



CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
School of Business Studies and Social Sciences
in collaboration with
Sahitya Akademi

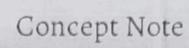
cordially invites you to

A NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY IN CULTURAL STUDIES

Rethinking English
Studies in India:
The Cultural
Studies Turn and
Its Possibilities

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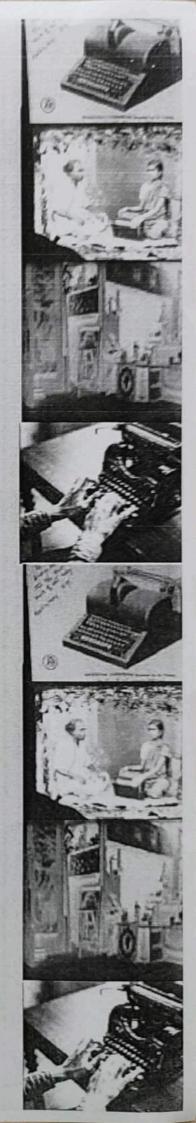
In the late nineties, following the narrative of 'crisis' in English Studies, a radical shift in the way in which English is practiced as a discipline began to emerge. Institutions and departments across India began to make the 'cultural studies' turn by introducing more courses with theoretical and cultural studies orientations. While Cultural Studies as a discipline began to gain ground across the humanities and social sciences departments in the country, years few institutions.

in the country, very few institutions engaged with cultural questions pertinent to the Indian context. With many departments offering courses and degrees in Cultural Studies, with research projects taking the 'cultural turn', as it were, this 'shift' prompts the need to engage with the development of Cultural Studies in India. This symposium seeks to chart the narrative of Cultural Studies in India. It seeks to negotiate with the intellectual histories and the political economies of the development of Cultural Studies as a discipline across India. Through this, the position and location of Cultural Studies today and the newer directions it can chart will also be considered. Most importantly, the symposium aims to

understand the emergentle of a BENN Department of English and Clibral BENN Department of English and Humanines English Studies dis Stopped for Burners of the University) with the new possibilities and tour ectories.







Inaugural Session: 9.00 – 9.45

Welcome Address: Shri S P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore

Inaugural Address: Prof Sanjukta Dasgupta, Convenor, English Board, Sahitya Akademi

Keynote Address: 9.45-10.45
Prof Madhava Prasad, English and Foreign Languages
University, Hyderabad:
"Cultural Studies in India: Current Trends and Future
Possibilities"

Tea Break: 10.50-11.00

Session I: 11.05-12.40

Prof Rita Kothari, Ashoka University, Sonepat: "Despite the Divide: Languages, Regions, Nations"

Prof S V Srinivas, Azim Premji University, Bangalore "What Do We Teach When We Teach Literary and Cultural Studies?"

Lunch Break: 12.45-1.45

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Session II: 1.50-4.00

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Prof Udaya Kumar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi: "Reading and the Turn"

Dr Rashmi Sawhney, CHRIST, Bangalore: "A Cartography of Cultural Studies"

Prof Meena T Pillai, University of Kerala, Trivandrum: "Unlearning English Pedagogy: The Cultural Studies Avatars of William Shakespeare"

Tea Break: 4.00-4.15

Valedictory: 4.15-4.30

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School of Arts and Jumanities







CHRIST (Deemed to be University)
School of Business Studies and Social Sciences
Bannerghatta Road Campus
in collaboration with
Sahitya Akademi
Presents

A National Symposium
On Research Methodology in Cultural Studies
"Rethinking English Studies in India: The Cultural Studies Turn and Its Possibilities"

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Time: 9:00am - 4:30 pm

Venue: Mini-Auditorium, II Floor

## **Bionotes and Abstracts**

### Introduction to the Seminar

In the late nineties, following the narrative of 'crisis' in English Studies, a radical shift in the way in which English is practiced as a discipline began to emerge. Institutions and departments across India began to make the 'cultural studies' turn by introducing more courses with theoretical and cultural studies orientations. While Cultural Studies as a discipline began to gain ground across the humanities and social sciences departments in the country, very few institutions engaged with cultural questions pertinent to the Indian context. With many departments offering courses and degrees in Cultural Studies, with research projects taking the 'cultural turn', as it were, this 'shift' prompts the need to engage with the development of Cultural Studies in India. This symposium seeks to chart the narrative of Cultural Studies in India. It seeks to negotiate with the intellectual histories and the political economies of the development of Cultural Studies as a discipline across India. Through this, the position and location of Cultural Studies today and the newer directions it can chart will also be considered. Most importantly, the symposium aims to understand the emergent role of a new English Studies discipline keeping in touch with the new possibilities and trajectories.

Session One: Inaugural Session

Time: 9:00-11:00 am

Inaugural Address:

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Prof Sanjukta Dasgupta, Former HOD of English and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University, Convenor English Board, Sahitya Akademi.

Sanjukta Dasgupta, Dr. Speaker: About Professor and Former Head, Dept of English and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta Univers ity is a poet, critic and translator. She is the recipient of numerous national and international grants and fellowships and has lectured, taught and read her poems in India, Europe and the USA and was the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Writers Prize, United Kingdom.

Apart from her books on literary studies, media and gender studies, translations and Tagorestudies, her articles, poems, short stories and translations have been published in journals o f distinction in India and abroad. She is a member of the General Council of Sahitya Akademi New Delhi, and Convenor of the English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Her Areas of Interest include Postcolonial theory and texts, Colonial and Postcolonial women's writing, Gender Studies, Migration and Diaspora Studies, Literature and Film studies, Women and/in Indian Films, Translation studies, Creative Writing. Some of her published books are The Novels of Huxley and Hemingway: A Study in Two Planes of Reality, Manimahesh (translation), The Indian Family in Transition (co-edited SAGE). Media, Gender and Popular Culture in India: Tracking Change and Continuity ( co- author, SAGE, 2012), Radical Rabindranath: Nation, Family and Gender in Tagore's Fiction and Films. (co-author, Orient Blackswan 2013), Abuse and Other Short Stories (Dasgupta Book Company, 2013) Claiming Space for Australian Women's Writing (co-edited. Publisher: Pan Macmillan, USA), 2017.

