



May - June 2017

# SAHITYA AKADEMI

NEWSLETTER



## HIGHLIGHTS

International Yoga Day | Literary Forum  
Symposium | Seminar | Gramalok | Book Discussion  
Kathasandhi | Through My Window

# SECRETARY SPEAKS

The months of May and June are the times when ideas, recommendations and suggestions provided by various advisory boards and committees take concrete shape and Sahitya Akademi takes definitive steps towards achieving the preset goals. These language advisory boards committees have played a very important role in the development and growth of the Akademi through constant advice, encouragement and active participation. Through the years they have been part and parcel of Sahitya Akademi's success stories.

For the first time that the Akademi organized a full-fledged creative writing workshop dedicated exclusively for children. The sheer response of the children and remarkable output provided by them means that the Akademi will organize the event annually and also will strive to conduct similar workshops through the branches.

As part of the Akademi's policy of remembering and honoring the literary doyens of the past, we organized a number of centenary seminars and symposia throughout the country. Also during these months we continued our outreach programme through which we strive to carry best of literature to various corners of the country and also give exposure to local writers / scholars / translators.

During the month of June, Sahitya Akademi announced the list of Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar winners. These Awards continue to inspire many a young writer and also writers of Children's literature. These Awards are indeed hallmark of excellence in young writing in India and we are proud to be part of the programme which promotes young writing and reward the best among them. Children are the backbone of all civilizations and they are the seeds for the future. So, it is imperative on all to expose children to good literature and inculcate good reading habits among them. We believe our Award for children's writing is inspiring more and more writers to take to that genre.

I take this opportunity to wish all our patrons and literary connoisseurs. Hope you all enjoy this edition of our Newsletter. I also wish all the readers and supporters of Sahitya Akademi a very happy Navroz, Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi.

*K. Sreenivasarao*  
Secretary



## KISSA-O-KALAM: THE SPEAKING PEN 2017 AN ANNUAL WORKSHOP ON WRITING AND CREATIVITY IN ENGLISH AND HINDI

May 22-26, 2017, New Delhi



One of the sessions of the workshop in progress

Sahitya Akademi organized first-ever detailed event for children, the first edition of Kissa-O-Kalam: The Speaking Pen, an annual workshop for the young on creative writing in Hindi and English at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on May 22-26, 2017.

This was a first of its kind initiative by the Akademi to sensitize our younger generations to our languages and literatures and to instill in them a love for the written word. This initiative, Kissa-O-Kalam: The Speaking Pen, envisaged as an annual affair with a focused interactive

workshop as well as detailed individual activities held over five days encouraged and involved our children to participate and enjoy in the world of books and in the creative areas of reading and writing. Kissa-O-Kalam hopes to continue to carry forward the energy, creativity and results that were seen in this first installment in the coming years.

This year, this 5-day session, held in the spacious and welcoming auditorium of the Akademi in New Delhi, from 22nd May to 26th May 2017 (Monday to Friday), was planned with a special focus to help children enjoy reading and writing both in prose and poetry, to begin to play with language, and to use language creatively and as a first step towards the creation of books.

The workshop was titled Exploring Forms of Writing – Short Stories and Poetry. The workshop was opened to a final list of 50 students in the ages of 8 years to 16 years from across schools in the Delhi-NCR region. Every day for five days the children would arrive joyously at the Auditorium venue at Rabindra Bhavan, early enough to begin their sessions sharp at 10 AM in the morning. Sessions were held till 1 PM in the afternoon, with a short break of 15 minutes each day for the children to refresh themselves. The children also looked forward each day to enjoying the snacks and juices that were arranged for them by the Akademi and to chatting with each other during those 15 minutes before coming back renewed to resume their activities.

Over the five days children were given detailed introductions to the forms of poetry and prose, the different kinds of writings possible within these genres and the varied elements that characterize these. The children were also treated to readings of several passages from writers and writings from across the literary world. Each day began with ice-breaking activities which made reading and writing a whole lot of fun for the participants while opening them up to many literary experiments that can be seen in books and writing and that can take our writings to a completely different level. The introductory sessions were followed by closely guided activities in writing, exercises to be done individually as well as group work that encouraged them to interact closely as a group and share in a creative endeavour. Each child was encouraged to read their works aloud while the others were encouraged to look at these critically. Healthy discussions followed so that they would see reading and writing as a many-sided effort. At the end of the day, children were given several handouts which reinforced all that they



worked with during that day's session. These handouts will also go a long way in helping the children polish up their information on writing genres and styles as well as bolstering their own writing efforts.

