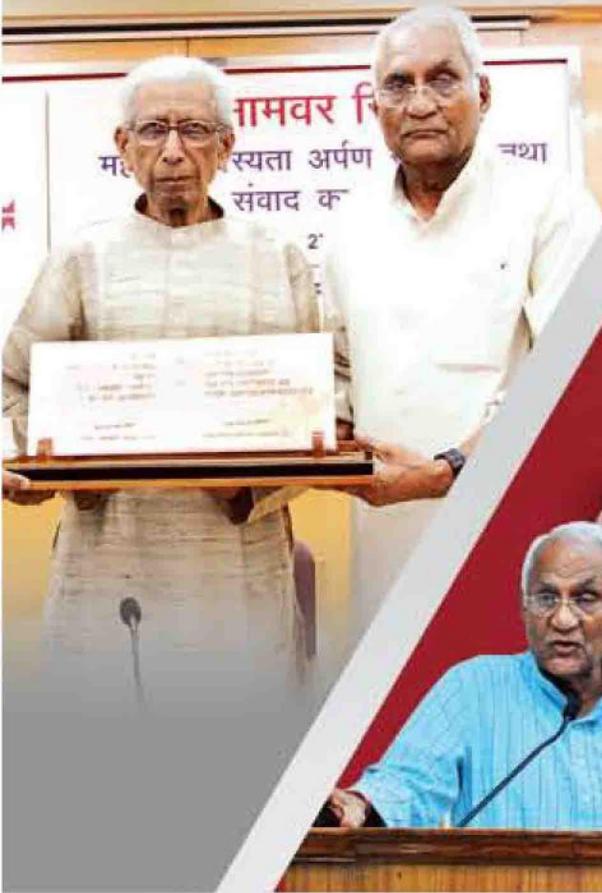


# SAHITYA AKADEMI

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS

Bhasha Samman  
Literary Forum  
Symposium  
Seminar  
Meet the Author  
Kathasandhi  
Nari Chetana  
Through My Window



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Satyagraha in Indian L

(on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> ann  
the Champaran Satyagraha led by P

27 April 2017, Ne



March - April 2017

# SECRETARY SPEAKS

A birth is a significant event in the life, be it an individual's or institution's life. The entry into this world with the purpose of taking the road full of challenges, trying to reach up to the horizon filled with victories and euphoria while at the same time treading carefully on the path filled thorns and pebbles, is indeed a significant point in one's history. The events and celebrations to mark the beginning bring joy and happiness to everyone around even as the day of beginning always presents itself as an opportunity to reflect, both for the individuals and institutions alike.

Every Foundation Day at the Akademi spurs every one of us to reflect on the year that passed by and improve ourselves. The road ahead is long and am sure with the support of our patrons and well-wishers, we will overcome the shortcomings on our part, improve ourselves in all the areas and continue to render literary service to the country. This year's Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by the eminent Poet and Scholar, Dr Sitakant Mahapatra on "Gratitude for Living: Love and Prayer in the Poetry of Primitive Tribes of India." The Foundation Day was also celebrated at all the branches of the Akademi.

Sahitya Akademi confers its Fellowship on the immortal of Indian Literature and at a glittering ceremony at New Delhi the Akademi conferred its Fellowship on one of the literary doyens, Dr Namvar Singh. The Akademi also conferred its Bhasha Samman on three recipients for their outstanding contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature and minor languages.

For the first time, the Akademi organized a Festival of Letters in the North-East. In its effort to promote Indian Literature abroad, the Akademi sent a delegation of writers to participate in the London Book Fair in March. As part of its continued commitment to promote tribal literature, Sahitya Akademi also organized All India Santali Writers' Meet and a seminar on Re-reading the Tribal Epics of Karnataka. The Akademi continued its outreach programmes in the North-Eastern Regions of the country by organizing several literary forums, seminars, workshops etc. We also organized a number of birth centenary seminars as a mark of respect for the past literary doyens of the country and we also release books on them during the events. The newly launched Gramalok programme took rapid strides in the past two months with branches organizing a number of Village outreach programmes.

I would like to thank you all the patrons and well-wishers of Sahitya Akademi for your continued patronage, suggestions and help. I wish all the readers a very happy Buddha Purnima and Ramzan.

*K. Sreenivasarao*  
Secretary

## BHASHA SAMMAN

April 25, 2017, Vijayawada



Recipients of Bhasha Samman with the President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

Sahitya Akademi organised the presentation of Bhasha Samman on April 25, 2017 at Siddhartha College of Arts and Science, Siddhartha Nagar, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Sahitya Akademi felt that in a multilingual country like India, it was necessary to extend its activities beyond the recognized languages by promoting literary activities like creativity and research in unrecognized languages and dialects. So, in 1996 the Akademi instituted Bhasha Samman Award to present to writers, scholars, editors and performers who had made considerable contribution to the propagation, modernization or enrichment of the languages concerned. Later, the necessity to extend the scope of this Bhasha Samman to include scholars who have done valuable work in the field of classical and medieval literature was also felt. For the year 2015, the Akademi announced Bhasha Samman awards to Sri Nagalla Guruprasadarao for contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature; Prof. T.R Damodaran and Smt. T.S. Soundararajan for the contribution to Sourashtra dialect. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guest and the gathering. He expressed his happiness in presenting Bhasha Samman to the eminent personalities, who served their life to developing languages. The Akademi is more concerned with developing the Tribal and unrecognized languages, he said. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao said that this year Akademi organised nearly 582 programs and published 480 books, it means every 15 hours one meeting and every 18 hours one book release was organized by the Akademi. Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi said that there are

a large number of languages in India, and we have lots of literature in those languages. Akademi is taking more responsibility to publish valuable literature in all languages. After that he presented Bhasha Samman to Sri Nagalla Guruprasadarao, Prof. T.R Damodaran and Smt. T.S Saroja Sundararajan. Later the Awardees responded. Sri Nagalla Guruprasadarao expressed his gratitude towards the Akademi for the presentation of the Bhasha Samman. He said that among the old poets Mahakavai Tikkana is his favourite. In his writings one can see the panoramic picture of Telugu Language both in usage and expression. He expressed his thanks to Sivalenka Sambhu Prasad and Narla Venkateswararao for their encouragement. Prof. Damodaran briefed the gathering about the Sourashtra dialect, how it migrated from Gujarat to Tamil Nadu and how the cultural of the dialect has survived thousands of years. He expressed his gratitude to Sahitya Akademi for honouring his mother tongue, Sourashtra. He said that the Ramayana, Jayadeva Ashtapathi, Bhagavath Geetha and several books were translated into Sourashtra. Smt. T.S. Saroja Sundararajan expressed her happiness at being felicitated as Sourashtrian. She talked about the evaluation of Sourashtra language and literature. She said that Sourasena is the Prakruthi Bhasha. Caldwellyer, who is a great scholar, says that the languages like Magadhi, Marathi, Laadi, Maithili, Kathri, Konkani, Bhojpuri came from Souraseni. Dr. Papineni Sivasankar, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the program.

## PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP TO NAMVAR SINGH

March 27, 2017, Delhi

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Fellowship on Dr. Namvar Singh, distinguished Hindi writer and critic on March 27, 2017 at New Delhi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address, talked about the lasting impact of the works of Namvar Singh. Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his Presidential address, talked about the reach of Namvar Singh's works and the revolutions and ripples they created in the far off literary communities, especially Dooari Parampara ki Khoj and the abiding literary merits of Namvar Singh's works and described Namvar Singh's life as one dedicated to literature. Dr. Vishwanath Tripathi, Prof. Nirmala Jain and Dr. Leeladhar Mandloi spoke about the life



Dr Namwar Singh being conferred with the Akademi Fellowship

and works of Dr. Namwar Singh. Dr Sreenivasarao read out the citation and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferred the Fellowship on Dr. Namwar Singh. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Namwar Singh thanked the Akademi for the honour, talked about the inherent value of literature in all languages to everyday life, the process of creative writing, influences on his creative works and criticism and the role of literary institutions in promoting literature. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.

## FOUNDATION DAY

March 10, 2017, New Delhi

Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra eminent Odia writer, poet, scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the annual Foundation Lecture on 10 March 2017 in New Delhi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker to audience. Dr. Sitakanta Mahapatra delivered the lecture on “Gratitude for Living: Love and Prayer in the Poetry of Primitive Tribes of India.” In the beginning of his lecture narrating his experience of a night of full moon he spent during one of the most important festivals of the Mundas a tribal community in a tribal village of Odisha in Eastern India he said “It was no longer the same village I had seen in daytime: featureless, squalid and ordinary. It had been transformed by the magic of moonlight and the exuberance of spirit all round. They danced, they sang. Ancient, timeless songs...” He further said, “Let this not be understood as romantic nostalgia. One is aware that culture is not static or frozen, it is a flowing stream. It changes as it flows along. But posterity loses if it has no access to the knowledge of what an earlier age and other communities believed in, what were their

songs, their dances, their way of life....” He quoted Martin Buber who says, “Singing is older than speech. In singing the human being has always expressed his relatedness with his forces, with the totality of life... Song is the primeval communion of all, the ancient amicable—inimical closeness of nature, whose pulse educated its rhythms. Speech is acquired separation... Song is magic.” He said that thus, an interest in the collection and documentation of the oral poetry of the tribes in Eastern India became a passion to him over the last twenty-five years. He expressed, “Song is thus the basic rudiment of what later came to be known as poetry.” He further informed, “Singing was in fact at the core of the entire business of living. The birth of a child, assigning a name to the child, attainment of puberty of a girl; love, marriage, death, the activities of the agricultural sessions, hunting, curing illness, propitiating and offering thanks to the unseen gods and goddesses, each occasion demanded songs appropriate to it...” In the second part of his lecture he provided a detailed picture of the Kondh Tribe and its ritual invocation song which is called Meria Sloka. He further expressed his concern that “songs are part of an oral tradition and need early documentation as they are in the process of being forgotten by the younger generation... This song or sloka is an invocation to the earth-goddess for the welfare and prosperity of the



Dr Sitakant Mahapatra delivering the Foundation Day Lecture



tribe and, in parts, it can be compared in tone to the Vedic hymns...” In the third part of his lecture he gave a brief idea of Santal Invocation songs called by the generic name of Bakhens. The Bakhens collected by Pandit Ragunath Murmu, who is called guru Gomke (Great Guru) number eleven. In the fourth section of his lecture he stressed that “the most fascinating aspect of tribal poems is their symbolism. He quoted Owen Barfield “that poetic diction is nothing but the primitive, undifferentiated state of language...” In his lecture he also mentioned some songs/ poems of Munda tribes sung at different occasions. Concluding his lecture, he said, “I have sought to present the poems as of today, living vital and warm, and not as dry ethnological data of a complex and strange “primitive” world. Being a poet myself, I have tried to see and feel them as poetry and no other consideration has mattered—neither ethnology nor religious association or ritual significance...” He summed up his speech by quoting Brandon “All that we want from any of it is the feeling of poetry. Let the ethnologists keep its ‘science’ and the oncoming generation of Indian poets its mystery.”

## ASMITA

March 3, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized Asmita programme with Dogri women poets on March 3, 2017 at Jammu. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and eminent Dogri writer presided over the programme. While giving his introductory remarks, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, at the outset, informed about the future activities of Sahitya Akademi and also expressed his appreciation towards Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for collaborating in organizing such activities in Jammu region. In the poetry recitation session, Asmita, Mrs. Promila Manhas, Radha Rani, Chanchal Bhasin and Kiran Kanchan recited their poetries in Dogri. While speaking from the chair, Prof. Lalit Magotra appreciated the poets who recited their poetry in the poetry recitation session. He further said that Sahitya Akademi has planned such more activities in future for the promotion and development of Dogri language and literature.

## KATHASANDHI

March 3, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Jammu in collaboration with Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized Kathasandhi programme with Sri Rajeshwar Singh Raju, eminent Dogri fiction-writer and poet on March 3, 2017 at Jammu. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced Sri Rajeshwar Singh Raju and said that he is one of the prominent short-story writers in Dogri and his short-stories have received great appreciation. After that Sri Rajeshwar presented his short-story in Dogri titled ‘Apne uper Bhari’ which was highly appreciated by the audience during the interaction. Dr. Arvinder Singh Amn, Additional Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages presented the vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 4, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Duggar Manch, Jammu organized a symposium on ‘The Impact of Globalization on Dogri Literature’ on March 4, 2017 in which eminent scholars of Dogri Literature presented their papers before huge gathering at village Gurha Slathian, District Samba, J&K. Sri Gianeshwar Sharma, Sahitya Akademi Awardee presided over the inaugural session of the symposium and Capt. Vilayat Singh Slathia, a 98 years old citizen of the village Gurha Slathian, was the Chief Guest. Duggar Manch felicitated him with a shawl, memento and garland at the occasion. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the participants and audience. He told that Akademi is trying to reach remote areas of the country with its programmes and book exhibitions through a newly launched programme series ‘Gramalok’, as well. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered introductory speech and dwelt about the deep impact of globalization on our life, which was also being expressed by the writers through their writings. Sri Darshan Darshi delivered keynote address. In his presidential address, Sri Gianeswar concluded the session and expressed his views. Sri Mohan Singh, President, Duggar Manch presented the vote of thanks. The business session was presided over by Sri Dhyam Singh. Two papers were presented in this session on Dogri poetry and Dogri fiction by Dr. Om Goswami and Smt. Sunita Bhadwal, respectively. The sessions were conducted by Sri Shivdeo Sushil and Smt. Neelam Sarin.



## SYMPOSIUM

March 5, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Dogri Sanstha organized a symposium on Dogri Yuva Lekhan on March 5, 2017 at Jammu. The inaugural session of symposium on Dogri literature by young writers was presided over by prominent Hindi poet and former secretary of JKAACL, Ramesh Mehta while Prof Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi were also present at the programme. Welcoming the participants, Dr Devesh briefed those present about the activities undertaken by Sahitya Akademi for the promotion of Dogri language and literature. Prof Magotra explained about the significance of such symposium, which provides opportunity to evaluate the quality of literature. Chhatrapal, President, Dogri Sanstha and celebrated short story writer presented keynote address. On this occasion, Sahitya Akademi Award 2016 also presented to Chhatrapal who could not attend the Akademi Award presentation event held on Feb 22, 2017 at New Delhi. On behalf of the President, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Lalit Magotra, presented the Award while Dr. Devesh, recited the citation. In the paper reading session, Surjit Hosh presented a paper on Dogri poetry and Prof Shivdev Manhas presented a paper on Dogri short stories. The session was presided over by Prof Shashi Pathania, former HoD, Dogri Department, Jammu University.

## KAVISANDHI

March 5, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Dogri Sanstha, Jammu organized a Kavisandhi programme with Sri Bishan Singh Dardi, well-known Dogri poet on March 5, 2017 at Jammu. At the beginning Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi introduced the poet to the audience and invited him to recite his poems. Bishan Singh Dardi recited his geet, ghazal and nazm in Dogri. He also shared his literary journey and interacted with the audience. A large number of writers, poets and intellectuals were present at the programme to hear him. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

March 5, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Dogri Sanstha, Jammu organized a People and Books programme with Dr Pradeep K Sharma, Vice Chancellor, Shere-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology Jammu on March 5, 2017 at Jammu. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi introduced him to the audience. Dr. Sharma, who is a scientist, but writes poetry as well, spoke about books that left an indelible mark on his mind and contributed to his development as a scientist, educationist and poet. He recited his poems and interacted with the audience. At the end, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi proposed the vote of thanks.

