



JAYANTA MAHAPATRA

WRITER IN RESIDENCE 16th to 23rd march 2014

The Department of English, Pondicherry University hosts SHRI JAYANTA MAHAPATRA, eminent poet, as Writer in Residence (2014). During the period of his stay the poet will deliver lectures and hold discussions with students and faculty. He will also be presenting his new work (or work-in-progress)



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH
PONDICHERRY
UNIVERSITY



ALL ARE WELCOME

For Details Contact

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Jayanta Mahapatra, born on 22 October 1923 in Cuttack, Orissa, had his early education in English medium at Stewart school, Cuttack. After his Master's Degree in Physics, he served in different Government colleges of Orissa and

Major Works:

Close the sky, Ten by Ten (1971)
Svayamvara & other poems(1971)
A Father's Hours(1976)
A Rain of Rites(1976), Waiting(1979)
The False Start (1980) Relationship (1980)
Life Signs(1983) Dispossessed Nests(1986)
Selected Poems(1987)
Burden of Waves & Fruit (1988)
Temple (1989)

in 1986 when retired from active teaching from Ravenshaw College Although trained in Physics, Jayanta Mahapatra is renowned for his poetry. He began writing poems rather late in comparison with his contemporaries. But this late beginning has not in any way distorted his poetic achievements. His poems have appeared in many reputed journals. He received the prestigious **Jacob Glatstein Memorial Award** (Chicago) in 1975. Jayanta is the first Indian poet in English to have received the Sahitya Akademi Award (1981) for his **Relationship**.

His early poems were born of love, of love's selfishness. They celebrated not only passion, the body's spacious business, but consistently evoked a melancholic atmosphere rent with absences, fear, foreboding and

suffering. But slowly and steadily the poet released himself from this lonesome citadel of love, and started involving himself with other men and women living or dead, *with many other succulent chambers of living*. Fear of ageing, fear of death, and love for life and memory, love for the golden past an inquisitiveness to live amid contraries of life, and a complete absorption in and identification with culture and tradition of Orissa-all these run simultaneously, as it were, through his poems and the poet is sincerely trying to uphold the lost dimension of blood and the living. Death is a new beginning for the poet, and life a *'telegraph key tapping away in the dark'*. Childhood memories occupy a considerable space in his poetry. His commitment to and identification with Orissa becomes complete when he exhorts the dark daughters engraved on the body of the Sun Temple at Konark.

The richness and sophistication of language, the softness and delicacy of the words chosen, a systematized orchestration of authenticated experiences through the exact palpability of images, the sincerity of harping on the 'feel' of the experiences rather

than on their
'thought', the
sweetness of
music emerging
from a fountain-like
flow of the verse-
form all these
contribute to the
greatness and ingenuity
of Mahapatra's poetry.

**JAYANTA
MAHAPTRA**

**IS WRITER IN
RESIDENCE AT THE**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, PONDICHERY UNIVERSITY (March 2014)

