



# Sahitya Akademi

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS

Akademi Fellowship to  
Sitakant Mahapatra

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2013  
Presented

Festival of India in  
Peru and Cuba

National Seminar on  
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Writing for Children: New  
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Devotion and Poetry  
Swami Vivekananda

Seminars and Symposia on  
Contemporary Literature  
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Hosted

Cultural Exchange with  
Writers from Nepal

Writers' Meet and Poets  
Meet held in Indian  
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Literary Meets held in  
North-East Indian  
Languages

Participated in Frankfurt and  
Sharjah Book Fairs





## Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presented

Fourth Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2013 were presented to twenty four writers in Indian languages recognised by the Akademi in a grand function held on 15 November 2013 at Goa State Museum Auditorium, Panaji, Goa

Sahitya Akademi held its Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2013 Presentation ceremony on 15 November 2013, at Goa State Museum Auditorium, Panaji, Goa.

The three day event included the 'Presentation of Bal Sahitya Puraskar', 'Writers Meet' and a 'Symposium on Writing' for Children; The New Challenges' on 17 November.

Goa State Museum Auditorium was bustling with the gathering of awardees, guests, the lovers of literature from the city of Goa. Awardees were seated on the dias in a beautiful array. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering. In his welcome address, he highlighted a vital point despite a vast body of children's literature available to-day, still there is a dearth for good literature for children. In a country like ours with rich heritage of multiple cultures and languages, most ancient and modern the scenario of the production of children's literature is far from satisfaction. Sahitya Akademi came forward to encourage best of literature for children by instituting Bal Sahitya Puraskar from 2010. He informed the audience that

nine books of short stories, two of poetry, two of essays, and eight writers for their total contribution to children literature have won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar this year. He further said that we must welcome and encourage literature for children, for it opens up doors to the many worlds that are not known to the children. While reading or being read by somebody, the child listens to, naturally attempts to visualize using his/her imagination, and later remembers as well. So, quite obviously the entire activity proves to be a creative experience for them. And the process helps children develop linguistic skills – may it be in any form of literature, poetry, fable, story, he said.

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address while congratulating all the award winning writers, he said that no genuine writer would write for an award, particularly the writers who write for children. The writer genuinely attempt to educate and to impart wisdom to the new generation. In the domain of creative writing, writing for children is one of the most difficult



*Manoj Das, the chief guest delivering his address and the awardees in an array*



*Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering presidential address*

challenges to face. We are bound to congratulate the writers, who took up the challenges and handled them most creatively.

After the presidential address, the awards were given away to the winners by the President of the Akademi.

Manoj Das, distinguished Oriya and English writer and the chief guest offered his humble indebtedness to the award-winning creative souls writing for children with deep concern and welfare. While highlighting the qualities of vibrant children literature available today, Sri Das said, "What strikes us is innocence, colourfulness, imagination, curiosity and love for the strange and the morale". Having read

this literature, a child reader is expected to come up with a series of questions and the deep cautions that allow opting for the good over evil, he said.

At the 'Writers' Meet' held on 16 November 2013, Tosha Probha Kalita, the Bal Sahitya Award 2013 winner in Assamese said, "At my early years, the environment and the nature were my educators. The lullabies and devotional sung by women, the wedding songs, the devotional hymns, the voice of my mother and my grandmother inspired me. Another positive influence on me as a writer was my happy childhood."



*Manoj Das presenting a bouquet to Telugu awardee Dokala Sujatha Devi*



*President giving award to the Kannada award winner H.S. Venkatesha Murthy*



*K. Sreenivasarao at the Writers' Meet*



*Malayalam awardee Sumangala (Leela Nambudripad) sharing her writing experience*

Jatindra Nath Swargiary, the award winner in Bodo said that he was inspired by prominent writers and novelists like Dharanidhar Wary who is also a critic and short story writer in his language. Noted composer and writer of limerick in Bodo Nandeswar Boro also immensely inspired him in his early writing career.

Dhirendra Kumar Jha, the Maithili awardee said that he chose a science theme for his book and the only book in Maithili to his credit that consists a collection of forty three short essays on the topics related to natural science, ecology, environment, pollution, and transportation and information technology.

Sumangla, the Malayalam awardee said that she strongly believes that children's stories should be value based, and should have an underlying lesson igniting a spark of goodness.

Raghu Leishangthem, the Manipuri awardee opined that the children literature must be supported by illustrations.

Anant Bhave, the awardee in

Marathi, said that one should involve children to narrate stories and sing songs. This involvement encourages and entuses them to mimic and imitate not only the pronunciation but also the gesticulations and facial expressions. This gives them an intimate joy of

are very knowledgeable with their modern information kits especially in the field of science.

Asad Raza, the award-winner in Urdu said that his aim is not only to entertain but also to educate children so that they may become broad minded

**Children's stories should be value based, and should have an underlying lesson igniting a spark of goodness**

**Sumangala**

togetherness and participatory activity.

Saridharam Hansda, the award winner in Santail informed that he was inspired by two great poets in his language, Kabi Guru Sadhu Ramchand Murmu and Pandit Raghunath Murmu.

Vasudev Nirmal, the Sindhi awardee, while narrating his experience as writer for children, he said that he also wrote poems about children, their mannerism, their use of words, about their pets, dolls and toys etc.

E.S. Hariharan (Revathi), the Tamil awardee, said that writing for the present day children is a herculean task as they

Indian citizens with rational and scientific attitude towards life. He also tries to educate children to respect the diversity of India.





## Writing for Children: New Challenges

A national symposium on Writing for Children: New Challenges to deliberate on the issues posing challenges for the writers for children in the globalised world where our ethnic cultures and mores are waning day by day. Writers from all over the nation were invited to present their views in the symposium

In the symposium held on the topic “Writing for Children: New Challenges” on 17 November 2013 as the concluding part of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar presentation programme at the same venue, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, who opened up the symposium with his welcomed address, stated that this symposium would discuss so many issues affecting our socio-cultural, economic life, and challenges for our identity, may it be linguistic or cultural or social. And these issues get reflected in our literature. These issues, “I believe, influence children’s psyche, not in the way they influence the mind of elders”. He further

said children certainly perceive such things in their own way and with a little more sensitive mind although their expression is limited. Unlike the earlier generations children today have innumerable options of entertainment, of the ways to seek wisdom and knowledge, of the ways to acquire language, the arts, science. But it is high time we must think over the appropriateness of these options and their aggressive marketing techniques, and their attempts to overpower literary art.” He further said, “It is essentially needed to discuss and document what challenges the writers who write for children face to create literature for the children of the day. I am sure that the

writer-participants will scholarly discuss and assure all of us a great future for literature for children.”

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address said that having heard the writers speaking at the ‘Writers Meet’ came across so many challenges the literature for children puts forth before the writers. The language should be very simple, easy to comprehend in children literature. On the contrary, the mind that achieves this simplicity of language is enigmatic. It is not easy to make expression simple. Literature for children always teaches great responsibility as it carries knowledge and wisdom in a very simple language.

Bansi Kaul, an eminent theatre persona, in his inaugural address, said that unfortunately there is hardly any playwright who writes plays especially for children and it is unfortunate too that parents think of their children as their support in their old age. This



*Pundalik Naik, the chief guest delivering his address.  
L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari and Bansi Kaul*



*Damodar Mauzo delivering his concluding speech in the Children's Poets' Meet*

infact restricts the growth of children. Instead of depriving them we must understand and encourage their natural inclination.

Pundalik Naik, distinguished Konkani writer, was the chief guest of the seminar, who in his address said that it is disgusting that the popular media like cinema seems to be absolutely neglecting children. He further said that the writer needs to keep alive the child in him in order to write for children.

The first session was chaired by Devika Rangachari. Deepa Agarwal (English) in her paper emphasized that the media should be vary of using bad language in cartoon serials. These serials lack variety and imagination. Santanu Tamuly through his paper said that children's literature should aim at encouraging extra curricular activities of a child. Sudha G. Kharangate (Konkani), categorized Konkani literature for children in three age groups viz. 4-8, 8-12, 12-16 in terms of growing mind of children and professed that children literature should be in accordance with this category.

The second session was chaired by Tanaji Halarnkar, Convenor, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Baba Bhand (Marathi) in his paper said that every writer should try his hand at writing for children as a creative challenge. Divik Ramesh (Hindi) in his paper said that instead of keeping on discussing problems that media poses, we must

chaired by Prakash Manu. Vinod Gandhi of Gujarati, Anand V. Patil of Kannada, Bharat Naik of Konkani, Sarabjit Singh Bedi of Punjabi, Dindyal Sharma of Rajasthani and Nazir Fatehpuri of Urdu recited their poems for children. Their poems were very well appreciated by the audience.

Finally, Damodar Mauzo, eminent

### The writer needs to keep alive the child in him in order to write for children

Pundalik Naik

believe in our mighty tradition of children literature. We have for instance *Panchatantra* where inanimate become the animate and it is found that this kind of imagination endeavour children. K. Shreekumar (Malayalam) in his paper said that the current scenario of children literature in Malayalam is not satisfactory. This literature is nearly stuffed with advices and they should instead work on readability of literature.

The third session was meant for recitation of poem for children, and was

Konkani writer, made concluding remarks.





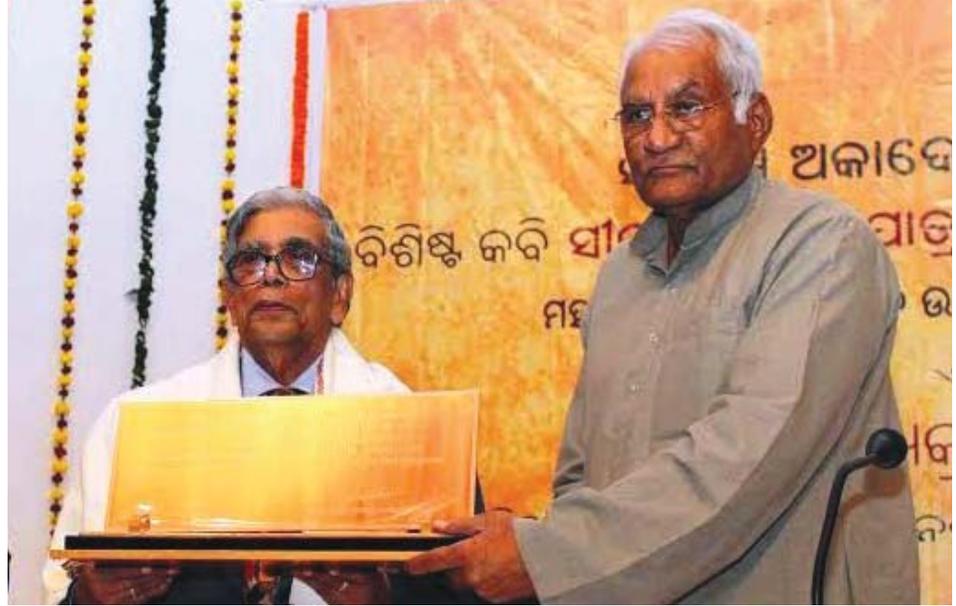
## Sahitya Akademi Fellowship Presented to Sitakanta Mahapatra

Sitakant Mahapatra is such a rare talent who respects the past, present and future

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Fellowship, the Akademi's highest literary honour, on eminent litterateur Sitakant Mahapatra on 14 December 2013 at a special function presided over by its President Viswanath Prasad Tiwari at IDCOL auditorium, Bhubaneswar. He was presented with a shawl, a citation and a plaque as the mark of honour.

Sitakant Mahapatra a veteran Odia poet critic and scholar is also known for his contribution to the field of tribal poetry. He has worked extensively to connect the gaps between tribal primitive, ritual based societies and the efforts of the modern state to initiate development programmes for them. Sri Mahapatra, born in 1937, is at his best while portraying the ethos of Odishan tradition. His is one of the best-known names in Indian Literature today. The people of Odisha appear in his poetry as a compassionate, simple, and innocent community.

Speaking on the occasion, Akademi's President Viswanath Prasad Tiwari said that poets are respected for their ability to immortalise a place, object or person through their words. The future generations would see the world through the picture painted by the poets today, he added. Describing Sri Mahapatra as a poet of myth, tradition and culture, he added that Sri Sitakant has a deep love for his language. His poetry reflects a generous amount of Odia life style. Sri Mahapatra is such a rare talent who respects past, present and future. He also described Sri Sitakant as a true Indian. In his acceptance speech, Sri Mahapatra said the Fellowship by Sahitya Akademi was an honour to his literary creations



Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President Sahitya Akademi, presenting the Fellowship plaque to Sitakant Mahapatra

as well as for Odia language and literature. Dedicating the Fellowship to 'Kavyaguru' Jagannth Das and saint poet Bhima Bhoi, Sri Mahapatra said reading the *Bhagabata* in the morning and listening to Bhima Bhoi's *bhajans* in the evening in childhood helped him become a poet. "The fervour for poetry was instilled in him by my father. He had advised me to simply write, till my hands hurt," said Sri Mahapatra. He also added that his father's mild response to his first poem inspired him to improve. Poetry, he said, is an exercise in knowing oneself and his times and that is what he has tried to do all his life. "Words are at the heart of poetry and that is why I have always laid emphasis on the purity of language in all my writing," he said. Nature for him, is not a separate entity

to him. He himself is nature and its rhythms are within him. "I am deeply in love with life and know the myriad ways my love for it has tried to express itself. I am the flowing river, the meditating mountain and all human who suffer. I have admired their courage in facing, suffering and not to turn back on life," he said. He said that he believed that he still had a child in him and that he would stop writing poems only when the child inside him dies. Sri Mahapatra also spelt out his relationship with words and language by quoting the lines from his own poem "Words". "My words are the confused nightingale's cry embossed on the earth's sun-baked face". Later, a 'Samvad' programme was held wherein Prafulla Mohanty, Basanta Kumar Panda and Aparna Mohanty



discussed different dimensions of Mohapatra's poetry.

Dr Mohanty described Sri Mahapatra as poet of relationship and a poet of silence. He never writes about religion, but Lord Krishna is always the metaphor in his poetry. He often talks about the feelings of the society. Basant Kumar Panda said that Sitakant Mahapatra is the representative of middle aged metaphorical poets. He also described

him as a mythographer of time. He discussed the translations of Sri Mahapatra's creations. Aparna Mohanty discussed the mystic consciousness of his poetry collections.

Earlier, K. Srinivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and said that this rare honour is reserved for 'the immortals of literature' and limited to 21 only at any given time. He also read out the citation

in honour of the Fellow.

*Rotations of Unending Times*, the English translation of Mohapatra's Odia book translated by Sura P. Rath and Mark Hallperin, was released on the occasion. An Odia book on Sitakanta Mahapatra's creations by Sanghamitra Mishra and Ranjita Nayak was also released.

Gourahari Das, Convenor of the Odia Advisory Council of the Akademi proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

## Literary Forum

### Luz Elena Sepulveda Jimenez A Columbian Poet

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Literary Forum' on 3 October 2013 at Akademi's Conference Hall, New Delhi where the Columbian poet, Luz Elena Sepulveda Jimenez read out original Columbian poems from her poetry collection. K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam and English poet, read out their English translation.

Introducing the poet to the audience, Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, spoke briefly about Luz Elena, saying that her literary career started in 1980. Since then she has published several volumes of her poetry. She said her poems contain elements of spirituality and aesthetic beauty. Ms. Jimenez said in her speech, 'Columbia was partial to India and she felt that it was a great privilege to recite her poems to the Indian audience as many of her poems contain images of India'. As was evident from her poems and her own admittance, she has been strongly impressed by the Indian landscape when she visited India as a traveller some years ago. She confessed that she doesn't stifle her curiosity about anything and just expresses her feelings and thoughts, in a simple poetic language which not only rekindle our memories about the beautiful places, such as Rajghat, Taj Mahal, Karni Devi Temple, Bikaner, Rajasthan, Kerala, and her native country, Columbia. Prof. Satchidanandan observed by way of an introduction to her poems: 'though written by a foreigner are Indian, they have a flavour of India'.



Being brought up in an environment where nature with its hills and mountains and its moods were the dominant aspects rather than city life with modern buildings, she was sensitive to the beauties of nature. Most of her poems characterise them. She uses rich imagery and tries to depict them vividly like a visual picture.

There after followed, a lively discussion on her poetry which led ultimately to her frank confession that her 'love of nature had been an irresistible force which accompanied always with the lone traveller like a companion....'



## National Seminar

# Realism in Indian Fiction



The Akademi organised a “National seminar on Realism in Indian Fiction” on the occasion of the birth centenary of Thakazhi Shivashankara Pillai and S.K. Pottekkatt in Delhi on 4 and 5 October 2013 at Rabindra Bhawan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi while delivering his welcoming address spoke on the two stalwarts in Malayalam literature. He said that Pottekkatt was multifaceted personality and was dynamic as a writer. He bought his rich travel experiences to bear upon his eminently readable novels and was too bewitched by the spirit of place and life. He said that Pottekkatt used to set his stories in the remote corners of the world and presented characters that appeared rather strange to the common man but theme was innovative and appealing to human society.

C. Radhakrishnan, Convenor, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in his introductory remarks shared some commonalities between Thakzhi and Potekatt. Both were compassionate and honest. They hailed from modest background, struggled their way up. Both were fiction writers and practised paradigm-shift in craft and themes. They were practitioners of romantic realism and their dreams reflected reality as they had real dreams. He also pointed out some major differences between their inclinations, style and themes. Most of the Thakazhi’s characters were farmers, middle-class people and land lords. Pottekkatt besides being romantically realistic about the life around him also represented the other part of the natural inclination of the minds of the Keralites.

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President

Sahitya Akademi and veteran Hindi poet while chairing the inaugural session discussed the works of Thakazhi and Pottekkatt. He also spoke on the realism in Hindi literature. Quoting the philosophers in the context of realism in world literature, Prof. Tiwari said that Premchand belonged to idealistic realism as he himself discussed about this concept of realism. A lot has been written on realism and we find several forms of it being practised in literature in Indian and the world as well. While stating various forms of realism like critical realism, historical realism, magical realism etc, he reiterated that we should broadmindedly accept all types of realism.

The inaugural address was delivered by veteran Hindi critic Namwar Singh. In his inaugural address, he mentioned about the contribution of Malayalam language to the corpus of Indian literature



K. Sreenivasarao delivering welcome address. L-R: V. Rajakrishnan, Namwar Singh, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari and C. Radhakrishnan

and its writers G. Sankara Kurup, S.K Pottekatt and Thakazhi Shivashankara Pillai. He also quoted *Cheeman* by Thakazhi and regarded as a vital contribution which projects the true picture of Kerala of that era. He also discussed the impacts of writers he read from Kerala and his reverence for the state due to its remarkable contribution to Indian literature. Referring to Jaishankar Prasad's view expressed by him in his essay, "Realism in Indian Literature" he defined realism expressed in Indian literature relating to the ideology of writers like Pottekatt and Thakazhi. Dr. Namwar Singh said that he will not quote any European philosophers and will limit himself to the Indian context of realism. He stated that realism demands 'poetic justice for marginalised.' Realism in prose emerges from the emotions expressed by the marginalized people in their own words.

The keynote address was delivered by V. Rajakrishnan, eminent Malayalam writers. He discussed realism in the context to Indian fiction and also gave references of Western philosophers. He said that realism as a literary philosophy or a powerful and pervasive literary movement had its origin in the European cultural milieu around the period 1830-40. It offered the most effective artistic means of expressing a committed sense of human reality to several novelists and short story writers. Thakazhi's name is almost synonymous with the rise and growth of critical realism in Malayalam fiction and his early writings were some form of social documentation. According to Rajakrishnan, Pottekatt retained a romantic element in his imaginative sensibility and he seldom allowed his art to subserve propaganda, even as he was closely associated with the Communist movement. He added that both these writers came to realize the widening gap between realism and the reality at some point in their artistic

Memorandum of  
Shivashankara Pillai and S.K. Pottekatt  
: भारतीय कथा-साहित्य में यथार्थवाद  
: Realism in Indian Fiction  
4-5 जगुअर 2013  
New Delhi



L-R: N. Manu Chakravarthy, K. Chellappan and N. Chandrasekhara Reddy

career, as a result of which they turned towards more indigenous and traditional methods of expression.

The first session was chaired by K. Satchidanandan, veteran Malayalam poet and critic and the topic was "Thakazhi, Pottekatt and Malayalam Literature." K.S Ravikumar, K.P Ramanunni and P.K. Parakkadavu presented their papers. K.S. Ravikumar spoke on the topic "Locating Thakazhi in the History of Malayalam Literature." K.P. Ramanunni spoke on "Pottekatt in his Socio-Historical Context" and P.K. Parakkadavu discussed on the impact of Thakazhi and Pottekatt on later fiction in Malayalam.

The second session, "Re-reading Thakazhi" was chaired by A.Sethumadhavan. Pradeepan Pampirikkunu and Anita Nair presented their papers on "Thakazhi: A Dalit Reading" and "On Translating Thakazhi", respectively.

The third session on the topic "Renaissance and Indian Fiction" was chaired by Damodar Mauzo. In this session, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee spoke on realism in Bengali fiction. Pradeep Acharya discussed the Assamese reality and Assamese fiction. Prafulla Kumar Mohanty spoke on myth and reality in

Odia fiction. Chandrakant Patil presented paper on "Marathi Fiction: The Realist Tradition."

The fourth session of the seminar started on 5 October 2013 on the topic "Renaissance and Indian Fiction" which was chaired by K. Chellappan. N. Manu Chakravarthy presented paper on "The Kannada Context" and N. Chandrasekhara Reddy discussed on renaissance and Telugu fiction.

The fifth session was chaired by Avadhesh Kumar Singh extended the discussion on "Renaissance and Indian Fiction." Anamika discussed the renaissance in Hindi fiction. M.Asaduddin presented his paper on "Urdu Fiction: The Great Awakening." Akshay Kumar shared his views on the age of realism in Punjabi novels.

The sixth session was chaired by C. Radhakrishnan on the topic "The Worlds of Pottekatt." P.P. Raveendran presented his paper on "Pottekatt, The Novelist." C.R Prasad spoke on Pottekatt's short stories and Shamsad Hussain discussed Pottekatt as a travel writer.

The valedictory address was delivered by Om Cherry N.N. Pillai, well-known playwright and M. Mukundan, eminent fiction writer.



## Meet The Author

### Jaswant Singh Kanwal

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Meet the Author' programme on 2 October 2013 at Moga, Punjab. Eminent Punjabi writer Jaswant Singh Kanwal, who has been writing for more than seven decades, was invited to speak on his writing and creative process at the programme.

Baldev Singh, Member, Punjabi Advisory Board introduced Sri Kanwal to the audience as a writer and social worker. Dr. Kanwal, a nanogeranian is considered the most eminent living Punjabi writers. He has been writing for about 70 years and has thirty novels, ten short story collections, four collections of essays and one poetry collection to his credit. He has narrated the pains of Punjab and Punjabi in his writings.

Jaswant Kanwal in his speech said, "I write for Punjabis and also for the enrichment of Punjabi language and literature." He further said that he has always felt close to the villagers because of their simple life and high thinking. Talking about his famous novel *Laboo di Low*, he said that he started writing this novel in the early seventies. As the novel got ready for publication, Emergency was declared. During Emergency many restrictions were imposed on publishers and no publisher was ready to print his novel, so he got it published from Singapore. The copies reached Punjab and were sold like hot cakes. After the Emergency, this novel was also published from Punjab. He further reminisced his long journey as a writer and the recognitions he attained among the Punjabis in India and abroad. His books as best sellers among Punjabi readers is a matter of pride for him.

The programme ended with vote of thanks.

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kavi Sandhi' programme with prominent Kashmiri poet Shehnaz Rashid at Seminar Hall of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Lal Mandi, Srinagar on 3 October 2013. Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Convenor Kashmiri Advisory Board, presided over. Prof. Azurdah introduced the poet Shahnaz Rashid, highlighting his individual efforts to bring Kashmiri poetry nearer to the present day literary scenario of poetry in other Indian languages.

Shahnaz Rashid recited a number of poems before the audience. Shafaqat Altaf, Farooq Nazki, M.Y. Teng, Shafaq Sopori, Zameer Ansari and many others interacted with the poet. Shafqat Altaf, Member of Kashmiri Advisory Board presented the vote of thanks.



## Kavi Sandhi

### Shehnaz Rashid

## Through My Window

### Mohd. Ayub Betab

Sahitya Akademi organized a programme of 'Through My Window' on 5 October 2013 at Shopian Town Hall on late Mohd. Ayub Betab. The programme was presided over by Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Convenor, Kashmir Advisory Board. In his presidential address, Prof. Azurdah explained the importance of such programmes besides referring to the main contribution of Mohd. Ayub Betab.

Shafaqat Altaf presented an elaborate paper on the contribution of late Betab. He referred to the written books by Betab and presented a critical assessment of Betab's poetic sensibility, novelty of thought and aesthetic aspects of his ghazal.

G. H. Talib, M. S. Khan, Ali Shaida,



Shahzada Rafique, Zameer Ansari, G. N. Aatish, Jan Nisar made valuable interventions and interacted with the speaker. Betab's daughter and other relatives also attended the function. Zameer Ansari, Member of Kashmiri Advisory Board proposed the vote of thanks.

## Symposium

### Panditraj Jagannatha Poet and Thinker



Namwar Singh delivering his address. L-R: Brajendra Tripathi, Hari Ram Mishra, Radha Vallabh Tripathi, Harshdev Madhav and K. Sreenivasarao

The Akademi in collaboration with Dev Vani Parishad organised a symposium on 'Panditraj Jagannatha: Poet and Thinker' at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi on 17 October 2013. Eminent scholars while remembering him with reverence discussed his personality and poetic geniuses.

In the two sessions of this literary programme where scholars delivered lectures on the possibilities of new poetics and modern Sanskrit poetics; the recitation of selected Sanskrit verses of Jagannatha created harmonious atmosphere.

In the Inaugural session, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the participants and guests shared his feeling of immense pleasure due to the interest shown by the scholars for this symposium. Namwar Singh, eminent Hindi writer and critic, presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address he stressed on the need of liberating Sanskrit

poetics from its limitations. He also highlighted the possibility of creating *Sanrachnavadi Kavyashastra* through *alankara* by understanding limitations of Dhvani Siddhant.

Radhavallabh Tripathi, Convenor, Sanskrit Advisory Board, while delivering his introductory speech highlighted the importance of the works of Pandit

Jagannatha. He said that his poetic genius is equivalent to scholars like Bhavbhuti and Shankracharya. His works of criticism are of immense importance like that of Abinavgupta and Anand Vardhan.

Harshdev Madhav, eminent Sanskrit scholar delivered lecture on the topic "The Possibilities of New Poetics." In his lecture while giving the references from the works of Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, Dr. Shankardev Sharma, Prof. Reva Prasad Dvivedi, Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi, he also discussed the contribution of self-composed *Vagishwarikanthsutram*.

In the first session under the chairpersonship of Mukundkam Sharma, Chancellor, Shri Lal Bahadur Sahstri Vidyapeeth, Ramakant Shukla, Bhagirathi Nanda, Keshav Joshi, Muniraj Pathak, Sunil Joshi, Ramya Shukla and students of Sharda Devi Sanskrit Vidyapeeth recited the verses by Pandit Jagannatha from his works like *Gangalabri*, *Bhamini Vilas*, *Rasgangaadhar* etc. Mukundkam Sharma discussed in detail the historical background of Pandit Jagannatha and his relationships with Jahangir, Shahjahan and Darashikoh.

Harshdev Madhav was felicitated by Dev Vani Parishad, Delhi and Ramakant Shukla gave concluding remarks.



A view of the audience



## Literary Forum

### Kashmiri Short Story Reading



Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Literary Forum' on 5 October 2013 at Shopian Town Hall.

Four short story writers Rahim Rehbar, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, Dildar Ashraf Shah and Mahfooza Jan presented their latest short stories before the audience. Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Convenor, Kashmiri Advisory Board presided over and Shahzada Rafique conducted the proceedings. In his presidential address, he introduced the short story writers, who were to present their short stories. He also discussed the significance of short stories in relation to the language and culture. Among audience there were many who interacted with the short story writers and offered their valuable comments on the stories read.

Shafaqat Altaf, Member, Kashmir Advisory Board presented the vote of thanks.

## Through My Window

### Sitaram Kafley on Nepali writer Dev Bhandari

A 'Through my Window' programme was organised by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong on 5 October 2013 at Worship Centre, Kalimpong. Sitaram Kafley spoke about the personality and works of Dev Bhandari, a renowned Nepali writer.