## LONDON BOOK FAIR

March 14-16, 2017, London

Sahitya Akademi participated in the London Book Fair at the Kensington Fair Grounds, London between March 14, 2017 and March 16, 2017 with the four member Akademi writer delegation, Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam, Sri Kuladhar Saikia and Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi. The main objective for



Dr K. Sreenivasarao introducing Prof S.L. Bhyrappa to the audience

the participation in The London International Book Fair was to promote Indian Literature through the participation of Indian writers' delegation and also to



showcase some of the important publications of the Sahitya Akademi which is the premier institution of literature in the country. The Akademi organized two literary programmes – Symposium on “Indian Writing Today” and the Literary Forum “My World, My Writing: Readings by Indian Authors.” In the Symposium on Indian Writing Today, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the visiting Indian writers and also welcomed the audience. Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam spoke on Contemporary Indian English Literature; Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi spoke on the Literature of the North Eastern India while Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa spoke on Contemporary Kannada Literature and also read some excerpts from his work. In the second programme, My World, My Writing: Readings by Indian Authors, Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam read out few of her English poems and also interacted with the audience thereafter. Sri Kuladhar Saikia read one story and one poem in English translation and Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi read Assamese stories in English translation. Sahitya Akademi also contacted number of publishers to explore the possibility of having translations for our Indian Literature Abroad project. To name a few, Vatayan: Poetry on South Bank, IRUM Productions, Heart Care Foundation of India, Govinda’s, L. Ron Hubbard Fitzroy House, India Link International. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi also participated in the interactive session with UK based Indian writers which was coordinated by the National Book Trust. The Chairman, National Book Trust, Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma welcomed the august gathering and also spoke about the functions of the National Book Trust. Secretary, Sahitya Akademi talked about the activities of the Sahitya Akademi and its relevance in the field of translations in India and also proposed a vote of thanks. This was a very fruitful session which was well attended by different publishers, writers and the general public.

## TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

March 16-18, 2017, Jamshedpur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Maithili and Santali, LBSM College, Jamshedpur, organized a Santali-Maithili Translation Workshop on poetry on March 16-18, 2017 at the college campus, Jamshedpur. Dr. Ashok Avichal was the director of the workshop, while Dr. Karu Majhi was present as the language expert. The translators were Dr.

Ravindra Chaudhary, Sri Lakshmi Tudu, Smt. Nikki Priyadarshini and Dr. Ajit Mishra. In the workshop, the Sahitya Akademi Award winning Santali poetry ‘Shaye Sahend’ by Damayanti Besra was translated from English. Sharing the difficulties and experiences of poetry was a pleasure for everyone.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 18, 2017, Jamshedpur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Maithili and Santali, Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial College, Jamshedpur organized a symposium on ‘Maithili-Santali: Paraspar Sambandh aur Prabhav’, on March 18, 2017 at the College Auditorium, Jamshedpur. The programme was inaugurated by Prof R. P. P. Singh. In his inaugural speech, he congratulated Akademi for organizing this programme and talked about future cooperation of the university with the Akademi for such programmes. The chief guest for the occasion was Prof. Ranjeet Kumar Singh, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Kolhan University. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi gave the welcome address and briefed the audience about the Akademi’s activities. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi underlined the mutual exchange and influence of Maithili and Santali on each other. Prof. Ashok Kumar Jha ‘Avichal’ delivered the keynote speech. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Brijkishor Mishra, while Prof. O P. Khandelwal, Principal, LBSM College gave vote of thanks. Prof Digambar Hansda, Santali writer, presided over the idea session, in which Shri Amalendu Shekhar Pathak and Dr. Ravindra Kumar Chaudhary presented papers titled, ‘Geographical and Historical Background of Maithili and Santali’ and ‘Maithili-Santali Literature: Interactive Impact’ respectively.

## ASMITA

18 March 2017, Jamshedpur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Maithili and Santali, LBSM College, Jamshedpur, organized Asmita programme with Maithili women poets on March 18, 2017 at Jamshedpur. Dr Shanti Suman, famous Hindi and Maithili poet and songwriter, chaired the programme. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi,



delivered the welcome address. In the session, Smt. Premalata Mishra, 'Prem', recited her two short stories, while Dr. Nutan Jha, Dr. Mamta Jha and Ms. Swati Shakambari recited their poems. The programme was conducted by Dr. Ashok Avichal, Member, Maithili Advisory Board, while Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh proposed a vote of thanks at the end.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 19, Sridungargarh

Sahitya Akademi in association with Rashtriya Bharat Hindi Prachar Samiti, Sridungargarh, organized a symposium on Rajasthan Chand Parampara on March 19, 2017 at Sridungargarh, Rajasthan. Dr. Bhanwarsingh Samore, who was the chief guest for the occasion, spoke about tradition of Rajasthan Chand and said that such a high volume of literature is not present anywhere else in the whole world. Smt. Gitanjali Chatterjee gave the welcome address. Shyam Maharishi presided over the inaugural session. Bhavneshankar Vyas Vinod presided over the first session, wherein Giridharan Ratanu and Virendra Lakhavat presented their respective papers. Dr. Chetan Swamy presided over the second session. Dr. Gajadan Charan and Shankarsingh Rajpurohit presented their papers in this session. The third session was chaired by litterateur Satyadeep, wherein Dr. Ramratan Latiyal and Ravi Purohit presented their papers.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 19, 2017, Bokaro Steel City

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, Bokaro, Jharkhand organized a symposium titled, 'Maithili-Odia: Paraspar Sambandh aur Prabhav', on March 19, 2017 at Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. S. K. Jha, General Manager, Bokaro Steel Plant, who highlighted the characteristics of Mithila culture and expressed his hopes for a thorough discussion on the relations between Odiya and Maithili in this seminar. Prof. Udaynath Jha Ashok gave the keynote address. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi gave the welcome address and briefed the audience about the Akademi's activities. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi while talking about the subject,

discussed the relationship between languages and the influence of Maithili language and literature over Odiya literature. Sri Girijanand Jha 'Ardhanarishwar' chaired the session and expressed vote of thanks. The idea session was chaired by Mr. Tulanand Mishra, in which Sri Narendra Nath Jha, Sri Premchand Pankaj and Sri Roshan Kumar Yadav presented their papers. The sessions were conducted by Sri Amalendu Shekhar Pathak, while Sri Harimohan Jha, Secretary, Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, gave the formal vote of thanks.

## POETS' MEET

March 19, 2017, Bokaro Steel City

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, Bokaro, Jharkhand organized a Maithili Poets' Meet on March 19, 2017 at Mithila Academy, Bokaro, Jharkhand. In the programme, Sri Dayakant Jha, Vijayashankar Malik, Arun Kumar Pathak, Sunil Mohan Thakur, Vinay Kumar Mishra and Aman Kumar Jha recited their poems. Sri Vinay Kumar Mishra recited a poem on the winter season, while Mr. Dayashankar Jha presented a poem on the discrepancies in the present day, then Shri Vijay Shankar Mallik recited a song on spring. Shri Aman Kumar Jha narrated poems depicting humanity and nature, Shri Sunil Mohan Thakur presented realities of life in his poems and Shri Arun Kumar Pathak recited songs on Holi and nature. The programme was conducted by Shri Amalendu Shekhar Pathak, while Mr. Harimohan Jha, Secretary, Mithila Sanskritik Parishad gave the vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 24, 2017, Badal

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Dasmesh Girls College of Education, Badal organized a one-day symposium named 'Punjabiyaat de Vikas de Bhavikhmukhi Model' on March 24, 2017 at Badal, Punjab. Many learned and renowned personalities of Punjabi literature graced this symposium and shared their views to devise the new models for the development of Punjabi language and culture. The renowned personalities who proposed thought provoking ideas in this symposium included Dr. Deepak Manmohan Singh, Senior Fellow, Punjabi University, Patiala and Member, Advisory Board Sahitya Akademi, Delhi; Surjeet Singh Lee, Retired Professor, Punjabi University



Patiala; Satinder Singh, Ex. Pro -Vice Chancellor and Professor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Dr. Ravi Ravinder, Professor, Delhi University, Delhi; Prof. Jaswinder Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala; Prof. Navjeet Johal, Punjabi University, Patiala; Sarwan Singh, Former Principal, Amandeep Singh Shergill Memorial College, Mukandpur; Prof. Paramjit Singh Dhingra, Director Panjab University Regional Centre, Sri Muktsar Sahib; Harsimran Randhawa, Former Head and Professor Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra; Narvinder Kaushal, Retired, Professor, Kurukshetra University and Dr. Tarlok Bandhu, Principal, Khalsa College of Education, Sri Muktsar Sahib. Deepak Manmohan Singh, Senior Fellow, Punjabi University, Patiala and Member, Advisory Board Sahitya Akademi, Delhi was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Dr. S.S. Sangha, Principal, DGCE, Badal welcomed and introduced the distinguished personalities of Punjabi literature. Dr. Surjeet Singh Lee, Retired Professor, Punjabi University Patiala delivered the key-note address. In his address, while talking about two models for the development of Punjabi language and culture i.e. socialism and capitalism, he proposed for the model of socialism as it is harmonised with the social and cultural conditions of India. He also expressed his concern on the increasing divide between rural and urban; and rich and poor. The presidential address was delivered by Satinder Singh, Ex. Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Dr. Ravi Ravinder, Professor, Delhi University, Delhi threw light on the historical background of Punjabi language from the Rig-Veda period. He also proposed the future model of Punjabi language on the basis of innovation, technology and comparison and emphasized on the contribution of all men, women and young generation for the development of Punjabi. Prof. Jaswinder Singh, Punjabi University, Patiala while expressing his views on the topic 'Punjabi Sahit ate Sabhiyachar de vikas de Bhavikmukhi Model', recognised the multilingual, multicultural and secular culture of our country and the inner conflict of different cultures. So he proposed the model of equality of rights in which the basis of equality is not with the one who is above us but with the one who is below us. So the youth has to contribute towards building of new society in which we have respect towards each other belonging to different classes, cultures and communities, he said. Prof. Navjeet Johal, Punjabi University, Patiala talked about the role of media for the development of Punjabi

literature and culture in his paper on the topic 'Punjabi media de vikas de Bhavikmukhi Model' and implored the young community to differentiate between the right and wrong media and to make their choices carefully. Sarwan Singh, Former Principal, Amandeep Singh Shergill Memorial College, Mukandpur shared his views on the topic 'Parvaas Vich Punjabiyat de Vikas de Bhavikmukhi Model' and proposed the model of Gurbani 'Kirat Karo Te Wandh Chako'. He expressed his concern over the fickle mindedness of modern Punjabi people deviating from the path of hard work and running after material possessions. Prof. Paramjit Singh Dhingra, Director, Punjab University Regional Centre, Sri Muktsar Sahib highlighted the rich heritage and strength of Punjabi culture and also threw light on the various dialects of the Punjabi language. He also emphasized the need to make Punjabi the medium of instruction in education. Harsimran Randhawa, Former Head and Professor Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra presented paper on the topic 'Hariyane vich Punjabi Bhasha de Vikas de Bhavikmukhi Model'. In his paper he stated that the development of any language depends upon the government policies. Narvinder Kaushal, Retired Professor, Kurukshetra University presented his views on the topic 'Hariyane vich Punjabi Sahit de Vikas de Bhavikmukhi Model'. He highlighted the glimpses of Haryanvi culture in Punjabi language. Dr. Tarlok Bandhu, Principal, Khalsa College of Education, Sri Muktsar Sahib while presenting his views on the future model of development of education in Punjab highlighted the fact that even after 70 years of independence we have not achieved the target of providing free and compulsory education to the children up to the age of 14 years although we had to achieve that target within 10 years after the implementation of the constitution. He also emphasised the need to focus on the education of children below 6 years and to empower the Anganwadi centres more. In his presidential address, Dr. Satinder Singh, Ex. Pro-Vice Chancellor and Professor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar commented on the views of all the distinguished delegates, speakers and guests on the proposed models for the development of Punjabi culture and language and also summed up the proceedings of the symposium. Dr. Deepak Manmohan Singh congratulated Dr. S.S. Sangha and Dr. Ravi Ravinder for organising the Symposium. At the end of the programme, Dr. S.S. Sangha presented the vote of thanks for the distinguished guests and honoured the



resource persons. On this occasion, Dr. Kamalpreet Kaur, Principal, Guru Gobind Singh College, Gidderbaha; Professor Gurraj Singh from Doraha College; Professor Iqbal Gondara and Professor G. S. Chahal from DAV college Abohar; Professor Rishi Hirdeypal and Professor Gurbinder Dhaliwal from Maharaja Ranjeet Singh College, Malout; Professor Chandar Parkash from DAV College, Gidderbaha; S. Sukhdev Matharoo; Professor Jagjeet Singh, S. Sudarshan Jagga, Professor Rashpal Singh and many other eminent guests were present on the occasion.

## THROUGH MY WINDOW

March 28, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organised a ‘Through My Window’ programme with Prof. Veena Gupta, a renowned scholar of Dogri and former Head of Dogri Dept., Jammu University on March 28, 2017 at Jammu. She spoke on the life and works of veteran and Path breaker Dogri writer Late Col. Shivnath. She gave some very insightful descriptions of certain interesting aspects of Col. Shivnath, a brilliant academician and first person to qualify for the IAS examination from the state, who unfortunately became a victim of the State politics of that time and instead, had to join Indian Postal Services, where he rose to the highest level. Prof. Veena Gupta said that the corpus of his literary works, which include essays, poetry, translations and literary criticism, is invaluable for Dogri and is of a high academic standard. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced her and conducted the programme.

## AVISHKAR

March 28, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organised an ‘Aavishkar’ programme on March 28, 2017 at Jammu. The programme featured well-known and young singers of Jammu - Rahul Sharma, Rabjot Singh, Satbir Singh and Sham Sajan singing the beautiful poetic creations of legendary Dogri poet Kehiri Singh Madhukar. The singers did justice to the poetry by their soulful and melodious singing. Ravinder Kaul conducted the programme in his inimitable style. While welcoming the audience and participants, Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stressed the importance of and explained the format of the programmes.

## ALL INDIA SANTALI WRITERS' MEET

March 30-31, 2017, New Delhi



The Inaugural Session of the Meet in progress

Sahitya Akademi organized ‘The All India Santali Writers’ Meet’ on March 30-31, 2017 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Sitakant Mahapatra, Odia Poet and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi. In his speech he talked about Pt. Raghunath Murmu, and requested the Akademi to translate and publish Sri Murmu’s book into Hindi and English. He requested all the writers present to try to translate their literature into another language so that their language and culture can reach other people. In the welcome address, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi while talking about Santali literature, said that it was the first time that the Akademi had organized such a programme where 35 Santali writers from 8 states participated. Sri Prithbi Majhi presided over the inaugural session and in his speech thanked the Sahitya Akademi for organizing such an event. In the inaugural speech, Sri Gangadhar Hansdah, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, spoke about the initiation and development of the written Santali literature. Sri Poornachandra Hembram delivered the key-note address, in which he highlighted the current state of Santali writing. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh conducted the programme and also delivered the vote of thanks. The first session of the programme was titled “Santali Literature in Contemporary Times”, and was chaired by Sri Vishwanath Hansda. In this session, Bhogala Soren, Naku Hansda, Madhav Chandra Hansda and Anapa Marandi presented their articles on



Santali drama, novel, story and poetry, respectively. The second session was of poetry recitation, in which Chinmayi Hansda and T.C. Boske, Bhujang Tudu, Ganesh Mandi, Laxman Kisku and Tuda Murmu presented their poems. This session was presided over by Sri Govind Chandra Majhi. The second session of the programme was titled 'The Various Challenges to Santal Community' and was chaired by Sri Nityanand Hembram in which Ravilal Tudu, Gopal Soren and Salkhoo Murmu expressed their views. The story reading session was chaired by Sri Shyam Besra, renowned Maithili writer. In this session, Niranjan Hansda, Rani Murmu and Dilip Hansda read out 'Dulad Gay Dahayya Sagai' (Love keeps the relationship alive), 'Mead Angat' (A mother) and 'Hirla Aatu my hilara' (Praise be to the Chief), respectively. The next session was titled, 'My world, my writing', where three renowned Santali writers, Mrs Damayanti Besra, Sri Bhogla Sorain and Sri Raghunath Marandi shared their thoughts. The poetry session was concluded under the chairmanship of Sri Bholanath Murmu, in which. Sarojini Besra and Kashunath Soren, Somnath Hansda, Aditya Mandi, Mansingh Majhi and Dhudu Murmu recited their poems.

## SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY FILM

March 30, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a screening of the Documentary film "Four Santali Writer", directed by Sangita Dutt and produced by Sahitya Akademi, on March 30, 2017 at New Delhi. The documentary explored the lives and works of the four renowned Santali writers - Shobhanath Besra, Dharendra Baske, Bhaiya Hansda and Thakur Prasad Murmu.

## SANTALI PLAY "JUGI TIRIYAO"

March 30, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized the All India Santali Writer's Meet during which the Santali play "Jugi Tiriya", was successfully staged by Maidi's Artisit Association of Tribal, Jamshedpur on March 30, 2017 at New Delhi. The play was written and directed by Jeetrai Hansda. The drama conveyed the problems and inconsistencies faced by women in contemporary society.

