

GANDHI BHAWAN
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
CONTEMPORARY CHINESE AND INDIAN POETRY

January 11, 2016

REPORT

As part of the ongoing New Delhi World Book Fair where China is participating as the Guest of Honour Country, Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University organised an Author's Event on 11 January 2016. Indian poets were represented by Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, a noted poet, critic and academic who holds the prestigious Aruna Asaf Ali Chair at the Delhi University and Prof. Anil Kumar Rai, a noted Hindi scholar and formerly visiting professor of Hindi at Peking University, China. Chinese poetry world was represented by Shu Ting (舒婷), the harbinger of Obscure Poetry, Xi Chuan (西川), one of the most celebrated contemporary Chinese poets and Lan lan (蓝蓝), one of the most influential lyrical poets of the present time.

Prof. Anita Sharma, Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan, welcomed the guests by highlighting that the organisation of Author's Event was actually a fruition of efforts made to further enhance the "knowledge exchange" between India and China as emphasised in his speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while inaugurating the Gandhi Study Centre in Fudan University, China in May 2015.

The discussion started with poets talking about their recent creations and chatting about things which have kept them busy of late. Chinese poets especially highlighted their association with India and talked about their earlier visits to India. Shu Ting mentioned that she visited India for the first time in 1989 and always wanted to come back. Lan lan said though it was her first trip but she came "to look for secrets rather than questions". Xi Chuan talked about his long association with Indian poets and intellectuals, and mentioned how he has played an instrumental role in introducing some of the Indian intellectuals to the Chinese readers. Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar mentioned about her visits to China and how she could innately understand the world of Asian women despite the language barrier. Prof. Anil Rai discussed his recent work on Chinese folk tales and conveyed his heartfelt thanks to his friends and students for their help in collecting Chinese folk tales from far flung areas of China. He also briefed everyone about the growing trend of realism in the Hindi literature.

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Discussions were followed by poetry recital. Lan Lan recited Nails, Shu Ting shared A White Swan and Assembly Line with everyone. Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar recited Two Pagoda Poems, Out of the Box, New Life and Animal Instincts. Prof. Anil Rai concluded the session with System, Widow, Memory, To Live or Not in Hindi.

The event was moderated by Ms. Zhao Yani.

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