## Nepali Poets' Meet

A 'Nepali Rachna Path' programme was organised by the Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong on 5 October 2013 at Worship Centre, Kalimpong. There were two sessions, a session each for reading of short story and poetry.

The short story reading session was chaired by Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Ratna Kumar Phuyel, Sanjay Bista and Indramani Darnal presented their short stories. Poetry reading session was presided over by Man Bahadur Pradhan. Manoj Bagoti, Monica Mukhia, Dalsingh Akela, Jogen Darnal, Saran Muskan, Pratibha Kumari, Nirmala Pradhan, Tara Subedi. Sudhir Chhetri, Shamsher Ali, Tika Bhai, Gyan Sutar and Sudha Gurung recited their poems in this session.

## Hindi Short Story Reading Programme

'Literary Forum' programme was organised on 8 October 2013 at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Three fiction writers Harisuman Bisht, Virendra Saxena and Pradeep Pant read out their stories. Harisuman Bisht read his story titled "Khuli Reh Gayi Khirki Ke Dusari Taraf" which highlighted the struggles of women living in hilly areas. Virendra Saxena read out an experimentalist story titled "Kitna Doodh Kitna Pani" which dealt with the reality of relationships. The last story was read out by Pradeep Pant titled "Wey Hongey Kamiyab" which was a satirical conversation between two beggars.



Virendra Saxena, Pradeep Pant and Hari Suman Bist



## People and Books

### Sitaram Yechury

## Nepali Ghazal Recitation

A 'Nepali Ghazal Sandhya' programme was organised by the Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Devkota Sangh, Siliguri on 6 October 2013 at Siliguri. The programme was chaired by Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

Jas Yonjan 'Pyasi', well-known Nepali ghazal writer and the Member of Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi made an introductory speech and compared the programme.

Karna 'Virah', Sanjeev Chhetri, Subhash Shrestha, Sarita 'Samdarshi', Kamal Regmi, Milan Bantawa, Deepak Thatal, Mahesh Dahal and Lilla Bahadur Chhetri recited their ghazals at the programme. The ghazals read out reflected the emotions such as love and sorrow, and also the life and society, day to day circumstances and almost every aspect of the life of human being.

Govind Singh Ghatani, Banik Pradhan, Sujit Khawas and Pawan Namdung were invited to sing some Nepali ghazals.

In one of the popular literary programme series 'People and Books' by the Akademi, well-known political leader Sitaram Yechury, Member of Parliament participated and delivered a thought provoking speech on the books that have influenced him.

While introducing the leader, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary called Sri Yechury "a rare leader with scholarly vision, a devoted follower of universal human values and an admirer of cultural diversity of our nation".

A rare genius in diverse disciplines, Sri Yechury delivered a pragmatic and insightful presentation on his exemplary understanding of *Das Capital* by Karl Marx and called the work a book of aesthetics, science and philosophy and not simply a treatise of economics and politics. *Das Capital* remains a great book of perennial interest and inspiration to him as also to many around the world.

Inspired by his grandfather who indulged him into the habit of reading, Sri Yechury claimed that the whole range of human emotions and experience could be inferred only through books. It is impossible to gain wisdom simply by one's individual experience alone. Comprehending varied human emotions and the vast experiences of exceptional kinds might end up in a creative endeavour, be it literature, music or art. The wisdom is laid bare in the books with some one's experience which in fact help widening the horizon of the vision and thought of a reader. How do we learn them, imbibe them or be inspired by them is up to the perception of a reader, Sri Yechury expressed in his vibrant presentation.

Sitaram Yechury's taste for books in his early days was diverse such as science, literature, music, art, fantasies etc. Later, he narrowed down his interest to the discipline



of 'Economics'. He found the subject most interesting, as Economics defines its beginning in the principles of uncertainty unlike the proved scientific experiments. Most captivating dictum in economics derived by Karl Marx was as Sri Yechury informed "Principles of justice can never rise the economic condition of the time." Material wealth always defines the pursuit of the issues. In other words material consciousness determines the social consciousness, whereas social consciousness never determines the material consciousness. There was always a question in the mind of Sri Yechury "We all exist in the world, what is my place in the society?" Quoting the preface in the first edition of *Das Capital*, "We are the product of circumstances; we do have the capacity to change the circumstances." Sri Yechury reiterated that the idea is highly philosophical. *Das Capital* continues to supply new vistas and insights of the present and future whenever we go through it. The book withstands the passage of time and that is why, at the time of global economic meltdown Pope of Vatican city took a copy of *Das Capital* to comprehend the major economic crisis.

Good books keep unfolding its relevance irrespective of time and space. *Das Capital* is one such great works in the world, Sri Yechury concluded.



## Symposium Mahmood Ayaz

A day national symposium in Urdu was organized in Bangalore on 18 October 2013 on the life and work of Mahmood Ayaz, an eminent, poet, critic, editor and journalist. Chander Bhan Khayal, Convenor, Urdu Advisory Board presided over the function and Shafey Kidwai, Member, General Council was the chief guest. Khaleel Mamoon, Akademi award-winner and eminent Urdu poet delivered the keynote address.

Speaking on this occasion, Sri Khayal stated that Mahmood Ayaz was not only an eminent poet but an exemplary editor. He recalled the services rendered by him in bringing out literary journal *Soughat* and the daily *Salar*. Shafey Kidwai said that Ayaz brought out *Soughat* in three phases and that every phase was unique in its content and form while an issue dedicated to Modernism was a milestone in the first phase the discovery of the eminent writers of the past were eye openers to the younger generation.

Khaleel Mamoon delivering the keynote address stressed on the independent outlook of Mahmood Ayaz free of either progressive or modern thought having allegiance to only literary merit. He briefly mentioned the achievements of Mahmood Ayaz as a poet, editor and journalist. He said that in poetry he was a neo-classicist.

Azam Shahid in his paper, mentioned about the courage of Mahmood Ayaz in his literary expressions and also mentioned about his non compromising attitude in journalism. Maher Mansoor spoke about the contribution made by Mahmood Ayaz as the Chairman of Karnataka Urdu Academy, who mentioned that Ayaz never allowed any political interference in the functioning of the Academy. Suleman Khumar, in

his paper, gave the details of the publications of *Soughat* and stated as to how Ayaz encouraged budding Urdu writers by publishing their works in the literary edition of *Salar*. Shaista Yusuf mentioned that Ayaz was a guide to many people young and old. He reiterated that Ayaz's character and integrity need to be emulated. He stressed that there is a need to do research in the various aspects of the life and works of Mahmood Ayaz. Akram Naqqash, in his paper spoke about the new Western ideas of the west popularized by *Soughat*. Shahmadar Aqeel expressed about the perfectionism of Ayaz in accepting any literary work for *Soughat*. He also mentioned some of the great translations done by him.

Haleema Firdous dwelt on the editorials of *Soughat*. He stated that his editorials had a lasting impact on the writers and the readers. Manzoor Ahmed Daccani gave a critical appreciation on the prose written by Ayaz. Azeezulla Baig mentioned about the circumstances in which *Salar* was brought out and how was it aggressive in the formative years. There was occasions that Ayaz went to jail on account of his forceful expressions against the Indian Government. N. M. Saeed discussed the literary merit of the poetry of Ayaz and mentioned that emotions and expressions relating to death dominate the poems of Ayaz. Farhat Ehsas in his concluding remarks mentioned about the unique character of his magazine *Soughat* and as to how it is a milestone in Urdu literature. Mushtaque Sadaf, Programme Officer welcomed the gathering and conducted the programme. A large number of audience comprising of students teachers and writers attended the programme including Ayaz's wife.

## Translation Workshop Bengali-Santali

A 'Bengali-Santali Translation Workshop' was organised from 13 to 16 November 2013 at Sahitya Akademi's Regional Office, Kolkata. Bengali short stories of *Bangla Galpa Sankalan, Part 3* (edited by Ashru Kumar Sikdar and published by Sahitya Akademi) were translated into Santali during the workshop.

The Director of the workshop was Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Three language experts were invited to look after the translation; they were Rabibal Tudu, Badal Hembram and Somai Kisku. Translators were Ramdhan Hembram, Rupchand Hansda, Chandi Charan Kisku, Sachin Mandi, Rabandas Hembram, Gorachand Murmu, Bhim Chandra Soren, Lamxi Narayan Hansda and Jagneswar Soren.

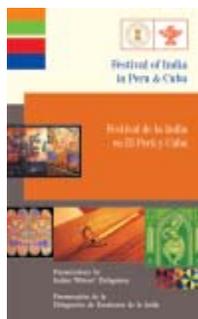
## Kavisandhi Gyaneshwar Sharma Dogri Writer

A Kavisandhi programme with Gyaneshwar Sharma, Dogri writer was organised by Sahitya Akademi on 11 November 2013 at Jammu.



# Festival of India in Peru and Cuba

## Indian Writers' Participation



Sahitya Akademi took part in the Mini Festival of India in Peru and Cuba, organised by Ministry of Culture, Government of India by sending a team of writers consisting of Purushottam

Agrawal, K. Satchidanandan, H.S. Shivaprakash, S.P. Ganguly, Arun Kamal and Karabi Deka Hazarika with K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The delegation arrived in Lima on the evening of 23 October 2013 to take part in the Festival of India in Latin American countries.

On the evening of 25 October 2013, they participated in a dialogue along with Peruvian scholars on the theme of 'Literary Exchanges between India and Latin America' at the auditorium of Casa de la Literatura Peruana.

After the welcome address by Dr. Rao, Milagros Saldarriaga, Director, Casa de la Literatura, Ravindra Singh, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Culture spoke in the inaugural session. Dr. Rao in his welcome speech underlined the popularity of Latin American writers in India and emphasized the need to take this ahead by planning broader and long-standing literary exchanges between the two great cultures. Ms. Saldarriaga expressed her deep happiness over the event and expressed the willingness of her institution to do more in this area. Ravindra Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India spoke of the internationally renowned modern Indian literature and its further emergence.

This was followed by a session which was chaired by K. Satchidanandan. He pointed out how the two great Nobel laureates from Latin America responded to India at a deep level by citing many passages from Octavio Paz and Pablo Neruda. He also spoke of the immense popularity of Vallajo, Neruda, Paz, Borges, Marquez and Llosa in India.

The three Indian speakers, Purushottam Agrawal, S P. Ganguly and Arun Kamal spoke on the electrifying impact of Latin American literatures in India. Prof. Ganguly, who spoke in Spanish, recollected the contribution of Tagore to build up Indo-Latin American ties in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He mentioned the overwhelming response of readers on reading the translations of Peruvian novels in his region which is Bengal. Prof. Kamal discussed how great Latin American poets like Neruda and Vallajo had shaped the sensibility of great

modern Hindi writers like Shamsher Bahadur Singh.

The Peruvian scholars Jose Leon Herrera and Pablo Carreno Cabrejos extolled the greatness of ancient Indian philosophy and religion. "It is time that Latin America opened its eyes to the riches of contemporary Indian literature", they said.

The next evening's event riveted on the theme "Tendencies in Contemporary Indian Literatures and Problems of Multi Lingualism". The session was chaired by Purushottam Agrawal. Addressing the audience, Dr. Sreenivasarao contrasted the predominantly bilingual situation of Latin American Literatures; later, Ms. Sandro Chiri of Casa de la Literatura hoped that the discussions would be fruitful for both the cultures.

Prof. Agrawal reminded the audience that the achievements of Indian Literature in recent times are no less spectacular than those of bygone times. He



Members of the Indian writers' delegation



## Indian Writers at The Festival of India in Cuba

emphasized on the range, scope and universal significance of the best of contemporary Indian writers. Prof. Satchidanandan enumerated the recent trends in Indian writing. He spoke of the great impact of dalit, tribal and feminist writings. H.S. Shivaprakash described Indian literary scene as “Twenty two languages in search of a historian”. But this bewilderingly diverse scene also unified past and present through a handful of recurrent tendencies, he said.

The Peruvian speakers Jose Ignacio Lopez, Ramirez Gaston, Marcel Velasquez Castro pointed out that Peru and India share similar post-colonial anxiety and problems are attempting to come to terms with their own cultural essences.

On the evening of 27 October 2013, there was an Indo-Peruvian Poets’ Meet chaired by H.S. Shivaprakash. Sri Sreenivasarao, and Sri Chiri welcomed the gathering.

Indian poets K. Satchidanandan, Arun Kamal and Karabi Deka Hazarika read out their original poems translated by S.P. Ganguly. The Peruvian side consisted of the Nobel Prize nominee Carlos German Belli, Mario Montalbeti and Marco Mantos. The English translations of Peruvian poets were also read by representatives of Casa de la Literatura.

Prof. Shivaprakash said in his concluding remarks that Indian poetry after the period of modernism would not have taken a different turn but for the inspiration of great Latin America poets like Vallajo, Neruda and Paz. He pleaded with Peruvian poets to reciprocate Indian love for their poetry by becoming more responsive to the achievements of Indian poetry which can be a great learning experience for them. The session was followed by an interactive question and answer.

The three day event went a long way towards understanding between Peruvian and Indian literatures.



The opening of the three day literary event took place on the afternoon of 29 October 2013 at Casa del Alba, Havana. Inaugurating the event, Mr. Rafael Bernal, Hon’ble Minister for Culture, Government of Cuba expressed his immense joy over the festival and hoped that this festival would pave the way for intense cultural and literary exchanges between the two countries keeping in mind the close bonding shared between Cuba and India.

V. Srinivas, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India spoke on political and cultural significance of the visits of political figures from both the countries India and the need for a

literary dialogue between these two great cultures. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi who welcomed the gathering, pointed out though a lot of Latin American writers enjoyed enormous fame in India, the best of Cuban writers is yet to be translated in Indian languages. He hoped that this exchange would start a new beginning. Miquel Barnet, President of the Union of Cuban Writers and Artists reciprocated with optimistic views.

Ronaldo Armando Fernnandez, Nancy Muriano, Basilia Papastamatiu were three eminent poets from Cuba who started the event by reciting their poems with English translations.

The symposium that followed on the theme of ‘Indo-Latin American Exchanges and Influences’ was chaired by Prof. Ganguly. He spoke of the popularity of Cuban Revolution in India and the power of Cuban Literature to attract a huge readership from India. K. Satchidanandan, Karabi Deka Hazarika and Arun Kamal spoke on



*Concluding session at the Festival of Cuba  
L-R: S.P. Ganguly, Purushottam Agrawal and H.S. Shivaprakash*

the reception of Latin American writings in the context of their respective Indian languages.

On the second day, the event was devoted to readings by Indian poets and their Cuban counterparts. The Indian side was represented by Shivaprakash, Satchidanandan and Karabi Deka Hazarika. The English translations were read by Prof. Ganguly. Alberto Edel Fuentes, Yanelys Encinosa, Pedro Lopez Cervino and Alpido Alonso were the Cuban poets who read out their poems along with the English translation. The meet was chaired by Arun Kamal.

The concluding event on the third day was a symposium on 'Contemporary Literary Trends and Challenges in a Multi-lingual Society' which was chaired by Purushottam Agrawal. In his address, Sreenivasarao discussed about the problems of negotiating the challenging in a multilateral country like India with so many languages being spoken and written. Prof. Ganguly highlighted the vibrant contemporary Indian Literature and its multifaceted impacts. Satchidanandan spoke on the preponderance of dalit, tribal and feminist trends and about the problems of translation. H.S. Shivaprakash pointed out that though there is an "overarching unity among our literatures in terms of major movements like modernism, feminism etc., the overall picture is governed by the law of unequal development". He referred to English as a global language posing a threat to our languages.

The delegation made a visit to the Dept. of Literature at University of Havana on 29 October 2013 to discuss the possibility of literary and academic exchanges and also visited the Association of Young Artists in Cuba. They had a cordial dialogue with Artists Council of Havana to discuss the modalities of art exchanges between the two countries.

During the course of discussions at both the places Lima and Havana, the writers and poets tried to explore the possibility of translating Indian Literature into Spanish under the project – Indian Literature Abroad.

## Seminar

### Post-colonial Literature in Nepali



L-R: Paramani Dangal, Diwakar Pradhan, Mohan P. Dahal and Mahesh Pradhanrshri

A two day seminar on 'Post-colonial Literature in Nepali' was organised by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Sikkim University, Gangtok on 9-10 November 2013 at Gangtok.

The seminar was inaugurated by Tankabahadur Subba, Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University. Pratapchandra Pradhan, well-known Nepali writer and the Dean, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Sikkim University delivered his key-note address. The session was chaired by Sanu Lama, distinguished Nepali writer. Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave the introductory speech. The session was conducted by Kavita Lama, Head, Department of Nepali, Sikkim University.

First session was chaired by Mohan P. Dahal, while papers were presented by Diwakar Pradhan, Parasmani Dangal and Mahesh Pradhan.

Second session was chaired by Josh Yonzone Pyasi. Gyanbahadur Chettri, Krishnaraj Ghatani, Balaram Panday and Tekbahadur Chettri presented their papers in the session.

The third session was chaired by Pempa Tamang. Papers were presented by Devendra Subba, Padam Nepal and Bidhan Golay

Valedictory session of the seminar was chaired by Krishnasingh Moktan. Pradhuma Shrestha expressed his views on the seminar as the observer. Valedictory address was given by Jiwan Namdung.



## Seminar

### Epic Poetry Tradition in Maithili



Ramkant Mishra, delivering presidential address at inauguration session  
To his left Bina Thakur and others

Seminar on ‘Epic Poetry Tradition in Maithili’ was organised by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Parvati Science College, Madhepura on 21-22 October 2013 at Madhepura, Bihar. The seminar was inaugurated by R. N. Mishra, Vice-Chandler, Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub-editor, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience. Bina Thakur, Convenor, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory speech. She spoke about the development of epical poetry in Maithili with special reference to the contribution of Chanda Jha.

In his key-note address, Ramdeo Jha, renowned Maithili writer said that Maithili is rich with epical poetry as mentioned in the literature section of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He analyzed the genres of *Mahakavya* and *Prabandhakavya*. Referring to Kalidas, Sri Jha said that the epic writer can transcreate the content

and character like Kalidas.

The inaugural session was presided over by Ramakant Mishra. In his speech, he presented a comparative study of English and Maithili epical poetry.

First session of the seminar was chaired by Mahendra Jha. Papers were presented by Raman Jha, Dev Narayan Sah and Harivansh Jha. The topic of their papers were “Metaphors of Maithili Epical Poetry”, ‘Mythological Epics in

Maithili’ and ‘Maithili Epics based on the Story of Rama’, respectively.

Second session was chaired by Madhuri Jha, while papers presented by Ranjit Kumar Singh and Rabindra Kumar Chaudhary on the topics “Maithili Epics Based on Krishna” and “History Based Maithili Epics”.

Third and the last session of the day was chaired by Jagdish Narayan Prasad. Papers were presented by Abhay Kumar on the topic “Language of Maithili Epics” and by Kulanand Jha on the topic “Difference between *Mahakavya* and *Prabandhakavya*”.

On the second day, and third sessions were combined and Presided over by Keshkar Thaku, papers were presented by Dharendra Kumar, Shiv Prasad Yadav, Lalita Jha, Vishvanath Jha, Ramnaresh Singh and Virendra Jha. Speakers discussed on the different aspects of the epical poetry of Maithili.

The next session was chaired by Dharendra Narayan Jha ‘Dheer’. Ashok Singh Tomar, Kishore Kumar Singh, Kamal Mohan ‘Chunnu’ and Shankar Deo Jha presented their papers in the special context of famous Maithili epics *Gatyavati*, *Chanakya*, *Radha Virah* and *Pratijnya Pandav*.

The valedictory session was chaired by Lalitesh Mishra. In this session Dharendra Nath Mishra expressed his observations on the seminar.

## Asmita

### Nepali Women Writers

An ‘Asmita’ programme was organised with Nepali women writers by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Sikkim University, Gangtok on 10 November 2013 at Gangtok.

The programme was chaired by Shanti Chettri. Kavita Lama, Binashri Kharel, Lalita Sharma and Sudha M. Rai presented their Nepali poems and short stories in the programme.



## Translation Workshop

### Punjabi, English and Assamese



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering inaugural speech. K. Sreenivasarao, Kate Griffin and others

A five day Translation Workshop in collaboration with British Council and British Centre for Literary Translation was organized from 21 to 25 October 2013 at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi for translating Punjabi and Assamese short stories into English and vice versa.

It was inaugurated on 21 October by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President and K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and participants. Sheela Ghosh, Regional

organizing such workshops.

During the workshop, Prem Parkash's award winning collection of Punjabi short stories *Kujh Unkiba vi* and Atulananda Goswami's award winning Assamese short story collection *Cheneh Jorir Ganthi* were translated into English. Ned Beuman's and Evie Wyld's short stories in English were also translated into Punjabi and Assamese.

Five translator from Punjabi to English viz; Hartej Kaur Bal, Rajinder

Singh, Manmohan Singh, Madhumeet and Madhuri Chawla; five from Assamese to English viz Jyotirmoy Pradhani, Dwijen Sharma, Kaustabh Kumar Deka, Debabhusan Bora and Archana Deka; likewise from English to Punjabi were Rajinderjit Kaur Dhindsa, Parvesh Sharma, Jaswinder Kaur Bindra, Davinder Kaur Sandhu and Manjeet Kaur Bhatia; and from English to Assamese viz., Ratnottama Das, Prarthana Saikia, Jonali Pathowary Bora, Rubee Das and Akanksha Phukan participated in the workshop. Resource persons were Rana Nayar (Punjabi to English), Hina Nandrajog (English to Punjabi), Pradip Acharya (Assamese to English) and Pranjit Borah (English to Assamese).

The authors Prem Parkash, Ned Beuman and Evie Wyld were present on all five days to help in the translations. During the workshop, a panel discussion on 'Translation and the Editor' was also held in which Arunava Sihna of CNN-IBN, Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and the Editor of Pratham Books participated.

On 25 October 2013, in the valedictory session, a reading session was arranged wherein participants to read out their translations. After the valedictory session, an interactive session with the writers was arranged at British Council.



The participants and the resource persons of the workshop



## Symposium

### Majhi Ramdas Tudu, Santali writer

Sahitya Akademi organised one day symposium on Majhi Ramdas Tudu, renowned Santali writer on 20 October 2013 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

Symposium was inaugurated by U. N. Majhi. Talking about the contribution of Majhi Ramdas Tudu, he expressed his views about Santal's life and also Santali language for its betterment. Key-note address was given by Surya Singh Besra. He emphasised the fact that more and more literature would lift up our culture. Father Francis Hembram was the guest of honour. He called for more literacy among Santals to save their language and culture. This session was chaired by Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

The first session was focused on the topic "Life and Socio-religious Aspects of Majhi Ramdas Tudu". Session was chaired by Rupchand Hansda. Papers were presented by Sobhanath Beshra, Ramchandra Murmu and Joba Murmu. Shobhanath Beshra spoke about the life and values of Ramdas Tudu. He said that religion has great power. Ramchandra Murmu expressed about the religious front of the Santals during the colonial period with reference to the books of Ramdas Tudu as that how religion played important role at that time to shape the life of Santals. Joba Murmu spoke about episode of Karmu Dharmu and Karam as narrated by Ramdas Tudu. How Karam celebration come about in life and people.

In the second session on "Contribution of Ramdas Tudu to Santali literature" was chaired by Damayanti Beshra. Papers were presented by Mohan Chandra Baskey, Salkhu Murmu and Ramdhan Hembram. They spoke about the role of Ramdas Tudu as first Santal writer, literary value of *Kherwal Bonso Dhoram Putbi* and also about other books of Ramdas Tudu, a landmark of the Santali literature.

The last session was on the topic "Contribution to the Santal Society". The session was chaired by Jadumani Besra. Papers were presented by Madan Mohan Soren, Basrathi Soren and Raghunath Hembram. Madan Mohan Soren spoke about reflection of the society in the book of Ramdas Tudu. Dasarathi Soren's emphasis was on the preaching of Ramdas Tudu to the society to uphold Kherwalism. Raghunath Hembram spoke about aims and objectives of Ramdas Tudu in *Kherwal Bonso Dhoram Putbi*.



### Sophana Srichampa

#### Akademi Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow from Thailand

The Akademi organised a reading and interaction programme of Dr. Sophana Srichampa, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow of Sahitya Akademi with Delhi based writers.

Sahitya Akademi organized a round-table discussion with Dr Sophana Srichampa, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow for the year of 2012 on 22 October 2013 at Rabindra Bhawan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Dr. Srichampa presented her views on Thai culture, international relationships, Thai theatre and other power point presentations on geographical and anthropological details supporting the facts with statistics. Dr. Srichampa said that the Thai culture has been shaped by many influences, including Indian, Lao, Burmese, Cambodian and Chinese. Its traditions incorporate a great deal of influence from India, China, Cambodia, and the rest of Southeast Asia. Thailand's national religion Theravada Buddhism is important to modern Thai identity. Thai Buddhism has evolved over time to include many regional beliefs originating from Hinduism, animism as well as ancestor worship.

Like most Asian cultures, respect towards ancestors is an essential part of Thai spiritual practice. Thais have a strong sense of hospitality and generosity, but also a strong sense of social hierarchy.

## Acharya Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi

As for its international relations is concerned the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a geo-political and economic organisation of ten countries located in Southeast Asia, which was formed on 8 August 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Its aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, cultural development among its members, protection of regional peace and stability, and opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully.

Thailand enjoys a high level of literacy, and education is provided by a well-organized school system of kindergartens, primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools, numerous vocational colleges, and universities. SEA Write Award given annually from 1979 include poetry, short stories, novels, plays, folklores as well as religious writings to the best of the writers from ASEAN countries.

She further spoke on the literature and theatre of Thailand. The earliest literature of the Thai people was written in Chinese till the influence of Sanskrit and Pali from India. Thai literature was traditionally and heavily influenced by Indian culture from the 13th century. Thailand's national epic is a version of the *Ramayana* called the *Ramakien*.

The most important poet in Thai literature was Sunthorn Phu, who is best known for his romantic adventure story *Phra Aphai Mani* and for nine travel pieces called *Nirats*. 20th-century Thai writers tended to produce light fiction rather than literature for a burgeoning literature market. But increasingly, individual writers are being recognized for producing more serious works, including writers like Kukrit Pramoj, Kulap Saipradit, (penname Siburapha), Botan, and others. Some of their works have been translated into English. The Isan region of Thailand has produced two notably socio-critical writers in Khamsing Srinawk and Pira Sudham. Notably, Pira Sudham writes in English. Majority of the women writers are writing novels/fiction. Thai theatre performances and also the puppet shows are based on stories from the *Ramkien* (mythological epic the *Ramayana*), Thai folk literatures and the present socio-cultural and religious issues, she stated.

After a live lecture, she interacted with selective Indian writers from the city of Delhi.

The Akademi organised a seminar on Acharya Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi on the occasion of his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary at Nirala Auditorium, Rajashri Purushottam Das Tandon Hindi Bhawan, Lucknow on 24 November 2013.

In the inaugural session, Brajendra Tripathy, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the audience highlighted Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi's contribution in socializing of Hindi language. Ramesh Chandra Shah, eminent Hindi writer and critic delivered inaugural address. He said that through *Saraswati* magazine, Sri Dwivedi introduced the chapter of modern literature in Hindi language. Guest of honour Nand Kishore Acharya said that Dwivedi's poetry created a balance between tradition and modernization. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi while giving his introductory address said that Dwivedi has extensively written on Science and Medicine and also inspired others to contribute to this field.

The first session was chaired by Achutyanand Mishra and the topic was "Dwivediji and Literary Journalism." Vijay Dutt Sridhar, Akhilesh and Ashish Tripathi presented their papers.

The second session was chaired by Wagish Shukla and the topic was "Dwivediji's Criticism and his Essays." Hari Mohan Sharma, Revati Raman and Jyotish Joshi presented their papers.

The third session was chaired by Gangaratan Pandey and the topic was "Dwivediji's Poetry, Translation and Language Policy." Naresh Saxena, Pawan Kumar Aggarwal and Satyadev Mishra presented their papers.



Ramesh Chandra Shah delivering his address.  
L-R: Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Nand Kishore Acharya  
and Surya Prasad Dixit



## Through My Window

### Haqqani-ul Qasmi on Salahuddin Pervez

Through my Window programme was organised by Salahuddin Pervez on 29 November 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in which a noted literary critic and journalist Haqqani-ul Qasmi presented a critical account of Pervez's literature relating to his life and his contribution in totality to the enrichment of contemporary Urdu literature.

