



# SAHITYA AKADEMI

## NEWSLETTER

January-February 2018



## Secretary Speaks

Every New Year is a festive time, irrespective of the tradition which may place the beginning at different months, and the New Year is invariably marked by the efflorescence of hope and rekindling of spirit. The beginning also offers opportunities to every individual, institution and culture to introspect and rectify the errors of the past and charter a path to tread in the times ahead.

Talking of festivity, over the past decade or so the number of literary festivals has been increasing steadily in India. This is a very good sign as increase in the number of literary fests signifies enhanced opportunities for writers in different regions and languages. The beginning of every year is the Festival time for Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, in the form of Festival of Letters.

This Festival of the Akademi is unique and stands apart from all other literary festivals in that it is the only representative and all-inclusive literary festival in the country. Every year the Festival features scholars, writers, poets, critics and translators, representing Indian traditions. Young writers, women writers, Dalit writers, writers from the Northeast, practitioners and scholars of tribal and oral traditions, community of translators and critics, fiction writers and poets, playwrights, other literary experts and people representing academia participate in the Festival of Letters. This overall representation is the strength of the Festival of Letters.

In the 2018 edition of the Festival, 60 Indian languages, including English, were represented, about 20 events took place and more than two hundred and fifty distinguished writers, poets, critics and translators participated. Under the cultural exchange programme, a delegation of Israeli Writers participated in the Festival and a fruitful Indo-Israeli Writers' Meet was organized.

In the year gone by, the Akademi organized more than 600 literary events across the country and published over 600 books in all the 24 Indian languages recognized by it. Another gladdening aspect of 2017 was the increase in the number of Gramalok programmes, and in 2018 we are planning to cover at least 200 villages of India through this programme. This programme enables us to identify literary talent in rural spaces and promote them. This, we believe, is very crucial for the Akademi, the national institution of letters, and will go a long way in unearthing literary treasure from the pathways hidden for over many years.

I take this opportunity to welcome our newly-elected President, Vice-President and General Council members and seek their co-operation in exploring new opportunities and enabling the Akademi to reach greater heights. I also solicit the blessings and support of all our patrons and well-wishers.

I wish you all a very happy New Year.

**Dr K. Sreenivasarao**  
*Secretary*



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## OUR NEW PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENT



**DR CHANDRASHEKHAR B. KAMBAR,**  
**PRESIDENT, SAHITYA AKADEMI**

Dr Chandrashekhar B. Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, is a Kannada poet, playwright, novelist, folklorist and academician of great repute. He has a master's degree in Kannada and also holds a PhD degree. A Fulbright scholar, he has taught at the Karnataka University, the University of Chicago and the Bangalore University, and has been the President of Karnataka Nataka Academy, Founder Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University (Hampi), Chairman of National School of Drama and nominated member of Karnataka Legislative Council. His publications include *Mugulu* (the Bud), a collection of poems published in 1958; *Bembattida Kannu* (Haunting Eyes) in 1960; *Helatena Kela* (Listen, I Will Narrate) in 1964; *Narcissus* in 1969; *Rishyashrinaga* in 1970; poems *Savirada Neralu* (Deathless Shadows) in 1970 and *Takararanavaruru* (Hecklers) in 1974; plays *Jokumaraswamy* in 1973 and *Chalesa* (The Bespectacled Man of Forty) in 1979; a novel *Kari Mayi* (The Dark Mother) in 1978, and many more. Dr Kambar was awarded the Padma Shri, the Jnanpith Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award for his play *Siri Sampige*, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for playwriting, Karnantaka Sahitya Akademi Award for Literature, Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay Award for the play *Jo Kumar Swamy*, the Karnataka Sahitya Parishad Award for drama, the Kalidas Samman, the Kabir Samman, The Pampa Award, the Best Feature Film State Award for *Sangeetha*, and for direction, music story and dialogue. His research work on folk theatre is to be found in Uttara Karnataka Rangabhoomi and Bayalatagalu.



**DR MADHAV KAUSHIK,**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT, SAHITYA AKADEMI**

Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, has a master's degree in Hindi and retired as a Rajbhasha Adhikari from the Government of India. His first book of poems was published in 1986, and till date he has published nineteen collections of poetry, two short story collections, two criticism books, two translations and two books for children. Some of his books have been translated into Punjabi, Urdu and Sanskrit. *Suno Radhika*, *Laut Aao Parth* and *Theek Usi Waqt* are award-winning works of Dr Kaushik. His books on children's literature are *Khilone Mitti Ke* and *Aao Ambar Choo Le*. He has written the script and lyrics of award winning telefilm *Hari Bhari Haryali Dharti*. He has bagged several distinguished awards like Babu Bal Mukund Award, Mahakavi Surdas Samman by Haryana Sahitya Akademi and Shiromani Hindi Sahityakar by Bhasha Vibhag of Punjab Government. He was the Secretary of Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi for ten years. He is also the Vice-Chairman of Chandigarh Literary Society. Dr Kaushik has participated in a number of TV and radio programmes, as well as in the 9th World Hindi Conference held at Johannesburg in the year 2012.





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## INAUGURATION OF AKADEMI EXHIBITION 2017

12 February 2018, New Delhi



Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters for the year 2018 kick started with a grand inauguration ceremony of Sahitya Akademi Exhibition at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 12 February 2018. Sahitya Akademi exhibition highlights the achievements of the past year. The Exhibition is designed in such a way that a viewer can have precise and comprehensive understanding of the Akademi's objectives, work and activities and other related information at one go. The inaugural ceremony started with invocation by Kuchipudi Bhagavathamelam from Andhra Pradesh. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, provided the annual report of Sahitya Akademi in brief, highlighting important activities, achievements and milestones of the Akademi in 2017. He also explained in brief the purpose and objective of Akademi Exhibition and stated that the Exhibition highlights Sahitya Akademi's achievements in the previous year.



In his speech, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, congratulated all the new General Council Members of Sahitya Akademi and stated that a day like this comes once in five years and all the Members should be proud of their association with the Akademi. He talked about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote literature in all the 24 Indian languages recognized by it.

Smt. Chitra Mudgal, eminent Hindi writer and scholar, inaugurated the Akademi Exhibition. In her speech she applauded Sahitya Akademi for rendering great literary service to the nation. She stated that the number of literary programmes and publications of Sahitya Akademi are not only stupendous but also showcase how the Akademi spends every minute of its existence towards serving the literary community of the country. She also talked about how aptly literature of a time reveals the upheavals in a given society and literary contribution towards social change. She stated that the Akademi's contribution towards national integration is unparalleled and felt honoured by Akademi's invitation to inaugurate the Exhibition.





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## SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2017 AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

12 February 2018, New Delhi



Sahitya Akademi presented annual Akademi awards to Award winners in a glittering ceremony at Kamani auditorium in New Delhi on 12 February 2018. Following an invocation, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address observed that though these awards would seem, prima facie, recognition for a particular work, actually these awards are only honoring of long and rich literary traditions from which the Award winners and their works hail. He highlighted important milestones, achievements and activities of the Akademi during 2017. He unveiled new programmes in the Festival and hoped everyone attending the Festival would benefit from it.

In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, the newly-elected President of Sahitya Akademi, stated that he was very happy to be a part of the Award function. He added that his primary duty is to elevate the Akademi to greater heights and he will strive to at least match the performance of Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, former President, Sahitya Akademi, in serving and protecting this national institution. He talked about the pre and post-Independence literature of India, and felt it was colonial rule

which led to new literary trends in India. He observed that storytelling is part and parcel of India and this ability to tell a story on all occasions and share the thoughts, emotions and feelings through stories is what sets India apart from Western civilizations, especially that of Europe. He congratulated all the Award winners and stated that the works of Award winners indicate not only excellence in literature but also serve as markers of difference between India and the West.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao read out the citations of the Award winners. Dr Madhav Kaushik, the newly-elected Vice-President of Sahitya





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Akademi, welcomed the awardees with garlands and bouquets and Dr Chandrashekar Kambar presented the Awards. Those who received the Awards include Sri Jayanta Madhab Bora (Assamese), Sri Afsar Ahmed (Bengali), Ms Rita Boro (Bodo), Sri Shiv Mehta (Dogri), Ms Mamang Dai (English), Ms Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (Gujarati), Sri Ramesh Kuntal Megh (Hindi), Sri T. P. Ashoka (Kannada), Sri Autar Krishen Rahbar (Kashmiri), Sri Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Sri Udaya Narayana Singh 'Nachiketa' (Maithili), Sri K. P. Ramanunni (Malayalam), Sri Rajen Toijamba (Manipuri), Sri Shrikant Deshmukh (Marathi), Ms Bina Hangkhim (Nepali), Ms Gayatri Saraf (Odia), Sri Nachhattar (Punjabi), Sri Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani), Sri Niranjan Mishra (Sanskrit), Sri Bhujanga Tudu (Santali), Sri Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi), Sri Devipriya (Telugu) and Sri Baig Ehsas (Urdu).



Sri Kiran Nagarkar, distinguished writer and scholar, was the Chief Guest. He congratulated the awardees and shared the details of his childhood, adult life and the process of creative writing. He cited Louis Fisher's *The Life of Mahatma Gandhi* as a major literary influence on his life and expressed his great admiration for Mahatma Gandhi. There are many life lessons to be learnt from Gandhi and his life and observed that we have lost the sense of humor which Gandhi and his generation possessed. He added that Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson* and Johnson's Dictionary of English Language deeply influenced him. He stated that all the literary works had the best memories for him. He reminisced that he wrote his first story *To (He)* upon the request by Dilip Chitre. His first Marathi novel, *Saat Sakka Trechalis*, made him rediscover his mother tongue, Marathi. He added that each language is the repository of culture spanning several centuries. He ended his talk saying that he wanted to embrace every Indian language and 'in the beginning was the word and in the word was God.'



Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi delivered the concluding remarks. In his speech, he stressed on the need for unity and how unity—among the communities of the nation, institutions, etc—is bound to deliver success. He acknowledged the contributions of the former President of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, to the development of literature and that one should learn from him to work together for the success of all writers, and for literature itself.





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After the presentation, a cultural performance—Kuchipudi dance drama—on Mohini Bhasmasura was enacted by the troupe of Kuchipudi Bhagavathamelam. The performance followed the traditional form before innovating to enthrall the audience.



*cultural performance—Kuchipudi dance drama*

## MEDIA INTERACTION WITH AWARDEES

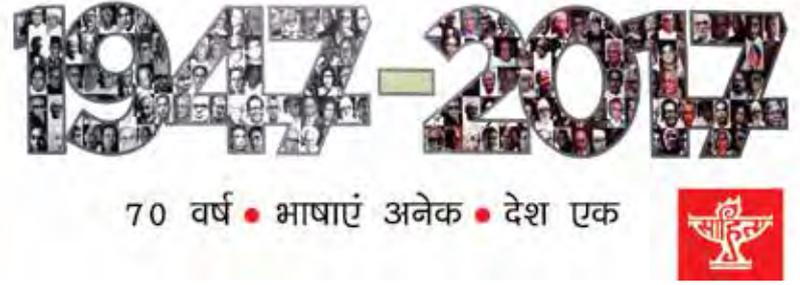
12 February 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized Media Interaction with Awardees at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Monday, 12 February 2018. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Award winners and introduced them to the media persons. Many media personalities, such as Sri Amarnath Amar from Doordarshan, Sri Ajit Rai, famous film critic and writer, and Ms Suma Raha, well-known writer and journalist, participated in the event. All the Award winners present faced the questions fielded by the journalists which led to lively discussions. Highlights of the programme: Smt. Rita Boro, Award winner in Bodo, shared the details of how she got involved in literature and also of her award-winning work.



Sri Jayanta Madhab Bora, Award winner in Assamese, talked about the process of creative writing and life. Sri Shrikant Deshmukh, Award winner in Marathi, narrated the influence of real life on writing. On being asked what the present day requirement is, Sri Deshmukh stated that writers should work for the betterment of society. Sri Gajanan Jog and Sri Autar Krishen Rahbar, Award winners in Konkani and Kashmiri, elaborated on the role of language in society and literature. Simultaneously, other Sahitya Akademi Award winners, Sri Afsar Ahmed (Bengali), Sri Shiv Mehta (Dogri), Smt. Mamang Dai (English), Smt. Urmi Ghanshyam Desai, (Gujarati), Sri T. P. Ashoka (Kannada), Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh 'Nachiketa' (Maithili), Sri K. P. Ramanunni (Malayalam), Sri Rajen Tijamba (Manipuri), Sri Neeraj Daiya (Rajasthani), Sri Nirnanjan Mishra (Sanskrit), who spoke in Sanskrit, Sri Bhujanga Tudu, Sri Jagdish Lachhani (Sindhi), Sri T. Devipriya (Telugu) and Sri Mohd. Baig Ehsas (Urdu), shared their award-winning works, their experiences and their interests with the audience.





## WRITERS' MEET

13 February 2018, New Delhi



A Writers' Meet program featuring presentations by the Sahitya Akademi Award winners was held on 13 February 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his welcome address stated that the Writers' Meet enabled the audience to understand firsthand the making of an award-winning book. Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the Meet.

Assamese: Sri Jayanta Madhav Bora, Award winner for his novel, *Moriahola*, talked about how his novel deals with lost villages and compared the erosion of the Brahmaputra with the erosion of life's values.

Bengali: Sri Afsar Ahmed, Award winner for his novel *Sei Kikhonj Manusta*, talked about the novel that deals with a missing person who reappears after four years and touches the lives around him

by his mantra to survive life day-by-day.

Bodo: Smt. Rita Boro, Award winner for her novel *Thwisam*, talked about her literary journey, how she took up serious literature and how literature helps to overcome stereotypes and patriarchal taboos.

