



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

SAHITYA AKADEMI

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

Festival of Letters • Award Presentation • Centenary Celebrations • Literary Forum • Symposium
Seminar • Meet the Author • Face-to-Face • Kathasandhi • Nari Chetana



Secretary Speaks

Every dawn, a season, a new year, fresh efflorescence of the flower or a soul, or even a birth of a child brings much cheer and hope. Beginning of every New Year also marks the passing of a year and presents an opportunity to every individual, institution or a nation to learn from the time and events that lapsed.

For the Akademi, dawn of every year brings along, in addition to the lessons to be learnt from the previous year and the hopes which the year ahead springs forth, the moment of unbridled joy, Akademi's own festival. This festival, very aptly called Festival of Letters, is a Festival of Joy. It is a Festival of Joy not only for the people associated with the Akademi, but all the literary connoisseurs spread across the country.

Every Festival bring together finest minds of modern India, provides opportunity for invigorating intellectual discussion and a platform for young people to learn from the eminent thinkers and writers, but more importantly a space for the mingling of varied traditions of India. In addition to the regular features of the Festival of Letters such as Award conferment, a three-day National Seminar, Spin-A-Tale, etc, this year saw the introduction of 'Tribal Language Poetry Festival' and a daylong symposium on 'Translational Consciousness.'

A large number of public gathering and embracing the week-long Festival of Letters, more than any other Festival of Letters in the past, was something that was most gladdening to hearts.

Akademi continued its regular events including the centenary celebrations to honor the doyens of the past; the latest edition of BhashantaraAnubhava took place in Triupati down south; the Akademi was glad to host and engage Prof Jiang Jingkui, winner of Ananda Coomaraswami Fellowship for 2015; participated in the Delhi International Book Fair and continued its commitment of enhanced focus on the North-Eastern Regions of India by organizing a number of events in the region and also featuring writers and poets from the region in various parts of the country in addition to a few workshops involving North-Eastern languages.

I hope Akademi's patrons and readers of this Newsletter are enjoying our coverage and your continued support and encouragement is vital to our growth and I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a very happy Yugadi, Baisakhi, Vishu, Tamil New Year and GudiPaduva

K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary

INAUGURATION OF AKADEMI EXHIBITION 2015

February 15, 2016, New Delhi



Dr. Manoj Das inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition

Sahityotsav, Sahitya Akademi's Annual Festival of Letters, began with the inauguration of Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2015 at the Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on 15 February 2016. The exhibition was inaugurated by distinguished Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Manoj Das. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi in addition to the members of the Executive Board and General Council of Sahitya Akademi and staff.

In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi,

highlighted the achievements of Sahitya Akademi during the previous year. He informed the learned audience that in 2015 Sahitya Akademi organized 479 literary events, participated in 189 book exhibitions across India, published 426 books in 24 languages, inaugurated the Centers for Tribal and Oral Literature at Imphal and New Delhi, presented 117 Awards in 24 recognized languages in addition to the conferment of Bhasha Samman to 9 scholars and Fellowships to distinguished writers Prof S. L. Bhyrappa and Dr C. Narayana Reddy and Honorary Fellowship to Dr Jin Dinghan of China opened Metro Bookshops at Kashmere Gate and Vishwavidyalaya Metro Stations in New Delhi and sent 24 writers to Mauritius, Malaysia, Japan, China and Germany as part of delegations to Festivals of India Programme and Literary Exchange Programmes. The Akademi also hosted 3 Russian writers in addition to the literary delegations from Spain, Fiji, New Zealand and Thailand.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech, reiterated the Akademi's commitment to literary service across the country and highlighted that in the past year the Akademi organized one programme every 18 hours and published one book every 20 hours. He thanked the writers' community for their unflinching support and cooperation and appealed to everyone to highlight Sahitya Akademi's commitment and good work.

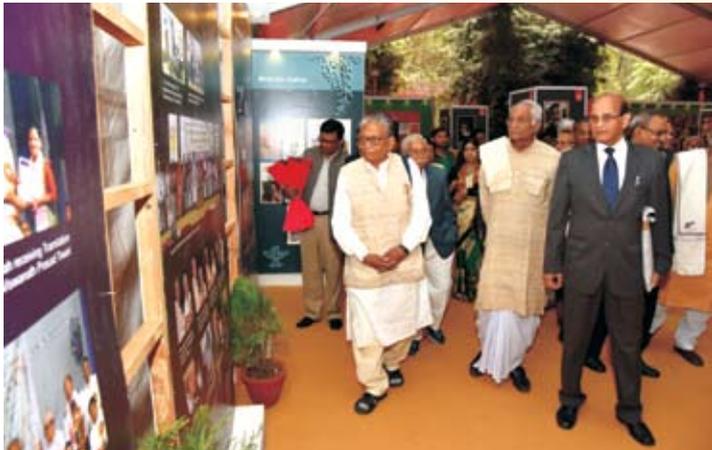
Dr Manoj Das, in his speech, thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate the Akademi Exhibition and said he was honored. Dr Das said but the for Akademi, most of good literature from vernacular languages would have remained unavailable to majority of masses in other communities and the Akademi should be lauded for uniting the entire country through translations and also making best of literature from one language available in other languages. He shared an interesting anecdote from 1957 featuring the then President of Sahitya Akademi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and highlighted the Akademi's role in the rise and development of literature in regional languages. He congratulated the Akademi for its dignified stance in the middle of the controversy that erupted in 2015. He pointed out that his association with Sahitya Akademi is 55 years old and urged the youth of the country to join and stay with the Akademi.

Later, the President took Dr Das and other members to visit the Exhibition and provided explanations regarding the photos depicting seminal events in the Akademi's history.

SAHITYA AKADEMI TRANSLATION PRIZE 2015 – AWARD WINNERS

Sahitya Akademi announced the list of translators in 23 languages as winners of 2015 Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize. Winner for Marathi will be announced later. List of the winners

Language	Title of Translation	Name of the Translator
Assamese	Ganadevata	Suren Talukdar
Bengali	Anamdaser Puthi	Mau Das Gupta
Bodo	Jaharni MWnthai	Dhansri Swargiary
Dogri	Kinne Pakistan	Chhatarpal
English	Bharathipura	Susheela Punitha
Gujarati	Jene Lahor Nathi Joyun E Janmyo J Nathi Sharifa Vijliwala	
Hindi	Baromas	Damodar Khadse
Kannada	Kochereti	N. Damodara Shetty
Kashmiri	Lal Ded	Rattan Lal Shant
Konkani	Rag Darbari	Jaymala Danayat
Maithili	Badali Jaichh Ghareta	Devendra Jha
Malayalam	Gora	K.C. Ajayakumar
Manipuri	Lishing Ama Supna Mariphumarigi Mama	Naorem Khagendra
Nepali	Birataki Padmini	Shankar Pradhan
Odia	Kaberi Bhali Jhiatia	Shakuntala Baliarsingh
Punjabi	Manoj Das Dian Kahaniyan	Balbir Parwana
Rajasthani	Madan Bavniyo	Madan Saini
Sanskrit	Ahmev Radha Ahmev Krishna	Tarashankar Sharma 'Pandeya'
Santali	Baplanij	Tala Tudu
Sindhi	Lal Ded	Sarita Sharma
Tamil	Meetchi	Gowri Kirubanandan
Telugu	Sufi Cheppina Katha	L.R. Swamy
Urdu	Gitanjali	Suhail Ahmad Farooqi



TRIBAL LANGUAGE POETRY FESTIVAL

February 16, 2016, New Delhi

The theme and focus of 2016 Festival of Letters is Tribal, Oral and North-East Literature. As part of that focus, Sahitya Akademi introduced Tribal Language Poetry Festival featuring noted tribal poet from all over the country.



Prof Mrinal Miri delivering inaugural address

In his welcome speech, Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked all the poets for coming all the way from their native places and observed that no other country in the world is as rich and diverse linguistically as India is. He highlighted the role of oral traditions in the dissemination and carrying over of cultural components of communities all over India and Sahitya Akademi's commitment to preserve and propagate the tribal and oral literature across India. He pointed out that the Akademi had its centers for tribal and oral literature in the North-East at different places and in the past year have opened centers in Imphal and Delhi dedicated to this task. He then delineated several unique features of oral traditions and their role in the conveying of culture from one generation to the next.

Prof Mrinal Miri, eminent scholar and educationist, inaugurated the Tribal Language Poetry Festival. Prof Miri thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate the festival and talked at length about various aspects of language formation and language propagation, especially among tribal communities, not only in India, but across the globe. He said Sahitya Akademi's efforts in this direction should be applauded and encouraged since the Akademi not only strives to preserve and propagate a tribal or unwritten language but all of literary forms contained in those traditions.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, thanked Prof Miri for the detailed exposition on language and talked at length about various Indian philosophical expositions on language. He also highlighted how the natural living of tribals renders their language pure and simple even though theirs is a community living. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech observed that India is a home to more than 400 languages and most of them are tribal languages. He felt it is sad that when tribals are brought mainstream, ironically, they tend to lose their unique folk identity and folklores disappear from their lives. Dr Kambar said steps like the current tribal language poetry festival in the national event are sure to strengthen tribal and folk literature

Seventeen tribal poets recited their compositions on varied themes. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer-on-Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the event.

Cultural Programme : Karma Dance – the dance of the tribals of Odisha

In the evening there was a performance of Karma Dance, a ritual dance of Binjhal tribe of Odisha. The dance was performed by the Padampur Sangeet Samiti which is a registered organization devoted to the restoration of the glorious cultural heritage of Borasambar region. The organization has specialized unit in the performance of Karma. Their specialization showed out in the exemplary performance of the Karma dance to the delight of select audience. The movement of grace coupled with the poise of female dancers and grandiose of the music generated by the male performers coupled with the devotion to Karamsani stood out in the performance. It was an evening of cultural entertainment mixed with spiritually uplifting theme and devotional performance. It was a new environment created by the troupe for the writers and scholars assembled in a serene atmosphere of the Rabindra Bhawan Lawns. The troupe for the benefit the audience provided running commentary and elaborations where needed.



Dr K. Sreenivasarao felicitating the troupe



SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS PRESENTATION

February 17, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, India's Premier Literary Institution, presented Sahitya Akademi Awards to writers in 24 languages at a glittering ceremony in FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium in New Delhi on February 16, 2016. Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi was the Chief Guest at the function while Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akdemi, presented the Awards to the writers. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, eminent playwright and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi and Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi also attended the presentation ceremony.

In his welcome speech, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, stated that the Akademi is a home of writers and for the writers. He highlighted various details and Akademi's achievements to point out how Akademi has been rendering literary service to the nation with writers at the core. He reiterated that the Akademi will always stand by the writers of all kinds. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the greatness of Indian literature in all its forms and urged the fellow nationals to give up aping colonial civilizations. He provided a number of examples to prove that even minor languages of India are much richer than the ones of Europe or America or Africa. Dr Tiwari said it is through literature can unity be achieved and communal & dividing elements can be defeated. Dr Tiwari said he is proud to be associated with the Akademi which is rendering selfless and yeomen literary service to the nation by preserving and propagating all the Indian literary traditions and in 24 recognized languages and also in minor languages and dialects of India.

In his speech, the Chief Guest Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, applauded Sahitya Akademi for carrying out literary service in all the 24 recognized languages and observed that Sahitya Akademi is the premier democratic literary institution that promotes writers and to the best of his knowledge no other organization does it. He highlighted the resonance across cultures, from Lao Tze, Bedil, Ghalib & opined that all espouse the same thought and principle. Dr Narang said God has given us beautiful earth but we humans have divided it on the basis of language and religion. Language binds but also causes schisms and it divides. Dr Narang observed that it is the responsibility of the writers to unite the humanity through language and literature. Dr Narang concluded by alluding to the grey area between darkness and light with written word and unwritten language and said that writing is the grey area between darkness and light and more than the written word it is the unwritten, unspoken word that carries higher meaning.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, read out the citations and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the Awards. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar honored the Awardees and also thanked all the dignitaries and media friends.



The Award winners with the Chief Guest, President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS - 2015 WINNERS

Assamese



Kula Saikia is an eminent Assamese short-story writer. Akasharchhabi Aru Anyanya Galpa is a collection of short stories dealing with distinctive themes which reflect the hopes and aspirations of present day society.

Bengali



Alok Sarkar is a celebrated Bengali poet, fiction writer and playwright. Sono Jabaphool is a collection of poetry derived from the poet's experience and reflects various moods.

Bodo



Brajendra Kumar Bodo is a Bodo poet, critic and essayist. Baidi Dengkhw Baidi Gab is a collection of thought provoking poems on varied issues such as ecological imbalance et al.

Dogri



Dhian Singh is a veteran Dogri writer who writes in various genres such as poetry plays, essays etc. Parchhamen Di Lo is a book of poetry which deals with various complex aspects of human life.

English



Cyrus Mistry is an eminent Indian English novelist and playwright. Chronicle Of A Corpse Bearer is a moving love story about a miniscule minority of the Paris corpse bearers called khandiyas.

Gujarati



Rasik Shah is a noted Gujarati writer and essayist. Ante Aarambh Part 1 & 2 is a collection of thought-provoking essays on varied themes.

Hindi



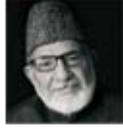
Ramdaras Mishra is an eminent Hindi poet, story writer, essayist and critic. Aag Ki Hansi is a deeply moving set of poems which bring out the agony and the ecstasy of ordinary lives.

Kannada



K.V. Thirumalesh is an acclaimed Kannada poet and critic. Akshaya Kavya is a poetry collection which is a beautiful blend of form, style and content with philosophical musings.

Kashmiri



Basir Bhadarwahi is a well-known Kashmiri writer. Jamis Ta Kasheeri Manz Kashmir Natia Adbuk Tawareekh is a comprehensive literary criticism of Naat.

Konkani



Uday Bhembre is an acclaimed writer in Konkani. Kamaparva is a play based on an episode in the Mahabharata which has the author's unique interpretation.

Maithili



Man Mohan Jha is a distinguished Maithili writer. Khissa is a short story collection which is a reflection of the modern day concerns of the Maithili society.

Malayalam



K.R. Meera is an eminent Malayalam novelist, short story writer and journalist. Aaraachar explores the troubled psyche of a woman who has donned the mantle of the first ever hang woman of India.

Manipuri



Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh is a well-known Manipuri poet. Ahingna Yekshlliba Mang is a collection of 91 poems which express the poet's longing for all the restlessness prevailing in the present day society.

Marathi



Arun Khopkar is a renowned Marathi writer, film scholar, film maker and teacher. Chalal Chitravyooh is a collection of articles in the form of memoirs and appreciation of renowned artistes of contemporary India.

Nepali



Gupta Pradhan is a well-known writer and critic of the Nepali Language. Samyaka Prativimbaharu is short story collection which deals with social realities vis-à-vis the contradictions in the human mind.

Odia



Bibhuti Pattanaik is a living legend of Odia fiction. Mahishasura Muhan is a collection of short stories where the author recreates his vintage idiom of anger, irony and romance artistically concealed behind a taut storyline.

Punjabi



Jaswinder Singh is an acclaimed Punjabi fiction writer and critic. Maat Lok is about the turmoil which Punjab faced in the late eighties of the last century.