Key Note Address: "Cultural Studies in India: Current Trends and Future Possibilities" Prof. Madhava Prasad, Professor of Cultural Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad.

About the Speaker: M. Madhava Prasad is Professor of Cultural Studies at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. He is the author of Ideology of the Hindi Film (1998), Cine-politics (2014) and essays on Indian culture, society and politics. At present he is engaged in research on language politics in colonial and independent India, and contemporary independent cinemas of India.

Session Two: Panel Discussion

Moderator: Gaana J

Time: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

"Despite the Divide: Languages, Regions, Nations": Prof. Rita Kothari, Professor of English, Ashoka University, Sonepat.

Abstract: The title of this paper is inspired by Before the Divide: Hindi and Urdu Literary Culture ed. Francesca Orsini (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2011) which looks at how the perceived and performed separateness of 'Urdu' and 'Hindi' falsify the pre-colonial multilingual cultures in North India. This paper subscribes to that argument without implying a sharp divide

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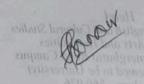
before and after Partition. At the same time, forms of nationalism and displacement around the historical marker of Partition do form one of the contexts contributing to linguistic ruptures. Languages can become divisive through exclusion of not only what people say, but how they say things. For instance, the English language results in a far more divisive politics of class than any language in South Asia. At the same time, it is also the most common site of consensus and desire. The borders of language mobilize syntax and vocabulary to align with particularities of caste, community, religion and nation. Apart from complicating "language" in the context of territorial division, I also wish to provide experiences of languages, who like people, undergo exile and minoritization, divestment of purpose and legitimacy, and polarization of history. Some, like entrepreneurs during wars, gather importance. Partition, or rather the specifics forms of nationalisms in India and Pakistan, had both effects.

About the Speaker: Rita Kothari is a multilingual translator and author. She has to her credit the monographs, Translating India: The Cultural Politics of English (St.Jerome Publishing, U.K.2003) The Burden of Refuge: Sindhi Hindus of Gujarat (Orient Blackswan, 2007) and Memories and Movements: Borders and Communities in Banni, Kutch (Orient Blackswan, 2013). . She has also translated numerous works, including the Dalit novel Angaliyat: The Stepchild (Oxford University Press, 2003) Unbordered Memories: Partition Stories from Sindh (Penguin India, 2009), Ila Arab Mehta's Vaad translated as Fence (Zubaan-Chicago Press, 2015) and Agnipariksha: An Ordeal Remembered. The last two are based on religious segregation in Gujarat. Her recent translations include K.M.Munshi's The Glory of Patan and The Lord and Master of Gujarat (with Abhijit Kothari) and The King of Kings (Penguin India, forthcoming). She is a co-editor of Chutnefying English: The Phenomenon of Hinglish (Penguin India, 2010) and Decentring Translation Studies: India and Beyond (John Benjamin Press, NL, 2009). A former Fulbright Visiting Faculty, Ford Foundation Fellow, recipient of the Bellagio Residency, and Vani Distinguished Translator, Kothari has had many distinctive forms of recognition for her scholarship on translation, partition and regions of Gujarat and Sindh. Kothari is Professor of English at Ashoka University.

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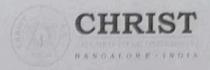
"What Do We Teach When We Teach Literary and Cultural Studies?": Prof. S V Srinivas, Professor at the School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore.

Abstract: The 'cultural studies turn' in English Departments has tended to overlook an important question that energised debates on the 'crisis in English Studies' in the 1980s and 1990s: what is the relevance of our discipline? As teachers and researchers, we are only be short-changing ourselves by assuming that upgraded inventories of texts address questions of relevance. While our engagement with contemporary texts might be good publicity for our









discipline, what we can bring to the study of these texts is not always clear. Neither is it the most important question before us when we design new courses. Complicating matters further, our

students tend to be more familiar, and deeply immersed, in the popular forms that we incorporate in our courses than we are. What then are we taking into the classroom, and our students from it, when we teach literary and cultural studies?

About the Speaker: S.V. Srinivas is a professor at the School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. He teaches courses in literature, media and the common curriculum. He has been associated with the Bengaluru-based Centre for the Study of the Culture and Society (CSCS) in various capacities since 1998 and is now one of its trustees. His research focuses on the intersections between popular culture and mass politics. He is an author, and editor, of books on Indian cinema and media.

Session Three: Panel Discussion

Moderator: Renu Elizabeth Abraham

Time: 1:45 pm - 4.00 pm

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"Reading and the Turn": **Prof. Udaya Kumar:** Professor at the Centre for English Studies, JNU, New Delhi.

Abstract: The 'crisis' in English studies in India in the late eighties and since—as well as the series of changes this introduced in practices of teaching and research—resulted in a change in the character of the discipline. This is visible in the difficulty we often face in defining the object of the discipline and in the transformation of many English departments into spaces of work in interdisciplinary humanities. It would be useful to describe more precisely how the turn towards critical theory and cultural studies impacted the self-perception of English studies and the discipline's relationship to the social sciences, Indian languages, and the political domain. This paper focuses on practices of reading prevalent in English departments after this turn, and tries to understand the ways in which we analyze and reconfigure literary texts and deploy theoretical arguments. The aim is to identify the moves and gestures authorized by current practices in the discipline and see if the present moment offers resources for modifying the habits of critical reading that have come to define English studies in recent decades.