Salahuddin Pervez stamped his individuality in the last quarter of twentieth century. He demolished the cliché that post-modernism did not give importance to oriental art, culture and texts. He experimented with inter-textuality and developed a new style of his own. That way he earned a distinct identity among his contemporaries. These views were expressed by noted critic and journalist, Haqqani-ul-Qasmi at the Through My Window programme on Urdu poet and fiction writer, Salahuddin Pervez. Speaking at this occasion Chander Bhan Khayal, Convenor, Urdu Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, mentioned that Salahuddin Pervez was a creative genius. He maintained throughout high standard in his poetry and fiction. He also said that Urdu literature will never forget his artistic values because he had created new tone and style.



## Kavisandhi

### Shefalika Verma Maithili poet

A 'Kavisandhi' programme was organised by the Sahitya Akademi on 26 December 2013 at Akademi Conference Hall, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi with eminent Maithili woman poet Shefalika Verma. Smt. Verma recited her poems titled 'Nari', 'Thappa', 'Hamar Janam', 'Ahank Naam', 'Ghar Katai Achhi', 'Ham Nari Chhi' etc. Most of her poems dealt with the problems and sufferings faced by women and children. In a discussion had with the audience, Shefalika Verma observed that people of today have dual personality and they have no passion for anything. It is also the matter of concern that we do not spend time with our children.

## Play Reading Programme

Sahitya Akademi organized a Play-reading Programme with Surendra Verma on 30 December 2013 in New Delhi. Sri Verma, a leading Hindi litterateur and playwright read from his latest publication *Moghal Mahabharat-A Tetralogy*, a rare effort in Hindi literature.

Sri Verma has authored more than 15 publications that include plays, fiction, essays etc. He has won the Sangeet



Natak Akademi Award in 1993 and the Sahitya Akademi Award for his noted *Muje Chand Chahiye*.

Surendra Verma *Moghal Mahabharat -A Tetralogy* from whose publication Sri Verma read out his plays received a wide appreciation among the audience consisted of theatre personalities, playwright, literary writers, translators and lovers of literature.

## Sahitya Manch

### Santali writers

A 'Sahitya Manch' programme jointly organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and All India Santali Writers Association, Odisha Branch at Abasara Prapta Sarakari Karmachari Sangha Bhawan, Baripada on 15 December 2013. The programme was presided over by Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

Gobinda Chandra Majhi and Krushna Chandra Soren read their short stories and Jagannath Murmu, Dasarathi Soren and Faguram Majhi read out some of their selected poems.



## Cultural Exchange Programme

### Indo-Nepal Writers

A seven member Nepali Writers' delegation consisting of Ganga Prasad, Mahadev Awasthi, Benju Sharma, Ram Bharos Kapadi, Boond Rama, Sanat Regmi and Sandhya Pahari visited India as per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) from 19 to 25 December 2013. During the course of their visit the delegation visited Dehradun, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Agra. The Akademi had also organised a 'Literary Forum' in which eminent Delhi based writers were invited. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the delegation and the writers invited. Speaking on the occasion, Akademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said that India and Nepal enjoy a cordial relationship and the two countries have expressed desire to exchange writers and jointly organise major literary programmes between the India and Nepale. Such activities would most necessarily bring both countries closer.

Ganga Prasad Upreti, Vice-Chancellor of Nepal Academy informed the writers that this important MoU under which both the countries till now have exchanged two delegations. He has also said that the Nepali writers are familiar with Indian literature and culture. He also said that exchange of such delegation and the bilateral cultural exchanges and the translations between the languages would bring both the countries together. There was also a reading session with the members of the writers' delegation. Boond Rana, Benju Sharma, Ram Bharos Kapadi and Sandhya Pahari presented some of their poems. The session was then kept open for literary dialogue in which some Indian writers participated. The President of the Akademi thanked all the members of the delegation as well as their Indian counterparts and expressed hope that the two countries would organise more programmes in the days to come.



*Nepali writers delegation with Indian writers' at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi*

## Sharjah Book Fair Akademi's Participation

The Sahitya Akademi participated in the Sharjah Book Fair held in the beautiful Expo Centre at Sharjah from 6 – 16 November 2014. Many countries participated in this book fair which enjoys the patronage of its ruler Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Sahitya Akademi was invited to participate in a professional programme on 3 November 2013, wherein lectures on various aspects of publishing were held. It was followed by a two day Right Table wherein translation deals were facilitated. A few publishers from UAE showed interest to publish Indian literature in Arabic.

The actual fair was inaugurated on 6 November by ruler of Sharjah, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. More than 150 countries participated in the unique book fair held in the prestigious Expo Centre of Sharjah. A continuous throng of visitors was seen on all the days. Renowned writers from all over the world attended throughout from morning 10 am to 10 pm.

Though Sahitya Akademi only displayed its titles and did not sell, the visitors showed keen interest in its publications especially Malayalam and Urdu, as there is a thriving diaspora from Kerala. Indian writers like Ruskin Bond and filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan visited the Sahitya Akademi stall.

On 12 November, Sahitya Akademi organized an Evening of Indian Poetry where Malayalam writer Anwar Ali, Marathi poet Kavita Mahajan, Urdu poet Sheen Kaaf Nizam and Hindi poet Madhav Kaushik read out their poems before the crowded audience.



## Frankfurt Book Fair

Sahitya Akademi had participated in the Frankfurt Book Fair held from 9 – 13 October 2013 where India had a special Pavilion.

The Akademi had sent a six member Indian writers' delegation consisting of Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Patel Kanajibhai Rayajibhai, Vikram Visaji, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi (Co-ordinator) and Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi (for Book Exhibition). The Akademi had also requested H.S. Shivaprakash, Pushpita Awasthi and Jeet Thayil who had gone to Frankfurt on their own to join the delegation and participate in the programmes organized by the Sahitya Akademi.

The main objective for the participation in the Frankfurt International Book Fair was to promote Indian Literature abroad, the project which has been entrusted to Sahitya Akademi by the Ministry of Culture. During the Fair, number of meetings were held with international publishers who showed interest in Indian literature. The five day International Book Fair gave ample opportunity to explore avenues for Akademi Indian Literature Abroad project wherein discussions were very vibrant among the different publishers to take up Indian classics into their languages.

Sahitya Akademi had organized two literary programmes, a Reading Programme in which Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Veteran Hindi poet chaired and Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Patel Kanajibhai Rayajibhai, Vikram Visaji, H. S. Shivaprakash and Pushpita Awasthi presented readings from some of their works in their original language along with the English translation.

A symposium on 'My World, My Writing' in which Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Patel Kanajibhai Rayajibhai, Vikram Visaji, H.S. Shivaprakash and Jeet Thayil participated. The programme was chaired by A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, National Book Trust, India. They spoke about their works and their experiences as a writer during the programme which was followed by an open house interaction with the audience. Dr. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced the theme of the Symposium.

## Urdu Poet's Meet



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Chander Bhan Khayal, Surender Shajar and Talib Zaidi

Sahitya Akademi organized Urdu poetry reading programme on 31 December 2013 in its auditorium, New Delhi. Secretary, Sahitya Akademi K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the poets and lovers of Urdu poetry. In his welcome address, Dr. Rao said that Urdu has been one of the premier languages of poetry and ghazal. Urdu represents the most popular form of subjective music and poetry. He also talked about Urdu poetic tradition.

Eminent Urdu poet and Convenor, Sahitya Akademi, Urdu Advisory Board, Chander Bhan Khayal chaired the programme and said that Urdu, the language of lovers and poets, keeps India connected with its glorious past. Chander Bhan Khayal was a writer with fresh ideas and had a distinct world view and individual style in writing. His novels and stories have a distinctive and individualistic identity. He also said that new poet regard poetry to function as a vehicle to carry across philosophy, debate or information. The new poet does not want any issue or movement.

Rauf Raza's poetry dealt with the scenario in contemporary society and changing of values. Seemab Sultanpuri's poetry depicted the inequality in all spheres of life. Ranjeet Chauhan love poetry stated the importance of life. Surender Shajar read his poems of patriotism and unity. Talib Zaidi and Nirmal Singh Nirmal poetry spoke on the cultural crisis among us looking for a different politics in the society.

Mushtaque Sadaf proposed the vote of thanks at the end.



Sahitya Akademi organised a symposium on Upendranath Ashk was organised at Park View Hotel auditorium, Sector 24 Chandigarh on 27 October 2013.

In inaugural session, Brajendra Tripathi while welcoming the guests and audience, he spoke on the literary works and personality of Upendranath Ashk. He discussed different stages of Ashk's creative world quoting various interesting incidences. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board, in his introductory address shared his views on the contribution of the writers to Hindi literature from Punjab with special reference to Ashk. He discussed about Ashk's literary journey and his dynamism. Ravindra Kalia, writer and editor in his inaugural address shared Ashk's family background and enlivened interesting memories spent with him. Ramesh Kuntal Megh, eminent critic presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address, he critically evaluated the ideology in Ashk's novels.

The first session was chaired by Pushp Pal Singh and the topic for the session was "Fiction and One Act Plays of Ashk." Renuka Nayyar, Pushp Pal Singh, Suresh Seth and Sudarshan Vashist actively contributed in the discussion. Renuka Nayyar, Hindi writer, fondly remembered various instances of her discussions with Ashk. Fiction writer Suresh Seth commemoratively mentioned the specialty of Ashk's 'One Act Plays'. Fiction writer Sudarshan Vashisht mentioned about the time, he spent with him while Ashk was residing in Dharmashala to complete his novel *Girti Deevarain* and also highlighted his merit as writer. Pushp Pal Singh while chairing the session said that middle class people as the center of the story was his unique characteristic.

The second session was chaired by Virendra Mehndiratta and the topic was

## Symposium Upendranath Ashk



L-R: Ravinder Kalia, Ramesh Kuntal Megh, Surya Prasad Dixit and Mukta

"Non-Fictional Prose and Poetry of Ashk." Madhav Kaushik, Mamta Kalia and Chandra Trikha discussed in-depth on various aspects of Ashk's literary works. Madhav Kaushik highlighted the dramatic elements in his poetry. Mamta Kalia in her lecture on his works of memoir and autobiography considered

him a writer with remarkable skills. Chandra Trikha spoke on relevance of his writings today. Virendra Mehndiratta in his address said that empowerment of Hindi language was the most important contribution of Upendranath Ashk. Chandra Trikha proposed the vote of thanks.

## Literary Forum Hindi Writers

'Literary Forum' programme was organised on 29 November 2013 at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Under this series two poets Umesh Chauhan and Vinod Khaitan and one fiction writer Gauri Shankar Raina were invited. I.A.S officer of Kerala Cadre Umesh Chauhan read out his poems aimed at our system. He presented two poems 'Angiya Betal' and 'Aalha-Udal' in Awadhi language. Vinod Khaitan who is also a medical doctor by profession inspired by hospitals and book fairs. Gauri Shankar Raina read out his story



L-R: Gauri Shankar Raina, Umesh Chauhan and Vinod Khaitan

"U-Turn" which projected the concern for Dal Lake as an environmentalist. The programme was compered by Deputy Secretary Brijendra Tripathi.



## Representative Works 21<sup>st</sup> Century & Poet's Meet

Northern Regional Board of Sahitya Akademi organised a two days seminar on 'Representative Works of 21st Century' besides holding of poetry reading sessions on 27th and 28th of Oct. 2013, at SP College, Srinagar.

In the inaugural session held on 27 October 2013. Gitanjali Chatterji, Deputy Secretary Sahitya Akademi delivered her welcome address. Zaman Azurdah Convenor Kashmiri Advisory Board introduced the programme and threw light on the on going activities of the Sahitya Akademi. G. N. Gowher, a noted poet and novelist delivered his inaugural address. He highlighted the challenges of technology influencing the contemporary literature. Axis Hajini presented the keynote address. He dwelt on the latest trends emerging in 21st century literature. He discussed the problems relating to the literature in the North Indian languages with specific reference to Kashmir literature. Yasin Shah, Principal S P College who was the chief guest in his address said that we must try to keep all literature available to all language groups, so that they have ample opportunities to have access to the essence of human development. Chandran Bhan Khayal, Convenor, Urdu Advisory Board and also the Convenor Northern Regional Board, in his presidential address discussed the objectives of the seminar and made a special reference to literature of Northern Indian languages in general and to Urdu literature in particular.

The first session was chaired by Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board. To his introductory speech from the chair, he highlighted the importance of an interaction of Indian languages

in general and within northern regional languages in particular. He also stressed the need for literary translations to maintain continuity in Indian literary tradition. Qudus Javed of Urdu, Madhav Hada of Hindi and Rajesh Manhas of Dogri presented their papers and made the audience aware of the present scenario of the literature in their respective languages.

Arjun Dev Charan, Convenor, Rajasthani Advisory Board presided over the second session. In his address, he highlighted the interrelation between literatures of Northern Indian languages with special references to Rajasthani and Punjabi, Dogri and Punjabi, Punjabi and Urdu, Hindi and Urdu and Urdu and Kashmiri languages. He also talked about the language and gestures used in plays to make people communicate without any hurdle. Makrand Paranjape of English, Gulshan of Kashmiri, Kundanlal Mali of Rajasthani presented their papers depicting the present scenario of literary activities in their respective languages.

Radha Vallabh Tripathi, Convenor, Sanskrit Advisory Board presided over the third session. In his presidential address, he made people to recall the rich contribution of Kashmiris to Sanskrit literature and the influence of Sanskrit on Indian languages especially the languages of north India. Yograj Angrish (Punjabi), Purabi Panwar(English), Sushil Begana (Dogri) and Maula Bakash(Urdu) made presentations about the 21st century writings in their respective languages.

There was a Poets' Meet after the third session. G.N. Khayal, a noted Kashmiri poet presided over the meet. Deepak Arsi and Surjeet Hosh (Dogri), Makrand Paranjape (English), Leeladhar

Jagoori(Hindi), Ali Shaida and Shahid Delnawi (Kashmiri) recited their poems.

The fourth session was chaired by Zaman Azurdah, Convenor, Kashmiri Advisory Board. In his presidential address besides highlighting the latest trends in Indian literature especially in the northern region, he made a specific reference with special mention of Urdu and Kashmiri literatures getting influenced by the Western thought. Shad Ramzan (Kashmiri), R.S. Brar (Punjabi), Janardhan Hegde (Sanskrit) and Atul Kanak (Rajasthani) presented their papers that were followed by a long discussion.

The next poetry reading session was chaired by Chandra Bhan Khayal. Showkat Ansari and Ayub Sabir from Kashmiri, Darshen Butter and Jaswinder Singh from Punjabi, Shabnam Ashai and Mahtab Alam from Urdu, Mithesh Nirmohi and Om Purohit from Rajasthani and Sushil Begana from Dogri recited their poems and Sri Khayal besides his presidential address recited some stanzas from his poem "Laulak".

### Meet the Author

#### Deshbandhu Dogra 'Nutan'

A Meet the Author programme with Deshbandhu Gupta Dogra 'Nutan' was held on 10 November 2013 at Jammu.



L-R: Vijaya Thakur, Shashi Pathania, Veena Gupta, Santosh Khajuria, Hemla Aggarwal, Lalit Magotra, Usha Kiran Khan and Shakuntala Birpuri



## Pravasi Manch

### Divya Mathur

'Pravasi Manch' programmes was organised on 6 December 2013 with London based Hindi writer Divya Mathur. She first read out her short-story 'Grand-Ma.' This story very sensitively projected the changing relationship between parents and children residing abroad and the role of grand children. In the next part of the programme Laxmikant Vajpeyi, Director, All-India Radio, articulately presented few of her poems. Most of her poems were from her poetry collection *Budha Ghar*. On the request of audience, she also recited some more poems and Alka Sinha read out her short-story "Fir Bhi Sahi."

## Naari Chetna Dogri Women Writers

A 'Naari Chetna' programme was organized for the first time at Government College for Women, Jammu on 11 November 2013 in Jammu.

Lalit Mangota, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, in his introductory remarks highlighted the importance of holding such programmes for women. He said that such programmes would help us to acquaint with aspirations of women today. Veena Gupta, Dogri critic presented a paper on 'Women Writings

in Dogri' before poems in Dogri were read out to a highly responsive and appreciative young audience by Santosh Khajuria, Shashi Pathania, Vijaya Thakur, Usha Kiran Khan and Shakuntala Birpuri.

Hemla Aggarwal, Principal of the College, who chaired the programme appreciated the efforts of Sahitya Akademi to reach out to young women. She said this programme would go a long way in popularizing Dogri literature among youngsters.

## Rajbhasha Manch

### Gyan Prakash Vivek

Under the series of 'Rajbhasha Manch', a programme was organised with Gyan Prakash Vivek famous Ghazal and fiction writer at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 13 December 2013. The programme was compered by Deputy Secretary Brijendra Tripathi. Sri Vivek presented more than twenty four poems. His poetry dealt with various themes like human values, communal amity and strained relationships due to material pursuit etc. The programme was well-received by the audience.





## Literary Forum

### Play-reading by Rameshwar Prem



In a 'Literary Forum' programme under the Play Reading series, eminent playwright Rameshwar Prem was invited to read out his play on 22 November 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi introduced the playwright to the audience. Sri Prem read out his plays in Hindi. The programme concluded with a lively interaction.

## Asmita Varsha Das and Manisha Kulshreshtha

The Akademi organised an 'Asmita' programme on 6 November 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi with two women writers, Varsha Das, eminent Gujarati writer and Manisha Kulshreshtha, well-known Hindi writer.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi introduced the writers to the audience.



## Book Exhibition at JNU

The Akademi organised a week-long book exhibition on the occasion of National Book Week at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by Namwar Singh, eminent Hindi critic. Similarly the book exhibitions were also organised at Akademi's Regional Offices, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai.



## Kavisandhi Sunita Raina

A 'Kavisandhi' programme was organised on 16 December 2013 by Sahitya Akademi, at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi with Sunita Raina Pandit, eminent poet in Kashmiri. Mohd. Zaman Azurda, Convenor, Sahitya Akademi's Kashmiri Advisory Board introduced the poet

Ms. Raina recited her most popular compositions, She has mastered the art of simple diction, expression and style. Her ghazals have been rightly described as one of absorbing conversation and mysterious solidarity.



## Birth Centenary Seminar Rajendra Shah

It is evaluated by the critics that Rajendra Shah's intensity of emotion and innovation in form and expression which set him apart as a poet of great significance. The mystical tone of his poetry stems from the tradition of great medieval masters like Narsinh Mehta, Kabir and Akho.



Sahitya Akademi, Eastern Regional Centre Mumbai, in collaboration with Dharmasinh Desai University, Naidad, Kapadavanaj Svagat Samiti, Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidyanagar, U.T.S. Mahila Arts College, Naidad and Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics, Vadodara, the Rajendra Shah Birth Centenary Seminar, was organised from 20 to 22 December 2013 at Nadiad, Kapadavanaj, Vallabh Vidyanagar, Vadodara.

Eminent Gujarati authors including Niranjana Bhagat and eminent Indian writers from Hindi, Bengali and Oriya, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi, Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Oriya poet, Nabaneeta Deb Sen, eminent Bengali poet, and Jyotna Milan, eminent Hindi novelist and poet, interacted with other participants. Vice-Chancellor Harish Padh of Sardar Patel University, Vice-Chancellor H. M. Desai of the Dharmasimh Desai University of Technology, Kulichandra Yagnik, former Vice Chancellor of North Gujarat University, and Mahavirsinh Chauhan, its former Pro-Vice Chancellor, participated in the seminar.

The seminar focused on three aspects of reception of the poet's work: *Pranati* (homage to the poet and his times), *Pariprashna* (critical inquiry into

his work) and *Prastuti* (presentation of his lyrical and dramatic poems through music and dance). Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi and eminent Hindi poet, chaired the inaugural 'pranati' session on 20 December 2013 at Nadiad. He engagingly spoke on Indian ways of poetic communication. Sitakant Mahapatra, Jnanpith Awardee poet from Orissa, gave the key-note address. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Aakademi welcomed the guests and Sitanshu Yashaschandra, eminent Gujarati author and Convenor of the Sahitya Akademi Gujarat Advisory Board presented the 'bhoomika' of the seminar. Niranjana Bhagat, distinguished modern poet of Gujarati, gave keynote address commenting on basic concerns of Rajendra Shah as a poet. On 22 December 2013, Mahavirsinh Chauhan, eminent Hindi critic, and Suman Shah, eminent Gujarati critic, discussed the larger context of Rajendra Shah's work. Harish Padh, Vice-Chancellor of the S. P. University and distinguished scientist, chaired the session. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary of the Akademi's Western Region proposed a vote of thanks.

In 'Pariprashna' sessions over the three days, some of the foremost Gujarati critics and poets critically evaluated Rajendra Shah's work and its context. These included Chandrakant Topiwala, Chadrakant Sheth, Shirish Panchal, Dilip Jhaveri, Raman Soni, Suman Shah. Dalpat Padhiar, eminent poet who also is a guiding guru of the rural Gujarati 'panth'

of Ravi Bhan saints of the Kabir tradition, and Nirav Patel, an excellent Dalit poet, brought out relevant aspects of Rajendra Shah's poetry; while Hasit Mehta, Kamal Vora, Jaydev Shukla, Harish Minashru, Manilal Patel, looked at 'main-stream' aspects of his poetry. In 'Prastuti', Amar Bhatt, well-known composer-singer, rendered many of Rajendra Shah's poems in music; and Parul Shah, well-known dancer and teacher, led her troupe in presenting his poems through classical dance and 'abhinaya'.

A special feature of the event was the warm and strong participation of the entire town of Kapadavanaj, the poet's home town. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari was invited to open a memorial room for the great Gujarati poet in the school where Rajendrabhai took his early education.

The location, structure and functioning of the seminar pointed out to some of the ways in which language of poetry, music and dance, and language of critical discourses moving across multiple layers and locations of a society, could be understood and used, and, creatively produced.





L-R: Dhirubhai Mehta, Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Chandrakant Topiwala

## Symposium Shatabdi Smaran Parva

A symposium of “Shatabdi Smaran Parva” was organized by Sahitya Akademi in association with Ramji Aasar School, Ghatkopar, Mumbai at the school’s auditorium on 23 November 2013.

It celebrated four eminent Gujarati authors, ‘Svapnastha’, a pre-Independence poet of social commitment, eminent critic Bhrugurai Anjanria, eminent educationist and essayist Prin. Amrutlal Yajnik, and Prof. Bhupendra Trivedi, a scholar of medieval Gujarati literature.

The symposium had four eminent Gujarati writers as speakers Sitanshu Yashshchandra (Vadodara), Chandrakant Topiwala (Ahmedabad), Kanti Patel (Mumbai) and Sameer Bhatt (Rajkot). Kamal Vora, member of Gujarati Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests.

Dhirubhai Mehta, made introductory remarks and a Gujarati poet Udayan Thakkar narrated a fable indicating how mother-tongues were being erased in our educational system.

First session began with a reading

of select paragraphs from Yagnik’s prose. Sitanshu Yashaschandra then presented his paper “*Amrutlal Yagnik : Abhayaachaarynu Lokdharmi Gadya*” analyzed A B Yagnik’s literary work in context of his great contribution to pedagogy and studnets’ psychology. He also evaluated the author-educationist’s work in the context of the place of Gujarati language in a cosmopolitan city like Mumbai.

The second speaker, Chandrakant Topiwala, spoke on *Bhrugurai Anjaria*:

*Aapanaa Rasgyna Rakbeval*. His paper examined in detail how deconstruction before it made headways in Gujarati literature was practised by Bhrugubhai Anjaria in his analytique of poems by eminent poet ‘Kant’. Making his presentation accessible and illuminating for the students and others, he brought out beautifully how good poetry and good criticism were mutually dependent.

Post-lunch session began with musical presentation of five poems by the poet Svapansth. Sameer Bhatt presented his paper titled “*Svapanstha: Pratibdbhatano Kavya Svara*”. His paper gave a lucid and engrossing analytique of the poet’s work and its larger context in Marxian and Gandhian ideologies. His critical analysis included a fair critique of the poet.

The students beautifully recited philosophical text before Kanti Patel presented his paper *Bhupendra Baalkrishna Trivedi: Advait darshaof Bhupendra Trivedi nanaa upaasak*. He noted the study undertaken by Bhupendra Trivedi of medieval poet Gyani-poet Akho and poet Narhari. He dwelt in the subtle relation between the philosophy and poetry.

The symposium ended with vote of thanks by Kamal Vora.

## Meet the Author

### Shirish Panchal

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with Bhavnagar Gadyasabha and ‘Saitya Vartul’ Gujarati Department, M.K. Bhavnagar University, Bhavnagar, organized a ‘Meet the Author’ programme with Shirish Panchal, eminent Gujarati fiction writer and critic, held on 31 December 2013 at Bhavnagar.



## Literary Forum

### Bhikubhai Parekh Gujarati Writer

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara and Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics, Vadodara, organized a Literary Forum, on 3 October 2013 at Vadodara, with Bhikubhai Parekh.

### Through My Window Gokuldas Prabhu on Pundalik Naik

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Directorate of Arts & Culture, Goa organized a 'Through My Window' programme on 17 October 2013, at Goa, with Gokuldas Prabhu, eminent Konkani writer and critic, who spoke of the life and works Pundalik Naik, distinguished Konkani litterateur.

### Kavisandhi Nutan Sakhardande Konkani Poet

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Directorate of Arts & Culture, Goa organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme on 18 October 2013, at Goa with Nutan Sakhardande, eminent Konkani poet.

### Kavisandhi Rashmi Ramani Sindhi Poet

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Sindhudi Youth Wing, Nagpur organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme on 27 October 2013 at Nagpur, with Rashmi Ramani, eminent Sindhi poet.

### Nari Chetna Sindhi Poets

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Centre Mumbai, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Sindhology, Adipur, organized a Nari Chetna programme on 27 October 2013 at Adipur. Vimmi Sadarangani, (Chair), Bharati Sadarangani, Pushpa Bhambhani, Seema Bhambhani, Anita Tejwani, Champa Chetnani, Manju Mirwani, Komal Dayalani, Rita Chhatpar, Ritu Bhatia and Sangeeta Khilwani participated.

### Avishkar Rekha Surya

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, organized an 'Avishkar' programme, on 25 October 2013 in Mumbai with Rekha Surya, celebrated Hindustani light classical singer.



### Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow: Srichampa

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, organized a 'Literary Forum', on 25 October 2013 in Mumbai, with Sophana Srichampa, a linguist and scholar and Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow from Thailand.



### People and Books Ketan Mehta

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara and Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics, Vadodara, organized a 'People and Books' programme with Ketan Mehta on 5 October 2013, in Vadodara.





## Birth Centenary Seminar Harumal Sadarangani 'Khadim'

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with National Council for promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi & Sindhi Adbi Sangat, Indore, organized a Birth Centenary Seminar on Harumal Sadarangani 'Khadim', held on 23-24 November 2013, at Indore. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai welcomed the participants. Prem Prakash, Convenor, Sindhi Advisory Board, delivered inaugural address and Laxman Bhatia 'Komal' delivered keynote address. Ramesh Varlyani, was the guest of honour and Vasdev Mohi delivered presidential address. Nirmal Goplani, Director, NCPSL, proposed vote of thanks.



*One of the sessions of the seminar in progress*

## Seminar Post Independence Sindhi Drama



*Prem Prakash, Bhanu Bharati, M.K. Jetley and Lakhmi Khilani*

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Sindhi Academy, Delhi, organized a seminar on 'Post Independence Sindhi Drama' held on 5-6 December 2013 at Delhi. Lakhmi Khilani delivered the inaugural address and Prem Prakash, Convenor Sindhi Advisory Board, gave the keynote address. M.K. Jetley presented the presidential address and Bhanu Bharati was the guest of honour. Sindhu Bhagia Mishra, Secretary, Sindhi Academy, proposed vote of thanks.

## Literary Forum Sindhi Writers

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Sindhi Adabi Sabha, Pune organized a 'Literary Forum' on 12 October 2013, at Pune, wherein Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal' (Chair), Indira Poonawala 'Shabnam', Neelam Chhabria, 'C.T. Keswani Lal', Vijaya Teksinghani, Saroj Bharwani, Baldev Budhrani 'Deep' and Harkishan Samthani participated.

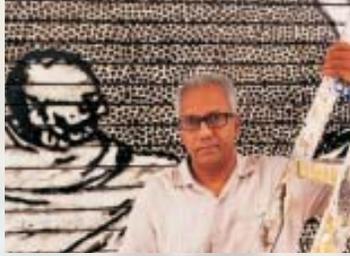


*Participants in the Sindhi writers meet*



## Literary Forum

### Atul Dodiya Visual Artist



Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara and Balvant Parekh Centre for General

Semantics, Vadodara, organized a 'Literary Forum' with Atul Dodiya on 2 October 2013 at Vadodara.