A special 3-hour interaction with Anushka Ravishankar, the popular and widely published children's writer, was also arranged during the workshop. Anushka Ravishankar not only shared her own experiments and experiences in writing and publishing with the children, she also set aside time to read out passages from writings which have inspired her. She heard each child read out passages that they had worked on during the first two days and offered positive critical comments and tips for each participant. Over the last two days the participants polished up their pieces with close attention to their language use and play.

The 5-day workshop was conducted by Chandana Dutta, Suvidha Mistry and Vandana Bist, professionals with long years of experience of working with publishing and art, and with writing and book making.

This Children's Summer Workshop concluded successfully, having achieved its objective to start an initiative designed to get the children who participated to interact as a team as well as individuals, and create something new, on their own, at the end of the five days.

In fact, what was overwhelming for all those who were involved in conceiving, planning and executing this workshop was the astounding response that the Akademi received once Kissa-O-Kalam was announced as open for registration. Though the workshop had a limited number of seats for 50 children and its selection process was detailed in order to make it the best possible for everybody, the Akademi received a much larger number of forms. Registration Forms were downloaded from the Akademi's website and submitted along with a short write-up by the prospective child. All shortlisted children came for an interaction before a final list of selected children was announced. Children who completed the workshop were awarded a Certificate of Participation personally by the Secretary of the Sahitya Akademi, Dr. Rao, at a function which was attended in large numbers by parents and guardians of the participating students.

Information on the Kissa-O-Kalam workshop was widely circulated and publicized in the social media – the Sahitya Akademi website, the Sahitya Akademi Facebook page and others – to garner a huge interest in the initiative. The Akademi worked hard to upload information and photographs every day on its website and Facebook page.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS

June 20-21, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi celebrated International Yoga Day on June 20-21, 2017 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi.



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering Presidential Address

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong symposium on 'Yoga in Indian Literature' on June 20, 2017. The symposium was inaugurated by eminent writer and scholar, Prof Kapil Kapoor. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the session while Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and unveiled the theme of the symposium. In the first session chaired by Dr Vishnu Dutt Rakesh, eminent scholar and writer, three eminent scholars, Dr J. Sreenivasamurthy, Dr Veer Sagar Jain and Sri Vijaypal Shastri, presented their papers on 'Yoga in Sanskrit Poetry and Poetics,' 'Yoga in



Samanic Literature’ and ‘Yoga in Goraknath Literature’ respectively. Dr Vishnu Dutt Rakesh talked about ‘Yoga in Vaishnava Literary Works.’ In the second session chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, distinguished poet, playwright and scholar, three eminent scholars, Dr Jawahar Baxi, Dr G.B. Harish and Dr Jagannath Dash, presented their papers, ‘Impact of Yoga on Western Indian Literature,’ ‘Yoga in Tantric Literature’ and ‘Yoga in Eastern Indian Literature’ respectively. Prof H.S. Shivaprakash talked about ‘Yoga in South Indian Literature.’



Prof H.S. Shivaprakash talking about Yoga in South Indian Literature

On 21 June 2017, Sahitya Akademi organized a dem-lec by Yoga experts in the Akademi offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru and Mumbai. All the staff of the Akademi participated and performed various asanas such as Padmasana, Chakrasana, Surya Namaskar, Vajrasana and also practiced various types of pranayama. The experts imparted various concentration techniques to the staffs in all the offices. The Secretary in New Delhi, Regional Secretaries and Officers-in-Charge at other offices of the Akademi delivered lectures on the importance of Yoga in day to day living, in personal and professional lives. The staff participated enthusiastically. On both the days, Akademi Book Exhibition was organised.



Staff practicing Yoga

## NORTH EASTERN LITERARY FESTIVAL

June 22-24, 2017, Guwahati

Sahitya Akademi organized a three-day North Eastern Literary Festival on 22-24 June 2017 at Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Riverside Uzanbazar, M.G. Road, Guwahati, Assam to explore the traditional, prevailing and emerging trends of literature of the region along with ‘Mulakat’ and ‘Poets Meet’ with writers/poets of the region.