## SEMINAR

April 5-7, 2017, Shimla

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla organized a National Seminar on Indian Literature and Social Development: Theory, Practice and Community Impact on April 5-7, 2017 at The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Prof. Malashri Lal and Prof. Sumanyu Satpathy were the convener and co-convener, respectively. Prof. Vijay Shankar Varma, National Fellow, IAS, welcomed the guests. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address, where he pointed out how literature is a reflector of reality – physical and intellectual – and acts as a bridge between the past and the present. He said that literature cannot exist apart from human society. Dr. Sudhir Kakar, eminent psycho-analyst and thinker, in his brilliant keynote address, spoke of the psychological encounters between Europe and India. His thesis was that two features of the Indian civilization are fundamental to the 'idea of India': connectedness and sympathy. Prof. Malashri Lal, Convenor, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave the vote of thanks. In the first session of the seminar, Namita Gokhale presented a paper on the topic, 'Remembering Kumaun, Recording Kumaun', while Priya Sarukkai Chabria, presented a paper on the topic, 'Evolving an Aesthetic of Rupture and Rapture.' The second session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. Chetan Singh, former Director, IAS. In this session, Reba Som, Ragini Kapoor and Vinita Dhondhiyal Bhatnagar presented papers on the topics, 'Sister Nivedita's Web of Indian Life (1903) – a Narrative for Nation Building', 'The Indian Visual Artist and Socio-Cultural Contexts of The Indian Art' and 'Writers for Change: A History and Account of the Progressive Writers Association', respectively. In the third session of the seminar, Moon Moon Mazumdar and Nirban Manna presented papers on 'The Politics of Representation in Select Works of Fiction from India's Northeast' and 'Interrogating Applied Theatre as a Tool for Capacity Building in Contemporary Bengal: a Case Study', respectively. In the fourth session of the seminar, Prof. Chandrakala Padia, Chairperson, IAS-Shimla, presented her views on Indian literature and traditions. Martin Kämpchen, presented his views on the topic, 'Rabindranath Tagore's Worldview Reception – A Critical Overview'. Shail Mayaram spoke on 'A Literary Genealogy of Right-Wing Nationalism', while Jyotirmay Tripathy presented a paper on 'The Production of Literary Values in Contemporary India.' In the fifth session of the seminar, Satish Aikant, Anandita Pan and Arunabha Bose presented papers on the topics, 'India and Europe: Nirmal Verma as a Critical Insider', 'Writing the Self:



Autobiographies and the Politics of Change’ and ‘The engendering of a subaltern historiography in the Palamau Fiction of Mahasweta Devi’, respectively. The sixth session of the seminar saw Akshaya Kumar presenting a paper on the topic ‘Progressive Punjabi Poetry: From LokYudha to Dharmayudha’, Himadri Roy on ‘Torn between Emotions: A Critical Analysis of Bisexuality in Rao’s Lady Lolita’s Lover’ and Rama Shankar Singh on ‘Life, Language and Politics of Nomads of Uttar Pradesh: An Empirical Study.’ In the seventh session of the seminar, Simran Chadha and Rohit Phutela presented paper on the topics, ‘Refracted Witnessing: Narratives from the Valley’ and ‘Finding Agency, Combating the Collective Trauma: BalbirMadhopuri’s Against the Night’, respectively. Prem Kumari Srivastava, Pandurang Kashiram Bhoje and Anita Balakrishnan presented papers on the topics, ‘Ontological Articulations of the Folk: Deshivad and the Barahmasa of North India’, ‘Literature on Adivasis Awakening in Maharashtra’ and ‘Requiem for a Tribe: Environmental Ethics and Ethnography – Rereading Rajam Krishnan’s When the Kurinji Blooms’, respectively, in the eighth session of the seminar. In the valedictory session of the seminar, Kaustav Chakraborty presented a paper on the topic, ‘In Search of an Endogenous Eco-masculinity: A Journey through Select Tribal Tales and the Green Politics of Gulzar’, while V. Deepa presented her paper on the topic, ‘The Poetics and Politics of Jallikattu in C. S. Chellappa’s Vaadivaasal: Arena.’ The seminar was summed up by Prof. Sumanyu Satpathy, Prof. Malashri Lal and Dr. R. Umamaheshwari.

## DALIT WRITERS’ MEET

April 14, 2017, Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised a Dalit Writers’ Meet on the occasion of 126th Birth Anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on April 12, 2017 at Delhi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address while Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar, eminent Marathi scholar, delivered the inaugural address. Dr. Mohandas Namishray, eminent Hindi writer was the guest of honour for the inaugural session. The title of the first session was ‘Opposing Domination’ which was chaired by Dr. Sidhlingayya. The participants for this session were Dr. Achitya Vishwas, Sri Kanti Malsattar and Imayan. The second session was titled ‘The Journey of Dalit Literature’, and was chaired by Lakshman Gayekavad. Shyauraj Singh Bechain and Sani M. Kapikkadh were the participants for this session. The last session was poetry recitation and was chaired by Jayant Parmaar. Sanant Nanti, Ravikant, Buchru Pasvan, Jatishorey Tongbrahm, Basudev Sunani, Mohan Tyagi,

Ramdayal Mehar and C.R. Majhi recited poems in their respective languages as well as their Hindi or English translations. The program was conducted by Kumar Anupam, Editor, Hindi, Sahitya Akademi.

## PURVOTTARI: FESTIVAL OF LETTERS

April 21-23, 2017, Guwahati



Dr K. Sreenivasarao delivering the Welcome Address at the Festival

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Asam Sahitya Sabha and The North-East Foundation, Guwahati organized a North-Eastern Literary Festival on April 21-23, 2017 at NEDFI Convention Hall, Dispur, Guwahati, Assam. Abani Mohan Saharia, Chandan Sarma, Mema and Purnima Bongjung, welcomed the guests on behalf of Asam Sahitya Sabha and North East Foundation. Sri K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi chaired the inaugural session. Ratan Thiyam, in his speech, said that he was deeply honored to be associated with Sahitya Akademi and the Literary Festival which helped to establish communication and understanding among the people from different parts of this country. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi talked about using the word ‘festival’ in the context of literature and also says that we must be careful while dealing with different languages and cultures of our country. He also expresses his happiness that the festival is organised in North East and feels that Sahitya Akademi should give importance to each and every problem associated with writers, producing books or publishes. Dr. Dhrubajyoti Borah chose the topic ‘Future of Literature in Today’s Globalised World’ for his speech and saluted all the prominent writers and expressed his gratitude for making him part of the event. Bhalchandra Nemade, the eminent Marathi writer, talked about the importance of the pluralistic approach to deal with diversities in India. After that, the vote of thanks was conferred by



Dr. Paramananda Rajbongshi, General Secretary, Assam Sahitya Sabha. The first session was titled 'Necessity of Mother Tongue' and was chaired by Bhalchandra Nemade. Dr. Dhruvajyotiborah, Mogalli Ganesh, Shafi Shauq and Malchand Tiwari were the participants for this session. The topic of the second session was 'Future of Novels Now' and was chaired by Yeshe Dorjee Thongshi. Sangeeta Bahadur, Mohan Kumar, Visharam Gupte and Santosh K. Tripathy were the speakers for this session. The third session of Purvattari was a short story reading and was chaired by P. Sivakami, eminent Tamil writer and activist. Jhumur Panday, read out her Bengali short story 'Cheleta Amar Rupantar' and also reads its translated version in Hindi 'Dibyank'. The second reader was Dayanad Pandey, an eminent Hindi writer, he recited his short story in Hindi titled 'Swapnoka Cinema'. The third reader Mogalli Ganesh, an eminent Kannada writer read the translated version of his short story in English 'One Day at the Lodge'. Fourth reader, Naresh Chandra Naik, a Konkani writer reads out the translated version of his short story titled 'Garden of Aura' and lastly, H. Budhichandra, a Manipuri writer, reads out his the English translation of his short story titled 'Beyond the Bottom'. The fourth session of Purvottari was Kavi Anuvadak and Arun Kamal eminent Hindi writer presented his poems written in Hindi which were then translated and read out by Karabideka Hazariaka and Anupam Kumar. The fifth session was Poets' Meet where ten poets from the different parts of India are invited to present their poems on the stage. This session was chaired by Subodh Sarkar, an eminent Bengali writer and renowned poet. The poets who recited their poems were Karabi Deka Hazarika (Assamese), Dilip Das (Bengali), Shanti Basumatary (Bodo), Vijaya Thakur (Dogri), Anant Mishra (Hindi), Tika Bhai (Nepali), Bharti Sadarangani (Sindhi), Salma (Tamil), Yakoob (Telugu) and Ajay Pandey 'Sahaab' (Urdu). They read out their poems in their own languages as well as the translated versions. The sixth session was a discussion on the topic 'Translation: Uniting the Culture' and was chaired by H. S. Shivaprakash. The participants were Pradip Acharya, Subhro Bandopadhyay, Santosh Alex, Vinit Shukla and Malchand Tiwari. The topic of the seventh session was 'Writing: Passion or Profession' and was chaired by Esther David. The speakers for this session were N. Kirankumar, Hari Bhatnagar, Chhaya Mahajan, Devipriya and Vikram Sampath. The eighth session was a short story reading and was chaired by Dr. Nagen Saikia. The participants were Manika Devesh (Assamese), Panna Trivedi (Gujarati), Simran Dhaliwal (Punjabi) and Kuppili Padma (Telugu). The ninth and last session was Poets' Meet and was chaired by Shafi Shauq. The participants were Bijoy Sankar Barman (Assamese), Ratneswar Basumatary (Bodo), Agnishekhar (Hindi),

Haris Rashid (Kashmiri), Arunabh Saurabh (Maithili), N. Bidyasagar Singha (Manipuri), Chandra Bhushan Jha (Sanskrit), Mansingh Manjhi (Santali), Azhagiyasingar (Tamil) and Wasif Yaar (Urdu).

## SEMINAR

April 23-24, 2017, Jamshedpur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Jaher Than Committee, Jamshedpur organized a seminar on trends of Santali novel, on April 23-24, 2017 at Tribal Cultural Centre, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the seminar, while Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and litterateur Sri Bhogla Soren, said that any society can be observed by looking at their literature. At the beginning Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh welcomed the audience and briefed them about the activities of the Akademi. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the journey of development of the Santali novel in his introductory remarks, while Mr. Ravindra Nath Murmu, in his key-note address, summarized the contemporary trends of Santali novel. In his presidential address, Shri Shobhanath Besra said that literature is a mirror of society. At the end, Prof. Digambar Hansda, President, Jaher Than Committee gave vote of thanks. The first session of the seminar was concluded under the chairmanship of Sri Ratan Hembram, in which Mansaram Murmu presented a paper on the 'Trends in Santali Novel', while Lakhai Baske and Laxminarayan Hansda presented papers on the topics 'History of Santali novels' and 'Impact of Santali novels on the society and culture', respectively. Sri Samay Kisku presided over the second session, in which Lakhani Murmu gave detailed information C.M. Hansda's novel 'Manumatti', as well as his other novels. Vishwanath Tudu presented a paper on 'The impact of globalization on Santali novels', and Duli Hansda presented a paper based on Domen Hansda's novel Aatu Odha. Ramu Hembram presented a paper titled, 'Female characters in Santali novels'. The third session was concluded under the chairmanship of Sri Badal Hembram, in which Mohan Baske and Ganesh Tudu presented papers titled 'Displacement in Santali Novels' and 'Male Characters in Santali Novels', respectively. The fourth session of the seminar was chaired by Sri C.P. Majhi, in which Sri Panchugopal Hembram, Manik Hansda and Majho Murmu presented their articles on the current state of Santali novel writing in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, respectively. Sri C.P. Majhi, in his presidential address, expressed satisfaction over the current situation of Santali novel writing.



## NARI CHETNA

March 08, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a Nari Chetna programme on March 8, 2017 on International Women's Day at the YMCA Hall, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. This was the first programme held in the city which gave a platform exclusively to women writers. Dr. Kayamkulam Yoonus, Member, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Manasi Devi, who is a writer activist, and fights against atrocities on women. In her thought provoking speech, she called for a united effort of women writers in building up a fortress against all evil confronting humanity and particularly the ever increasing abuse against women. She declared that the bodies of women are neither pieces of attraction nor pieces to be torn off. Smt. Laly Thomas, President, YWCA, presided over the function, and also elaborated on the role of women in every developing society. Prof. A. Khyrunnisa who writes extensively in English, particularly for children, said that she was optimistic about women coming out of their cocoons and occupying their positions in appropriate time and traversed through her writing career, which spans more than four decades. Dr. Bettymol Mathew, critically analysed the position of women in Malayalam literature and the apathy shown towards women characters by writers of all spheres. Smt. Shamila Shooja talked extensively about the characters of women in her writings and recited a few lines from her poems. Smt. Jacintha Morris who writes both in English and Malayalam, spoke on the realities women face in almost all walks of life and also recited a poem that she wrote. Kum. Navaneetha G. proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 08, 2017, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a Literary Forum programme on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 08, 2017 at Conference Hall, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests and the audience. Smt. Chaya Bhagavathi, Kannada poet; Smt. Rohini Sathya, Telugu and Kannada bilingual writer and Translator; Smt. Geetha Shenoy, Kannada and Konkani bilingual

writer and translator; Ms. Anuradha Nalapat, English and Malayalam writer and Artist; and Smt. Malarvizhi, Kannada and Tamil writer and translator had participated in the programme. Also, Dr. Meera Chakravarthy, Professor of Sanskrit and Bengali-Kannada bilingual translator, interacted with the guests and recited the poem "Sleeping with God". A documentary film on Balamani Amma, veteran Malayalam poet was also screened during the occasion.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 10, 2017, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a Literary Forum programme on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day on March 10, 2017 at Conference Hall, Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Central College Campus, Bangalore. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and spoke about the historical background of establishing Sahitya Akademi on March 12, 1954. Dr. H.S. Raghavendra Rao, eminent Kannada writer and critic was invited to speak on the occasion. He spoke on the topic 'Culture, Government and Artist - As entities of a Society'. Dr. H.S. Raghavendra Rao during his lecture on foundation day said that Sahitya Akademi and National Book Trust are the two premiere institutions which have had tremendous influence on him. Screening of documentary film on Manoj Das, veteran Odia and English poet was also held during the occasion.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 10, 2017, Malappuram

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in association with Mahatma College, Valanchery, Malappuram, Kerala organized a Literary Forum titled, 'Malabar Culture in Malayalam Literature' at Mahatma College, Valanchery on March 10, 2017. The session was inaugurated by the famous social worker, Anil Kumar M, Principal, Mahatma College. Dr KM Bharathan, Registrar, Thunjath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, presented a paper on 'Ramayanam: Diversity in Text'. Dr Shamshad Hussain KT, Associate Professor, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit presented a paper on 'Gender, Religiosity and Literature'. According to Dr Bindu Naravath, Moieen Kutty Vidyar indirectly influenced



all levels of Mappilas. Dr Anees Alangadan in his paper analyzed the similarities in the stories of Quran and the legend of Krishna. Mr O.K. Rajendran, Head of History, talked about how Malabar culture influenced songs. First session was inaugurated by VP Sathynathan, Head of Malayalam, Mahathma College and he introduced the participants. Principal Anil Kumar M chaired the session and Shahimon VT, Head of Arabic proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 17, 2017, Mulki

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in association with Vijaya College, Mulki organized “Sahitya Spandana” programme at Auditorium, Vijaya College, Mulki, Karnataka on March 17, 2017. Dr. K Narayana Poojary, Principal of Vijaya College presided over the programme as chair. Dr. Shailaja Y V introduced and welcomed the guests and the participants. Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, Member of Sahitya Akademi’s Kannada Advisory Board inaugurated the session. After his speech, resource person, Sri Vasanth Kumar Perla gave information about Panje Mangesh Rao. Dr. S R Arun Kumar, another resource person, spoke on Kadengodlu Shankara Bhat. Another resource person, Smt Poornima Suresh introduced the students to Kayyara Kinhana Rai. After the three sessions, Principal of Vijaya College delivered his presidential address. Prof. Venkatesh Bhat proposed vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM: BIRTH CENTENARY OF PA. VEM. ACHARYA

March 18, 2017, Karkala

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in collaboration with Sri Bhuvanendra College, Karkala organized a one day Symposium on Birth Centenary of Pa.Vem. Acharya on March 18, 2017 at Sri Bhuvanendra College, Karkala. Dr. Shyamasundara Bidarakundi, the famous Kannada writer, during his inaugural address informed the gathering that Paligarh Venkatramana Acharya (Pa.Vem. Acharya), who was a well-known writer and analyst, said that knowledge is wealth and one should not keep that wealth within them and should share it with others. He spoke on the