About the Speaker: Udaya Kumar is Professor at the Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has previously worked at the University of Delhi, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, and Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. His areas of research include death and contemporary culture, vernacular idioms of social thought, and modes of publicness in India. His publications include *The Joycean Labyrinth: Repetition, Time and* 

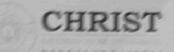
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Tradition in 'Ulysses', Writing the First Person: Literature, History and Autobiography in Modern Kerala, and essays in English and Malayalam on literary and cultural theory and modern writing.

### IV

"Cartography of Cultural Studies": Dr. Rashmi Sawhney, Associate Professor in Film & Cultural Studies, CHRIST, Bangalore.

Abstract: Over the last few decades, Cultural Studies has become a global phenomenon, with various regions claiming their own particular narratives and histories of a National Cultural Studies. In this presentation, I look at the specificities and range of some of these national inflections, to explore how a cartography of Cultural Studies might enable us to imagine a topography of the Indian 'national'.

About the Speaker: Rashmi Sawhney writes on film and visual culture and occasionally curates media-based exhibitions. She is contributing editor of special issues on South Asian Science Fiction (2015) and South Asian Film & Video Art (2018), both published by Intellect, UK. In 2017, Rashmi co-curated Video Vortex XI and Future Orbits as collaterals of the Kochi Muzeris biennial, as well as SET.RESET — an exhibition on Cinema and Labour — held in Saligao, Goa. She is currently working on an anthology on film and video in post 1990s India, which will be published in Mandarin.

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"Unlearning English Pedagogy: The Cultural Studies Avatars of William Shakespeare": Prof. Meena T Pillai, Professor, Institute of English, and Director, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Kerala.

Abstract: This paper, by using Shakespeare as a trope, hopes to look at the trajectory traced by English literary education in India, focusing specifically on its contemporary shifts, in the process attempting to analyse how the colonial ideologies replicated in the English classrooms of India even after political independence from Britain seem to have undergone a paradigm shift of late. This has been characterized by what can be called a cultural studies turn in the curriculum that aspires to at least partly dismantle the interpellation of the student as the civilized native, and read the canon critically and subversively, therefore radically critiquing the very idea of a universal or apolitical canon. The rise of discourses around identity politics, casteism, sexism, racism and homophobia, with a growing awareness that the political and the cultural cannot be delinked from epistemological formations has rendered academic practices more complex and political.

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About the Speaker: Dr. Meena T Pillai is Professor, Institute of English, and Director, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Kerala. A Fulbright Doctoral Fellow to the Ohio State University, Columbus, a Shastri Fellow to the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University, and a Commonwealth Fellow at the Media Studies Centre, University of Sussex. Publications include Women in Malayalam Cinema: Naturalising Gender Hierarchies (Ed. 2010) by Orient Blackswan and a chapter in the Routledge Handbook of Indian Cinemas (Routledge, London, 2013) and Beyond Bollywood: The Cinemas of South India (Harper Collins 2017) She has published widely on gender and cinema, and her essays have been part of books and anthologies by many international publishers including Sage, Oxford University Press, Routledge (London), Harper Collins, Cambridge University Press, the Economic and Political Weekly.

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# CHRIST (Deemed to be University) School of Business Studies and Social Sciences

Bannerghatta Road Campus in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi

Presents

A National Symposium
On Research Methodology in Cultural Studies
"Rethinking English Studies in India: The Cultural Studies Turn and Its Possibilities"

Thursday, 14 February 2019 Time: 9:00am – 4:30 pm

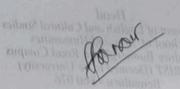
Session One: Inaugural Session

Time: 9:00-11:00 am

Venue: Mini-Auditorium, II Floor

### Schedule

Sl.No	Event	Time
1	General Welcome and Lighting of the Lamp	9:00-9:10
2	Welcome Address: Shri S P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore	9:10-9:15
3	Introduction to the Seminar: Renu Elizabeth Abraham, School of Business Studies and Social Sciences, CHRIST, Bangalore.	9:15-9:20
4	Inaugural Address: Prof Sanjukta Dasgupta, Former HOD of English and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University, Convenor English Board, Sahitya Akademi.	9:20-9:35
5	Address by Dr Jyoti Kumar, Associate Dean, School of Business Studies and Social Sciences, CHRIST, Bangalore.	9:35-9:45









6	Key Note Address by Prof Madhava Prasad, Professor of Cultural Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad: "Cultural Studies in India: Current Trends and Future Possibilities"	9:45-10:45
1125	Tea Break 10:45-11:00	

Session Two

Moderator: Gaana J

Time: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Venue: Mini-Auditorium, II Floor

Sl. No	Speakers and Paper Titles	Time
1	Prof Rita Kothari, Professor of English, Ashoka University, Sonepat: "Despite the Divide:	11:05-11:50
	Languages, Regions, Nations"	
2	Prof S V Srinivas, Professor at the School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore:	11:55-12:40
	"What Do We Teach When We Teach Literary and Cultural Studies?"	Standard Little and a
	Lunch Break 12:45 - 1:45	

Session Three

Moderator: Renu Elizabeth Abraham

Time: 1:45 pm - 4.00 pm

Venue: Mini-Auditorium, II Floor

Sl. No	Speakers and Paper Titles	Time
1	Prof Udaya Kumar: Professor at the Centre for English Studies, School of Language Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, New Delhi: "Reading and the Turn"	1:50-2:35
2	Dr Rashmi Sawhney, Associate Professor in Film & Cultural Studies, CHRIST, Bangalore: "A Cartography of Cultural Studies"	2: 35-3:15
3	Prof Meena T Pillai, Professor, Institute of English,	3:15-4:00









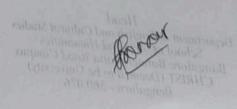
and Director, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Kerala: "Unlearning English Pedagogy: The Cultural Studies Avatars of William Shakespeare"	
Tea Break 4:00-4:15	

Session 4: Valedictory

Time: 4:15-4:30

Venue: Mini-Auditorium, II Floor

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1.	Concluding Remarks on the Symposium: Prof Sanjukta Dasgupta	4:15-4:25
2	Vote of Thanks (CHRIST): Arun D M	4:25-4:30









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A National Symposium
On Research Methodology in Cultural studies
"Rethinking English Studies in India: The Cultural Studies Turn and Its
Possibilities"
Thursday, 14 February 2019

**Documentation Report** 

Session One



Lighting of the Lamp

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Moral

The symposium began with the lightning of lamp by Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, convener of the English Board, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. Jyothi Kumar, Associate Dean, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), School of Business Studies and Social Sciences, Shri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore and Prof. Renu Elizabeth Abraham, Coordinator of the Symposium, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore.



