



Department of English

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

cordially invites you to

Thirteenth Ahmed Ali Memorial Lecture

on

*'The Organic Intellectual, Mystical Poetry, and
the Rationalist Tradition in India Today'*

by

Amit Chaudhuri



(Novelist, Poet, Musician,
Professor of Contemporary Literature, University of East Anglia)

Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 3 pm

Mir Anis Hall (Administrative Block)

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Prof. Nishat Zaidi

Head, Department of English

Contact No.- 011-26981717-2950

Ahmed Ali (1910-1994), novelist, poet, playwright, translator and literary critic, was born in Delhi, and educated in Aligarh Muslim University and Lucknow University. He was in China as a British Council Visiting Professor in 1947; After the Partition, he moved to Karachi and joined the Pakistan Foreign Service. His most famous work is his first work, *Twilight in Delhi* (1940); he wrote two more novels, *Ocean of Night* (1964) and *Of Rats and Diplomats* (1984); Ahmed Ali was one of the founder of the Progressive Writers Movement in the 1930s. He contributed to *Aangarey* (1933), a collection of short stories that caused an uproar. He was a bilingual writer, who wrote most of his short stories in Urdu and his plays, poems and novels in English. Short story collections include *Sholay* (1936), *Hamari Gali* (1942), *Qaid Khana* (1944) and *Maut se Pehle* (1945). As a translator, his most important work is *Al-Quran: A Contemporary Translation* (1984)

About the speaker:

Amit Chaudhuri is a modern writer, literary scholar, musician, and an ardent advocate of Literary Activism. He attended UCL (University College London) for his undergraduate degree in English, and wrote his Doctoral research on D.H. Lawrence's poetry at Balliol College, Oxford. He won Sahitya Akademi Award in 2002 for his novel *A New World* (2000), and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2009, among many other accolades. He currently teaches contemporary literature at University of East Anglia. He has written several novels: *A Strange and Sublime Address* (1991), *Afternoon Raag* (1993), *Freedom Song* (1998), *A New World* (2000), *The Immortals* (2009), *Odysseus Abroad* (2015), *Friend of My Youth* (2017); a collection of short-stories: *Real Time* (2002); and a collection of poetry: *St. Cyril Road and Other Poems* (2005). His non-fiction writing includes D.H. Lawrence and 'Difference': *Postcoloniality and the Poetry of the Present* (2003); *Calcutta: Two Years in the city* (2011); *On Tagore: Reading the Poet Today* (2012); and an edited anthology *The Picador Book of Modern Indian Literature* (2001).