

### **Thiru X. Swamikannu Pillai Endowment Lecture**

The Annual Endowment Thiru X. Swamikannu Pillai lecture was held on 12 February 2018 at 11 a.m. in the LICET Auditorium. The Distinguished Speaker who delivered the lecture was Dr. Pratnik Banerjee, Vice-Principal and Associate Professor of English, Hislop College, Nagpur.

The theme of his address was LITERATURE OF CONFLICT which today is the Literature of terrorism. The 9/11 World trade Center attack by terrorists in New York City in 2001 forever changed the tenor of world politics and literature. Writers in the USA and elsewhere represented in their novels the terrible violence unleashed by the terrorists using civilian airliners as missiles to bring down the twin skyscrapers which were a symbol of America's capitalism and economic might. More than 140 novels have been written since 9/11. This terrorist attack stretches the language of the creative writers to accommodate a new reality. According to Dr Banerjee, a new idiom and syntax had to be invented to depict accurately the Zeit Geist of our times in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 9/11 literature also encouraged the binary thinking between 'Us' and 'Them'. In U.S. and European universities, the Literature of Conflict is a special genre of study. Samuel Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations" in which Religion emerges as a Grand Meta- narrative in defiance of Lyotard's thesis and predictions about their demise. Religion is the major catalyst of change in the World order today.



The lecture was well attended by both professors of Shift-I and Shift-II and our I and II PG students. It was a brilliant talk delivered with such impact that it rekindled the audience's latent love for literature once again with fervor. A new book of poetry written by our department students entitled "UNSPOKEN VERSES" was also released by the Chief Guest and received by the budding poets.