Introductory Speech by Prof. Renu Elizabeth Abraham

Professor Renu. E. Abraham began her speech by welcoming all the esteemed speakers, the faculty and students from other Universities, and elaborated on the idea of 'The Cultural Turn' that requires 'rethinking'. She deliberated on the crisis that surrounds the disciplines of English and Cultural Studies, while mapping a link of its reflection on the changing syllabi, as well as the question of its reception and recognition as discourses entrenched in the cultural spectrum.

She pondered over the issues of the orientation of syllabus of a BA Honours Program in English and questioned the very use of the course name in singularity as opposed to using the term English Studies. She further explored the implications of the 'cultural turn' that English studies as a discipline has taken and engaged with the emergent face of this growth within the domain of a classroom.

In conclusion, she emphasized on the significance of 'relooking at the legacies of the cultural turn in the Indian context' and opened the floor for deliberation by the speakers and participants.

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Inaugural Address by Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta

Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, who served as the Former HOD of English and Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, Calcutta University, and is now the Convenor, English Board, at the Sahitya Akademi denotes a sense of togetherness as Sahitya is a word borrowed from Sanskrit, means a literary composition, whereas Akademi, on the other hand, means an assembly of men who are interested in the subject, is borrowed from Greek. This, in turn, points out how Sahitya Akademi, right from its etymological meaning to its working is committed towards providing a worldly perspective on works of literature around the world. She elaborated on the etymological issue of English Studies, as to whether it should be called English Studies or Cultural Studies, has been deliberated on for well over 20 years. There see between the two disciplines in Sahitya Akademi as she points out how, when cultural studies emerged as an area of study, Sahitya Akademi had helped provide to the discussion with the help of eminent writers like Partha Chatterjee, Aravind

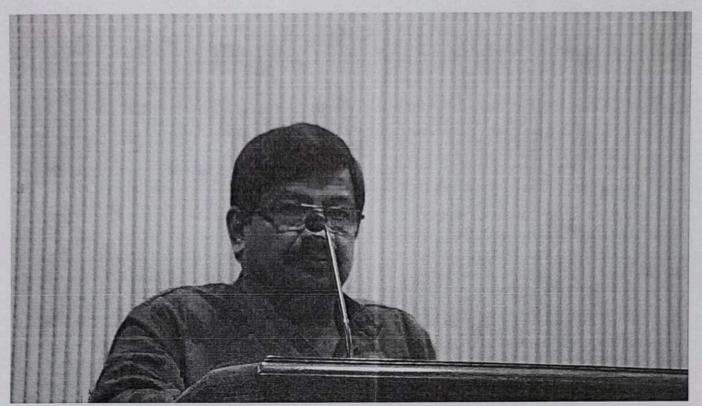
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Rajgopal and many others who helped pen a book titled, "Discourse, Democracy and Difference: Perspectives of Community, Politics and Culture" wherein the book discussed politics, nationalism, purdah, subalterns history and migrant narratives.

Cultural studies, she said, is an interdisciplinary field that looks at how social institutions shape culture which has since been an extremely explored subject by many people wherein it helps to throw light in areas like literary criticism, art criticism media, war, trauma, as well as several other fields. Its central concerns are race or ethnicity, class and gender. She also said that believes that cultural studies is not only a cross-disciplinary subject, but is also a supradisciplinary project that recognizes societal forces and disruptions by critiquing hegemonic and counter-hegemonic discourse. Cultural studies have opened the spectrum of debate that used to get a lot of discouragement during its initial stages as it chose to look at areas like: Gender and Sexuality in Literary Texts, Critique of LGBTQIA+ texts, Diasporic literature, Bengali Literature, and many other areas. Due to this, one can see that there has been a reduction in the ardent devotion to canonical writers like Chaucer, Shakespeare, John Donne, Milton, Shelley along with many other stalwarts of the canon which, most PhD and Masters students choose to write on. The field of English Studies has become multicultural wherein it has provided space for communities that are often ignored because of Eurocentrism to be explored under the light of literary studies. Here, English studies have gone through a paradigmatic shift from the wellknown racial boundary of superiority and inferiority and the positioning of white and black to a discipline that has rectified its mistake and has welcomed all cultures from around the world. She concludes, by stating that the interdisciplinary approach of cultural studies has served as the link between human intelligence and artificial intelligence.

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Welcome Address: Shri S P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore

Shri S P Mahalingeshwar began his welcome address by speaking of the connection between Sahitya Akademi and CHRIST (Deemed to be University), that has been present since the very first National Seminar in the year 2016. He spoke of the shift that is slowly taking place, wherein, English Studies is slowly shifting to the larger discipline of Cultural Studies.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Renu Elizabeth Abraham, and Dr. Jyothi Kumar for enabling such an enlightening experience to take place within an academic institution, bridging the gap between budding academic scholars and established scholars by bringing them together through such an enterprise.