Rajasthani



Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadi' is an eminent Rajasthani writer and theatre activist. Gawaad adds a new dimension to the Rajasthani novel, breaking new ground in the literary vista.

Sanskrit



Ram Shanker Awasthi is a Sanskrit poet, short story writer and a scholar with a standing of his own. Vandevi is an epic poem dealing with the life and character of Sita from the Ramayana with a modern perspective from the author.

Santali



Rabi Lal Tudu is an eminent Santali writer who has made a seminal contribution to its Literature. Parsikhatir is a play based on contemporary issues.

Sindhi



Maya Rahi is a renowned Sindhi writer. Mahingi Murk is a collection of short stories where the author has advocated new systems fo thought against age-old traditions.

Tamil



Aa. Madhavan is an icon of Tamil Literature. Ilakkiya Suvadukul is a collection of critical essays which showcase the contemporary literary history in a nutshell.

Telugu



Volga is a well-known Telugu writer known for her sensitive portrayal of women characters. Vimukta is a collection of short stories which are reflections of a woman's agony in a patriarchal society.

Urdu



Shamim Tariq is a well-known Urdu journalist and critic. Tasawwuf Aur Bhakti (Tanqeedi Aur Taqabuli Mutalea) deals with Sufism and Vedanta philosophies, their origin and impact on Literature.

INTERACTION OF AWARD WINNERS WITH MEDIA

Winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and interacted with the representatives of various media houses at 11 a.m. on February 16, 2016 ahead of the Award Presentation ceremony in the evening. The session was moderated by Amar Nath 'Amar' and Rafiq Masoodi. Earlier Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor of Hindi at Sahitya Akademi, introduced the Awardees.

The interaction started with Rafiq Masoodi asking the Awardees about the future of literature in the face of dwindling reading habits and vanishing sales of books, especially literary books. The Awardees led by Volga responded saying that future of literature should not be viewed from the urban mindset but also should take into account enormous interest in books, reading and literature in the villages across India.

Sri Arun Khopkar said writers should come forward and embrace technology for electronic books have many advantages. He also agreed with fellow awardees on the interest for books and reading in the villages and pointed out strong Dalit current sweeping the villages of Maharashtra to substantiate that. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi opined that writers and educationists should use technology to their advantage and also for the betterment of writers' community.

Kula Saikia, Award Winner in Assamese continued the discussion and observed that while the reading is a social habit and books can be gifted but ebooks score over print versions because of their portability and web-

access. He also did not agree that reading habits and publishing sector is in the wane. According to him the opposite holds true.

Sri Dhian Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, observed that writers should not write from parochial motives and should have broad mindedness and he urged the fellow writers to maintain high standards.

Veteran writer Sri Ramdaras Mishra observed that newspapers are no longer the carriers of literature as they used to be in the past. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English, while replying to a question from media whether writer is a social reformer by design or default, observed that writer writes for his own satisfaction rather than with any other goal in mind. Sri Arun Khopkar felt that a writer has to engage with his medium and intentions do not matter.

Cultural Programme : Following the Awards presentation ceremony, an act of Raas Lila was performed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy. Vasant Raas, which is one of the most beautiful of Raas Lilas and celebrated normally on Chaitra Purnima was enacted. The dance depicting the eternal love of Radha and Krishna was performed with grace by the troupe as divinity and fragrance of Godhead filled the air. Costumes, rich in texture and color, coupled with the grandeur of the act itself – gopis searching and wailing the vanished Krishna and the joy and holi color spread upon uniting with the Lord made the performance a truly memorable one.



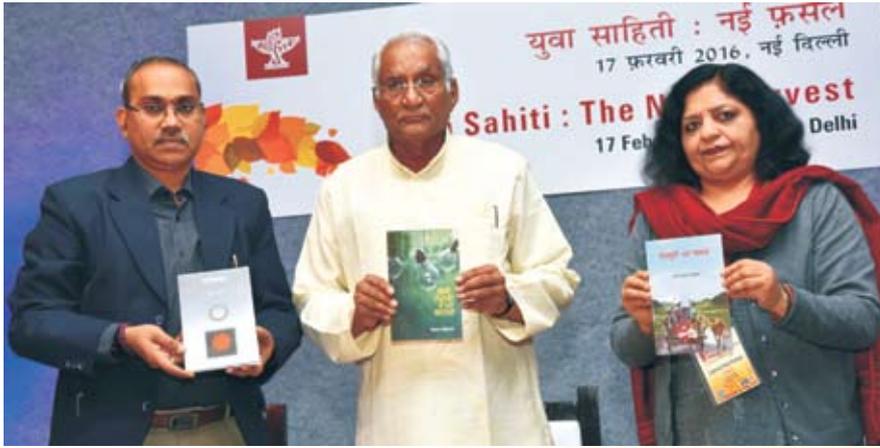
Award winners interacting with the media

YUVA SAHITI: NEW HARVEST

February 17, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters continued for the third day and the first programme of the day was Yuva Sahiti, a programme devoted to the young writing across India.

In the inaugural session Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, young writers from all over the country and other participants. He talked about the value of young people to all civilizations and observed that it is young people who are the drivers of change. He said young writing assumes more significance in the light of the circumstances and the times in which we are living and the crisis humanity is going through across the globe. He highlighted several programmes, schemes and projects that the Akademi has in place exclusively for the young writers / poets / translators across the country in addition to the Yuva Puraskar. He urged the young writers to utilize these facilities of Sahitya Akademi through any of its branches and benefit.



(L-R) Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari and Dr Sukrita Paul Kumar

Prof Sukrita Paul Kumar, noted English poet and critic, in her inaugural address, dwelt at length upon the creative writing, the process involved and the impact it leaves on the writer and the reader. She said writing has nothing to do with age and she said she feels young whenever she starts writing. She laid out few principles of creative writing that she had imbibed during her career such as a catholic mindset, openness of the heart and uncluttered thought flow, which she

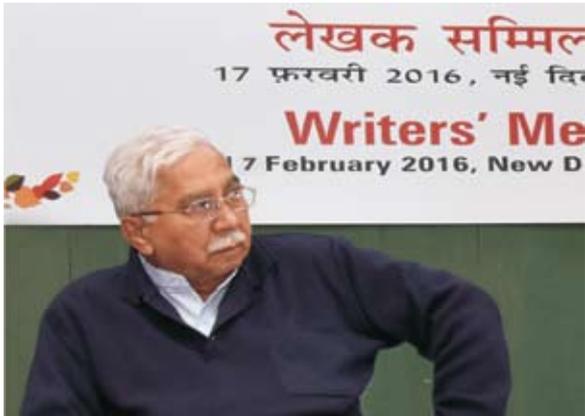
thought might be useful to the young writers assembled. Freedom of mind, freedom of heart and freedom of physical space are vital for any creative writing. A writer should strive to release himself / herself from clutches of all kinds including that of a language and the cited examples of Samuel Beckett and Jhumpa Lahiri writing in a foreign language and then translating the same into the language of one's writing to establish that language need not be a constraining factor.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, agreed with the thoughts and principles of Prof Sukrita and said he is happy that more and more young writers are getting opportunities to express themselves at different levels. He thanked Prof Sukrita for agreeing to chair and inaugurate the young writers' festival. Seven noted young poets, Bijoysankar, Barman Ashok Amber, Sejal Shah, Arjun Golasangi, Arimbam Rimeeta Devi, Mary Margaret and Mohd Rasheedi, recited their compositions towards the end of the inaugural session.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Why do I write?' and chaired by Sri Angshuman Kar, three noted young writers, Sri Gauri Shankar Nemiwal (Rajasthani), Ms. Indira Dangi (Hindi) and Sri Veeran Kutti (Malayalam), presented their papers enumerating their reasons on why do they write. In the second session devoted to story reading and chaired by Shri Brajendra Tripathi, four noted young fiction writers, Sri Binod Ghoshal (Bengali), Sri Naresh Naik (Konkani), Sri Prashant Bagad (Marathi) and Sri Kshetrabashi Nayak (Odia) read out their stories. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Brajendra Tripathi, ten noted young poets, Sri Rujab Machahary (Bodo), Sri Mahtab Manzoor (Kashmiri), Sri Balkar Aulakh (Punjabi), Sri Seemal Tudu (Santali), Sri Navneet Kumar Jha (Maithili), Sri Ranjeet Gurung (Nepali), Ms. Vaneeta (Tamil), Sri Narayan Dash (Sanskrit), Ms. Sangeeta Bapuli (Sindhi) and Sri Mihir Chitre (English), recited their poems.

WRITERS' MEET

February 17, 2016, New Delhi



Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President Sahitya Akademi
presiding over the meet

All the winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and shared with one and all their experiences during their journeys as creative writers / poets. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, briefly welcomed the Award Winners, spoke briefly about objective of the programme and requested Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi to kindly conduct the proceedings of the meet. Sri Kula Saikia, the Award Winner in Assamese, spoke about varied subjective feelings, the relationship between the creator and the subjects of his works and the impact of recognition on writers. Sri Brajendra Kumar Brahma, the Award Winner in Bodo, described briefly his journey and evolution as a poet. Sri Dhian Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, talked about how his life experiences reflect in

his poetry and the travails and struggles of Dogra society, the pain and anguish are reflected in all of his works. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English, described his journey as a writer, as a journalist and his struggles with illness.

Sri Ramdaras Mishra, Award Winner in Hindi, described the process of creative journey through personal examples from his own life. Sri K.V. Thirumalesh, Award Winner in Kannada, thanked the Akademi, his family and friends and his publisher. Sri Bashir Bhadarwahi, Award Winner in Kashmiri, talked about his journey as a writer and influences on him. Sri Uday Bhembre, Award Winner in Konkani, observed the seeds for many a story comes from the society in which the creator lives and described how his play came into existence. Sri Man Mohan Jha, Award Winner in Maithili, talked about his creative journey and alluded to the role of circumstances in the making of a creative writer. Ms. K.R. Meera, Award Winner in Malayalam, spoke at length about how she reflected with the question that is the topic for the meet and how she derived different answers depending on the situation but ultimately she felt that all of us should write to ensure all of us can attain complete citizenship. Sri Arun Khopkar, Award Winner in Marathi, spoke about his dabbling in arts, including acting before moving on to study film direction course, how he ended up in writing and about synaesthetic effect of cinema.



Ms. Meera and Sri Arun Khopkar sharing their experience

Sri Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh, Award Winner in Manipuri, described how the satisfaction provided by the poems and his love for Nature, ensured that he became a poet. Sri Gupta Pradhan, Award Winner in Nepali, described influences on his life and how that shaped his journey as a writer. Sri Bibhuti Pattnaik, Award Winner in Odia, described in an autobiographical narration his journey as a writer, his attempts, struggles and triumphs. Sri Jaswinder Singh, Award Winner in Punjabi, described in detail about his journey as a writer and the birth of Mat Lok. Sri Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadhi,' Award Winner in Rajasthani and Sri Ramshanker Awasthi, Winner in Sanskrit, described their journey into creative world.

Sri Rabilal Tudu, Award Winner in Santali, provided a brief account of his life and how his play Parsi Khatir came about. Ms. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi, talked about how partition and other travails of Sindhi community ensured she became a writer as she wanted to give expressions to her experiences. Sri Aa. Madhavan, Award Winner in Tamil, described his long and arduous literary journey in detail. Ms. Volga, Award Winner in Telugu, described her journey as a creative writer and also influences on her writing.

SAMVATSAR LECTURE

February 17, 2016, New Delhi

Every year during the Festival of letters Sahitya Akademi invites an eminent scholar to deliver a lecture that betrays a deep concern for values, throws light on different ways of thinking, that engages the speaker and the audience about creativity, literature, life etc.



Dr Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari delivering the Samvatsar lecture

Many great minds have adorned this platform and great speeches have been delivered on the occasion. Some of the distinguished people who have delivered Samvatsar lecture in the past are Agyeya Vatsyayan, Umashankar Joshi, Vidya Niwas Mishra, Nirmal Verma, U.R. Ananthamurthy, Sitakant Mahapatra, Manoj Das, Amitav Ghosh, Karan Singh, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

The guest speaker of the day, Dr Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari is an eminent Gandhi scholar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker, spoke about the objectives of the programme and introduced the speaker to the audience.

Accepting Akademi's offer to deliver the annual Samvatsar lecture and feeling honored by the magnanimous gesture of the Akademi, Dr. Dharmadhikari at the outset made an admission that he felt wholly inadequate to address such an august

gathering full of literary luminaries. He said that the language he uses is a curious admixture which he has named "hirathi" - an amalgamation of his mother tongue Marathi and the national language Hindi. He said he spent 10 crucial years of his childhood under Gandhiji's influence in Wardha. He is beholden to the 'samskara' of Swadeshi and one particular event - Gandhiji's interview to the BBC on 15th August 1947 where he said "tell the world that from now on Gandhi does not know Hindi" moved him so much that he took a vow to speak in Hindi, even in his verdicts as a dispenser of justice (judge) he has stuck to Hindi although barring some international seminars. He has whole heartedly believed in the slogan of swadeshi, having worn khadi all along and having participated in the Quit India movement in 1942 when he was just 15 have left an indelible imprint on his mind. He said he had immense respect for literature and for the creators of literature. A writer has the unique talent to search for knowledge as well as bliss from all creation and from life itself.

He said that the human race is facing a very difficult time where old values, old established system of thought are facing decay and death and new systems have to be set in place yet. So these are times of flux. A writer has to express the same in his work; also it is important that a writer should be a living example of the writing he espouses. If there is an incongruence of thought and action, a writer may be living a split personality syndrome which would lead to a hypocritical dual lifestyle which is wholly undesirable.

The world faces crucial questions. Today's world is one terrorized world. Everyone is busy safeguarding their interests. Nobody trusts the other. In such an atmosphere of distrust and disbelief how can one trust, love, respect and help the other? How can complete distrust be replaced by complete assurance? Man has become man's greatest enemy. It is then, the sacred duty of the writer to build bridges through his writing. He opined that we have to do a re-think and develop a sense of duty than just have an acute sense of rights. Doing one's duties well, one's rights are



Duties

as well. Sister Nivedita, in response to a question on whether there is an Indian mind, opined that there are three special qualities that Indian possess and these are synthesis, harmony and co-ordination. Acharya Vinoba Bhave defined “Sahitya” as one which moves alongside life. Sahitya, according to Dr. Dharmadhikari is a kind of yagna - a ceremonial worship, an offering. Literature or Sahitya is not just a mirror to reality. It should lead to revolution in thoughts and action. Sahitya should reflect sincerity and commitment.

Today, more than ever, man has become self centered. Core values of life which are instilled by the family are missing because parents are busy with their own lives. Often, the television acts as a babysitter, then can we really blame the young generation if they are not interested in literature? Does a writer live a part of what he writes as well- is something the new generation wants to know. if he does not, if there is a conflict or contradiction between what he writes and what he truly is, never will great literature be forthcoming. He then spoke elaborately about the havoc social networking sites are causing to the society instead of meeting face to face, people now prefer connecting on face book. A British organization-divorce online researched in 2012 and came up with the data that 33% of divorces took place due to face book. Virtual reality is taking over the larger reality. Also, the advent of

smart phones has led to an increase in the problems of memory loss and deafness. People also live in anxiety and waiting for a reply or a like or a message and suffer from what is now called “nomophobia” also, increased use of digital devices has led to isolation of the individual whereas the crux of human life is socialization. How to bring back the human aspect in this era of commoditization is a big question facing the creator of literature.