‘Life and Writing of P.V. Acharya’. Sri H. Shantharam, Administrative officer, A.G.E Manipal, who presided over the programme said that, nowadays the number of students visiting library are countable so one should build the habit of reading. Dr. Manjunath A. Kotian, principal of the college, presided over the programme as chair. Sri K.M. Raghava Nambiyar, who presented an essay on Pa.Vem. Acharya’s poems, said that words are like weapons to a writer and he should know the importance of the words. Senior Kannada scholar, Dr. Taltaje Vasanth Kumar spoke in the valedictory session of P.V Acharya: Life and Writing. He said that great writings always influence the people to read. Sri Lakshmisha Tolpady, said that life is like a deep sea. Achievement in life gives strength to people and writing is a great achievement. Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinkuli, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. Sri S.P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Manjunath A Kotian also, Principal of the college welcomed the gathering, while Sri Nagabhushan, HOD, Hindi Department thanked the guests. Smt. Vanitha, Lecturer in Kannada proposed vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 19, 2017, Sirsi

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in collaboration with Prakruti, Sirsi organized a one day Symposium on ‘Kannada Short Story - Form and Basis of Resistance’, on March 19, 2017 at Vinayak Auditorium, Sirsi, Karnataka. Dr. T. P. Ashok, an eminent Kannada critic, in his inaugural address analyzed the great oral tradition of fiction and its diversified forms through ages. The tradition of fiction in Kannada has evolved out of mythological, epics and folk, and modern western influences, he added. He was of the opinion that short story is a major form of literature and its complexity is characterized by the conflict between tradition and modernity. Presenting the keynote address Dr Shridhar Balagar, Member, Kannada Advisory Board and short story writer advocated that the world of story would be more real than real life as it was the integration of reality and imagination. He said that form is nothing but the way the world is perceived and portrayed. Sri Raju Mogaveer, Assistant Commissioner, Sirsi chaired the session. Sri S. G. Hegde of Prakruti presented the introductory remarks. The



session was welcomed by Sri S P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. In the first paper presentation session on Tradition and Conflict in Short Story, Dr Amaresh Nugadoni and Smt. Bhagirathi Hegde shared their experiences. Dr. T P Ashok chaired the session. In the second session, Sri Vasudhendra and Dr. Basu Bevinagidad spoke on Form and Motif in Short Story. Dr. K Satyanarayana chaired the session. Dr. M. G Hegde presented the valedictory address and Murthy Ankolekar chaired the session.

## NORTH-EAST AND SOUTHERN WRITERS' MEET

March 25-26, 2017, Thiruvananthapuram

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a two-day North–East and Southern Writers' Meet at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on March 25-26, 2017. The inaugural session started with welcome speech by Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. In his brief speech, he elaborated various activities of the Akademi all over India. The numerous activities taking place in every nook and corner of the country on an everyday basis contribute much towards the promotion of different languages, he said. In this connection, the rare languages are given more opportunities to associate with mainstream languages. This Writers' Meet was such an attempt to make a platform for writers of the North – East region and the distant Southern states, he added. He also disclosed the desire of the Akademi to open a sales outlet of the Akademi at Thiruvananthapuram shortly, which was received by the audience with great applause. He welcomed Smt. Sugathakumari, the great Malayalam poet, who inaugurated the event, Shri. A. Sethumadhavan alias Sethu, veteran novelist and Former Chairman, NBT, who chaired the session, Smt. Thounaojam Chanu Ibemhal, eminent Manipuri writer who was the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Kayamkulam Yoonus, member of Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, who was in charge of the programme. In her thought provoking speech, Smt. Sugathakumari called for greater unity of all languages and cultures of the Union of India. Novelist Sethu lauded the attempt of Sahitya Akademi in bringing together various writers of different languages to a single platform. Smt. Thounaojam Chanu Ibemhal spoke at length on her journey in the world of literature amidst great difficulties. Dr. Kayamkulam Yoonus gave the



Inaugural Session of North-Eastern and Southern Writers' Meet in progress

vote of thanks. The inaugural session was annexed with a poetry recitation session. Smt. Sugathakumari, Shri. Ezhachery Ramachandran (Malayalam), Shri. Bipuljyoti Saikia (Assamese), Shri. Jampanna Ashihal (Banjara), Shri. Rakhao Basumatary (Bodo), Shri. G. N Mohan (Kannada), Shri. Chongtham Deepu Singh (Manipuri), Shri. N. Sabarinathan (Tamil), Shri. Devipriya (Telugu), and Shri. PazhavilaSasi (Malayalam) recited their poems in their native languages with translations in English. The first session was a discussion session on the Influence of North-East on Indian Literature. This session was chaired by Dr. P. P. Raveendran of M. G University. Dr. Kaustubh Deka (Assamese), Dr. G.B Harisha (Kannada), Prof. Huiram Behari Singh (Manipuri), Prof. A. Dhananjayan (Tamil) who participated in the discussion and elaborated various influencing aspects of North-East in literature. The second session was a Poets' Meet. This session was chaired by Dr. Anand Kavalam of the Malayalam Language. He recited his Malayalam poem and its translation in English. Prof. Swarna Prabha Chainary (Bodo), Ms. Vidya Rashmi Pelathadka (Kannada), Mrs. Niru Sarma Parajuli (Nepali), Mr. Bandala Madhava Rao (Telugu) and Dr. Vasanth Kumar Perla (Tulu) presented their poems in their respective languages with translations in English. The third session was titled "The World without Writing", under the chairmanship of Prof. Huirem Behari Singh, veteran Manipuri writer. Mr. Arindam Borkataki (Assamese), Dr. M.G. Sashibhooshan (Malayalam), Dr. Chetan Soren (Santali), Prof. Dr. Sujatha Vijayaraghavan (Tamil) and Dr. T. Vijayakumar (Telugu) participated in this session. The fourth session of the programme was a Short Story Reading session. This session was chaired by the veteran Malayalam Novelist and Short



Story Writer Prof. Dr. George Onakkoor. Dr. Nagaveni H. (Kannada), Shri Nagesh Kaloor (Kodava), Shri B. Murali (Malayalam), Shri Khwairakpam Yaikul Singh (Manipuri) and Shri Birbhadra Karkidoli (Nepali) presented their short stories in their languages with translations in Hindi or English. These writers gave the audience a picture on how story writing is progressing in their languages at a time when situations are changing at a fast pace. The last and fifth session of the programme, the Poets' Meet, started with the Malayalam poet, Smt. Savithri Rajeevan in the chair. Dr. Kamal Kumar Tanti (Assamese), Ms. Paddam Anasuya (Gondi), Mrs. Shamila Shuja (Malayalam), Dr. Yumnam Nandini Devi (Manipuri), Shri Ganesh Thakur Hansda (Santali), Ms. Jeevalakshmi D. (Tamil) and Shri. Annavaram Devender (Telugu) presented their poems in their respective languages with translations in English. This session gave a chance to relatively young poets and hence carried the new trends in the writings in these languages. The programme concluded with vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Kayamkulam Yoonus, Member, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

## SEMINAR

March 27-28, 2017, Sagar



Inaugural Session of Seminar on Re-reading the Tribal Epics of Karnataka in progress

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a two-day seminar on Re-reading the Tribal Epics of Karnataka at Kagodu Thimmappa Rangamandira, Sagar, Shimoga District, Karnataka on March 27-28, 2017. In the inaugural program, renowned researcher Ham. Pa. Nagarajaiah in his inaugural speech emphatically said, "Both constructing and deconstructing processes have been in full swing in the history of Indian Literature. However, the tribal epics are engaged in the constructing process only and a

great amount of humanity coupled with judiciousness is inherently built into them". Prof. Hi. Chi. Boralingaiah, retired Vice Chancellor, Hampi Kannada University, in his keynote address said, "The pro-people thinking which has been very much absent in the modern times is found in surplus in the tribal epics of the state. So many narratives empowering the women are an integral part of these epics that propagate the right to live for all the living species on the earth. The tribal epics never encourage any form of bloodshed and violence. Instead, they are continuously involved in the process of humanizing the man. Unfortunately, such humane epics have been sidelined by the dominant structures that control the spaces of literature and culture." Shri Huchappa Master, a Tribal Scholar and folk singer inaugurated the program and spoke on the urgency of having a holistic approach towards the tribes that have been continuously threatened by the development projects of the governments. Renowned writers Na. D' Souza, Professor G. Sannahanumappa, Theater artist Kagodu Annappa were there on the stage. S.P. Mahalingeswara, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and the gathering. Smt. Vatsala Mohan compeered the inaugural program. In the first session, Dr. Prashant Nayak presented his paper on the topic, 'Tribal Epic and Classical Epics' and said that there have been no easy methods found for decoding the epics till now. Hence, the tribal epics could not emerge to the centre stage. Both the classical epics the Ramayana and the Mahabharatha are well grounded in the folk tradition and successfully demythologized by the folk wisdom. The second paper presenter was Mr. Veeresh Badiger who presented his paper on the topic 'Tribal Epics: Type and Trait' and said that the tribal literature could construct the counter wisdom against the worldviews of the hegemonic structures. The tribal epics are the mental texts in true sense and they attempt to destroy all the hierarchical and humiliating ideas. Known for their emotional empowerment, the tribal epics stand for secular spirit in the country. Speaking on the topic, 'Technic and Contextual Theory of Tribal Epics', Shri Chaluvvaraju said that the tribal people are experts in poetry being associated with hard labor. These epics are the representations of the collective wisdom and they get expressions in Orality that altogether advocates holistic values of life. Prof. A.V. Navada chaired the session. In the second session, Dr. Meti Mallikarjun spoke first on 'Tribal Epics: Symbolic World'. He pointed out that most of the epics belonged



to the tribal world expressing its social understanding and its symbolic world is so wide. The symbolism is the distinct identity of these epics. The tribal epics having so many texts and subtexts are capable of offering solution to the contemporary crises. This poetry represents the issues related to the social identity. Restricting these epics to the lower strata of the society is an injustice done to them. After that, writer, Kumsi Umesh spoke on the topic 'Resistance in Tribal Epics', and said that resistance in these tribal epics is directed against evil. So they need to be rightly called as human epics instead of tribal epics. The woman questioning the authority of man in Malemahadeswara Kavya is not just a feminist perspective; it is an integral essence of Kannada to keep the consciousness awakened. The resistance built in here is a metaphor for sheer cultural resistance. The third speaker was Shri Kiran Gajanoor who spoke on 'Knowledge Discourse of Tribal Epics' and elucidated that tribal epics are nothing but a mode of strengthening epistemology and there is an urgent need to search for the models of knowledge poetics. Chairing the session, Prof Srikanta Kudige stressed that the studies already done on the tribal poetry have opined that this poetry contains a very rich and wide epistemological corpus where there have been many attempts made to humanize the divine. Kavya Kolivad, a student from Indira Gandhi Women's College of Sagar compeered the program. In the evening, there was a session of cultural programs by the tribal people invited from different parts of the state. The session focused on recitation of tribal epics on tribal musical instruments. Basavaraju and his troupe from Biligiri Rangana Betta recited the epic of Biligiri Ranga. Sharada and her troupe from Virajapete, Kodagu recited the epic of Kudiya Tribe. In the third session, Sri KuruvaBasavaraj spoke on 'Tantric Rituals and Scientific Concept' and expressed his arguments that the tribes have invented their own medical system and even the act of boding also is having some healing power. The tribal epics are famous for connecting human and superhuman worlds together in their narrations. Dr. Mohan Chandragutti presented his paper on the topic 'Spirituality and Concept of God in Tribal Epics'. Chandragutti said that there are some lessons to learn from the tribal world as for humanity and native wisdom are concerned. Spirituality is however, a knowledge treasure descended from their ancestors. Life experiences are something close to the practices of spirituality. Divinity is very flexible

changing according to time and space and it does not attract fixation. The tribes found their own solutions to the problems of their everyday life. Dr. B. Ramesh, speaking on 'Gender Treatment or Concepts in Tribal Epics', gave very different remarks from the social sciences' points of view. He hinted at so many survival strategies adapted by the oppressed sections. He made a distinction between the classical epics that gave preference to the patriarchy and the epics of primordial societies that prioritized the matriarchal value system. Siri and Sankamma poetry are well known for the female resistance to the oppressive structures. Shripadshetty, who chaired this session, said that human life shall be as natural and simple as that of the tribes to resolve the modern crises and the tribes can offer us a model to live that they have been living since ages. The tribes have always struggled hard to destroy the liminal identities like caste, class, gender and gender. In the fourth technical session, Shri S.S Angadi presented a paper on the topic 'Linguistic Context of Tribal Epics' and said that the epics are the capacious dimensions available to Kannada. Desi or native meter is a basic feature of the tribal Epics. The Syntactic and semantic structures do contribute much to the development of distinct tribal epics like Manteswamy and Madeswara Kaavya. Grammatical and structural nuances stand distinctly apart to show the grandeur of the tribal epics. Smt. Vatsala Mohan, speaking on the topic 'Worldview in Tribal Epics' drew the attention towards the marvelous worldviews ingrained into the epics treating the universal brotherhood that stands apart from caste and class identities. Dr. A.S. Prabhakar, chairperson of the session said that the tribal epics are very much integral part of the secular fabric of life. However, the contemporary discourses misinterpreting and misusing the epic wisdom for their diabolic purposes is not appropriate and this development needs to be revisited by the scholars to retain those knowledge intact. After the fourth session, the recitation of the tribal epics took place. Sudhakara and his troupe from Sagar performed the Hasalara Hantike Pantike ritual. Another Budga Jamngamara Recitation was also carried out by Ramu and troupe from Bellary. In the valedictory session, renowned writer Na. D'Souza, Tribal Scholar Huchappa Master and writer Karigowda Beechanahalli and Theatre Artist Kagodu Annappa were present on the stage. In his valedictory speech, Na. D' Souza pointed out that when the tribal epics of oral traditions get translated into the written word and



printed, their meanings and ideas might be getting altered or damaged and hence the scholars need to be cautious in this respect. Writer, Karigowda Beechanahalli shared his opinions that tribal poetry was a great inspiration for the literary movements like Dalita and Bandaya. However, he said that we need to evolve different strategies to negotiate the tribal epics which altogether different in their form, content and spirit. Folk Scholar Huchappa Master demanded for encouraging the good singers of the tribal epics like Matenswamy, Madeswara and Junjappa Kaavya in the state. Shri Kagodu Annappa presided over the valedictory session. Smt. Vatsala Mohan coordinated the programme.

## SWACHHATA PAKHWADA

April 17-20, 2017, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru observed a weeklong Swachhata Pakhwada from April 17 – 30, 2017 at its premises. On April 24, 2017 Swachata Shapath (Oath Reading) was read by Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary and the staff reiterated the oath. The cleaning work started from April 17, 2017 and continued till April 28, 2017. On April 26, 2017 a lecture on Swachata Abhiyan was held. Dr. H.S.M. Prakash, Eminent Geologist (formerly Director of Geological Survey of India), translator and writer, was invited to speak on the occasion. He broadly spoke on the Swachata Abhiyan. He praised the honorable Prime Minister for his unstinted effort in launching the mission. He spoke on the natural and artificial environmental pollutions and the climatic disasters they lead to on both the environment and living beings. On 28 April 2017, Poetry Recitation by Staff on Swachata Abhiyan was held. The staff recited poems on cleanliness. The staff actively participated in the Abhiyan during these days.