Dogri: Sri Shiv Mehta, Award winner for his short-story collection *Banna*, talked about his journey as a creative writer, playwright, actor, painter, designer, etc.

English: Ms Mamang Dai, Award winner for her novel, *The Black Hill*, said that this novel is essentially the story of a French Jesuit priest, Father Nicolas Michel Krick, and Kaheesha, a legendary figure of the Mishmi tribe who was captured by the British authorities and hanged in Dibrugarh Jail, Assam, for the alleged murder of Father Krick and his colleague, Augustine Bourry.

Gujarati: Sri Urmi Ghanshyam Desai, Award winner for his work of criticism, *Gujarati Vyakaranna Baso*, discussed his book and said that through this book he has tried to present 200 years of Gujarati grammar from 1808 to 2006.

Hindi: Sri Ramesh Kuntal Megh, Award winner for his work of literary criticism *Vishw Mithak Sarit Sagar*, talked about fantasy in literature and shared his views about the much talked about proto language.

Kannada: Sri T. P. Ashoka, Award winner for his work of literary criticism, *Kathana Bharathi*, said that he always believed that literary criticism is basically an attempt to understand and appreciate a literary work. A critic should be ready to recognize what he has missed in his own reading, in the light of others' readings. Only then literary criticism gains sharpness and credibility.

Kashmiri: Sri Autar Krishen Rahbar, Award winner for his collection of short stories, *Yeli Parda Woth*, said that his first collection of stories was published in 1958 when he was pursuing MA, and at that time his interest towards research grew.

Konkani: Sri Gajanan Jog, Award winner for his collection of short stories, *Khand Ani Her Kathadwelt*, spoke on the themes of stories ranging from mental derangement, a schizophrenic person dismissed from service, classical misers coming from different social backgrounds, modern white-collared wage earners being constantly pressed by their higher-ups, lovers, artists, etc.





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**Maithili:** Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh 'Nachiketa', Award winner for his collection of poetry, *Jahlak Diary* (The Prison Diary), stated that his poetry shows a rare thematic congruence. The poems are written from the perspective of someone trapped in a jail cell.

**Malayalam:** Sri K. P. Ramanunni, Award winner for his novel, *Daivathinte Pusthakam* (God's Own Book), said that no novel in any language of the world has so far featured Prophet Muhammad as the protagonist. In this book, the Prophet calls Krishnan 'ikka' (elder brother) and Krishnan affectionately calls the Prophet 'muthe' (precious dear).

**Manipuri:** Sri Rajen Toijamba, Award winner for his play, *Chahee Taret Khuntakpa*, said that he always wanted to pen down the tragic episode of the Burmese Invasion of 7 years (1819–1825) to awaken today's politics in the state and its people, not for the purpose of lamenting the tragedy, but to regain political consciousness as it is the need of today.

**Marathi:** Sri Shrikant Deshmukh, Award winner for his collection of poetry, *Bolave Te Amhi*, said that a poet is a sensitive representative of the present; by scratching himself he connects himself to the social and cultural environment.

**Nepali:** Smt. Bina Hangkhim, Award winner in Nepali for her work of literary criticism, *Kriti Vimarsha*, said that man being a social creature never stops learning from each other and from the society one lives in. The society also plays a vital role in encouraging the outcome of his/her emotions. The ups and downs in man's life invariably leave an everlasting impression on one's emotions.

**Odia:** Smt. Gayatri Saraf, Award winner for her collection of short stories, *Etavatira Shilpi*, talked about the plight of child labourers. She said that she was amazed at observing their will to live, their loyalty in love and human relationship. That led her to write about them.

**Punjabi:** Sri Nachhattar, Award winner for his novel, *Slow Down* which is based on the tragic turns of lives consequent to economic slow-down, said that he has centered his writings around members from all spheres of the society, who face injustice while striving for a good life.

**Rajasthani:** Sri Neeraj Daiya, Award winner for his work of criticism *Bina Hasal Pai*, stated that his first duty is to save the trust of those who believe in criticism; he believes every creative work has its own filaments of criticism, thus making the writer the first critic of his own work.

**Sanskrit:** Award winner for his collection of poetry *Gangaputravadanam*, an epic on the life of Swami Sri Nigmanandji, stated that he believed that poetry is expression of inner emotions of poets.

**Santali:** Sri Bhujanga Tudu, Award winner for his collection of poetry, *Tahenan Tangi Re* (I will be on Wait), informed the audience how he started writing poetry after being inspired by a poem of Rabindranath Tagore.

**Sindhi:** Sri Jagdish Lachhani, Award winner for his collection of essays *Aachhende Laja Maraan* said that creative writing is not an easy task. A writer has to meet head-on with severe hardships. Just as a mother has to bear the pains while giving birth to a child, similarly the writer has to bear the pains of emotional extremes during the creation of a literary work.

**Telugu:** Sri Devipriya, Award winner for his collection of poetry, *Gaali Rangu*, said that ever since he fell in love with this heady labour of writing poetry some forty years ago, there has hardly been any respite. Neither was there a moment of true peace. If your mind is not pathologically restive, you are not a poet.

**Urdu:** Sri Baig Ehsas, Award winner in Urdu for his collection of short stories, *Dakhma*, said that the collection touches on the contemporary themes, like gradual extinction of minorities, everything having its price-tag, hunger for power, displacement from one's own land, lack of patience, intolerance, etc.

Dr Madhav Kaushik thanked all the Award winners. He said that Writers' Meet is a unique event in itself for all, as it provides all the Award winners to meet each other under one roof, which is not possible in any other programme.





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## SEMINAR ON ORAL AND TRIBAL LITERATURE AND TRIBAL POETS' MEET

13 February 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a National Seminar on Oral and Tribal Literature on 13 February 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. The inaugural session began with a welcome address by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. He described the efforts of the Akademi to promote tribal literature throughout the country and said that no other nation is as linguistically rich as India,



but over time these tribal languages have been marginalized. He reiterated the commitment of the Akademi towards the development of tribal languages. Prof. Mrinal Miri in his inaugural address said, 'To have a world view is to be a part of that world; meanings constitute worldview and languages are home to meaning. So the tribal language makes up the tribal world. Each language has developed a sort of autonomy which must be recognized.' Prof. Temsula Ao, eminent English writer, Chief Guest of



the programme, said that when we write tribal poetry, we are not competing with the poetry of other languages; rather, we are retrieving material from old singers and storytellers and putting them into other more recognizable and accessible forms. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. T. V. Kattimani, Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, while the presidential address was delivered by Dr B. B. Kumar, eminent linguist and Chairman, ICSSR, who chaired the inaugural session. The first session was chaired by Professor Desmond Kharmawphlang, and the papers were presented by Dr Zothonchhingi Khiangte, Dr D. Kuolie and Sri Ashwini Kumar Pankaj.

Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, conducted the Tribal Poets' Meet, which was the second session of the seminar. The following poets recited their poems during the programme—Arjun Singh Dhurve (Baiga), Rajkishore Nayak (Bathudi), Kulin Patel (Dhodia), Colnat B. Marak (Garo), Roop Singh Khusram (Gondi), Rudra Narayan Panigrahi (Balbi), Kairasing Bandia (Ho) and Kalachand Mahali (Mahali), Kuldeep Sigh Bampal (Bhotia), Sudarshan Bhumij (Bhumij), Rafiq Anjum (Gojri), Veera Rathod (Gormati), On Teran (Karbi) and Minimon Laloo, recited their poems. The poets recited their poems in their own languages followed by the English/Hindi translation of the same for the convenience of the audience.

On the second day, the third session was chaired by Sri Vasant Nirgune. Three eminent scholars, Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Sri Om Prakash Bharti and Sri Ashutosh Bhardwaj, presented their papers. The fourth session was chaired by Dr Purushottam Bilimale and papers were presented by three eminent scholars—Dr P. Shayma, Dr Naga Malleswara Rao and Dr Nirmal Selvamony.



The last session of the programme was devoted to Tribal Poets' Meet. Thirteen noted tribal poets, M. P. Rekha (Kodava), Bikas Ray Debbarma (Kokborok), Mahabir Oraon (Kurux), Deenabandhu Kanhar (Kui), Konchok Rigzen (Ladakhi), Th. Thumbu Maram (Maram), Dipok Kumar Doley (Mising), Puni Losii (Mao), Ashrita Tuti (Mundari), Jamuna Bini Tadar (Nyishi), N. Vumsuan (Paite), Charu Mohan Rabha (Rabha) and Rajesh Rathava (Rathavi), recited their compositions. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.





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## SAMVATSAR LECTURE

13 February 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized Samvatsar Lecture, which was delivered by Dr S. L. Bhyrappa on February 13, 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the speaker to the audience. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar welcomed Dr Bhyrappa with a bouquet and a set of Akademi publications as gift and said that Dr Bhyrappa is one of the most towering writers of Indian fiction.

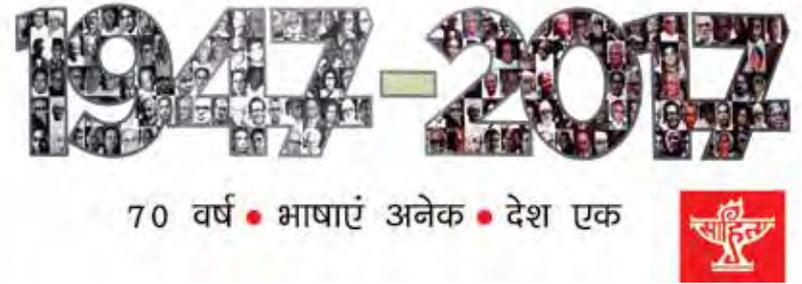
At the beginning Dr Bhyrappa said: "I cannot deliver a learned speech. Even if I try to give a learned talk, my creative mind obstructs me. Whenever, I read a book on physical science, social science like history, economics, sociology or political science in which facts are important, my mind leaves the weight of facts and flies up in the sky of imagination." He further shared experiences of his childhood days, family crises, which made him obsessed with the meaning of death. He also discussed how writing *Vamshavriksha*, (his first novel) turned him to be creative in writing fiction and not in explaining truth or beauty or moral values. Comparing the analyzing concept and theories of different philosophical schools, he further stressed on Indian philosophy, how the essence of the Vedas is in the Upanishads; the essence of the Upanishads is expressed in Bhagavadgita and the Brahmasutras of Badarayana. He also discussed the context of Ramayana and Mahabharata using some Sanskrit Shlokas. While concluding, he revealed why he chose the title 'Ascent to Vyasa Guha' for his lecture. He said, "At Badrinath there is a cave called Vyasaguha. The Sthalapuraana says that the author of the Mahabharata lived in that cave and wrote (dictated) the greatest epic of humankind... Even though Vyasa was not an active player of the Mahabharata history, he was a participant to the extent he performed Niyoga for the birth of Dritarashtra, Pandu and Vidura. That is, he was a participant and he lived somewhere near the theatre of action and he knew each and every detail of



the action. But to sit and write (or dictate) why did he go to that cold place of ten thousand feet height at the age of more than a hundred years? The meaning of the myth is; the vast material that he knew or accumulated or collected took place on the plains – i.e., the lower level and Vyasa was too near the action and the actors. He went to the height of the Himalayas from where he could see the whole story with detachment, with sympathy (Sahridayata) and understand even villainous characters..." He ended his lecture saying, "A writer who fails to understand the full meaning of this myth cannot climb even one foot towards the height of Vyasa Guha."

At the end of the function *Ascent to Vyasa Guha*, the Samvatsar Lecture by Dr S. L. Bhyrappa, was released.





## INDO-ISRAELI WRITERS' MEET

13 February 2018, New Delhi



Indo-Israeli Writers' Meet was organized at the Sahitya Akademi Conference Hall on 13 February 2018. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest writers. The meet was held to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic [relation](#) between India and Israel. Israeli delegation comprised Mr Meir Iosef Shalom Ouziel (leader of the delegation), Ms Dorit Zilberman Ginzburg, Ms Adiva Kitron Geffen, Ms Hava Cohen, Ms Avivit Levy and Ms Samdar Sidi, and Indian side was represented by writers from different languages recognized by the Akademi. He recalled the long relationship between Indian and Israeli literature, commonalities between India and Israel in reviving ancient languages and similarities between Hinduism and Judaism. Ms Dorit Zilberman talked about various initiatives of the Israeli Writers' Association, relationship between India and Israel and later shared a story. Mr Meir Iosef Shalom Ouziel thanked the Akademi and talked about how relationships can promote bonds and reduce the divisions in a society, especially the relationships among institutions. He detailed the role of Israeli Writers' Association in promoting literature through programmes, books and journals. Ms Hava Cohen recited her poetry and shared her thoughts about a variety of cultures, diverse approaches to life and her own experiences. Ms Adiva Kitron Geffen talked about her works, especially her experiences of creative writing. Ms Samdar Sidi talked about her personal experiences in life and explained the beauty of life, human relationships, etc. A lively but brief interactive session followed the presentations.

## SYMPOSIUM ON MEDIA AND LITERATURE

14 February 2018, New Delhi

A daylong symposium on Media and Literature was held at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 14 February 2018. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries, media personalities and audience. He spoke about the reciprocative role of media and literature in each other's growth, commonalities, differences and the areas of concern in the ever-increasing bond between these two areas of knowledge. Dr Chandrashekhhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, presided the session. Sri A. Surya Prakash, Chairman, Prasar Bharati, inaugurated the symposium and talked about the deep relationship between journalism and literature and commented that journalism





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is literature in a hurry. He observed that many a great writer like Mark Twain, George Orwell, Rudyard Kipling and Arvind Adiga, who left indelible mark in literature, started their careers as journalists. In his address, Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that journalism and literature were considered as brothers in the past, but with the passage of time both have been separated. While accentuating the concern about the impact of emerging technologies, especially on children, he cited the cases of European authors not yielding to market pressure but concentrating only on producing quality work.