This event brought three of the most creative and contemplative minds of India, all from Gujarat to talk about relationship between visual arts, cinema and literature with special reference to contemporary Gujarati Society. Atul Dodiya explained how his canvases saw words as a part of creative process. Dodiya said that since at the age of 10, he aspired to be an artist and it remained his subject of interests. Dodiya used words or fonts in his paintings. Dodiya felt that it was very complex practice to give language to visual art. When a poet writes in Gujarati or any other language, he or she will talk about it in same language too but for an artist it is not that simple. Visual art has no language. International and national artists like Petr Mondrain, Gehard Richter, Jasper Johns, Joseph Beuys, David Hockney, Raja Ravi Varma, Nandlal Bose, Bhupen Khakhkhar and Satyajit Ray have influenced him significantly.

While showing slides of his different works where literature is connected directly or indirectly, Dodiya pointed out how poets like Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Labh Shankar Thaker gave him great confidence to experiment. In many of his works, he put poetry written by these literary giants. Apart from these poets like Rajendra Shukla, Manoj Khanderia, Ravji Patel, Kamal Vora have been on Dodiya's canvas. He used Western writers' quotes and poetry as well as Gandhi's quotations when he did a show on Bhupen Khakkar. A minute observation of literary art gives him freedom to express the way he wants as he realised that poets or writers also were multi-layered and he followed similar pattern of expression in his works.

## Literary Forum

### Konkani Women Writers



A 'Literary Forum' entitled "Konkani Mahila Sahitya Darshan Ani Chintan" was organised in association with The Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gamdevi and The Kanara Saraswat Association, Tardeo, on 16 November 2013 at the K.S.A. Hall, Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mumbai.

Sadhana Kamat, Member, Advisory Board welcomed and conducted the programme. Kamat introduced Chandrashekhhar Shenoy who presided over the function; Dr. Shenoy, in his speech, exhorted the writers to get in touch with various literary magazines to publish the writings in Konkani, also to translate outstanding books from other languages into Konkani.

Aruna Rao, a poet in Konkani recited some of her poems. The poems dealt with the subjects such as nature, devotion and life in general, which were highly appreciated.

Indu Gersappe who was honoured by Goa Konkani Sahitya Akademi, presented some of her poignant poems about women, some memorable characters came across in her life and the hazardous changes seen in the environment.

Nirmala Savardekar presented her well researched article on 'Lullabies', and other children's poems composed by women at home while looking after their children. Rekha Rao read out her moving story about a woman's yearning for diamond earrings and how she is unable to fulfil her simple desire. Indu Gersappe and Chandrama Bijur rendered critical appreciation of 'Aruna Rao's poems' and 'Muktabai Mangalore's Plays' respectively. Both the presentations were based on extensive research.

Margaret and Blesica Fernandes along with Krishna Kamat presented a 'Cantar' (Goan Konkani song) originally written, set to music and sung by Kamat De Assolna (Ramakant Kamat), a well-known theatrics from Goa.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sadhana Kamat.



## Kavisandhi & Literary Forum Sindhi Writers

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Sindhi Sahitya Akademi and Madhya Pradesh Sanskriti Parishad organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme with Mohan Himthani, noted Sindhi poet and also a 'Literary Forum' with Sindhi short story writers on 9 November 2013 in Bhopal. The Forum was chaired by Khiman Mulani, Member, Sindhi Advisory Board.

Mohan Himthani read out his poems in the 'Kavisandhi' programme. The short stories were read out in the 'Literary Forum' by Swati Kewlani. Samiksha Lacchhawani's poems reflected the self confidence among the adolescents and the short story which she read out were very well appreciated



*Kavisandhi poet Mohan Himthani at the centre  
Khiman Mulani and Swati Kewlani with him*

## Through My Window Kamla Goklani on Dholan Rahi

In collaboration with Sudhar Sabha Vidya Samiti, Ajmer Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Through My Window' programme on 10 November 2013 at Ajmer with Kamla Goklani, eminent Sindhi writer and poet, who spoke on the life and works of Dholan Rahi, veteran Sindhi Poet.

Kamla Goklani said that Dholan Rahi is one of the distinguished poet in Sindhi. He has continuously been experimenting poetry in the forms of ghazal, geet, nazm, doha, sertha, quafi etc. Almost all his collections of poetry were well received and awarded. His ghazals have been set to tune by popular musicians. Besides being a remarkable poet and writer, Sri Rahi is also a very good human being, she added.



*Dolan Rahi and Kamla Goklani*

## Documentary Film on Vinda Karandikar

Screening of its Documentary Films on distinguished Indian writers was held on 24 and 25 December 2013 at the Akademi Regional Centre, Mumbai. Indra Nath Chaudhuri, distinguished critic inaugurated the event. Arun Khopkar was the chief guest. Prof. Chaudhuri, in his introductory speech reminisced his meeting with Karandikar whose documentary was to be released. Khopkar said that making a film on a poet such as Vinda must have been challenging. After the speeches the documentary film on Vinda was screened. The documentary films on Khushwant Singh, Nirmal Verma and Gulzar were also screened the next day.



*Arun Khopkar and Indra Nath Chaudhuri*

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## 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary

### Seminar on Swami Vivekananda

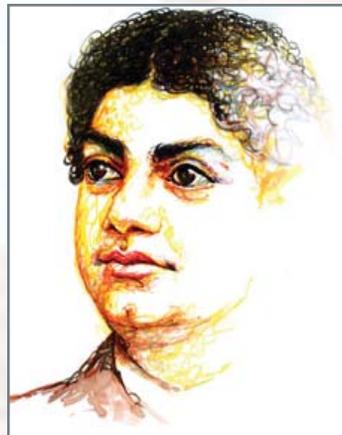
Sahitya Akademi organised a seminar on Swami Vivekananda on the occasion of his 150<sup>th</sup> birth centenary in collaboration with Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Kolkata, on 25 & 26 November 2013 at Golpark, Kolkata.

After the Vedic chanting of the monastic members of Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, the welcome address was delivered by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. In his brief speech, he referred to the significance of the life, works and preachings of this great son of India. His whole life has been a source of burning of inspiration for us; he fought against blind conservatism and superstition. His stress on the basic roll of 'vivek' (the heart) is important as well as his constant striving for upholding the rich tradition and heritage of India.

While delivering the inaugural address of the seminar, Swami Mityamuktananda, stressed on different facets of Swamiji's life. A towering figure of strength, an educationist par excellence and an ardent student of philosophy, he followed the path of divinity. He opined that any person who will follow his words would make his life perfect. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convenor, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the chief guest of the inaugural session. He briefly delineated the life of Swami Vivekananda, the wandering monk. He travelled extensively throughout India on foot and absorbed the essence of the diverse cultures of India. A reservoir of the great Indian tradition, he meditated at the last point of India towards the South and dreamt of the India as a unified whole. He was the

key figure in the Indian philosophical tradition of Vedanta and yoga to the Western world. In colonial India, he served as a source of nationalism.

The key-note address was delivered by Sabyasachi Bhattacharya. In his speech, Sri Bhattacharya stressed on the four significant factors which played vital roles in shaping life of Swamiji. In the budding years, music was the guiding star for him. Later stressed on the religious tolerance. Then his hold in



literature became stronger. Later he influenced the institutional as well as organisational structures of Buddhism. Lastly, he emphasized on him as an educationist.

While speaking from the chair, Swami Suparnanda said on the fact that the Ramakrishnites are a non-sectarian sect led by Swami Vivekananda. The vote of thanks was proposed by Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region.

In the first session, papers were presented by Somnath Bhattacharya and Sandipan Sen with Alok Roy in the chair. The topic of this session was "Swami Vivekananda and His Time". Prof. Sen spoke on the contemporary cultural

atmosphere of Swami Vivekananda and how he went beyond that. He started with the pattern of European society in the colonial India and the significance of the emergence of Swami Vivekananda. Then he went on to point out the difference between that society and that of the then Indian aristocrats. Then he pointed out the aspects in which Vivekananda was exceptional. Prof. Bhattacharya also emphasized on relationships between contemporary literary figures and Swamiji. He further spoke about the scientific bent of Vivekananda's mind. While speaking from the chair, Alok Roy compared the time of Swamiji with today's social atmosphere. He opined that Swamiji tried to bring a synthesis of the East and the West.

In the second session, papers were presented by Sitanath Goswami and Tara Chatterjea with Pravrajika Bhaswaraprana in the chair. The topic of this session was "Vedanta Philosophy and Religious Reformation". All of the speakers as well as the chairperson spoke on the main features of Swamiji's stance on the *Vedanta*. Swamiji emphasized on the teachings of *Advaita Vedanta*. Smt. Chatterjea, in her paper, referred to the concept of Adiguru Sankaracharya in this regard. She also spoke on the notion towards *karma*. Another speaker, Goswami explained the nature of *Brahma* in detail while reading his paper. The chairperson assimilated both of the speakers' views while summing up.

In the third session, papers were presented by Amitrasudan Bhattacharya and Subrata Mukhopadhyay with Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay in the chair. The topic of this session was "Swami



Vivekananda and His Contemporaries”. Bhattacharya spoke on the relationship between Swamiji and Rabindranath Tagore. He also referred to the roll of *Bhagini* Nivedita in this context. In the paper of Sri Mukhopadhyay, a picture of the contemporary life was graphically brought out. Relationship between Girishchandra and Swamiji as well as the bond between the

Swamiji’s insistence on the fact that medium of education should be the mother-tongue. He also stressed on the importance of education for the downtrodden people. Sourin Bhattacharya, while speaking from the chair summed up the speeches.

In the fifth session, papers were presented by Biswajit Roy and Rabishankar Bal with Ujjalkumar

the composer. He presented a live demonstration accompanied by Nandan Sengupta on *esraj* and Gautam Roy on *pakhawaj*. While demonstrating, Sri Chaudhuri was accompanied by Nishaant Singh on *esraj*.

In the valedictory session, the address was delivered by Swami Tyagrupananda. In his address, he pointed out the significant stages of



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, Swami Suparnanda and Swami Nityamuktananda

Ramakrishnites were stressed upon. While speaking from the chair, Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay opined that now-a-days lots are speaking about Swamiji but only a few are following. He also referred to great influential personality of Swamiji.

Sourin Bhattacharya in the chair, Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri presented his paper. He compared the educational ideals of earlier times with that of today and also referred to sacred relationship existed between the student and the teacher in vedic ages. He also referred to the educational ideals of Swamiji. Prof. Soumitra Basu spoke about the nature of educational policy which the British wanted to introduce in the colonial India. He also referred

Majumdar in the chair. The topic of this session was “Swami Vivekananda: Literary Contribution”. In this session, both of the speakers stressed on the philosophical elements and insights in the writings of Swamiji. Majumdar also spoke on the influence of Swamiji’s writings on the next generation of writers.

In the sixth session, papers were presented by Debasish Roy and Sarbananda Chaudhuri with Sudhir Chakrabarti in the chair. The topic of this session was “Swami Vivekananda: Contribution in the Field of Music”. While Sri Roy spoke on the songs written by Swamiji, Sri Chaudhuri spoke on the use of *tals* in the songs of Swamiji. Roy focused on Swamiji as a performer, a musical theorist as well as a composer and as

Swamiji’s life. Noted scholar Bharati Ray, while speaking from the chair, summed up the papers presented by the scholars in the two days. She pointed out the significant information which was brought before the audience. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay proposed the vote of thanks.





## Birth Centenary Seminar Basant Kumar Satpathy



Sahitya Akademi organised a seminar on the occasion of the birth centenary celebration of eminent Odia litterateur Basant Kumar Satpathy on 15 December 2013

at IDCOL auditorium in Bhubaneswar.

Inaugurating the seminar, Sitakant Mahapatra, Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, said that Basant's stories are like the stories told by grand-mothers – simple and captivating. Sri Mahapatra also said that three of his favourite stories of Basant Satpathy are “Eka Lasmruti”, “Gote Kathachampara” and “Kani chian and Kaatha”. He read out two of Satpathy's letters written to him and requested Sahitya Akademi to publish an anthology of English translation of Basant Satpathy's stories in English translation.

Vishwanth Prasad Tiwari chaired the inaugural session. In his presidential address, Prof. Tiwari said that love and compassion are found in Basant's stories. Writer never writes for himself. He writes for the society. That is why society remembers the writer and celebrates his centenaries. Prof. Tiwari discussed Satpathy's story “Nidasrayee” from different perspectives.

There is no compassion in Satpathy's stories as it may sometime arise out of arrogance but Basant was humble

Basant Satpathy should reach the larger audience beyond Odisha, said Harish Trivedi. The eminent critic and former Professor of Delhi University, Dr. Trivedi said that Basant Satpathy was not only a fiction writer, rather a complete man of letters who had a commitment to humanity. Besides stories, he has written plays, criticism, compiled poems, etc. His stories are humorous and laced with satire. In praise of Odia literature, the literary sky of Odisha is studded with stars, he added.

Sumanyu Satpathy discussed his father's contributions to literature in his key-note address. “At a time when poets in Odisha were in demand, Basant Satpathy started writing short stories,” said Prof. Satpathy. Along with human lives, Basant Satpathy also wrote stories on birds and animals, showing empathy towards all living beings. Sumanyu indicted into the short story writings of

Basant Satpathy and interpreted in different perspectives.

A book entitled *Sanchayan*, compiled and edited by Basant Kumar Satpathy was released on the occasion. Introducing the guests, Gourahari Das, Convener of Odia Advisory Board said that Basant Satpathy was not only aware of Indian tradition, but also had a deep knowledge of Western culture. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

The programme was followed by paper presentations on life and literature of Basant Kumar Satpathy and about his multifaceted talent. Presenting a paper on the personality and literature of Basant Kumar Satpathy, Durgaprasanna Panda spoke about his childhood and his environment, and also discussed about his stories “Ajaga Gha” and “Nidasrayee.” Gouranga Charan Dash in his presentation said that Basant Satpathy



*Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering presidential address  
L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Sumanyu Satpathy, Sitakant Mahapatra and Harish Trivedi*

was a man without an ego. There is no compassion in Satpathy's stories as it may sometime arise out of arrogance but Basant was humble, he added. Sanghamitra Mishra discussed about his short plays in her presentation whereas Bijayanand Singh discussed about the humorous aspect of his stories, citing illustrations from a few of his stories "Gotae Alu" and "Nanguli." Sourindra Barik chaired this session. He stated that Satpathy could give a new form to a situation and create a memorable story; he loved and respected life till his end and shared his personal experiences with Basanta Kumar Satpathy, who was his teacher.

In the second session, presenting a paper on multifaceted talents of Basant Kumar Satpathy, Jatindra Kumar Nayak discussed him as a translator. He translated a number of plays. Even his translations, reflect a tinge of Odia culture in them so as to make the writings pragmatic and acceptable to Odia people.

Krushna Chandra Pradhan discussed Satpathy's feature articles and analyzed the dimensions of Basant Satpathy's stories, i.e, social, cultural, political and aesthetics. Gopal Krushna Rath chaired the session.

Delivering valedictory address, Dash Behur discussed Satpathy's literary and personal life and observed that literature was a shelter for him to take rest while fighting his personal sufferings and difficulties. In his last days, literature was his only friend, Sri Behur added.

Pitabasa Routray chaired this valedictory session and Banoj Tripathy proposed a vote of thanks.



L-R: Sheela Borthakur, Nirupama Mishra and Karabi Deka Hazarika

## Asmita Assamese writers

### Nirupama Borgohain and other leading women writers Toshoprabha Kalita, Nirupama Misra and Malini

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Asmita' programme in collaboration with Sodou Asam Lekhika Samaroh Samiti, Kahara Branch, Kajiranga, Assam, on 1 December 2013 at Kajiranga, Assam. The inaugural address was delivered by Shila Borthakur. Satyakam Borthakur, Member, Assamese Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, introduced the writers.

Renowned Sahitya Akademi award-winning writer, Nirupama Borgohain and other leading women writers Toshoprabha Kalita, Nirupama Misra and Malini were invited to read out from their works.

Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convenor of the Assamese Advisory Board, chaired the programme while writer Binita Dutta was present as the chief guest of the occasion.

Smt Borgohain, in her speech, commented on the trends of feministic thoughts in some of her novels. Smt

Kalita, the recipient of Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Assamese, spoke on her experiences as a writer, which was followed by her recitation of a long piece by Rabindranath. Smt Misra, another award winning writer who writes for children, elaborated her preoccupations as a writer who is always serious about how to explore the complex child psychology in her writings, especially in her novels for children. Dr Malini, in her speech, spoke about how a myth gets recreated in many of her novels, while she also narrated how she had been helped immensely by her background in the field of science. The interaction session was lively and thought provoking. Smt Dutta, the chief guest of the occasion, besides focusing on the history and achievements of women's contribution in the field of literature and society, she also recited a few poems of her recent creations.



## Literary Forum

### Sumathanath Ghosh

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Birth-centenary Literary Forum' on the occasion of the birth centenary of a noted Bengali writer Sumathanath Ghosh in its auditorium in Kolkata on 21 October 2013.

The Forum was chaired by Arun Kumar Basu. Sabitendranath Ray, a renowned publisher, spoke on the zeal and enthusiasm of Sumatanath Ghosh in the field of publishing which was noteworthy. Urmi Raychoudhury, Professor of Bengali, University of Calcutta spoke on the short stories of Sri Ghosh. The varied themes of his stories can easily attract the notice of the readers. Some of the important stories of this collection are "Pratham Prem" (First Love), "Chhabi" (The Picture), "Jatilata" (The Complexity) etc.

Sumita Chakraborty, Former Professor, University of Burdwan spoke on the novels of Sumathanath. She opined that women characters played important roles in his novels of Sumathnath. Novels written in the later phase of his life tend towards the tragic theme. While talking about the plot of his novels, she observed that the setting of *Bankashrote* is city and suburbs whereas *Mahanadi* is of rural.

The speakers also focussed on the translations by Sumathanath as he translated famous English novels like *Three Musketeers*, *David Copperfield*, *Ivanhoe* etc. Sri Basu spoke about the popularity of Sumathanath Ghosh and his social awareness. At the end, Ramkumar Mukhoadhyay, Convenor, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, while he proposed the vote of thanks, expressed his hope that Sumathanath may be rediscovered in a new way in future by Bengali readers as well as readers of other languages.

## Multilingual Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Writers' Meet' in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha on 26 and 27 October 2013 at Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati.

Lakshmi Nandan Bora, eminent Assamese writer in the chair

presented his presidential speech who said "Indian languages are in peril due to globalisation and the domination of English language. To survive and to escape from onslaughts, writers of Indian languages should take extra care to enrich their languages, literature and culture." Kameswar Brahma, President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha was the chief guest and Premananda Muchahary, Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address. In his speech, he presented a brief sketch of the Bodo literary tradition. He introduced the writers to the audience and discussed about the distinctive qualities of eminent Bodo writers and the need of the time.

Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the first session of the Meet. In this session Bibuljyoti Saikia (Assamese), Prabal Kumar Basu (Bengali), Uttam Brahma (Bodo), Raman Jha (Maithili) and Arjun Charan Hembrarn (Santali) read out poems. Short stories were read by Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipur) and Madhav Burathoki (Nepali). Pranabjyoti Narzary proposed the vote of thanks of the session.

Second session was chaired by Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Poems were read by Rudra Singha Matak (Assamese), Nilima Thakuria Haque (Assamese), Amalendu Shekhar Pathak (Maithili), Amaresh Patnaik (Odia), Bhupendra Adhikari (Nepali), R.K. Hemabati Devi, (Manipuri) and Nabin Malia Bora (Bodo). Short stories read by Swapnamay Chakraborty (Bengali), Manik Hasda (Santali) and Deosankar Navin (Maithili).

The third session was chaired by H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi who said that folklore has an important role in sustaining the mainstream literature. The *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* are also the narrative of folklore. The poets who read out new poems include Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Bikas Sarkar (Bengali), Kshetri Rajen (Manipuri), Narbahadur Dahal (Nepali), Bimal Jena (Odia) and Anpa Marandi (Santali). Short stories were read out by Nayan Kumar Medhi (Assamese), Gobinda Basumatary (Bodo) and Prakash Mahapatra (Odia). The valedictory speech was delivered by Bisweswar Basumatary, Vice President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.





## Meet the Author Rajendra Kishore Panda

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Meet the author' programme with eminent Odia litterateur Rajendra Kishore Panda on 23 November 2013 at IDCOL auditorium at Bhubaneswar.

Outlining his poetic voyage Rajendra Kishore Panda spoke about the paradoxical destiny of a poet which is contradictory, yet complimentary. He also recited few of his poems. Known for his magnificent style and deeper human sensibilities, Sri Panda created a formidable panorama of poetry in Odia language. Hundreds of his readers and admirers attended the programme and listened to his poems with deep interest. Taking the audience to a sonorous zone of poetic silence, Sri Panda said that his poems are his speeches and he wants to say nothing except his poetry. He recited his poems on the themes of life culture and society. After the mesmerizing poetry recitation, many writers, critics, researchers and youths interacted with the author.

At the end accomplished *Odissi* dancer Lingaraj Pradhan presented Rajendra Kishore's poem "Karna Banam Krishna" (Karna Vs Krishna) in dance. Sri Lingaraj, as a dancer flawlessly transformed the poem into a visual delight. The choreography was designed by Guru Bichitrnanda Swain and the musical score was recorded by veteran Odissi musician and musicologist Guru Ramahari Das and rhythm composition was by Guru Dhaneswar Swain. The dance performance was visualised and conducted by poet Kedar Mishra.



## People and Books G.B. Patnaik

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'People and Books' programme with G. B. Patnaik on 24 November 2013 at Bhubaneswar.

Justice G.B Patnaik said that we grow with books from the early childhood. He went on to introduce *Madhu Barnabodha*, a nursery primer, which was one of its kind in Odisha during pre-Independence period. During his school days, Patnaik was inspired by Radhanath Ray's *Darbar*, *Mitralabha* etc. Among other books he read include, Sital Bag's book, *My Life*, M. C. Chagla's *Roses in December*, Jawaharlal Nehru's *Discovery of India*, Nilomani Routray's *Smruti o Anubhuti*, Gangadhar Rath's *Bhuli Nabin*, J. P. Das's *Desa Kala Patra* etc. which inspired his life, he said. He was a bit nostalgic when he spoke about Daffodils. He had read about this flower in his schools and returned to it in poems of J. P. Das. However he came across the real flower much later while travelling in London. He also hailed J. B. Patnaik, politician turned writer for his anthology of essays *Bachaspati Mohodaya*. This is a book of substance, he added. Addressing the galaxy of writers and students, Sri Patnaik stated, "Writers can



mould the society through their powerful writings." He went on giving number of examples when literature has taken central stage in bringing about changes. He stays connected with Odisha and its people through literature as books are never failing friends.



## The Bodo and the Literature: Quest for Survival

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on 'The Bodo and the Literature: Quest for Survival' on 25 October 2013 at Rangia College, Kampup, Assam.

The keynote address was delivered by Premananda Muchahary, Convenor of Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In the speech, he highlighted some major issues of Bodos relating to the survival of literature. He said, "It is the role of new generation to develop Bodo language at par with the developed languages." Bodo achieved the status of modern Indian language and constitutional status in the 8<sup>th</sup> schedule. Discussion on literature and finding critical issues can bring out the possibilities to develop the literature, observed by him.

Jogesh Kakati, Principal, Rangia College, the guest of honour in his speech insisted on the learning of multiple languages in the state for better communication. He emphasized on the question of survival of some minority languages like Bodo in near future. It is the duty of the next generation to use mother tongue at all places irrespective of any situation and time, he opined..

Swarna Prabha Chainary, Associate Professor, Bodo Department, Gauhati University in her speech highlighted some issues and challenges ahead of the Bodo society to keep Bodo language alive and in practice. She also chaired the first session and spoke elaborately on the topic.

The second paper of the session, "The Present Position of Bodo Literature in Indian Context" was presented by Laishri Mohilary, Assistant

Professor, Bodo Department, Bodoland University. She opined that the journey of Bodo literature is mostly of the relentless effort of 20<sup>th</sup> century writers who expressed themselves through their writings in Assamese and Bangla scripts. The role of missionaries in 19<sup>th</sup> century led by Rev. Sidney Endle is worth mentioning. He wrote the *Kachary Grammar*, a book of grammar of Bodo language and culture. Some important books of this age are *Boroni Fisa O-Aien*, *Khonthai-Methai*, *Hathorkhi-Hala Olongbar* etc which have expanded the horizon of Bodo literature. Today, Bodo literature requires analytical and critical writings, she concluded.

The topic of the third paper was "Beauty in Bodo Literature – An Overview" presented by Birhash Giri Basumatary. He spoke about the ancient Indian literature as well as the Western literary tradition. He referred to the aesthetic beauty in Bodo poetry and its usage of images and symbols. He said "Modern Bodo poet Prosenjit Brahma focuses on social and economic condition of Bodo's in his poetry."

The topic of the fourth paper was "Readers' Response in Bodo Literature" which was presented by Somaina Basumatary. The paper focused on the reader's response to the writings of *Bibar Muga* (Flower Age) and also Modaram Brahma's *Boroni Gudi Sibsa Arw Aroj* which introduced the Bodo literature in written form. She also opined that excessive use of symbolism in poetry is also creating apathy on the part of



the readers.

P. C. Basumatary chaired the second session and the first paper, "Struggling of Bodo Literature for Survival," was presented by Birupaksha Giri Basumatary. He dwelt on the survival of Bodo literature as seen from the literary and historical perspectives. Some critics consider that the contribution made by the missionaries to Bodo language is a valuable contribution to the literary development. In the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century, some Bodo writers started writing in the language and Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma's social reformation movement took an important turn. Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma also met the Simons Commission in 1927-28 at Shillong to save the Bodo language. After a gap of a decade, Mohinimohan Brahma wrote *Laisi* and *Okbafivr Laisi* was published from Cotton College to promote Bodo literature. In 1953, learning in Bodo started with the introduction of Bodo language in primary school. Later it was settled by adoption of Devnagari script in Simbargaon conference at Kokrajhar. Educational institutions with some organised bodies like Bodo Writers



## Mulakat Assamese writers

Association, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, Sahitya Akademy play an important role in helping Bodo literature to survive.

Rujab Muchahary presented a paper on "Trends of Bodo Literature in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century." He observed that Bodo literature got its literary form in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prior to it, it was based on folk literature and was manifested in dramas. It was the literary wave of writing in Bodo. Several publications were brought out during the period of *Bibar Muga* (Flower Age) that took the key role to promote the language. He highlighted the writings of Satish Chandra Basumatary, Kshitish Basumatary, Darendra Nath Basumatary, Promod Chandra Basumatary Ishan Muchahary and some of the popular books of this age. Kalikumar Lahary was also a great contributor of 'Bibar Muga Age' which saw a wide range of satirical writings in Bodo..

The last paper of the symposium was presented by Phukan Basumatary titled "Response to the Bodo Literature". He focused on the reader's response to Bodo literature in 20<sup>th</sup> century as well as the present day. He also pointed out, "the literature as a collection of records, information, expressions that focus on social picture of a nation." Different writers wrote on different topics and also carried on different views. Bodo language has abundant writings in genres like poetry and prose but it lacks in criticisms. There are also not many pieces of dramas and novels in Bodo literature. A few research works are on Bodo literatures, particularly of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and only a few books were published in translation." He enlisted the support of readers, authors, translators, publishers, distributors and critics for the development of Bodo literature and language.



*Bijoy Sankar Barman, Sanjiv Pal Deka and Manalisha Saikia*

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Mulakat' programme with Assamese writers in collaboration with Cotton College New Artist Association (NABIN) on 27 October 2013 at the Conference Hall, Cotton College, Guwahati.

Manju Devi Pegu, president of NABIN group presided. Four young writers were invited to present their works. Manalisha Saikia participated in the programme. Manalisha Saikia and Sanjiv Pal Deka read out their short stories. Bijoy Sankar Barman presented two poems.

Answering the various questions raised by the audience, story writers Sanjiv Pal Deka and Manalisha Saikia spoke on the role of creative writing and the responsibility of literature towards the society and people. Writer Sanjiv Pal Deka said that "There is no standard theory for writing a story or a poem". Anis-uj-Zaman, Lutfah Hanum Selima Begum, Kushal Dutta and other Assamese poets also read out their poems.