## LITERARY FORUM

April 23, 2017, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in association with Karnataka Publishers Association, Bangalore and Karnataka Women Writers Association, Bangalore organized a Literary Forum programme on the occasion of 'World Book Day' on April 23, 2017 at Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Central

College Campus, B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore. Dr. Chandrashekhara Kamar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi chaired the programme. Sri K.S. Murali, Kannada book publisher and Smt. Shashikala Belagali, former Corporator, writer and publisher participated and were felicitated. Dr. Vasundhara Bhupathi, eminent doctor, writer and President, Karnataka Women Writers Association, Bangalore also participated. Sri Prakash Kambathalli, President, Karnataka Publishers Association delivered the introductory speech. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests and the audience on behalf of Sahitya Akademi. Sri Prakash Kambathalli delivered the introductory address. Dr. Chandrashekhara Kamar in his presidential remarks had said that the books have the capacity to hold the memory of any culture that exists for thousands of years. Dr. Vasundhara Bhoopathi said that the reading culture should be inculcated right from the family. Sri N. Ravikumar, Secretary of Karnataka Publishers Association, compeered the programme and Smt. Vanamala Achar from Karnataka Women Writers Association proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

April 29, 2017, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in collaboration with Sahrudaya Vedi, Bengaluru organized a Literary Forum and Book Release of 'Athikramanam', Malayalam translation of the award winning Kannada novel 'Daatu' by S.L. Bhyrappa on April 29, 2017 at E.C.A. Main Hall, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary delivered the welcome speech, while Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya gave the introductory remarks. Dr. Chandrashekhara Kamar had chaired the programme, released the Malayalam translation and delivered the presidential address. Sri M. Chandraprakash, Eminent Malayalam writer spoke on the Malayalam version 'Athikramanam' of the award winning Kannada book 'Daatu' by Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa. Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa was the Guest of Honour for the programme. The Malayalam translator, Sri Sudhakaran Ramanthali said that he thought of translating the Akademi's award winning Kannada novel 'Daatu' by Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa into Malayalam the very day he read the book. Sri Vishnumangalam Kumar, Convener, Sahrudaya Vedi proposed vote of thanks.



## SYMPOSIUM

March 3, 2017, Yanam



Sri Sundara Murugan delivering vote of thanks at the symposium on  
'Comparison of Poets of Modern Tamil & Telugu' - Symposium

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Dr. SRK Government Arts College, Yanam, conducted a day-long symposium on 'Comparison of Poets of Modern Tamil & Telugu' on March 3, 2017 at the college premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address and briefed the audience about the similarities between the two Dravidian languages. Dr. R. Sambath, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, delivered presidential address. He recalled the notable works of many eminent Telugu poets such as Gurram Joshuva, Boyi Bhimanna, Juluri Gowrishankar, Jayadhir Tirumala Rao and Dalit writers including Madduri Nagesh Babu, Pasunoori Ravinder, Kusuma Dharmanna Kavi and others. He said that India is a land where unity in diversity prevails. Conducting such multilingual programmes would transcend religious, cultural and dialectal barriers and unite the people. Sri Datla Devadanam Raju, eminent Telugu critic, delivered keynote address. He lauded Sahitya Akademi's efforts in assimilating distinct linguistic communities of India. He said that the need for comparative study of literatures had increased manifold due to the diverse strands of culture prevalent in Indian literature. Such comparative studies would enable in-depth understanding of cross-regional literary traditions prevalent in India. Sri Davuluri Subramaniveswara Rao, Regional Administrator, Yanam, was the chief guest of the inaugural session. Dr. Jeyaraj Daniel, Principal, Dr. SRK Government Arts College offered glowing

felicitations. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Dr. Avvai Nirmala and she presented a paper on the comparative study of Tamil and Telugu poems. Dr. N. Vajravelu presented a paper on the comparative study of Tamil and Telugu Dalit poems. He compared the works of Tamil Dalit protagonists such as Periyar, Ayothidasar, P. Sivakami, Bama to that of Telugu Dalit writers such as Gurram Joshuva, Boyi Bhimanna and others. Dr. P. Ammu Devi presented a paper on the impact Gandhian thoughts on Tamil and Telugu poems. She compared the works of Bharathiyar, Namakkal Kavignar, Kavimani with the writings of Telugu scholars such as Tummala Sitarama Murthy, Garimella Satyanarayana, Basavaraju Apparao and others. The second session was chaired by Dr. K. Sanjeeva Rao and he presented a paper on the concept of 'Nationalism' in the poems of Mahakavi Subramaniya Bharathi and Joshuva. He observed that their poems strongly condemned social injustice and thereby contributed in their own ways to arouse social consciousness. Prof. B. Dhananjayan presented a paper on Mahakavi Bharathi and Gurajada Apparao. He mentioned that they wrote poems on social, cultural and political issues of their times. The second session was followed by poetry reading by Tamil and Telugu scholars. Dr. Varugu Bhaskara Reddy, Head, Telugu Department, Dr. SRK Government Arts College delivered valedictory address and opined that the symposium was conducted to highlight the significance of study of contemporary Tamil and Telugu literatures. The symposium was well attended by the students and faculty of the college and many other local litterateurs.

## NARI CHETNA

March 8, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, organized a Nari Chetna programme on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2017 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mini Hall, Chennai. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and the audience. Smt. Andal Priyadarshini, Programming Head, Doordarshan, Coimbatore region and eminent



Tamil poet, emphasized the need to accelerate gender parity and made an appeal to celebrate the achievements of women. Prof. Aranga Mallika spoke about International Women's Day theme for 2017, 'Be Bold for Change'. Smt. Priyasakhi read out her short story which described the painful life of a woman who was subjected to physical violence. Sri A.S. Ilangovan proposed vote of thanks.

## FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE

March 10, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai commemorated its Foundation Day by inviting Sri Mu. Mehta, eminent Tamil poet and Sahitya Akademi Awardee, to deliver a lecture on the 'Impact of Award Winning Writings' on March 10, 2017 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Mini Hall, Chennai. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address and traced the history of Sahitya Akademi's six decades of literary service right from its inception. He then invited Sri Metha to deliver his lecture. Sri Metha thanked Sahitya Akademi for having given him an opportunity to speak on the occasion. He said that translating Award winning works to other languages would enable exchange of ideas across cultures. Translation has always been crucial to enhance mutual understanding and coexistence among the people. He also observed that any genuine literary work should aim at strengthening communal peace and harmony, especially in a multi-cultural country like India. Sri A.S. Ilangovan proposed vote of thanks. The programme was well attended by many local Tamil writers.

## GRAMALOK

March 11, 2017, Piranmalai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai conducted a Gramaalok programme on 'The Literary Heritage of Parambumalai' on March 11, 2017 at A.V.N. Mangainayagar Mandram, Piranmalai, Sivaganga, Tamil Nadu. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address. Thavathiru Ponnambala Adigalar,

Pontiff, Kundrakudi Thiruvannamalai Aadheenam, delivered the special address on the occasion. He lauded the village outreach initiative of Sahitya Akademi in fostering the historic heritage and cultural greatness of villages. He said that King Paari, who ruled the Parambu country, was a great philanthropist who indicated the importance of preserving ecology even two thousand years ago. He is considered as one of the last seven patrons, who gave away his chariot to nurture a creeper plant 'Mullai'. Dr. C. Sethupathi, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. He explained the historical significance and cultural heritage of the Parambu hills and Thirukodunkundra Nathar temple. Sri Maru. Paramaguru presented a paper on the literary heritage of Parambu hills. He said that great poets like Kapilar, Avvaiyar, Sundarar, Gnanasambanthar had sung songs in praise of Parambu country. Their musical compositions were rendered by Masilamani Desikar. Dr. K. Parthibaraja, an expert dramatist, presented a paper on the plays of Parambuhills. He mentioned that Kurinjipattu (meaning songs of Kurinji landscape) composed by Kapilar was later dramatized as 'Valli Kalyaanam' by Sankaradas Swami and is being enacted in and around Parambu hills even these days. Sri Aikkan, Sri Chandrakanthan, Sri Manoharan and many other rural patrons from Singampunari and Piranmalai regions attended the event.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 14, 2017, Kumbakonam

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Government Arts College for Men, Kumbakonam, organized a literary forum on 'Writers of Kumbakonam' on March 14, 2017 at the college premises. Dr. R. Kamarasu, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the forum. Dr. Anbarasan, Principal of the college offered warm felicitations. Prof. Rama. Gurunathan presented a paper on poetries of Kumbakonam poets. Sri Na. Vichvanathan presented a paper on short stories. Sri L.S. Sathiyamurthy presented a paper on novels of Kumbakonam writers. Prof. Ramesh proposed a vote of thanks.



## GRAMALOK

March 15, 2017, Pondicherry

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, organized a Gramalok programme on ‘Ramayana, Mahabharata & Silappathikaaram with Reference to Sita, Draupadi & Kannaki’ on March 15, 2017 at Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Government Arts College, Madagadipet, Pondicherry U.T. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered the welcome address. Dr. R. Sambath, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, gave introductory remarks and elaborated on the ‘village outreach’ initiative of Sahitya Akademi. Sri M.V. Balaji, Principal of the college offered glowing felicitations. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. Ms. Revathi presented a paper on the character ‘Sita’ as portrayed in the great epic Ramayana. She said that Sita was best known for her supreme womanhood, perseverance, nobility and compassion. Ms. J. Pamela presented a paper on the character ‘Draupadi’, a paragon of courage, strength and patience, who is also being worshipped as a ‘Grama Devatha’ in the southern parts of India and some Southeast Asian countries. Ms. Savundaravalli presented a paper on the Tamil heroine ‘Kannagi’, who was symbolized for her beauty and chastity and whose exasperation reduced the city of Madurai to ashes. Later on, she was deified and many temples were dedicated for her worship in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. Post paper presentations, rural folk dances depicting scenes from Silappathikaaram and Mahabharata were enacted.

## CONDOLENCE MEETING

March 27, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a condolence meeting to mourn the demise of veteran Tamil writer Sri Ashokamitran, on March 27, 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, said that Sri Ashokamitran was a prolific Tamil writer who ranked among one of the finest writers of modern

era. As a writer of high stature, he enriched the trove of Tamil literature. His writings portrayed high sensibility, humanism and universal aesthetic values. Sri Ashokamitran was conferred Sahitya Akademi Award for his short story collection ‘Appavin Snehidar’ (meaning My Father’s Friend) in the year 1996. He also felt that it was a personal loss for Sahitya Akademi, as he had been a close friend, philosopher and guide for every employee working at Sahitya Akademi, close to five decades. Sri Kannikovil Raja, eminent children’s writer and Editor of Minmini Haiku magazine and Sri Pon Dhanasekaran, Editor, Puthiya Thalaimurai Seithi, participated in the meeting and paid rich tributes to the departed literary great. All the staff of the sub-regional office observed a minute’s silence as a mark of homage to Sri Ashokamitran.

## LITERARY FORUM

April 23, 2017, Salem

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a literary forum on the occasion of ‘World Book Day’ on April 23, 2017 at Tamil Sangam, Salem. Dr. K. Ganesan chaired the programme. Sri L. Vincent, Sri M.G. Rajan and Sri R. Venugopalsami participated and presented their papers.

## SWACHHATA PAKHWADA

April 25, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, as part of observance of ‘Swachhata Pakhwada’, April 16-30, 2017, organized a guest lecture by Dr. Muhilai Rajapandian, Registrar, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai, on April 25, 2017 at the office premises. Dr. Muhilai Rajapandian spoke about the need and importance of cleanliness. Various competitions on ‘Swachhata’ were conducted among the staff and Dr. Rajapandian distributed prizes to the winners.





## LITERARY FORUM

March 5, 2017, Guwahati, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Ichemma organized a one day Literary Forum on Media and Literature on March 5, 2017 at Guwahati Press Club, Ambari, Guwahati, Assam. Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata, while welcoming the participants and the gathering, emphasized that literature strengthens the standard of media. H. Behari Singh, an eminent folklorist and Convener of the Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the inaugural speech. Phuritsabam Birmani, Editor of the Ichemma and the Arambai (Manipuri weekly) chaired the session. In the first session of the literary forum three scholars from Manipur and Assam presented their papers, these were - Ashangbam Netrajit, Ph. Sandhyarani Devi and M. Nandababu Singh. Phuritsabam Birmani, editor of the Ichemma and the Arambai (Manipuri weekly) was the moderator. In the second session of the programme, Karam Ibingohal Singh, President of the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Assam was the moderator. N. Amarjit Singh, M. Asharani Devi and K. Dhiren Singh presented papers in this session. After completion of each session, an interaction session was held between the readers and the audience L. Rajkishore Singh, Secretary, Manipuri Sahitya Parishad, Kamrup District Committee, proposed vote of thanks.

## PRAWASI MANCH

March 7, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Prawasi Manch programme with Prafulla Mohanti, distinguished artist, writer and urban planner on March 7, 2017 at State Archives Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Prafulla Mohanti, who resides in London, delivered a lecture on society and culture in the session. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address and introduced him to the audience and other eminent people present at the programme. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board delivered the introductory address.

## SYMPOSIUM ON FEMINISM IN ODISIA LITERATURE

8 March 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Ramadevi Women's University, Bhubaneswar organized a Symposium on 'Feminism in Odia Literature' on March 8, 2017 at Ramadevi University. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the august gathering of the programme and introduced the participants to the audience. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board delivered the introductory address of the symposium. Sabita Pradhan, Professor, Department of Odia, Visva Bharati delivered the keynote address of the symposium. Jharana Das, Eminent Film Artist was the Chief Guest of the session. Padmaja Mishra, Vice Chancellor, Ramadevi University chaired the inaugural session of the symposium. In the first session of the symposium Abhiram Biswal presented his paper on 'Naribadara Swarupa O Naribadi Andolana', Alakananda Mishra presented her paper on 'Naribadi Sahitya Tatwa', Nagamananda Das presented his paper on 'Naribadi Sahitya Samalochana' and Sanghamitra Mishra, eminent Odia writer chaired the first session of the symposium. The second session of the symposium was also chaired by Sanghamitra Mishra. Gayatribala Panda presented her paper on 'Odia Kabitare Naribadi Akalana' in the second session of the symposium. Jayanti Rath presented her paper on 'Odia Galpare Naribadi Chetana'. Jyotsna Kar presented her paper on 'Odia Upanyasare Naribadi Chitra'. Debendra Kumar Dash, Professor in Odia language of the college delivered the valedictory speech of the symposium.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 8, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a literary forum on Bengali Women Writers of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century: A Comparative Study on March 8, 2017 on the occasion of International Women's Day at the auditorium of the Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address of the literary



forum and introduced the participants to the august gathering of the programme. Bharrati Ray, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and Sudakshina Ghosh presented their paper on the topic 'Bengali Women Writers of Nineteenth Century' while Bijaya Mukhopadhyay and Sutapa Sengupta presented their paper on 'Bengali Women Writers of Twentieth Century'. The comparative study was well thought out and was elaborately discussed in the literary forum. Nabaneeta Dev Sen, General Council Member, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and an eminent writer chaired the literary forum.

## LITERARY FORUM

10 March 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Literary Forum on Akademi's Foundation Day on March 10, 2017 at the auditorium of the Regional Office, Kolkata. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the distinguished participants and the gathering and narrated a brief history of the Kolkata office. Amiya Dev, Baridbaran Ghosh, Sarat Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Satyabati Giri reminisced about the memorable incidents suggestion of further development of the activities of the office in connection with their long association with the Akademi while Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board chaired the session.

## MULAKAT

March 14, 2017, Raiganj, West Bengal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with the Department of Bengali, Raiganj University organized Mulakat programme with Bengali writers at the University on March 14, 2017. The programme was inaugurated by Anil Bhuimali, Vice Chancellor, Raiganj University with the lighting of lamp in presence of Pankaj Kundu, Registrar, Raiganj University; Nirjhar Sarkar, Deputy Registrar; Tapash Mohanta, Member, University Council, Raiganj University and the Head of the various Departments of the University. The inaugural song was presented by Riya Hore, the student of the Department of Bengali. In the inaugural speech, Bhuimali said, "This literary meet exchanges the views of readers and writers on the one hand, and the students and researchers of the

University on the other". Dipak Kumar Roy, Head of the Department of Bengali, Raiganj University in his welcome speech said "We stand on the 'Tribhuban' of Bengali literature. Those who are involved in literary parlance of Assam, Tripura and Manipur of North East India, we follow another 'Bhuban' in their activities." In the technical session, literary essays were presented by Pramita Bhowmick, Debesh Kanti Chakraborty, Sharmishtha Ghosh, Suman Mallick, Shibasish Chattopadhyay and Nishikanta Sinha. They were specially invited by organizers to present their own writings like essays, poetry etc. about 40 poetry were presented by different poets and among them were Arun Chakraborty, Kallol Bandyopadhyay, Asoke Roy, Puspita Majumder, Arati Debnath, Dipa Chowdhury, Papiya Chakraborty, Avijit Sarkar, Subhra Shankar Nag, Rani Sen, Sukla Sen, Asish Sarkar, Sunil Chandra and Dipak Chandra Barman.