Sahitya means the welfare of all, according to an old definition. And what can be achieved by the pen cannot be achieved by the sword. Books/literature is not just a physical, tangible reality but an emotional reality as well. We are faced with new challenges in these new times for which readymade, instant solutions may not be available. We can face the change by the dictum of - think globally, act locally he then went on to talk about the system of justice and how it is dependent upon a number of factors. The law ensures that everyone is equal in its eyes but a broader perspective shd include equal opportunities as well. Today there is the paradox of “bharat” vs “India”. Dr Dharmadhikari felt that justice should be dispensed in Hindi as well. The saints and philosophers of our country have taken forth the principle of one nation one people more than any other section of people. We have to arouse nationalism of the people- the work that was done by saints and philosophers in the past. We have to look a fresh at ourselves, removing our spectacles.



(L-R) Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari & Dr K. Sreenivasarao

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GANDHI, AMBEDKAR, NEHRU CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES

February 18, 2016, New Delhi

Every year Sahitya Akademi organizes a national seminar with relevant themes as part of the annual Festival of Letters. This year's focus is on the three prominent makers of modern India.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and spoke briefly about the scope and objectives of the seminar. He stated that the seminar is one of the steps that Akademi is initiating in highlighting the importance and relevance of these doyens to the 21st century India.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about how Gandhi Nehru and Ambedkar, though each one different and pursued different ideology and path, influenced each other in direct or indirect ways. He pointed out the ways in which Gandhi influenced Nehru and also pointed out that differences between Gandhi and Ambedkar on the issue of caste led to a full length discussion on the nature of the institution itself.

In her inaugural address, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, eminent scholar, talked about how great leaders like Gandhi and Nehru occupied the mental space of the masses. Dr Kapila Vatsyayan highlighted the spiritual dimension of Gandhi which Nehru and Ambedkar did not share and observed that unlike the current times where all the three leaders occupy our mental space, in the 1950's and 1960's only Gandhi and Nehru dominated the memory of the public. She wanted to find out from the Akademi

experts if 'adivasis' can be equated with dalits and congratulated Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a wonderful seminar.

In his speech, Dr Krishnakumar, eminent scholar and educationist, highlighted the major distinctions among Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar and observed that while Gandhi's vision (at a fundamental level) centered around man, revolution and evolution of man and his relationship with the state. On the other hand Ambedkar's vision and contributions centered on the State and how to streamline social institutions. He also highlighted how Gandhi and Ambedkar differed in their approaches on abolition of caste system.

In his keynote address, Dr Manoj Das, eminent scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about how and why all the three leaders should be treated as agencies for change for which India was ready. He said spiritual understanding of movement of this type is necessary, for, otherwise it would be impossible even to conceive how was it possible for one or two persons to galvanize the entire country at a time when there were no means of fast communication or travelling.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the changes that took place in almost all the spheres of human activity and how Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar were responsible for it.

In the first session devoted to 'Freedom and Non-violence' and chaired by Prof Sitanshu Yashaschandra, three eminent scholars, Sri Nand Kishore Acharya, Sri Pundalik Naik and Ms. Anuradha Roy, presented their papers 'Himsa se mukti hi swatantrata,' 'Gandhi Nehru aur Ambedkar: Saatatya aur asaataatya' and 'Gandhian social ideology coming to terms with Nehruvian state: Thoughts and Experiments in Bengal' respectively. In the second session devoted to 'Response to the West' and was chaired by Dr Bhalachandra Nemade, two eminent scholars, Malchand Tiwary and Kunal Chattopadhyay, presented their papers focusing on the impact of the three leaders in Rajasthan to boycott western things and Ambedkar & Indian Nationalism, respectively.



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the Presidential address.
Also seen are (L-R) Dr K.Sreenivasarao, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, Dr Manoj Das,
Dr Krishna Kumar and Dr Chandrashekar Kambar

PURVOTTARI : NORTH-EAST AND NORTHERN WRITERS' MEET

February 18, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a programme ‘Purvottari’ featuring eminent writers and poets from North-East and Northern regions of India. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries and participants of the event. He observed that despite beautiful landscape, wonderful languages though mostly oral some time ago and vast amount of literature, almost all of literature from the region was not reaching other parts of India. He informed the audience that to remedy this situation and restore the balance with reference to relationship between various literary traditions, Sahitya Akademi has been promoting literature from North-East by way of organizing a number multilingual writers/poets’ meets connecting writers/poets from North-East and different parts of India and also publishing tribal and oral literature from the region.

In his inaugural address, Sri Lakshmi Nandan Bora, eminent Assamese writer said he is very happy that more and more writers from North-East are getting to interact and learn from the writers and poets of rest of India. He said he is very happy that because of Sahitya Akademi, more and more translators from the North-Eastern region are getting to know nuances and techniques from translators of other regions and languages.



Inaugural session of the meet in progress

In his Presidential speech Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said ‘Jitini vividhta uttar-purvotri bhashaon aur Sanskrit mein pai jati hain utni vividhta aur kahin nahi hai.’ He also expressed his deep concern about the future of marginal languages which are in danger because of the electronic and print media. He also said that the promotion of North-Eastern literature is on the top agenda of the Sahitya Akademi.

In the first session that was devoted to ‘Why do I write?’ and chaired by Smt. Rita Chowdhury, five noted writers, Sri Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Sri Virendra Jain (Hindi), Sri Vikram Sampath (English), Ms. Lairenlakpam Ibemhal Devi (Manipuri) and Krishna Kumar Toor (Urdu), talked about why they write. Sri Uzir said despite lot of efforts he is not able to trace the reasons for his writing and stated that writing came to him naturally and at a very early age. Sri Virendra Jain said a number of unsavory incidents in his life forced him to look for ways of catharsis and writing provided him best platform to express himself and free his mind. Sri Vikram Sampath said he would agree with Orewell and give four reasons of the former – sharing ego, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical and political purposes. Ms. Lairenlakpam Ibemhal Devi said her love for nature and her gregarious nature ensured she opted poetry writing. Krishna Kumar Toor said his craving to share his feelings took him to writing.

In the second session that was devoted to story reading and chaired by L. Joychandra Singh, two noted fiction writers, Ms. Manika Devee (Assamese) and Sri Roop Singh Chandel (Hindi) presented their papers. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Leeladhar Mandloi, ten noted poets, Sri Pranjit Bora (Assamese), Sri Sushil Begana (Dogri), Sri Abdul Rashid Shad (Kashmiri), Sri Ajit Kumar Azad (Maithili), Sri Longjam Ibotombi Singh (Manipuri), F. Lalzuithanga (Mizo), Ms. Kritimani Khatiwada (Nepali), Sri Satish Gulati (Punjabi), Sri Chandra Bhushan Jha (Sanskrit) and Ms. Yashoda Murmu (Santali).





FACE-TO-FACE

February 18, 2016, New Delhi

Face-to-Face is a programme that takes place during the Festival of Letters every year. In this programme an eminent scholar from a particular language is invited to interview the Award winner in that language for that year. Every year select Awardees get to interact with scholars and the objective of this programme is to provide opportunities to other people to know more about the Award Winner.

The first Award Winner to take part in the day was Marathi's Arun Khopkar. Sri Kumar Ketkar, well-known journalist interacted with Sri Khopkar. The questions ranged from the polyglot perceptions of Sri Khopkar to film aesthetics of Eisenstein to inspirations for making film on painting art and music for which Sri Khopkar said everything that is connected with art has a symbiotic relationship and in the whole parts just play a role of adding particulars.

Meena T. Pillai engaged Ms. K.R. Meera, and the conversations veered around women's status, countering male hegemony, patriarchal resistance to women writing in Kerala and feminist literature and women in journalism. Ms. Meera said she wanted to reclaim the lost lives of women in Kerala and also she wanted to venture into where other women have not ventured before.

Stuti Goswami was in conversation with Kula Saikia, Award Winner in Assamese, and the conversation

centered around being a public servant and Saikia said like being a public servant writing is also a public endeavor. The conversation then moved towards and revolved around social reality, science fiction and writing in general.

Vivek Shanbag was in conversation with K.V. Thirumalesh, Award Winner in Kannada. Conversation revolved around Thirumalesh's writing journey, his translations, his experiences as a reader and also as a writer.

Arshia Sattar was in conversation with Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English. Conversation revolved around presence of dreams in his narrative, common themes in his early works, his research on parsi corpse bearers.

J.L. Reddy was in conversation with Volga, the Award Winner in Telugu. Conversation centered around Volga's writing career, feminism in her writings, work done by Asmita and feminist writing in telugu region etc

Suresh Rituparna was in conversation with Ramdarash Mishra, Award Winner in Hindi. The conversation revolved around Mishra's writing journey, movement into urban spaces and future of literature in 21st century.



Award winners in conversation with eminent scholars



SYMPOSIUM ON UNWRITTEN LANGUAGES

February 19, 2016, New Delhi

The second edition of the symposium on Unwritten Languages of India was organized on the Day 5 of the Festival of Letters 2016 at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns in New Delhi.



Inaugural session of the symposium in progress

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about the discussion of the first edition and hoped this year too symposium would be successful. He urged the experts to speed up the process of preserving and propagating more and more unwritten languages since the number of unwritten languages are vanishing fast and thick. He thanked Dr Debi Prasanna Pattanayak and Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra for participating in the symposium.

Dr Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, distinguished scholar and linguist and who was the Chief Guest of the Symposium, talked about the distinction between the written and unwritten languages and observed that with the advent of the printing press the hegemony of the written word gained supremacy and pushed the indigenous languages were pushed to the background. With this, the unwritten literature got relegated to folk literature and anthropology became a handmade of colonialism. Written literature became a mark of culture. Dr Pattanayak also talked about the historical process by which the supremacy of written languages was established slowly and surely. He observed that what is not being documented and researched is the decimation of written languages and spread of illiteracy due to colonial domination. Telephone, Radio, Television, Computer, Mobile, Android Technology made writing superfluous. First casualty was letter

writing and second was reading books. He stated that though technologies provide facilities to reach small languages and small communities using them, they also exerted pressure for getting rid of multiple channels for creation and transmission of knowledge and go in for simple solutions of dominant mono-lingualism. Communities are being redefined as cyber-entities. Dr Pattanayak informed the audience that India is at the top of the list of endangered languages. He concluded saying that before our very nose written languages are slipping into unwritten spoken languages and are dying out with the last speaker of the language but our sophisticated technologies are not able to save them.

In his keynote address, Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, eminent scholar and folklorist, talked about beauty of Indian literary tradition is unwritten and oral. British education system corrupted the oral traditions with the force of written literature by the state. He quoted Gopabandhu “the literate people of this country may be head but larger masses of the country is the soul.” The unwritten languages were historically silenced due to the dominance of power with writing system during the past centuries. Dr Mishra also stated that the oral literary traditions like myths, epics and tales are necessary to understand the history of time and conditions of people and also that inspite of multilingual situation oral tradition of India fosters unity of thought and knowledge representing a common paradigm in Indian literature. He also warned that 21st century will witness a rapid decline of linguistic diversities. He lamented that majority of people are unaware neither of the fact that so many languages are vanishing nor do they have any idea what it means to lose a language and that loss of language would mean loss of thought and knowledge.

In his presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that oldest literature in the world is Rg Ved and it is shruti – that which is heard. When the same is committed to memory is called Smrti and it is this process of committing to memory and creating a written literature that Max Muller. It is through unwritten language and oral tradition that vast amount of literature that was disseminated from one generation to another generation for thousands of

years. Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the role of folklore and folksongs in the preservation and propagation of knowledge and culture from one generation to another. He informed the audience that majority of languages are unwritten and we should learn to look after the literature contained in the majority of literature and our ignorance and arrogance should not prove too devastating for humanity itself.

In the first session, devoted to 'Challenges of Scripting the Unwritten Languages' and chaired by Dr Awadesh Kumar Mishra, three noted scholars, Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddy, Sri Pramod Pandey and Sri Ganesh Murmu, presented their papers focusing on different kinds of challenges that they face while trying to evolve suitable scripts of spoken dialects but unwritten in nature. In the second session devoted to 'Unwritten Literature / Oral Tradition' and chaired by Sri Bhagwan Das Patel, four noted scholars, Kikeri Narayan, Indranil Acharya, Basant Nirgune and Nila Shah, presented their papers on the history of oral traditions, orality of cultures, relevance of oral traditions in the modern and contribution of oral traditions in the nourishment of culture and literature etc. The programme was coordinated by Dr Devendra Devesh, Officer-on-Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a Literary interactive meet in collaboration with Cheen Bhawan and with the Centre for Comparative Literature, Bhasha Bhawan, Visva Bharati University at Santiniketan, West Bengal on January 1, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a Literary interactive meet in collaboration with the School of Language and Linguistics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, with the Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta, West Bengal and with the Department of Hindi, Presidency University, Kolkata on January 4, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with China National Publications Import & Export (Group) Corporation (CNPIEC), organised China-

India Literary Exchange Forum in Delhi between January 9, 2016 and January 11, 2016. The theme of the forum was Localized Languages and Globalized Literature. Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the esteemed audience and the introductory remarks were given by Mr. Sun Shoushan, Vice Minister of State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of China. President, Sahitya Akademi delivered the presidential address and noted Indian and Chinese scholars presented their views on the above theme. Apart from above an illustrator workshop based on the theme of Chinese Story with Indian Illustrations – Global Cooperation project of Cao Wenxuan's Picture Books was also organized on 11th January 2016 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme by inviting Ms. Baby Bhuyan (Assamese poet), Sri Ibbar Rabbi (Hindi poet), Dr. Rita Malhotra (English poet) and Sri Arun Kumar Sahu (Odia short story writer) in Delhi on January 11, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Pravasi Manch programme with Sri Rajendra N. Das from Germany at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on January 25, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Stress Management Workshop based on Yoga in Delhi on January 25, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a literary interaction programme featuring Prof. Jiang Jingkui, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow of the Akademi with Delhi based eminent writers in Delhi on January 27, 2016. On this occasion, the fellowship was also present to him.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized an Asmita programme by inviting Ms. Archana Dutta (English poet), Ms. Archana Verma (Hindi poet) and Ms. Sujata Chaudhary (Odia poet) in Delhi on February 8, 2016.

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Manipuri-Kashmiri Translation Workshop at Imphal, Manipur between February 9, 2016 and February 11, 2016 .



NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GANDHI, AMBEDKAR, NEHRU CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES

Day 2

The National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities continued for the second day at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 19, 2016.



