

## **REPORT ON WORLD POETRY DAY CELEBRATION, 2025**

Poetry is seen as a way to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers, uniting people from different backgrounds through shared emotions and experiences. Poetry is a way to showcase the richness and diversity of languages, including those that are endangered or marginalized. Therefore the main objective to organize this programme is to honour poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitation and encourage the reading, writing and teaching of poetry. The main attraction is the panel discussion where the audience can gain knowledge and benefit through listening to the various speakers about the importance of poetry.

Prasar Bharti, India's Public Service Broadcaster, Akashvani, North Eastern Service in collaboration with the Department of Modern Indian Language, Lady Keane College, Shillong celebrated World Poetry Day, 2025 on the theme, "*Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion*" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, 2025 at the Lady Keane College Auditorium.

Registration of participants was done at 10.00 a.m. and the programme started at 11.00 a.m. compered by Dr. Jean S. Dkhar, Head of the Department of MIL, Lady Keane College, Shillong. The special guests present on the great event were Mr. Ferdinand Dkhar, Assistant Director Programme, Head of Programme, Akashvani Shillong and North Eastern Service, Smt. Lucy Mary Malngiang, Programme Executive, Akashvani, North Eastern Service, Professor Streamlet Dkhar, HOD, Khasi, NEHU, Shillong and eminent Khasi poet, Dr. Preetinisha Barman, Poet and Assistant Professor, Department of English, NEHU, Shillong, Dibyajyoti Sarma, Writer, Translator, Prominent Poetry Publisher, Guwahati and Dr. Arunav Barua, eminent English Poet and Assistant Professor in NERIM Group of nstitutions, Guwahati. Teachers from Nehu, different colleges and schools of Shillong and eminent poets of AIPC and people from different walks of life were also invited to the programme.

Dr. Anjali M. Shangpliang, Principal, Lady Keane College, Shillong addressed the audience with a welcome speech and declared the programme as "Open". To felicitate the invited guests, the Principal presented them shawls and college mementos. Thereafter, the students of the Khasi Traditional Music department, Lady Keane College presented a welcome song where they sung a medley of Rabindra Sangeet and Khasi traditional song. This fusion was indeed so pleasing to the ears of the listeners.

Mr. Ferdinand Dkhar gave a short speech on this auspicious occasion and he was so enthralled by the welcome song that he requested the students to sing it one more time. Following his request, the students re-sung the song at the end of the programme.

The next item was followed by a Symposium on the very theme “Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion” in which Professor Streamlet Dkhar moderated the panel discussion. The three prominent panelists were Dr. Preetinisha Barman, Mr. Dibyajyoti Sarma and Dr. Arunav Barua.

The above mentioned Resource Persons presented their respective thorough discussions measuring every depth of the essence and importance of Poetry in human life. Thereafter, the Moderator elaborated and summarized the session along with her self-composed poetry recitation enlightened the audience with great wisdom and interest about poetry.

After this thought provoking discussion, the house was invited for an open discussion where teachers and poets took active part by asking questions to which the speakers enlightened them through the best of their knowledge and wisdom regarding poetry.

After this wonderful session, the department of MIL, Lady Keane College by the Principal released their first ever Departmental Magazine ‘*Pratidhwani*’ which is an amalgamation of three languages i.e., Hindi, Garo and Assamese.

The programme ended with a vote of Thanks by Smt. Lucy Mary Malngiang and thereafter while refreshments were served, the audience enjoyed the song by the students of the Khasi Traditional Music department of Lady Keane College.

Overall, it was a grand and successful programme.

The programme outcome was that it encouraged people to engage with poetry in various forms, from reading and writing to performing and sharing. It enabled to connect with people from diverse backgrounds which prove that poetry is a powerful tool for promoting understanding, peace and unity in diversity.

- Dr. Jean S. Dkhar  
HOD, MIL & Programme Co-ordinator

**Photographs of the Event:**