## TRANSLATION WORKSHOP ON BAIDI DENGKHW BAI DI GAB

March 16-17, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a two days translation workshop on Baidi Dengkhw Baidi Gab from Bodo to Bengali and Assamese. For Bengali translation, Mangal Singh Hazowary was the Director, Dipak Kumar Ray was the expert while Surath Narzary, Anil Boro, Anjali Basumatary and Runu Debnath were the translators. For Assamese translation Mangal Singh Hazowary was the Director, Birupaksha Giri Basumatary was the expert with Anjali Daimari, Arabinda Uzir, Nabin Malla Boro, Ratneswar Basumatary and Ratneswar Narzary were the translators. The book consists of 118 pages and the translation of the book in both the languages was completed in the workshop.

## SYMPOSIUM

March 18, 2017, Bijni, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy organized a symposium on 'History of Creative Bodo Literature, Translation and Reception' on March 18, 2017 at the campus of the International Book Fair cum Literary Festival and Cultural Exchange, Bijni, Assam. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi



delivered the welcome address of the programme. Introductory remarks were delivered by Premananda Muchahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board. Mangal Singh Hazowary was the Guest of Honour. Rajen Basumatary, Vice President, Bodo Writers' Academy delivered the keynote address. The inaugural session was chaired by Bijay Baglary, President Bodo Writers' Academy. Vote of thanks was proposed by Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. In the first session of the literary forum Anju Narzary and Rakhao Basumatary presented their papers while Bhabani Baglary was in chair. Jitumani Basumatary and Subungcha Mwashahary presented their papers in the second session of the literary forum while Bijay Baglary presided over the session as chair. Dhansri Swargiary, Sansmwi Khungri Basumatary presented their papers in the valedictory session of the literary forum while Rajen Basumatary was in the chair. The vote of thanks in the valedictory session was delivered by Dhaneswar Narzary.

## **NORTH EAST ORAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

March 19-20, 2017, Agartala, Tripura

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with the Department of Kokborok, Tripura University organized the North East Oral Literature Festival at the Tripura University campus on March 19-20, 2017 at Agartala, Tripura. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcoming the participants and the guests and in his speech, he stressed on the documentation, preservation and publication of the Oral literature and said that in the process Sahitya Akademi has published folk literature of various communities of North-East. Brajagopal Ray, eminent scholar was present as the Guest of Honour. Chandrakanta Murasingh, eminent Kokborok poet in his keynote address said that there are more than hundred of languages segregated crossing over the northeast hills, rivers. Majority of these languages have originated from the Indo-Burma group. He stressed on the importance of oral literature through exchanges of cultural activities and translation of folk literatures of various communities. Professor Saroj Chaudhuri, eminent scholar, who was presiding over the session as the chair, stressed on the classification of oral literature and its type and to evolve a systematic methodology of preservation of oral literature instead of sporadic

effort. Sukhendu Debbarma, HOD, Kokborok Dept. Tripura University proposed vote of thanks. In the first session, Biswajyoti Barman from Dimasa language, Sefali Debbarma from Kokborok and Dwijendra Nath Bhakta from Rajbongshi read out their poems/articles with Nandakumar Debbarma, eminent Kokborok writer, in the chair. Biswajyoti Barman discoursed on Dimasa language and literature titled 'Ancient Time, Today and Dream' and recited a few of his own poems in Dimasa followed by English translation. Sefali Debbarma, eminent Kokborok poet recited her poems in Kokborok followed by their English translation. Dwijendra Nath Bhakta from Rajbongshi language talked about topographical areas where the Rajbongshis mostly reside. He focused on one of the performing arts of Western Assam, Khunsanga. Nandakumar Debbarma chaired the session and recited a few Kokborok poems. The second session was chaired by Sylvanus Lamare, eminent folklorist and Principal of St. Edmund's College, Shillong. He introduced the paper readers Joysing Tokbi from Karbi language, Jiban Narah from Missing language, Lanboi Kabui from Paite language and Nihanthui Mog from Mog language. Joysing Tokbi who hails from Karbi Anglong and the Secretary of Karbi Anglong Journalists' Association discussed oral literature of Karbi. Jiban Narah, Associate Professor of a college in Assam and eminent Missing poet read out a few poems in Missing language followed by its English translation and Bengali language. Lanboi Kabui from Paite language read out a few poems in Paite language followed by its English translation. Nihanthui Mog, scholar in Mog language, read out a few poems in Mog followed by English translation. Pradyot Debbarma, from Kokborok language read out a few poems in Kokborok and Bengali language. Sylvanus Lamare from the chair appreciated the poetry that has been read out in the session and narrated a brief history of north-east poetry. The third session of the festival began on March 20, 2017 was chaired by Lyangson Tamsang. The other participants were Kishore Murasingh from Kokborok language and B. L. Subba from Limbu language. Kishore Murasingh an eminent Kokborok poet recited Kokborok poetry followed by English translation. B. L. Subba from Limbu language articulated on 'How the Trump came into Existence in Limbu Mythology'. Then he recited a few poetry followed by English translation. The reading session ended with the recitation of Chakma poems by a Chakma poet. Lyangson Tamsang from the chair



appreciated the poetry read out in the session and also elucidated the oral tradition in his own Lepcha tribe and made a comparative study of various folk motif of North East languages and literature. The festival ended with a live interaction between the participants and the audience including the students of the University.

## BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON SNEHA DEVI

March 27-28, 2017, Dibrugarh, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University organized a Birth centenary seminar on Sneha Devi on March 27-28, 2017 at Indira Miri Conference Hall, Dibrugarh University. In the inaugural session, Goutam Paul, officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcoming the gathering narrated a brief account of Sneha Devi's literary career and drew a comparison between Sneha Devi with her Bengal counterpart Ashapura Devi. The participants were also welcomed by Nirajana Mahanta Bezborra, HOD, Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University on behalf of Dibrugarh University and the Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University. The programme was inaugurated by Alak Kr. Buragohain, Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University. The key-note address was delivered by Nagen Saikia. In his speech, he highlighted the life and works of Sneha Devi. In this session, eminent prose writer Lakshminandan Bora had joined as chief guest and eminent Bengali litterateur Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay had joined as the guest of honour. All the speakers dwelt on Sneha

Devi's unique contribution to the genre of Assamese short story writing as a woman writer during a time when women writers were not accepted easily by the society. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convenor, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi was in the chair for this session. At the end of the session, the vote of thanks was proposed by Satyakam Borthakur. The first session was chaired by eminent Assamese writer Anuradha Sarma Pujaree. Three seminar papers were presented in this session. The first paper titled, "Daaponat Aanar Chabi-Sneha Devir Galpat Purush" was presented by Dr. Ajit Bharali. He discussed the characteristics of male characters of the short stories of Sneha Devi, with special reference of the stories included in the book "Sneha Devir Ekunki Galpa". The second paper titled, "Naatak Rachanat Axomiya Naari Aaru Sneha Devir Naatak" was presented by Jayanta Kumar Bora. In his paper, he highlighted the history of Assamese drama written by women writers. He also discussed the characteristics of the dramas written by Sneha Devi with special reference of Shes Parichay. The third paper titled "Sneha Devir Galpar Manastavtta" was presented by Jayanta Madhav Bora. In his paper, he discussed the conflict of mind in the female characters of Sneha Devi's short stories. The second session was chaired by Mrinal Talukdar, an eminent journalist of Assam. There were three seminar papers in this session. The first paper titled "Xamakaaleen Xaamaajik Prekhyaapat Aaru Sneha Devir Krisnaa Dwiteeyaar Jonaak" was presented by Arabinda Rajkhowa. He delivered his opinion on the socio-cultural, socio-economical and socio-political backgrounds and reflected on the short stories of Sneha Devi with special reference of the short story Krisna Dwiteeyaar Jonaak. The second paper titled, "Breaking The Gender Barrier: Women's Voices In Contemporary Assamese Short Stories" was presented by Ratna Bharali Talukdar. She said that unlike many of the short story writers of her time who proffered to explore literary elements of rural life—Sneha Devi's characters live in town areas and they survive in complex human relations of a family-structure and as these characters mostly move in a family-structure, they often contradict and engaged in conflicts among themselves –and thus reveal a truth of social reality of



Inaugural Session of the Birth centenary seminar on Sneha Devi in progress



her period. She also discussed about the writing skills of some contemporary women writers of Assamese short story like Nirupama Borgohain, Mamoni Raisam Goswami, Arupa Patangia Kalita etc. The third paper titled, “Sneha Devir Chutigalpa-Baagdhaaraagata Shoilee Prasanga” was presented by Subasana Mahanta Choudhury. She analyzed the discourse style of Sneha Devi’s short stories with special reference to Xuchana and Bichitra. According to Mahanta Choudhury, there are two kind of discourse style in the short stories of Sneha Devi. These styles are- Narrative Discourse Style and Dialogue-oriented Discourse Style. The third session was chaired by Tarani Deka, HOD, department of Assamese, Gauhati University. There are three papers in this session. The first paper titled, “Sneha Devir Galpar Charitra” was presented by Jitanjali Borpujari. According to her, there is no terrible female character appear in Sneha Devi’s short stories. She also said that Sneha Devi had analyzed the female characters of her short stories with a sympathetic perception. The second paper titled, “Sneha Devi Aaru Ashapura Devir Galpar Tulanaatmak Aalochanaa” presented by Aichena Burhagohain. In her paper, she discussed the similarity and the difference between the short stories of Sneha Devi and Ashapura Devi. She explained that there are not seen any destructive female character in Sneha Devi’s short stories. On the other hand, these characters are seen in Ashapura Devi’s short stories. The third paper titled, “Sneha Devir Galpar Ek Bishleshanaatmak Adhyayan” was presented by Mousumi Hazarika. She mentioned that Sneha Devi had analyzed the woman psychology in her short stories with her own style. The valedictory session was chaired by Nava Kr. Handique. Basanta Kumar Goswami delivered the valedictory speech. Goswami said that there should be a comparative study between the short stories of Sharatchandra and Sneha Devi. He also described the writing skills of Sneha Devi. Eminent litterateur Nagen Saikia also attended the session. According to Saikia, love and affection among common people are seen in Sneha Devi’s short stories. At the end of the session, the vote of thanks was proposed by Satyakam Borthakur.

## **EASTERN REGIONAL SHORT STORY WRITERS’ MEET**

March 29-30, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized the Eastern Regional Short Story Writers’ Meet on March 29-30, 2017 at the auditorium of the Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata. In the welcome address Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Kolkata narrated the objective of this kind of story writers’ meet which brings together the writers of various states, and languages to understand their creative works mutually thereby creating a cultural bond. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, said that this concept of Eastern Regional Board which deals with eight languages originated in 1992. He said that there are so many commonalities among eastern regional languages and many writers know more than one language as most of the eastern regional languages are developed from the same source. Lakshminandan Bora, eminent novelist said that such kind of writers’ meet will play a vital role for emerging national integrity of the region. He also said the trends of literature of major Indian languages are same because creative writers confronts with the similar social ambience. He continued that writers may face various professional hazards but they should not stop writing. Pabitra Sarkar, former Vice Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University said that though there is a commonality in the eastern regional languages, at the same time each language has its own uniqueness which should be recognized and respected. In the first session Dalim Das, Lalita Sharma, Mamata Mayee Choudhury read out their stories in English translation with Gautam Sengupta in the chair. Lalita Sharma from Nepal read out the English translation of her short story “Kagaj Ke Tukre”. Mamata Mayee Choudhury from Odisha read out her original story titled “Chinnamasta” which was translated into English by Sarat Ch. Sahoo and Mamata Mayee herself titled, “The Headless Deity”. Dalim Das from Assam read out Assamese story in English translation entitled “I”. Gautam Sengupta from the chair evaluated the stories read out in the session then he read out his first published story “The Night of the Full Moon” translated by Tapati Gupta. The second session was chaired by Prem Pradhan,



Convener, Nepali Advisory Board and eminent fiction writer. Adaram Basumatary from Bodo and M. Kandesh Singh from Manipuri read out their own stories in English translation. The third session was chaired by Nayan Kumar Medhy with other readers of the session Bishnu Sahoo and Chandi Charan Kisku. Bishnu Sahoo, Odia writer read out his story translated into English “The Earth” which narrates the socio-political confrontation of the society. Chandi Charan Kisku from Santali read out the English translation of his short story. In the fourth and fifth session Govinda Basumatary from Bodo, Kinnar Ray from Bengali, N. Nabakumar Meetei from Manipur, Shyam Darihare from Maithili language read out their short stories in English translation with Badal Hembram from Santali in the chair. All the writers including the chair person read out their stories in the session.

## YUVA SAHITI

April 7, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized “Yuva Sahiti” programme on April 7, 2017 at State Archive Conference Hall of Bhubaneswar. Six young poets and fiction writers presented their literary works in the programme. Representing various parts of the states the young voices displayed their tremendous promise for future. Under the chairmanship of Shri Gourahari Das, noted fiction writer and convener of Odia advisory board of Sahitya Akademi, three poets Shri Jayadratha Suna, Subhashree Subhasmita Mishra, Sujit Kumar Satpathy and three fiction writers Nikhilesh Mishra, Pritiprajna Pradhan, Subhalaxmi Das Biswal read their poems and short stories. Jayadratha Suna, a young poet from Kalahandi recited his poems, Desha Badaluchi, Jhadipoka O Jhitipiti, Bisthapanana Gote Ratira, Shosha and Baki sabu Thik achhi. Shubhashree Subhasmita Mishra recited her poems Parbana, Nava Kalevara, Deha- Sarttabali Lagu, April and Jhia Pain Kabita. Sujit Kumar Satpathy recited his poems Jeebana Kabita, Jagannatha, Ipsita Sakala, Taaja Khabara and Amada Chhati. Nikhilesh Mishra read out his short stories “Chashama” and “Shikuli”, while Pritiprajna Pradhan reads her story “Hisab Kitab” and Shubhalaxmi Das Biswal reads her story “Jeebana

Gapa”. Banoj Tripathy, Member of Odia Advisory Board welcomed the delegates and the programme was attended by veteran poets like Rajendra Kishore Panda, Mamata Dash, Surya Mishra and so many others.

## KATHASANDHI WITH DEBRAJ LENKA

April 8, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kathasandhi programme with Debraj Lenka, an eminent Odia fiction writer on April 8, 2017 at Odisha State Archive Hall, Bhubaneswar. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge welcomed Shri Lenka and the gathering. Gaurahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced Debraj Lenka, the most stylist and avant garde fiction writer in Odia. Lenka spoke in his inimitable no-holds barred style and spelled out his creative journey as a very unusual march. Coming from the family of contractors he was never interested to learn the tricks of wealth accumulation. He said- “I was unusually in love with the words of old Odia songs which was sung by my mother. I clung to my mother’s body to listen all those classical Odia songs and from there I began my dream to become one like those writers.” Lenka becomes very nostalgic while remembering his teachers and guardians. In his inimitable style he narrated his literary journey which began in the year 1962. His first debut novel “Joker” was published in that year and after four years he came up with his novel “Andha Muhani”. He also narrated his long association with younger writers and how they inspire him to remain youthful even today. At the end of his speech there was a lively interactive session between Debraj Lenka and the audience. The programme was chaired by Gourahari Das.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

April 9, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized Meet the Author programme with Prativa Satpathy, an eminent Odia poet on April 9, 2017 at Bhubaneswar. “Poetry comes to me like the stream of life and without poetry I cannot imagine my existence,” said acclaimed Odia poet Prativa Satpathy.



Addressing to a select gathering of writers, editors, scholars and readers she unfolded her poetic journey from childhood till date. With immaculate simplicity and emotive sincerity she spoke out her heart. She is one of the leading poets in Odia and the first Odia woman poet to receive Sahitya Akademi award outlined her creative sojourn as a poet, editor, critic, translator, teacher and above all as a human being. She said that it was her family background that gave her ample opportunities to read and write. She was the granddaughter of legendary lexicographer Gopal Chandra Praharaj and her father was a renowned doctor. Coming from such an illustrious background she did not have to face family hindrances like other contemporary Odia women writers. As a poet she came into limelight through the Prajatantra in 1962 and from there she never stopped. She said that she was highly influenced by Anna Akhmatova, the legendary Russian poet. Long ago she wrote a poem where she described herself as the Odia soul of Anna Akhmatova. She also recited a dozen of poems from her various collections, including Nayika (the lead actress), Kuni Ishwara (the little God), Ishwari (the Goddesses), Janmadinara Daka (the Call on my Birth Day), Anna Akhmatova, Shabari (The tribal woman), Sahada Sundari (The beautiful Sahada tree), Bastraharana (Disrobing) and others. Jnanpith laureate Dr. Sitakant Mohapatra, renowned fictionist Santanu Kumar Acharya, Swapna Mishra, Subhashri Shubhasmita Mishra, Pabitra Mohan Kar, Aparna Mohanty, Kedar Mishra and others asked her questions and she responded each one with great clarity. The programme was chaired by Gourahari Das, the convener of Odia advisory board and renowned fictionist. In his introductory remarks Das said that Satpathy is a major voice in contemporary Indian poetry and her contribution as a poet is historic. Paramita Satpathy, another recipient of Sahitya Akademi award and her daughter spoke in detail about the poetic journey of Smt. Satpathy. Goutam Pal, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata proposed vote of thanks. The programme was attended by many writers including former president of Sahitya Akademi, Shri Ramakant Rath.