The first session of the symposium was chaired by Dr Sachchidanand Joshi and the speakers were Sri Sudhish Pachauri, Sri Rahul Dev, Sri Rajeev Ranjan Nag, Sri Pratap Somvanshi, Sri K. Shrinivas and Sri R. V. Rama Rao. The second session of the program was chaired by Sri Rahul Srivastava, and the speakers were Sri Nidheesh Tyagi, Sri Mukesh Bhardwaj, Smt. Shashi Prabha and Sri Amarnath Amar.

The third session was chaired by Dr Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, India, and five noted scholars, Sri Balendu Sharma Dadhich, Sri Dev Prakash, Sri Ravindra Tripathi, Sri Shahid Latif and Sri Anant Vijay, presented their papers. Dr Baldev Bhai Sharma concluded the session by saying that it is the duty of media to keep the human consciousness alive, and literature to give it culture. He also pointed out that tampering the script will definitely damage the language.

## FACE TO FACE

14 February 2018, New Delhi



Sahitya Akademi organized a Face to Face programme at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 14 February 2018, featuring selected Award winners of the year in conversation with eminent writers from their languages. Prof. Sandip Chatterjee interviewed Bengali Award winner, Prof. Afsar Ahmed. Prof. Ahmed said that in *Kissa* series he has tried to evolve a new style of fiction and depicted what he faced in his life. He stated firmly that he is not a feminist writer, but attempts to explore the inner world of women. Ms Mamang Dai, Award winner in English, in conversation with Dr Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee discussed her Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novel, *The Black Hill*, in context of the 19th century. Sri Prayag Shukla interviewed Hindi Award winner, Sri Ramesh Kuntal Megh. Sri Ramesh Kuntal said that painting and literature have been his passion since childhood. He admitted that he was deeply influenced by Pt. Rahul Sankrityan and that his awarded book was the fruit of long exhausting meditation. Dr A. J. Thomas interviewed Malayalam Award winner, Sri K. P. Ramanunni. Sri Ramanunni said that the awarded novel for him was quite a challenge, and an ambitious project, too, as time and place were differently

treated in this novel and it was indeed an innovative struggle for him. Sri T. Devipriya in his conversation with Sri Krishna Rao said that he inherited his poetic sensibility from his mother and that poetry comes to him as a flower comes to a plant. He also said that creative writing has been his passion and he never liked to write for the screen. Sri Devipriya reminisced that Sri A Subba Rao, eminent Telugu writer, helped him a lot in life.

## CULTURAL PERFORMANCE: SANGRAIN AND WA DANCE

14 February 2018, New Delhi



The evening saw the cultural performance by Sangrain Dance Academy, Tripura, performing Sangrain and Wa Dance at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns. Sangrain Dance is the native dance form of Tripura. Sangrain Dance is performed by the Mog tribal community, one of the major tribal communities of Tripura, on the occasion of Sangrain festival during the month of Chaitra. Sangrain festival is associated with the idea and rituals related to welcoming the New Year and hence the festival falls between March and April every year. The troupe performed Umbrella and Pot & Candle dances.



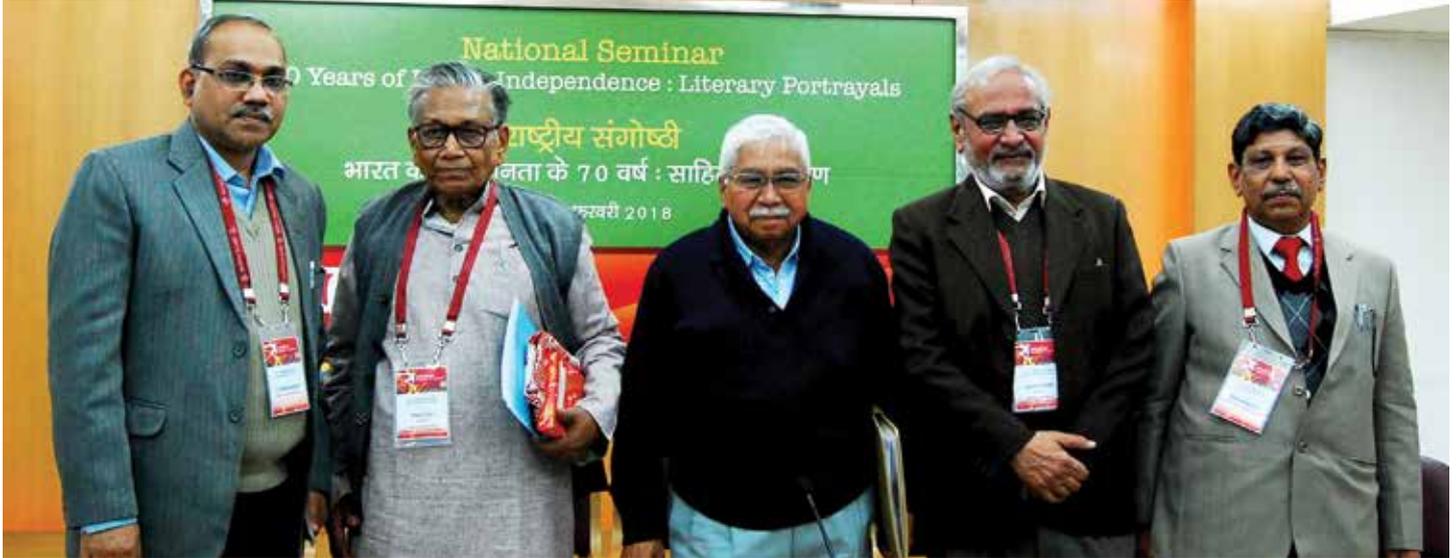


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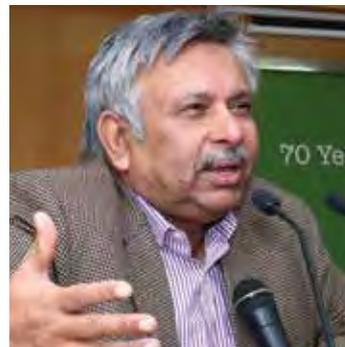
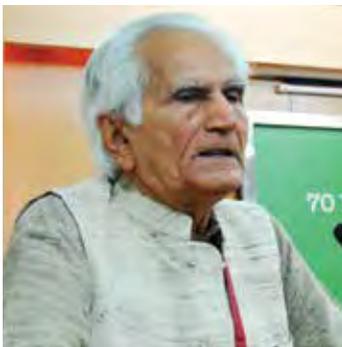
## NATIONAL SEMINAR: 70 YEARS OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE: LITERARY PORTRAYALS

15-17 February 2018, New Delhi



On the fourth day of the Festival of Letters, Sahitya Akademi organized a National Seminar on 70 Years of Indian Independence: Literary Portrayals at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address spoke about the role of literature in Indian Independence and how different emerging trends, genres and traditions were portrayed over seven subsequent decades in Indian literature. Dr Manoj Das, eminent Odia Writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, in his inaugural address observed that sooner or later a time will come when all fragmentary literature will vanish, and expressed his anguish that contemporary Indian literary writers' focus is more on pleasing the audience rather than producing quality literature. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, expressed his concern over the way Kannada literature and traditions are being affected by emerging trends. Prof Harish Trivedi, eminent writer and scholar, said that history is just another narrative that suffers from selectivity and subjectivity. Literature, he went on to say, is not newspaper, it is not yesterday's report; it needs time to ripen, contemplate, grow, come into focus and be appreciated. Over the past 70 years, he said, literature has been institutionalized. Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, remarked that India might have been a slave of the colonial rule, but literature was never a slave, in fact it liberated the country from slavery.

The first session was chaired by Professor K. Enoch, eminent scholar, and Prof. Sharan Kumar Limbale and Prof. Sheoraj Singh Bechain presented their papers. While concluding the session Prof. Enoch talked about conservative and liberal Dalit literature, with the former being about Dalits and the latter by Dalits. He cited the examples of Gandhi and Ambedkar. Prof. Sheoraj Singh Bechain said that Independence has given a chance to Dalit writers to share their experiences through literature. The second session





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devoted to 'Consolidating the Freedom: Literature as a Tool for National Integration' was chaired by Dr Raghuv eer Chaudhari. In this session two eminent scholars, Prof Shafey Kidwai and Sri Maalan, presented their papers. Dr Raghuv eer Chaudhari said that the writer is free and also accepts the freedom of others. He also said that we have to strive to promote Indian languages in each state.

On the second day, the third session of the Seminar was devoted to 'State in Crisis: India in 1950's and 60's & Literature' was chaired by Prof K. Satchidanandan. Three eminent scholars, Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, Smt. Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta and Prof Dhananjay Singh, presented their papers. In his speech Prof K. Satchidanandan addressed the issue of aesthetic transformation of Indian literature and stated that India of the '60s was characterized by urbanization, which was very well portrayed in literature and depicted in the films of that time.

The fourth session devoted to 'War Literature in Indian Languages' was chaired by Dr Bhalchandra Nemade, and three eminent scholars, Sri Bhupendra Adhikari, Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak and Prof. Rajkumar, presented their papers. Dr Bhalchandra Nemade pointed out that the concept of war is deeply rooted in India and, for instance in Maharashtra, could be seen in the titles of literary works or names of political parties which started with the word 'Sena'.

The fifth session was devoted to 'Emergency and Writing as a Political Tool' which was chaired by Prof. H. S. Shivaprakash. The two eminent scholars, Sri Ved Pratap Vaidik and Sri Alok Mehta, presented their papers. Prof H. S. Shivaprakash thanked the speakers for their insightful and interesting narrations.

In the sixth session chaired by Sri Sudhish Pachauri, three eminent scholars, Dr Sribhagwan Singh, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay and Dr C. Rajendran, presented their papers. Concluding the session, Sri Pachauri said that through this seminar the Akademi has provided an opportunity for all to look back and have a glimpse of our past.

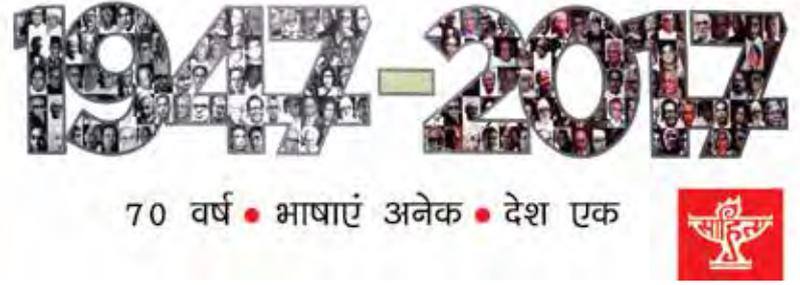
The National Seminar on 70 Years of Indian Independence: Literary Portrayals, which was organized by the Sahitya Akademi as part of Festival of Letters continued for the third day at the Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on 17 February 2018.

In the seventh session of the Seminar which was devoted to 'Seven Decades of Freedom: Feminist Perspectives' and chaired by Dr Mridula Garg, four eminent scholars, Prof. Maya Pandit, Ms Savita Singh, Dr C. Mrunalini and Ms Jaiwanti Dimri, presented their papers. In her speech, Prof. Maya Pandit said that even the Panchatantra has referred to women as the treasure house of everything that is bad. She questioned the role models and familial ideologies carved out by society for women, and how through fiction women have been trying to defy such models and norms. Ms Savita Singh, calling herself a feminist, asserted that there should be no space for discussion on masculinity in feminism and that feminism as a discourse has become central to all other discourses. According to her, the two things that every individual aspires for are to understand the world they live in and to enjoy in that world in a free manner. Dr C. Mrunalini mentioned how in the pre-independence days the Victorian moral values banned many Telugu books, and how today India is again doing the same thing. She touched on the issue of how the government has curtailed the provisions of section 498, and how sisterhood is necessary to break the barriers faced by women. Ms Jaiwanti Dimri talked about how the intra-country migration of women in India is in no way less significant than that of their male counterparts. She referred to many novels and writers who could help the audience understand the experiences of subaltern women. Dr Mridula Garg, in conclusion, said that the fight for values that men and women alike have put up is real feminism, and that feminist writers have started to deconstruct the roles of women to show the varied perspectives of womanhood.

The eighth session was devoted to 'Evolution of Children's Literature through Seven Decades'. This session was chaired by Smt. Deepa Agarwal, and Dr Dinesh Goswami, Smt. Deepa Agarwal and Sri Era. Natarasan presented papers. Smt. Deepa Agarwal said that during the last 70 years in India, writers, teachers, librarians and parents have gradually begun to understand the importance of the 'child's eye view' in literature.

The valedictory session of the Seminar was chaired by Dr S. L. Bhyrappa and Dr C. Radhakrishnan. Sri Damodar Mauzo and Prof Sukrita Paul Kumar presented their papers. Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked all the seminar participants in his concluding remarks at the end of the seminar with which the Festival of Letters was rounded up.





## YUVA SAHITI: THE NEW HARVEST

15 February 2018, New Delhi



Sahitya Akademi organized Yuva Sahiti: The New Harvest programme at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 15 February 2018. Young writers from all over India representing 22 Indian languages participated in the day-long event. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address spoke about the value of youth to any nation, the importance of the contributions of young people and various schemes and initiatives of the Akademi meant exclusively for young writers. Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, in his inaugural address stated that young writers promptly and with commitment voice their generation, and if they attempt to know their inner being, their creative expression will become more significant. He stated that the writer is responsible to his society. At the end of the inaugural session, the following young

poets recited their poems—Sri Himalaya Jana (Bengali), Sri Roshan Bral 'Roshan' (Dogri), Sri Chandresh Makwana (Gujarati), Sri Prem Shankar Shukla (Hindi), Sri Lone Imtiaz (Kashmiri), Sri D. Anil Kumar (Malayalam), Sri Ravi Korde (Marathi), Sri Pali Khadim (Punjabi) and Sri Wasif Yaar (Urdu).