In the welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, focused on the density of many oral languages of northeast India as well as their variety. He informed that most of these oral languages are not so much exposed to the outer world like other scheduled languages of India. Still, these oral languages are reservoir of lots of information pertaining to the diverse North Eastern culture and heritage. Loss of these literary traditions means loss of valuable information regarding the North East Indian people as a whole. He also informed the audience of the various types of literary programmes which Sahitya Akademi has

arranged during the last few years. He also emphasized on the role of literary festivals in bringing in different writer of corners of India together and thereby building a bridge between the cultures. He also informed the audience about an outline of the Purvottari programme in brief.

“A democratic set-up is very necessary for literature to survive and flourish and Sahitya Akademi is committed to ensure that literary traditions and emerging trends of all languages gets its due recognition,” Akademi president Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said at the inaugural session on Thursday. The North East has a rich tradition of oral and folk literature while contemporary writers are exploring new genres in the region which the Akademi is committed to highlight, he said. “The Akademi views North East’s literary developments with interest and importance and it is for this reason that it is organising a second literary festival within a few months,” Dr Tiwari said.



Temsula Ao, eminent poet who writes in English and Padmashri award winner, in her inaugural address said that authors from the region were writing the trauma and conflict in the region that has been affecting lives of the people for decades. But the most significant aspect was much of this writing was drawn directly and indirectly from the rich oral and folk traditions of the region, she said.

Sri Lakshmi Nandan Bora, eminent Assamese writer, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest. Sahitya Akademi award winning Assamese author Harekrishna Deka called for the setting up of an organisation to promote translation of creative works of the region into other languages. Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi, in his concluding address, spoke about the significance of diverse cultures of India along with the undercurrent of unity.

Noted Assamese writer Anis-uz Zaman, Bodo writer Mangal Singh Hazowary, English writer Desmond Kharmawphlang, Kokborok writer Chandrakant Murasingh, Manipuri writer Arambam Memchoubi and Mizo writer Lalthangfala Sailo read out their writings in the inaugural session.

In the first, eminent litterateurs of the region Arindam Borkataki, Monalisa Changkija, Rashmi Narzary, Ph. Iboyaima Sharma and D Kuolie participated in a discussion to unravel the varied emerging trends in North Eastern literature with Esther Syiem in the chair. Authors of the region write in languages like English, Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Chakma, Kokborok, Lepcha, Nepali, Manipuri, Mizo, Tenyidie, Thadou Kuki, Mog, Dimasa, Galo, Garo, Karbi, Mao, Mising, Rabha, Rajbongshi, Tangkhul, Khasi, Ao, Halam and Tiwa.

In the second session, Bengali writer Dipankar Kar, Thadou Kuki writer M. Paominlal Haokip, Manipuri writer H. Satyabati Devi and Mog writer Thailow Mog read out short stories with H. Behari Singh, Convener of Manipuri Advisory Board in the chair. In the third session, Pradip Jyoti Mahanta delivered a special lecture on the dynamics of literary vision of Srimanta Sankardeva, a 15th century spiritual leader, author and social reformer of Assam in the session with Temsula Ao in the chair.



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the Presidential Address

In the fourth session a Poets' Meet took place with Premananda Machahary, Convener of Bodo Advisory Board, in the chair. In the session, Arupa Barua (Assamese), Biswajyoti Barman (Dimasa), Takop Zirdo (Galo), Wilberth D. Marak (Garo), Joysing Tokbi (Karbi), Raghu Leishangthem (Manipuri), Kaisa Pfoze (Mao), Anil Panging (Mising), Thiru Prasad Nepal (Nepali), Charu Mohan Rabha (Rabha), Anil Kr. Barman (Rajbongshi) and Ayung Raikhan (Tangkhul) read out their poems.

In the fifth session the paper presenters dwelt on the topic "Impact of North East on Indian Literature", Leena Sarma (Assamese), Anil Boro (Bodo), Anful Naiding (Dimasa), S.S.Majaw (Khasi) and Mehdi Hasan Chowdhury (Manipuri) presented papers with Margaret Zama in the chair.

