

**Editorial**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption in human history. India, with the world's second largest population has been hit hard by it. This pandemic has created a setback in all sectors and the sector of education is no exception. Since the academic scenario has considerably altered in the last one year, arranging. Editing and publishing a journal was not an easy task. We, the editorial team of *Sāhitya*, too had to struggle much to put together an issue on time. We apologize to our readers for the delay, but we also hope that they will understand the peculiarity of the situation and hence be considerate. We hope that this issue will bring a ray of happiness to our erudite readers.

This issue of *Sāhitya* also brings with it happy news for its readers as the newly formed editorial board has taken an important decision of publishing the journal twice a year from now on. This decision is taken keeping in mind that it will provide more opportunities to the scholars of comparative literature to publish with *Sāhitya*, as such we hope to cover broader and emerging trends in comparative literature thus providing our readers a broader spectrum of study. This issue presents a varied range of articles pertaining to different alleys of Comparative Literature. Arnapurna Rath and Sura P. Rath has presented a magnificent comparative study on the fictional writings by women writers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century which provides a close reading of the figures of rumour mills and gossip in the households of the *Raj*. María Luisa Rodríguez Muñoz's paper takes up the analysis of the translation of culturemes in the French and American versions of Mario Vargas Llosas's text with reference to the different spaces of the versions in their historical context is an important contribution to translation and comparative literature studies. Based on the semiotic grid of Juri Lotman, Arikta Chatterjee looks at the tantric corpus vis-a-vis Mahanirvana Tantra referring back to the first translation of tantric text into English. The article by Sambhabi Ghosh beautifully brings out communication that happens through the language of food and symbolic cannibalism in the process of understanding such communication which is an important contribution around food culture and the communication established through eating. Sounak Das's article claims to understand the ontological nature of worldliness through the critical evaluation of world literature as a challenging category and contrasted it with the notion of comparative literature. Paulomi Sharma's article traces the theme of corporeality in the writings of Mahasweta Devi. In her attempt she reads the original Bengali text of Mahasweta Devi to study how the author uses language to disrupt the conventional use of it.

— Jatindra Kumar Nayak.