The first session devoted to 'Writing: Passion or Profession?' was chaired by Dr Namita Gokhle and noted scholars, Ratnottama Das Bikram (Assamese), Achyutanand Mishra (Hindi), Anushree Rathore (Rajasthani) and Vempalli Gangadhar (Telugu), spoke on the subject. Dr Gokhale said that the concept of writing is changing, finding new forms and technologies and she believed that in the future new narratives will be told by Artificial Intelligence. The next session was devoted to story readings and was chaired by Smt. Paramaita Satpathy. Noted fiction writers, Ms Upasana (Hindi), Sri Shridhar Banvasi G. C. (Kannada), Ms Sumita Prabhu (Konkani) and Ms Debapriya Priyadarshi Chakra (Odia), read out their stories. Smt. Paramita Satpathy said that we have an inheritable tradition of listening to stories because stories take us to the imaginary world. Since time immemorial we have been listening to stories. In the third session, which was devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Ashtbhuj Shukla, eight noted poets, Sri Dhiraj Basumatary (Bodo), Sri K. Raja Anjana (English), Sri Umesh Paswan (Maithili), Sri Karna Biraha (Nepali), Sri Gulab Ladhani (Sindhi), Sri Yuvaraj Bhattarai (Sanskrit), Sri Birsant Hansdah (Santali) and Sri J. Tamil Selvan (Tamil), recited their compositions in their languages with their English/Hindi translations.

## KAVI SAMMELAN

15 February 2018, New Delhi



On the evening of 15 February 2018 was organized a Kavi Sammelan at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns featuring poetry recitations by twelve noted poets. Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, eminent Urdu poet, chaired the Sammelan. The poets who recited their compositions were Sri Alok Shrivastava, Sri Ashok Chakradhar, Sri Buddhinath Mishra, Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal, Sri Kunwar Bechain, Sri Laxmi Shankar Vajpai, Ms Madhu Mohini Upadhyay, Sri Maheswar Tiwari, Sri Mansoor Usmani, Ms Mumtaz Munnawar and Sri Rajesh Reddy.





साहित्योत्सव  
Festival of Letters  
12 - 17 February 2018



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## SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATION AS RETELLING

16 February 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on Translation as Retelling as part of Festival of Letters at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 16 February 2018. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address spoke about the translation traditions of India from the times of yore, practices of adaptations and the process of retelling the texts. He concluded that by nature translation is a process of retelling. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr Satyavrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi. In his speech he said that it is the responsibility of a translator to understand what the author wants to say before translating the text.



The first session of the program was chaired by Dr Ranjit Saha and papers were presented by Alok Gupta, Anamika and Tarsem on the topics 'Meaning of Translation in Indian Thought', 'Meaning of Translation in Western Thought' and 'Logic of Meaning', respectively. According to Dr Saha, we are not just translators, but rather, students of translation. Alok Gupta, in his speech, pointed out the fact that there is no proper book of the translation

discipline. Anamika, in her speech, said that translators are supposed to be just translators of meaning. Tarsem said that translation is a powerful medium which helps in the transportation of thoughts between two languages.



The second session was chaired by Prof O. L. Nagabhushana Swamy. The papers were presented by Dr Krishna Kumar Goswami, Prof. Vanamala Vishwanatha and Sri Angshuman Kar on 'Translator's Virtues, Task and Expectations' and 'Translator's Responsibilities and Challenges'. They touched on various issues and the challenges a translator has to face while translating. Concluding the session, Dr O. L. Nagabhushana Swamy said that since morning we had been concentrating upon retelling and translation and repeated use of the original. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi.

## PURVOTTARI

16 February 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Purvottari programme at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 16 February 2018. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address spoke about the platform, its objective and various initiatives of the Akademi to promote literature and litterateurs of the Northeast. He observed that programmes such as Purvottari help the Akademi in bridging varied cultural and literary traditions of the country. Sri Sonam Tshering Lepcha, eminent folk musician and Lepcha lyricist, started his speech with a song thanking and praising the lord almighty. He showed the audience a few rare bamboo musical instruments he had brought from his own museum. He expressed his disappointment over the fact that efforts have not been made by the Government for promotion and development of Lepcha language and culture. A part of the inaugural session was devoted to story reading and was chaired by Sri S. R. Harnot, who read a very touching story about a small bird named Aabi, who dwelt around a lake in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. Smt. Ningombam Sanatombi Devi read her story *Hriday mein Gudgudi*—an interesting story about an unmarried, ageing bald guy





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who starts courting a girl living next door. Gobind Prasad Sharma read his story about a man who recalled his boyhood days in his village where one could see an exotic bird, or a gazelle or a fragrance-emanating cat in his backyard. Tikendra Mall Basumatary read his story about the people of a small village who had been promised a visit by their minister.

In the first session, which was a panel discussion on 'My Creation, My World', Sri Yeshe Dorje Thongchi was the moderator and Smt. Yashodhara Mishra, Sri Shivmurti and Sri Hajowary were the panelists. Second session of Purvottari was devoted to poetry reading. Sri Leeladhar Jagoori, Hindi poet, journalist and recipient of the Padma Shri was in the chair. Sri Jyotirekha Hazarika (Assamese), Sri Sanjay Chakrabarty (Bengali), Ms Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo), Ms Promila Manhas (Dogri), Sri Vijay Wali (Kashmiri), Sri N. T. Lepcha (Lepcha), Sri Narayan Ji (Maithili), Sri Tongbram Amarjit Singh (Manipuri), Ms Induprava Devi (Nepali), Sri Ravinder (Punjabi), Sri Shankar Singh Rajpurohit (Rajasthani), Sri Ramshankar Awasthi (Sanskrit), Ms Yashoda Murmu (Santali) and Sri Qamar Suroor (Urdu) presented their poems in their language with its English/Hindi translation. The programme was coordinated by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh.

## MEDIEVAL POETRY: A MUSICAL PRESENTATION BY SHEKHAR SEN

16 February 2018, New Delhi



On the evening of 16 February 2018, Sahitya Akademi organized a cultural performance, 'Medieval Poetry: A Musical Presentation' by a distinguished musician, composer, theatre personality and Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sri Shekhar Sen. In the programme Sri Shekhar Sen sang the poems of great saint-poets like Surdas, Raskhan, Rahim and Lalit Kishori. Sri Shekhar Sen was assisted in the performance by Sri Shashikant Sharma on Dholak, Sri Ashish Biswas on Tabla and Sri Rajesh Prasanna on Flute.

## SYMPOSIUM ON THE ROLE OF PUBLISHERS IN INDIAN LITERATURE

17 February 2018, New Delhi



A Symposium on The Role of Publishers in Indian Literature was held on 17 February 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao in his welcome address talked about the stellar role which Indian publishers played in disseminating Indian literature in the past seven decades, and addressed the issues of impact of technological advancements and changing roles of publishers. Prof Dhruva Jyoti Borah, eminent Assamese scholar and writer, in his inaugural address stated that the writers would not have existed without publishers and in the modern world, reaching out to the global audience is not possible without publishers. Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, compared the relationship between the authors and publisher to that of a jeweller and diamonds, and how the publisher helps the authors achieve their full potential.

The first session was chaired by Sri Bikas D. Niyogi and papers were presented by Arun Maheshwari, Arun Jakhade and Vaishali Mathur. In his speech, Bikas D. Niyogi said that if we look at the





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history of publishing, both in the West and in India, we'll find how an author grows along with his publisher. Sri Arun Maheshwari, in his speech, talked about the history of publishing. Sri Arun Jakhade, said that the publisher is an important element in publishing across the globe, especially in India because of its linguistic diversity. Smt. Vaishali Mathur talked about how the sale of ebooks has not hampered the sale of physical books, but actually added to it.

The second session of the symposium on 'The Role of Publishers in Indian Literature' was chaired by Sri Leeladhar Mandloi, former Director, Bharatiya Jnanpith. He stressed about the network of Indian publishers across the country. He questioned whether the Indian publishers in publishing Indian literature really want to reach out to the reader, that is, in very direct sense, not through libraries. Sri Ramesh K. Mittal, Sri Ravi D. C., Sri Vijay and Sri Haqqani Al-Qasmi presented papers. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.

## SPIN-A-TALE

17 February 2018



Sahitya Akademi organized a children's programme, Spin-a-Tale, at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 17 February 2018, featuring poetry and story writing competitions for children.

The programme commenced with a Ghoomar dance performance by child artist, Shamia Begum, Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, New Delhi, and prayer to Lord Ganesh by Master Karan Gautam. Sri Rajnikant Shukla, well-known children writer, and Sri Abid Surti, eminent author, cartoonist, journalist, playwright and screen writer, were the chief guests in the programme.

Sri Rajnikant Shukla introduced Ms Nazia Khan, the National Bravery Awardee. He informed that he has collected and published the stories of all these brave children. Kids asked many questions to Nazia, regarding the challenges she faced, her inspiration and support in life, and what message she had for the kids. Nazia told that she received her inspiration from her mother and her teachers at school. She said if one kept on thinking about consequences, one would never have the courage to help others. She said that if a person dies doing a good deed, the death becomes meaningful.



Sri Abid Surti told the kids how the journey of story started among the early men using gestures, which later become the word. He told the kids about the oral tradition of India. He gave reference to the works of Giju Bhai, who collected the stories from grandmothers and published them in pre-independent India, which were later translated by Sri Abid Surti and published as *Gijubahi Ka Guldasta*.

About 300 students from the following Delhi schools participated in the programme: Kendriya Vidyalaya, N.F.C. Vigyan Vihar, Sardar Patel School, Lodhi Estate, DPS, Vasant Vihar, Modern School, Barakhamba Road, Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Daryaganj, Millennium Shriram School, Greater Noida, Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Dattu Pura, D.A.V. Public School, Shreshtha Vihar, Modern School Barakhamba Road and Sarvodayaya Vidyalaya, Shakarpur. The competitions were held in two different age groups, and in Hindi and English separately, with three prizes in each age group and segment.

The programme concluded with distribution of prizes and certificates to children.



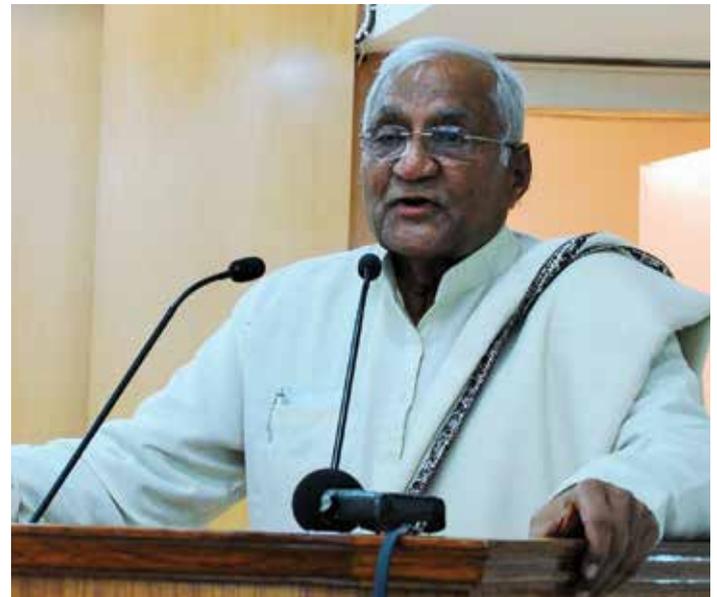


## PRESENTATION OF BHASHA SAMMAN

31 January 2018, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi conferred its prestigious Bhasha Samman upon Dr Shesh Anand Madhukar for his exemplary contribution to Magahi language. At the outset, Dr Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests and audience. In his welcome address he said that Sahitya Akademi gives annual awards to books of outstanding merit in 24 languages recognized by it. The Akademi felt that in a multilingual country like India that has hundreds of languages and dialects, its activities should be extended beyond the recognized ones by acknowledging and promoting literary creativity in non-recognized languages. The Akademi therefore, instituted Bhasha Samman in 1996 to be given to writers, scholars, editors, collectors who have made considerable contribution to the propagation, modernization or enrichment of the unrecognized languages. Till date Akademi has given awards to 96 writers/scholars of unrecognized languages.

Born at Village Dariapur, Itkari, Gaya, Bihar, Dr Madhukar holds master's degrees in Hindi and Sanskrit and a doctorate degree. Since 1960, Dr Madhukar has been working extensively for the development of Magahi language. He has 5 books of Hindi and Magahi to his credit. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented an inscribed copper plaque, shawl, and a cheque for rupees one lakh to Sri Madhukar. Prof. Tiwari in his presidential speech said that all languages are worth worshipping. Quoting languages like Bhojpuri and Awadhi he said that unrecognized languages are like rivers that strengthen the sea of mainstream language. In his acceptance speech, Dr Madhukar thanked Sahitya Akademi for giving recognition to unrecognized languages by bestowing on them the highest honour of Bhasha Samman. He presented some of his Magahi poems and said that native language of the writer is the strongest medium of expression.



