

NATIONAL SEMINAR

Organized by the Department of English

Ganjam College, Ganjam

Date: 26th & 27th of October, 2022



A National Seminar on “**Ecocriticism and Environmental Ethics**” was organized by the Department of English on the 26th and 27th of October, 2022. The two day seminar was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Prof. Geetanjali Dash, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Berhampur University on 26.10.2022 at 11:30 a.m. After lighting of the lamp the guests were presented bouquets and were welcomed by an opening song sung by the students of the Department of English. Smt. Mamata Padhy, Reader in English, introduced the guests while Dr. Smaranika Hota, Reader and Head, Dept. of English presented the concept of the seminar. Dr. Prabina Kumar Nanda, Principal welcomed all the guests, delegates, media persons, students and members of staff.

The Chief Guest Prof. Geetanjali Dash addressed the delegates, the students and others and spoke about the significance of environmental ethics in the context of the present day scenario of climate crisis while highlighting its interdisciplinary scope. Hon’ble VC interacted with the media persons, delegates and students. Guest of Honour, Dr. Laxmikant Tripathy, Regional Director, HE, Berhampur addressed the gathering in which he spoke about ecocriticism and environmental ethics in the context of literature and literary studies and its relevance for the present generation.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Bishnu Charan Dash, Professor of English, Assam Central University, Silchar gave an enlightened talk on “Relevance of Ecology, Eco-Criticism and Environmental Ethics in Contemporary Literary Discourse” in which he spoke about the symbiotic relationship between man and nature, ecology and environment and its representation in literature. Keynote Speaker Prof. Shruti Das, Head, P.G. Department of English, Berhampur University delivered a talk on “Ecological Ethics and Posthumanism” in which she spoke about the complex relationship between nature and culture focussing at the same time on the post-human condition.

Prof. E. Raja Rao, Former Professor of English, Berhampur University released the *Souvenir* along with other guests to commemorate the event. Dr. Prabina Kumar Nanda felicitated the guests after

which Ms. Arundhati Singh, Lecturer in English delivered the Vote of thanks. Dr. D. P. Dash coordinated the events on the stage.

The technical sessions began after the lunch break. There were near about fifty papers presented by delegates from different colleges of Odisha and outside the state. The technical sessions, six in number, spread over two days. After each session there were interactive time in which the papers were put into discussion. Valedictory session took place on the 27th of October, 2022 in which the Chief Guest of the Valedictory Day Prof. E. Raja Rao talked about the Utopia where one can evince a New Man who is free from the errors of the Anthropocentric Man. Guest of Honour, Sri Subash Chandra Behera, Hon'ble MLA, Chatrapur evinced a keen interest in the topic and talked at length about practising environmental ethics. The Principal felicitated the guests. The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. D. P. Dash. Guests, delegates, students and staff planted saplings.

