

REPORT

Cross Winds: An Inter College Poetry Writing Competition

The Department of English, after a meeting on 10th December, 2021, decided to organize an **Inter-College Poetry Writing Competition**. This competition was called ‘Cross Winds’ and was part of the College celebrating Meghalaya’s 50 years of Statehood. “The competition shall be open to all Under-Graduate students studying in Meghalaya” it was decided.

A little about ‘Cross Winds’: it is an amalgamation of two unassuming words to produce a strong current of interweaving flow of ideas, thoughts, feelings and emotions. As the State celebrates its 50 years, we are hypothetically looking at this number as a midway point, almost as if we are at an intersection. However, the cross, which symbolically signifies suffering and shame, can also signify dilemma. This dilemma is most strongly felt by the youth as they head on a collision course with an uncertain future. Unemployment, substance abuse, and the pandemic fallout are some of the main causes of fear and anxiety. This fear is fuelled by the “winds of change”, which have turned the world into a constant state of flux, and thus adding to the uncertainty of an already clouded vision of the future. It is with this concept in mind that the Department of English, Shillong College has proposed to organize the said competition to give the youth a canvas where they can paint their visions and dreams.

On the same day, entry forms were distributed via google forms to various colleges across the State. The Department received a total of fifty-one entries. In view of the extensiveness of the competition, the Department also felt the need to consider approaching a prominent organization for the sorting and judging of the entry poems to ensure neutrality and fairness. With this in mind, a unanimous decision was taken to collaborate with the Northeast Writers Forum (NEWF) and communication was immediately sent to its Meghalaya representatives and after a purposeful discussion, it was decided and confirmed that the NEWF would nominate its members to judge the competition. The last date for submission of entries was the 10th of January, 2022. Subsequently, the poems were forwarded to NEWF and results were declared on 29th of March, 2022. However, due to University exams and various other academic programmes, the Prize Distribution was scheduled on the 16th of December 2022 and thus bringing with it an end to the yearlong celebration of Fifty years of Statehood.

Sd/-

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