Joydeep Borah, Editor of NABIN, proposed the vote of thanks.

## Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow

### Sophana Srichampa

Sahitya Akademi organized a round-table discussion with Sophana Srichampa, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow for the year of 2012 on 4 November 2013 at its office auditorium at Kolkata. Dr Srichampa's presentation was on 'Globalization and some socio-cultural ASEAN identities'. The major focus of her presentation was on five topics: ASEAN Community, ASEAN-India relationship, brief presentation about Thailand, some ASEAN identities and brief Thai literature, culture, drama and also India-ASEAN relationship. Dr. Srichampa interacted with the local writers and the audience, after her presentation.





## Literary Forum

### The Life and Works of Dr. Kamal



Sahitya Akademi organized a literary forum on The Life and Works of Dr Kamal in collaboration with Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Meghalaya, on 28 October 2013

at UCC Auditorium, Barapani, Meghalaya.

Gautam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office, delivered the welcome address.

Chief guest of the programme was H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He paid his tribute to the pioneers of Manipuri modern literature, Dr Kamal, Hijam Anganghal and Khwairakpam Chaoba.

Sri Rajamani Nongthomba, President, Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Meghalaya, in his presidential speech stated that literature not only helps to develop a language, but also helps to capture the beauties of nature and humanity for eternity, as has been done by Dr Kamal.

In the first session, Prof. N. Khagendra Singh, Ex-Convener, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the chairperson. He presented a brief life sketch of Dr Kamal before the audience and spoke about distinctive qualities of his writings. First speaker of the session was the Editor of *Echemma* Dr Ph. Biramani. The topic of his paper was “The Life and Works of Dr Kamal”. As he began his paper, he gave a brief account of the situation of Manipur during the time of the birth and early childhood days of Dr Kamal. Manipur lost its

independence to the British in 1981. There was socio-political change and general discontent in Manipur. At such a time Dr Kamal was born in a family of farmers at Canchipur, which was once a palace of Manipur. Canchipur was once called Langthabal. Dr Biramani gave a vivid account of the beauty of the once beautiful locality of Canchipur which is now the home of Manipur University. Dr Kamal had a strong influence from his mother, who died when he was studying medicine. Dr Kamal was called as “Oja Macha” (Young Guru) by the people because of his

special quality of telling stories and having a good voice in singing. Dr Biramani then gave an account of the younger days of Dr Kamal and his student days and the difficulties his family faced to educate him. He faced difficulties from home, a very conservative family for marrying a woman from outside Manipur. The natural beauty of Tamenglong also impressed Dr Kamal while he was posted at Tamenglong. The speaker described Dr Kamal as a romantic poet by saying that he had ‘spontaneous overflow of emotions.’

### Mulakat & Aviskar Programmes

Sahitya Akademi organized two programmes entitled ‘Mulakat’ and ‘Aviskar’ in collaboration with Fakirmohan Sahitya Parisad in Balasore Rotary Bhawan, Odisha. While six young poet and writers read out their poem and short stories in ‘Mulakat’, eminent Mardala player Sri Jagannatha Kuanr enthralled the crowd by his Mardala demonstration and powerful lecture in the ‘Aviskar’ programme.

Eminent writer and convener of Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Gaurahari Das inaugurated the programme and introduced the participating young talents. The session started with the short story ‘Jui’ by Amaresh Biswal. The story was based on the erosion of ancient value and co-related the sentiment of a father with an old and outdated *almirah*. The second story “Eita dunia” was of Pragna Prabartika Das. The theme was on the reality of life. She described love, wait and annoyance beautifully in her short story. Aditeswar Mishra read the last story ‘Janta neba Janta’. Picture of conservative society and social defamation of a lady was reflected in this story. Poet Pabitrakumar Dash read out four poems. Thrilling poverty, reality of life, grumbling, revolt etc were the theme. Another young poet Narendra Bhoi read out three poems. Sasmita Sarangi read out two poems love and surrender of a lady was the essence of the poems. D. Harischandra Behera reviewed the stories and poems read out about the philosophy and message conveyed to the society.

In the ‘Aviskar’ programme held on the same day Jagannath Kuanr, veteran *mardal* player delighted the audience by his performance. He started lecture by stating that song is the essence of life. He described Odia *tala*, *laya*, *chhanda*, *raga*, *chapu* etc beautifully. Later he fascinated people of Balasore by demonstrating *mardal* and playing on other musical instruments. He presented many rural folk songs and extremely unique lyrics.



## Birth Centenary Seminar Laxmidhar Nayak

Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on eminent Odia litterateur Laxmidhar Nayak in collaboration with Utkal Sahitya Samaj on 1 December 2014 at Satabdi Bhawan, Cuttack.

In the inaugural session, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address. The inaugural session was chaired by Bijayananda Singh, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Devasnana Das, Vice-president, Utkal Sahitya Samaj, introduced the guests to the audience. The introductory address was delivered by Gourahari Das, Convener of Odia Advisory Board. Pratiba Ray, Jnanapith Awardee, inaugurated the seminar. Dr Ray, in her speech, said that for a writer educational qualification has no meaning when “Life is a school and the world is a book”. At the age of 18, Laxmidhar Nayak wrote the novel *Udvranta*. He is a nationalist leader, social reformer,

playwright, lyricist and an editor. The chief guest Haraprasad Das called Laxmidhar Nayak, the father of Odia gazhal. He is a champion of humanism and a great social activist. On this occasion, the great children litterateur Nadia Bihar Mohanty was presented with Akademi’s Bal Sahitya Puraskar. The keynote address was delivered by Kamalakanta Mohanty. The vote of thanks was proposed by Goutam Pal, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, Kolkata.

The topic of the first session was “Life and Literature of Laxmidhar Nayak”. Under the chairmanship of Ratnakar Chaini, Bijaya K. Satpathy, Kailash Pattnaik, Aparna Mohanty and Arun Mohanty, Bishnu Ch. Routray presented their papers.

The topic of the second session was “Multifaceted Talent and Laxmidhar Nayak”. The session concentrated and discussed on the multifaceted genius of

Laxmidhar Nayak. The poems of Nayak were recited by Basant Mohanty and Dipti Dash and essays were read out by Krushna Ch. Bhuyan, Bhupen Mohapatra, Pulin Behari Nayak and Gobind Ch. Chand. This session was chaired by Bishnu Ch. Routray. Throughout the session, poems and essays were read out to reveal the multifaceted personality of Laxmidhar Nayak. Lover of freedom and mind independent, Laxmidhar had immense contribution to the literary growth and social development of the state.

The valedictory session was chaired by Gopal Krushna Rath where Jayant Mohapatra, the internationally reputed English poet and Prafulla Mohanty, well-known Odia writer were present. Jayant Mohapatra, remarked that writers are born and seldom are made Laxmidhar Nayak is one such writer who motivated him. The vote of thanks was proposed by Jibanananda Adhikary.



K. Sreenivasarao delivering welcome address. Haraprasad Das, Pratibha Ray, Kamala Kanta Mohanty and others



## Seminar

### New Harvest of Odia Literature

Sahitya Akademi organised a seminar on 'New Harvest of Odia Literature' in collaboration with Fakirmohan Sahitya Parisad on 8 November 2013 at Balasore Rotary Bhawan, Balasore.

At the outset Goutam Pal, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern region introduced the guests.

While inaugurating the seminar, veteran poet Brajanath Rath said that different writers have different voices. Even time has a voice. But it is important to search unity in diversity. Eminent writer and Convenor of Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi Gourahari Das delivered the introductory address. He stated that the gifted young writers have set glittering examples all over the world. If the trend is also reflected Odia literature, will be prosperous by the young writers' prolific output.

Arabinda Giri who presented the keynote address said that despite several hurdles, the young generation has caught hold of its commitment. Presiding over the session Rabinarayan Dash, President of Fakirmohan Sahitya Parisad said that literature is the alphabet of life.

In the first session, the chairperson was Bijayananda Singh, well-known writer and President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Dillip Swain presented his paper on modern poetry while Subhasri Lenka presented her paper on novels by the young writers. Anjan Chand dealt with the literature of translation by the new writers.

The second session was chaired by Sairindhri Sahu. Laxmikant Tripathy presented his paper on humour in Odia literature while Kabita Barik dealt with the modern stories. Sridev presented his paper on the scope for literature while Hemendra Mohapatra on existing situation of Odia drama.

The concluding session of the day was chaired by noted Odia writer Gopalkrushna Rath. Prallad Charan Mohanty, the chief guest, presented a panoramic view of Odia literature. Banoj Tripathy, the guest of honour of the valedictory session said that more and more such programme should be organized which would prepare platform for young writers. Biplab Kumar Mohanty, Vice President of Fakirmohan Sahitya Parisad proposed the vote of thanks.

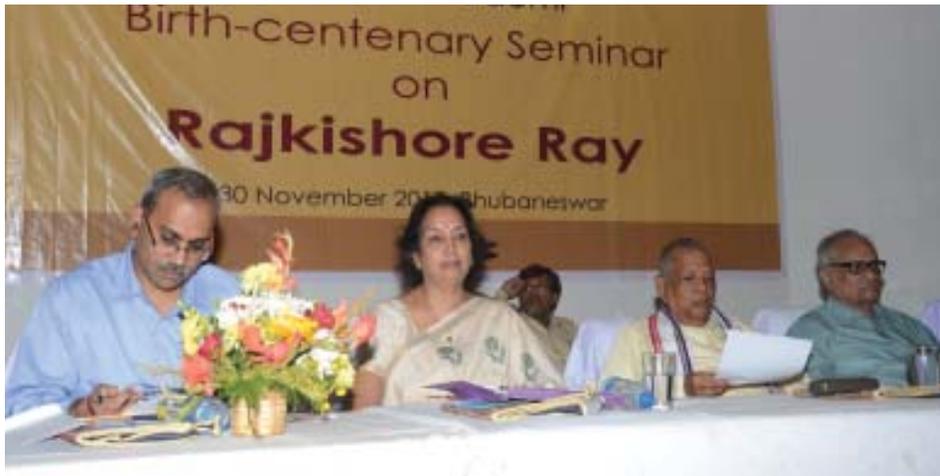
## Loka: the Many Voices

### In Srijan Utsav



Sahitya Akademi collaborated with the organizing committee of Srijan Utsav, a popular three-day festival of Indian performing art while celebrating the occasion from 17 November to 19 November 2013 at Srijanbhumi, Purulia. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary organized by Purulia Sanskriti Kendra.

In the 'Loka: the Many Voices' programme two troupes of Assam took part. The first troupe performed various types of Bodo dances including Bagurumba, Bardwisikhla, Kherai, and the other has done Sunuwal Kosari Bihu and Hogra. These dances have been greatly acclaimed by spectators. Evidently, the festival has successfully been able to present the significant essence of cultural Indianness. Besides the above mentioned programmes, there were a good number of event like Bangla Band (*Aakbar* and *Gabek*) from Kolkata, Chou dances, Rangali Bihu, Jhumur, Kirtan, Nachninch, Dairnach, wedding songs of the Muslims, folk songs, Tagore songs and the like. On the second day of the fair, a book of short stories by Saikat Rakshit, *Maraikol*, was released by Anil Saikia, principal Moran College, Assam. The festival ended on 19 November 2013.



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Malabika Ray, Janaki Ballav Pattnaik and Bibhuti Pattanaik

## Birth Centenary Seminar

## Rajkishore Ray

Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on eminent Odia litterateur Rajkishore Ray on 30 November 2013 at Bhubaneswar. Sri Janaki Ballav Pattnaik, the Honourable Governor of Assam inaugurated the seminar at IDCOL Auditorium

Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address opined that Rajkishore penned most of his stories against social evils like poverty and superstitions. His striking themes have given him the status of a doyen of Odia Literature. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, gave a brief introduction on late Rajkishore Ray. He said that Rajkishore's journey in literature started in 1935 from a piece of poem entitled "Deepali". Afterwards, his attention was shifted to stories. Right from romanticism to social reality his literature-journey was commendable. He touched all the facets of life. He was ahead of his time and could foresee the future.

In his inaugural speech, Sri J. B. Pattnaik depicted Rajkishore as an artist of both literature and music. He exhorted the writers to portray and reflect the reality of the society in their literary works. Such works would remain

masterpieces. Sri Pattnaik further gave a call to the writers to write down the success stories of the common men, who won the battle of life.

Malabika Ray, daughter of late Rajkishore Ray, in her key note address mentioned that till the last breath of his life he dictated pieces of literature, and matters for columns for newspapers, displaying his remarkable creative energy.

Bibhuti Pattanaik the, eminent Odia novelist and story writer, presided over the function. In his presidential address,

he briefly analyzed the masterpieces of Rajkishore *Nila Lahari*, *Vana Jyotna*, *Asbok Chakra* and *Jeevan Sangeet*.

In the first session, Adhyapak Biswaranjan, Asit Mohanty, Kapileswar Gahan and Kishore Chandra Das presented papers and discussed the life and literature of Rajkishore. Mohapatra Nilamani Sahoo, eminent story writer of Odisha chaired the session.

Noted essayist and critic Dasarathi Das chaired the second session. Bijay Kumar Nanda, Sabita Pradhan and Pramod Kumar Parida presented papers that highlighted multifaceted talent of Rajkishore Ray. Saabitha Pradhan discussed the craftsmanship in Rajkishore's works.

Malabika described him a genius who could bring synthesis of literature, music, acting all at a time. Bibhuti Pattanaik discussed his romantic thoughts, realistic approach, unique language style sensitivity of subjects.

In the valedictory session, Shantanu Kumar Acharya, eminent Odia writer, depicted Rajkishore as the hero of his time. He tried to bring the renaissance through his literary works. Jatindra Kumar Nayak chaired the session and Banoj Tripathy proposed the vote of thanks.

## Kavisandhi

## Hirendra Nath Dutta



Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme with Hirendra Nath Dutta, eminent Assamese poet in collaboration with Seuji-Seuji, an Assamese literary organization on 30 November 2013 at Nalbari, Assam.

Karabi Deka Hazarika introduced the poet to the audience. Poet and novelist Pankaj Gobinda Medhi interacted with Hirendra Nath Dutta before Hirendra Nath Dutta recited his poems. In the conversation Hirendra Nath Dutta disclosed his entry to the world of poetry as well as his inspirations in the childhood days to write poetry. Hirendra Nath Dutta recited some of his selected poems on demand on the occasion.



## Poets' Meet Assamese Poets

Sahitya Akademi organized a Poets' Meet on 30 November 2013 at Dakshin Kamrup College, Mirza, District Kamrup (Rural), Assam, in collaboration with *Mabekia Kobita*, a magazine on poetry published from Mirza, Assam. The Meet was chaired by Karabi Deka Hajarika, eminent poet and Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Assamese poet Anis Uz Zaman inaugurated the programme. Sri Zaman in his speech expressed his valuable observations on poetry and said that poetry not only sows seeds but also give birth to trees and blooms spreading the fragrance of the flowers. In his welcome speech, M. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Member, Assamese Advisory Board, threw light on the characteristics of modern poetry.

M. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Satyakam Borthakur, Naren Majumdar and Paresh Kalita were the other dignitaries who were on the dais. The meeting started



L-R: Satyakam Borthakur, Anis Uz Zaman, Karabi Deka Hajarika and M. Kamaluddin Ahmed

with a song entitled "Mor eketi surot banheeti bandha" composed by Lakshminath Bezbaroa.

The invited poets who graced the occasion were Lutfu Hanum Chelima Begam, Archana Puzari, Deboprasad Talukdar, Rajib Phukan, Pankaj Gobinda

Medhi, Pranjit Bora, Satyakam Barthakur, Bijoy Sankar Barman, Nibedan Das Patowary and Barnali Borgohain. Each of the poets read out two of their poems in this occasion.

The meet ended with a vote of thanks from Jagannath Barman.

## Translation Workshop Manipuri to Bengali



Sahitya Akademi organised a translation workshop from 21 to 23 November 2013 at Imphal to improve the

translation of the Akademi award-winning collection of poems *Idonightbou*, by Memchoubi Devi, one of the leading poets from Manipur from original Manipuri to Bengali.

Sumanta Mukhopadhyay participated in the workshop as an expert to look into the Bengali translation, especially poems, along with Aveek Majumder to rework on the translations with the help of the poet herself.

On the first day, poet herself raised issues on rhyme

scheme, rhythm, and usage of language in her poetry. The teams successfully prepared final drafts of several poems. The poet deciphered some of enigmatic moments in her poems and intimated about the strong mythological undertone in them. The workshop got even more condensed and the sessions became much creative as the days gone by.

The team observed that the poems were so closely related to local histories, politics, protests, mythologies and mundane beliefs of the land that it was impossible to make a comprehensive translation without a proper note. Thus the team visited some of the places nearby, like Kangla Fort, a village where the poet was brought up, and a shrine, where mythology touched the history. The poet and the expert in Manipuri language explained how all these were related to the text.

## Meet the Author

### Nirupama Borgohain Assamese Writer

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Meet the Author' programme with a noted Assamese writer Nirupama Borgohain in collaboration with Asam Sahitya Sabha and All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association at Guwahati.

Nirupama Borgohain is adept at positing the realistic facts of life in an elegant, and artistic manner. A veritable gallery of widely diversified people congregates in her literary works – the peasants, the deprived, humiliated, complex middle-class society and revolutionaries who would transform the world.

Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convenor of Assamese Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi chaired the programme. Namita Deka introduced the author to the audience. The author



read out some of her works and explained their origins. Nirupama Borgohain is one of the most notable female novelists of Assam. Her first novel was *Hei Nodi Niravadhi* (1963). It was set on life of a female protagonist. Her novel *Abhijatri* (1995) was based on the life of Chandraprabha Saikiani.

## People and Books

### Mahim Bora

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'People and Books' programme with Padmashree Mahim Bora on 29 November 2013 at Nagaon Tourist Lodge Conference Hall in Assam.

Satyakam Borthakur welcomed the audience and also introduced the author. Karabi Deka Hazarika, presented her perspectives on the stylistic brilliance of the author. It was followed by readings from the writings of Mahim Bora. His poem "Balichar" was read out by the writer himself and "Rangajinya" by Utpala Handique and then an excerpt from the short story "Top" by K. Goswami. After reading, there was an interaction of the audience with the author.

Mahim Bora, in his characteristic good sense or humour, answered all questions with equal attention and interest and also to the satisfaction of his readers. According to him, life-long teaching was not at conflict with his creative endeavours. He took about 10 years to finish his "Kathanibarir Ghat" (The River port or Kathanibari), his most famous short story. In spite of its huge popularity and critical acclaim, "Kathanibarir Ghat" is not his personal favourite. For him, the short story "Chakrabat", which

is based on the Sanskrit maxim — Life is like a wheel, ups and downs, sorrow and happiness – is his best work. He termed his life as a never ending chase of dreams as metaphorically represented by the (symbol) fish found everywhere in his oeuvre. Overall, he was happy with the recognition and appreciation of his works by both readers and critics. Still he wished to see that his non-fictional prose works and children's literature get a bit of promotion and attention. At the end he mentioned few of his poems like "Bhorolu paror Abeli", "Ranga Jinya", which, he felt, captured the essence of his life's philosophy.



L-R: Karabi Deka Hazarika and Mahim Bora



## Agartala Folk Festival - 2013

North-East Centre for Oral Literature (NECOL), Agartala, of Sahitya Akademi organised a Folk Festival from 7 to 8 October 2013.

The inaugural session was presided over by Chandrakanta Murasingh. Bhanulal Saha, Minister for Higher Education, Information and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Tripura, was the chief guest who inaugurated the Festival. Niranjana Chakma was the guest of honour and Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay extended welcome to all present and gave an outline of the works done and undertaken by the Centre. She stated how the concept of folk-festival, comprising all North-Eastern states, was originally forwarded by Mamang Dai and supported by Temsula Ao and Mrinal Miri. Later the idea was modified into state-wise festivals of performance-based presentation of various folk items. Anil Sarkar, former Minister of Higher Education, proposed for this Agartala Folk Festival. Debasish Reang and troupe presented a performance of Hozagiri dance strengthening such festival as it marks the revival of such folk-forms which serve as the life-giving streams to our culture. Niranjana Chakma, Akademi's Bhasa-Samman awardee spoke about the wide cultural variety and heritage of the state and also outlined the salient features of Chakma cultural forms. He referred to folk-forms like 'Gengkhuli' songs which stand on the verge of extinction due to lack of practice. Sri Murasingh, another Akademi's Bhasa-Samman awardee indicated the necessity of performance-based presentation for cultural expressions of different ethnic groups. Sri Murasingh also emphasized on the necessity for proper preservation of the forms, which otherwise get distorted with time.



*Hon'ble Minister Higher Education & ICAT Sri Bhanulal Saha inaugurating the festival. Chandra Kanta Murasingh, Niranjana Chakma, Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay and Srimanta Kumar Bhattachariya are seen*

In the first performance session, Nanda Kumar Debbarma made a survey of 'Jadu Kalija' the traditional songs of Tripura and the patriotic and modern songs in Kokborok. Sri Debbarma insisted upon the necessity of preserving the authentic and standard forms of the 'Jaduni' songs with the help of notation and codifications through application of proper theoretical training. He demonstrated two prominent 'Ragini's of 'Jaduni' songs-the Uttara and the Dakshini-analyzing their authentic forms in terms of classical music.

Then Kokborok Dance Academy presented Garia dance. Sri Murasingh in his comments elaborated the meaning of composition; occasion, background of Jum cultivation and also the ritualistic suggestions behind the dance and music. The second session on second day started with performance by Symphony Cultural Team presenting Garia Dance and Wedding Songs. Hemanta Jamatia gave

elaborate interpretation of the context, and also indicated different variations that existed in the form as practiced by different ethnic groups.

The second presentation of the day was from Helenjoy Reang & Troupe of Hozagiri dance. Umashankar Chakraborti commented and elaborated on the form. Indicating the season, time and occasion of the form, Dr. Chakraborti interpreted the use of compositions and postures, use of steps and colours. He drew parallels with the classical dance forms and established that the folk performances are the root of classical forms. The third presentation of the day was from Nelsi Para Cultural Team on Bongcher Jum dance and songs. Zohming Thanga Bongcher interpreted and commented on the form in a very lucid language and talked about the cultural significance of the form.

The third session started with Chakma songs and dance, particularly

performed on the occasion of Biju festival; the presentation was made by Jummabi Chakma Cultural Organization. Niranjana Chakma introduced and commented on the performance. He talked about the different forms, the instruments, costume, ornaments, and also elaborated postures and variations in rhythm.

The performance was followed by a performance of Mamita dance by Garia Hukumu Bodol. The spirit of joy and spontaneity was very well interpreted by Ajita Tripura. She excellently elaborated and interpreted the dance form. The next presentation in the session was the famous 'Bamboo Dance' by Darlong Students' Union. Hazring Darlong interpreted and commented on the form. Lilly Par Hrangkhawl commented and elaborated upon the Hrangkhawl dance and songs presented by Hrangkhawl troupe. The pathos and simplicity in the songs were discussed in great detail.

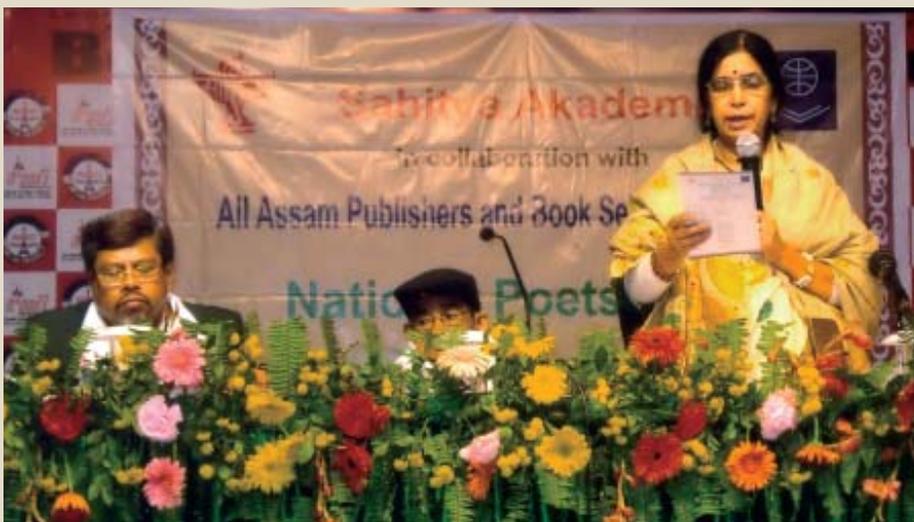
The next performance of the session was by Krairi Mog Choudhury. She made exquisite presentation of the different forms like Kapyra, Byasa and Radu through her performance-presentations.

The last performance of the session was Molsom dance presented by Swarna Kumar Molsom and troupe. Umashankar Chakraborti elaborated and commented on the form.

The fourth session of the concluding day started with Garo dance presented by Subhas Marak and Troupe. Umashankar Chakraborti gave the interpretation while drawing attention to the 'dramatization' of the form. He explained the legends, mythology and beliefs on which the dance form evolved gradually. The fourth session closed with Mog dance presented by Sangraing Academy. Thailow Mog from Sabroom explained the background, time and occasion of the performance. Costumes,

## Poets' Meet

### Poets Representing Ten Indian Languages



L-R: Gautam Paul, Hirendranath Dutta and Karabi Deka Hazarika

Sahitya Akademi organised a National Poets' Meet in collaboration with All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association at Guwahati on 28 December 2013.

The programme was inaugurated by eminent Assamese writer Hirendranath Dutta and chaired by Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In their speeches, the multilingual aspect of the Meet was highlighted. Ten poets representing 10 Indian languages, from different parts of the nation participated in the meet.

The participants included Aziz Hajini (Kashmiri), Gyalpo Lama (Nepali), Nityananda Nayak (Odia), Pratyus Guleri, Ravi Subramanyan (Tamil), Jadumani Besra (Santali), I.S.Kangjam (Manipuri), Budhinath Mishra (Maithili), Chinmoy Kumar Das (Bengali), Lakkhahira Das (Assamese), Nilim Kumar (Assamese) and Soubhagyabanta Maharana (Odia). Anil Kumar Boro, noted Bodo writer and former Convener of Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

ornaments and the umbrellas used in the performance were explained with their meaning. He also commented on the compositions and postures explaining their significance in the socio-cultural context of the form.

In the valedictory and concluding session of the festival, Saroj Chaudhuri summed up the various presentations indicating how they formed the total cultural gamut of the land. He emphasized the significance of such

festivals as a means for semiotic approach towards understanding and appreciating the various folk art forms. He was of the opinion that the conventional aesthetics was far from adequate understanding of oral and folk forms of art. In the search for a new aesthetics, folk-art forms need to be viewed in their totality as presented in such festivals. The Director, NECOL gave the vote of thanks and this colourful folk festival came to a close.



## National Seminar Devotion and Poetry

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Thunchan Memorial Trust, Tirur organized a seminar on 'Devotion and Poetry' on 12 and 13 October 2013. K.P. Ramanunni, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board welcomed the speakers and the gathering in the inaugural session on 12 October 2013.

C. Radhakrishnan, Convenor, Advisory Board for Malayalam, who presided over the session said, "The reasons for all the miseries in the world are due to fear." He quoted from *Harinamakeerthanam* and explained that 'when everything becomes "One" the result is happiness; and fear disappears. Vedhantha Dharsana does not bother about caste or creed.' He quoted

from *Sankara* and *Gita* and said that what is one cannot be separated. He also hoped that the seminar would throw a new light on Bhakti. Purushotham Agarwal, who inaugurated the session, spoke on "Kabir and Tulasi Das - Philosophy and Poetry." He said that Kabir and Tulasi Das understood themselves and found their path to God. No other poet than Tulasi Das spoke so elaborately about the miseries of others. Satchidanandan's extensively quoted paper "Dynamics of Bhakti - Social and Aesthetic," on the great bhakti poets of India, observed the Bhakti movement as a movement where voices were raised against supremacy. He quoted from Alvars, Nayanmars, Kabir, Tulasi Das, Narayana Guru and Meera.