The third and fourth session of the seminar in progress

The third session of the seminar and first session of the day was devoted to ‘Freedom of Expression’ and was chaired by eminent Kannada writer, Prof S.L. Bhyrappa. Two noted scholars, Sri Sudhish Pachauri and Prof Makarand Paranjape, presented their papers focusing on ‘Jantantra Mein Lekhak aur Lekhak ka Jantantra’ and ‘India’s Intolerance Battle’ respectively. Sri Sudhish Pachauri talked about the freedom and various perspectives from the point of view of writers. He said there are various levels of freedom such as freedom from the state, freedom from the social shackles etc. He highlighted how Mahatma Gandhi found his own way to freedom personally. Writers should reflect upon their position and role in the state and act accordingly. Prof Makarand Paranjape began by posing a question to the audience ‘Is intolerance the other side of tolerance or is it the opposite of tolerance?’ He gave the example of intolerance in India with the incidents involved with Sri S.L.Bhyrappa’s work, who was in the Chair. He said that Sri Bhyrappa was also the victim of such intolerance in Karnataka. But instead of choosing to shouting slogans or be a part of any anti-national movement he chose to write a novel and he has shown how writers should fight intolerance. Prof Bhyrappa spoke extensively about caste and communal politics which is creating divisions among the citizens of the country. He said it is pitiable that governments in the country followed the same divide and rule policy of the Britishers.

The fourth session was devoted to ‘Women and Equality’ and was chaired by Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair. Three noted women writers Ms. S. Faustina Bama, Ms. Urmila Pawar and Ms. Rakshanda Jalil presented their papers about women and equality with reference to Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar. Faustina Bama said that equality means equal freedom, rights and respect for women at home, in the streets, in the market places, in the work places, in the schools and universities and in places of worship. In other words, besides equal economic and political rights, we seek particularly equal social and cultural space. For all this to happen, we need not only changes in law but also in our mind sets, attitudes and cultural practices. She concluded her paper with the words of Baba Saheb Ambedkar said Equality “for ours is a battle not for wealth or for power. It is battle for freedom. It is the battle of reclamation of human personality.” Urmila Pawar highlighted the similarities in the views of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar about women. Rakshanda Jalil delineated the influence of Gandhian and Nehruvian ideas of women on theatre and film industry. A lively question-answer session followed the presentations.

The fifth session was devoted to ‘Caste and Equality’ and was chaired by Prof K. Satchidanandan. Three noted scholars Prof K. Enoch, Sri Ramdas Bhatkal and Sri Rajkishore presented their papers focusing on Caste & Equality and Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar. In his speech, Prof K. Satchidanandan delivered a lecture on the necessity of bringing back the philosophies of Nehru and Ambedkar on the face of increasing caste violence and communal disharmony





that the country is witnessing. Prof Enoch focused on the evolution of caste and how it degrades other social institutions over a period of time. Sri Ramdas Bhatkal focused on the similarities and dissimilarities,



Fifth session in progress



A section of audience



In the evening a performance of Othello, a Shakespearean tragedy in Kathakali adaptation was performed by The International Centre for Kathakali, New Delhi (ICK).

continuities and discontinuities in the perceptions about Gandhi by Nehru and Ambedkar. His paper took Gandhian thought as focal point and looked at the continuities and discontinuities. Sri Rajkishore highlighted the plight of dalits and backward class people in India and observed that in this context the thoughts and philosophies of Ambedkar and Nehru are relevant today.

The sixth and last session of the day was devoted to ‘Language Question’ and was chaired by Dr Bhalachandra Nemade. Two noted scholars Sri Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi and Sri Soyam Lokendrajit Singh presented their papers focusing on ‘Three Dimensions of Language Question’ and ‘Language, Communication and Domination’ respectively.

SAHITYA AKADEMI ANNOUNCES CONFERMENT OF FELLOWSHIPS

Sahitya Akademi announced on February 15, 2016 that it will confer Sahitya Akademi Fellowships, its highest honor on two distinguished litterateurs of India, Prof Gurdial Singh and Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty. Exact date of conferment will be announced later. Sahitya Akademi Fellowships are normally bestowed on best of the best immortals of Indian literature with the rider that at any given point of time the number of Sahitya Akademi Fellows shall not exceed twenty-one.

Prof. Gurdial Singh is an eminent Punjabi writer and novelist. He was born on 10 January 1933 in Bhaini Fateh. He started his literary carer in 1957 with a short story “Bhaganwale” which was published in Panj Darya. He rose to popularity with the publication of his novel Marhi Da Deeva in 1964 and later in 1989 a film based on the novel also came out. He has 37 publications to his credit which include ten novels, eleven collections of short stories, three plays, two prose works and nine books for children. He has also translated more than 30 works into Punjabi. He is the recipient of various prestigious award and honors such as Padma Shri, Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award, Shiromani Sahitkar Award, Punjab Sahitya Akademi Award among others.

Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty is an eminent Bengali poet. Born in 1924, Sri Chakravarty pursued journalism to begin with and was the editor of the children’s fortnightly Anandamela. Chakravarty is one of the distinguished ‘modern’ poets of Bengal. Felicity of expression and perspicacity of diction are among the main traits of his compositions distinguishing him from the rest of his tribe.

His principal works include Nil Nirjan, Andhakar Baranda, Kolkatar Jish, Shreshtha Kavita and Ulanga Raja. He was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for Ulanga Raja. He is also an eminent translator and has translated a number of children’s works and poetry into Bengali.



SEMINAR ON TRANSLATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND INDIAN LITERARY TRADITIONS

February 20, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian literary traditions as part of Festival of Letters at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and talked about how translation lies at the core of all of Akademi's activities. He hoped with the help of translators' community across India that the seminar on translation will become a regular feature of Festival of Letters.

In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the translation activity that is inherent in the social fabric of India. He pointed in a multilingual society like India where language changes every 100 kms, it is impossible to conceive of a life without translation of one kind or the other. Crude or refined, translation always existed and was on use on a day to day basis in India. He highlighted various works, periods, movements of translations over the past 2000 years and observed that translation is natural to Indians.

Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent Hindi scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, who was the Guest of Honor, sated that India is a translation area. He wondered why no single critical text specifying the art or science of translation parallel to expert treatises in other fields and felt that maybe the exclusive attitude of Indians with regard to language and privilege of the speakers and their master narrative was responsible for this lacuna.

In his keynote address, Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, eminent Hindi scholar, said that translation permeates everything and the world is a construct of word but the word is a translation of the idea. Idea is abstract and languageless, translation facilitates its manifestation in concrete forms through different aural visual performative media of communication. In a way, no communication can become a reality without translation and translational consciousness.

Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar talked about translating cultural components of a language into another and



Dr K. Sreenivasarao delivering the welcome address.
Also seen an (L-R) Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar,
Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari & Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri

highlighted traditional view points on translating / transporting cultural consciousness of one region into another.

The first session was devoted to 'Translational Transactions in Bhakti Movement' and chaired by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, eminent literary critic, two noted scholars T.S. Satyanath and Prakash Bhatambrekar presented their papers 'Translational Transactions in Medieval Indian Vernacular Literary Cultures' and 'Bhaktikaal mein anuvadkiya aadaan pradaan' respectively.

In the second session devoted to 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India,' Sri Alok Bhalla chaired the session and two noted translators, Ms. Monalisa Jena and Sri Rajendra Prasad Mishra presented their papers 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India' and 'aupanivesika bharat mein anuvadkiya udyam' respectively.

In the third and final session that was devoted to 'Contemporary Translational Initiatives and Impacts' and chaired by Ms. Namita Gokhale, three noted translators, Sri N. Kalyan Raman, Ms. Neeta Gupta and Sri Harish Narang presented their papers. Ms. Neeta and Ms. Mini presented publishers' point of view. Sri Narang presented the perspective of the writer while Sri Kalyan Raman presented a paper on 'Translating the subaltern: Initiatives and impact.'

SPIN-A-TALE

February 20, 2016, New Delhi



Sri Prayag Shukla inaugurating the event

Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters concluded with the last day devoted to Children and Children's Literature at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Chief Guest Sri Prayag Shukla and the participants. Dr Sreenivasarao talked about inculcating good reading habits in the children at a very young age and the benefits of such inculcation. He said reading habits formed in childhood go a long way in shaping the mindscape of children and it is these children who go on to become adults and citizens of the world.

Sri Prayag Shukla thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate Spin-A-Tale 2016 and talked briefly about the moulding of children in the right direction from a very young age.

Dr Sreenivasarao and Sri Prayag Shukla released two books of Children's Literature – English translation of two Chinese books for children (Liao Zhai Zhi Yi: Selected Stories and Stories of Huainanzi) and two Hindi works *Papu babu bane Mahatma and Bhartiya Bal Sahitya* edited by Harikrishna Devasare. Sri Shukla inaugurated the event by singing a poem from his works and children sang with him.

Children with special needs from Pt. Deen Dayala Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Delhi enacted a cultural performance.

The Young Mizo Association of Mizoram performed Cheraw (bamboo dancing) for Children's entertainment. Certificates of appreciation were distributed by Dr Sreenivasarao to the students and faculty of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute and he spoke at length appreciating the efforts of the children and the institute. He requested the elders and faculty not to address the children as handicapped as that would affect the psyche of children.

Ms. Anupa Lal and Mr Valentina Trivedi presented their stories for the children.

A poetry writing competition in two topics "Swachch Bharat" and "Pollution" was conducted.

The winners — Swachch Bharat :

- 1st Prize : Khushboo Jalu Thariya
- 2nd Prize : Gauri Lakshmi
- 3rd Prize : Afsana

Consolation Prize 1) Aamir Hussain and 2) Ruchi Singh

The winners — Pollution:

- 1st Prize : Arunima Tripathi
- 2nd Prize : A.M.N. Madhuri
- 3rd Prize : Khushi Bhatt

Consolation Prize
1) D.M. Ramita
and 2) Karan Raj

A workshop on creative writing by Rahul Saini and a workshop on painting by S.V. Rama Rao were organized as part of Spin-A-Tale.



Various competition in progress

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON GANDHI, AMBEDKAR, NEHRU CONTINUITIES AND DISCONTINUITIES

Day 3

The National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities continued for the third day at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

The seventh session of the seminar was first for the day devoted to 'Minority and Majority' and was chaired by Sri Nand Kishore Acharya. In this session, two noted scholars, Rana Nayar and Pravin Pandya, presented their papers 'Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate: Let us annihilate the cast as we eradicate untouchability' and 'Aadhe pul ki asamapt yatra' respectively. Nayar's paper focused on the system of caste with untouchability and the perceptions / positions of Gandhi and Ambedkar on it. He hoped for a society where Gandhi and Ambedkar can co-exist and such a society should be casteless and progressive. Pandya said that according to Gandhi minorities can be classified into three broad groups such as dharmic, samajik and rajneetik corresponding to personal, social and political spaces of the state. For Ambedkar though majority is the community which is traditional and casteist while minority is something that may have religious leanings sans system of caste. He also highlighted the socialist principles of Nehru which laid the foundation for a secular state.

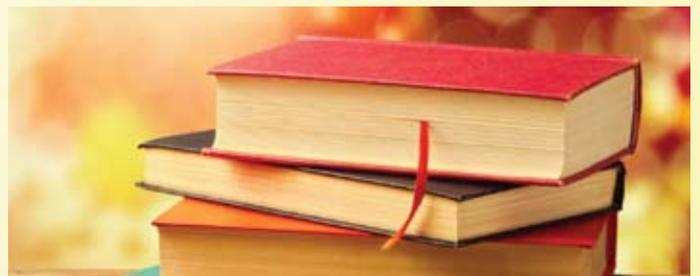
The eighth session was devoted to 'Culture and Education' and was chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, eminent poet and playwright. Two noted scholars Ms. Nilanjana Deb and Sri Satyanarayan Sahu presented their papers 'The Refracted Light of Asia: the Negotiations of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar with Orientalist Writing on Buddhism' and 'Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on education and culture' respectively. While the former focused on the different approaches taken by Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on utilizing orientalist sources in promoting Buddhism, the latter focused on the three doyens' contribution to education and culture. Prof Shivaprakash summed



Seventh session in progress

up the proceedings and observed that except Acharya Narendra Dev, all other makers of modern India based their understanding about the native texts through the prism of western ideas and western systems.

In the ninth and final session that was devoted to 'Religion and Democracy' and chaired by Sri Purushottam Agrawal, three noted scholars, Prof Satyakam Borthakur, Sri Sribhagwan Singh and Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented their papers on the topic of the session focusing on the trio's different approaches to religion and democracy and also on Gandhi's views on religions of the world. While Sri Sribhagwan Singh presented a paper on Gandhi's view of the religions of India, Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented a paper highlighting continuities and discontinuities in the approaches to religion and democracy and Prof Satyakam focused on highlighting the similarities and common points among the three doyens under consideration.





MEET THE AUTHOR

January 6, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Meet the Author' programme featuring eminent Hindi writer, Sri Ramdaras Mishra at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on January 6, 2016. Sri Mishra talked about his early life, influences on his writing, the process of creative writing, especially poetry and also shared interesting anecdotes from his long and illustrious career. Upon the requests by audience, Sri Mishra recited some of his ghazals. Several well-known writers, poets and critics attended the event.

NEPALI POETS' MEET

January 10, 2016, Tezpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Nepali, Tezpur College, organized a Nepali Poets' Meet at the college premises on January 10, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Pradip Gupta welcomed the participant poets and audience. In his introductory speech, Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Nepali literature. Dr Charu Saharia Nath, Principal of the College, thanked the Akademi for organizing the Meet in the college premises while Prof Kamal Chandra Upadhyaya, Vice Principal of the College chaired the inaugural session. Dr Bhim Sarma, Guest of Honor, urged the writers to assume more responsibility and reflect societal

issues in their poetries and stories. Two noted poets, Dr Jeevan Rana and Sri Chandramani Upadhyaya, recited their poems in the session. Sri Gyan Bahadur Chhetri, noted Critic and Member, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the next session devoted to poetry recitation. In the session, eight noted poets, Sri Chandra Kumar Rai, Sri Hari Gajurel, Sri Dilliram Khanal, Sri Nar Bahadur Chhetri, Smt. Niru Sarma Parajuli, Sri Mohan Subedi, Sri Purna Kumar Sarma and Sri Madhab Bhattarai, recited their compositions, geet and ghazals. Prof Kamal Kanta Sedai, Department of Nepali of the College proposed the vote of thanks.

MEET THE AUTHOR

January 10, 2016, Tezpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Nepali, Tezpur College, organized a 'Meet the Author' programme featuring noted Nepali writers and translator, Smt. Gita Upadhyaya at the college premises on January 10, 2016. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced Smt. Gita to the audience. Smt. Gita Upadhyaya talked about her early life, influences on her writing, the creative process of writing, progress of the Nepali criticism over the years and urged the current generation of writers to work harder to reap richer dividends. The college authorities felicitated Smt. Gita Upadhyaya.

KATHASANDHI

January 10, 2016, Tezpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Nepali, Tezpur College, organized a Kathasandhi programme featuring noted Nepali poet and fiction writer Sri Kharka Raj Giri at the college premises on January 10, 2016. Sri Giri read out his selected short stories and also talked at length about the nuances and techniques of short story writing. He also shared interesting anecdotes from his literary career as a fiction writer and poet.

