

From Pen to Screen: KU celebrates the timeless legacy of Dr. Rahi Masoom Raza

Noted scholars, poets, filmmakers revisit Rahi's contribution to literature, cinema, cultural identity



Srinagar, Nov 03: A three-day international seminar celebrating the literary and cinematic legacy of Dr. Rahi Masoom Raza, an acclaimed Urdu and Hindi poet, novelist, and celebrated Bollywood lyricist, concluded at the University of Kashmir (KU) on Monday.

The event was jointly organized by the varsity's Department of Students Welfare (DSW) and IDEA Communications, drawing together noted scholars, poets, and creative practitioners to explore Dr Rahi's contributions to Indian literature and cinema.

Throughout the seminar, scholars reflected on Rahi's unique writing that seamlessly blended lyricism with social consciousness and poetry with popular culture.

Speakers highlighted how his works, from evocative novels to iconic Bollywood scripts, continue to illuminate themes of identity, community, and social consciousness in India's cultural fabric.

Earlier the three-day literary event commenced on Saturday with the inaugural session graced by Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K and Chancellor of the University, Shri Manoj Sinha, who highlighted the continuing significance of Rahi's writings in shaping India's cultural and intellectual consciousness. He emphasized that Rahi's works transcended linguistic boundaries, reflecting the composite spirit of Indian society and its deep human values.

Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, reflected on the relevance of Rahi's writings in contemporary times. "Rahi Masoom Raza's legacy reminds us that literature and cinema are not confined to art, they are mirrors of society that inspire reflection, unity, and compassion," she said.

Renowned Bollywood lyricist Sameer Anjaan, described Rahi as "a poet who wrote not just with ink but with empathy," adding that "Rahi's words found rhythm in the struggles of ordinary people and became an anthem for unity and humanity."

The seminar witnessed the participation of several distinguished scholars and writers, including Prof. Abu Bakar Abad (Delhi University), Dr. Noor Amrohvi (USA), Aziz Nabeel (Qatar), Prof. Shafey Kidwai (Aligarh Muslim University), Prof. Arun Hota (West Bengal State University), Prof. Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad), and Prof. Aejaaz Mohammed Sheikh (University of Kashmir), among others.

Over 40 Urdu and Hindi scholars presented their papers, engaging with Rahi's vast work that seamlessly bridged literature, poetry, and film.

As part of the seminar's cultural component, the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) hosted a grand International Urdu Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, which drew an overwhelming response from the Urdu literary fraternity. Presided over by Prof. Navin Chandra Lohani, a noted Hindi poet and scholar, the Mushaira brought together voices from across India, celebrating the linguistic and poetic diversity that Rahi championed throughout his life.

Prominent participants included Mr. Asif Azmi, Mr. Abu Horairah, Dr. Manish Rai, Mrs. Zunaira Ambreen, Mrs. Khursheed Fatma, Dr. Tahreem Kausar, Mr. Khalil ur Rehman, Prof. Syed Ali Karim, Dr. Mohd. Akhtar, Dr. Musheer Ahmad, Dr. Mohd. Mukeem Khan, Dr. Shahnewaz Faiyaz, Dr. Muhammad Sharique, Prof. Arun Hota, Prof. Deepak Prakash Tyagi, Prof. Shafey Kidwai, Dr. Parshottam Kumar, Dr. Sunil Kumar Rai, Mr. Ajeet Singh, Dr. Anurag Singh, Sh. Prashant Tripathi, Dr. Arbind Kumar Yadav, and Mr. Iftikhar Husain, among others.

The three-day event concluded on a reflective note, reaffirming Rahi Masoom Raza's position as a creative visionary who blurred the lines between literature, poetry, and cinema, inspiring generations to find art in the everyday and meaning in the ordinary.