## NEW DELHI WORLD BOOK FAIR

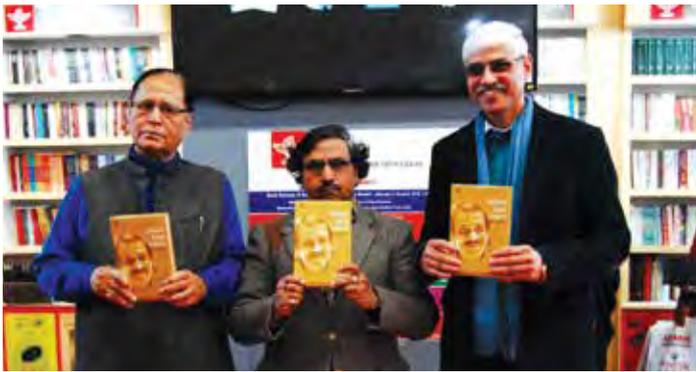
08–13 January 2018, New Delhi

On the occasion of New Delhi World Book Fair, Sahitya Akademi, in association with National Book Trust, India, organized different programmes from 8 to 14 January 2018.



On the occasion of book fair, a Book Release function of Sahitya Akademi's 50 new books was organized. In his welcome address Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that this year Sahitya Akademi has published 508 books. Dr Baldev Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, released the books and said that it was a special occasion for him as so many books were released together. He also mentioned that the books published by Sahitya Akademi represent the literary and cultural diversity of India.

### • *Book release and Book discussion*



In the Book Discussion programme, Sri Pradeep Pant spoke on the book *Pahar Gatha*, compiled and Ed. by Dr Sudarshan Vashist, and Sri Vinod Tiwari spoke on the book *Sarveshwar Dayal Saxena Rachna Sanchayan*, compiled and Ed. by Sri Ramesh Rishikalp. Both the books were published by Sahitya Akademi.

### • *Purvottari*

On the occasion of the New Delhi World Book Fair, Sahitya Akademi in association with National Book Trust, India, organized Purvottari, a Multilingual Writers' Meet with noted writers from North-Eastern languages on 9 January 2018. The programme was chaired by noted Manipuri writer Jodhchandra Sansam and



Ankur Ranjan Fukan (Assamese), Anjali Basumatari (Bodo), Dinkar Kumar (Hindi), Longbir Terang (Karvi) and Amar Bania 'Lohoro' (Nepali) read out their works.

### • *Book Discussion*



A Book Discussion programme on the books published by the Sahitya Akademi was held during the Fair. Prof. Ramdarash Mishra spoke on the book *Kavita Mein Dilli*, compiled and Ed. by Dr Radheshyam Tiwari and Dr Yogendranath Sharma 'Arun' spoke on the book *Pitambardukt Barthwal Rachna Sanchayan*, compiled and Ed. by Sri Vishnudutt Rakesh.





• *Bal Sahiti*



A Bal Sahiti programme with panel Discussion on 'Children Literature: Contemporary Aspects' was organized on 13 January 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, during New Delhi World Book Fair. Noted Assamese writer Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami chaired the panel discussion. Referring to some Hindi stories, Dr Rajnish (Hindi) said that children literature should be saved from the illogic and unscientific stories. Sri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra (Odia) appealed that children should be free to read whatever they like. Sri Asad Raza (Urdu) advocated that we should encourage science fiction. Ms Deepa Agarwal (English) said that English children writers are consciously including cultural and historical heritage of our country. Dr Goswami underlined the journey of evolution of science fiction in children's literature.

• *Asmita*



Sahitya Akademi in association with National Book Trust, India, on the occasion of New Delhi World Book Fair, organized Asmita programme on 10 January 2018. In this programme, multilingual women writers were invited to read out from their works. Noted Hindi writer Dr Nasera Sharma chaired the programme while Kshama Sharma (Hindi), Tabassum Fatima (Urdu), Nivedita Jha (Maithili) and Shuma Raha (English) read out their works.

• *Yuva Sahiti*



During the New Delhi World Book Fair, Sahitya Akademi in association with National Book Trust, India, organized Yuva Sahiti programme with young writers from different Indian languages on 11 January 2018. The programme was chaired by Dr Harish Naval. Sri Nishant and Sanjeev Kaushal (Hindi), Jagvinder Jodha (Punjabi), Brijesh Amber and Mahendra Kumar Sani (Urdu) and Kaushal Panwar (Sanskrit) presented their short stories/poems.

**GRAMALOK:  
MAITHILI POETS' MEET**  
07 January 2018, Samastipur, Bihar



Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Maithili Sahitya Sanskriti Vikas Parishad, Samastipur, organized a Maithili Poets' Meet in its Gramalok series of programme on 7 January 2018 at Village Manaray Tol, Dist. Samastipur, Bihar. Dr Ravinder Kumar Jha chaired the programme and Ms Savita Kumari, Sri Parmanand Prabhakar, Satyanarayan Jha, Vijay Issar 'Vats' and Rampuneet Thakur read out their poems, ghazals and songs.

## INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

21 February 2018, New Delhi



To commemorate the International Mother Language Day, Sahitya Akademi organized a Multilingual Poets' Meet on 21 February 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address stated that 'Mother tongues are the root of our culture. There was a time when everyone was proud about the motherland and mother tongue; but now-a-days reverse is the case.' He further emphasized that in the Indian subcontinent, special emphasis should be given for preservation and protection of the mother tongue on a large scale. He proclaimed that it is our duty to protect our mother tongue. Eminent Dogri Writer, Smt. Padma Sachdev, in her inaugural address said that one should first speak the mother tongue, and specific emphasis should be

given for promotion of the national language. She added that mother is the giver of life and mother tongue is the carrier of our culture.

The programme was followed by recitation by noted poets, like Jeeban Narah (Assamese), Deva Kanta Ramchiary (Bodo), Harish Meenashru (Gujarati), Anamika (Hindi), Pratibha Nanda Kumar (Kannada), Philomena Samfrancisco (Konkani), Raman Kumar Singh (Maithili), Anitha Thampi (Malayalam), Arambam Memchoubi (Manipuri), Ganesh Vispute (Marathi), Uttam Kumar Kshetri (Nepali), Sujata Chaudhary (Odia), Vanita Manchanda (Punjabi), Malchand Tiwari (Rajasthani), Ramakant Shukla (Sanskrit), Gobind Chandra Majhi (Santali), Mohan Himthani (Sindhi), Ravi Subramaniyan (Tamil), Yakoob (Telugu) and Tehseen Munawer (Urdu). The programme ended with vote of thanks by Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi.





### GRAMALOK: MAPPILAPPATTU LITERATURE AND FOLK TRADITION

05 January 2018, Kottappuram, Kerala



Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, in association with Govt. Higher Secondary School, Kottappuram, conducted Gramalok programme on ‘Mappilappattu Literature and Folk Tradition’ on 05 January 2018 at Government Higher Secondary School, Kottappuram, Kerala.

The programme started with the welcome speech by Anas Rahman. The programme was chaired by M. N. Chandran Nair, Principal, Higher Secondary School Kottappuram. Razak Payamprott, Secretary of Moyinkutty Vaidyar Mappila Kala Academy said that this type of programmes show how a cultural centre, like the Sahitya Akademi, can effectively engage with the education sector and ensure its participation in all walks of the society. K Muhammed Ashraf, School NSS coordinator, gave an introductory speech in which he explained how Gramalok programmes are beneficial to the students on both curricular and extra-curricular levels.

Mr Faisal Elettill broadly explained the history of Mappilappaattu. Mr Shiju R. talked about the folklore tradition in Malayalam literature. Singing many songs from that tradition, he explained how these songs alter in tune and tone on different occasions. Dr Shamshad Hussain elaborated on the relation between Malayalam poetic tradition and Mappila poetry. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

### NORTHEAST AND SOUTHERN POETS’ MEET

08 January 2018, Vijayawada



On the occasion of Vijayawada Book Festival, Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, organized Northeast and Southern Poets’ Meet. Mr Vasireddy Naveen, newly elected Executive member of Sahitya Akademi invited all the poets on to the Vedika. Eminent Telugu poet Dr Chillara Bhavanidevi addressed the poets and also chaired the occasion.

Dr Arambam Ongbi mam Chobi and Sri Chogtham Deepu Singh (Manipuri), Sri Rakho Basumathari and Prof. Swarna Prabha Chainary (Bodo), Smt. Neelu Sarma Paranjuli (Nepali) Sri M. Murugesan (Tamil), Smt. Rohini Satya (Kannada), Dr Bhavanidevi (Telugu) and Kum. Rema Prasanna Phisharodi recited their poetry in their respective languages with the English translations.

Prof. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, Sahitya Akademi awardee, concluded the programme saying that we should translate our creative writings from our language to Hindi and English; only then our cultural flag will fly on the globe.

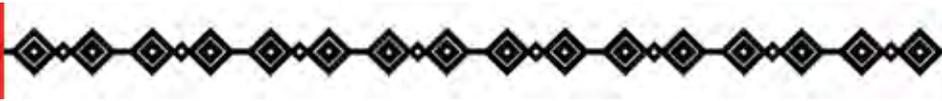


### BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON M. GOPALAKRISHNA ADIGA

06 and 07 January 2018, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bengaluru Central University, Bengaluru, organized a Birth Centenary Seminar on veteran Kannada writer Mogeri Gopalakrishna Adiga, better known as Adiga in the Kannada literary world. At the outset, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address said that Adiga was a poet for whom his poetry and life were not separate. The seminar was intended to salute the great mind and to showcase the greatness of Adiga’s poetry to the young minds. Prof S. Japhet, the Vice-Chancellor of Bengaluru Central University, said that Adiga was a prominent poet who was said to have opened the eyes of a generation as he had trod a different path. Dr Sirpi Balasubramanya, eminent Tamil Poet, in his inaugural address said that Adiga was neither a leftist nor a rightist. Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Kannada critic, in his keynote address said that Adiga’s poetry is more relevant today than ever before as it suggests solutions to many of today’s crises and anxieties. Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar, Jnanpith awardee and eminent Kannada writer, in his presidential address, called Adiga a saint poet. What he believed, behaved and spoke was one and the same.

The first session was chaired by Dr H. S. Shivaprakash, eminent poet and dramatist. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, the well-known Bengali writer, in his paper said that Adiga was the



most important voice in modern Kannada poetry. Dr Govinda Kajarekar, noted Marathi poet, described how the young poets of Marathi—Mardekar, Kusumagraja and Arun Kolatkar—came under the influence of Adiga. Prof. K. G. Sankara Pillai, noted Malayalam poet, said that many younger Malayalam poets came under the influence of Adiga, through the translation by Govindan. Dr H. S. Shivaprakash concluded the session saying that Adiga’s poetry always haunts us.

The second session was chaired by Dr Siddhaling Pattanshetti. Prof. O. L. Nagabhushana Swamy, noted Kannada critic, spoke on Kannada Tradition and Adiga. Prof. Nagabhushana Swamy said that due to the intellectual hatred created, reading Adiga is said to be wrong; however, the loss is not for Adiga, but for us. Sri S. Diwakar, eminent short story writer and critic, spoke on Adiga and social perspective, and opined the Adiga’s poems were like ammunitions. Prof. Siddhaling Pattanshetti said that Adiga never imposed his words or poetry on others and that the complete criticism on Adiga must be published.

Third session began with Dr H. S. Raghavendra Rao in the chair. Prof. U. H. Ganesh, Kannada critic, said that we must discuss what the criterion of the greatness of Adiga’s poetry is. His poetry can be defined as an organic structure and it leads to post-modern thoughts from the modern failure. Prof. C. Naganna, the critic and translator, spoke on Adiga’s translation of Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*. Ms Krishna Manavalli made a comparative study of three translations of Adiga’s most significant poem *Bhoomigeetha*.

Fourth session was chaired by Dr G. S. Siddhalingaiah. Noted critic Sri S. R. Vijayashankar spoke on Adiga and political consciousness. Smt. Tarini Subhadayini spoke on Adiga and Modernity. Dr G. S. Siddhalingaiah concluded the session saying it was Adiga who gave a new twist to Kannada poetry.

Fifth session was chaired by eminent poet and critic, Dr H. S. Venkateshamurthy. Dr Basavaraja Donur spoke on Adiga’s prose writings and said that many of his essays, too, have political consciousness. Dr Venkateshamurthy said Adiga never spoke anything that could be accepted by all.

The sixth session was chaired by Dr T. P. Ashoka, Sahitya Akademi award winner. Dr M. S. Ashadevi spoke on Adiga and the new generation. Prof. H. Dandappa spoke on Adiga and

literary debates. He referred to K. V. Subbanna’s debate with Adiga’s obsession about greatness in poetry. Dr T. P. Ashoka concluded the session mentioning that Kannada readers have taken Adiga seriously and it is a great honour to Adiga.

The valedictory session began with eminent dramatist and Jnanpith awardee Sri Girish Karnad in the chair. Dr Giraddi Govindaraj, in his valedictory address, said that Adiga’s poetry is very significant because it has got the smell of the earth. Sri Girish Karnad said that he is only a dramatist and yet, he was asked to direct a documentary on Adiga and he willingly accepted it.

### SYMPOSIUM ON MALAYALAM LITERARY CRITICISM

23 January 2018, Kottayam



Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Bhashaposhini, Malayalam Manorama, Kottayam and Malayalam Dept. of Baselius College, Kottayam, organized a Symposium on Malayalam Literary Criticism on 23 January 2018, at Dr A. P. Mani Media Centre, Baselius College, Kottayam.

### LITERARY FORUM: TELUGU SHORT STORIES REFLECTING OCCUPATIONAL CRAFTS

27 January 2018, Hindupuramu

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Sahiti Sravanti, Hindupuram, jointly organized a Literary Program on ‘Life of Handicrafts in Telugu Literature’ on 27 January 2018 at Balaji D.Ed. College, Hindupuram.