The topic of the second session was 'The North Indian Streams.' Vidyanand Jha presided over the session and spoke on "Tradition of Vidyapati and Jayadev." He said "Bhakti would assume a new dimension only when it reaches an interactive level." He quoted examples



L-R: K.P. Ramanunni, K. Satchidanandan, Purushotham Agarwal and C. Radhakrishnan

from the interactions between Radha - Krishna and Siva - Parvathi. He also said that Vidyapati did not write in Sanskrit, he wrote in Maithili language so that message could reach common people easily. Jayadev tried to reach God through 'innocent' love and devotion. He also said, "Presenting devotional song etc, with modern musical equipments is not a new style. Even in olden days people experimented like this and spread the message of Bhakti." Satis Badwe dealt with the subject "Devotional Poetry in Marathi." He said that Marathi poems stood for equality. It included social objectives and was not self centred. The Marathi Bhakti movement though started through Dalits, it never criticized Brahmins. Upliftment of common

people was the main aim of Marathi Bhakti poets.

The third session dwelt on the general topic 'Bhakti Poetry in South India.' The session was presided by Avvai Natarajan who spoke on the "Dissent and Protest in Tamil Bhakti Poetry." N. Guru Prasad

Rao's topic was "Social Contest of Telugu Bhakti Literature." He quoted from many Telugu Bhakti literatures and explained certain concepts in detail like *Shravanam* (Hearing), *Keerthanam* (singing) *Padasevam* (serving), *Sakyam* (togetherness) *Archavam* (chanting) and *Atmanivedam* (self sacrifice). Nataraj Huliyaar dealt with the topic "Social Contest of Kannada Bhakti Literature." Quoting from various Kannada

literatures, he said that the important feature of Bhakti was inner purification. He also talked about a girl named Kanaka in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, who was in Udupi, and her contribution towards Bhakti movement. He also pointed out that Manteswami and Male Madeshwara introduced another movement in Kannada in 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The topic of the third session was 'Bhakti Literature in Malayalam.' Presiding over the session, Chathnath Achuthanunni said that Bhakti was not simply devotion; it should be viewed from the society's perspective. He also explained in detail how Bhakti became temple oriented and how Brahmin supremacy came into existence.

N.V.P Unithiri spoke on "Social



Relevance of Poonthanam.” He said that Poonthanam was a creation of time. He criticized the person who was after power. However, though he accepted the rulers of his time and obeyed them, he never hesitated to raise his voice for the poor. He made Bhakti a common man’s movement.

“Cherusseri and Melpathur” was the subject of discussion for N. Ajaya Kumar. He explained the aspects of agreement and disagreements between the two writers. He quoted from *Krishna Gadha* and *Narayaniyam* and explained how worldly life and scholarly life appeared in their work. “If we study their work in detail, we can understand that they concentrated not only in Bhakti but also stood against social injustice,” he said. P Venugopalan spoke on “Ezhuthachan and the Ithihasa Purana Tradition.” He explained the role played by Ezhuthachan to take Bhakti into the hearts of common people.

Kaladharan spoke on “Manifestation

of Bhakti in Visual and Verbal Arts.” He said that Bhakti came into visual arts through Ramanattam. There the devotion and enjoyment became one. Later Ramanattam became Kathakali.

He also said that Koothu and Koodiyattam questioned the inequalities and injustice prevailed in the society. Unfortunately no effort was made to popularize and improve the music in Koodiyattam and Koothu. The music in them were and even now treated as a ritual art only.

‘Bhakti Literature in Malayalam’ was the topic of the fourth session. M.R. Raghava Varier who presided over the session said that when language entered Bhakti for exchange of views, many interpretations gave birth to pleasant as well as unpleasant situations. Scaria Zakaria spoke on the “Bible Bhakti Literature in Malayalam.”

P. Pavithran’s spoke on “Sree Narayana Guru and His Contemporaries.” He explained in detail

the changes that happened in Bhakti movement. “Narayana Guru used Bhakti to bring changes in the society even those who are against or outside a particular religion they can also be in the same religion, as Guru used to say. Not only that, the writings of Guru was for everyone. Guru’s self was such that it always identified with the society,” he said.

“Bhakti and Poetry - the Aftermath” was the subject for M. Krishnan Namboothiri. He explained how Bhakti played its role in contemporary poems. He quoted from Balamani Amma, V.K. Govindan Nair, Sugathakumari, Prabha Varma, Yusafali Kecheri etc.

Shamsad Hussain spoke on “Bhakti in Arabi Malayalam.” She quoted from various Arabic poems and folk songs and explained that through the songs and poems society as well as the supremacy of religion and the prevailing unhealthy practices were criticised without any fear in a humorous way.

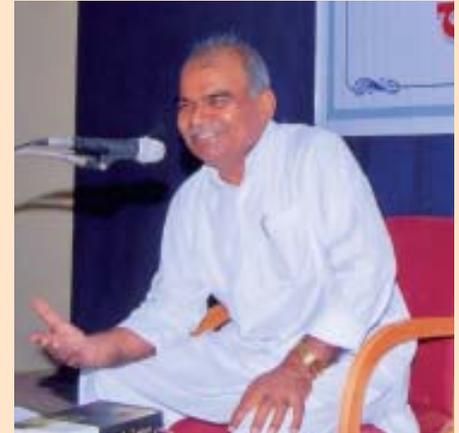
## Kavisandhi

### S.G. Siddaramaiah, Kannada Poet

S.G. Siddaramaiah gave a brief recourse of his life before reading out his poems. He is the first literate of his generation and his community members had to face lot of oppression and humiliation inflicted upon them by the upper class. His childhood miseries had lot of bearing in his writings.

Sri Siddaramaiah is known as ‘desi barahagara’ writer. His writings reflect the surroundings of his village and the unique, usage of language and narrative techniques. He claims that he hails from the culture of soil and toil and he is proud about it. He admitted that he was largely influenced by Vachana Sahitya. Sri Siddaramaiah who is an award winner of Karnataka Sahitya Academy has several books to his credit like *Kaduva Beli Hoovu*, *Avaledya Jangamas* and *Sollu Phalavaghi* etc.

Sri Siddaramaiah who served as a Principal in various Government colleges read out a few poems: “Avaledya Jangama”, “Matte Kaadu”, “Nudimolle”, “Amrutamathi”, “Talemaaru”, “Hasthamasthakayoga”, “Nadiyaguvudu”, “Manemaaru” and “Bhagadi.” These poems were very much enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.





## Seminar

# Literary Trends in Tamil Novels

The Tamil novels exposed the follies and foibles of the society. At the same time tried to reform the society. The novels widened the habit of reading and grasping of subjects. Tamil novels made many changes in the society in remarkable ways. The seminar covered the entire gamut of novel literature in Tamil right from its first novel *Prataba Mudaliyar Charitiram* by Mayuram Vedhanayagam Pillai up to the modern Tamil novels by Bama, Perumal Murugan, Singaram, Konangi, Malarvathi etc.

Sahitya Akademi organized a two day seminar on 'Literary Trends in Tamil Novels' on 23 and 24 October 2013 in collaboration with Tamil University at Thanjavur. A.S. Illangovan, Officer in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai welcomed the gathering. K. Kamaraj, eminent Tamil critic and Member, Sahitya Akademi General Council delivered the introductory address. He mentioned that novels widened the reading habit and grasping of subjects among Tamil people. Novels exposed the follies of the society and at the same time reformed as well. Thilagavathy, well-known fiction writer delivered the felicitation speech. She pointed out that Tamil novels started off with social histories and evolved gradually to deal with various themes from marginal, regional and subaltern studies. K. Nachimuthu, Convenor, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi who delivered the presidential address said that the early Tamil novels concentrated

on family life and the issues of society became a theme later. Reiterating the opinion of Dr. Sivathamb, veteran Tamil critic from Sri Lanka, Dr. Nachimuthu said that a good novel should give a new kind of experience to its readers. M. Thirumalai, Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University was the chief guest who emphasized that the novels had brought about many changes in the society in a remarkable way. Sirpi Balasubramaniam, who delivered the special address, lamented on the craze for English medium education among us which could be the reason of a decrease in readership of Tamil fiction. Tracking the development of Tamil culture and literature, Dr. Sirpi said that from tribal society, kingdoms evolved during the Sangam Age. The values of the Sangam Age were changed into domains of higher echelons. Vedic religion, Jainism and Buddhism tried to bring in equality. Citing some examples,



*Sirpi Balasubramaniam delivering special address. L-R: R. Kamaraj, A.S. Illangovan, Thirumalai, Nachimuthu and others*



he said that, *Tirukkural*, the first great literature which advocated equality among men and *Prataba Mudaliyar Charitiram* by Mayuram Vedhanayagam Pillai was the first novel in the Tamil language. Modern novelists like Singaram, Konangi, Malarvathi and others have produced wonderful novels, Dr. Sirpi concluded.

The first session was chaired by Arasu. He informed that the Sangam literature described the life of subalterns which could be seen in modern novels. Hameem Musthapa presented an analysis of the novel *Marupakkam* which dealt with caste conflicts. Documentation of history, culture and ethnography in Tamil novels were also discussed by the speakers.

The next session was chaired by Rama Gurunathan. He presented a thought provoking analysis of space and existence of women. Padmavathy Vivekenandan spoke on the novel *Karukku* by well-known Dalit writer Bama. Sethupathi discussed the novel *Thuppkari* which dealt with the plight of the life of a sweeper and the odds in her career.

The third session was presided over by Vivekanandhan. She gave a classification of subaltern literature in Tamil novels from colonial, national and Marxist approaches. Murugesapandian concentrated on *Koola Madhari*, a novel by Perumal Murugan whereas

Chandranathan spoke on the novel *Thol* by D Selvaraj.

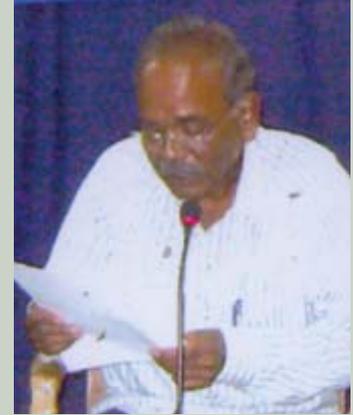
The next session on “Resurgence of Eco Literature” was chaired by B Madhivanan. He quoted the opinion of K. Sivathambi that ‘*Kambaramayanam* has all the essential features of classical literature, but *Silapadikaram* is better than that as a “classical epic.” He spoke on the contrast between Westernism and Modernism. A. Gunasekaran read a paper on *Sozbagar Thoddi*, a novel that dealt with hill tribes and reflected the ‘Kurinji Thinai’ (life of hill tribes). Kasi Mariyappan discussed the novel *Korkai* which talked about life in sea and sea-coast. Arivuruvon spoke about the novel *Thandavam* by Solai Sundaraperumal which dealt with fertile paddy cultivation and farmer’s life.

The last session was on “New Wave in Tradition and Modernism in Tamil Novels” which was chaired by K. Panjangam. P. Anandhkumar and P. Ravikumar discussed the novels of Tamizhavan and Ramakrishnan respectively. The valedictory session was chaired by Se. Ganeshram, Registrar, Tamil University. Prabanjan, veteran Tamil fiction writer delivered the valedictory address. Even if cinema, T.V. and other media today advanced well, the books would always occupy an important place in the society, he said.

## Kathasandhi

### Chilukuri Devaputra

Telugu writer



A ‘Kathasandhi’ programme was organized by Sahitya Akademi on 28 October 2013 in C.P. Brown Research Centre for Languages with Chilukuri Devaputra, a prolific fiction writer. Rachapalem Chandrasekhara Reddy, Member, Telugu Advisory Board introduced the fiction writer Chilukuri Devaputra and briefed about his personality and works. Afterwards, Sri Devaputra presented his story ‘*Chivari Manushulu*’ (Last human beings). This story depicted the fate of native languages in general and Telugu in particular, and how Telugu language was discouraged and looked down upon for past two decades in the state. Particularly, the story satirised the corporate sector in the present education system for encouraging English as the medium of education. After the presentation, scholars participated in an interactive discussion.



Thrimulai delivering his speech in one of the sessions



## Symposium

### Centenary of Kaloji Narayana Rao

Sahitya Akademi and the Department of Telugu, Osmania University, Hyderabad, jointly organized a symposium on the Centenary of Kaloji Narayana Rao 9 October 2013 at Seminar Hall, Arts College, Tarnaka, Osmania University.



The symposium was inaugurated by the chief guest of the event, S. Satyanarayana, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University under the Chairpersonship of N. Gopi, Convenor, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. K. Srinivas, Editor, *Andhra Jyoti* delivered the keynote address with thought provoking observations on Telugu literature in general and on Kaloji Narayana Rao in particular. S. Mallesh, Principal, Arts College, Osmania University and C. Mrunalini, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi were the guests of honour in the inaugural session, which was welcomed by S.P. Mahalingeshwar, officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

The first session was chaired by M. Chennappa. R. Chandrasekhar Reddy, Yendluri Sudhakar and Jyotsna Prabha presented well-researched papers on Kaloji. The second session was chaired by M. Bagaiah, Professor, Telugu Department, Osmania University Katyayani Vidmahe, N. Sidda Reddy, Banna Ilaiah, T. Malla Reddy presented papers and informed the gathering about Kaloji's works. The third session was chaired by V. Nityananda Rao, in which the eminent film director B. Narsinga Rao, and famous Telugu lyricist Andesri were the guests of honour. Sunkireddy Narayana Reddy, Naleshwaram Shankaram also presented papers and threw light on the life and works of Kaloji.

S.V. Satyanarayana, Head, Dept. of Telugu, Osmania University and General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.



Katyayani Vidmahe delivering her speech

## Literary Forum

### Media and Literature

Media is expected to create general awareness to guard the society as literature does

A 'Literary Forum' on "Media and Literature" was organized by Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru in association with Akshaya Magazine and Dept. of Kannada, Mumbai University at Billavara Association, Santa Cruz, Mumbai. B.A. Sanadi who inaugurated the meet stressed the importance of media in contemporary society.

Narahalli Balasubramanya delivered the keynote address and said, "corruption rules over system and media became victim of it." Further, he said that both religion and politics are full of corruption in our country. The media is expected to create general awareness to guard the society against political and religious fanaticism. It is an irony that the politics is suppressing the freedom of journalism while the politicians are maintaining their self interests in the guise of favouring some media houses. This is unfortunate and regressive for the society.

Guru Lingappa Dabale, Arjun Golasangi, G.N. Upadhya, Tukaram Poojary, Jokatte Srinivas, Dayasagar Chauta and a host of other dignitaries participated in the forum and discussed on the role of media and literature in the changing times.



## Centenary Seminar

# Krishnamurthy Puranik



The renowned fiction writer Krishnamurthy Puranik wrote more than eighty novels in his lifetime and most of his novels were inspired by real life incidents. Almost fifteen of his novels were made into cinema. Puranik was a remarkable poet and playwright

Sahitya Akademi, Regional office, Bengaluru organised a one-day centenary seminar on Krishnamurthy Puranik in association with Rotary Club, Gokak on 6 November 2013 at Mangaladevi Tamvasi Auditorium, Rotary Club, Gokak.

In the inaugural session, Arjuna Golasangi, Member, Kannada Advisory Board delivered the introductory address. Mallikarjuna Kalloli, Chairman, Rotary Blood Bank, Gokak and Anand Puranik, son of Krishnamurthy Puranik were the guests of the occasion.

Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi presided over the inaugural session. In his inaugural speech, Dr. Kambar said that Krishnamurthy Puranik's writings are an everlasting truth. He was a great man who upheld the writing and teaching career at a prodigious level. As a novelist, short story writer and playwright he had written nearly 100 books and contributed enormously for the Kannada literary world as a creative writer.

As a teacher of English and Sanskrit language, Sri Puranik contributed a lot as a translator translating from Sanskrit into Kannada.

Anand Puranik, son of Krishnamurthy Puranik, chaired session. He gave a biographical reading of his father.

The first session was presided over

by C.K. Navalagi. Y.M. Bhajantri delineated "the social aspects of Krishnamurthy Puranik's novels" and the dalit sensibilities portrayed in the novel *Sanadi Appanna*. The second session was chaired by Vijay Kumar Katagihallimath and Gurupad Mariguddi spoke on the topic "Women's Role in Puranik's Novels." Dr. Prakash Deshpande presided over the third session. H.D. Kolkara presented a paper on "Puranik's Poetry and Short Fiction." Fourth session was chaired by Y.B. Himmadi in which T.S. Chougale spoke on the topic "Puranik's Lyrical Plays." Poems were read out at the end after the presentation of the papers.

Raghavendra Patil presided over the valedictory session. Sarjoo Katkar delivered the valedictory speech. Satish Nadagouda, President, Rotary Club, Gokak was the guest of the occasion. Sri Katkar in his valedictory address said that Krishnamurthy Puranik was one of the powerful writers who created a unique readership. Narasimhaiah and Puranik were the leading writers of the age. Puranik highlighted the snags of the middle class on one hand and also gave answers to those problems on other hand. His novels recorded the happenings of day-to-day life. Hence some of his novels were made into cinema.

Raghavendra Patil said that Krishnamurthy Puranik's writings need not require any critic to respond since it has had a direct response from the people. But some of his novels could be analyzed to know the changes in the society and that would give more justice or reverence to his writings. Krishnamurthy Puranik instilled a kind of sense that in spite of the chaos in the society, one must not forget the tradition we augment for the future generation, Dr. Patil observed.



Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi lighting the lamp Mallikarjuna Kalloli, Anand Puranik, Somashekhar Magadumba and others



## Centenary Seminar

### Rev. Prof. Thaninayaga Adigalar



Adigalar was a multifaceted personality as a clergy, humanist, traveller, polyglot, writer, educationist, journalist, critic, editor and language activist. He took the Tamil language and culture to the international forum. He is called the 'Roving Ambassador' of Tamil culture

Sahitya Akademi held a two day seminar on the Centenary celebration of Rev. Fr. Xavier Thaninayagam at St. Joseph College, Tiruchirappalli on 25 and 26 November 2013 in collaboration with Rev. Fr. Xavier Thaninayaga Adigalar Research Centre and St. Joseph's College. A.S. Ilangoan, Officer in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai welcomed the scholars and discerning readers. Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu called Adigalar a multifaceted personality as a clergy, humanist, traveller, a polyglot, a writer, educationist, a journalist, critic, editor and a language activist. He founded the Academy of Tamil Culture and a research journal called *Tamil Culture* which published the findings of researches on Tamil studies all over the world by scholars like M.B. Emeneau, T. Burrow, Kamil Zvelibil, Jean Fillozat, Semion Rudin, Suniti Kumar Chatterji, T.P. Meenakshisundaranar, V.I. Subramoniam, Arasaratnam and others. Apart from his absorbing travelogues he had published research works on Tamil education, culture, history and classical Tamil literature. His enduring contribution lies in taking Tamil studies and modern Indian studies to international universities.

He has also brought to light unknown early valuable and rare printed Tamil texts deposited in various libraries abroad. His critical appraisal of modern Tamil writing is also notable. His enduring contribution lies in his taking Tamil studies and modern Indian studies to international universities and fora. His standing as a clergy and his scholarship in many languages of international standard helped him to reach the Tamil studies to a wider international arena. He was the founding father of the International Association of Tamil Research which conducted regular international conference seminars of Tamil studies in Kuala Lumpur, Chennai, Paris, Jaffna, Mauritius and other places every two years. The founding of International Institute of Tamil Studies at Chennai and the Tamil University at Thanjavur and obtaining official recognition of Tamil as classical language by the Government of India were the outcome of his

vision and endeavours which later were the models for other Indian languages.

The first session of the seminar was chaired by Y. Subbarayalu, well-known Tamil scholar. He lauded the efforts of Adigalar in reviving the research interest in Tamil antiquity and culture. Mu. Ramasamy, a scholar in Tamil theatre presented his views on Adigalar's association with Tamil language and society. His global outlook shaped his affection towards Tamil society. His effort to globally unite the Tamils through the language was a great pioneering work. V. Arasu spoke on "Adigalar's Research Methodology." He mentioned that Adigalar analysed primary and secondary sources with extensive field study. He was thorough, flawless and dispassionate in his methods and findings. A. Antony Cruz presented a paper on "Adigalar's *Tirukkural* Studies." *Tirukkural* was one of the profound influences on Adigalar's life and literary outlook. The ethical outlook in *Tirukkural* is still guiding light to many refined intellectuals. Equality of mankind is indicated in *Tirukkural* and Adigalar concurred these ideals. His lectures on *Tirukkural* is a widely popular studies. Indira Manuel presented a paper on "Adigalar and Sangam Literature". She mentioned that "Landscape and Poetry" is the best research work of Adigalar. His work *Tamil Culture Civilisation - Readings: The Classical Period* discussed the importance of *Tolkapiyam*, Sangam poetry, *Silapadikaram*, *Manimekalai* and *Tirukkural*. He extensively analysed the role of nature in literature; and his studies on education during Sangam period and the role of poets, musicians and monks of Jainism and Buddhism deserve praise.

The second session was chaired by U. Rasu. Valan Arasu presented a paper on "Adigalar's Editions" and pointed out that Adigalar published the ancient works with competent editorial skills. B. Mathivanan presented a paper "Adigalar's Writings in Tamil." He dealt with Adigalar's contribution to Tamil culture quoting special references. U. Alibava presented a paper on "Adigalar's Perspectives on Sangam Literature and Personality." He



presented a detailed portrait of the Sangam period as seen and analysed by Adigalar.

The third session was chaired by K. Ramasamy, who exhorted the Tamil scholars to unite under the banner of International Association of Tamil Research. K. Thirumaran, well-known Tamil scholar presented a paper on "Adigalar's Research Journals." Adigalar started a Tamil journal named *Tamil Culture* in 1952. Mostly research papers were published in it besides publishing of book reviews, proceedings of Tamil associations and literary activities. Another important journal published by Adigalar was *Tamil Studies*. R. Kamarasu presented a paper on "Adigalar's Thoughts on Education." He extensively discussed Adigalar's work, *Educational Thought in Ancient Tamil Literature*. He developed a new school of thought named 'Comparative Education.' E. Soosai presented a thought provoking paper "Adigalar's *Tolkapiyam* Studies." Adigalar establishes that *Tolkapiyam* contains linguistic features and described the Tamil ethos in a beautiful style.

The fourth session was chaired by K.V. Balasubramaniam. He mentioned that Adigalar studied English, Latin, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German,

Greek and Hebrew literatures and took his research in a global way. Adigalar mingled with people of Hawaii Islands and saw that they wore flowers and leaves like Tamil people of Sangam age. He found out that *Thiruvembavai* was sung in festivals of Thailand. Japanese poetic tradition is similar to Tamil poetic tradition and Indonesians claim that they are related to Chola, Chera and Pandiya. Such facts were noted and analysed by Adigalar in his research works. R. Sambath presented a paper on "Adigalar's International Association of Tamil Research & Conferences" which were mainly conducted by International Association of Tamil Research. S. Albert spoke on "Rare Tamil Books Discovered by Adigalar" in museums in Europe. Rabi Singh also described Adigalar's contribution to the development of Tamil research.

The fifth session was chaired by S.S. Ramar Ilango. He mentioned that international Tamil organizations were conceived and shaped through the efforts of Adigalar. Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar presented a paper on "Adigalar's Comparative Studies" as he compared Greek and Latin poets to that of Sangam poets. He compared Thiruvalluvar's thoughts with Greek, Roman and

Buddhist ethics. He did a pioneering research in comparative literature. K. Nedunchezian commented on "Adigalar's Contribution to South Asian Studies". Since he lived in Malaysia and toured through South-East Asian countries extensively he produced valuable insights from his research and travelogues. Sam Vijay spoke on "Adigalar's Studies on Tamil Diaspora." He visited Reunion and places near South America where the Tamil migrants still cherished their Tamilian roots. Sri Vijay displayed pictures of Mauritius, Reunion and other places to explain his ideas regarding Adigalar and Tamil diaspora.

The valedictory session was chaired by P. Marudhanayagam, veteran Tamil scholar who mentioned that references in Solomon's songs in the Old Testament, echo Tamil references. Seneca, the great thinker mentioned Tiruvalluvar as one of the great philosophers. Marudhanayagam quoted many important ideas and ideals of Tamil achievement as put forth by Adigalar. S.V. Shanmugam, a well-known linguist presented Adigalar's techniques in literary appreciation. The seminar came to an end on a rich literary exchanges and interactive session.

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## Symposium

### Jayadevi Thayi Ligade



Jayadevi was a bilingual writer, wrote in Kannada and later in Marathi. She is known for her writings including her epic poetry *Siddarama Purana*. She was a champion of women's education and an important activist of the Karnataka unification movement. Born into the well-known Makade family of Solapur in Maharashtra, Jayadevi Thayi received primary education till class four in Marathi, a rare privilege for girls in those days. She became a bridge of friendship between the two languages taking the essence of Veerashaiva literature to Marathi readers



L-R: Narahalli Balasunramanya, B.A.Sanadi and G.N. Upadhya

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru in association with Department of Kannada, Mumbai University organized a centenary symposium on Jayadevi Thayi Ligade, an eminent Kannada writer and freedom activist of the last century.

S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer in-Charge welcomed the guests and audience and also gave a brief account

of Sahitya Akademi's activities. B.A. Sanadi, eminent Kannada poet lit the inaugural lamp and G.N. Upadhya, Member, Kannada Advisory Board gave his introductory remarks.

Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convenor, Kannada Advisory Board gave tribute to Jayadevi Thayi Ligade who fought for the cause of Kannada language in Sollapur. He made a

comparative study of Sri Ligade with other centenarians who wrote in Kannada such as S.V Parameshwara Bhatta.

Arjun Golasangi, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Janardhana Bhat, a well-known critic, Guru Lingappa Dabale, a scholar and Srinivas Jokatte, a popular journalist presented their papers on Ligade's contributions and the significance Jayadevi Thayi Ligade's literature.

## Literary Forum

### Contemporary Scenario of Malayalam Language and Literature

Sahitya Akademi and the Department of Malayalam of N S S College, Nilamel, Kollam had jointly organized a literary meet on 10 December 2013 in Seminar Hall of the college. Vijayan Pillai from the Department of Malayalam welcomed the guest and audiences. G. Thulaseedharan Pillai, Principal of the college presided over the function. K.S. Ravikumar, well-known Malayalam critic inaugurated the meet and spoke about the contemporary status and trends of Malayalam literature. He explained that Malayalam literature gave voice to the marginalised and voiceless people. C.R. Prasad explained with examples the peculiarities of contemporary Malayalam fiction. Sabu Kottukkal spoke about Malayalam poems of diverse kinds. The programme which was well attended by the students and teachers ended with an interactive session.



## Literary Forum

# Contemporary Malayalam Literature

A 'Literary Forum' on Contemporary Malayalam Literature was organised on 17 October 2013 in the seminar hall of Mahatma Gandhi College, Thiruvananthapuram by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. The meet was inaugurated by C. Radhakrishnan, the noted Malayalam writer and the Convenor of Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The discussion on contemporary facets of Malayalam literature was initiated by C.G. Rajendra Babu, B. Murali, and C.R. Prasad. Sudheer Kidangoor, Principal of the College chaired the function and Kumari. Veena welcomed the gathering.

Introducing the theme of the event, Sri Radhakrishnan said that the Indian tradition of aesthetics had identified *dwani* as the 'soul and spirit' of poetry. The most important factor is how far the art forms can soothe and calm us. In this sense, the *Mahabharata* is the best example as every one is distinct, hence perspectives will also be distinct but the epic tries to coordinate the diverse minds into a single idea and proposes a universal philosophy.

"Writers are supposed to realise the action of an earlier

generation and try to sharpen the weapon of our own arts," C. Radhakrishnan said. He also pointed out that in contemporary times, cinema is looking at the market strategies alone; it has transformed itself into a big commercial industry. Cinema does not reflect much the dynamics and dialects of social life but the real debate about the issues of life and society sometime takes place only with some films. Out of such films, many novels came out in Malayalam. The question is, how many of them withstood the time and space?

According to B. Murali, the noted Malayalam short story writer, writing transmits his ideas deep in to the minds of readers. Today Malayalam stories prefer to deviate from its stereotyped technicalities and enquire into the possibilities of taking up complex issues of life and simply convey it to the readers.

It is almost difficult to distinguish between reality and fantasy in modern Malayalam poetry, even the demarking lines of villages and cities fade out as evident in many poems. The noted critic, C.R. Prasad said that Malayalam poetry often testifies that writing is life. Malayalam poetry reflects the contemporary life in its total festivity. Sri Prasad concluded his discussion on Malayalam poetry by referring the poems of Manoj Kuroor and Niranjan. Saraswathy Antharjenam, Head of the Dept. of Malayalam gave the vote of thanks.



C.G. Rajendra Babu delivering his speech  
L-R: Sudheer Kidangoor, C. Radhakrishnan, B. Murali and C.R. Prasad



## M.P. Appan's Birth Centenary



One day symposium in connection with Mahakavi M.P. Appan's birth centenary celebration was organised by Sahitya Akademi at Kesari

Memorial Hall, Thiruvananthapuram on 18 October 2013. C.R. Prasad delivered the welcome speech.

