

Event Report

The Department of English organized a guest lecture on the theme “What is Poetry?” on the 13th of June 2022 in the College Conference Hall. The event was attended by the college students and the faculty of the host Department, including the HoD of History, Dr. Hashim Iqbal, and the convener of D&S and HoD of Kashmiri, Prof Nisar Ahmad Bhat. On the occasion, the college principal, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Lone, welcomed the guest and instructed the students to be attentive to the lecture and take notes of the same. He congratulated the host department for organizing the event to develop the literary taste and appreciation of students in the college. Prof. Arif Hussain Reshi gave a detailed introduction about the resource person. Himself a bilingual poet of English and Urdu, Dr. Sarfaraz Nawaz of Shibli National College Azamgarh delivered a detailed lecture on the process of poetic creation. He shared his personal experiences as a poet and recited various English and Urdu verses to argue that poetry is a medium to create a connection between people; it is an attempt on the poet’s part to give order to the disorder that prevails in the world. At the end of the lecture, there was a poetry recitation by the speaker and the college students. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, presented by the Head of the host Department, Prof. Mohd Israr Ul Haq. Prof. Shahid Yousuf Gilkar moderated the event.

About the Resource Person

Dr. Sarfaraz Nawaz hails from Azamgarh, a very famous district in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Currently, he is Professor in the department of English, Shibli National College Azamgarh. He has taught there for decades. He is a bilingual poet writing both in Urdu and English, and he has published poetry collections in both languages. He is also a very good translator and has translated from Urdu into English and from English into Urdu. While he was at Jamia Millia Islamia for his doctoral research, he became associated with a project on Translating Premchand, and under that project, he translated some of the stories of Premchand into English, published by Penguin as *Premchand: The Complete Short Stories*. He has also translated some of Premchand’s prose pieces included in the anthology, *Premchand on Literature and Life*, published by Akhar Books. His publications include *Nawa e Maghrib: Chand Mashoor Angrazi Nazmon Ka Manzoom Tarjama* (2000), *Iss Chote Se Lamhe Mein* (A Collection of Urdu Poetry) (2008), recipient of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy Award, *Poems at Work* (2015) published by Author’s Press, *Rays of Thought: Selected Urdu Couplets of Anwar Jalalpuri* rendered into English (2017), *The World is Too Much With Us: Essays Concerning Moral Understanding* (translated from Urdu) (2018), *Girmitiya Bharatvanshi: A Play (translated from the Bhojpuri)* (2019). His very recent work of translation is *The True Age of Hazrat Ayesha at the Time of Her Marriage: Misconceptions and doubts* (forthcoming).