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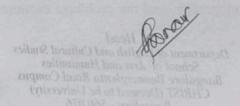
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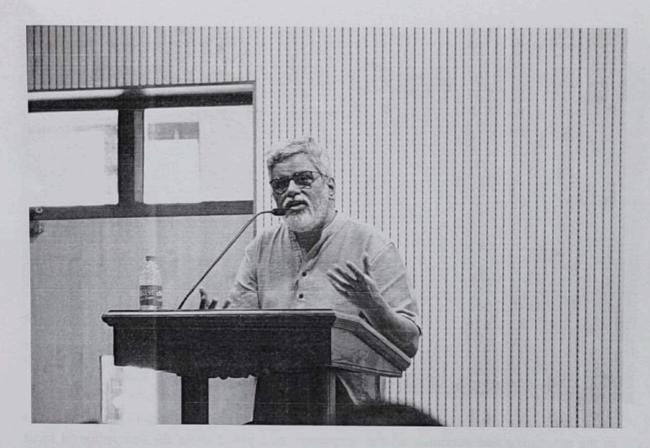


Addressing the Gathering by Dr. Jyothi Kumar

Dr. Jyothi Kumar's speech began with her delivering gratitude towards various people involved in the structuring and execution of the symposium. She talked about the conception of ideas which took time to materialize and recalled the collaborations that Christ (Deemed to be University) has had with Sahitya Akademi which has been an enriching experience for both the organisations.

She spoke about the ownership that English Cluster holds over the symposiums that relate to the questions of cultural studies and aspired for the transcendence of the same across disciplines for the benefit of the knowledge exploration of the students. She also discussed the conception and materialization of MA in English and Cultural Studies as a course in the Bannerghatta Campus and the impact that such conferences could have on the growth and development of students.





Key Note Address by Prof Madhava Prasad, Professor of Cultural Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad:

"Cultural Studies in India: Current Trends and Future Possibilities"

Professor Madhava Prasad, Professor of Cultural Studies, EFLU, Hyderabad, spoke on Cultural Studies in India: Current Trends and Future Possibilities, beginning with the importance of reflecting on the state of the discipline in contemporary times, and the differences we can see, especially within a multi-cultural space like India; reconsidering and refashioning translations and their history.

We must envision, he said, the destiny of Cultural Studies, not its continuation, and explore in great detail the what, why, and how of various conditions in order to explore differences. The differences, he says, are what make each culture unique. Distinctions within cultures are also important, as Cultural Studies stems from several other departments, for example, Sociology and Anthropology, stake claims over the discipline due to its foundations lying within them.

Furthermore, he brought into context, What is Cultural History by Peter Burke, who speaks of culture as an object of historiography, and the problems encountered within the discipline are

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very closely connected to those faced by Anthropology as well, and that the primary qualifying fact that of distance. Distance, Prof. Prasad elaborates, is geographical, or as he puts it, geodistance. Going back to Burke, he quotes Burke's idea of the past as another country in the sense that it legitimizes its investigations, like that of archaeology.

Cultural Studies hence, breaks with it, by claiming to be the study of here and now, which we understand to be contemporary culture. Thus, Cultural Studies is an enquiry into meanings that prevail in our own time.

The idea of culture at a distance is so much different from that of the Western scholar, simply because the idea of popular culture within academia is far different from the truth; one can be seen speaking of Calendar Art as the art of the people, in order to legitimise them, but not on something like Warli Art, which is more widespread in contemporary culture. Social conditions, he elaborated, in India, get in the way of conceiving Cultural Studies the same way that it is conceived at The Birmingham Centre.

Educating the spirit is the main function, he said, of University education in the field of Humanities. University is the main dialectic of knowledge production and dissemination. Not just knowledge dissemination, but arguments through the creation of papers, and research, that looks like knowledge production.

National spirit is something that educating the masses will bring, due to the character of Indian nationality, the English Department has been the site of educating the spirit.

He also pointed out that functionality is dominant, just like the practice of relevance. Practical issues for the discipline of Cultural Studies is a challenge of language, language in which we conduct research.

Therefore, he concluded by saying that, Cultural Studies has no future unless it becomes institutionalised and incorporated into other Humanities disciplines.

Session Two

Moderator: Ms Gaana J

Time: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

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Prof. Rita Kothari

"Despite the Divide: Languages, Regions, Nations"

The second speaker of the day, Prof. Rita Kothari, Professor of English, Ashoka University, Sonepat spoke on the topic: "Despite the Divide: Languages, Regions, Nations". Her talk was originally meant to be reading of a chapter from a book she is currently writing. The chapter looks at the conditions prevailing in the Indian subcontinent in the wake of the Partition in terms of linguistic reconfiguration. She intended to engage questions apart from those pertaining to Urdu and Hindi, such as envisioning the Partition as a war which would lead to the creation of new careers and if some languages thus gained prominence and underwent a restructuring or if some slowly diminished. Following Prof. Madhava Prasad's talk and the subsequent audience interaction, Prof. Kothari diverted the course of her talk and engaged with questions regarding location and on those about the discipline of English Studies. She placed special emphasis on the

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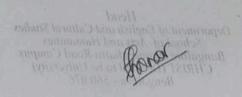
questions of Bhasha which are prominent in current academic discourse. She introduced the audience to said discourse through a paper presentation which pertains to the discourse she is trying to bring in to the field. The paper looked at her position as a member of the discipline of English Studies.

Prof. Rita Kothari questioned if there was a particular strain of thought that accompanies translation and in doing so it would be assumed that there exists one stable meaning of translation which is shared universally. In a very bland and reductive definition by the Anglophone Academy, translation means to carry meaning from one text to another. Implicit in this definition is the notion of a fixed text, a source language and another language, called the target language. A text is assumed to be a physical entity, not a glimpse of conversation. This also assumes that meaning is under the translator's control who knows best hot to carry the meaning across and making their presence as scarce as possible. Asking such questions may be dire or may shake the very foundation of language and translation, however such reflexivity of the discipline is also timely as it dissociates translation from a perspective that reduces it to a mechanical and secondary activity.

