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The Deep and the Daring: Reading and Teaching Poetry in the 21st Century

(2 October 2013 – 7 October 2013)

'Poetry is at least an elegance and at most a revelation'

We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.

Though Wordsworth declared Poetry as the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge, of late due to many commercial and non-literary reasons Poetry has become a much neglected form of Literature; our contemporary systems of episteme have nonchalantly ignored the role and scope of Poetry in responding to the crises that haunt modern societies. Today the world is in the grips of several divisive forces that have, in the name of religion, nation, caste and community, ripped the rubric of unity and tranquility of our existence. Violence has become an everyday reality of our life. Under such circumstances, it is poetry which has the daring potential to restore sanity in our minds; when political leadership has failed in showing solutions to our problems, invariably we are left with no other option than to get back to the deep and the visionary voice of poetry and seek guidance from its source. Because poetry has this therapeutic and visionary value, it is called the *Garuda* – the divine Eagle – leaping towards the sacred ambrosia. The proposed short term course intends to align the participants along the deeper lines of poetry and thereby explore ways of enhancing the linguistic and the aesthetic sensibilities of students in the 21st century.

An Outline of Course Content:

- **Poetry, Poetics and Pedagogy**
 - Word as Mantra
 - Indian and Western Epics
 - Marga and Desi traditions of Poetry
 - Bhakti Poetry across India
 - Canonical and Commonwealth Poetry
 - Western and Indian Poetics
 - Can Poetry writing be Taught?
 - Local and global in Poetry
 - Translating Poetry
 - Poetry and Aesthetics
 - Teaching Poetry in the Classroom

Resource Persons

Creative writers, academics and experts in the fields of Literature, Literary Studies and Media are invited from different parts of the country to deliver lectures and conduct workshops. Faculty members of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur will also conduct a few sessions/deliver lectures.

How to Apply

Interested candidates teaching in AICTE recognized colleges may send their applications through the Principal/Director of their institute. Registration Forms can be downloaded from Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur website.

Registration Fee

There is no registration fee for the teachers of AICTE approved engineering and management institutes; however, an application fee of Rs.500 (a Demand Draft in the name of **CEP – STC, IIT Kharagpur**) should be enclosed along with the application form. Selected candidates will be provided with train fare and applicable lodging and boarding expenses as per AICTE norms. Participants from other than AICTE approved institutes have to send a DD for Rs.10,000 in the name CEP, IIT Kharagpur.

Lodging and Boarding

Participants will be provided with lodging and boarding facilities within the institute premises.

Contact

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