

6th Nisith Ranjan Roy Memorial lecture

30.5.2025

The **6th Nisith Ranjan Roy Memorial Lecture** was organised by the Department of History on 30.5.2025. The Memorial lecture was delivered by Dr. Ashok Kumar Das, a leading expert in Mughal miniature paintings. The title of his talk was, **"The Connoisseur King: Mughal Painting at Jahangir's Court."**

Dr. Das began his lecture with a portrait of Jahangir, the Persian word for "Conqueror of the World," with a globe in his hand and a key to controlling the world. Through a portrayal of rare miniature paintings illustrated on the pages of Jahangirnama and Mughal albums, which he had studied from museums from across the world, Dr. Das explained each of the paintings in details, citing its importance while situating them in its historical context. Jahangir was surrounded by immensely talented painters; Gobardhan, Manohar, Ustad Mansur, Abul Hasan, and Bishandas, Farrukbeg, all of whom excelled in different styles and subjects. It was an absolute treat for the eyes simply to view the different paintings by the master miniature painters that Dr. Das described with such panache.

It was also interesting to learn that the portrait of emaciated Inayat khan, once a favourite courtier of Jahangir, drew the attention of Abanindranath Thakur, who pointed out that the portrait could rival that of the European masters. It was truly an informative and enriching experience for all who had joined to listen to Dr. Das.

