

Office of the PRO-Media Coordinator
Jamia Millia Islamia

February 15, 2019

Press Release

Panel Discussion on Soviet/Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov at JMI:

A panel discussion on 'Celebrating the 90 th Anniversary: Chingiz Aitmatov's Literary, Ecological and Political Legacies' was organized at the MMAJ Academy of International Studies on 13 February 2019. Prof R Kumar (Centre for Russian Studies, SLLCS, JNU, retd), who chaired the discussion, introduced the well-known Soviet/Kyrgyz writer who was born in 1928 and passed away in 2008.

Prof Rashmi Doraiswamy (AIS, JMI) gave an overview of his work in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. She spoke of Aitmatov's *A Day Lasts Longer than a Century* (1980) and *The Mark of Cassandra* (2005) in detail. Dr Ranjana Saxena analysed ecological themes in some of his key works – *The White Ship* (1959), *Mother's Field* (1956) and *The Executioner's Block* (1986).

Mangalesh Dabral, the eminent Hindi poet, critic and journalist spoke in detail of the influence of great Russian writers from the XIX century and Soviet poets and prose writers on Hindi literature. He also recalled translations of great literary works from Russian, including those by writers from the Soviet Republics like Aitmatov and Rasul Gamzatov.

Dr Fatima Sushanlo, from the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic in India, in her speech stated that Chingiz Aitmatov was not just a great writer, but was also a diplomat. He had served as Ambassador in the last years of the Soviet Union and after 1991 had served in several European countries as the Ambassador of the independent Kyrgyzstan. Aitmatov had also started the Issyk Kul Forum that brought together leading scientists, thinkers, cultural practitioners from across the world, to deliberate on how the problems that the world is presently facing.

Jamilia, a postgraduate student at the Academy from Kyrgyzstan, read out a passage from Aitmatov's *Mother's Field* in Kyrgyz language and research scholar Maya Amanova read out a passage from *The Executioner's Block* in Russian.

Prof Nasar Shakeel Roomi from the Centre of Russian Studies, JNU, who had written his doctoral thesis on Aitmatov and had interviewed the writer also participated in the discussions.

Maya Amanova hosted a cake with Chingiz Aitmatov's photo for all present at the discussion to celebrate his 90 th birthday.

Ahmad Azeem
PRO-Media Coordinator





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DR. RANJANA SAXENA

PROF. R. KUMAR

Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy
Professor & Offg Director, AIS

2009 KYRGYZSTAN 2009 KYRGYZSTAN



MMAJ ACADEMY OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
Cordially invites you to a
PANEL DISCUSSION
on

**CELEBRATING THE 90th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY:
CHINGIZ AITMATOV'S LITERARY, ECOLOGICAL AND
POLITICAL LEGACIES**

CHAIRPERSON
PROF R KUMAR
(CENTRE FOR RUSSIAN STUDIES, JNU, RETD & FORMER RECTOR, JNU)

SPEAKERS
RASHMI DORAISWAMY
(AIS, JMI)

RAJANA SAXENA
(DEPT OF SLAVONIC AND FINNO-UGRIAN STUDIES, DU)

MANGALES DABRAL
(EMINENT HINDI POET AND JOURNALIST)

DATE AND TIME: 18 FEBRUARY 2019 AT 2.30 PM
VENUE: HO CHI MINH CONFERENCE ROOM, AIS



DR. RANJANA SAXENA



PROF. R. KUMAR



Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy
Professor & CDD Director, AIS



PANEL DISCUSSION
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Listening to what was happening apart from the will in her living womb, Akbar became agitated. The heart of the she-wolf pounded rapidly - It was filled the courage, the determination to certainly protect, shield from the danger of those whom she bore in itself. Now she would not hesitate to clash with anyone. She spoke the great natural instinct for the conservation of offspring. And right there Akbara felt tenderness sweep over her in a hot wave need to caress, warm future suckers, give them your milk as if they were already near by. That was a premonition of happiness. And she closed her eyes, groaned from bliss, from waiting for the milk in the swollen to redness, large, protruding two rows across the belly of the toes, and languidly slowly, slowly stretched all over, as far as the lair allowed, and finally settled down, again moved closer to her gray-maned Tasho.