WORLD BOOK FAIR

January 10-16, New Delhi

During the World Book Fair at New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the National Book Trust India, organized a series of literary events between January 10, 2016 and January 16, 2016. In the multilingual poets' meet held on January 10, 2016, Sri Ramdaras Mishra, eminent Hindi writer and poet, chaired the meet while six noted poets, Sri Samir Tanti (Assamese), Sri Gopinath Brahma (Bodo), Ms. Mandira Ghosh (English), Sri Hemant Kukreti (Hindi), Sri Kshteri Rajan (Manipuri) and Ms. Pravasini Mahakud (Odia), recited their latest compositions. In the Yuva Sahiti programme organized on January 12, 2016 and that was chaired by Sri Madan Kashyap, noted fiction writers, Ms. Mahika



Devi, Sri Srikant Dubey and others read out their stories while the noted poets, Sri Sandeep Sufi, Sri Muzaffar Husain Dilbar, Sri Ranji Saraanwali, Sri Krishna Mohan Singh and others recited their poems. In the Nari Chetna programme organized on January 14, 2016 featuring North-East and Northern Writers and Poets and was chaired by eminent writer, Ms. Maitreyi Pushpa, five noted women poets, Lutfa Hanam, Salima Begum, Shanti Basumtari, Anubhuti Chaturvedi and Meeta Dwivedi, recited their compositions while two noted fiction writers, Maya Nepram and Sandhya Pradhan, read out their stories. The Bal Sahiti programme organized on January 16, 2016 featured presentations by two noted Children's literature writers, Shantanu Taamuli and Rajnikant Shukla. The Akademi also organized a four-day workshop and seminar to mark the occasion.

SACHIDANAND ROUTRAY BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

January 12-13, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day Seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of eminent Odia writer, Sachidanand Routray, at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on January 12-13, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed

the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Akademi to promote literature across the country and stated that remembering doyens and immortals of modern Indian literature by commemorating their birth centenaries is one of them. In his introductory remarks, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the life and works of Sachidanand Routray. In his keynote address, Dr Haraprasad Das, eminent Odia writer, talked about distinguishing and salient features of Sachidanand Routray's writings. In his inaugural address, Dr Ramakant Rath, eminent Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about seminal contribution of Sachidanand Routray to Odia literature. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the uniqueness of Sachidanand Routray, originality of his perceptions and his timeless poetry and stated that Sachidanand Routray did not belong merely to Odia literature but to the Indian literature. A documentary film on Sachidanand Routray was screened before the commencement of inaugural session. In the first session that was devoted to 'The Poetry of Sachidanand Routray' and chaired by Dr Sumanyu Satpathy, three noted scholars, Rohinikanti Mukherjee, Haraprasad Paricha Patnaik and Jatin Nayak, presented their papers

on 'The schizophrenic duality: existential 'binary' in SWAGAT,' 'Lamenting the lost village: Rural metaphors in Pallishree,' and 'Death be not Proud: the romance of revolution in Baji Rout' respectively. In the second session that was devoted to 'The Poetry of Sachidanand Routray' and chaired by J.P. Dasm, four noted scholars, Soubhagya Kumar Mishra, Bhagban Jayasingh, Sangram Jena and Basanta Kumar Panda, presented their papers, 'Sachi Routray and Contemporary Odia Poetry,' 'Sachi Routray: The Editor of Diganta,' 'The master's showcase: The defining poems of Kabita 1962' and 'Comparative study of Sachi Routray with poet Jibananda Das' respectively. In the third session that was devoted to 'Sachidanand Routray the Fictionist' and chaired by Pratibha Ray, three noted scholars, J.N. Patnaik, Adhyapak Biswaranjan and Dash Benhur, presented their papers 'A rereading of Chitragriba,' 'Mashanira Phula and other stories: The lingering metaphors of socialist concern' and 'Sachi Routray as a story writer' respectively. In the valedictory session, Prafulla K. Mohanty chaired the session and two noted scholars, Ashok Mohapatra and Devdas Chhotray, presented their papers 'Odisha of his time through Uttarakaksha, autobiography of Sachi Routray' and 'Romantic strain of Sachi Routray' respectively.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF BISHAM SAHNI

January 28 – 29, 2016, Amritsar

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized a two day seminar on Bisham Sahni to commemorate his birth centenary, on January 28 & 29, 2016 at Khalsa College, Amritsar.



Inaugural Session of the Bisham Sahni Seminar in progress

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri Satyendra Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University. The inaugural session commenced with the screening of a documentary on 'Bisham Sahni's Life'. The documentary focused on important events that took place in Bisham Sahni's life, his journey from his hometown Rawalpindi to Delhi, his epic work 'Tamas' and the impact of various writers on his life. Welcoming the speakers and audience, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, told that the seminar was Akademi's second such programme that was being organized to celebrate the birth centenary of Bisham Sahni. He also noted that Bisham Sahni's writings were important documents of progressive tradition of Hindi literature. The inaugural session

was chaired by Prof. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He observed that Bisham Sahni's writings portray an in-depth understanding of fellow human beings. Sri Satyendra Singh was the guest of honor in the inaugural session. In his keynote address, Sri Aravindakshan stated that Bisham Sahni's writings were like a 'torch' to budding writers. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Mehal Singh, Principal of Khalsa College.

The first session was devoted to 'Bisham Sahni: The Light of Creation and Literary Concerns' and was chaired by Sri Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In this session, three noted scholars, Sri Satish Verma, Sri Aarsu and Sri Venna Vallabha Rao presented their papers. The Akademi also arranged a theatrical performance on the evening of January 28, 2016 at Virsa Vihar. Bisham Sahni's play 'Leela Nandlal Ki' was conceptualized and enacted.

The seminar continued for the second day and the second session focused on 'Bisham Sahni: Literary Contribution'. This session was chaired by Sri Ramesh Kuntal Megh and two noted scholars, Sri Tarsem Gujral and Sri Madhav Koushik presented their papers.

The third session was chaired by Sri Bhanu Bharti, eminent theatre artist. Three noted scholars, Sri Rawail Singh, Sri Suresh Seth and Sri Phoolchand Manav presented their papers on 'Bisham Sahni and His Plays'. Some of his plays such as 'Hanush', 'Kabira Khada Bazar

Mein', 'Madhavi' and 'Muavze' were discussed in the session.

The fourth session focused on 'Bisham Sahni: Contemporary Relevance' and was chaired by Sri Chandrika. In this session, two noted scholars, Sri Sudarshan Vashistha and Sri Arun Hota presented their papers.

In the evening, a theatrical performance of Bisham Sahni's play 'Kabira Khada Bazar Mein' was enacted at Virsa Vihar. As part of his birth centenary celebrations, a photo cum book exhibition of Bisham Sahni and his magnum opus 'Tamas' and its translations into other languages of Akademi was organized. Several luminaries, writers, playwrights and literary connoisseurs participated in the two-day literary event.

On 28th January – Leela Nandlal Ki was staged, conceptualized and directed by Ramji Bali and on 29th January – Kabira Khada Bazar Mein was staged, conceptualized and directed by Kewal Dhaliwal.

PURVOTTARI: NORTH-EAST & NORTHERN WRITERS' MEET

February 2 & 3, 2016, Agra

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, organized 'Purvottari: North-East & Northern Writers' Meet' in Agra on February 2 & 3, 2016. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the



participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Akademi. In his inaugural address, Prof. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, said that Hindi language plays a crucial role in uniting all other Indian languages. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Nand Kishore Pandey, Director, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan. Five noted scholars, Sri Saurabh Saikiya (Assamese), Sri Radhagovind Pathak (Brajbasha), Sri Malkhan Singh (Hindi), Sri Iqbal Kalish (Urdu) and Smt. R.K. Hemabati Devi (Manipuri) participated and recited their poems. The first session was devoted to short story reading and was chaired by eminent Punjabi fictionist Sri Nachhatar. In this session, four noted scholars, Sri Apu Bhardwaj (Assamese), Smt. Usha Yadav (Hindi), Sri Haobam Priyokumar (Manipuri) and Sri Arvind Ashia (Rajasthani) read their stories. The second session was a 'Poets' Meet' and was chaired by Sri Som Thakur. Six noted scholars, Sri Jagdish Piyush (Avdhi), Sri Sunil Sharma (Dogri), Sri Sashi Tiwari (Hindi), Sri Adarsha Milan Pradhan (Nepali), Sri Swarnajit Savi (Punjabi) and Sri Balram Shukla (Sanskrit) participated and recited their poems. The programme continued for the second day and the third session was a panel discussion on 'Contemporary Literary Trends'. This session was chaired by

Prof. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Two noted scholars, Dr. Devendra Chaubey and Prof. Shafey Kidwai spoke on creative trends in contemporary literature and also discussed in detail about Dalit, Adivasi and Women literature. The fourth session focused on poetry reading and was chaired by Sri Chandarbhan Khayal, Convener, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Seven noted scholars, Sri Anubhav Tulshi (Assamese), Sri Ashok Dwivedi (Bhojpuri), Sri Arun Dev (Hindi), Sri Nazeer Ahmad Nazeer (Kashmiri), Sri Kiran Kumar Singh (Manipuri), Sri Gunjansri (Maithili) and Sri Kamal Ranga (Rajasthani) recited their poems

MANIPURI-DOGRI SHORT STORY TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

February 9-11, 2016, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a three-day Manipuri Dogri Short Story Translation Workshop at Imphal between February 9 and February 11, 2016. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the director of the workshop while Prof Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, represented Dogri. Sri Waikhom Chingkheinganba and Prof Kh. Kunjo Singh were the resource persons of the

workshop. During the workshop, 22 selected Manipuri short stories were translated into Dogri. Six translators, Sri Prakask Premi, Sri Jagdeep Dubey, Sri Surjit Hosh, Sri Chanchal Bhasin, Ms. Promila Manhas and Sri Ppratyush Guleri, took part in the workshop. During the workshop, the translators were divided into three groups and each group exchanged notes on several linguistic, literary and cultural aspects of Manipuri and Dogri observed during the workshop. The directors, resource persons and the translators stated that once established translations of this nature would prove to be a value addition to the Dogri literature.

LITERARY FORUM

February 25, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a literary forum with Mr Margus Lattik from Estonia featuring a poetry reading session by him on February 25, 2016 at the Conference Hall in Akademi premises. Mr Lattik is known under his pen name Mathura, a writer and translator, he was awarded the Gustav Suits Poetry Award which is one of the main Estonian literary prizes for his collection K ae all voogav joon, and has translated various contemporary and classical authors into Estonian. A welcome speech by Ms Gitanjali Chatterjee was followed by a poetry reading session wherein Mr Lattik read out his poems written in English and Estonian language. A brief interactive session with the audience took place after the reading session.

LITERARY FORUM

January 9, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a literary forum featuring poetry recitation by DrSubodh Sarkar, eminent Bengali poet at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru on January 9, 2016. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the poet to the audience. Dr. Subodh Sarkar recited some of his Bengali poems and its English translations. He recited the poems 'Mothers of Manipur,' 'Those Three at Khalasitola,' 'The Relationship Was As Follows,' 'Salt' and 'Tagore, Me and a Prostitute'.

A few lines from the poem Mothers of Manipur:
Naked they stood up, my mothers of Manipur
My eyes are born from their eyes
All that I speak is from them, from their music

Naked they stood up, my mothers of Manipur

Recited poems reflected the poet's deep sensitivity to and anguish at the societal changes around him and hence are primarily contemporary in nature. A brief interactive session followed the poetry recitation. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, offered felicitation and thanked the poet for providing a wonderful evening through mellifluous rendering of the poems.

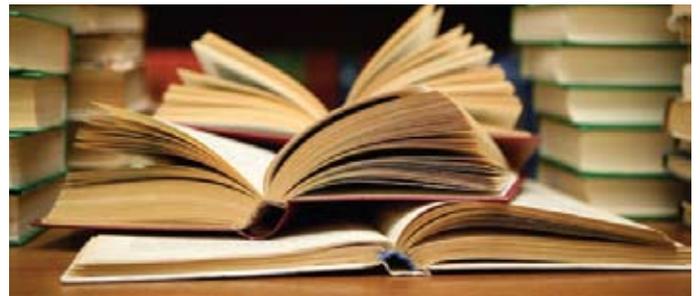
SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN'S EXPRESSION IN KANNADA LITERATURE AND CULTURE

January 19, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Karnataka Women Writers' Association, organized a daylong symposium on 'Women's Expression in Kannada literature' at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bengaluru on January 19, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about various activities of

Sahitya Akademi to promote feminist literature across the country and in all the 24 recognized languages. In her introductory address, DrVasundharaBhupathi, President, Karnataka Women Writers' Association, spoke about the necessity for more women friendly rules and laws and literature to reflect more on these issues. In her inaugural address, DrMalatiPattanshetti, eminent bilingual writer, observed that despite the land being a male dominated society, Kannada women writers have traditionally showed the way by breaking the barriers and shackles that bind women in all the cultures and she alluded to the works of AkkaMahadevi and SanchiHonnamma from the 12th century and other modern women writers to drive home her point. In his Presidential address, DrNarahalliBalasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that life of any woman is multi-faceted and hence it is necessary to trace and listen to women's voices and feminist expressions in literature too.

The first session focused on the theme 'En Route to Struggle', wherein Dr. E. Rati Rao spoke on Women's Struggle and Smt. Rupa Hasan presented a paper on Children's Rights. During the second session on 'Media and Expression', Dr. L.G. Meera delivered a paper on Art and Smt. Sudha Sharma Chavathi spoke on Media. Smt. Geetha Krishnamurthy spoke on Law, Smt. B.S. Shylaja spoke on Science Literature and Smt. Asha Benakappa presented her speech on Medical during the third session on 'Popular Literature.' DrDharanideviMalagatti, noted Kannada writer, delivered the valedictory address and in her speech she traced the dominant women characters in the major literary works through history and urged modern women to emulate those women found in the annals of literary history. Smt. Sarvamangala, Member, Executive Board of Karnataka Women Writers' Association, proposed vote of thanks.



N.V. KRISHNA WARRIER BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

January 22, 2016, Calicut

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Kerala Sahitya Samiti, organized a daylong seminar to commemorate birth centenary of N.V. Krishna Warriar on January 22, 2016 in Calicut. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Malayalam literature. In his inaugural address, Sri M.G.S. Narayanan, eminent historian, recalled that Sri Warriar was a polymath and polyglot who did not receive due recognition in his homeland and highlighted varied contribution of Sri Warriar to the growth and evolution of Malayalam literature and language. In his Presidential address, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, shared many interesting anecdotes from Sri Warriar's literary life and also highlighted his helpful nature in nurturing budding writers of all hues. Smt. P. Valsala, President, Kerala Sahitya Samiti was the guest of honor and Sri P.P. Sreedharanunni, General Secretary, Kerala Sahitya Samiti proposed vote of thanks. In the first session, Sri.M.R. RaghavaWarriar spoke on N.V. Krishna Warriar and modernist movement in Malayalam poetry, while Sri. Atmaraman spoke on N.V. Krishna Warriar as a literary critic. In the second session, Dr. Anil

K.M. spoke on the Political thought of N.V. Krishna Warriar, while Sri SreesylumUnnikrishnanspoke on the contribution of N.V. Krishna Warriar as an Editor and Prof K.P. Kunhikannan, spoke on the contribution of N.V. Krishna Warriar as an Environmentalist and Educationalist. In the valedictory session, Dr. C. Rajendran, the Vice-President of Kerala Sahitya Samiti and former Head of Department of Sanskrit, Calicut University delivered the valedictory address and Shri. P.M. Narayanan, Treasurer of the Kerala Sahitya Samiti proposed vote of thanks.