C. Radhakrishnan, Convenor, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presided over the meeting. He mentioned the affluence and poetry in the individual, M.P. Appan. He also said that the Kerala Renaissance was well built upon the foundations of literature and artistic lineage of Appan. Kumaranasan, the poet rightly said that through the poems of Appan, we got to see 'Sree Narayana Darsanam.'

Prabha Varma, a well-known poet inaugurated the event. He observed that "the poems of Sri Appan are the fine examples of nationalist sentiment and in them we can see patriotism and reverence towards the motherland. His age expressed the values inherited from life style of Kerala when the Western sensibility started 'carper bombing' in our literary firmament. His poems are still relevant in the contemporary age when we are losing our traditional aesthetic values." M.P. Ayyappan, son of poet Sri Appan, gave a few anecdotes from his life to show the genuineness of Appan's life as well as in his poems.

The next session was chaired by M. Thomas Mathew, veteran Malayalam critic. Desamangalam Ramakrishnan who was also a Malayalam poet presented a paper, "Poet, Poetry & Poetic Language." Appan's optimism was an amalgamation of individual and collective endeavour, as observed by Sri Ramakrishnan. He was a master in

lyricism and through the imageries in his poems we see a strong vision along with genteel expressions.

"Didactic Elements in the Poetry of M.P. Appan" was the title of the paper presented by D. Benjamin. The sincerity of his poems revealed the disciplined life style of Appan. Values inherited from the Malayalam renaissance and the didactic elements of 'Modern Kavitharyam' influenced and enriched him as discussed by Sri Benjamin in the paper. The didactic elements in Appan's works recognise the life forces and stimulate the inner strength of oneself. George Onankkoor presided over the last sessions.

N Mukundan presented a paper on the style of the translation by M.P. Appan. His *Jeevitholsavam* is the best translation of Omar Khayyam in Malayalam. His style of translation retains the cultural aspects of the original text.

"Kavithayile Prasadathmakatha" is

the title of the paper presented by Viswamangalam Sundaresan where he observed that the optimism in Appan's poetry is the outcome of his own personality. Binding beauty and philosophy together, his poems look beyond future, albeit not escaping away from life but by immersing in the spirit of love for life.

"M.P. Appan's Kavyavyakthithwam," was the next paper presented by G. Padma Rao who remarked on the styles of Appan's poems and pointed out the simple and prophetic aspects as found in his poetry. His poetic mission was to emerge out as a moral force, based upon righteousness, morality and strength of ideas, against the vices in society as analysed by Sri Rao.

M.N. Rajan's paper was on "Appan's Kavyasambhavana." He talked about Appan's poetic vision which expressed the truth and showed light to many in the time of darkness.



C.R. Prasad delivering his speech  
L-R: M.P. Ayyappan, Prabha Varma and C. Radhakrishnan



Sophana Srichampa, Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow 2012 and scholar from Thailand visited Bengaluru and had interactions with the Indian writers, students and researchers at Bangalore University and later at Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Research Centre, Bengaluru

## Literary Interactions

## Sophana Srichampa

**29 October 2013** : 'Literary Interaction' with Sophana Srichampa from Mahidol University, Thailand and also the Akademi's Dr. Ananda Coomaraswamy Fellow was held on 29 October 2013 at Bangalore. Dr. Srichampa gave an elaborate lecture, with a captivating power point presentation, on the geography, politics, religion, culture, society, international relations, literacy, SEA writer's award, arts, paintings, literature and theatre activities of Thailand. The audience was overwhelmed to know about Thailand in such great detail.

The Coomaraswamy Fellow interacted with the eminent writers from Bengaluru like S. Carlos, R.G. Halli Nagaraj, Subbu Holeyar, M.R. Kamala, Abdul Majeed Khan, Jayashree Kambara, Sudhakaran Ramanthali, J. Kaval and a host of other writers.

**30 October 2013** : Three gatherings under the 'Literary Meet' programme were organized in Bangalore University with the visiting Anand Coomaraswamy Fellow, Sophana Srichampa. First meeting was with students and researchers at the Dept. of Economics. Dr. Srichampa made a power point present on ASEAN and Globalization which was followed by a lively interaction.

The second meeting was at the Gandhi Centre at Bangalore University. Director of the Centre, Jeevan Kumar and Nataraj Hulyar posed questions related to Gandhian philosophy to the visiting Fellow. She answered succinctly and spoke on the Gandhian impact on Thailand. Researchers of the centre also interacted with the Fellow.

The last meeting of the series was held at Dr. Baba Sahib Ambedkar Research Center. Dr. Srichampa gave a lecture on Buddhism in Thailand and the ritualistic significance associated with it. The researchers and staff of the Centre vividly interacted with her and updated their knowledge of the impact of Buddhism in Thailand.

## Literary Forum with Four Malayalam Writers



Benyamin delivering his speech

The 'Literary Meet' was held at Pandalam, a town of rich cultural and literary tradition which is also famous for its connection with Lord Ayyappa of Sabarimala. The Meet was organized with Pandalam Sahitya Samithi which has a history of more than 25 years. The theme of the 'Literary Meet' taken up for the 'Literary Forum' programme held at Lions Club Hall was on "Paths of Writing."

Benyamin, the most leading young Malayalam novelist inaugurated the Meet. He is the author of the very popular Malayalam novel *Aadujevitham*. Benyamin

spoke about himself as a writer in making and gave many illustrations from his experience as a writer. "If a writer has the fire of creativity in him, his words will be illuminated with that fire," Benyamin said. Cherukunnam Purushothaman, a poet and an academician, briefly explained his experiences of the path of writing. In his speech, he described the basic undercurrents of spiritual elements of his poetry. P.R. Gopinathan Nair also shared his literary experiences. Ravivarman Thampuram, one of the leading young short story writers, also presented his experiences as a writer. In his presentation, he detailed out the aesthetic aspects of writing short story.



## Symposium

# Kannada Literary Journals and Response Today

Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru organised a Symposium on 'Kannada Literary Journals and Present Response' in collaboration with Jain University, Bangalore at Conference Hall, School of Graduate Studies, Jain University campus, Bangalore on 26 October 2013.

P. Chandrika, Member, Kannada Advisory Board in her introductory remarks said that the little magazines have been debating on daily activities and chores of the society. We have been witnessing a change in the forms and ideologies of literature and culture. We could still see a continuum of protests and agitations fostered by the little magazines. In view of the swing from print media to electronic media, we can see a paradigm shift in the reading approaches of the little magazines.

Choodamani Nandagopal, UNESCO Fellow, in her inaugural address said that the literary journals have developed a sense of love and proudness for Kannada language.

Nataraj Hulyar, eminent Kannada writer and critic, delivered the keynote

address. He remarked that literary theories formulated by the literary journals have become a subject of daily debate/discussion. Transitions and changing movements in society, politics, literature and culture have given birth to a large number of literary journals. Several literary journals have shaped rationalistic and liberal thinking. They thrive primarily only on their contents of philosophical and balanced writings. *Lankesh Patrike*, *Rujuvathu* and a host of other literary journals created new micro-cultural elements in the society. The little magazines have formulated and printed all the progressive substances and have encouraged the notions to understand democracy. They have also given more space for writers to become popular.

Chandrasekhar Patil, eminent Kannada writer and Editor of a Kannada literary journal *Sankramana* was the guest of honour; he also presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address, he stated that little journals handle not only the literary pressures, but also the cultural pressures of the

time. They debate on the prime culture through microscopic strands. Kannada journalism had seen very important literary journals like *Sankramana*, which is currently celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year, *Sanchaya*, *Anveshane*, *Shoodra*, *Abhinava*, *Sakshi*, *Rujuvathu*, *Desha-Kala* etc.

In the first session, Raghavendra Patil spoke on the topic "Literary Journals and Creativity." The little magazines should contain the articles that could ease life. Creative thoughts and fundamental researches should be published in one's own mother tongue in the little magazines. It can bring in new criticism, and new thinking. Earlier we were reading poetry and criticism much in these magazines, he stated.

Shoodra Srinivas spoke on the subject "Cultural Scenario and Literary Journals". In his speech, he quoted that the literary magazines must face the cultural and political discrepancies. They have created real reading habits among the mass and have published creative criticisms also. They must transmit the sensibilities in a small way to the readers.



L-R: Nataraj Hulyar, Chandrasekhar Patil, Choodamani Nandagopal and P. Chandrika



Vijayamma presided over the first session and remarked that the duties and expectations from small journals are plenty.

L.N. Mukundaraj spoke on the “Importance of Literary Journals” in the second session. He affirmed that the little magazines are doing the works that are not done by the major journals. R.G. Halli Nagaraj spoke on the “Social Responsibilities of Literary Journals.” Literary journals provide platforms for publications of plays that could rarely been seen in popular journals. Little magazines are more sensible with regard to matters involving caste and religion and wield more responsibilities in establishing a better society, he said.

Aravind Malagatti, Akademi’s General Council Member and an eminent critic and writer said that literary journals are also called “cultural journals.” In his valedictory speech, Sri Malagatti reiterated that media have totally destroyed the main focus or course of Dalit, Bandaya and other movements. They have ruined our ideas, thoughts of knowledge and just brought in extravagant cultures of entertainment that are commercialized in the present context of globalisation. Unless the literary magazines address to these problems, they may die away. The little journals have taught us that life and writings must go hand-in-hand. Little journals must use the modern electronic technologies for their growth as prominent journals and also to sustain.

Giraddi Govindaraj presided over the second session and also the valedictory session. He concluded that any journal that gets governed by an institution will die immediately. Bureaucratic set-up in an institution will not allow any journal to exercise any sort of freedom or liberty. Journals owned by individual can enjoy much freedom. The cultural and social ambiances give way for the birth of good and qualitative literary journals, he concluded.

## Literary Meet

### Antiquity and Value of Malayalam Literature



*Puthusserri Ramachandran, C.R. Prasad and others*

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in association with the Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala conducted a ‘Literary Meet’ on Antiquity and Value of Malayalam Language and Literature on 1 November 2013. C.R. Prasad in his presidential address gave a brief note on the antiquity of Malayalam language and literature.

“The vast culture of Kerala is yet to be studied deeply,” said the famous poet and scholar Puthusserri Ramachandran. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan said, “Malayalam language attained classical status for its antiquity and value.” He described about the great and rich heritage of Malayalam

language and literature. “There are great literary works in Malayalam even before Ezhuthachan’s period. Malayalam is the first language in India in which translation of *Bhagavad Gita* and Kautilya’s *Arthashastra* were done. Zero Theory in Mathematics was first invented by our forefathers whose mother tongue was Malayalam. When compared to other languages, the oldest prose was also written in Malayalam”, he said.

Rama in his speech, talked about the situation in which Malayalam got the classical status and responses of Keralites to it N.C. Haridasan also emphasized on these and discussed elaborately.

## Avishkar

## Young Poets’ Meet

Sahitya Akademi in association with Karnataka Sangha, Mumbai conducted a ‘Young Poets’ Meet’ on 9 November 2013. Omdas Kannangar, Secretary, Karnataka Sangha, Mumbai welcomed the gathering. Mariyappa Natekar, G.P. Kusuma, Poornima Sudhakar Shetty, Anita Poojari Thakode and Pethri Vishwanatha Shetty recited their poems and actively interacted with the audience. G.N. Upadhya, Member, Kannada Advisory Board gave the presidential address and spoke about Akademi’s activities in detail to the huge literary lovers of Mumbai who came for the programme.



## Symposium

# Centenary of Puttaparthi Narayanacharya

A one day symposium on Puttaparthi Narayanacharya, a famous poet, critic and researcher in Telugu, was organized jointly by Sahitya Akademi and C.P. Brown Research Centre for Languages, Yogi Vemana University on 27 October 2013.

N. Gopi, Convenor of Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the symposium with a thought provoking speech. He described Dr. Puttaparthi as a scholar, with no degrees. He is a self made poet. Dr. Janumaddi Hanumatsastri, the Founder Secretary of the C.P. Brown Research Centre for Languages was the guest of honour. Sasi Sri, in his keynote address talked about his close association with Dr. Puttaparthi throughout his life and described him as one of the makers of Indian literature.

The first session was chaired by Vidwan Katta Narasimhulu in which M. Mallikarjuna Reddy presented a paper “*Janapriya Ramayanam and Pandari Bhagavatam*” and G.V. Sai Prasad presented on “*Meghadootam and Purogamanam*.” The chair, Sri Narasimhulu described Dr. Puttaparthi as a perfect blend of tradition and experiment. Dr. Reddy clarified, though many poets right from the medieval poet Tikkana to Gadiyaram Venkata Sesha Sastry to contemporary poets have translated Valmiki *Ramayana* into Telugu, but Puttaparthi’s *Janapriya Ramayanam* is a unique recreation of Valmiki in Telugu. He categorically explained the creative zeal of Puttaparthi, particularly the depiction of Kika. Sri Prasad described the *Meghadootam* of Puttaparthi as next to the *Meghasandesa* of Kalidasa in Indian literature. He also said that Puttaparthi was influenced by the early progressive writer Sri Sri.

The second session was chaired by C. Govinda Raju. Three papers were presented by three erudite scholars, Bhutapuri Gopalakrishna Sastry on “*Penugonda Lakshmi, Shaji and Sipai Pituri*,” Tappeta Rama Prasad Reddy on “*Gandhiji Mahaprasthanam and Agniveena*” and Yelamarty Madhusudan on “*Sivatandavam and Srinivasa Prabandham*.”

Prof. Raju said that Sri Puttaparthi was a master of “Padya Vidya” and also an expert in utilizing the language in tune with the situation. Sri Sastry described Puttaparthi’s poems as an artist’s reflection of the golden age of past and plight of the present Telugu. Sri Reddy very intently explained the background of the poem “*Gandhiji Mahaprasthanam*.” He also explained in detail the image of Gandhiji as reflected in the poem. Elamarty Madhusudan traced out the influence of classical Telugu poets like Nannaya and Tikkana on *Srinivasa Prabandham* and also the originality of Puttaparthi in creating such excellent literary works.

The third session was chaired by P. Sanjeevamma, in which the first proper

was presented by M. Narendra on “English literature of Puttaparthi” and the second one by M. Sampath Kumar on “Mythological criticism of Puttaparthi.” Sanjeevamma described Puttaparthi as a matured and genuine critic and compared his style to that of the free flowing river Kaveri. She also described Puttaparthi as an expert in analyzing the characters created by various poets. M. Narendra spoke on the English writing of Dr. Puttaparthi and compared him with Shakespeare and Milton. He expressed his surprise over the phenomenal memory of Puttaparthi who remembered the entire text of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. M. Sampatkumar described Puttaparthi as a unique and independent literary critic who had the knowledge of both east and west and also explained the characteristics of his literary criticism.

The valedictory session was chaired by T. Vasanti in which Puttaparthi Nagapadmini Devi, daughter of Puttaparthi, delivered the valedictory addresses.



L-R: Bhatla Syamasundar, N. Gopi, Janumaddi Hanumatsastri and Chandrashekhara Reddy



## Inauguration of Book Exhibition & Poets Meet Tamil Poets



Sahitya Akademi conducted a 'Poets' Meet' under its Literary Forum programme on 9 October 2013 in Salem. Suganthi Sudharsanam inaugurated the five day literary programmes. K. A. Murugesan, Dean, AVS Arts & Science College inaugurated the book exhibition. Niraimadhi chaired the poets' meet. M. G. Rajan recited his poem which dealt with the problems of youth. Suriyanila's poem was on a rural god who safeguards the lives and properties of villages. P. Suresh's poems presented the philosophy in *Thirukkural*. K. Anandh's poem reflected his flight of fancy.

## Narichetana Tamil Women Poets



A poetry reading evening under 'Narichetana' programme series was organized at Salem on 13 October 2013. V. Vallarasi chaired the poets' meet. The poets who participated in 'Narichetna' programme are well-known poets in their own right. M. Gomathi, Oviya, S. Tamizharasi Thevitta Mani and Shobana recited their poems. The poems read out in the programme dealt with the problems of women in particular and the human predicament in general.

## Loka: The Many Voices

In the 'Loka' programme, organized on 11 October 2013 at Tamizh Sangam, Salem, Tamil Nadu, Drum Dance (Thappattam), Karagattam, Oyilattam and Silampattam were performed. The songs, music, dance and prose narration mingled so beautifully to project the folk lore. The programme commenced with sacred music by Vasanthi and Kaviri Durai. The folk song pointed out the Tamil conventions which were followed in *Silappadigaram*. Eight dancers performed 'Thappattam' (drum dance) in Karagattam carrying a conical vessel on the head. It was a colourful dance performed in a grand manner. The group dance 'Oyilattam' was highly attractive with graceful movements. The stick dance accompanied by sonorous Tamil songs had fast paced music and deft movements.



## Short Story Reading

### Tamil Short Story Writers

Akademi organized a short story reading on 10 October 2013. Ravindra Bharathi chaired the session. He spoke on the origin, development and recent changes in the form and content of short story. The internet has given a new pace to short story. A crisp and fast paced version of literature has evolved giving entertainment and enlightenment to the young generation. He read his short story "Oor Nizhal" (Shadow of the Village). The short story concentrated on the pleasures and pains of rural life. L. Vincent, Tamil Selva, Raghudeva, Sandiyur Govindhan and S. Rangarajan also read their short stories. The stories were realistic, rich in description and spontaneous with dialogues. Most of the stories revolved around Salem.



## Asmita with Kannada Women Poets

Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi was invited to inaugurate the 'National Book Week.' An 'Asmita' programme inviting five women poets was parallelly arranged with the inauguration of 'National Book Week.' P. Chandrika, Member Kannada Advisory Board, M.R. Bhagavathi, Vidya Rashmi, Chaya Bhagavathi and D.C. Geetha participated in the 'Asmita' programme. Dr. Kambar in his opening speech said that 'The National Book Week,' is a meaningful event. He said that the books in the exhibition would help the readers to have a clear idea of literatures written in Indian languages.

The 'Asmita' programme was held after the inauguration of the event. It was followed by a lively interactive session.



Chandrasekhar Kambar delivering introductory speech  
L-R: P. Chandrika, D.C. Geetha and M.R. Bhagavathi

At the end of the programme, Dr. Kambar informed that we have ample and affluent literatures in our Dravidian languages. We have undue fascination for

foreign authors and supplement them with extra interpretations in our speeches; but unluckily we do forget to read rich reserves of our own literatures.

## Mulakat Malayalam and Kannada Writers

A 'Mulakat' programme was held on 20 November 2013 at Mythic Society, Bangalore. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convenor, Kannada Advisory Board chaired the programme. Sudhakaran Ramanthalli, noted Malayalam-Kannada translator and writer, H.N. Arathi, popular Kannada poet and Venkatapu Sathyam, Kannada Dalit writer had participated in the programme.

Smt. Arathi, said that young writers in Kannada have broken the shackles of the yard sticks of literary movements and are creating their own style and metaphors. She read five of her poems and also read the poems of Prahara Kotturu, Nagathihalli Ramesh and Rajendra Prasad to give the audience a new taste of poetry. Sri Ramanthalli delivered a speech on the Malayalam literature in general. He spoke on the Modernism, Post-Modernism and

Neo-Modernism in Malayalam literature. Sri Ramanthalli remarked that absence of creativity leads to upsurge of vandalism. Sri Sathyam is associated with the Dalit movements and said that Kannada Dalit writers like Siddalingaiah, Lakshmipathi Kolar and Kotaganahalli Ramaiah etc., have influenced him. He sang his Kannada poem and also read one of his poems. Narahalli Balasubramanya, remarked that the readers to-day are quite erudite enough



L-R: Sudhakaran Ramanthalli, Narahalli Balasubramanya and Venkatapu Sathyam

and they wish to read only the best literatures written in the language. Referring to the speech of Sri Ramanthalli, Narahalli recalled the sayings of Lohiya that "Without the creativity the societies will become impoverished."



## Panel Discussion on Books

As part of the 'National Book Week' programme, 'A Panel Discussion on Books' was held on 18 November 2013 at Mythic Society by Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

S. Carlos, noted academician and Tamil writer, K.K. Gangadharan, well-known translator, N. Ravikumar, Publisher, Abhinava Books, Bangalore and Indira Kumari from Nava Karnataka Publications were present during the programme as speakers.

N. Ravikumar elaborately spoke on the present scenario of publishing and marketing of Kannada books and informed that his publishing house has built a large number of readers in the course of time. He said "The readers are our backbone and we do not depend on institutional purchase."

S. Carlos, former Director of Sahitya Akademi's Translation Centre, spoke on the Kannada, Tamil and English books and also the writers he had acquainted with. He re-collected how he was influenced by the writings of Jorge Luis Borges. An artist's conceptualisations of books were altogether transcendental," he said. He spoke on certain publishers who contributed more for the development of Tamil language and literature than any government sponsored institutions.

K.K. Gangadharan, noted translator and writer, affirmed that only the writings and reading books can bring in changes in the society and one's personal life.



L-R: K.K. Gangadharan delivering his speech  
L-R: S. Carlos, Indira Kumari, Nagathihalli Ramesh and N. Ravikumar

Nagathihalli Ramesh spoke on the books written by Leo Tolstoy, P. Lankesh, Alanahalli Sri Krishna, Devanooru Mahadeva etc., which influenced him and reformed him. He also said that how he became humane after reading the books of these great stalwarts.

Indira Kumari from Nava Karnataka Publications explained broadly on the process of publishing, marketing and also on the concepts of maintaining customer friendly relationships with the readers. She said "One who loves the books can love the entire world." She informed that books had transformed her life over the years.

## Literary Forum

### Moral Awareness among Youth through Literature

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Literary Forum' on "Moral Awareness among Youth through Literature" on 17 December 2013 at Platinum Jubilee Auditorium, University of Madras, Marina Campus Chennai. Aranga Ramalingam spoke on moral values in Bakthi literature. The 63 Nayanmars, Alwars and the Saivite and Vaishnavite saint-poets emphasized on devotion through moral values. Andal advised to avoid ignoble acts and malicious words. Ramanujar made equality as a creed of

divinity. Appar, Sundarar, Sambandhar and Manickavasagar wanted people to serve the helpless and downtrodden people.

Lakshmi Narayanan spoke on moral values in Sangam Literature. He mentioned that love is the basic feeling which binds the society. *Akananooru* portrays the orderly love in five different perspectives. *Purananuru* praises acts of nobility, munificence and heroism as the 18 ancient poems, 10 idylls and eight collections are examples of ethical values.

Valavan spoke on the 18 didactic works, *Patinenkilkanakku* which are guidelines to moral and ethical values in life, among them *Tirukkural*, *Naladiyar*, *Tirikadugam*, *Madurai Kanchi* and others advocate important codes of behaviour. *Tirukkural* is an internationally acclaimed treatise on moral values. He also commented on the works of Thirumoolar and Arunagirinadhar. Avvaiyar's *Athichudi* gives pithy comments for youngsters. The modern age produced great saints and litterateurs like Vallalar, Mayuram Vedanayagampillai and Manonmaniam Sundaram Pillai who shaped the society towards the moral path. M. Sargunavathy spoke on the ethics in modern literature and also proposed the vote of thanks.



## North-East and Southern Poetry Festival

North East India's multifaceted and multilayered cultural heritage generates great interest today. There is a need for greater awareness about North East culture and literature especially among the youth. Sahitya Akademi undertakes the task of connecting the North-East literary sensibility to the rest of India and vice versa to keep alive cultural interaction, multi cultural understanding between the languages and regions

'North – East and Southern Poetry Festival' was organised on 7 and 8 December 2013 at Jain University, Bengaluru. S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru briefly welcomed the guests and audience.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi gave an introductory address. He introduced the importance of the event to the guests. He stated in his address that similar programmes have been organised by the Akademi with keen interest to create literary dialogue between the North-East literature and literature written in other parts of the country.

The concept of the event was introduced by Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convenor, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

Lakshmi Narayana Bhatta, eminent Kannada writer, as the guest of honour presented one of his Kannada poems after delivering a brief speech about the varied hues and motifs of the Indian literary landscape. He presented one of his popular poems in Kannada which reflected the nostalgic images.

The poets who were present for the poetry reading in the inaugural and the first session were Jiban Narah (Assamese), Siddalinga Pattanashetti (Kannada), Sreedharan Unni (Malayalam), A.C. Netrajit (Manipuri), Erode Tamilanban (Tamil) and Ambika Ananth (Telugu). Dr. Sreenivasarao gave a brief introduction about all the poets. Mostly



*Chandrasekhar Kambar lighting the lamp  
To his right: K. Sreenivasarao; to his left: Lakshmi Narayana Bhatta  
and Narahalli Balasubramanya*

the poets presented their views from their personal spheres and also responded to the changing social spaces. Influence of the Western thought on the style and structure of Indian poetry was also visible from their presentation.

Dr. Kambar delivered his presidential address at the end of the inaugural session, after rendering his poem 'Mao Tse tunga' in a musical form. In his address, he drew the attention of the audience to the fact that modernity and

globalization have made the world small. At such a time it was important to "seek bondage with the soil and strengthen our roots." He also pointed out that in the post-Independent India the poet was presented with the ethical problem of choice of the subject on which s/ he chooses to write and express. Very ardently, he spoke how while using the medium of our mother-tongue through literary genres we "find our language and lose the world."



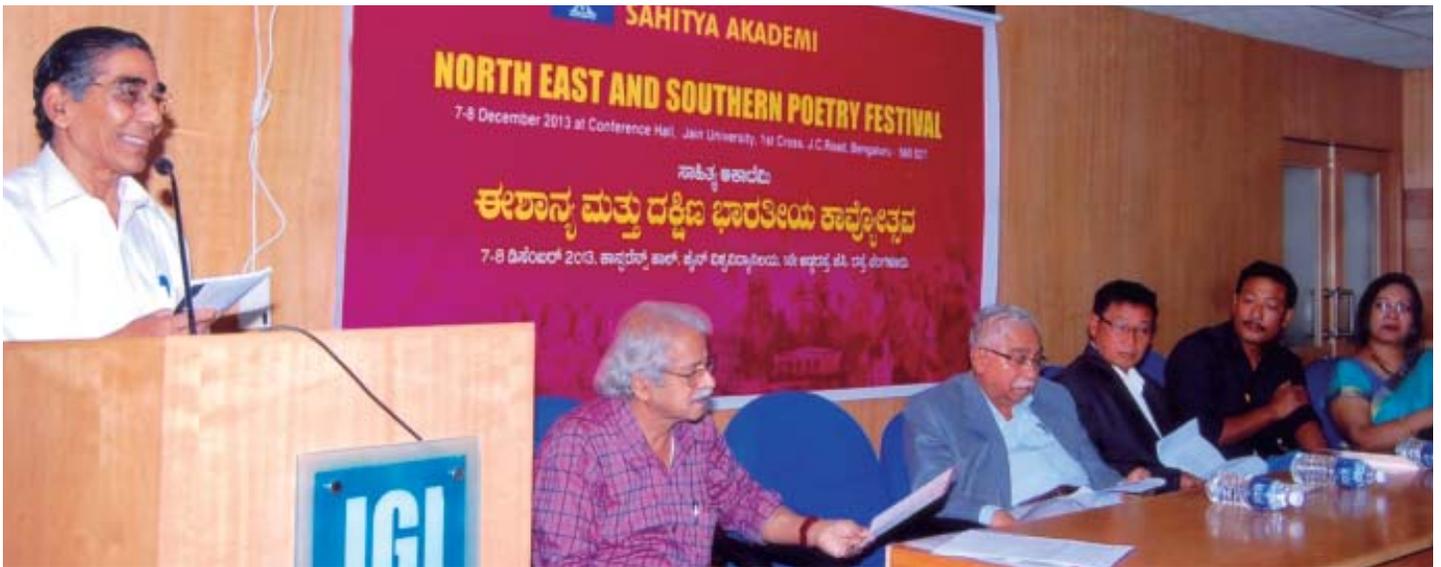
The first session was chaired by N. Gopi; Gopinath Brahma (Bodo), B.R. Lakshmana Rao (Kannada), J. Prameela Devi (Malayalam), Thiru Prasad Nepal (Nepali), Thenmozhi (Tamil) and Annavaram Devender (Telugu) recited their poems. Simple but metaphorical expressions about everyday events as reflected from the poems drew admiration from the audience and led to a discussion on the keen observations of the poets. It was pointed out that poetry is nothing but the outpourings of the interactive responses of the internal world with the external world. The imagery, metaphors, language and other creative expressions are the vehicles which carry feelings of a sensitive heart to a sensitive mind. But poetry does not only preach it also draws our attention to many social and political issues.

