PUBLIC LECTURE: Urdu Ghazal: Sufi Heritage and the Indian Minds

GOPI CHAND NARANG

Professor and Formerly President of Sahitya Academy. Prior to the Padma Bhushan, he remained the only Urdu critic to be awarded the Padmashri. He is a writer of feminine rights in Urdu and Persian. He has authored umpteen number of books. He happens to be the rare intellectual who has spurred the lure of office to pursue his scholastic works. A few of his famous award winning books include *Hindustani Qisson se Makhus Urdu Masnawiyan, Urdu: Dilli ki Karkhandari Boli, Urdu ki Taleem ke Lisani Pehlu, Puranon ki Kahanian, Ameer Khusro ka Hindvi Kalaam* etc. amongst others. He finds Urdu to be one of the finest products of composite literature. There is hardly any Urdu forum that has not honoured him. Even today in Pakistan among the literary circles, he is known as India's cultural ambassador.

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PUBLIC LECTURE: Hindustan Ki Mushtarka Tahzeeb

ASGHAR ALI ENGINEER

Α noted Islamic scholar who has been trained in *Tafsir* (commentary on Quran), Hadith (Prophet's saying) and Islamic Jurisprudence. He holds liberal rational views of Islam. He is also known internationally for his work on liberation theology in Islam. He has been conducting workshops for young muslims to orient them towards human rights Interfaith understanding. He is an advocate of culture of peace and non-violence. He has delivered lectures on Islam, women's rights in Islam, liberation theology in Islam, the communal problems in South Asian Islamic Studies and so on in various universities of the world. He has more than 40 books to his credit. Some of them are: The Origin and Development of Islam, Islam and Its Relevance to Our Age, The Islamic State, Rights of Women in Islam, Sufism and Communal Harmony, Islam in South and South East Asia etc. He has been honoured with various awards in the field of secularism and for promoting communal harmony and peace in the society.

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PUBLIC LECTURE: Secular Ethos as reflected in Urdu Poetry

SAEED NAQVI

He is a renowned journalist and at present editor of the World Report, a syndication service on foreign affairs. His thought-provoking articles, reports, stories and features frequently appear in all the major national dailies of India and abroad, like the Sunday Times London, The Guardian London, Washington Post, etc. He has the distinction of having interviewed famous world leaders and personalities in India and abroad which appear in newspapers, magazines and on national television from time to time. His intense concern for promoting national integration and secularism in the country is very well evident in his video films.

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PUBLIC LECTURE:

Hind - Islami Tahzeeb Ka Aghaz, Irtiqa aur Khatoon Ka Kirdar

SYEDA SAIYIDAIN HAMEED

Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India. She was also member of Indian National Women Commission, Govt. of India. She is Founder Member and Trustee of several institutions, namely, Muslim Women's Forum, Women's Initiative for Peace in South Asia (WIPSA), South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR). She was associated with Indian Council for Cultural Relations to work on Azad and Sufism. In early years of her career, she taught in LSR College, University of Delhi, India, University of Alberta, Canada.

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