IMPS'21

(INTERACTIVE MEET: POETS AND STUDENTS)

REPORT

On the 26th of June, 2021, the department of English, NBBDC, hosted IMPS – Interactive Meet: Poets and students. The event was borne out of the idea to help interested students delve deeper into their poetic selves with the help of three acclaimed poets: TashiChophel, Guru T. Ladakhi and Mona Zote.

Mona Zote, TashiChophel and Guru T Ladakhi, all three established and renowned poets from the Northeast would be working with a few students from the Department of English. The idea was for a poet mentor and their student mentees to interact (pre-event) and their interactions would culminate into an interactive session which was the IMPS. The poets were sent copies of the students' poems prior to the event for them to reflect, ruminate and later provide feedback and suggestions.

On the evening of 26th June 2021, a virtual meet was organized (owing to the pandemic) and the platform was Google Meet. The event was graced by the presence of the principal, Dr. D.Purohit NBBDC, Professor Irshad G Ahmed, Dept of English, Sikkim University, Mr. Robin S Ngangom- poet, professor of English NEHU, Shillong members of the different faculties of NBBGC, the three mentor poets, faculty members- Dept of English, the students and other virtual attendees from all over.

The event was divided into two parts, the first of which would be the introduction, recitation and discussion of the poems submitted by the student poets by their respective mentors. In this manner, Mona Zote had Avinam Manger of 6th Semester under her wing. Neesha Rai and Reema Gurung also of 6th Semester were under Mr.Tashi Chopel while Guru T Ladakhi supervised Yapchungla Bhutia and Cholamoo Lepcha of 4th Semester.

The first half of IMPS was a potpourri of creative minds which reflected in the writings of our students. They shared their poems, discussed their appreciation for poetry, talked about why they write poetry. Each poem had a unique individual voice reflective of the student poet who had written them. After their recital, their mentors took over and discussed their works with them- highlighting key issues like language, imagery and theme. The first half of the event also had new students participating impromptu, stirred by the poetry of their friends which was a welcomed surprise for all. The inputs from the mentor poets were insightful and we hope that our students continue to indulge in their poetic endeavors, work on their mentors' suggestion and deliver powerful verses in the days to come.

The first session ended with a note from the Principal, Dr. Debabrata Purohit and inputs from noted Manipuri poet from Shillong Mr. Robin S Ngangom, and Prof. Irshad Gulam Ahmed, Department of English, Sikkim University. They were very appreciative of the efforts and Prof. Irshad G. Ahmed talked about how the event was a much required relief from the negativity surrounding us during the current pandemic.

The second session of the evening had a delightful musical performances by 4th Semster English Honours students. We had a piano recital by Dawa from the 4th Semester who gave a beautiful rendition of his composition on his keyboards. Agnishya Tamang of 4th Semester entertained the digital audience with her original number- a powerful rap number about the pandemic. Abishek Gurung performed two songs: 'Yaad', a self-composed soulful Nepali number and "Heal the World" which ended the event on a perfect note.

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A few screenshots of IMPS'21



