

Second Lecture of Partition Lecture Series: Report

In continuation with the activities of the Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies, a lecture on Partition was organized on 28th July, 2018 at the Conference Room of the University, NSOU City Campus, Salt Lake, Kolkata. It was an initiative of People's Research Project on Bengali Partition. On this occasion, Professor Shaktinath Jha, an eminent scholar of folklore studies and Baul Fakiri Tradition at Krishnath College Berhampur, Murdhidabad, delivered the special Lecture on "Banglar Lokayoto Sanskriti o Maitri Bhabna: Proshngo Partition". Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor in Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, was the Chairperson for the occasion. The Lecture was attended by lots of scholars and the researcher group of the People's Project on Bengal Partition.

Prof. Shaktinath Jha looked at partition in not with the lenses of religious division; rather, it was divided by some other political issues. It is valid to some extent that may be partition took place in between India and Bangladesh, but we are not divided by cultural ethos. The same kind of cultural ethos is practised by Bangladesh and the more significant part of West Bengal and Assam of India. As an example of this, Prof. Jha has pointed out the reference of Gajir Gaan and Satya pিরer gaan which are sung by both Hindus and Muslims simultaneously irrespective of their religious boundaries. He further stated that Muslim Poets used to compose songs related to Vaishnavism and Radha-Krishna Leela; on the other hand, Vaishnav Poets did not stop to write on Sufi and Islamic songs. His main argument in this lecture is that cultural and religious harmony always prevalent within our society, which we cannot ignore. Prof. Jha emphasized the folk religion of Bengal, which plays a vital role in making our culture composite and united. Folk Poets and Composer could not find the differences between Koran and Puran. Aual, Baul, Darbesh, Sai, Kartabhaja, and Sufi Sadhaks disregarded the fraction of partition in terms of religion, creed, language and geographical boundaries. Prof. has mentioned the lines of Dudu sai, Hason Raja, Jalal Shah, Shah Abdul Karim, Lalon Sai and many more folk poets in his speech to establish his arguments on the partition. According to Professor Shaktinath Jha, Lalon Sai is the supreme master of this field who always rejects religion and projects the supremacy of

Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY



humankind. Lalon Sai says, “Sob loke koy Lalan ki jaat sansare. Lalan bole jaater ki rupdehklam na ei najare.”

It was followed by a question and answer session and ended with vote of thanks from Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor in Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, NSOU. Each lecture of our partition lecture series is uploaded on the website for the global audience. This audio-video lecture will be uploaded soon on our website. Interested people can check our university website to listen to the full lecture.

Coordinator: Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies, School of Humanities, NSOU.

Established by Act (W.B. Act (XIX) of 1997 and Recognised by U.G.C.)

Head Office: DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700064; Phone: 033 40663214

Kalyani Campus, Ghoshpara Station Road, Kalyani – 741235, Phone: - 033 25820130