The inaugural session was presided over by Sri Pilla Kumaraswamy, Sahiti Sravanti State Committee Member. He said that in Telugu stories there are numerable stories pertaining to Bahujanulu. In the globalization era handicrafts lost their importance by the advancement of mechanisation. Chief Guest Sri Sadlapalli Chidambara Reddy in his address said that so many mandalikas have come to fore because of short stories. He expected more number of stories from this class.

The first session was presided over by Sri Aswatha Narayana. Sri G Venkata Krishna spoke on the subject, 'Weavers in Telugu literature' and discussed various stories related to this profession. Dr. B. Nagaseshu spoke on professions such as cattle rearing or sheep rearing 'Kambali' in Telugu stories. Dr M. Obulesu spoke at length on migrating tribes in Telugu literature.

The second session continued with the chairing of Sri Gangadhar. Dr Tavva Venkataiah spoke about Telugu stories depicting Panchananam. Dr P. Dasthagiri elaborately explained about 'Melam' professionals in Telugu stories. With the vote of thanks given by Sri Venkata Ramana the literary program came to an end. Sri Gangadhar concluded the session with a message that communal harmony is the key for the progress of a nation. All the writers should come out from the clutches of caste barriers to achieve such a situation.

### NATIONAL SEMINAR ON SCIENCE, LANGUAGE AND RENAISSANCE

02 February 2018, Kerala



Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Thunchan Memorial Trust, Tirur, organized a seminar on 'Science, Language and Renaissance' on 02 February 2018 at Tirur. Sri S. P. Mahalingeswar, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the gathering and explained the various activities of the Akademi. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, well-known writer, chaired the inaugural session. He said that there cannot be renaissance without language and science. He also said that it is foolish to think that everything was already in India, i.e. imagination based on *itihisas*. We can progress only through rectification of errors. We should have our own science-a-science which accepts humanity. Sri Babu Joseph, former Vice-Chancellor,



Kochi University, in his inaugural address explained in detail how Ezuthachan developed the Malayalam Lipi. He said that we lack proper Malayalam words equivalent to Science words.

The first session was devoted to Science and Language. Sri K. P. Ramanunni welcomed the gathering. Presenting his paper, Sri Sethuraman said that the students studying in mother tongue are performing well than English medium students. He also explained how languages are taught in foreign countries. Sri Sasikumar explained in detail the various problems in scientific field, especially in communication.

In the second session, papers on 'Science and Renaissance' were presented. Dr K. Muralidharan, Trust member, welcomed the speakers and all gathered. Sri Jatindra Kumar Naik from Orissa explained how science came into literature. He insisted that we should strengthen our language and know English language also. Dr M. R. Raghava Warrior explained how knowledge gets distorted while passing through one generation to the other, especially scientific knowledge.

The next session was on 'Science, Intellectual Discourses, Renaissance: Harmony'. Sri K. S. Venkitachalam welcomed the gathering. Sri G. Umamaheswar Rao said that it is the local languages that help the Indian economy. Dr M. V. Narayanan said that Renaissance means transfer of knowledge. A lively question-answer session followed each session. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

### SYMPOSIUM ON SHIVARAMA KARANTH: LIFE AND LITERARY WORKS

03 February 2018, Moodubidre

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Shivarama Karanth Prathistana, Moodubidre, organized a Symposium on 'Shivarama Karanth: Life and Literary Works' on Saturday, 03 February 2018 at M.C.S. Bank Auditorium, Moodubidre.

Dr Jayaprakash Mavinakuli welcomed the august gathering on behalf of Sahitya Akademi. He said that Sri K. Shivarama Karanth won Sahitya Akademi Award for his Kannada treatise on folk-drama, *Yakshagana Bayalata*, in the year 1959 and was also



the Fellow—the highest literary honour being conferred to the literary immortals—of Sahitya Akademi. Dr Giraddi Govindaraj in his inaugural address threw light upon the life and literary works of K. Shivarama Karanth with the perspective of a literary critic. ‘Liberal Humanism’ has been elaborately imprinted in the writings of Shivaram Karanth. He was a universal human being.

Dr K. Chinappa Gowda chaired the inaugural session. In his presidential address he stated that Shivarama Karanth was an eminent Kannada writer, social activist, environmentalist, Yakshagana artist, film maker and thinker. He was influenced by Gandhi's principles and took part in Indian Independence Movement while he was in college. He was a brilliant observer and could reflect, as well as react to the developments or changes that were taking place in the society or culture by his writings.

In the next session Dr M. S. Aasha Devi, well-known Kannada writer and critic, presented a paper on ‘Aspects of Feminism in Karanth’s Writings’. Dr Raghavendra Patel’s paper was on ‘Social Perspectives in Karanth’s novels’.

In the second session Dr Ka. Vem. Srinivasamurthy spoke on ‘Autobiography of Karanth—An Interaction’ and Smt. Prajna Mattihalli on ‘Karanth’s Yaksharanga—A View’. Dr Rajendra Chenni, eminent Kannada writer and critic, delivered the valedictory address. He made a consolidated critical appreciation of the papers presented during the symposium. Dr Somanna Hongalli, Head, Dept. of Kannada, Mangalore University, chaired the session. The writers from Dakshina Kannada district, research scholars, and students of literature and media personnel attended the symposium.

## LITERARY FORUM: KANNADA FICTION, POETRY, CRITICISM AND PRESENT SCENARIO

17 February 2018, Arasikere

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Arasi Samskruthika Vedike, Arasikere, had organized a Literary Forum on ‘Kannada Fiction, Poetry, Criticism and Present Scenario’ on 17 February 2018 at the Auditorium, Vivekananda

College of Education, Arasikere.

Dr H. R. Swamy, Principal, Govt. Pre-University College, Balenahalli, presided over the programme. Mr Mallikarjuna B. Koodavakkaligi, Principal of Vivekananda College of Education, Arasikere, inaugurated the programme.

Sri Mallikarjuna Koodavakkaligi in his inaugural address advocated that programmes on poetry, story and criticism should be organized at colleges of education. He stated that literature bears a great impact on the life of an individual. Getting attracted to literature will develop a good taste in life. Ms Mamatha Arasikere in her keynote address said that Sahitya Akademi plays a great role in organizing literary activities. Literary programmes develop literary taste among students.

Smt. H. R. Sujatha, Kannada Poet from Bengaluru, spoke on the Women’s Voice in Kuvempu’s Poetry. Dr T. Yallappa, Kannada poet from Bengaluru, spoke on Multiple Aspects of Gopalakrishna Adiga’s Poetry. Sri T. Satish Javaregowda, Kannada writer from Mysore, delivered his speech on Besagarahalli Ramanna’s Kannada stories. Ms Mamatha Arasikere delivered the keynote address and, together with Kannada poet Ms S. N. Mamatharani, presented her creative responses to the above speeches.

The students of Vivekananda College welcomed and thanked the gathering. Dr Basavaraju, Harishkumar, Basavaraju, Mamatharani, Manjunatha K. S. P. and a host of other writers and audiences were present during the programme.





## SYMPOSIUM ON FOLKLORE

04 January 2018, Coimbatore

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, organized a daylong symposium on Folklore on 04 January 2018 at the university premises. Sri A. S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address. In his address he talked about the various literary activities of Sahitya Akademi, with special reference to the programmes on folklore. He informed that Sahitya Akademi has published a number of important works on folk songs and folk stories in Tamil and also in other languages.

Prof. A. Ganapathi, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, delivered the presidential address. Well-known folklore scholar, Dr R. Kamarasu introduced the theme and the scholars. He mentioned that folklore is common, democratic, open and accessible to the whole society.

Sri R. Ramanathan, renowned folklorist, delivered the keynote address. He said that Na. Vanamamalai and many stalwarts worked in that field and safeguarded songs and stories and made them permanent by publishing them in collected volumes.

Prof. D. Gnanasekaran, Dean & Head, Department of Tamil, mentioned the songs of peasant community known as 'Pallu' songs and also the playful songs by youngsters which gave colour and rhythm to folklore. Prof. S. Chitra, Associate Professor, Department of Tamil, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session Sri P. Subramanian spoke about the folk stories and songs that are prevalent in the Kongu region around Salem and Coimbatore.

Prof. M. Pandi presented a well-researched paper on the social background of ballads. He mentioned the traditional narrative verses which celebrate innovative love, social struggles, victimization and the rural emotional upheavals. Prof. D. Dharmaraj presented a sharp analysis on the subaltern outlook in folklore. The second session was chaired by Sri O. Muthaiah. He sang a few songs and gave a brief description of the folk songs of Kodaikanal hills and the Western Ghats and performing arts.

Sri S. Devaraj spoke extensively on women's voice in oral tradition. He mentioned that women are permanent sufferers in any folk theme and they console themselves with songs in groups and relieve themselves from their agony.

The valedictory session was chaired by Sri O. Balakrishnan. Sri Kavya Shanmugasundaram, renowned folklorist who has published many collections of folk songs and stories, presented the valedictory address. Prof. S. Thangamani, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, proposed a vote of thanks. Sri Stalin, Director (Rtd.), All India Radio, and a host of folklore scholars, Tamil savants, research scholars and students attended the symposium which was highly enjoyable and threw new light on folklore as viewed in the 21st century. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Sri Ilangovan. The symposium on Folklore was well attended by research scholars, writers and students.

## SYMPOSIUM ON KARISAL LITERATURE

06 January 2018, Sattur

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College, Sattur, organized a daylong symposium on 'Karisal Literature' on 06 January 2018 at the college premises. Prof. S. Ganeshram delivered the presidential address. He congratulated Sahitya Akademi for organizing such an important symposium on the literature pertaining to scorched, drought-stricken land right on the center of Sattur. He mentioned that though the land in Sattur is dry, the litterateurs are rich in humanitarian outlook. Dr R. Kamarasu, an authority on folklore and modern Tamil literature, mentioned that Karisal literature is unique, vibrant and made an indelible mark in 20th century writings. Sri Vannadasan, Sahitya Akademi Award winner for his short story collection *Oru Siru Isai* delivered the keynote address. He praised Ki. Rajanarayanan as the father figure and forerunner for Karisal literature which describes the heroic struggle of poor and downtrodden to lead a decent life and to weave a social fabric filled with love and mutual affection. Prof. R. Poongothai, Head, Department of Tamil, SRNM College, proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by renowned scholar Sri N. Ramachandran who was part of the Folklore Research Center, Palayamkottai, for a considerable period. He presented a paper on Karisal folklore. He said that the folk stories and folk songs narrate the problems of local folks but with a trace of determination to overcome their struggles. Sri Kandagapookkal Sripathi, who presented a paper on Karisal poetry, mentioned that Karisal poets describe the sufferings of poor children who work in match factories and cracker factories, sacrificing their playful childhood in the event of severe hunger. Sri M. Manimaran spoke on Karisal short stories. He mentioned that the stories of Ki. Rajanarayanan employed the Karisal dialect in bare and direct form. Some stories deal with the fire accidents



in match factories, government apathy and the struggle of the poor just for basic needs. The valedictory session was chaired by Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner Sri Ko. Ma. Kothandam. Dr P. Anandakumar, noted Tamil critic, delivered a talk on Karisal novels. Prof. Bharathi Balan, renowned scholar and well-known short story writer, delivered the valedictory address. Prof. V. Dhanuja, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, SRNM College, proposed a vote of thanks. A large



number of scholars from Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Sivakasi and students from around 10 major colleges in the district actively participated in the symposium.

### BOOK DISCUSSION

29 January 2018, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a Book Discussion programme on 29 January 2018 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was *Vaddaradhane Kathai Ulagam* written by Shivakottachar, compiled by Ananta Ramaiah and translated into Tamil by T. S. Sadasivam, Pavannan and Iraiyadiyan. Prof. Tamil Selvi, Head, Department of Kannada, University of Madras, was invited to speak about the chosen book. Prof. Tamil Selvi mentioned that *Vaddaradhane* is the first major prosework in Kannada language. *Vaddaradhane* consists of nineteen stories which were originally written by Shivakottachar, a Jain poet well versed in Jain myths and beliefs. Every story deals with the Jain religious tenets and many beliefs and rituals rooted in Jainism are described in the work vividly. Prof. Tamil



Selvi compared the growth of prose and drama in Kannada with Tamil in an effective way. The scholars requested her to explain the interrelation between Kannada and Tamil literature and she delighted the audience with her comparisons, anecdotes and explanations.

### LITERARY FORUM AND BOOK RELEASE

08 February 2018, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a literary forum and book release function on 'Arignar Anna' on 08 February 2018 at its office premises. Sri A. S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address. Dr Rama Gurunathan chaired the function. He mentioned that Anna was a phenomenon and his literary contribution was prolific and multidimensional. He is regarded as a great leader and fiction writer, dramatist, essayist, cinema dialogue writer and powerful orator. Prof. Bharathi Balan released

the book titled *Anna: Reader* and congratulated the compiler Dr Rama Gurunathan for his painstaking efforts and organizing the galaxy of highly intelligent translators who made an excellent job of translating the creative works of Anna. Sri N. Avadaiyappan, Former Director of Libraries, Tamil Nadu, presented an incisive analysis of the Reader. This Reader consists of 9 plays, excerpts of 4 novels, 14 short stories, 3 speeches and 5 poems. The Reader exposes the social inequality, subjugation of women, ignorance, casteism, economic deficiency and the level of cultural awareness. He hailed that the Reader would be a valuable addition to every home and every library. A number of visiting writers like Maalan, Sa. Kandasamy and M. Bhoopathi participated and expressed their views. The programme was a resounding success and it attracted a large number of visitors.