KAVI ANUVADAK

January 30, 2016, Tirupati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with the S.V. Vedic University, Tirupati organized Kavi Anuvadak programme on January 30, 2016 at the Conference Hall, S.V. Vedic University, Tirupati by inviting eminent Telugu poet Prof. N. Gopi and Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy, Registrar of S.V. Vedic University, Tirupati and eminent Sanskrit scholar and translator. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and spoke on the importance of the Kavi Anuvadak programme. He said that this programme provides an opportunity for poetry lovers to hear poetry being read out by the distinguished poet and followed by recitation of poems in translation by the translator. Prof K.E. Devanathan, Vice Chancellor, S.V. Vedic University, formally inaugurated the programme and offered felicitations to both Prof Gopi and Prof G.S.R. Krishnamurthy. Prof. N. Gopi had said that it is a unique opportunity for him to read his Telugu poems at the sacred place of Lord Venkateshwara in Tirupati and that he wrote this poetry collection after several years of experience of travel across the country. He recited eight poems from the Akademi's award winning poetry collection Kalanni Nidra Ponivvanu. Prof G.S.R. Krishnamurthy rendered Prof Gopi's poems in Sanskrit and observed that it is a unique experience for him to translate the poems and also render the same in front of the author.



Uroob Birth Centenary Seminar in progress

BHASHANTARAANUBHAVA

January 31, 2016, Tirupati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the S.V. Vedic University, organized a BhashantaraAnubhava programme at the University premises on January 31, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the aims and objectives of the platform BhashantaraAnubhava. In his introductory address, Prof K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the core activity of Sahitya Akademi, which is, translations and observed that through translations the Akademi united many regions. Prof Nachimuthu added that seen from this point of view, BhashantaraAnubhava assumes greater significance since it not only helps the translators and brings various regions together, but also provides different perspectives to the poets who are the creators of the source songs and poems and also brings unique joy to the readers and listeners of listening to a single poem in multiple tongues. In his inaugural speech, Prof K.E. Devanathan, Vice Chancellor of S.V. Vedic University, thanked the Akademi and TTD Trust for organizing BhashantaraAnubhava at the University premises and hoped that programmes of this nature will help students of comparative literature and translations. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that translation activity will play a major role in introducing to the world the manifold literatures and cultures of our nation. Hence, to fortify it, the BhashantaraAnubhava programmes should be held extensively in all the regions of the country. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener of Akademi's Malayalam Advisory Board had participated as the Guest of Honour. Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy, Registrar, S.V. Vedic University, Tirupati proposed vote of thanks.



Inaugural Session of Bhashantara Anubhava

The first session was chaired by Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Siddhaling Pattanshetti (Kannada), Sri Sridharanunni (Malayalam) and Dr Thara Ganesan (Tamil) recited two poems each in their own languages followed by the recitation of translations in remaining three languages. Sri PalamanerBalaji recited his Telugu poems and English translations. He also recited Telugu poems written by Sri Devipriya, Telugu Poet, in absentia and followed by interlingual translations read by poets from other languages. The Second Session was chaired by Prof. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Ka. Vai. Palanisamy (Tamil), Dr. Shashikala VeeraiahSwamy (Kannada), Sri NandiniSiddhareddy (Telugu) and Sri ShihabuddinPoithumKadavu (Malayalam) recited two poems each in their own languages followed by the recitation of translations in remaining three languages. Also Sri Vempalli Abdul Khader, Telugu poet read his Telugu poems and its English translations. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary proposed vote of thanks.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM

February 14-15, 2016, Tirur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Thunchan Memorial Trust organized a two-day seminar on 'Creativity and Freedom' at Thunchan Parambu in Tirur on February 14-15, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Ramanunni, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. In his inaugural address, Dr Bhalanchandra Namade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that "... intolerance is not a new term and its usage has increased in recent days. By engaging oneself continuously in creative endeavor or Writing, we can achieve freedom or independence. We shouldn't completely take advantage of freedom of expression and if one does so, he/she will be kept in prison. Mahatma Gandhiji, who advocated freedom of expression, wrote carefully using the very principle of it. Those who write against the interest of the public will receive threats. When we examine the history, it is being repeated in the developed countries too. After the invasion of British in India, most of the indigenous writers started writing in English and overlooked their mother tongues. English may be used for communication, but we must forget our mother tongue." In his keynote address, K. Siva Reddy, eminent Telugu poet, stated that with real freedom one can write better and observed that writing is not to fight but it is a means for one to express oneself in a meaningful way retaining integrity and individuality. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session and spoke about the personality of Ezhuthachan and nature of his writings in the context of freedom and creativity. Prof K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam and English poet and scholar, chaired the first session. Two scholars, Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair, eminent Indian English writer and critic and Sri V.V. Subramanian, noted Tamil critic, presented their papers. Sri Sasikumar, eminent Malayalam writer and journalist, chaired the second session. Two noted scholars, Smt. Sara Joseph and Sri K.C. Narayanan, eminent Malayalam writers and critics, presented their papers in the session.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES WITH PROF. JIANG JINGKUI

January 21-23, 2016, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai hosted Dr Jiang Jingkui, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellowship winner for 2015 and organized three sets of interactions with local Tamil writers and translators on 21/1/2016, 22/1/2016 and 23/1/2016 in Chennai. Dr Jiang Jinkui also had fruitful discussions with the faculty of Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha and Madras University Hindi Department during the visit. The interactions were moderated by Sri Maalan, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and on January 21, 2016, six well-known writers and scholars R. Venkatesh, Ravi Subramanian, Kalyan Raman, Sa Kandasamy, Era Murukan and Iraiyanbu, along with two Chinese scholars based in Chennai interacted with Dr Jiang Jingkui on the issue of translating from Tamil to Chinese and Chinese to Tamil. Dr Jiang Jingkui requested the scholars to write on different aspects of Tamil culture so that the series can be used as introduction of Tamil literature to Chinese people. On January 22, 2016, six noted scholars, Sowrirajan, Rama Gurunathan, K.R. Satchidanandan, Amshan Kumar, Muthu and Mubeen Sadhika, interacted with Dr Jiang Jingkui and discussed about introducing ancient and medieval classics of Tamil and Chinese traditions to each other. It was unanimously decided that Silappathikaaram will be introduced to Chinese and some of the group can send translations of selected Sangam songs. On January 23/1/2016, seven well-known scholars and writers, Prajnai Ravishankar, Ramanan, Subashree Mohan, Sivakumar, Jeyadevan, Panicker and Mathura, participated and discussed the possibility of introducing modern classics of Tamil and Chinese to each other. Dr Jiang Jingkui thanked the Akademi for organizing interactions with the scholars and added that very soon he will bring out an introduction to Tamil literature in a Chinese journal with the help of write-ups by the scholars who interacted with him.

PEOPLE AND BOOKS

January 15, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a 'People and Books' programme featuring Sri Chittatosh Mookerjee, former Chief Justice of Bombay and Kolkata High Courts on January 15, 2016 at the Akademi auditorium in Kolkata. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker to audience, while Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the guest speaker to audience. In his speech, Sri Mookerjee reminisced 'his house had a huge collection of books since the time of his great grandfather Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay. His uncle Umaprasad Mukhopadhyay was a voracious reader. Among the collection, starting from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Manoranjan-Hemendrakumar to Banaful, Tarasankar, Bibutibhusan, Rajsekhar Basu or Jane Austin, Golsworthy were very popular to him'. He was mostly influenced by the book 'Aranyak', Jhan Christaf, the biography of Acharya Prafulla Chandra and writings of Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. While studying law he had to read many law books, some of them had also greatly influenced his life, he narrated. He has the most precious collection of a book which was signed as 'to Ashu from Iswarchandra Vidyasagar'.

SEMINAR ON LITERATURE AND FREEDOM STRUGGLE

January 16, 2016, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on 'Literature and Freedom Struggle in Eastern Regional Languages' in Bhubaneswar on January 16, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the power of literature to ignite movements, move the continents and spur people into action across the globe. In his introductory address, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Sahitya Akademi, compared literature to a supre-sensitive gold leaf that yields the quickest response to every stimulus, social or cultural and

alluded to patriotic songs of India that filled the atmosphere with a strong nationalistic fervor that had a very strong impact on the common man and scholars alike. In his inaugural address, Sri Bhabani Patnaik, veteran freedom fighter, stated that to inspire the youth to save our country literature played a vital role and recalled the writings of Gopabandhu Das, Bira Kishore Das and Banchanidhi Parida. He also highlighted the inspiration which Gandhi provided and observed that such a charisma cannot be easily matched. In his keynote address, Sri Rabindranath Sahoo, eminent scholar, stated that Indian independence movement was not merely an aim towards freedom from one thing or another, but rather it was Sarbik Mukti or total liberation, liberation of the self as much as that of the society and the nation. He highlighted the role of literature in this quest for total liberation. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Convener of Eastern Regional Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session. Sri Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by Prof Sachidananda Mohanty, Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Koraput, three well-known scholars, Sri Susanta Das, Dr Anil Kumar Boro and Sri Dilip Borah, presented their papers on 'Freedom Struggle and Bengali Literature,' 'Literature and freedom struggle with reference to Bodo literature' and 'Freedom Struggle and Assamese Literature' respectively. Sri Pabak Kanungo chaired the second session and four noted scholars, Ms. Jayanti Rath (Odia), Th Ratankumar Singh (Manipuri), Jiwan Namdung (Nepali) and Bairab Lal Das (Maithili) presented their papers.

LITERARY FORUM

January 21, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Ashangba Communications, organized a literary forum on 'Creation Myths in Old Manipuri Manuscripts' in Imphal on January 21, 2016. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and stated that literature begins with the staging of different stories of the myths and referred the Original Old Literature – Panthoibi Khongkun



(Creation of Universe), Nunit Kappa (Killing of Sun (king)), Pakhangba Phangkong (Pakhangba became king), internal parts of religion, Oral Literature, folk tales etc. In his inaugural address, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, observed that meet of this nature is held for the second time in Manipur and added that understanding of creation myths and their relevance to folk literature, Meitei Yumsa (art of Manipuri House making), Dress of Manipuri Women, Meitei Lainingthou Laining (the arts of Meitei religion) are also needed for further research to give a true and clear picture to the future generation. During the session, two books pertaining to Manipuri culture were released. Sri Mayanglambam Gourachandra presented a paper 'origin and creation of Universe in the Meitei Myths,' Ms. L. Birjita Devi presented a paper 'Meitheishinggi Leishemlonda: Malem Leishemlon Ariba,' Ms. Chanambam Hemchandra presented a paper 'Creation of Space and Earth' and Sri Makhonmani Mongshaba presented a paper 'Meitheigi Leishemlonda: Wakoklon Thilen Salai Amailon Pukok.'

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

January 21 & 24, 2016, Bally

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Nicwon, a center for performing arts, organized two Loka: The Many Voices programmes on January 21 and January 24 at Bally featuring lecture performances by Raibeshe Chand Dance and BoishabuNritya. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the troupes on both the occasions and elaborated on the Akademi's initiatives across the country promote performing art literature. Introductory speech was delivered by Sri Partha Nag, Secretary, Nicwon and inaugural speech was delivered by Prof Arun Ghosh, Department of Bengali, Burdwan University. A folk dance scholar, Sri Subir Paul discussed about Raibeshe dance, its origins in rural Bengal, nature and materials of the performance and about the role of Sri Gursaday Dutta, the person who popularized Raibeshe dance form. Raibeshe was performed on January 21, 2016. Another scholar Ms. SmitaSaiba elaborated on BoishabuNritya, the time of performance, instruments

used, nature of the performance, type of lyrics used in performance, reasons behind the poses during the performance and the necessity to understand Mech tribes to know BoishabuNaach better. The vote of thanks was proposed by Caesar Bagchi, the President of Nicwon.

LITERARY FORUM

January 22, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the All Manipur Manipuri Teachers' Association, organized a literary forum on 'Critical Assessment of Manipuri Poetry of Assam' at Imphal on January 22, 2016. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and hoped that critical assessment of Manipuri Poetry of Assam will provide a definitive contour as to its place in Manipuri literature. Sri ElanbgamDinamani Singh, President of the Association chaired the session. In his introductory speech, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that Manipuri Poetry of Assam is part and parcel of Manipuri literature and has been playing effective role in the development and growth of Manipuri literature as a whole. Three noted scholars, N. Nanikumar Singha, N. Bidyasagar Singh and S Robindro Singh, presented papers focusing on 'The place of poets-SagolsemDhabal, SougajamBrajewor and Kheiruddin Choudhury in Manipuri literature of Assam,' 'Critical Assessment of Manipuri Poetry of Barak Valley of Assam' and 'Manipuri poetry of the Brahmaputra Valley of Assam' respectively. N. Khagendra Singh was the chief guest and highly appreciated the papers presented and Sri Elangbam Dinamani Singh, in his Presidential address, discussed the role of poetry in evaluation of the literature of any community. Sri Khumanthem Prakash Singh chaired the second session while three noted women scholars, K. Shantibala Devi, Mangsatabam Tuleshwori Devi and Wangkheirakpam Angela Devi presented their papers focusing on different aspects of Manipuri poetry of Assam. Naorem Ahanjao Meitei, proposed the vote of thanks.

ASMITA

January 22, 2016, Baripada

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Pujya Puja, organized ‘Asmita’ programme at Betnoti College in Baripada on January 22, 2016. Sri Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience, while Sri Bijayananda Singh, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. Four Odia women fiction writers and two Odia women poets read out their stories and recited their poems respectively. Chhanda Mishra, Jharana Patnaik, Pallavi Nayak and Sanjukta Mohapatra read out their stories “Dhuan,” “Antyesti,” “Jahna Nari” and “Astagami Surya” respectively, while Swarnamayee Purohit and Prajnashree Rath recited their compositions. Sri Basant Kr. Roul proposed vote of thanks.

BAGMI BISWANATH KAR 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR

January 23, 2016, Cuttack

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with the Utkal Sahitya Samaj, organized a daylong seminar to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Sri Bagmi Biswanath Kar at Cuttack on January 23, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Mhiri Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, in his inaugural address, talked about various aspects of Bagmi Biswanath Kar’s literary career and elaborated on the reasons for the present seminar. Sri Bijayananda Singh, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj, in his Presidential address talked about the prose writings of Biswanath Kar and observed that Sri Kar was not only a writer but a social reformer as well. Sri Dasharati Prasad Das, Chief Guest, talked about Sri Kar’s association with Keshav Chandra Sen, Rajaram Mohun Roy et. al., his yearning desire to write extensively on Brahma Dharma, his concern over the declining quality of Odia journalism and shared certain anecdotes from Kar’s life. Debasana Dash, Vice President Utkal Sahitya Samaj delivered the introductory speech. Sri Devendra Kumar, in his keynote address, talked about the founding of Utkal Sahitya Samaj and various initiatives of Sri Kar during



Seminar on Bagmi Biswanath Kar in progress

his life time. In the first session under the chairmanship of Archana Nayak three papers were presented by Bijaya Kumar Nanda, Pradipta Kumar Panda and the chair Archana Nayak respectively. Bijaya Kumar Nanda emphasized the growth and development of essays in general and Odia essays in particular. Pradipta Kumar Panda discussed the editing of Biswanath Kar. The second session was chaired by Dasharathi Prasad Das while Krushna Chandra Pradhan throws light on the versatile genius of Bagmi Biswanath Kar. Gobind Chandra Chand highlighted the editorial ability of Biswanath Kar. Sarat Ch. Pradhan chaired the final session. D. P. Pattanaik, veteran linguist emphasized the need of knowing the nation building spirit of Biswanath Kar. Jeevanananda Adikari proposed the vote of thanks.

