



**Department of English  
Jamia Millia Islamia  
New Delhi**  
invites you to the  
**Fifth Ahmed Ali Memorial Lecture**

*The Language of Multiple Tongues: English in India*

by

**G.J.V.Prasad**

**Thursday March 1, 2012 at 11.00 a.m.**  
at Tagore Hall (Administrative Block)  
Jamia Millia Islamia

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**Ahmed Ali (1910-1994)**, novelist, poet, playwright, translator and literary critic, was born in Delhi, and educated at Aligarh Muslim University and Lucknow University. He was in China as a British Council Visiting Professor in 1947; after the Partition, he moved to Karachi and joined the Pakistan Foreign Service. His most famous work is his first novel, *Twilight in Delhi* (1940); he wrote two more novels, *Ocean of Night* (1964) and *Of Rats and Diplomats* (1984). Ahmed Ali was one of the founders of the Progressive Writers' Movement in the nineteen-thirties. He contributed to *Aangarey* (1933), a collection of short stories that caused an uproar. He was a bilingual writer, who wrote most of his short stories in Urdu and his plays, poems and novels in English. Short story collections include *Sholay* (1936), *Hamari Gali* (1942), *Qaid Khana* (1944), and *Maut Se Pahle* (1945). As a translator, his most important work is *Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation* (1984).

**G.J.V. Prasad**, a well known Indian English poet, novelist and translator, is Professor of English at the Centre for English Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His novel, *A Clean Breast*, was short-listed for the Commonwealth Best First Book award in the Eurasian region, 1994. His book of poems, *In Delhi Without a Visa* (1996), takes up serious issues of national integration and migration through the comic mode. He received the Katha Award for Translation (from Tamil into English) in 1998. He has written widely on Indian English literature, Dalit writing, translation theory, and contemporary theatre. *Writing India, Writing English: Literature, Language, Location* (Routledge, 2011) is his most recent book. *Continuities in Indian English Poetry: Nation, Language, Form* (1999) is the best history and analysis of this genre. GJV has also edited anthologies of critical essays on Vikram Seth, and John Osborne, and Penguin Study Editions of *Waiting for Godot* and *Look Back in Anger*.