### LITERARY FORUM

28 February 2018, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Authors Guild of India, organized a literary forum to celebrate mother languages on February 28, 2018 at Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Chennai. Sri A. S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address. Sri Maalan, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address traced the development of various languages. He mentioned that the ancient Hebrew language was forgotten and became extinct. Now, the people of Israel are reconstructing the old Hebrew language passionately.

Prof. Bharathi Balan, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, mentioned the importance of International Mother Language Day and explained the role of mother languages in imparting education in classroom context and open school context.

Sri P. K. Balasubramaniam, Hindi scholar and veteran translator, narrated the various stages of Hindi language and literature. He mentioned the contribution of great poets, grammarians and scholars, like Tulsidas, Premchand and Ramdhari Singh Dinkar during those stages.

Prof. Girish, in his paper, exalted Ezhuthachan as the father-figure of Malayalam, and mentioned that Malayalam poetry reached its pinnacle of glory with the contribution of Kumaran Asan, Vallathol and Mahakavi Ullloor. Sri L. Ganesan, and President, Golden Lotus Literary Association and a noted scholar in Bharati's poetry, presented an erudite, thought-provoking, admirable lecture on the role of languages in Tamil Nadu and India. Sri G. V. S. R. Krishanmurthy traced the development of Telugu language and mentioned the names of Tikkanna, Nannaya, Vemana, Annamacharya and modern writers up to Paravastu Chinnayasuri. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.



## SYMPOSIUM ON TRIBAL LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE OF ODISHA

05 January 2018, Sambalpur, Odisha

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with District Council of Culture, Sambalpur organized a symposium on Tribal Language and Literature of Odisha on 05 January 2018 at Sambalpur on the occasion of 22nd Folk festival of Sambalpur.



(R-L: Goutam Paul, Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Dhrubraj Naik, Rajendra Padhee and Bibhuti Bhusan Misra)

The programme started with welcome address by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Rajendra Padhee, eminent scholar said that Odisha's tribal literature is like an ocean. Odisha has 62 tribal languages. Many languages do not have their own script, still their folklore is rich, Sambalpuri is one of them. Chairing the inaugural session Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Prof. of Odia, Sambalpur University, reiterated that we should not underestimate those languages which do not have script. He stressed on unifying tribal literature. Dhrubaraj Naik, former Vice Chancellor of Sambalpur University and eminent environmentalist dwelt on different forms of tribal literature, the basis of these literature are generated from folk culture and tradition. Dwarikanath Nayak, Co-ordinator of folk festival and eminent folklorist proposed the vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Kumud Ranjan Panigrahi, Retired Professor Sambalpur University and folklorist and Paramananda Patel, Raghunath Rath and Parmeswar Mund discussed in details the oral traditions of tribal languages of Odisha like Munda, Kandha, Sadri, Santal and Bhadri Languages. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

## NORTH-EAST INDIGENOUS LITERATURE FESTIVAL

10-11 January 2018, Agartala, Tripura

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata and Department of Hindi, Tripura University organized a two-day North-East Indigenous Literature Festival on 10-11 January 2018 at Tripura University, Agartala, Tripura.

At the outset, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata in his welcome address said that Sahitya Akademi has

been publishing books on oral literature and is attempting to bring the unscheduled languages and their literature to limelight through various literary activities.

Shymal Das, Dean, Arts and Commerce & HOD, Dept. of English, Tripura University in his inaugural address compared the North East with the flowing of a river, which is same both inside as well as outside. And there is also no reason for us to consider ourselves as someone who is different from the rest of the country. Caroline R. Marak, Prof. of North East Hill University, Tura, said that North East is a political construct, people of North-East India have now become self conscious about their identity, language and culture and that they want



(L-R: M. R. Jamatia, Shyamal Das, Pradip Acharya, Chandrakanta Murasingh, C. R. Marak)

to assert themselves. She urged everyone to volunteer and do something to preserve the language and culture of the region.

Pradip Acharya, an eminent scholar and critic, said that in indigenous literature there has been a way to over-patronize the past as well as over-simplify the present. In folk literature, we notice these conflicts. Past lives in the present helps to look into the future. When orality turned into literature, it changed itself by the inclusion of many things. Chandrakanta Murasingh from the chair said that there are hundreds of languages in North-East India. But there is no mutual intelligibility. India is a land of unity in diversity. This is the soul of India. We must not allow any language to die. Neglect of the mother tongue threatens our very existence. Development of the mother tongue ensures our own development.

In the first session, Ajita Tripura, Guest Lecturer in Kokbarak, NIT Agartala, recited her poem in Kokbarak, with its English translation. B. L. Subba talked about his mother tongue, Limbu, and recited a poem in English. Sonam Wangmu spoke on Monpas language which uses the Bhoti script. This language is recognized by the government of Arunachal Pradesh and is presently being taught from standard one till standard eight. Nanda Kr. Debbarma, Professor, Kokborok Literature of Tripura University who chaired this session, summarized the presentations and concluded with recitation of one of her poems.



In the second session, Thowiongya Mog who writes in his mother tongue Mog, recited three poems with their English translations. Rajesh Bathari from Dimasa language spoke about the myths, cultural practices of the clan and also sang a beautiful song in Dimasa. Samir Debbarman and Sachin Kalai from Kokborok language recited their Kokborok and Hindi poems. B. L. Subba who chaired this session, said that the poems recited by the participants reflect issues related to this confluence.

In the third session Rakesh Debbarman recited poems in Kokborok with their Hindi translations. Riquoma Rq. Laloo recited his poems in Jaintia language. Dipali Debbarman recited four poems in Kokborok. Ajita Tripura from the chair said that she writes to breathe, to express her feelings, communicate and to live with people.

In the fourth session Akranta Debbarman recited four poems in Kokborok. Zohming Thanga Bongcher talked about Bongcher community at length. He also sang a traditional song which talks about the mother's blessing to her children. Jogamaya Chakma recited poems in Chakma language with English translations. Caroline Marak chaired this session; she said that the poems presented were full of metaphors, myths and references.

Jay Kaushal, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Tripura University, in his valedictory report presented the proceedings of the two-day festival. He concluded the festival with Prof. Gauri Kaushal's words who had said, 'When people die languages die too.'

## POETRY FESTIVAL FOR YOUNG MIZO POETS

19-20 January 2018, Aizawl, Mizoram

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with the Mizo Department, Pachhunga University College and Mizo Poetry Society organized a two-day Mizo Poetry Festival for Young Mizo Poets at the seminar hall of Pachhunga University College.



*R. L. Thanmawia delivering the keynote address of the Poetry Festival*

This Festival was organized with a view to create a platform, promote and better understanding of young Mizo poets and motivate the youth for poetry writing. The objective of this festival is primarily to disseminate information and address the

problems, strategy and future of Mizo poetry.

At the outset, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in his welcome address said that the Akademi has been working for years to promote the unscheduled languages, particularly their oral literature, through publications, organizing programmes, workshops, etc. Chief Guest of the inaugural session, honourable Minister of State, Mizoram Pi Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu, elaborated on the importance of poet and poetry in the world and Mizoram. According to her, poetry and poet can heal the wounds of the society and she vehemently urges young poets to continue and spend their leisure time writing poetry. R. L. Thanmawia, Professor of Department of Mizo, Mizoram University, in his keynote address dwelt on the importance of Mizo poetry, recent trends, problem and prospect. Lalbiaksangi Chawngthu, Vice Principal, Pachhunga University College, in his speech motivated the youth for writing poetry. Laldusaki presented a beautiful Mizo song and Chhawkhlei Cultural Club performed fantastic Mizo traditional dance.

In the first session C. Remsangzuali, Candle Vanrempuii, Jacob Vanlalhumhima, SPA Bawihlung, Vanrammawia Ngente, Amos M. S. Dawngzuala, H. C. Lalramnghaka, Lalhlimpuia Pachuau, Lalringgheta Renthlei, H. Lalremfela and Vanlalhrilha read out the poems with C. Januari, Treasurer, Mizo Poetry Society, in the chair.

In the second session H. Lalfakawmi, laltluangpuii Varte, lalvensangi Chawngthu, Lalrinkima, Rosangzuala, Lalnuntluangi Varte, J. H. Lalrinzuala, K. Rohmingliana, R. S. Lalrinpuia, Lalremsangi and C. Lalhriantrenga read out the poems with F. Lalzuthanga, Asst. Secretary, Mizo Poetry Society, in the chair.

On 20 January 2018, in the third session, Anita V. L. Nunmawii, Hannah Lalhlantpuii, Lalhlimpuii, Thangbiakhluna, T. S. Khupchong, C. V. L. Ngura, Zairethanga, Lalreinfela, Kanan Lalramchullava and Lalramnunpuii read out the poems with Enid, H. Lalrammuani, HOD, Department of Mizo, Pachhunga University College in the chair.

In the fourth session Lalrammunpuii, Jennifer Zothansangi, Zodusangi, H. Zonunsangi, Vanlalhlana, Thang Sian Tuang, Laltlanmawia, K. Lailianthanga and R. Malsawmtluanga read out the poems with Rualkhuma Colney, Secretary, Mizo Academy of Letters, in the chair.

During this two-day Poetry Festival for Young Mizo Poets, fifty Young Mizo Poets, including one visually impaired young poet, recited their recently written poems. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Lalhlimpuii, Finance Secretary, Mizo Poetry Society.

## LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

28 January 2018, Bally, Howrah, West Bengal

The Nicwon Sanskritic Mela 2018 was held at Bally Railway Quarter Ground on 25–28 January 2018. This year the theme of the fair was Loko Sanskritite Maachh (the role of fish in the folk culture). On 28 January 2018, Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata



*Sankha Ghosh delivering the inaugural address*

and Nicwon jointly organized 'Loka: The Many Voices' programme.

At the outset Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed Sankha Ghosh, an eminent Bengali poet and fellow of Sahitya Akademi, along with other participants and gatherings. Partha Nag, Secretary of Nicwon, delivering the introductory speech said that the local people can easily understand different folk cultures of West Bengal. This year the team is from North Bengal. The folk dance and folk cultures of the northern part of Bengal is a bit alien to this part of Bengal, but people of South Bengal were eagerly waiting for the performance. Through this Loka programme they will get an opportunity to understand the folk culture of the hilly part of Bengal. Sankha Ghosh in his inaugural address stated how this fair enriched the cultural activity in this part of the nation. The more such folk festivals are organized, the more the mass will be culturally benefitted.

Bablu Kisku spoke on the Orao Dance of North Bengal. He talked in detail how they adopted the art of fishing in their dance. The rivers of North Bengal are full of fishes. Fishing is a common practice among the tribal people. So in their culture fishing plays an important role. Thus, dances centring on fishing activities evolved. In their dance forms they showed how the people catch fishes in the river throwing nets and with the help of various tools. He also told about the different fishes and how they are caught by fishing rods. After giving his speech, the members of his dance team performed certain items of dances to show how the social practices of catching fishes are expressed in their dances. Ceasar Bagchi, President of Nicwan proposed the vote of thanks.



*Dancers demonstrating fishing, performing folk dance at Loka programme*

## SYMPOSIUM ON 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DINESH CHANDRA SEN

30 January 2018, Malda, West Bengal

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of eminent writer and academician Dinesh Chandra Sen, Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with Chanchal College, Malda organized a one-day symposium on 30 January 2018 at Chanchal College, Malda. The programme started through the lighting of one hundred and eight lamps by the honourable guests. Debashis Chatterjee, S.D.O., Chanchal Sub-division in his inaugural address spoke about the works and achievements of Dinesh Chandra Sen. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the guests and audience. The keynote address was delivered by Bikash Roy, Professor, University of Gour Banga. He emphasized the need of evaluating the works of Dinesh Chandra Sen even beyond the limits of the academia. Aurobindo Chattopadhyay, Professor from Bankura University threw light on Sen's huge collection of manuscripts and mentioned that only a part of this is available in book form. Jyotsna Chattopadhyay, Professor Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, focused on Sen's



*Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay speaking from the chair in the inaugural session*

discovery of different texts of the Ramayana and his interpretation of the characters in the *Ramayani Katha* where Sen's effort was directed not to depict Rama as an incarnation of God but as 'Nara Chandrama'. Manabendranath Saha, Professor from Visva Bharati focused his paper on the various facets of relationship of Dinesh Chandra Sen with our Biswa Kobi, Rabindranath Tagore. Eminent litterateur and former Convener, Bengali Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, chaired the session. He concluded the session critically analyzing the speeches delivered by the scholars.

In the second session, Dipak Kumar Roy, Professor of Raigunj University, highlighted the contribution of Dinesh Chandra Sen in the field of folk literature of Bengal. He pointed out how Sen acknowledged the contribution of the Muslims in the development of the ancient Bengali literature. Tripti Santra, an eminent literary personage of Malda in her paper focused on *Maymansing Gitika* that depicted a true picture of Bengali life and culture of the time. She also spoke of Sen's *Ramayani Katha* and his innovative treatment of Kaikeyee. Samsul Hoque, Principal, Gazol College chaired the session. Naru Gopal Dey, Professor, Sidhu Kanu Birsu University, gave his observations on the proceedings of the seminar. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.