MULAKAT

January 24, 2016, Rayagada

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a ‘Mulakat’ programme featuring noted Odia writers at the Women’s College in Rayagada on January 24, 2016. Sri Banoj Tripathy, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the meeting. Sri Jagannatha Mohanty, Collector of Rayagada, talked about the necessity for the writers to place their creations within humanity and appreciated Sahitya Akademi for organizing meets of this type that will attract youth to serious literature. Sri Udayanath Panda, Principal of the college, in his brief speech compared the creation of literature to the birth cry of the child and thanked the Akademi for organizing Mulakat at the college premises. Four Odia writers, Sri Dwiti Chandra Sahu, Sri Prakash Behera, Ms. Pallisri Patnaik and Sri Rajat Ranjan Swain read out their stories, ‘Dangariara Daak,’ ‘Eti Khaali Ph

ula Rahu,'UdijauthibaaPakshi Bose Hun' and 'Jhada' respectively, while Ms. TanmayeeRath recited three of her compositions, 'TuJhiatie,' 'PurnaGhara' and 'Tume, Mu o Barsa.' Ms. SusantaNayak, Editor of Panchabati, delivered concluding address.

NORTH EAST WOMEN POETS' MEET

February 2, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Publishers and Booksellers Guild, organized a North-East Women Poets' Meet at Press Corner in Milan MelaPrangan, Kolkata Book Fair on February 2, 2016. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed and introduced the participants to audience. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the event and talked about major writers of the North-East and distinctive qualities of their writings. Four noted women poets, Ms. Manikuntala Bhattacharya (Assamese), Ms. Sorokkhaibam Gambhini Devi (Manipuri), Ms. SwapnaNath (Bengali) and Ms. Swarna Prabha Chainary (Bodo), recited their compositions and recitations were rendered in English / Hindi translations also.

SEMINAR ON SAMBHU MITRA

February 5-6, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a two-day seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Sambhu Mitra on February 5-6, 2016 at the Akademi auditorium in Kolkata. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries, media and audience and spoke briefly about the personality of SambhuMitra and the nature of his creations. In his introductory address, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked the significance of the context in which SambhuMitra appeared. In his inaugural address, Sri Rudraprasad Sengupta, eminent theatre personality, highlighted theatrical aspect of everyday life and observed that just like in theatre, in

everyday life also people have to wear masks. In his keynote address, Sri Samik Bandyopadhyay, eminent critic and scholar, elaborated on the unique nature of Sambhu Mitra's plays by highlighting differences between theatrical concepts of Sambhu Mitra and other major playwrights of his time and also talked briefly about the changing trajectory of stagecraft and stage- production of Sambhu Mitra. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the distinguishing features of Sambhu Mitra's plays and compared Mitra with other great playwrights of India. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, compered the session and proposed a vote of thanks.



Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar delivering Presidential address

In the first session that was chaired by Ms. Pabitra Sarkar and focused on the 'Age of Sambhu Mitra,' two noted scholars, Prabhatkumar Das and Malay Rakshit, delivered lectures on 'Maharshi and Sambhu Mitra' and 'Sisirkumar and Sambhu Mitra' respectively, while Ms. Pabitra Sarkar dwelt on the topic 'Gananatya and SambhuMitra.' In the second and third sessions that were about stagecraft, stage production, acting and stage direction of SambhuMitra and were chaired by Debatosh Ghosh and Aweek Majumdar, six noted scholars, Arun Mukhopadhyay, Soumitra Basu, Debatosh Ghosh, Rusati Sen, Supriti Mukhopadhyay and Aweek Majumder, talked about 'Galileo-er Jiban,' 'Char Adhyay,' 'Bisarjan,' 'Raja,' 'Mudrarakshas,' 'Raja Oidipaus,' 'Chand Baniker Pala,' 'Dashachakra' and 'Putul Khela.' On the evening of the first day, the documentary film on Sambhu Mitra by Ladly Mukhopadhaya, "The Honest



Theatre: A Quest” was screened. Aavek Majumdar chaired the fourth session in which Sri Pradip Ghosh talked about the recitation of Sambhu Mitra, while Debasis Majumdar threw light on the alternate drama practiced by Sambhu Mitra. Prativa Agarwal chaired the fifth session in which Anit Kumar Roy, Ashok Mukhopadhyay and Amitava Ray spoke on Essays written by Sambhu Mitra, Theatrical techniques of Sambhu Mitra and Plays translated by Sambhu Mitra respectively, while Prativa Agarwal presented a paper on ‘Indian Concept of Drama and Sambhu Mitra.’ Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks.

KABITA UTSAB

February 11-13, 2016, Kolkata and Santiniketan

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Abrittilok, Kolkata and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized a KabitaUtsab at Kolkata and Santiniketan on February 11-13, 2016. The inaugural session was held at Sisir Mancha in Kolkata. Sankha Ghosh, BratyaBasu, noted theatre personality and the Minister in Government of West Bengal and DrRamkumarMukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, were the Guests of Honor in the inaugural session. A panel discussion on the creative process of writing poetry, poetry as a performing art and aesthetic elements of poetry followed recitations by Raya Bhattacharjee and Satyam Roychowdhury. Five noted poets and scholars, Swapnomoy Chakraborty, Srijato, DebshankarHalder, BratatiBandopadhyay and SoumitraMitra, participated in the discussion. The second segment of the programme spanning two days was held at Lipika auditorium in Santiniketan, in association with VisvaBharati. Sri IrambamDeven Singh and JibanNarah – poets from North-East, Sri Rabiul Hussain, Sri HabibullahSirajee, Sri Muhammad Samad, Sri Syed AlFaruquee and Sri Tarik Sujat – poets from Bangladesh, joined the poetry recitations by Bengali poets over two days. On the sidelines of poetry recitation, the artists of Abrittilok from Kolkata presented a collage on JibanandaDas’s BanglarTrastoNilima, while the teachers and students of VisvaBharati presented musical representation of Rabindranath Tagore’s Sphulinga.

SYMPOSIUM ON ASSAMESE SHORT STORY

February 29, 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University, organized a daylong symposium on Assamese short story at the university premises on February 29, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. In her Presidential speech, Prof KarabiDeka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presented a historical overview of the Assamese Short Stories and stated that today, Assamese short stories can compete with short stories in other languages in terms of quality and it is her desire to see more women writers come up in Assamese literature. Prof P. Pattanaik, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Delhi University, presented a keynote address. In his inaugural address, Sri Gobinda Prasad Sarmah, eminent Assamese writer, presented the scenario of Assamese short stories in the early years of post-Independence period, innovators, pioneers and trend setters in modern Assamese short story writing. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Gobinda Prasad Sarmah, three noted scholars, Bibhas Choudhury, ManojSaikia & TaraniDeka, presented their papers focusing on ‘Impact of Western philosophy and modernism on Assamese short stories,’ ‘Women Psychology and Feminism in Assamese short stories’ and ‘Changes of Short Story writing pattern’, respectively. In the second session that was chaired by Prof Dilip Bora, three noted scholars, AnuradhaSarma, Apurba Borah and SidharthaGoswami, presented their papers focusing on ‘The life of down-trodden people in Assamese Shorty Story during period 1950-2010,’ ‘Mass Movement of Assam and its impact on Assamese short story’ and ‘Impact of Folk Culture and Myth on Assamese Short Story’ respectively. Sri Nilamoni Bora, noted scholar and critic, delivered a brief lecture on the topic of the symposium. In the valedictory session, Sri Kula Saikia, eminent Assamese short story writer, delivered valedictory address and stated that language is a powerful tool in writing a short story. Prof Dilip Bora, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATION CULTURE IN WESTERN REGION

January 6, 2016, Mumbai



Namdev Tarachandani presenting his paper.

Also seen are (L-R) Raman Soni, Gokuldas Prabhu and Balwant Jeurkar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a symposium on Translation Culture in Western Region at the Akademi auditorium in Mumbai on January 6, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the participants and audience and stated that translating major, landmark works into different languages should be the fulcrum of translation culture and added that all genres of literature, including criticism should be translated thus. In his inaugural address, Sri Ram Pandit, eminent Marathi translator, shared his experience of translation. He has meticulously translated Marathi literature into Urdu and vice-a-versa. He believed that such translation can bridge the cultures of two different regions, but felt that idioms of all languages cannot be translated, Hindi should be treated as a filter language, dictionaries containing at least half a lakh words in different translations should be published and further added that translating poetry is a major challenge to all translators. In his Presidential address, Sri Moinuddin Usmani, well-known Urdu writer and translator, observed that translation is more difficult than original writing and stated that translation is like a bouquet of flowers in which different languages and cultures thrive. Sri Usmani highlighted that India is a vast country in which language changes every 50 kms and expressed his deep anguish that translators are not given the recognition that is very much due to them. At the end of the inaugural session, all the participants, dignitaries and audience paid homage to

the departed eminent litterateurs Mangesh Padgaonkar and Labhshankar Thakar.

The first session was chaired by Namdev Tarachandani and Raman Soni presented a paper on literary culture in Gujarati language. He started his paper by recalling the translation of Panchtantra which was a first printed translation brought out in 1824. The translation work was introduced in Gujarati literature by a Parsi which is a unique event. He recollected that majority of translation in Gujarati was done from Bengali language by Nagindas Parekh. He opined that translation workshops should be organized periodically to promote the translation culture. A paper on the Konkani translation culture was presented by Prashanti Talpankar. She referred to the young translators who do not understand the concept of translation. They lack mastery over the language and hence the work suffers. Some of the latest translations have hybrid language where Konkani is primarily mixed with Marathi words and also sprinkled with Portuguese words too. She concluded that language should not be hated. Translation industry is knowledge based industry, colleges and universities should include translation studies in their curriculum. To maintain the unique character of Goa, we need to go back to our original nature – the multilingual characters and not mono-lingual. The third paper in the series on Marathi culture was presented by Neelima Bhave. She described translation as a creative writing in Marathi. The initial translation was vastly of mythological tales. The translation of Bhagwad Geeta by Sant Dnyaneshwar is a milestone of translation in Marathi literature. The Marathi translation too is influenced by Bengali literature. Mama Warerkar translated many short stories from Bengali into Marathi. Dilip Chitre brought the Western literature to Marathi. She also suggested of having quality review of the translations. The last paper in this session on Sindhi literature culture was presented by Jetho Lalwani who started with his paper with the phrase Na Chhodo Na Jodo which is well suited for translators. The first translation in Sindhi literature was done in 1736. The Sindhi translation includes the plays of Shakespeare of which the Sindhi litterateurs were influenced more. The translations by Hiro Thakur of Samrachnavad and Kabir Vachnavali by Kamla Goklani are considered a gem of work in Sindhi. The translation of Dnyaneshwari from Marathi into Sindhi by Laxman Hardwani is also considered a pearl. The translators also carry the media translations as



there is no dedicated media channel for Sindhi. He also opined of having translation workshops and seminars on such subjects in Sindhi. Namdev Tarachandani, the chair, concluded the session by the phrase Best Drama is No Drama likewise a good translation is no translation but original.

The Second session was chaired by Raman Soni and paper presented in Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi and Sindhi were by Panna Trivedi, Gokuldas Prabhu, Balwant Jeurkar and Namdev Tarachandani respectively. Panna Trivedi while presenting her paper recalled the eminent Gujarati translator Umashankar Joshi who brought a journal named Sanskruti on the translation works. The criticism is the major field of interest for a translator. The translation work takes a reader on a journey of Indian culture. Gokuldas Prabhu pointed out that Konkani people migrated in different states and adopted the local language which resulted a setback for Konkani literature. The translation work in Konkani primarily was of Marathi spiritual literature which gradually progressed to poetry, prose and plays. The Kannada works are also translated in Konkani but a vice-a-versa is still pending. He considered that Konkani language is exposed to many languages therefore it doesn't need any filter or intermediate language for translation. Balwant Jeurkar while presenting his paper on Marathi translation culture was glad to note that there were many literary journals which has resulted in positive atmosphere for translation. The translation regularly updates the contemporary world. He also stresses for having a dictionary on translation. He pointed that translation in Marathi literature is on cloud nine in contemporary generation and to prove his point he gave an instance of reviewing a Kannada work in Marathi which was translated again in Kannada and brought out in book form. While presenting his paper on Sindhi translation culture, Namdev Tarachandani affirmed that translator should be bi-cultural. He should have immense passions and calmness while translating a work. The translation is always compromised in Sindhi literature. The Sindhi literature lacks the selection of good literature for translation. The process of filtration should be challenging. He reiterated the need of reading habit in young generation which can result in good translator. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, proposed the vote of thanks.

NARI CHETANA

January 9, 2016, Udgir

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in association with the Udgir branch of Marathwada Sahitya Parishad a 'Nari Chetna' programme on January 9, 2016 in Udgir. Ms Prabha Ganorkar, eminent Marathi poet, critic and Member, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. The women writers and poets – Ms Vrishali Kinhalakar, Ms Urmila Chakurkar, and Ms Shailaja Wadikar participated in the programme. Sri Ramachandra Tiruke, President of the Udgir branch of Marathwada Sahitya Parishad felicitated the guest-poets. Ms Chakurkar and Ms Kinhalakar recited their recently written poems, and Ms Wadikar read out an excerpt from her novel Ekata Asanyaachee Goshta. Ms Prabha Ganorkar shared her genuinely fresh insights into contemporary literature by women in Marathi saying that the present picture of the writings was very promising in a way that writers, poets, critics were actively and creatively experimenting their linguistic acumen. She also recited some of her poems. Sri Chandrashekhar Malakampatte, young poet in Marathi, and a travel grantee of Sahitya Akademi, compered the programme and Mrs Manda Deshpande of the Parishad proposed a vote of thanks. The programme was coupled with the inauguration of the three-day book exhibition at Udgir. Ms Ganorkar inaugurated the book exhibition.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES WITH PROF. JIANG JINGKUI

January 15-18, 2016, Mumbai & Wardha

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized Cultural Exchange programmes with Prof. Jiang Jingkui, Sahitya Akademi's Dr Ananda Koomaraswamy Fellow, and noted Chinese Indologist and professor of Hindi in Peking University from January 15 to January 18, 2016 at the Akademi office in Mumbai, at Mumbai University and at Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya in Wardha. In the programme held at the Mumbai office, the writers, translators

such as Sri Prakash Bhatambrekar, Sri Prafulla Shiledar, Dr SadhanaKamat, Sri Vijay Kumar, Sri Bansikhubchandani, Ms. Sheela Kolambkarand Sri Anup Sethiparticipated to interact with Prof. Jingkui. On January 18 2016, Prof. Jingkui delivered a lecture at Mumbai University. Jinag Jingkui began with saying that he was an Indian in China, and a Chinese in India. He shared that he had been into the study of India and Hindi language for 30 years, and he held that it was the British who had destroyed the harmonious relationship between India and China. People in both the nations should understand that literature, culture are the vibrant elements that could strengthen the bonds between the two nations, he said. He observed that a third of the Chinese civilization was deeply influenced by Indian civilization. India transmitted Buddhism to China through translation, and hence the art of translation played a poignant role in maintaining the relationship between the two countries, he said. He informed that his department had been undertaking translations of Sahitya Akademi Award winning literary works of art into Chinese, and he was very proud of this work. He also shared that Rabindranath Tagore, MunshiPremchand, DrKotnis, and Bollywood are extremely famous in China. After his talk, he charmingly answered queries by enthusiastic students. Prof. Urvashi Pandya, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Chair of Mumbai University, proposed a vote of thanks.