Prof. Kothari also spoke about how translations work as a metaphor of a metaphor. One culture, which is represented in a text, and then undergoes translation, thus, becoming a metaphor for the culture it is translated into. She spoke about the how translation studies should be separated from English studies and be treated as a discipline in its own right owing to its owing to its set of issues it needs to face. Prof. Kothari mentioned that culture comes with cultural residue because translations represent a whole culture.

Prof. Kothari brought in the concept of centre v/s periphery in terms of language and culture. She spoke about how there are cultures which do not have any mainstream representation unlike languages such as Bangla, Hindi, among others and theorized that cultural translation would help incorporate these under-represented cultures into mainstream ideas.

Professor Kothari explained the relationship between languages like Gujarati that have contributed to the formation of state identity or have been the nucleus of the state's formation in contrast to languages like Sindhi which has been a DE territorialized language since the Partition and remains marginalized in linguistic and cultural imaginations of India. In this example, Gujarati or languages like it would assume a hegemonic role over languages like Sindhi even though to a large extent, especially in a central context, English remains dominant over Indian



languages. She continued by saying that such hierarchies should be an important part of discourses on translation and would diversify the context of translation politics.

Moreover, she continued, translators emerged out of specific historical circumstances and the texts they chose to translate have all been thrust upon them and may have a larger context which when articulated, add substance to the discussions on the cultural politics of translations.

Lastly, she went back to her original question if something 'original' truly exists. To substantiate, she gave the example of Ashwini Bhatt who translated English works such as Sydney Sheldon into Gujarati and later started to published 'originals' as translations.

Prof. Rita Kothari's talk was enlightening and opened the audience to new avenues in the discourses in English Studies and cultural politics.



Prof. S.V. Srinivas, "What Do We Teach When We Teach Literary and Cultural Studies?"

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Prof S V Srinivas, Professor at the School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, began with exploring cultural studies within cinema, as he switched from English Literature to popular cinema. He questioned what he took from the discipline of English Literature to his current field of study. He began his talk by analyzing fan culture wherein he pointed out how often fans send suicide letters to their favourite actors or actresses, and how fan culture has been a masculine entity in India with complex reference to caste and political mobilization because it was something that was related to making star politicians. The Fan culture phenomenon has always been an event that has not lessened in its terms of the number of fans. He spoke about the link between the audience, the actors, and the kind of work that they do. For himself, he was unable to envision the liveliness of film as that decade was coloured with matters of Mandal Commission.

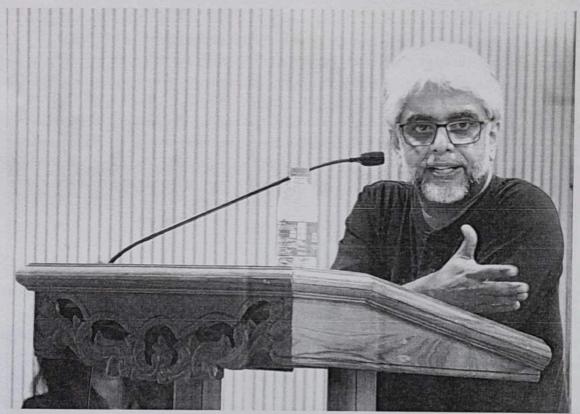
He also pointed out how the English department had anxieties within it; to remain contemporary while absorbing the world from outside. Close readings of texts helped him apply them to areas outside the discipline as well. Initially, the discipline was extremely elitist in nature. Syllabi in universities had not been changed since its inception or even if it has, they have not gone beyond modern literature. This brings back the question of relevance wherein one studies novels or subjects that hold no importance or relevance in the present day and age. If one is studying English Literature, one learns works that do not belong to one's country and that are not relevant to one's culture. This way, works of Indian authors have always been pushed into shadow as they had to make way for the works of canonical authors. During the 1990s, while the field was expanded to include contemporaries, we are exposed to a lot more aspects that are otherwise veiled by the permanence of canonical authors. Because of this, one does not do much English Literature. Syllabi rarely have Chaucer and even if they do have Shakespeare, it's not to an extent where one only delves into Shakespearean works. English department discovers the pleasure of unravelling works that had been excluded from the literary canon. Now, one focuses on cultivating sensibilities. This could either mean one becomes radical or one becomes passive. To illustrate the passivity, he cited an example of Mr Bean who sits before a painting and goes to sleep. In conclusion, he points out how English Studies has become interdisciplinary in nature and because of this, the qualification one requires to work in an English department has and still is a dilemma.

Session Three

Moderator: Ms Renu Elizabeth Abraham



Time: 2:15-4:50



Prof Udaya Kumar: Professor at the Centre for English Studies, School of Language Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, New Delhi: "Reading and the Turn"

Prof. Kumar started his speech by remarking that engaging in a conversation about Cultural Studies brings home a generational feeling as matters were quite different 20 years ago. With reference to the 'crisis' of English Studies, Kumar questioned, who it was a crisis for. He pointed out that, for people who engaged with English Studies during its genesis period in India, they did not feel like they were in crisis mode. In addition to this, English Studies has evolved in such a manner that one is bound to have an updated syllabus whenever they can. He said that he believes that being a part of the English department is ensuring that you develop into a different kind of a person. In becoming an English student, there is ambiguity around what skills one is trained to possess. He cited an example of how a PhD student, in his thesis, provided a capacity to be affected by literature and hence, the perceptivity for literature became a notable characteristic that most literature students are bound to possess. Inherently, having been a literature student 20 years ago, ideally, meant someone who wanted to be inspired. Despite this,

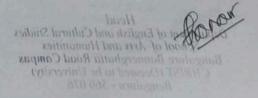
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one found themselves within a narrow framework wherein they could only work on the canon writers in order to fit under English Studies. This, he remarked, would generate a sense of affective loneliness as one would be writing for an International community as there are a few percentages in India that is a keen audience for works regarding the canonical authors. Due to this affective loneliness, one may not have a research community. However, one cannot always point to colonialism in relation to this. Nationalism has a huge part to play in this along with the spiritual nature. These themes look back at a state of intensity which serves the purpose of functioning as a hallmark in the practice of the disciplinary studies.

