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## **Editorial**

One more year has elapsed out of our lives and we are going to begin a new year with new promises and propositions. Time continues to run its own course, leaving us all to decide what to initiate and what to terminate. The losses and gains that we encounter in our lives require proper analysis and depend upon what lessons we draw from them. It, thus, is an individual's will how he utilizes the freedom of his choice. Our choice begets our determination to do or to die. Here, we can imagine about our reaction at our child's insistence of a particular choice he wants to pursue. How many of us would have felt comfortable to allow our children to pursue careers of their choice? Majority of us impose our own unfulfilled career options on our children and get psychologically relieved off our failed desires and frustrated ambitions. All of us want our children to follow great things and establish greatness either by joining science, engineering or medicine. We tend to develop distaste for arts, music and poetry and blindly follow what Plato, the great philosopher, who 'fiercely criticized poetry and banned the tribe of poets' calling them as mere imitators and 'perverters of morality'. Most of us conform to Plato's views and believe that poetry addresses the lower faculties of man, with which he cannot grasp truth. Music, another form of poetry, in this regard also is hated even by the so-called intellectuals who consider song, dance and popular art forms as unworthy and immoral. The Nobel Prize Committee this year has altered this notion by declaring Bob Dylan, the American song writer and singer as the winner of Nobel Prize in Literature of 2016. Dylan continued his passion unhindered, bothering less about what others said but concentrated more upon his zeal that bolstered his belief in his abilities and made him win the most prestigious award. His elevation to a Nobel Laureate is not only a recognition to song and music but also to the small and humble beginnings of the artist who began his journey singing American folk music in bands, performing in clubs and café. The selectors might have found profound substance in Dylan's songs that

border on the social conditions of man, religion, politics and love. One may find immense potential of contemporary culture and literature in popular music, which is not less than Literature. What Professor Horace Engdahl of the Swedish Academy said in the award presentation speech will continue to echo in our minds: *"recognising that revolution by awarding Bob Dylan the Nobel Prize was a decision that seemed daring only beforehand and already seems obvious. But does he get the prize for upsetting the system of literature? Not really. There is a simpler explanation, one that we share with all those who stand with beating hearts in front of the stage at one of the venues on his never-ending tour, waiting for that magical voice. Chamfort made the observation that when a master such as La Fontaine appears, the hierarchy of genres—the estimation of what is great and small, high and low in literature—is nullified. "What matter the rank of a work when its beauty is of the highest rank?" he wrote. That is the straight answer to the question of how Bob Dylan belongs in literature: as the beauty of his songs is of the highest rank."*

People who have strong reservations against song and music being equalled with literature perhaps skip the fact that all good songs are rooted in good poetry. No great song, like great poetry, can stem without pain. P.B. Shelley's "our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought" stands true to Bob Dylan whose songs express the 'unchained stream of consciousness'. Songs, like poetry and fiction express thought and feeling refreshing the agitated minds and relieving them of the harsh realities of life lived amid superstitions, dreams and death and hence provides the criticism of life. The awareness that Dylan creates through his songs brings him close to Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and other Beat poets. The Nobel Prize committee, thus, has taken a revolutionary step and emphasized the importance of song and music in contemporary world. Over ambitious parents should, thus, look forward to learning from Dylan's enterprise and nurture the dreams of their aspiring children.

The fifty-fourth volume of *The Indian Journal of English Studies* is a collection of scholarly papers presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> AIETC held in the Department of English, Vijayanagara Krishnadevaraya University, Bellary, Karnataka, 18-20 December, 2015. It was an ordeal collecting papers of the conference for selection especially in this issue of the journal. I was left with no choice than to utilize my personal contacts which have been made easy, thanks to technology. Selection of articles for any journal is an arduous task but then the editor and his team cannot compromise with the quality and transparency that have made *IJES*, one of the oldest and most sought after journals. My association with the journal as Editor-in-Chief has, at times, given me the mixed reactions of even my close friends but they do understand the limitations and academic commitment involved in the said task. Making a journal representative requires space for multiple voices arising out of the impending challenges creeping in from various corners vying for being centred. As readers you will realize how the present volume records the cross currents working both in creativity and criticism through various genres lending both voice and vision by assimilating exile and alienation, unwrapping the nostalgia to relive the past and relieve the injured selves to carve a balance. The volume in your hand, thus, includes papers on creativity, culture, popular literature, women's writing, translation studies, and spoken English. The volume has also given space to an interview, a short story, nine poems and five book reviews. While adequate care has been taken in selection, editing and formatting of the content, readers are requested to send their suggestions for further improvement. I sincerely applaud the co-operation of all scholar contributors who submitted their articles in time and made this volume an enterprising one. I wish them my heartiest greetings for all upcoming festivities likely to add new and vibrant colours to their lives. I also look forward to cherishing the inexhaustible ocean of love and unshakeable faith of all readers.

**BINOD MISHRA**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