## LITERARY FORUM

April 9, 2017, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a literary forum on 'Goutam Buddha and Odia Literature' at the State Archives Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar on April 9, 2017. The welcome address was delivered by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Dr Devi Prasanna Pattanayak, an eminent scholar and educationist inaugurated the programme. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board delivered the introductory speech. Krushna Ch. Pradhan, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi delivered the keynote address. Ven. P. Seewalee Thero, General Secretary, Mahabodhi Society of India, Kolkata said the prominent Buddhist canon includes Tripitak or three baskets. The session was chaired by Bimalendu Mohanty, President, Mahabodhi Society, Odisha. In the first session of the programme Pradipta Kumar Panda presented his paper on 'Buddhism and Odia Poetry', Laxman Kumar Pradhan presented his paper on 'Buddhism and Odia Play' and Narayan Panda presented his paper on 'Buddhism and Odia Story.' Archana Nayak presided over the session as the chair.

## SYMPOSIUM

April 22, 2017, Alipurduar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha organized a Symposium on "Preservation and Documentation of Folk-Literature of the Bodos (Meches) of North Bengal" on April 22, 2017 at Alongbar Junior Basic School, Alipurduar, West Bengal. The Inaugural Session started with lighting the lamp by the inaugurator Rarnesh Chandra Suba, Hon'ble Ex-President, Jalpaiguri District Bodo Sahitya Sabha. It was presided over by Jnan Singh Basumata, Hon'ble President, Paschim Banga Sahitya Sabha. He encouraged the guests and the participants to make the symposium more effective. Bidesh Suba, Hon'ble Secretary, Jalpaiguri-Alipurduar District Bodo Sahitya Sabha delivered the welcome address. The key-note address was given by Ashit Baran Narjary, who highlighted the main theme of the symposium. Swarna Prabha Chainary, Member, Bodo Advisory



Board, Sahitya Akademi attended the programme as Chief Guest, who discussed about the necessity of Preservation and Conservation of Folk-Literature of the Bodos (Meches) of North Bengal region. She further said that the Bodo literature should be practiced more and more through the various activities in the North Bengal region until the West Bengal Government recognizes the Bodo Language as a state language. At the end of this session Satish Chandra Narjinary, Eminent Bodo Critic proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Phukan Chandra Basumatary, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In this session, Gambhir Singh Basumata presented his paper on Folk Song and Folk Dance of the Bodos (Meches) of North Bengal. Secondly, Samendra Narjinary read out his paper on Rhymes of the Bodos (Meches) and lastly, Subin Saiba presented his paper on Folk Games which were popular earlier but now is fading out due to the affect of Doordarshan, so, in this context it has to be preserved and documented in written form. The second session was presided over by Vikram Singh Basumata. Firstly, Bhabatosh Narjary read his paper on Folk Dance like Bagurumba, Bwisagu etc. Secondly, Suresh Iswarary presented his paper on Folk Song like Maigainai Methai and Bagurumba Festival. The Valedictory session was chaired by Mahesh Chandra Narjinary. In this session Balendra Mochhary briefly analyzed the whole programme. He said that literature is the mirror to the human civilization. A civilization without literature cannot be conceived. In this context the mainstream literature remains incomplete without Folk Literature. He further said that the Bodo society needs to take care in collecting Bodo Folklore like Folk Song, Folk Dance, Folk Games, Folk Technology etc. and it should be preserved and documented in written form and to be published through magazines or books. Narjinary proposed the vote of thanks.

## HO WRITERS' MEET

April 22, 2017, Keonjhar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with All India HO writers' Association, Bhubaneswar organised an Adivasi (HO) Writers' Meet on April 22, 2017 at the Town Hall, Keonjhar, Odisha. While inaugurating the meet, Dr. Bimbardhar Behera, well-known scholar, talked about the similarities

of tribal culture with other cultures. He said that all cultures believe that nature is God. He quoted a poem by Rabindra Nath Tagore. At the beginning Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and informed them about the activities of the Akademi focusing on tribal people, language and literature. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the keynote address. He talked about the HO society & people, its population, literacy, language, culture and literature. Dr. Binod Kumar Nayak, distinguished writer and Bhasha Samman Awardee of Akademi began his speech with a beautiful HO welcome song. He expressed his pleasure for the initiatives taken by the Akademi. Sri Jeevan Singh proposed the vote of thanks, at the end. First session was dedicated to short story reading, which was chaired by Sri Jeevan Singh Munduiya. Sri Dibakar Soy, Sri Taranisen Bari, Mrs. Jagmohini Kalundia and Sri Paikray Champia read out their short stories in HO language. All short stories were based on the difficulties faced by tribal people to prove themselves to the so-called cultured people and society. Second session was a paper reading session, chaired by Sri Rabindra Nath Kalundia. The session was based on the various challenges on HO society. Sri Budhan Singh Hessa, Sri Jaypal Singh Naik and Sri Ramrai Munduiya talked about the challenges in the field of Literature, Society and Religion respectively. The third session was poetry reading, chaired by Sri Prafull Chandra Singh 'Tiyu'. Sri Madhusudan Birua, Sri Kanderam Sing 'Melagandhi', Sri Jaminikant Tiriya, Sri Nanduram Buliyuli and Mrs. Dulimani Sidu recited their poems.

## ASMITA

April 24, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized Asmita with six eminent women writers on April 24, 2017 at the auditorium of the Regional Office, Kolkata. The welcome address was delivered by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Chaitali Chattopadhyay and Kaberi Raychaudhuri recited poetry from their collections, Sarmila Mitra read out from her plays, Tanwi Halder, Tripti Santra read out their stories on the occasion with Gopa Dutta, former Vice-Chancellor of Gour-Banga University in chair.



## SEMINAR

April 25, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with N. G. College organized a one day centenary seminar on 'Life and Works of Pandit A. Brajabihari Sharma' on April 25, 2017 at Jubilee Hall, N. G. College, Imphal, Manipur. In the inaugural session the welcome address was given by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. In his speech, he talked about a wide range of literary works of Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma and his contributions to the growth of Manipuri literature. After the welcome address, the inaugural and introductory speech was given by H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In his speech he stressed the need for such seminars in future to explore the literary skills of scholars of Manipur. In her Presidential speech of the seminar, Y. Momon Devi, Principal, N. G. College thanked Sahitya Akademi for their keen interest in the development of Manipuri literature. The vote of thanks was proposed by N. Achouba, Director, DDU Kaushal Centre, N. G. College. The first session was chaired by Kh. Prakash Singh, an eminent Manipuri writer. In this session, A. Ramakanta Sharma presented a paper on the brief history of the life and works of Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma. The second paper was presented by Acharya L. Sharatchandra Sharma, titled 'Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma as a Sanskrit Scholar'. The third paper was presented by W. Jugindro Singh and was titled 'Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma as an Academician'.

The second session was chaired by K. Radhakumar Singh, IAS, Commissioner (Works), Govt. of Manipur. The first paper was presented by Acharya M.



Birth Centenary Seminar on Life and Works of Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma in progress

Chandrakanta Sharma and was titled 'Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma as a Grammarian'. The paper minutely discussed his contribution to the development of Sanskrit Manipuri Grammar. The title of the second paper was 'Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma's contribution to the Manipuri literature,' and was presented by P. Nabachandra Singh. The third paper was presented by L. Meetei titled 'Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma as a translator.' He translated some Sanskrit classics like Abhigyan Sakuntaam, Raghuvamsa, Kumar Sambhaba etc. By giving his views and praising, the rich contribution of Pt. A. Brajabihari Sharma to the Manipuri literature especially through Sanskrit literature, the Chairman of the session concluded the seminar.

## NARI CHETANA

April 26, 2017, Imphal, Manipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized Nari Chetana on April 26, 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, D. M. College Campus, Imphal. The function was chaired by Y. Bimola Devi and four women scholars participated. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata welcomed the audience. While giving his welcome address, he spoke on International Women's Day which is observed on 8th March every year and its relation with the Narichetana programme. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced the chairperson and other four women participants to the gathering. O. Binarani Devi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Umang Lai Haraoba, Manipur University of Culture, Govt. of Manipur spoke on the topic entitled 'Manipuri women and Lai Haraoba'. The second speaker N. Indu Devi, Assistant Professor Department of Thang Ta (Martial Arts), Manipur University of Culture, Govt. of Manipuri talked about 'Manipuri Women and Martial Arts'. The third speaker Ningombam Sheema Devi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Nambol L. Sanoi Govt. College, Nambol talked about 'Manipuri Women in Politics'. The fourth speaker K. Joymati Devi talked about the topic entitled 'Woman Directors in Manipuri Cinema'. Y. Bimola Devi, Retd. Professor, Dept. of Education, Manipur College, Imphal, who presided over the session as chair, talked about 'Women Education in Manipur'. Y. Bimola Devi appreciated the papers presented by the four women writers/scholars



and also gave thanks to the Sahitya Akademi and the Convener of Manipuri Advisory Board for organizing the Narichetana at Imphal.

## MULAKAT

April 26, 2017, Imphal, Manipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Mulakat programme on April 26, 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, D. M. College, Campur, Imphal. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience. While giving his welcome address, he briefly spoke about the platform of Mulakat. In the introductory speech, H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, talked about the various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Manipuri literature and also appealed to the writers' community in Manipur to utilize the opportunities provided by Sahitya Akademi and work for the development of Manipuri language and literature. In the programme, Ch. Deepu Singh read out excerpts from his novel, Torbanduda, while Heigrujam Sanatombi, Yumnam Nandini, Sharungbam Rameswor and Y. Yandibala recited their compositions. A brief interactive session followed the presentations.

## AN EVENING WITH A CRITIC

April 26, 2017, Imphal, Manipur

An Evening with a Critic programme was organized by Sahitya Akademi on 26 April 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, Imphal. In this programme, H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board spoke on 'Folklore and Literature'. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the audience and introduced H. Behari Singh to the gathering. H. Behari Singh talked about the different aspects of folklore and literature. He said that folklore and literature are inseparable. He considered the ballad to be the original poetry, bearing written itself, the needs of the major genres-lyric, epic and drama. Thus, the ballad is definitely prior that for which the other forms of poetry derived. The general assumption of many early commentators on the origins of literature was that poetry was prior to prose, that rhyme and rhythm were elementary, primary qualities. There was also

the assumption that this early ancient and presumably oral material was natural, providing the model for later artificial literatures, the distinction then between Naturepoesie and Kunstpoesie. He cited an example that the American poet Robert Frost suggested his own evolutionary view, that literary form came from folk speech that written literature builds on proverbs and proverbial saying. Therefore, oral precedes the written from another perspective, he talked about folklore as a source of literature, and folklore here may be thought of in a broader sense as equipment for living, as a whole range of traditional or vernacular practices-verbal, materials, and customary that are a part of life. Thus, folklore enters literary works because it is essential ingredient of lived reality. He observed that folklore and literature are, at base, qualitatively different. Folklore, especially when seen as verbal art, is immediate when performed in a face-to-face situation; literature, on the other hand, is a mediated and commodified form. Ferdinand De Saussure's distinction between langue and parole puts folklore under the former and literature under the latter. In brief, folklore and literature are related but different. However, he emphasized that the secrets that tie folklore and literature together should be unlockfully. He cited many examples of famous writers namely, Chinua Achebi, William Shakespeare, N. Hawthorne etc. In addition to this, he had also mentioned many Manipuri writers, poets, and fiction writers who had used folklore materials in their literary works including Kh. Chaoba Singh, H. Anganghal Singh, H. Nabadwipchandra, A. O. Memchoubu, S. Lanchenba, N. Bidyasagar, L. Somarendro etc. A brief interactive session followed the talk.

## ASMITA

April 27, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with All India Radio Writers Forum, Imphal organized a programme of Asmita on April 27, 2017 at the Dave Literature Centre, Imphal. It was a literary programme in which five Manipuri women writers participated. They presented their own readings of poems and short stories. N. Ranjana, Director, National Council for Co-op Training, New Delhi delivered the inaugural speech during the inaugural session, while H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri



Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presided over the programme as chair, and also delivered the welcome address. N. Ranjana, who chaired the programme, read out her short story titled, Ojagee Thamo. The other participants were Angom Sarita, a Yuva Puraskar Awardee of the Sahitya Akademi (Poems: Ima, Haying, Meeoiba and Mombarti); R. K. Nirmala Devi (short story: Lupa Chatpi); Narmada Kshetri (poems: Tasin Khomjinbirammu Ima); Taorem (O) Sunitibala Devi (Poems: Amatani Khanghansi, Meira Paibi, Wakhalsina Khallakpada, Lengdraba Chingjao); Nee Devi, a Katha Awardee and recipient of local literary awards (short story: Swargada Laigi Machasing). N. Ranjana, in her deliberation as chairperson, mentioned about the new change in the status of women in the present society. Mutua Tomba, General Secretary, All India Radio Writers' Forum, Imphal proposed vote of thanks.

## LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

April 27, 2017, Imphal, Manipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with the Mamataz Manipuri Dance and Music Centre, Imphal organized Loka: The Many Voices programme on Lairik Thiba Haiba, one of the dying forms of narrative arts in Manipur on April 27, 2017 at Imphal, Manipur. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the august gathering and informed the audience about the necessity of organizing such programmes giving importance in the context of Manipuri Lairik Thiba Haiba. L. Ahanjao Singh, President, Mamataz Manipuri Dance and Music Centre, chaired the inaugural session. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave an introduction of the programme. Tokpam Bindhu Singh, a writer and scholar presented key-note address of the programme. According to him this form of performing art Lairik Thiba Haiba is practiced nowhere except in Manipur. The participants were renowned artistes of this art form. P. Gandha Singh and A. Birbabu Singh are distinguished performers of Lairik Thiba Haiba in Manipur. L. Upendro Sharma, Director of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal did the rendering after the performance of Lairik Thiba Haiba by the participating artists was over. Soyam Rakesh, Secretary of the Mamta Manipuri Dance and Music Centre proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

April 27, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a literary forum on Kamakshiprasad Chattopadhyay on April 27, 2017 at the auditorium of the Regional Office, Kolkata. The welcome address was delivered by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. He narrated the contribution of Kamakshiprasad to Bengali literature. The programme was chaired by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay and the speakers of the session - Jayeeta Bagchi, Parthajit Gangopadhyay, Pranab Biswas and Rajyeswar Sinha - articulated on the various aspects of his fictional writings

## NARI CHETANA

April 27, 2017, Gouripur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur, Assam organized a Nari Chetana programme on April 27, 2017 at the Pramathesh Barua College auditorium on the topic 'The Presentation of Women in Assamese Fiction'. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address of the programme. The introductory address was delivered by Asit Kr. Das, Principal, Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur. The eminent speakers on the programme were Anuradha Sharma Pujari, Arupa Barua, Jaysree Goswami Mahanta, Malini Goswami and Manikuntala Bhattacharya. Karabi Deka Hazarika chaired the programme. Gopal Ch. Barman, Assistant Professor, Pramathesh Barua college delivered the vote of thanks.

## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

April 28, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Chirantan Sahityar Din organized People and Books with Benu Misra at Kanaklal Barua auditorium, State Museum, Guwahati, Assam on April 28, 2017 where Benu Misra spoke on Books that played a vital role in his life. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the audience and the guests. Benu Misra's speech was read



out by Sankar Saikia, General Secretary of Chirantan Sahityar Din wherein the artist explained in details about his family, his upbringing, the socio cultural environment of his early days, his struggle for making a career, his friends and the eminent persons who were silently but positively contributed towards his life. Sharing the experience with the audience Deben Dewan and Dhruva Deka also explained how they were benefited and inspired by Benu Misra in the field of fine arts. Among the audience Jnan Pujari, Anis-uz-Zaman, Sameer Tanti, Samindra Huzuri, Ganesh Pegu, Manju Devi, Nilima Goswami Sarma and other were present.