## WRITERS' MEET ON 'AN INTERFACE: RUSSIA AND BENGAL'

03 February 2018, Kolkata Book Fair



Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, organized a Writers' Meet on 'An Interface: Russia and Bengal' on 03 February 2018 at SBI Auditorium, Kolkata, Book Fair. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, in his welcome address focused on the importance of building up cultural bridges among the countries through translation work of Russian classics into Indian languages, including Bengali. Russian writers, Lev Alexandrovich Danilkin, Marina Lvovna Moskvina and Petr Mikhailovich Voltsit focused on the present stature of Russian literature, influence of Rabindranath Tagore on Russian literature and the various aspects of children's literature in Russia. Other members of the delegation focused on the nature of publication industry in Russia and possible areas where both the countries can contribute. Bengali scholars Anil Acharya and Subodh Sarkar spoke on the heritage of Bengali translation of Russian classics which once dominated the corpus of translated literature in Bengali. The contemporary status of Bengali poetry was also discussed. Sri Tridib Kumar Chatterjee, General Secretary, Publishers and Booksellers Guild, Kolkata, expressed his happiness over the meet and wished that the literary meet can further pave the way for new emergence of cultural assimilations.

## BIRTH-CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM ON BINAY GHOSH

06 February 2018, Sahitya Akademi Office Auditorium, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, organized a birth-centenary symposium on Binay Ghosh in its office auditorium at Kolkata on 06 February 2018. Goutam Paul, Officer in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the guests and audience. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, noted Bengali fiction writer, chaired the inaugural session of the symposium. The keynote address was delivered by noted Bengali writer Debes Ray, and Pujan Kumar Sen graced the session as the Chief Guest. All the speakers of the session focused on the life and activities of Binay Ghosh in brief.

The first session of the symposium was focused on the contemporary social condition. In this session, Basabi Chakraborty and Sekhar Bhowmick presented papers with Gautam Bhadra in the chair. Binoy Ghosh's books on history, society and culture

were discussed.

In the second session speakers were Aveek Majumder and Saktisadhan Mukhopadhyay with Pallab Sengupta in the chair. The speakers focused on the influence of Derozio on the contemporary literary and cultural scenario.

In the third session, Achitya Biswas and Sonali Mukhopadhyay spoke on the literary works of Binay Ghosh with Saktinath Jha in the chair.

## NARI CHETANA

17 February 2018, Barama, Assam

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with the department of Bodo, Barama College, organized Nari Chetana programme at Barama College, Barama, Assam, on 17 February 2018. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and guests. Inaugurating the Nari Chetana programme, Tiken Ch. Das, Principal, Barama College, Barama said that the International Women's Day is celebrated for empowerment and emancipation of women.

In the reading session Dipali Kherketary, Lili Brahma, Dipali Basumatary, Rairoob Brahma and Rashmi Choudhury participated, with Rita Boro, Akademi Award Winner, in the chair.

Dipali Kherketary dwelt on the characteristic of women in literature. Lili Brahma articulated on the activities and role of women in the society. Dipali Basumatary highlighted the contribution of women in social development. Rairoob Brahma emphasized that Bodo women have an all-pervading influence in every sphere of life.

Rita Boro chaired the programme. She said that women can compete with men in any sphere of life, contributing new technique and style of learning with new ideas, no matter how difficult or risky it may be. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

18 February 2018, Rowta, BTAD, Assam

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata and Thunlai Bathan organized a 'Literary Forum' with Bodo short story writers. Anil Boro, an eminent Bodo scholar was the Chief Guest and Chinon Narzari chaired the programme. Anil Boro as a Chief Guest said that Bodo short story did not emerge as a popular form of writing till the '50s. Publication of the annual magazine *The Bodo* by the Bodo Sahitya Sabha and other occasional journals provided space for the young fiction writers to show their creative talent in writing the short story in the language that was only recently emerging as a written language. He mentioned the contribution of many gifted and talented writers like Prasenjit Brahma, well known for his classic story *Bobi* (the dumb girl) and many others. Binoy Mochahari, Daidelous Brahma, Dhanuram Basumatary, Joysri Basumatary and Sarang Srang Swargiary read out their



*Anil Boro delivering speech as the Chief Guest*

stories. Chinon Narzari from the chair evaluated the theme of the stories, narrative style and technique.

### BODO POETS' MEET

19 February 2018, Tangla College, Assam

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with Thunlai Jankhla and Bodo Department, Tangla College, organized a Bodo Poets' Meet at Tangla College on 19 February 2018. The inaugural session was chaired by Jayanta Kumar Chakravarty from Department of English, Tangla College. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata in his welcome address said that Bodo Poetry has taken a new shape after formation of Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 1952. Many young poets experimented with the form and content of the poetry. Prasen Daimari, Principal of the college, delivered the inaugural speech and talked about the history of the Bodo literature. Toren Boro, the President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha spoke on the role of Bodo Sahitya Sabha in the development of Bodo poetry after the inclusion of Bodo language in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution. He also suggested the young Bodo poets to take inspiration from the poets of other languages of neighbouring states.

The poetry reading session was presided over by Liladhar Brahma, eminent Bodo writer. Bijit Gwra Ramchiary, Sansumari Khwgrri Basumatary, Praneswar Boronarsi, Biswn Khungur Ramchiary, Promita Swargiary, Podolal Ramchiary, Famisona Boro, Rina Daimari, Pulen Boro, Sushanta N. Mochahary read out their original poems in Bodo language.



*Participants of the Poets' Meet*

### KAVITA UTSAV

22-25 February 2018, Shantiniketan and Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata, in collaboration with Abridtilok, Kolkata, Bratati Parampara, Visva Bharati and Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, organized the Kavita Utsav in two phases i.e. on 22-23 February 2018 at Shantiniketan and on 24-25 February 2018 at Kolkata. The inaugural programme took place at Lipika Shantiniketan in presence of Amol Pal, Professor and Head of the Department of Bengali, Visva Bharati, along with Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, Malabika Mitra, President, Abridtilok, Kolkata and Bratati Bandyopadhyay. The following North-Eastern Poets were felicitated: Saurav Saikia, Chandrakanta Mura Singh and Y. Ibomcha Singh. They all read their poems followed by Bengali/English translation.

From West Bengal, poets like Ranajit Das, Pinaki Thakur, Shibasis Mukhopadhyay, Saugato Chattopadhyay, Samindra Bhowmick, Kasturi Sen read their poems. Reciters like Bratati Bandyopadhyay and Amartya Mukhopadhyay recited variety of poems. A poetry collage on patriotic Bengal and motherland (collected by Soumitra Mitra) was also performed by the students of Abridtilok and Bratati Parampara. The first day programme concluded with the performance of Jagannath Basu and Urmimala Basu, noted elocutionists.

The next day, session was held at Uttarayan Complex – the heritage of Visva Bharati where Tagore passed his last thirty years. Udaynarayan Singh, Rahul Purakayastha, Tanmoy Chakraborty, Saurav Chandra and others read out their poems. Lopamudra Mitra, well-known vocalist had also performed. The programme concluded with the sitar recital of Sabyasachi Sarkhel of Sangeet Bhavan, Visva Bharati. It is needless to mention that the enthusiasm of the audience in full house on both the days was spontaneous.

The 3rd and 4th day sessions were held at P. C. Chandra Garden, Kolkata, with an enormous love towards poetry. On 24 February 2018 a collection of poems and essays on Sister Nivedita were presented by the students of Bratiati Parampara which was followed by the solo recitation of Tagore's poems by Soumitra Mitra. A play reading on Tagore's Raktakarabi (Red Oleander's) with the fantastic performance of Srikanta Acharya and Bratati Bandyopadhyay with others had also been appreciated.

The last day at P. C. Chandra Garden was also full. On these two days, the garden was decorated with colourful lights, flowers, book stalls, coffee shops, etc. to give it the look of a fair. Soumitra Chattopadhyay, legendary actor, along with Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, veteran author, expressed their good wishes on this auspicious occasion. Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Sarat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Subodh Sarkar, Srijato and Binayak Bandyopadhyay read their poems while Mousumi Bhowmick, eminent singer, received warm appreciation for her singing. Pranati Thakur and Sohini Sengupta had also recited. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM ON INFLUENCE OF FOLK LITERATURE ON MODERN MARATHI LITERATURE

22 January 2018, Amravati



Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a symposium on 'Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Literature' at Amravati in collaboration with Sant Gadgebaba Amravati University on 22 January 2018. Prof. Murlidhar Chandekar, Vice Chancellor, Sant Gadgebaba Amravati University, inaugurated the symposium, and Prof. Dr Vishwanath Shinde, noted scholar and critic, chaired the inaugural session.

At the outset, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed critic-participants and audience. Dr Manoj Tayade, Head, Dept of Marathi, Sant Gadgebaba Amravati University, made introductory remarks. Prof. Chandekar said that folk literature is our cultural heritage, and it keeps reminding human values to our society. Prof. Shinde said that Folk literature basically was a performance, a lively dialogue between the one who tells and the one who listens to him/her. Our folk songs included even dialogues, lyrics, songs, dance, narrative, said he. He observed further that folk literature invariably kept lively bonding between nature and mankind.

The next two sessions were chaired by Prof. Madhukar Wakode, eminent scholar and Dr Shashikant Sawant respectively and papers were presented by Sri D.G. Kale on Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Short Story, Dr Ranadhir Shinde on Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Novel, Prof. Prakash Khandge on Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Drama, Sri Rafique Suraj on Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Poetry, and Sri Ganesh Chandanshive on Influence of Folk Literature on Modern Marathi Cinema. The programme ended with vote of thanks.

## SEMINAR ON ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS IN SINDHI LITERATURE

24-25 January 2018, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a two-day Sindhi seminar on 'Artistic Expressions in Sindhi Literature', at

its auditorium, on 24-25 January 2018. At the outset, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address said that the artistic expressions are the literary work of art which brings reality to literature and today we have gathered to witness such artistic expressions derived from the works of the stalwarts of the Sindhi literature. Vasdev Mohi, eminent Sindhi writer, in his inaugural address emphasized upon Ghazals in Sindhi literature. It brings a fresh wave of language and complexities of human experience. The *Nayi Kavita* gave a new dimension to the Sindhi Ghazal. Laxman Dubey, Arjan Hasid, Dholan Rahi depicted romanticism in their Ghazals while contemporaries like Prem Prakash, Namdev Tarachandani, Nand Zaveri gave life to the poetry in Sindhi literature. Sri Prem Prakash in his presidential address proclaimed that the expression on literary interest in the age of electronic media is important.

The first session of the seminar was chaired by Namdev Tarachandani, while Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal', Hundraj Balwani and Mohan Gehani reviewed the artistic expressions in the writings of Arjan Hasid, Tara Mirchandani and Kala Prakash, respectively.

Mohan Gehani chaired the second session. Kaladhar Mutwa reviewed the writings of Lakhmi Khilani and Jaya Jadwani reviewed Vasdev Mohi's writings. The literature of Prem Prakash was assessed by Rashmi Ramani.

The third session of the seminar was chaired by Jetho Lalwani and papers were presented by Sarita Sharma and Vinod Asudani. Sarita Sharma evaluated the literature of Hari Himthani. Vinod Asudani assessed the writings of Satish Rohera.

On the second day, in the fourth session, papers were presented by Harish Karamchandani, Mohan Himthani and Kamla Goklani while Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal' chaired the session. The fifth session of the seminar was chaired by Kamla Goklani. Namdev Tarachandani presented his paper on the writings of Hero Shewkani. Jetho Lalwani spoke on the play writings of Mohan Gehani. Laxman Dubey's poetic aspects were revealed by Khiman Mulani.

The sixth and concluding session of the seminar was chaired by Hundraj Balwani. Sandhya Kundnani reviewed Gope Kamal's Ghazals. Vimmi Sadarangani expressed her analysis on the artistic expressions in the writings of Namdev Tarachandani,



## MEET THE AUTHOR: SRI NAROTTAM PALAN

25 February, 2018, Junagadh

Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with Rupaytan, a Junagadh based literary organization, organized a 'Meet the Author' programme on 25 February 2018 at Junagarh. Narottam Palan, a renowned Gujarati writer was invited to speak on his life and literary journey. Ramesh Mehta welcomed the guest and gave a brief introduction of the literary activities of Sahitya Akademi and Rupayta and said that Palan being a versatile talent, stage performer, his contribution to folk literature, bhakti literature, archeology, diary writing, history and novel creation is commendable.

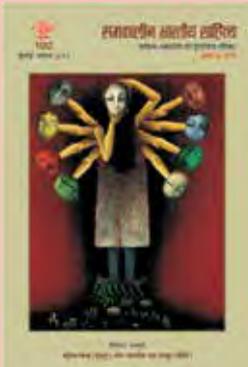
Prof. Sitanshu Yashaschandra, eminent Gujarati litterateur, shared his insight into the life and works of Narottam Palan. He described Narottam Palan as a researcher who can represent Gujarat not only in Gujarat but also at the national level. Narottam Palan, while sharing his views highlighted the unity and diversity of vibrant existence in Gujarati soil. The difference between Hindus and Muslims has increased due to the intransigence of inter-opposition, which has shaken the world of their senses. He has spent years in Gujarat's *Sanskritik* Travels, and experienced, especially in Saurashtra that there is no universal religious space and public life in the same context only with the intimate interest of one another. The Indian culture never opposes the religion. The culture of protest never exists in the Indian culture. He shared the experiences of his literary journey as well.

while Laxman Dubey gave his insight on the writings of Nand Jhaveri. The concluding remarks were delivered by Prem Prakash who expressed his gratitude to all the participating scholars and thanked them for covering all the genres of artistic expression in their respective papers. Krishna Kimbahune delivered a vote of thanks.

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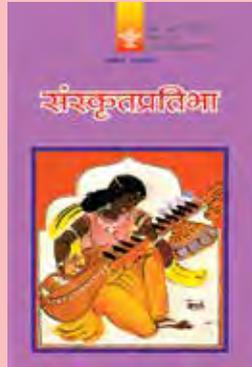
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Published by Dr K. Sreenivasarao on behalf of  
**Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi - 110001**  
Designed & Printed by Vikas Computers and Printers, Shahadara, Delhi.