bharati; Dr. Manoj Shukla, Goyenka College of Commerce were also invited as Speakers. 20 research papers were presented in the seminar by the college teachers of Kolkata, Kharagpur & Jalpaiguri. A Documentary Film on Ramvilas Sharma was also shown in this seminar.
6. **‘Contemporary Poetry of Pakistan and Vietnam’** was held on 7th February, 2014 at Gandhi Center. Seven Vietnami poets and three Pakistani poets attended the seminar.

Local Seminars :

1. **‘Rashtra Bhasha Hindi and Mahatma Gandhi’** was held on 27th September, 2008.
2. **‘Non -Violence and Terrorism’** was held on 2nd October, 2008.
3. **‘Tradition of Non-Violence in Indian Literature’** was held on 2nd October, 2009.
4. **‘ Media & Literature’** was held on 11th January, 2011.
5. **‘Political Terrorism in North-Eastern Literature : Reflection & Impact’** was held on 8th January, 2014. Prof. Pabitra Sarkar, Former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, Prof. Himadri Banerjee, Guru Nanak Professor, History Department, Jadavpur University, Shri Gautam Prasad Barua, Eminent Business Economist & Writer and Shri Debashis Chakraborty, Trade Adviser & Director of Movement, Govt. of Assam were the Speakers.
6. **‘The Problems of Translation of Classical Poetry : Kalidas’s Meghdoot’** was held on 17th September 2014.
7. **‘Journalism : Linguistic Challenges’** held on 9th December, 2014.

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series of GSDS :

1. 1.The ‘Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series’ was inaugurated by Prof. Lee Yan, Chief of Foreign languages Studies Department, Beijing University, China on 2nd September 2009, at Hindi Department of Presidency College. Prof. Lee Ya Lan delivered her Inaugural Lecture in

Hindi on '**Hindi Teaching in China**'. Prof. Amitava Chatterjee, Head, Economics Department, Presidency College presided the Lecture.

2. The second lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Nirala's Poetry : National-International Aspects**' was held on 11th and 12th September 2009. Noted Hindi Writer Prof. Premshankar Tripathi delivered the Lecture. Prof. Sanjib Ghosh, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
3. The third lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Literature of Tripura**' was held on 28th January, 2010. Prof. Sisir Kumar Sinha, Head of Bengali Department, Tripura University delivered the Lecture. Prof. Dilip Naha, Head, Bengali Department, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
4. The fourth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Hind Swaraj**' was held on 17th February, 2010. Dr. Savita Singh, Director, Gandhi Smriti Evam Darshan Samiti, New Delhi delivered the Lecture. Prof. Sanjib Ghosh, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
5. The fifth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Cotemporary Literature of Assam**' was held on 28th March, 2010. Prof. Dilip Barua, Former Head of English Department, Guahati University delivered the Lecture. Prof. Sanjib Ghosh, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
6. The sixth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi And Ravindranath Thakur**' was held on the occasion of **150th Birth Anniversary of Ravindranath Tagore** on 26th June, 2010. The famous writer & editor of Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi Rachanavali, Prof. Bharat Yayavar, Hindi Department, Binobha Bhawe University, Hazari Bagh, delivered the Lecture. Prof Dilip Sinha, Ex. Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati presided the Lecture.
7. The seventh lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**New Aspects of Nai Kavita**' was organized 22nd July, 2010. Prof. Harish Chandra Mishra, Hindi Deptt. Visva Bharati, delivered the Lecture. Prof. Amitava Chatterjee, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
8. The eighth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Various Dimensions of Drama & Stage of North-Eastern States**' was held on 26th July, 2010. The famous theater personality and founder of 'Rangkarmee' Usha Ganguly delivered the Lecture. Dr. Savita Singh, Director of GSDS presided the Lecture.
9. The ninth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Rabindranath Thakur-Nirala-Mahatma Gandhi**' was held on the occasion of **150th Birth Anniversary of Ravindranath Tagore** on 28th September, 2010. The famous writer and educationist Prof. Surya Prasad Dixshit, Professor & Head of Hindi Department, Lukhnow University delivered the Lecture. Prof. Amitava Chatterjee, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
10. The tenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Development of Santhali Literature & Language**' was held on 22nd December, 2010. The famous Santhali writer and Guest Professor in Santhali, Rabindra Bharati University, Shri Subodh Hansda delivered the Lecture. Prof. Amita Chatterjee, Vice Chancellor, Presidency University presided the Lecture.

