

Principal Saranathan Endowment Lecture VI

Mr. V. Jayanth, former senior Managing Editor, The Hindu, Chennai, delivered the lecture on "**Influence of Journalism and the Present Status of the Profession**". He recollected his thirty seven long journalism years, with the English daily The Hindu. Though he had no formal training as a journalist, he was shaped by veterans of journalism. He fondly remembered how Mr. G. Kasturi, as editor would improvise his reports. He said that there were over 2000 English publications in this country and in recent times, the demand for journalists had grown. The print media continues to hold sway over journalism and achieves tangible results in many areas. The courts take strong action based on newspaper reports whether they are related to governance or public welfare. For instance, environmental issues like giving access to drinking water to Coke and Pepsi for packaging- which had resulted in ground



water depletion- had been given ample coverage in the print media. When ordinary people have no access to drinking water, multinational companies create wealth for themselves. Highlighting such issues leads to corrective action, thus paving the way for social justice. Mr. V. Jayanth highlighted the distinction between influence of the media and influence on the media. He said that "Paid news" is an unethical phenomenon and one finds a slant in reporting, which is advantageous to an individual or a group. Some journalists succumb to the lure of sponsored trips and resort to either shutting out the news of something or cropping up of a picture of someone. Readers in general have a tendency to read the news item on the right hand side of the page. One may notice an individual featured promptly on this side with regular frequency.

Personal integrity and objectivity are absolutely necessary for fulsome and wholesome reporting. He advised the students to attain proficiency in English, especially grammar and usage. He told them to sustain their reading habit. He felt that better courses in English could make a big difference to the learners. He referred to precis writing and summarizing skills and asked the students to acquire them during their undergraduate days itself. Earlier, the Principal Dr.K.Anbarasu welcomed the gathering and pointed out different Endowment Lectures are arranged by the management and other donors. Dr. D.E. Benet, Associate Professor of English and coordinator proposed a Vote of thanks.

Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture



Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture VII was delivered by **Honourable Justice R. Subramanian, Judge, Madras High Court** and he lectured on "Joy of Education" on 06.01.2018. He differentiated between Education and Qualification : Teacher and Trainer. He noted that the idea that Education is a burden and a boring process is flawed. If students learn to enjoy education, the level of assimilation and expansion of knowledge boundaries would be excellent. He explained how a proactive teacher could transform the young minds and make them love the learning process. He also said that teachers should be creative. He referred to the modern tools of teaching as Edutainment. The Dopamine of the human brain would be activated if there is active interaction between the students and teachers, he added. The Principal Dr. R. Sundararaman, welcomed the gathering. Dr. K. Srinivasan, Vice Principal proposed a Vote of thanks.

Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture VIII

Dr. K. Ganesh, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English, Madras Christian College, Tambaram, was invited to deliver the "Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture VIII" on the 11th of February 2019. He spoke on the topic "Primal Discourses: A Talk on Indigenous Literatures." His talk was focused on the forgotten literatures and histories of the indigenous people. He termed



the natives as story tellers and knowledge keepers who for a long time in the history of the humankind articulated lived truths and imagined possibilities. He pointed out that at some point in time a collective aphasia had set in and we all forgot their contribution to the world of oral literature or memorial literature. "Variously termed as the 'Fourth World Literature', 'Tribal Aesthetics' and 'First Nation Narratives', the indigenous literature is full of everyday and situated practices which are nothing but dynamic epistemologies", he observed. He said, "For the indigenous people memories are important

and their stories are rich in imagination which dissolves spatial order and temporal sequence". He also claimed that the tribal stories were mindful stories and by and large responsive and not reactive. Giving the example of Wayanadan Ramayanam, he told the audience that the tribal people continued to create a palimpsest. Dr. K. Ganesh ended his talk with the assertion that the indigenous literature is "a repository of socio-political cultural memories." Earlier, the Principal Dr. R. Sundararaman welcomed the gathering and recollected the contribution of Principal Saranathan to the growth of the College as its Principal for twenty six long years. Later, Dr.D.E.Benet, Associate Professor of English and coordinator of the programme proposed a formal vote of thanks.

Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture IX

Dr. B. Hariharan, Professor of English and Director of Canadian Studies, Institute of English, University of Kerala was invited to deliver the "Principal Saranathan Memorial Endowment Lecture-IX" on the 16th of March 2020. He spoke on the topic "A View from the Pit of Shakespearean City Spaces". Presiding over the meeting, the principal Dr. R.Sundararaman recollected the rich contributions of Principal Saranathan who put the college in the national map.



The esteemed speaker spoke on the importance of spatial history in the literary works. While doing so, he made an attempt to recall the city life in London. In the first part, he highlighted how London became the centre of commerce and real estate which paved way for the burgeoning population in the 16th century. In literature this period was regarded as the golden age because of the rich output of literary works that transcended genre boundaries. Also, he hinted at how in 1576 theatres were opened for leisure, and how they resulted in cultural experiences through telltale signs of urbanization. Further, he brought out how water supply was given by wooden pipes around 1609, in order to cater to the needs of migrated people from neighboring counties. He also highlighted how books were printed, manufactured and circulated in London during this time, mentioning a handful of contemporary writers.

In the second part of his lecture, he brought alive the settings in Shakespeare's plays, and also gave a brief explanation about the historical plays. Interestingly, he highlighted how Shakespeare was influenced by Italian writers like John Florio a translator and Richard Paul Roe. For this, he cited his most famous play *The Merchant of Venice* as an example. In the third and concluding part, Dr.Hariharan pointed out how Shakespeare's London city is imagined, experienced and read with the help of one's own mind mapping in order to get the essence of Shakespeare and his own time in London. Dr.D.E.Benet, Associate Professor of English and Vice Principal, coordinated the programme.