In the sixth session, a "Mulakat" programme was organized in which several young writers read out their writings. The authors who participated in the programme were Dibya Jyoti Borah (Assamese), Ano Brahma (Bodo), Kusum Chakma (Chakma), Venybirtsheng Ch. Marak (Garo), Ashit Debbarma (Kokborok), Kh. Krishnamohan Singha (Manipuri), Lalhlimpuii (Mizo) and Deepa Rai (Nepali) with Sylvanus Lamare in the chair. In the last session another Poets' Meet took place with. In the session, T. Senka Ao (Ao), Nilim Kumar (Assamese), Kalyanbrata Chakraborti (Bengali), Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Josua Halam (Halam), Suren Kramsa (Karbi), Deibormi Nongpoh (Khasi), Dipok Doley (Mising), Z. Khiangte (Mizo), Jyotirmoy Prodhani (Rajbongshi) and Badal Mani (Tiwa) read out their poems. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks.

**LITERARY FORUM**

May 4, 2017, Bengaluru



Sri Veerappa Moily delivering the inaugural address - bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Karnataka Publishers Association, Bengaluru organized a Literary Forum on Kannada Literature and Prospects of E-publishing on Thursday 04 May 2017 at 10.30 a.m. at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore welcomed the participants and audience. Dr.Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the programme, Dr.Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the forum, Sri Prakash Kambathalli, President, Karnataka Publishers Association, Bangalore and Dr.Sathish Kumar Hosamani, Director, Dept. of Libraries, Govt. of Karnataka were the chief guests. In his inaugural address, Dr Kambar stated that to protect Kannada language, e-publications of the Kannada literature should be made available to the reading public on a large-scale. Dr.Narahalli Balasubramanya stated that a momentous campaign be made in e-publishing industry for wider awareness. Dr.Sathish Kumar Hosamani also informed that 1018 village panchayats in Karnataka have 1600 e- publications. Sri Vaudhendra spoke on 'E-Publishing an Introduction', Sri Darshan Talapaneni spoke on 'E-Books and Technology', Sri Vivekananda H.S spoke on 'E-Books and Legal Aspects', Sri UdayaPuranik spoke on 'E-Publishing and Marketing' and Sri N.A.M. Ismail spoke on 'E-Publishing and Media'. Sri N. Ravikumar proposed a vote of thanks.

**SYMPOSIUM**

May 19, 2017, Kasargod

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Memorial Trust, organized a daylong symposium on Universalism in GovindaPai's literature at Kasargod on May 19, 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri M. Veerappa Moily, eminent author and Chairman of Trust inaugurated the symposium and talked about the vision of Govinda Pai. In his Keynote address, Dr Vivek Rai, eminent scholar, talked about the universalism as well as creative aspects of Govinda Pai's works. In his Presidential address, Sri Giraddi Govinda Raja, eminent Kannada critic, talked about the importance and relevance of Sri Govinda Pai's works. Sri D. K. Chowta, eminent writer, was the Guest of Honour. At the end of the session, Sri Chandrashekhar Kedlaya recited some of Govinda Pai's poems. In the first session, two noted scholars, Dr Sathya Narayana Mallipatna and Dr Shivaji Jois, talked about 'Universalism in Govinda Pai's Poetry' and 'Multilingual Expertise of Govinda Pai' respectively. In the second session, two noted scholars, Dr N. Damodara Shetty and Dr B. Rajashekharappa, talked about 'Universalism in Govinda Pai's Plays' and 'Researches of Govinda Pai' respectively. Sri Ramananda Banari, eminent Kannada poet, delivered the valedictory address. Dr Kamalaksha of the Trust proposed a vote of thanks.

