

2nd Vibrant Asia Symposium

By Ms. Nisha Tandon

The Journal of Asian Art, Culture, and Literature (JAACL) and the Asian Literary Society's presentation-2nd Vibrant Asia Symposium was organized virtually on March 7th, 2021 at 7 pm IST. The contributors to Volume 1, No 3: September 2020 were present for the discussion. It was our honor that the event was organized on the eve of International Women's Day with all women panelists. We had an extremely interactive and meaningful discussion.

List of Contributors & Name of article:

- A Gastronomic Journey through South East Asia by Ms. Sonal Singh
- Traditional Art & Craft in the land of happiness by Dr. Aparna Pradhan
- Indian Classical Dance and the Development of Cultural Identity in the Indian Diaspora by Dr. Madhavi Menon
- The Spirit of an Extraordinary Satyagrahi by Ms. Mandira Ghosh
- The Rise of Burj Khalifa by Ms. Nisha Tandon

Ms. Nisha Tandon, an entrepreneur, and a published author, moderated this event and started with the introduction of distinguished panelists for the day. The first panelist introduced was Ms. Sonal Singh, an entrepreneur by profession and a writer by passion, from Mumbai. We were honored to have amongst us, a versatile artist, Dr. Aparna Pradhan, who is a doctorate in Zoology, a freelance writer, and a poetess. The third panelist introduced, was Ms. Mandira Ghosh, an eminent author, and a poet. Dr. Madhavi Menon from the US, a Bharatanatyam dancer and a Professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, Florida, was the fourth panelist.

Post introductions, a brief insight into each article was given by Ms. Nisha Tandon while images related to the article were displayed on the screen. Subsequently followed by a round of questions & answers between the moderator and the panelists. The other panelists also shared their views about the related article and interacted with the contributor. Each panelist then shared the inspiration and motivation behind their article/s.

Ms. Sonal Singh imparted knowledge on the influence of South-East Asian Cuisine in her cooking. She passionately spoke about her favorite cuisine and how she gives interesting twists to her dishes to stimulate the tastebuds. Her cooking tips and cross usage of few ingredients like Soy Sauce and tamarind awakened the dormant chef in us.

Dr. Aparna Pradhan beautifully introduced “The Land of Happiness” through a poem in Hindi. She stated how much she was moved by Bhutan as a place with the highest happiness quotient and its people who had a deep impact on her. Her brief on traditional artifacts she carried back with her, generated curiosity, and generated interest amongst the panelists, to plan a visit to Bhutan, soon. Hearing about the similarities and differences between various art forms between Bhutan and India, was quite interesting.

Dr. Madhavi Menon spoke about the role of performing arts in the development of cultural identity. She also performed a few face mudras for us which left us spellbound. Dr. Menon has been staying in the US for the last 20 years and her mention of maintaining an ideal balance between their public and private identities was something that all panelists resonated with.

Ms. Mandira Ghosh, author of “Tryst with Satyagraha” shared interesting anecdotes from her book on Mahatma Gandhi. The quotes on Mahatma that Ms. Ghosh spoke about were enriching.

Ms. Nisha Tandon shared few unknown facts about the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa in the United Arab Emirates, and how it has taken the social media platforms by storm with its hashtag #Burjkhalifa and has ranked as “Insta-wonder” of the world.

This event was highly interactive and insightful leading to an interesting exchange of personal experiences. Relevant information was shared by the contributors on unique aspects and nuances.

This virtually conducted event, on the eve of International Women’s Day, included inspiring poems by Ms. Sonal Singh, Dr. Aparna Pradhan, Ms. Mandira Ghosh, and Ms. Nisha Tandon and a Bharatanatyam performance by the graceful Dr. Madhavi Menon that left everyone mesmerized. The session concluded with a few words from all the contributors and a vote of thanks by Ms. Nisha Tandon.