

Online discussion session on Premchand Jayanti in Hindi Department of Goa University

An online discussion on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Premchand was organized on Google Meet by the Hindi Department of Goa University on 29 July 2020. In this discussion, along with the teachers of various colleges affiliated to Goa University, former students of Hindi department and current students of Hindi department participated. The main purpose of this discussion was to share the image of Premchand present in the hearts and minds of all of us through discussion.

Mamata Verlekar, the assistant professor of the department, welcomed the invited guests in the discussion and introduced the topic. Regarding the first meeting with Premchand, where Deepali Sutar shared the memories related to Suhag's saree, while the speaker Poojashree Palyekar said in the context of the first meeting – My first meeting with Premchand was through the novel *Nirmala*. He said that Premchand's characters are seen around us. On the other hand, Dr. Ramita Gurav, one of the invited scholars, gave the credit of getting the first meeting with Premchand to the library worker of the school days. He said that even in non-Hindi speaking states, we have been reading Premchand since school days, but when we think of the first meeting, it becomes difficult to determine which was the actual meeting that I should share with you. By the way, when I read and study Premchand and think about this subject with my hobby, it seems that I have had many meetings with Premchand. Manisha Gaude, the assistant professor of the department said that my first meeting with Premchand was through the characters of the *Panch Parmeshwar* story. He said that while reading the *Panch Parmeshwar* story, I felt that the characters of the story are around me. The old lady of the story looked to me like the Aji living in my neighbourhood. The keynote speaker of the discussion, Dr. Pradeep Kumar, quoted from the book '*Guruji Ki Khetibaadi*' by critic Vishwanath Tripathi ji, referring to his first meeting through the story '*Bade Bhai Saahab*'. He said that the first meeting with Premchand goes to critic Vishwanath Tripathi. Tripathi ji mentioned the story of Premchand's elder brother on several occasions. Regarding the story, he used to say again and again that elder brother sahib is not a story, it is life. I found this story as a challenge at times while doing theatrical adaptation of the story.

The program was compered by Assistant Professor of Hindi Department, Mr. Aditya Bhangui, while the vote of thanks was done by Assistant Professor Mr. Deepak Varak. Professors of other departments of Goa University were also actively involved in this discussion.

Prof. Vrushali Mandrekar

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