11. The eleventh lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' on '**Correction management by Alternative System of Medicine and Gandhian Way : A Ray of Life**' was held on 15th February, 2011. Dr. Manju Agarwal, Consultant Naturopath of Central Jail, Tihar, New Delhi and Visiting Professor in Naturopathy, Akhil Bharatiya Prakritik Chikitsa Parishad, Delhi delivered the Lecture.
12. The twelfth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**United Voices Raised Against Communalism & Fundamentalism In Bangladesh**' on 29th August, 2011. Noted Bangladeshi writer and film maker Tanveer Mokammel delivered the Lecture. Prof. Chitta Mondal, Director of Bangladeshi Studies, Rabindra Bharati University presided the Lecture.
13. The thirteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**Main Aspects and Trends of Bangladeshi Literature**' on 3rd September, 2012. Eminent Bangladeshi Writer Salina Hussain delivered the Lecture. She is also Director of Bangla Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh and representative of Bangladesh in UNESCO.
14. The fourteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**Development of Korean Language by Missionaries in South Korea**' on 7th September, 2012. Dr. Sung Min Park, Vice President, The King's College, New York, USA delivered the Lecture.
15. The fifteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture' was held on '**Development of Consumerism & Capitalism in American Society**' on 30th November, 2012. Dr. Garey Vender from Boston University, USA delivered the Lecture.
16. The sixteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**Family Honour & Women Killing**' on 14th December, 2012. Prof. Maleca Begum from Central Women University, Dacca, Bangladesh delivered the Lecture.
17. The seventeenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**The Indian State and Communalism**' on 30th August, 2013. Speaker: Vibhuti Narayan Rai, the Vice Chancellor of Antrashtriya Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vishvavidyala and eminent Hindi Novelist delivered the Lecture.
18. The eighteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**The Classical Ragas in Tagore's Songs of Season**' on 6th September, 2013. Dr. Indrani Sen, an eminent exponent of Rabindrasangeet and Najrulgeeti delivered the Lecture.
19. The nineteenth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**Cinema of Bangladesh : A Different Trend**' on 20th September, 2013. Tanvir Mokammel, Filmmaker and Director of Bangladesh Film Centre delivered the Lecture. The film 'Rabeya' directed by Tanvir Mokammel was also screened on the occasion.
20. The twentieth lecture of 'Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lecture Series' was held on '**The Indian Renaissance and Vivekanda**' on 10th January, 2014. Prof. G. Gopinathan, Former Vice Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Antrashtriya Hindi Vishvavidyalaya, Wardha delivered the Lecture.

Shri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture Series of NCERT :

1. The First lecture of '**Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture Series**' of NCERT on '**The Faith In Education**' was held on 2nd August, 2008 at Derozio Hall of Presidency College. The famous writer and philosopher Shri Manoj Das from Sri Aurobindo International University, Pondicherry delivered the Lecture. Prof. Sanjib Ghosh, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture.
2. The Second lecture of '**Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture Series**' of NCERT on '**Women Education in Bengal**' was organized on 27th March 2009, at PLT-1 Hall of Presidency College. The famous writer and women activist Prof. Yashodhara Bagchi, Jadavpur University delivered the Lecture. Prof. Sanjib Ghosh, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture. Prof. Minoti Roy, Calcutta University was invited as Chief Guest.
3. The Third lecture of '**Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture Series**' of NCERT on '**Contemporary India and Ambivalent Legacy of Romantic Nationalism**' was organized on 21st December, 2009 at PLT-1 Hall of Presidency College. The Eminent Indian Historian Prof. Deepesh Chakraborty from USA delivered the Lecture. Prof. Amitava Chatterjee, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture. Prof. Karuna Sindhu Das, Vice Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University was invited as Chief Guest.
4. The Fourth lecture of '**Sri Aurobindo Memorial Lecture Series**' of NCERT on '**Publishing in India : New Dimensions**' was organized on 31st August, 2010 at Derozio Hall of Presidency College. The famous writer and publisher Urmila Bhutalia from Delhi University delivered the Lecture. Prof. Amitava Chatterjee, Principal, Presidency College presided the Lecture. Smt. Sweta Uppal, Chief Editor of NCERT and Shri Hemant Kumar, Editor of NCERT were also invited on the occasion.

Workshop :

1. **National Workshop of Neo Non-Hindi Speaking Hindi Writers** was organized jointly with Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India from 3rd February to 10th February, 2010 at Presidency College. Forty eight writers from different states & fifty six writers from state attended the eight day long national workshop.
2. **State Workshop on 'Mother Tongues : Marginalized Language-Cultures of West Bengal'** was organized jointly with Comparative Literature Department, Jadavpur University and North-Bengal University on 13th March, 2014 at North-Bengal University, Siliguri. Prof. Ganesh Devi, Prof. B.P. Kesari, Prof. Giidhariram Ganjhu, Prof. Dipak Roy, Bengali Department, North-Bengal University were the Speakers. The workshop mainly focused on the development of Sadri language of North Bengal. Faculty members of Language departments of North Bengal University and students attended the day long workshop.

Exhibition & other Activities :

1. Exhibition on '**Satyagrah : Ek Anant Yatra**' organized jointly with GSDS, New Delhi on the occasion of centenary of Satyagrah from 6th February to 8th February 2008 at Derozio Hall of Presidency College.

2. Exhibition on '**Life & Works of Sri Aurobindo**' on the occasion of centenary of 'Banga Parva' in the life of Sri Aurobindo organized jointly with NCERT, New Delhi & Shri Aurobindo Ashram of Podicherry from 1st August to 3rd August, 2008 at Derozio Hall of Presidency College.
3. Exhibition on '**Women Education In Bengal**' organized jointly with NCERT, New Delhi from 26th March to 27th March 2009 at PLT-I of Presidency College.
4. Exhibition on '**India of My Dream**' organized jointly with GSDS, New Delhi from 21st December to 22nd December, 2010 at PLT-I of Presidency College.
5. Exhibition on '**India of My Dream**' organized jointly with GSDS, New Delhi from 28th May to 30th May, 2010 at Gandhi Center of Presidency College.
6. Exhibition on '**Women Education In Bengal**' and '**India of My Dream**' organized jointly with NCERT, New Delhi from 31st Sept. to 2nd Sept., 2010 at Derozio Hall.
7. The drama '**Ashoka : The Last War**' directed by **Bhanu Bharati**, noted dramatist & Ex Director of NSD, New Delhi was staged on 7th February 2008 at Derozio Hall.
8. The drama '**Bhor**' directed by noted dramatist **Usha Ganguly** was staged on 9th February 2010 at Derozio Hall of Presidency College.
9. Film show of a Bangladeshi documentary film '**Potrait of Jihad**' directed by Shahriyar Kabir and a Bangladeshi film '**Chitra Nadir Pare**' by Tanveer Mokammel were organized by Gandhi Center on 18th September, 2010 at Derozio Hall.