

Seminar focuses on regional literary traditions and Indian intellectual systems

The two-day event was held as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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A seminar hosted by the Department of English of Pondicherry University put the spotlight on the contributions of regional literary traditions to Indian intellectual systems.

The two-day national seminar was held as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark the 75th year of India's independence, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi (Ministry of Education).

Delivering the key-note address, T. V. Kattimani, Vice-Chancellor, Central Tribal University of Andhra Pradesh, emphasised the relevance of the seminar's theme and explained the need to include Indian knowledge systems in the curricula of schools and colleges. India's rich cultural traditions and literary works were repositories of knowledge ranging from classical philosophy to folk music, he said.



Pondicherry University Vice-Chancellor Gurmeet Singh addressing the seminar on Monday.

In his inaugural address, Gurmeet Singh, Pondicherry University Vice-Chancellor, bemoaned the fact that the modern generation, in large part, remained oblivious to the corpus of knowledge present in the Indian tradition due to the influence of Western values and customs. He regretted that there was a lack of interest among

students to learn about India's vibrant culture. Seminars of this kind were viable solutions to rekindle students' interest in this area and promote its inclusion in mainstream education, he said.

Clement S. Lourdes, Dean, School of Humanities, T Marx, Professor and Head, Department of English, Ujjwal Jana, Associate Profes-

sor, and Binu Zachariah, Associate Professor, also spoke.

The academic sessions of the seminar that followed consisted of three invited lecture sessions and four technical sessions.

Among those who led these sessions were Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Bengali writer-critic, Mohammed Zaman Azurdah, Urdu poet and academician from Kashmir, Vinod Joshi, literary critic in Gujarati language and P. Raja, former Professor of English, Kanchi Mamunivara Centre for Postgraduate Studies & Research, Puducherry.

The four technical sessions saw 20 research papers presented by professors, research scholars and postgraduate students from several leading universities across the country. Amaresh Samantaraya, Registrar i/c Pondicherry University, was the chief guest of the valedictory session.