



WHY LITERATURE MATTERS?

Tabish Khair

An International Webinar

Host:

Department of English
Aryabhata College

Convener: Binoy Bhushan Agarwal
Patron: Prof. Manoj Sinha (Principal)

Department of English
Aryabhata College

Special Lecture Series: An International Webinar

“Why Literature Matters?”
Prof. Tabish Khair

(Convener: Mr. Binoy Bhushan Agarwal)

On 21st May 2020, the Department of English hosted an International Webinar under Special Lecture Series. The invited speaker for the webinar was the renowned Denmark based author and Professor, Tabish Khair who delivered a very successful talk via Zoom.

Tabish Khair is an Indian author writing in English and teaches English at Aarhus University, Denmark. Prof. Khair delivered his lecture pondering on the question of ‘why literature matters?’

Prof. Khair had pre-circulated a couple of readings for this webinar which helped the student participants in engaging better with the speaker. His talk was woven around three commonly read texts: Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* and Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, the last of which the Delhi University English students have as one of their core papers.

Interestingly, Tabish Khair’s own publication titled 'An Interview with William Dalrymple and Pankaj Mishra' is taught as part of the *Travel Writing* paper to the third year undergraduates of English, and thus to him was an added attraction as meeting any author is bound to generate. The thought provoking lecture witnessed an intense discussion with a large number of participants from across India participating in the webinar which because of the Zoom limit had to be restricted to 100 only.

The success of the webinar, a first of its kind, encourages us to continue with this and have more of the same in the days to come.