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Tarjuma ends with a tale to tell through translations



(L-R) Nivedita Menon, Susheela Punitha, Namita Gokhale and Urvashi Butalia talk about their journey

Not lost in translation The two-day discussion on translation at IITGn comes to end on Friday

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Gandhinagar: The two-day debate, discussion and deliberation about translations — Tarjuma – Festival of Translators — organised by the Indian

Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) concluded as a joyful episode.

On the second day apart from the first session, Translating in and between languages, Supriya Chaudhuri, Vanamala Viswanatha, Rakhshanda Jalil, where Viswanatha amazed the audience with her melodious singing to end the event with Reading of Hafez by William Wolak accompanied by Srinivas Reddy's sitar recital, all the sessions were full of contentment and literary pleasure.

During the second session on Translating Women, women translators like Urvashi Butalia (chair), Namita Gokhale, Nivedita Menon, Susheela Punitha not only talked about their journey of translating women texts but also dwelt upon questions like are women better translators of women? Should women literature be translated by women only?

The meet also discussed that it had become important for men to enter the women's world.

While Menon talked about translating women into teaching, Namita Gokhale, festival director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, shared her experience of the festival and how offbeat women writers like sex worker Nalini Jamila and transgender writer A Revathi were well received by the audience at the fest.

In the next session, Translating Old and New, Arunava Sinha, who has translated 18 books of classic, modern and contemporary Bengali fiction and non-fiction into English, talked about the need to claim Indian writing through translating. He went to the extent to say that he would not mind if his name as a translator would not be mentioned on the cover page of the publication. This comment invited many reactions from the audience.

Gita Chaudhuri, who has translated the first autobiography of a Dalit B Kesharshivam from Gujarati into English, talked about how difficult it was for her to get Mahatma Gandhi's text from Gujarati into Bengali.

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