On the second day, the session began with the introductory remarks by Robin S. Ngangom who said that a meaningful poem changes and heals. This session was chaired by Robin S. Ngangom and Dilip Das (Bengali, North-East), Jayashree Kambara (Kannada), Subbu Holeyar (Kannada), V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Rajeswari Diwakarla

(Telugu), and Shafeeq Abidi (Urdu) recited their poems.

Sri Das rendered the poems, “The Diary of an Abducted”, “Nagpur 1994”, “Canine Duo”, “Bloodbath” which were lyrical expressions filled with pathos and dry humour. Jayashree Kambara’s poems according to Sri Robin though written in a subjective mode were expressions of romance conveyed with gentle irony. Madhusoodan Nair rendered a long poem in Malayalam, ‘Anyonya,’ followed by the translated version ‘To each other’ which voiced pain, fear, tension and suspicion of an ordinary Indian. The renowned Telugu poet Rajeshwari Diwakarla’s poems drew the attention of the readers to the drama of everyday life laced with the concern of globalization. Shafeeq Abidi the Urdu poet, rang the bells of harmony and brotherhood while effectively using traditional images and motifs. Robin S. Ngangom, in the end, after presenting his own poems on childhood memories of Manipur during Holi had a spiritual connotation more than the social aspects. He brought out, as the violent and intolerant world through metaphors and imagery.

The third session and last session was chaired by H.S. Venkatesha Murthy. He introduced the poets for the session who represented different Indian languages—Jogmaya Chakma (Chakma), Chandrashekhara Thalya (Kannada), Chandrakant Murasingh (Kokborok), Christina Wanniang (Khasi), P.P. Ramachandran (Malayalam), Aadhavan Dheechanya (Tamil) and Jukanti Jagnnathan (Telugu). Prof. Murthy in his concluding speech drew attention to a famous saying, “A poem is understood while it is well read”. Catching the sound helps in receiving the poem with all its sensibilities. He pointed out the paradox which existed in our country when we talk about Russian writers, Bolshevik Singers, French and German poets, but we do not know our own Indian writers. According to him, we are unable to express our idea of Indian poetry because we do not know anything beyond our own language; he cited some examples from Kannada. He also observed that the poets with a liberal use of symbols and metaphors expressed different sentiments, mainly about the structures of the society and the realities of life of a common man.



L-R: Siddalinga Pattanashetti reading out his poems  
L-R: Sreedharan Unni, Chandrasekhar Kambar, A.C. Netrajit, Jiban Narah and Ambika Ananth



## Symposium

### Gundert – Keralapanini



Sahitya Akademi in association with Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala conducted a one day symposium on the occasion of Gundert–Keralapanini Birth anniversary celebration on 19 November 2013 at Senate Chamber, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The programme was inaugurated by K. S. Ravikumar, an eminent critic. Initiating the deliberation on the centenary authors, the symposium would explore new perspectives from the works of the authors, Dr. Ravikumar said. Eminent critic and language scholar Scaria Zachariach gave the keynote address which centered around the theme “Heritage of Malayalam Language.” He told, “Malayalam is a language with many dialects which makes it versatile.” He blamed the new media for creating new words and terminologies with no logic at the cost of best words already existing in the language. He advised the new generation to understand the history of our languages for the revival. Puthussery Ramachandran recalled the richness of 2500 years old *Ashtadhyayi* by Panini and the rich grammatical heritage of India. The presidential address was given by C. R. Prasad who said that this is the golden period of Malayalam language as it has attained the status of classical language and we have to actively take part in reviving the language.

The first session was chaired by Venugopala Panicker who also presented a paper on “Historic Perspective of Grammar.” He pointed out that Dravidian languages have structurally developed when compared to other group of language. “Grammatical concepts of Keralapanini and Gundert” was the topic of V.P. Markose. He observed that *Keralapaniniyam* and Gundert’s grammar were both the by-products of colonial modernism. L. Sushamma’s paper “Keralapaniniyam- A Sociological reading” was the study of nationalism in *Keralapaniniyam* in the perspective of Benedict Anderson’s ‘imagine community.’ She explained how a language acts as a catalyst for the formation of a ‘Linguistic nation.’

The second session was chaired by Puthussery Ramachandran and P.M Girish presented a paper

on “Metaphor in Malayalam grammar: Concepts and Meaning.” He made cognitive analysis to the metaphor in Gundert’s grammar. He said that Gundert had the insight that the relation between syntax and grammar was conceptual. P. Sreekumar presented a paper on “Modern Linguistics and *Keralapaniniyam*.” He pointed out the challenges being faced in language studies in South India by the researchers and linguistics. Joseph Scariah presented a paper on “Auxiliary Verbs and Stylistics of Language.” P. Jayakrishnan spoke on the “Influence of *Nannul* in *Keralapaniniyam*.” He pointed out that *Keralapaniniyam* followed the case study of Tamil grammar especially the *Nannul* and this kind of study was mainly found in Malayalam and Tamil

The third session was chaired by B.V. Sasikumar. Seema Jerome presented a paper on “Formal and Informal Usages in Grammatical Texts.” The study was based on *Keralapaniniyam* and Gundert’s grammar. Harikumar Changampuzha delivered a speech on the integrity of Gundert’s grammar. He said that Gundert is the real master who showed the real path to *Keralapanini*. The last paper of the session was presented by C.R. Prasad. He described how *Keralapaniniyam* became the grammar of Dravidian languages.



L-R: Scaria Zachariah delivering keynote address  
To his right C.R. Prasad and K.S. Ravikumar



## Symposium

# Centenary Poet Vanidasan

Revival of Vanidasan literature would be the need of the hour whose sensibilities are specifically against casteism, for women empowerment, socialism and equality



Sahitya Akademi held one day symposium on poet Vanidasan to mark his centenary celebrations on 31 December 2013 at Tamizh Sangam. A.S. Ilangovan,

officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome speech.

K. Nachimuthu who presided over the inaugural session said in his presidential address that Vanidasan waged a war for the sake of language. He served as spokesperson for C. N. Annadurai like Bharatidasan was for Periyar. He spoke about Vanidasan's relevance today during this time of unrest. Revival of his literature

would be the need of the hour specifically against casteism, for women empowerment, socialism and equality. He also mentioned the musical aspects of his poems, and accepted Nallankilli's proposal for a compilation of complete works of Vanidasan.

Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar in his keynote address mentioned that Vanidasan was described as Wordsworth of Tamil language whereas Bharatidasan was described as Tagore in Tamil. He was inspired by Subramania Bharati for his love for nature and nationalism, and differed from Bharatidasan for his strong pro-dalitism. He has sung about slums which could be sung all over the nation. Sambath proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

Kalladan, an eminent Tamil poet and a sibling to late Vanidasan presided over the first session. His presentation on Vanidasan's epic and its theme and texture in his songs for the children drew a rapt attention of the audience. Kalladan spoke with authenticity and clarity through his personal experience. Kalladan explained the strong link between Bharatidasan and Vanidasan. He also spoke about the poets who belonged to Bharatidasan school of poetry namely Pudevai Sivam, Mudiakaran and Tamiloli. Hussain, a Tamil poet, in his presentation praised Vanidasan's skill in composing poetry with modern themes. He spoke about the innate and ornamental aspects of his poems. His epic poems "Tamizhachi", "Kodimullai", "Theerthayathirai" and "Kavithai Kathai", were written in the classical format on their themes such as socialism, untouchability, casteism etc. Nature formed an integral part in all his poems. The epic poems possessed all the dramatic elements of great poetry. Kandasamy pointed out that though Vanidasan was a lover of peace and solitude, he always treated nature in a practical way.



R-L: Maraimalai Ilakkuvanar, K. Nachimuthu, Sambath and others

Yugabharathi spoke about “Vanidasan’s Poems for Children.” He said that Vanidasan took the role of a mother, father and teacher when it comes to strict advice, informal teaching, subtle instructions and implied information including pampering with literature for children. Songs for children written by him are simple, musical and melodious, as if the world is seen through the eyes of a child.

Su. Velmurugan was the chairperson of the third session. He shared his direct acquaintance and experience with the poet. Velmurugan wrote books on Vanidasan’s literature.

Manimegalai Kuppusamy, Bharatidasan’s grand daughter spoke on the impact of Bharatidasan on Vanidasan’s poems. She reminisced the relationship shared between Bharatidasan and Vanidasan, and the latter’s gratitude and respect for his master.

Aranga Nadarasan spoke elaborately on Vanidsan’s prosody.

Vanidsan’s use of prosody and romanticism in his poetry were discussed in detail by Manoharan. He explained how romanticism came to vogue in Tamil literature through Subramania Bharati, the influence of Shelley on Bharatidasan and later on Vanidasan. Vanidasan’s deep rooted sensibility of Sangam poetry blend with French romanticism of Rousseau and others was soaked in realism. It is a continuation of Sangam literature in its essence but in a modern outlook.

A. Pandurangan, who wrote on Vanidasan delivered the valedictory address, summed up all the points discussed in the symposium and also shared his own experience with the poet. Sethupathy, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.



Era Meenakshi (Centre) chairing the event along with the other poets

## Narichetna Women Poets’ Meet

Sahitya Akademi organised a ‘Narichetna’ programme on 28 October 2013 at Thamizh Sangam, Puducherry.

R. Sambath, a Tamil critic, welcomed the guests. He said that though Sangam literature has rich contributions by 49 women poets who reflected their experiences and sentiments of their period, we could see the same tradition and practice, even in contemporary times. Era Meenakshi, well-known Tamil poet and writer chaired the session who has a long literary journey since 1970.

Srividhya, presented her short poems on various topics like privatization, globalization etc. She gave a methodical survey about the contribution of modern women novelists writing in pre and post-independence era. She remarked that though the literacy rate among women has increased, their contribution in the field of literature and journalism has not improved. Srividhya mentioned about the influences of two major movements namely, the movement by Mahatma Gandhi and the Dravidian Movement of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy which fostered emancipation for women. Moovalur Ramamirtham was a social reformer, author, and political activist of the Dravidian Movement. The public awareness created by her novel and her

continuous campaign to abolish the *devadasi* system were instrumental to the Devadasi Abolition Bill which outlawed the practice in 1947. Va. Pa. Thamarakanniammayar, Ganamma and several other social reformers were the products of Dravidian Movement. She spoke about the contemporary writers who represent the voice of Dalits and oppressed.

Shyamala also made a detailed analysis of the evolution of ‘150 years of short story’ for in three phases. She mentioned the role of Damayanthi, Moovalur Ramamirtham and Kumudhini in the early phase and Lakshmi, Sivasankari in the 1960s. She made a special mention of Ambai. She also spoke on the contributions by Bama and Sivakami as dalit women writers of the third or contemporary phase.

Porkalai, a strong feminist presented a study of 50 women poets. Writing about women’s physical yearnings, desire for non-dependence on men, expression of pain in feminist literature were highlighted by her. Feminist aesthetics, issues related to society and home, the expression of dalit and oppressed classes of women are some of the significant aspects found in the writings of women today, she concluded.



## Birth Centenary Symposium Muttathu Varkey



The symposium on Muttathu Varkey on the occasion of his birth Centenary which was held on 13 December 2013 at St. Berchmans' College, Changanacherry witnessed the presence of many eminent personalities from all over Kerala.

In the inaugural session, K.S. Ravikumar said that Muttathu Varkey's writings targeted the common man and his characters were moulded with great craftsmanship.

In the presidential address, he said that Changampuzha popularized poetry, then Muttathu Varkey was the one who popularized prose". He also stated that Varkey was a prophet who fostered the gospel of creativity and imagination. The unity of written and spoken word which "is indeed the acid test for a writer's expertise" was present in Muttathu Varkey's works, he concluded.

The eminent critic, M. Thomas Mathew in his inaugural address, stated that Muttathu Varkey created a world of literature around him and his goal was to prosper the world. The birth of a masterpiece is a gradual process which needs a lot of dedication by the writer. He also reminded that mere education of our society is not enough. Instead we must grow among a world created by words in order to shape positive attitude towards society and life. Muttathu Varkey possessed this quality of creating such a world. "A forest becomes a forest not just by the presence of big trees, but also by the presence of other plants and shrubs. Muttathu Varkey was one such plant who contributed his best to the world of literature", he added. The poetic rhythm which lied underneath Muttathu Varkey's mind was reflected in all his works.

It was followed by the keynote address by the eminent critic Scaria Zacharia. He described Muttathu Varkey's works as 'popular fiction'. Twenty-six novels of Varkey were made into films. The convergence between real world and virtual world could be seen in his novels. A reader has to enter into such a world to fully enjoy his works. Dr. Scaria also insisted for a deep rooted evaluation of Varkey's works and emphasized on proper research projects needed to be done on him.

The first session of the symposium was chaired by M.K. Madhavan Nair. C.R. Prasad presented his paper "Language of Popular Literature". The language used in popular literature is closely related to that of our daily

usage. The language of popular literature seeks to bring out the features of culture, power, politics, gender etc. Muttathu Varkey's works also depicted this simplicity and versatility. The second paper was presented by Sunil P. Elayidam titled as "Popular and Populist Conceptual Reflections." The third paper was on "Politics of Popular Imagination" presented by Shaji Jacob. The fourth paper which was on "Muttathu Varkey and Malayalam Cinema" was presented by P.S. Radhakrishnan. *Paadatha Pyngili* was the first novel of Varkey which was made into a film in 1957. Twenty six novels of Muttathu Varkey were converted into films all of which were box office hits. The social relevance of those films as well as the novels was the reason for such success.

The second session was chaired by C.R. Omanakuttan. The first paper was presented by K.S. Jayashree titled as "The Local Culture in Muttathu Varkey's Novels." Varkey's life revolved only within a short area starting from his hometown. The settings of his novels were also within the area he moved along. The simplicity and clarity of thoughts made Muttathu Varkey well-known as a regional writer. His novels enlightened the readers by teaching them about values like truth and honesty. His characters gave a lot of importance to relationships. He wrote against social evils like dowry system and alcoholism. His works also unfolded the traditions, customs, language and food habits of Kerala. The paper showed that he was successful in creating a great impact among the reading public. The second paper in the session was presented by M.R. Mahesh. The paper "The Language and Narration of Muttathu Varkey's Novels" presented perspectives of human life and his style of narration incorporated the past, present and future to illustrate one's life. The final paper in the second session by A.G. Sreekumar focused on "Muttathu Varkey's Plays." Varkey's plays could be categorized into three: political, social and religious. His plays exposed the corruption in political parties and inhumane activities of capitalist forces. The most criticized play of Varkey exposed the monopoly of the Church and the capitalists and also preached the importance of spirituality. The women characters in his plays were individuals of substance. On the whole all his plays testified great social relevance, Sri Sreekumar concluded.

In the valedictory session, George Joseph K. evaluated and summed up all the papers besides giving his own perspectives on the works of Varkey.



Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on Tirumala Ramachandra at NTR auditorium of Telugu University, Hyderabad on 22 January 2013 to celebrate his birth centenary. Tirumala Ramachandra was a prominent writer, an eminent journalist and a profound scholar of Telugu. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Bengaluru welcomed the august audience of writers and journalists of Hyderabad.

G.S. Varadachary, a veteran journalist and President of Journalists Association delivered the inaugural address. He described Ramachandra as a laureate and versatile genius in many Indian languages in addition to his mother tongue, Telugu.

Ravva Srihari, Former Vice-Chancellor of Dravidian University and a well-read scholar in both Telugu and Sanskrit highlighted the contribution of Ramachandra to Telugu language and literature. Particularly the writer's contribution to Telugu lexicography and linguistic development was elaborated by him.

N. Gopi, Convenor of Telugu Advisory Board and an eminent poet chaired the inaugural session. He touched upon the poignant narrative style of Ramachandra and his critical essays on Telugu authors. Lakshman Rao, veteran journalist was a guest of inaugural session.

In the first session, Chowduri Upender Rao presented a paper on Tirumala Ramachandra's research works in Pali and Prakrit. M. Narayana Sarma in his paper dwelt on Ramachandra's unparalleled contributions in the field of linguistics. A. B. K. Prasad described Tirumala's pen-portraits as 'unique' in modern Telugu literature. Kalluri Bhaskaran discussed at length the essays of the doyen and gave illustrations.

Bandaru Srinivasa Rao in his chairperson's remarks concluded that Tirumala's contribution to both

## Centenary Symposium

# Tirumala Ramachandra



L-R: T. Udayawarl lighting the lamp  
To his right N. Gopi and Ravva Srihari

journalism and literature are unique and distinct.

The second session was chaired by G.S. Varadachary in which R.V. Rama Rao presented his views on the biography *Hampinunchi Harappadaka* by Tirumala; J. Chennaiah in his paper unveiled the

simplicity of the author and high values adhered to his life. The valedictory address was delivered by Nandiraju Radhakrishna, a senior journalist. He concluded that the doyen could be seen as a 'Cultural hero' and literary seer.'

## Mulakat with Tamil Short Story Writers

A 'Mulakat' programme at Gopalamuthiram, Middle School auditorium, Mannarkudi was organised on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013. N. Viswanathan poet and short story writer chaired the session. He also read one of his short stories. It dealt with the pains and pleasures of man-woman relationship. K. Anbazhagan (Harini) read a short story which describes the character of uncle Subbu who lived helping his relatives, friends and fellow villagers without selfishness. M. Meenatchi Sundaram's (Meena Sundar) story was about a rich man exploiting poor. Then he offers to prepare gruel for the village deity but the poor people refused to take the gruel which they gave it back into the larger vessel of the rich man. Mani Ganesan scholar, writer and poet also read a short story titled 'Dream.' M. Devi proposed the vote of thanks.



## Tribute to Chi. Sreenivasa Raju



L-R: Narahalli Balasubramanya delivering his speech  
To his left C.N. Ramachandran, M.H. Krishnaiah and N.B. Chandra Mohan

Sahitya Akademi organised a literary programme to pay tribute to Chi. Sreenivasa Raju' on 1 December 2013 in collaboration with B.M. Sri Pratishana, at B.M. Sri Kala Bhavana, Bengaluru. A full day programme was held highlighting the various genres of Kannada literature besides rich tributes paid to Kannada writer and literary exponent late Prof. Chi. Sreenivasa Raju.

The first session was dedicated to poetry, wherein Vikram Visaji presented his paper. Thereafter, in the session devoted to short fiction, Amaresh Nugadoni and Vikram Hatwar delivered their lectures. In the session on novels K. Satyanarayana and H.S. Raghavendra Rao gave their views and K.Y. Narayanaswamy and Nataraja Honnavalli also spoke during the session on drama.

P.V. Narayana, eminent Kannada writer gave his introductory speech. He informed that late Prof. Chi. Sreenivasa Raju had immensely contributed to the

Kannada literary world and he was a source of inspiration for young writers. Amaresh Nugadoni spoke on the writings of Yashwanth Chittal, Anantha Murthy, Kum. Veerabhadrappa, Veena Shantheshwara, Bhanu Mushtaq and a host of other fiction writers and compared their style of writing with the style of contemporary young writers.

K. Satyanarayana spoke on the Kannada novels. He delved deep into the novels as he spoke on *Malegalalli Madumagalu* by Kuvempu wherein different aspects of life are narrated, *Mukajjiya Kanasugalu* by Karanth who has delineated the mythical and realistic mode in it and *Maimanagala Suliyalli* by Karanth where the polygonal faces of life is narrated in a psychoanalytical manner. H.S. Raghavendra Rao in his speech pointed out that the modern fiction writings are crisp in style and theme.

Nataraj Honnavalli spoke on the plays and also discussed different playwrights. The readings K.Y. Narayanaswamy from the plays by young writers concluded the session. During the valedictory session held in the evening, C.N. Ramachandran said that we could see both amity and assortment in the whole gamut of Kannada literature of the present century. The modern Kannada literature is quite vivacious, he said.

Narahalli Balasubramanya spoke on the intimate friendship that he had with Sreenivasa Raju. N.B. Chandra Mohan quite interestingly remembered Sri Raju who was so resolute, clear and transparent in his behavior and activities. M.H. Krishnaiah, eminent critic and who also happened to be a teacher of Sreenivasa Raju, recalled his interactions with him.

## Mulakat with Young Tamil Writers

Sahitya Akademi arranged at 'Mulakat' programme on 12 October 2013 at Salem Tamil Sangam, Salem, Tamil Nadu. K. Sudhandiram delivered the presidential address and explained the literary creations of Maupassant, Kandekar, Rahulji and Sri Sri. S. Velayudhan spoke on great works of Thakazhi, Vaikom Mohammed Basheer, Chandu Menon and their masterpieces. R. Venugopalsamy discussed on early Greek and later British literary traditions and also commented on *Anandbarangpillai's Dairy*. He concluded with a comparative study of Tagore and Bharathi. K. Tamilmaran spoke on Bengali literature and also Tamil translations of great Kannada works. Aranga Srinivasan lauded the role of translation as a 'new age' tool. The achievements of R. P. Sethupillai, Vaiyapuri Pillai, Mu. Va. were recounted by him.

## Literary Forum

### Malayalam Literary Scenario, Post Modern Literary Theories and History & Heritage of Malayalam Poetry

Sahitya Akademi and the Department of Malayalam, Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Regional Centre, Panmana (Kollam) jointly organized a 'Literary Forum' on 12 December 2013. Sheela Kumari, Campus Director of the university delivered the welcome speech and C.R. Prasad, presided over the meet. He delivered a lecture on contemporary scenario of Malayalam language and literature. Prasanna Rajan explained the post-modern literary theories which are popular in Malayalam criticism. Chavara K.S. Pillai gave a lecture on the history, and heritage and present situation

of Malayalam poetry. G. Padma Rao explained the remarkable peculiarities

of Malayalam novel with good number of examples. Munjinadu Padma Kumar spoke about the style, theme and narrative techniques of contemporary Malayalam short stories.

The programme ended on a good spirit as students interacted with the speakers and got enriched through the discussions.



L-R: Sheela Kumari delivering her speech along with other guest writers

## Kavisandhi

### Bhavani Devi, Telugu poet

Sahitya Akademi organized two 'Kavisandhi' programmes with Chillara Bhavani Devi, eminent Telugu poet on 22 December 2013 at NTR Auditorium, Telugu University, Hyderabad and Kopparthi Venkata Ramana Murthy, eminent Telugu poet on 22 December 2013 at Anam Rotary Hall, Rajahmundry.

Yendluri Sudhakar, Member, Telugu Advisory Board welcomed the guest and gathering and also introduced Sri Murthy to the audience. The poet, while addressing the audience, explained his sojourn in poetry from social consciousness to individual awakening. For him, poetry was an outcome of experience and exploration. He said that he had never gone for poetry but waited for it to come to him. The poet read out selected poems from his anthologies already published and also a few unpublished ones. The two programmes witnessed the rich tradition of poetry in Telugu. Sahitya Akademi's interest and effort to promote literature and literary figures was highlighted by the audience in the interactive session.

## Translators Meet

Translators' Meet was held at Tamil Sangam, Puducherry on 30 December 2013. Maruthanayagam, Ilambharathy, Krishnamurthy, Manjakkal Upendiran and Sundara Murugan participated in the programme.



## National Book Week & Literary Programmes

In the event of the celebration of the National Book Week, a book exhibition and a few literary programmes were organised from 14 to 20 November 2013 at Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu.



Kurinjivelan, well-known fiction writer was invited as the guest. Ve. Sabanayagam, eminent Tamil writer inaugurated the National Book Week. Noted writer Palki delivered the felicitation speech.

A series of literary programmes Mulakat, Narichetana, Loka: The Many Voices, Literary Forum and a Poets' Meet were organised in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu

### Narichetana Tamil Women Writers

'Narichetana' programme was held at Cuddalore on 15 November 2013. P.Vijayalakshmi, District Librarian chaired the poets' meet. Vetriselvi Shanmugam, Ketharin, Padmabharathi and Indira recited their poems.

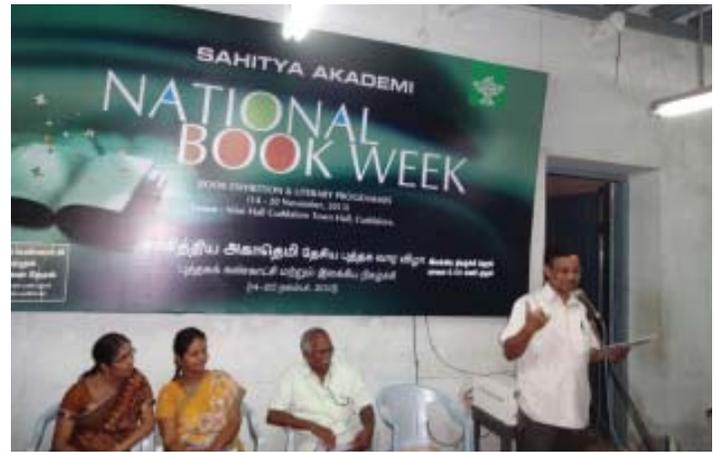


### Story Reading Programme

A story reading at a Literary Forum was held on 16 November 2013 at Cuddalore. R. Marshal Antony Leo chaired the session. Valava. Duraiyan, P. Jeevakarunyan, Bharathikumar and K. Asaithambi read their short stories.

### Mulakat with Tamil Writers

'Mulakat' programme was held at Cuddalore on 18 November 2013. S. Sivaraman (Sasi) chaired the programme. Pallavikumar, Kavi Mano and Jayasri recited their recent poems.



### Loka: The Many Voices

'Loka Many Voices' programme was held at Cuddalore on 19 November 2013. A folklore programme by Yelelo Troupe performed three colourful song and dance sequences on literary themes. Navajothi explained the varied features of folklore.





## Valedictory Meet

In the valedictory meet at the end of the National Book week was held on 20th November 2013, valedictory address was delivered by Prapanjan, veteran Tamil fiction writer. R. Viswanathan, principal of Periyar Govt. Arts College, Cuddalore presided over and felicitation address was given by R. Janarthanam. The eminent translator Kurinjivelan proposed a vote of thanks.



R. Viswanathan speaking. Prapanjan, Kurinjivelan and others

## Poets' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Poets' Meet' on 17 November 2013 in Thiruchirappalli in which young poets recited their recent poems. Ko. Kalia Murthy welcomed the gathering and R. Kamarasu, General Council Member chaired the poets' meet.

Rathika recited a poem on class-room stories that children read. P. Ilangumaran recited three poems and K. Sathishkumar also read his poems. Tamil writers such as Angarai Bhairavi, Gandhi, Siva and Lenin participated in the discussion after the poetry reading. Many other poets, writers and lovers of literature attended the poetry reading programme.

A 'Literary Talk' programme was held on 20 November 2013. R. Viswanathan, Principal, Periyar Govt. Arts College, Cuddalore delivered a talk on the best books and the best way to derive maximum benefit from them. Prabanjan, veteran fiction writer delivered the valedictory address on the role of books towards shaping the future of individuals and society and Rama Janarthanam delivered the felicitation speech. Kurinjivelan, a well-known writer and translator spoke on the occasion.

## Mulakat with Tamil Writers

'Mulakat' programme with four Tamil fiction writers was organised on 19 October 2013 at Gopalamuthiram, Mannargudi.

R. Kamaraj, Tamil critic and General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address. K. Nachimuthu, Convenor, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the 'Mulakat' programme. He called upon young writers to participate in Sahitya Akademi's literary activities. Four short story writers spoke on their creative experience.

Vaimainadhan described the rural scene in and around Thanjavur in pre-Independence days. He was inspired by Subramania Bharati and Baharatidasan; Akilon's fiction and Kannadasan's magazine *Thendral* also inspired him. The local environmental hazard was another source of inspiration to write his novel *Naali*.

Ezhilmynthan penned the history of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram and had also published 11 short story collections. His stories strive to be simple, powerful and realistic. He also mentioned about a journal *Kizhakkuv Vasal Udhayam* being



R. Kamaraj introducing the writers. K. Nachimuthu (at the centre) and Vaimainadhan, Ezhilmynthan and Mannarkudi Viswanathan with him

edited by him. Veteran writer Solai Sundaraperumal spoke on his works that described the social issues and conflicts between the landlords and labourers in the fertile district of Thanjavur.

Mannarkudi Viswanathan spoke on his first short story that dealt with the story of the parents with three daughters. One of his stories was made into a short film by Balu Mahendra. M. Devi proposed a vote of thanks.

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