As the journey of change started in the late nineties, Kumar spoke on how this was initiated with the help of feminist scholars against the male domination of the canon. Following this, came the post-colonized critics who pointed out the white domination of the canon. Out of this, then emerged theory which was met with a lot of resistance during that period of time. However, theory created a new reason for excitement and a heightened sense of pleasure. Most students wanted to work with writers they had an affinity with, which inadvertently changed into picking out works or authors that one would want to do a critical operation, wherein it would be unpacked, torn open and understood thoroughly. At the same time this can coexist wherein one can have an affinity towards the writer and yet, one may have a conflictual relationship with one of their works. This is explored through a critical operation. Udaya Kumar seeks to explore how reading practices have changed over time. Initially, people could easily quote quotes from English poets and authors. Memorizing phrases, quotes and at times, paragraphs became a tradition in India which serves a purpose in meaning-making. He elaborates on how sign, signified and signified manage to play an extremely important role in meaning-making wherein one can see that what is naturalized by the text is de-naturalised in a manner. One must demonstrate why or how the text does not have the exclusions if not, it will fall apart. This is a very popular and powerful way of looking at a text. The second approach, he said, is to see what the text is trying to "invincible-ize" or cover up. One will have to look at the text's attempt to cover up incoherence. This would help in unravelling the text's subversive nature. This is how most analyses work, wherein they try to look at the exclusions. Some novels do not address a particular section of the population. This exclusion can be seen as an exercise of power. The absence of mention itself is assimilated into the problem of repression, as it fails to represent the world as it actually is. This can severely restrict the kind of work one can do with a text. In theatre studies and film studies which have textual readings involved, it is difficult to practice these readings without paying attention to code engagement or the institution that the phenomena belong to.



He concluded by discussing the agency of the author, and stating that one of the challenges faced by Cultural Studies is that of the overarching agency that a discipline like Anthropology holds above it.



Dr. Rashmi Sawhney on the Cartography of Cultural Studies

Dr. Rashmi Sawhney chose to initiate her talk by responding to the various ideas that emerged in talks preceding her, thereby switching from her initial topic and ideating more spontaneously to the whole discussion. She deliberated on the topic from the peripheries of Cultural Studies and utilised her discipline of Cinema Studies in order to channelise her responses by employing the concept of distance in comprehending a certain situation which in realms of Cinema is understood as a 'Zoom Out'.

She deliberated upon four broad areas:

1. The Question of Disciplines

Dr. Sawhney talked about the formation of disciplines and explores the objectives of it in terms of creating a classified understanding of the world primarily. She pondered over the division of various disciplines into separate compartments and moved on to talk about the 'Education of the

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Spirit' and traced its history to 14<sup>th</sup> Century Latin America where the term 'Artist's Liberal' is a preparation for the masses for 7 attainments towards intellectual enlightenment. She talked about the freedom associated with this very idea and mapped the trajectory of the kind of critical capacity that emerges within the domain of liberal arts.

She then moved on to talk about the history of knowledge production in the Indian context and deliberated on the two factions of knowledge that existed, Kala meaning Arts and Vigyan meaning Sciences and spoke about the animosity that has emerged between Sciences and Arts in the recent times. She discussed the solidification of disciplines as territorial boundaries and its connection to organisation of knowledge, thus leading to the crisis of emancipation and repression.

Dr. Sawhney also made references to Prof. S. V. Srinivas's presentation and brought out the debate of specialization. She discussed the dilemma that students often go through in terms of situating themselves within a corpus of knowledge production and dissemination.

## 2. University as a site of knowledge production

She spoke about the inception of Academies since historical times and its objective to inculcate a kind of modern sensibility. She deliberated upon the university being a site of free speech, thought and actions and questions the pragmatism of it and traces the history of universities that were created in historical times and continue to function in the contemporary era. In this respect, Dr. Sawhney talked about the first University of the world which is the University of Al-Karam in Morocco, founded by a woman called Fatima al-Fihri in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Thus, she discussed how the conception of knowledge as oragnised education existent in the society requires to be reconsidered or refashioned in that sense.

## 3. Distance – The Idea of Journey

She then moved to the topic of the 'Empathetic Person' that Liberal Studies aspires to create and related it to the idea of distance and translation. She explained how translation in French refers to carrying over which then can be reflected upon as a course of action in life and the purpose of education. In this way, the idea of translation can be put alongside the idea of it being almost equivalent to a bodily process. Hence, translation becomes a process of shaping us and our mindset. She referred to Prof. Kothari's talk and discussed how the idea of translation is not centered around a finished or original text. Rather, it focuses on the question of 'text in becoming'.

Dr. Sawhney related this notion to teaching in Universities and referred to curriculum as a medical intervention of sorts which guides an individual's understanding of surviving which is not disruptive in any sense for the world while simultaneously enriching themselves. She also pondered over the unproductivity of the ideological contestation after a certain point and mapped the disjuncture between theory and practice as a primary cause of this. Thus, she proposed that the theory of education in that sense should be able to inculcate a certain kind of practical sensibility within the individual.

She moved over to the topic of Cartography of Cultural Studies and contested the understanding of The Birmingham Center as being the locus of Cultural Studies. She deliberated on the need to revisit the questions of emerging literature in questions of cultural importance. She brought forth various journals of cultural studies from different parts of the world in order to understand the parameters of emerging literature and discusses the relevance of it in adding to the repository of the world.

