

# REPORT ON GUEST LECTURE

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Dr. Srinarahari, the guest lecturer, opened the session by analysing Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" and how it depicts the decisions we make in life and how they may affect our future. Science fiction, a literary specialist Dr. Srinarahari specialises in, was the subject of the lecture.

Science fiction is a subgenre of fantasy that frequently explores imaginative and futuristic ideas. Science fiction has been around for hundreds of years, with examples from the prehistoric period. However, the roots of the genre as we know it today can be found in 19th-century works like Jules Verne's "Journey to the Centre of the Earth" and Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein."

Dr. Srinarahari gave several definitions of science fiction, including Isaac Asimov's that it is the "response of human beings to changes in the level of science and technology" and James Gunn's that it examines "the effects of change on people in the real world as it can be projected to the past, present, and future." The definition of science fiction is up for debate among authors and academics because it is a genre that is constantly changing. But according to the majority of definitions, science fiction is speculative about the future, technology, and how these things will affect society.

The different genres of science fiction, such as myth, utopia/dystopia, and fantasy, were discussed in the lecture. Science fiction tales that incorporate mythological themes and motifs into their plots are known as mythic science fiction. Science fiction that explores dystopia or utopia examines the concepts of an ideal or perfect society or the polar opposite, where society is oppressive and dysfunctional. Finally, fantastical elements like magic or otherworldly creatures are frequently included in fantasy science fiction.

Science fiction differs from mainstream media in that it frequently examines the past or future and how it can lessen shocks in the future. It can give viewers and readers a way to comprehend and get ready for societal changes, technological advancements, and other unforeseen events. Science fiction can also be used to investigate different worldviews and ways of thinking, which can deepen our comprehension of the present.

'Anukul,' a short film that perfectly encapsulated science fiction in cinema, was also shown to us. The movie examined the relationship between humans and robots and artificial intelligence. This is a recurring theme in science fiction because it allows for the exploration of the moral and ethical ramifications of technological development and its potential effects on society.

Numerous films, TV shows, books, and other forms of media have explored science fiction, which has had a significant impact on popular culture. Science and technology have benefited from its influence, with many scientists and engineers citing science fiction as an inspiration source. For instance, the development of handheld medical devices used in hospitals today was influenced by the idea of the "tricorder" from the Star Trek television series.

Overall, Dr. Srinarahari's lecture offered a general overview of science fiction as a genre and its importance in examining how developments in science and technology affect people and society. Science fiction inspires us to contemplate both the present and the results of our actions, as well as the future and the possibilities that lie therein. Science fiction has the potential to entertain us with intriguing ideas and stories while also educating and inspiring us.