

**PRO-Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia**

March 8, 2020

Press Release

13th Ahmed Ali Memorial Lecture on 'Organic Intellectual, Mystical Poetry and Rationalist Tradition in India Today' at JMI

The Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organized the 13th Ahmed Ali Memorial Lecture on 'Organic Intellectual, Mystical Poetry and Rationalist Tradition in India Today' at the Mir Anis Hall of the university. Amit Chaudhuri, Essayist, Novelist, Poet Musician, Critic and Professor of Contemporary Literature, University of East Anglia was the main speaker.

The session was chaired by Professor Mohd. Asaduddin, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Languages, JMI.

The lecture commenced with the opening remarks by Professor Nishat Zaidi, Head, Department of English, JMI. She introduced the novelist, critic, poet and translator Ahmed Ali, the history of the memorial lecture and the Department of English. She spoke about a short history of Jamia Millia Islamia which is celebrating its centenary year.

Amit Chaudhuri began his lecture by juxtaposing the relationship between politics and literature. He drew upon the idea of the organic intellectual from the Gramscian tradition and attempted to connect it with the recent trends on digital platforms like twitter and real life situations of the streets.

He dwelt upon the domain of mystical poetry. Through the sculptures of Arjuna's fasting, pot bellied cat and quoting few lines from Lalon Faqir, he pursued the idea of the organic intellectual in art forms.

Resistance and challenge to the establishment is imperative to the art which emanates from a rationalist tradition practiced by the artists in every epoch. He concluded the lecture by trailing a conglomeration between the rationalist traditions and the various facets of knowledge. Using the example of Bengali Poet Dwijendralal Ray's 'Dhana Dhanya Pushpa Bhara' he reiterated the secular and rationalist tradition of India.

The lecture was followed by remarks from the chair, Professor Mohd. Asaduddin.

The lecture was attended by faculty, students and researchers from across the departments and universities.

It ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Shuby Abidi.

Ahmad Azeem
PRO-Media Coordinator







Department of English

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Jointly hosted by

Thirteenth Ahmed Ali Memorial Lecture

on

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

by

Amit Chaudhuri



Professor of English, Jamia Millia Islamia