## 4. The Idea of Apparatus

Dr. Sawhney pointed out to the use of the term 'traverse' which in mathematics refers to a line which connects two parallel lines. She discussed this in relation to the use of the term in context of Cultural Studies and considered the avenues that are opened up by the use of this particular term as being the mediating apparatus in terms of transcending boundaries.

In conclusion, she traced the two modes of traversing distance, one of them being translation and the other one being an ocular mode of cinema. She summed up her ideas about meaning-making and co-habiting the realms of Cultural Studies and ends her elocution on the question of the relationship between the apparatus (inclusive of cinema, literature and universities), texts and the world and the distance between the external and its representation.



Professor Meena T. Pillai "Unlearning English Pedagogy: The Cultural Studies Avatars of William Shakespeare"

The next speaker of the day Prof. Meena T Pillai, Professor, Institute of English, and Director, Centre for Cultural Studies, University of Kerala, delivered a speech on the topic "Unlearning English Pedagogy: The Cultural Studies Avatars of William Shakespeare".

Prof. Pillai started her speech on an anecdotal note, going back to times when English Studies talked about beauty and lightness, neutrality and objectiveness. Afterwards, when Cultural studies loomed at the horizon, it was embraced with passion. Cultural Studies, as a discipline, brought with it, new political perspectives, but, it also involved unlearning many pedagogical exercises that had been a part of English Studies up until then. In her speech she also touched upon the changes that happened within the curriculum in the Indian Universities after Cultural Studies as a discipline gained prominence. On closer examination of the institutional practices and ideologies prevalent in English Studies in India, which has continued its legacy post- independence, it was found that much of this has undergone significant changes in the last three decades. The changes point towards a destabilization of the imperial hegemonic agendas



and that informed the institutionalization of English in India. The socio- economic, cultural and political imperatives of the British rule that made it necessary for laying the foundation of a particular kind of English literary teaching, while also rendering the enlightenment ideals attributed to the colonial modernity highly questionable and constitutive of hegemonic interest. The nearly seamless continuation of colonial English education into nationalist and later post-colonial context with its pedagogical mimicry, rooted in an implicit trust in the emancipatory potential of modernity, starts bursting and showing signs of wear and tear in the 80s and the 90s in India with the rise of Subaltern studies, Women studies and Dalit Studies.

Prof. Pillai proposed looking at Shakespeare as a trope and hoped to look at the trajectory traced by English Literary education in India focusing specifically on its contemporary shifts. In the process of attempting to analyze how the colonial ideologies replicated in English classrooms of India, even after political independence from Britain, we find that it seems to have undergone a paradigm shift of late. This can be referred to as a 'Cultural Studies turn' in the curriculum that ,at least partly, dismantles the interpellation of the student as a civilized native and allows the canon to be read critically and subversively, therefore, radically critiquing the very idea of a universal or apolitical canon.

Hence, the rise of discourses around identity politics, casteism, sexism and homophobia, with a growing awareness that the political and the cultural, cannot be dealing with epistemological formations have rendered academic practices more complex and political.

Even in the 1820s, when the classical curriculum continued to be firmly entrenched in colonial systems, despite many attempts to dismantle its way, English began to be taught in the British- Indian curriculum. It is also being pointed out that English and the study of English literature was an essential subject of examination in Indian universities. AN interesting point in this context is that, with regard to English literature in schools, India partly anticipated the metropolis because the subject was not formally incorporated into the curriculum of English schools until 1871. One of the best examples that comes to mind is the unproblematic way Shakespeare came to be taught in the Indian schools and colleges as a single most legitimate icon of liberal humanist ideals that the English canon embodied. It is indeed fascinating to note that, with regards to English pedagogy in India, post- independence, the study of English language and literature, bifurcated into two streams:

1. The study of language

2. And that of literatures written in English, including that which came of non-British origin

Prof. Pillai continued by saying that the teaching of English Literature incorporates the study of non-British, as well as, what is called, 'Contact literatures'. However, the literature across the country continued to take a non-political stance on the colonial history and hegemonising tendencies of English. Shakespeare continued to be taught in schools and colleges across the country with fervent claims attached to his classical status.

In the 90s, literature went through certain paradigm shifts, especially in the context of economic liberalization. Economic liberalization has had great impact on social, political and cultural spheres of the nation leading to the rise of the urban middle class and its new culture of commodity consumption.

According to Prof. Pillai, not many academic discourses have engaged with the effect liberalization had on Indian academia, like Dalit studies. One of the key points in the curriculum of the post-independence period was Indian writing in English. There was also a pedagogical shift in the teaching of canonical texts, which were being taught in the frame-work of critical pedagogies that challenge their cultural authority, and, also their philosophies, ideologies and aesthetics. What is interesting, she says, in the reading of canonical texts, is the shifting context in which they are read, for example, Othello being read in the context of Omkara.

Finally, she concluded by saying that Shakespeare, as he is reinvented in Indian classrooms today, has to assume different avatars in the contesting terrains of culture and interdisciplinarity in a post-colonial field of study fraught with imperial, national and subaltern epistemologies.



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1729106	APARNA THOMAS
1729107	ARATHY P ESWAR
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1729110	CHRIS TINA DAVID
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1729113	KUTHE SHIVANI DILIP CHHAYA
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1729120	TENZIN BHUTI
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1734074	VISHALAKSHI PANT
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1734077	ZOYA RAJ SINGH
	DIVYASWARI BARDEWA



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1733103	ADITYA SINGH SENGAR
	AGNIDH BARUAH
	ALLAN ABE
	ARAVIND S MENON
	ARUN ENTERRIA
	DRON SHARMA
	GARVIT NARULA
	JEREMY MAJAW
	JOE GLENN FERNANDO
	JOVIE BENSON LYNGDOH
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