YUVA SINDHI WRITERS' MEET

January 21-22, 2016, Ahmedabad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language arranged Young Sindhi Writers Meet on January 21-22, 2016, at Hotel Vice President, Ahmedabad. The meet was began with homage to Amar ShahidHemuKalani. In his welcome address, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, highlighted the Akademi's activities to promote literature in 24 regional languages. VasdevMohi, a senior Sindhi writer, inaugurated the meet and heartily thanked Akademi for promoting the young Sindhi literature. JethoLalwani, an Akademi Award Winning renowned Sindhi writer gave a brief about the programme and



Vasdev Mohi inaugurating the meet. Also seen are (L-R) Rashmi Ramani, Prem Prakash and Jetho Lalwani

various sessions. Prem Prakash, Convener of Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, described the success of such young writers meet and how it brings closer the thoughts of senior and junior writers. Rashmi Ramani, member of NCPSSL, proposed a vote of thanks and the end of inaugural session. In the first session Monica Panjwani presented a paper on 'Sindhi Young Literature: A Study' and stressed the need of study in every aspect of writing. Rajesh Assudani, MamtaParwani and RekhaPohani presented their poems on various aspects which were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Manoj Chawla chaired the session and thanked the paper reader and poet participants for their artistic presentation. The second session was chaired by BharatiSadarangani and Rajesh Assudani presented a very research-ful and informative paper on 'Sindhi Young Literature: An experience'. The other participants of the session namely Sangeeta Khilwani, KomalDayalani, RoshniRohra, SunitaMohanani and Monica Panjwani read out their short stories. The short stories were inspired by the modern age, the different phases of life and truly inspirational. The presentation and the story telling were successful. The third session was chaired by Rajesh Assudani while Manoj Chawla, RekhaPohani, RoshniRohra, Manju Mirwani and HeenaAgnani presented their essays on 'Why Do I Write?'. All the papers were having their own identities, language was very understanding. The paper readers also shared their experience and obstacles while writing a composition. In the same session, Manoj Chawla, Jayesh Sharma and BharatiSadarangani presented their unpublished new poems. The fourth session which commenced in the morning of 22 January 2016 was chaired by Rashmi Ramani. The



paper on the subject 'Sindhi Young Literature: A manifesto' was presented by Sunita Mohanani. The paper was full of research, critically positive and of literary values. She included the review on the various prose-poetry of Young Sindhi litterateurs in a very evocative manner. Rajesh Assudani, Mahesh Khilwani, Sunita Mohanani, Champa Chetnani presented their favorite compositions and shared their experiences with the audience. Rashmi Ramani also recited some of her recent poems at the end of session. The fifth session was dedicated to the plays and chaired by Sunita Mohanani. The paper on 'Sindhi Young Literature: A manifesto' was presented by Mahesh Khilwani which was very formative and informative. He strived the importance of language in writing, its usability, purity, and simplicity and gave references of various compositions by young litterateurs. Champa Chetnani presented the play Mard in very artistic manner which was full of emotions, drama and perceptions. Manju Mirwani's play Mahapaap was based on female foeticide killing and presented a real picture of contemporary society. Sakhi, a one-act play was presented by Mahesh Khilwani was a poetic thought and in a pure Sindhi language. The sixth session which was chaired by Roshni Rohra, gave her brief on the subject 'My Favourite Book'. She informed the audience about her perceptions, thoughts and means while selecting a book as a favorite. Sangeeta Khilwani, Monica Panjwani, Bharati Sadarangani, Mamta Parwani, Komal Dayalani and Jayesh Sharma presented their thoughts and experience about their favorite books. The valedictory session was chaired by Prem Prakash. Hundraj Balwani reviewed the papers and compositions of various Young writers in a very informative, descriptive and in a true spirit of literature. Prem Prakash appealed the young writers to write the literature after studying the subject, its modalities. He described the meet a successful event in bringing the young Sindhi literature before the audience. Rashmi Ramani proposed a vote of thanks.

MEET THE AUTHOR

January 31, 2016, Ernakulam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in association with the Konkani Sahitya Akademi, organized a 'Meet the Author' programme featuring

noted Konkani writer, Sri Uday Bhembre at Ernakulam in Kerala on January 31, 2016. Sri. Payyanur Ramesh Pai, Chairman of Konkani Sahitya Akademi Kerala, who is also a member of Sahitya Akademi's Konkani Advisory Board, welcomed the guest speaker and audience. Sri. T.R. Sadananda Bhat, Member-Secretary of Konkani Sahitya Akademi Kerala, presented a brief profile of Sri Uday Bhembre. Sri Uday Bhembre, in his talk, narrated the experiences he had as an activist. He also explained the salient features of his view point as represented in the Sahitya Akademi Award winning book Karnaparva. He recalled that initially he wrote it as a radio play over forty years ago and now only it came in book form. Sri. Bhembre disclosed that he is writing a Konkani novel based on the Goan inquisition. Sri L. Subramanian, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed a Vote of Thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

February 1, 2016, Bharuch

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a Literary Forum on February 1, 2016 at Bharuch. Sri Rajendra Patel read out his short stories and Sri Mahendrasinh Parmar recited his poems.

OCTAVE 2016

February 12, 2016, Vadodara

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with West Zone Cultural Center, Udaipur, organized a Symposium on Literature of the North-East India: Tradition and Innovation, and a Poets' Meet as part of Octave 2016 in Vadodara, Gujarat, at Sayajinagar Griha, Akota, on February 12, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the participants and audience and introduced the participants to audience. Dr Desmond Kharmawphlang, renowned poet and critic, delivered keynote address at the symposium. In the keynote address Dr Kharmawphlang said, "The movingly theatrical physical features of North-East India is home to a staggering multitude of peoples and



communities, who, till not very long, lived in close harmony with a bio-diversity almost unrivaled in the world. The songs and epics, the folklore and literature are the direct products of the interface between nature and culture - the human agency obtains its muse from this conflation and tongues and voices are created. Poets articulate and rejoice in dilating the aspects of the ecology, myths, rituals, mysteries, mysterious faiths and demographic traits. Their poetry is the celebration of the rural flavour of their native places and of their neighbours creating an almost illogical sense of yearning and belonging for the land, the inflections of which is rarely found in contemporary literature.” Noted poets, Sri Swmdwn Brahma (Bodo), Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary (Assamese), Sri Naorem Vidyasagar Singha and Sri. H. Nanikumar Singh (Manipuri), Sri Jivan Namdung and Sri Bhakta Sanwar (Nepali) recited their poems.

Sri Jivan Namdung, noted writer in Nepali, chaired the next session, and Sri Dilip Bora (Assamese), Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary (Bodo), Sri H. Nanikumar Singh (Manipuri) presented their papers. Sri Dilip Bora stated that Assamese society, enriched with a bevy of folk festivals, celebrations and art and culture, has a huge treasure of folktales which has always been a subject to wonder for all. Just in the way these folk literature has reflected the traditional scenario of Assamese society, similarly, these have also proved the innovative qualities of Assam and its people as well. Modern Assamese literature also has gone a long way. It has to be realized that literature can never survive simply being confined in the traditions, traditions can just be considered as the base or foundation of literature, and literature keeps flowing towards an unseen future passing through the traditions and innovations and the same momentum can also be witnessed in Assamese literature.” Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary observed that the Bodo language is a newly emerging language. The literary development in the language came centuries later in comparison to the other major languages in India. The genres - short story, novel, poetry in Bodo are still in the stage of adolescence. Nevertheless, the elements of tradition and modernity figure prominently in Bodo literature. The genres like travel writing, biography, children literature are coming up with new enthusiasm and genuineness. Social unrest, ethnic movements, and

lack of lasting peace are other factors that have stood in the way of steady development of Bodo literature. Sri H. Nanikumar Singha’s paper discussed as to how traditions have played a significant role in making Manipuri literature innovative. Sri Sudhanshu Singh, Additional Director, West Zone Cultural Center, Udaipur, proposed a vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

February 14, 2016, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Saraswat Mahila Samaj and Kanara Saraswat Association, organized a Literary Forum on February 14, 2016, at the Akademi Auditorium in Mumbai. Noted Konkani poets Meera Savkur, Murlidhar Betrabet, Philomena Sanfransisco, Krishna Bhat, Jyoti Kurade, and Pranav Kodial participated in the Forum. Renowned writer and poet Dr. Jayant Kaikini from Bengaluru presided over the function. Shri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed all and spoke about the activities undertaken by Sahitya Akademi in propagating various Indian languages. Dr. Kaikini regaled the audience with his thought provoking speech in Konkani. He spoke about literature in general and the various facets of poetry in particular, citing interesting anecdotes. The poets presented their own poems in the first round. The second round started with Meera Savkur presenting poems translated from Gujarathi, Murlidhar Betrabet from Tamil, Philomena Sanfransisco from Hindi, Krishna Bhat from Kannada, Jyoti Kurade from Marathi and Pranav Kodial from Bengali. In the third round Meera Savkur read poems translated from English, Murlidhar Betrabet from Greek, Philomena Sanfransisco from French, Krishna Bhat from German, Jyoti Kurade from Portuguese and Pranav Kodial from Russian. Dr. Jayant Kaikini then read out his poems, and at a special request from the audience, Mrs. Kamat read out two poems translated from Kannada and English. In her vote of thanks, Mrs. Kamat expressed her gratitude towards all her friends who had helped her to make this event a grand success and towards Sahitya Akademi.



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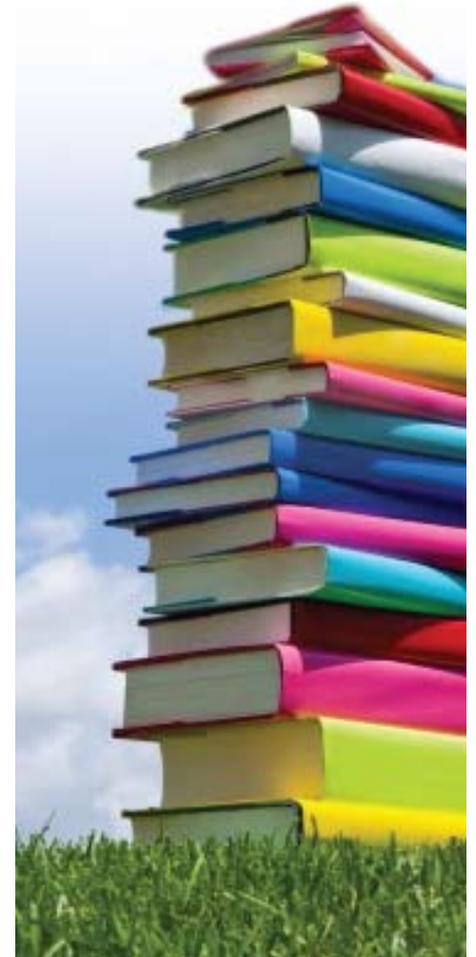
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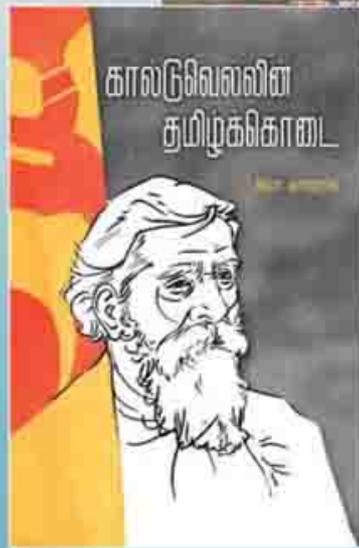
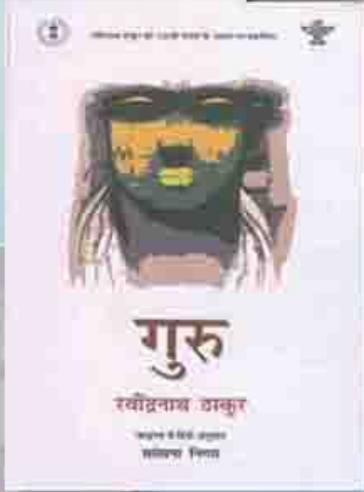
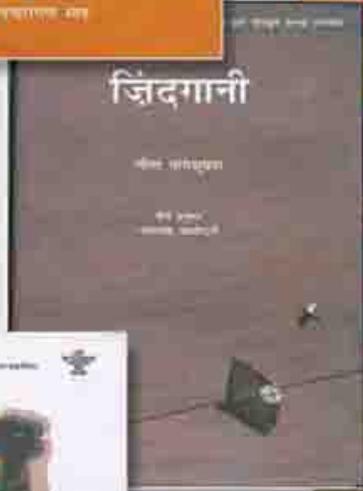
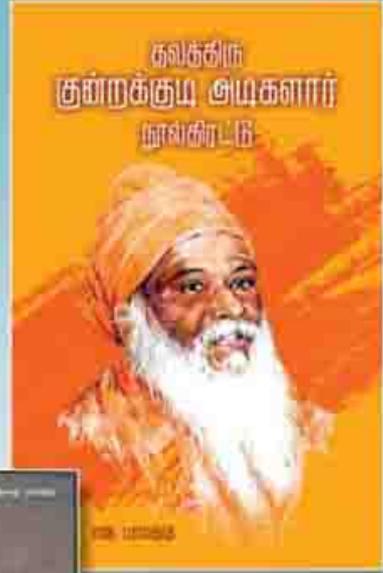
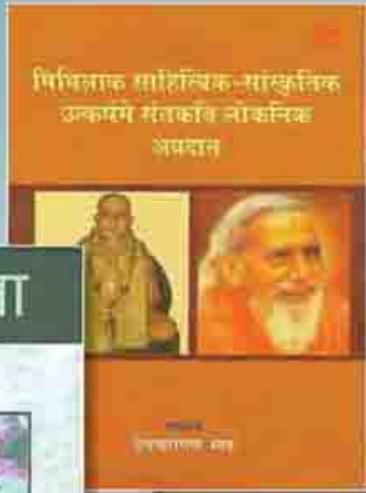
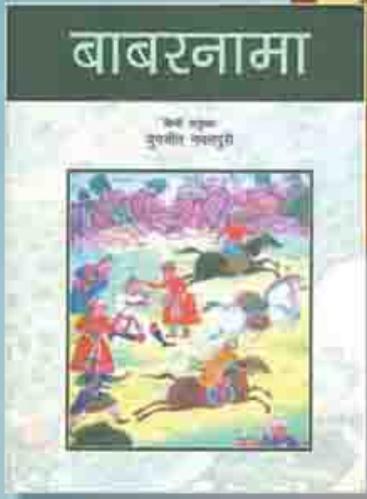
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