## KAVISANDHI

April 28, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Chirantan Sahityar Din organized Kavisandhi programme with Jnan Pujari at Kanaklal Barua auditorium, State Museum, Guwahati, Assam on April 28, 2017. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and the audience. Interacting with the audience, the poet Jnan Pujari had explained about his poetic journey and his experience he had gathered up throughout his life. The poet also explained how he was inspired by late Deepak Mahanta to write and translate plays by eminent playwright like Habib Tanvir, Ratan Thiyam, Dario Fo and Federico Garcia Lorca. He expressed his sincere thanks to Sahitya Akademi and Chirantan Sahityar Din for organizing such an inspiring programme. Eminent personalities like Anis-uz Zaman, Sameet Tanti, Samindra Huzuri, Santwanan Bordoloi, Ganesh Pegu and others were present for the programme.

## SEMINAR

April 29-30, 2017, Darjeeling

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, Darjeeling organised a seminar on 'Standardization of the Spelling in Indian Nepali Language' on April 29-30, 2017 at Darjeeling, West Bengal. Sri Kamal Regmi inaugurated the seminar in the absence of Sri

Mahanand Paudyal and read out the message and article sent by him. At the beginning Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Official on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the audience and briefed them about the activities of the Akademi. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presented the introductory speech. He stressed about the necessity of standardization of spelling in Indian Nepali. He said that in some of our publication, we are using the spellings used in Nepal, but Indian Nepali should clearly be different. Sri Shankar Deo Dhakal, well-known Nepali writer, presented the keynote address. Sri Karna Thami, President, Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, who presided over the programme as chair, informed about the decision, already taken by the NSS in this regard. Dr. Jas Yonjan 'Pyasi' chaired the first session of the seminar. Sri Loknath Upadhyaya Chapagain presented his paper on the topic 'Linguistic Geography of Indian Nepali Language' and Dr. Navin Paudyal on 'Comparative aspect of Indian Nepali Language and Nepal's Nepali Language' in this session. Second session was presided over by Sri Asit Rai, renowned Nepali critic. Sri Arjun Pradhan (Bharatiya Nepali Bhashako Uchcharan-bhed Ra Artha-sanket), Sri Khemraj Nepal (Bharatiya Nepali Bhashama tatha Pancham Varnako Avashyakta) and Dr. Gokul Sinha (Usages of Vowels and Consonants in Indian Nepali) presented their respective papers. The third session was chaired by Sri Hasta Nechali. Sri Milan Bantawa and Dr. Sujata Rani Rai presented their papers in the session. Dr. Jiwan Namdung, distinguished Nepali critic, chaired the valedictory session of the seminar while Sri Haren Allay delivered the valedictory speech. Sri Bhaktaraj Sunuwar, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Sammelan proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the Seminar.

## ASMITA

April 29, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Swrji organized Asmita at Bathwupuri Bodo High School, Guwahati on April 29, 2017. The programme was chaired by Toren Boro, President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Pranab Jyoti Narzary, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced



the dignitaries and the participants. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. The first poet of the session was Anila Basumatary, who read out four of her recently composed poems. Binita Goyary also read five poems in the session. Most of her poems are based on nature and humanity. Dhirju Jyoti is a poet and short story writer. Women and nature are the dominant force in her poems. The last poet of the session was Swmkhwr Seela Basumatary. She read out four poems in the session. Toren Bodo from the chair expressed his satisfaction over the programme and made brief remarks. Bisyasagar Narzary, Convener, Swrji proposed the vote of thanks.

## THROUGH MY WINDOW

April 29, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organised Through My Window programme with Anil Boro at Bathwupuri Bodo High School, Guwahati, Assam on April 29, 2017. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. In the programme Anil Boro, eminent Bodo poet was invited to deliver his impressions on another contemporary eminent Bodo poet Aurobindo Uzir. According to Anil Boro, Aurobinda Uzir expressed a variety of quite complex and deep thoughts, through his poetry. A pioneer of modern Bodo poetry Aurobindo Uzir, seems to use various texts of folklore that, can be read as inter texts. Though Uzir's approach to poetry was that of a modernist's his area was never attached merely to the human life. He also goes to the rustic scenes and attaches himself to such rural conventions and beliefs. Therefore even in his philosophic vision sometimes he could remember 'Bodo Narratives'. But such rural and folk associations have been generally exercised at a philosophic level. Uzir's a few poems are representative example of employing folk tale or myth to the genre of modern poetry. Here the poet critically gazes the present time and scenario recollecting the rich past of his nation with the aid of some myths. The poet uses references from the well liked folk tales and myths of the Bodos to view the change of the elements of history with the passage of time land, river, forest and over all the living condition of people. In many of his poems he

has used the technique known as mythical method in a bid to resonate his poems with the voice of ethnicity. Pranab Jyoti Narzary, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

April 29, 2017, Darjeeling

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, Darjeeling organised a 'Meet the Author' programme with Dr. Jiwan Namdung, distinguished Nepali critic and poet on April 29, 2017 at Darjeeling, West Bengal. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, introduced him to the audience. Writers and dignitaries felicitated him by Khada at the occasion. Dr. Namdung shared his literary journey, from the publication of his first poem 'Suskeru' (A Sigh) in 1968. He talked about four aspects of his literary career, i.e. the practical aspect, the week aspect, the theoretical aspect and the Research aspect. Sri Bhaktaraj Sunuwar, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Sammelan proposed the vote of thanks.

## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

April 30, 2017, Darjeeling

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, Darjeeling organised a 'People and Book' programme with Sri Sanwar Agarwal, reputed Publisher of Nepali books on April 30, 2017 at Darjeeling, West Bengal. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced him to the audience. Writers and dignitaries felicitated him by Khada at the occasion. Sri Agarwal said that this was an auspicious and historical event for him. He talked about his experiences with books as a reader, as a writer and as a publisher. He referred Bhanubhakta's Ramayana and some contemporary fiction writers and poets, like Jiwan Namdung, Milan Bantawa, whose writings influenced him. At the end, Sri C. K. Rai, Member, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.



## LITERARY FORUM

March 4, 2017, Gaondevi

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai in collaboration with Saraswat Mahila Samaj, Gaondevi and Kanara Saraswat Association organized a Literary Forum – Konkani, on March 4, 2017 at Saraswat Mahila Samaj Hall, Gaondevi, Mumbai. The programme started with the introductory remarks by Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai. He welcomed the audience, guest writers and requested Sadhana Kamat, Member, Konkani Advisory Board to preside over the programme. Sadhna Kamat introduced the guest writers and briefed the audience about the programme. In the first session, the writers presented their own short stories, the second session was dedicated to the short stories of Indian writers in Konkani translation and in the third session the short stories translated from foreign languages into Konkani were presented. Neela Balsekar read out her short story Reeva and translated short stories Nallu Akka Gali Lagi and Samasya. The second guest writer namely Pramod Karnad presented his short story Morning Walk while Chandrakor and Girl With an apple in translated version. Priya Baddukulli read out her short story Irsaal and Jyacha Tyacha Bhaav in translation. Another senior Konkani writer, Gurudas Gulwadi read his short story Chaar Aane. Kunti Aani Neeshadin and Finger Smith these two short stories in translation were presented by Uday Mankikar. Sadhna Kamat while presiding also read the translation of Necklace in Konkani version.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 8, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a Literary Forum programme on March 8, 2017 at Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai. Urvashi Pandya and Aruna Dubhashi were requested to speak upon Women's writings in Gujarati and Marathi literature respectively. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the guest speakers and briefly introduced them to the audience. Urvashi Pandya, a Gujarati scholar, sketched the evolution of women's literature in Gujarati along with the outline of the history of its progression. Aruna Dubhashi described Women's writings in Marathi as progressive.

The programme was attended by scholars, litterateurs and the media. Krishna Kimbahune proposed vote of thanks.

## THROUGH MY WINDOW

March 10, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a Through My Window programme to mark its foundation day, on March 10, 2017 at Mumbai, in which Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and Gyanpeeth Awardee was invited to speak on the life and works of Bhau Padhye, an eminent Marathi writer. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the guest speaker. Prof Bhalchandra Nemade's speech on Bhau Padhye was a memoir. He shared many incidents during his company with Bhau Padhye. Prof Nemade's speech was followed with a question-answer session. Krishna Kimbahune proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

March 19, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Vishwa Konkani Centre, orgnaized a Literary Forum programme on March 19, 2017 at Mumbai. The Literary Forum was part of the week-long Shigmotstava held by the centre. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the audience and the participants and thanked Sri Basti Waman Shenoi and Dr Chandrashekhar Shenoi of Vishwa Konkani Centre for intending to seek Sahitya Akademi's collaboration. Dr Shenoi, extending gratitude towards Sahitya Akademi, briefed about the idea of the centre to hold Shigmotstav, the yearly cultural festival held by the centre. The Konkani poets - Ms Shakunthala Kini, Sri Hilary D'Silva, Sri Valley Quadras, Sri Neri Nazareth and Ms Philomina Samfrancisco - participated in the Forum, and recited their poems in Konkani. Ms Kini recited "Hitopadeshache Chaar Utra," "Bhaangaarache Ujawada", Sri Hilary D'Silva recited "Barasi," "Kavitechi Sakat", Sri Valley Quadras recited "Rayachi Firyad", Sri Nazareth recited "Kahai," "Raga", and Ms Samfrancisco recited "Mananchen Naten," "Ugadas Yeta Ge Mama," "Jaich Jai". The poet-participant Sri Valley Quaras conducted the forum.



## SYMPOSIUM

March 26, 2017, Panaji



Madhav Borkar delivering inaugural address

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Goa Konkani Academy and the Institute Menezes Braganza, organised a symposium on R.V. Pandit, distinguished Konkani litterateur, on the occasion of his birth centenary year, on March 26, 2017, at Panaji, Goa. Dr Madhav Borkar, renowned Konkani poet, inaugurated the symposium. At the outset, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcoming the audience and participants pointed out the coincidence that the birth centenaries of both Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh and R.V. Pandit fall this year. Pandit was a prolific poet and an accomplished photographer who wrote in Konkani, Marathi and Portuguese, but had received recognition as poet was only because of his poetry in Konkani, he said. Dr Borkar said that Pandit was an artist by birth, and achieved fame as photographer first, and then as poet. The diction he employed in his poetry was close to spoken Konkani, and he had opted for free verse deliberately, he stated. Sri Ramesh Veluskar, noted Konkani poet and critic, delivered the keynote address, saying that the pictorial effect Pandit's poetry left was remarkable. Some other characteristics of his poetry were deliberate use of free verse, neo-realistic style, and deep concern for the downtrodden, he pointed out. Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, chaired the session. Sri Sanjay Haramalkar, Chairman, the Institute Menezes Braganza, proposed a vote of thanks. Dr Harishchandra Nagvenkar and Dr S.M. Tadkodkar presented their papers in the first session, while Sri Nagesh Karmali chaired the session. Nagvenkar said that Pandit's diction was very energetic and lively,

and the social awareness that his poetry displayed was exemplary. The downtrodden were the centre of Pandit's poetry, and the distinguishing characteristic of Pandit was that he wrote about the downtrodden when he himself was quite well off, he said. Dr Tadkodkar said that Pandit instinctively avoided carnal element in his poetry, and responded to human sorrow, and voiced sensibly the suffering of a common man. His poetry was of compassion and empathy, he said. Sri Bhushan Bhave and Sri Hanumant Kambli presented their papers in the second session, and Sri Gokuldas Prabhu chaired the session. Sri Bhave observed that Pandit's poetry had an air of revolution and revolt, and Pandit wrote in workaday language of masses unlike B.B. Borkar whose diction was deeply influenced by Sanskrit. Moreover, his poetry was interdisciplinary and left the effect of paintings, he added further. Sri Kambli informed that Pandit wrote poetry since 1963, and 44 years before that he experimented with his camera, and he was basically a photographer. It was Mahatma Gandhi's influence that restricted him to make photography his profession. The Through My Window programme with Sri Prakash Vazrikar who was invited to speak of R.V. Pandit, was part of the symposium. Vazrikar said that Pandit attempted to express his disturbed and yet compassionate self in Marathi, Konkani and even Portuguese, and experimented rigorously with genres such as poetry, children literature, translation, and successfully with art of photography. It was Sri Harshchandra Nagvenkar who first pointed out the significance of Pandit as poet. The significance of Pandit's poetry lay in the fact that it voiced the suffering and agony of common people in Goa but succeeded in transcending such geographical or ethnic barriers and spoke of humanity as a whole.

## KATHASANDHI

April 23, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a Kathasandhi programme with Sri Krushnat Khot, noted Marathi fiction writer, on April 23, 2017 at Mumbai. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, introduced Sri Khot to the audience. Sri Krushnat Khot read out his short story that narrated with subtle sensitivity the predicament of an adolescent girl, and her struggle in her social circle. The programmed ended with a lively interactive session.

**LITERARY FORUM**

April 23, 2017, Goa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai in collaboration with Srujan – Sanguem, organized a Literary Forum on April 23, 2017 at Goa, wherein Sri Uday Bhembre, Smt. Jambavalikar, Sri Shridhar Bambolkar, Revansiddha Naik participated and Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the event.

**WORKSHOP**

April 24-25, 2017, Goa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai in collaboration with Bal Bhavan, Goa, organized a Workshop for Yuva Creative Writing on April 24-25, 2017 at Goa. Sri Madhav Borcar inaugurated the workshop, and Sri Prakash Naik, Ms. Arati Nayak, Sri Damodar Mauzo, Ms. Hema Naik, Sri K.M. Sukhtankar, Sri Tukaram Shet, were the resource persons at the workshop.

**SAHITYA AKADEMI ALSO ORGANIZED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES**

Date	Venue	Event
3-4/3/2017	New Delhi	Birth Centenary Seminar on Sheila Bhatia
7/3/2017	Thiruvananthapuram	Symposium on Fiction after C.V. Raman Pillai
7/3/2017	Thiruvananthapuram	Kathasandhi with Sri K.P. Ramanunni
7/3/2017	Thiruvananthapuram	Kathasandhi with Sri George Joseph K
8/3/2017	New Delhi	Symposium and Poets' Meet
9/3/2017	Chandigarh	Literary Forum
16/3/2017	New Delhi	Pravasi Manch with Dr. Mridul Kirti
20/3/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum with Dr Gabor Lanczkor
21-22/3/2017	New Delhi	Jammu and Kashmir Literary Festival
26/3/2017	Goa	Through My Window with Dr Prakash Vazrikar
27-28/3/2017	New Delhi	North East and Northern Writers' Meet
3/4/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum
5/4/2017	New Delhi	Symposium on Journey of Unwritten Languages
13/4/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum
14-15/4/2017	Aligarh	Seminar on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Life and Works
16-30/4/2017	New Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai	Swachhata Pakhwada Programmes
20/4/2017	New Delhi	Kathasandhi
22/4/2017	Kolkata	Symposium on Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya
24/4/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum
26/4/2017	Chennai	Book Discussion
27/4/2017	New Delhi	Symposium on Satyagraha in Indian Literature
29/4/2017	Bhopal	Through My Window
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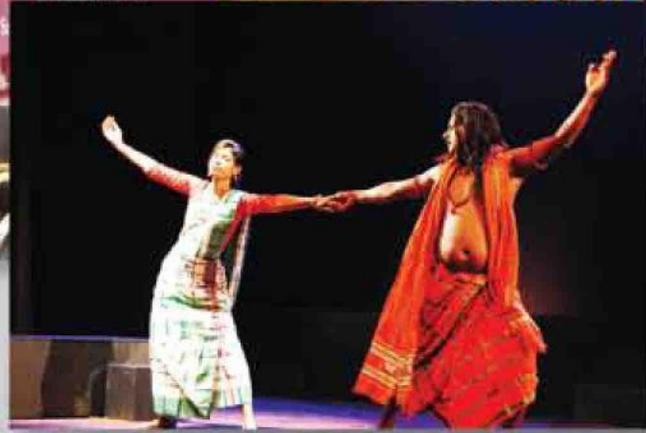
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