**LITERARY FORUM**

May 30, 2017, Parappur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a literary forum on Puthapatu and Children's Stories in Parappur on May 30, 2017. The Forum was inaugurated by Dr Shamshad Hussain, eminent academician and writer. In her inaugural address, she talked about the role of literature in children's lives and children's writing. Dr Sasidaran Klari delivered a lec-dem on Puthapatu and explained the nuances of the craft to children. Sri T.V. Joy talked about shifting of styles in storytelling with each passing generation and opined that the current generation is not reading the



classics and epics in their mother tongues. Dr Anees Alangadan talked about the influence on Puthapatu on the society and also about the role of literature, writers and libraries on children's development. Sri Asif proposed a vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 6, 2017, Kozhikode

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Kerala Sahitya Samiti, Kozhikode, organized a literary forum on Thikkodian's Contributions to Malayalam Literature and Drama in Kozhikode on June 6, 2017. Sri Sreedharunni, Secretary, Kerala Sahitya Samiti, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri M.R. Raghava Warriar, in his inaugural address stated that Thikkodiyar was the symbol of optimism and also talked about the role novels played in societal changes. The event was chaired by Sri Kasim Vadanapalli. Dr Sreekumar presented a paper on 'Thikkodiyar as a Playwright' and talked about the positive spins on his plays. Sri Sreesylam Unnikrishnan talked about 'Thikkodiyar the Novelist' and elaborated on several metaphors and similes deployed in the novels of Thikkodiyar. Dr Rajendran talked about the autobiography of Thikkodian. Smt. Pushpakumari, daughter of Thikkodian, also spoke. Sri K.S. Venkitachalam, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

June 18, 2017, Dharwad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organised a "Meet the Author" programme featuring eminent Kannada poet Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi in Dharwad on June 18, 2017. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the Guest Poet and audience and spoke briefly about the life and works of the guest poet and various initiatives of the Akademi to promote literature across the country. In his lecture, Dr Chennaveera Kanavi talked about his early life, his works, the process of creative writing, his long association with Sahitya Akademi, influences on his writing and Kannada poetry over the years. He recalled his first poems, the accolades he received and thanked the Akademi for the opportunity. A brief interactive session followed the lecture.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

June 21, 2017, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a lec-dem by Dr R.K. Sumithra, Yoga Therapy Consultant, as part of International Yoga Day celebrations at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru on June 21, 2017. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker. In her speech, Dr Sumithra talked about the essence and nature of Yoga, the expanse of Yoga covering entire human existence, classical and modern varieties of Yoga, the relationship between Yoga and Ayurved and the role of Yoga in human life. She also talked about the physical and psychological benefits of all forms of Yoga. She then demonstrated several asanas to the staff who participated in exercises and meditation. She urged the staff to practice Yoga and meditation for success at both personal and professional level.

## GRAMALOK

June 28, 2017, Sirivara

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Jnana Gangothri Shikshanan Samsthe, organized a Gramalok programme on 'Children's Literature in Kannada' in Sirivara village on June 28, 2017. Smt. Shashikala, Head Mistress of Montessori School, Manvi welcomed the participants and audience. Sri Chandrakant Karadalli, noted children's writer, inaugurated the programme and talked about inculcating the values in children at a very young age. He urged the village authorities to establish libraries for the benefit for future generation. Sri Neelkantappa Goud, eminent educationist, was the chief guest and talked about the ways on improving the standard of education in villages. Sri Gurunath Reddy chaired the session. Sri Sarjashakara Haralinatha and Sri K. Shivalingappa Handihalu talked about 'Children's Literature in modern times' and 'Translation of Children's Literature' respectively. Students of the village shared their experiences. In the valedictory session, Sri Chidanand Sali, eminent writer, delivered valedictory address, Sri Venkoba Kotnekal was the chief guest and Smt. Vijayalaxmi of the Trust chaired the session. Sri Sali urged the parents to ensure children have multitude of experiences.



## POETS' MEET

May 13, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Kavikkuyil, literary monthly journal, conducted a 'Poets' Meet' on 13 May 2017 at ICSA Center, Egmore, Chennai. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the poets and lovers of poetry. He congratulated Kavikkuyil magazine which is encouraging reading and writing of Tamil poetry and creating poetry awareness of modern Tamil literature. Dr. Anaivaari Anandan, Editor, Kavikkuyil literary monthly, chaired the Poets' Meet and presented a poem on 'Ellaarkkum Ellaamum' (everything for everybody). He mentioned great Tamil poets such as Tiruvalluvar, Bharathiyar, Devaneya Paavanar and quoted a Puranaanooru poem advocating hunger-free world. He said that food should be provided to all living beings and we should strive to create a new world where everybody gets all necessary needs and comforts. His poetry portrayed the sufferings of peasants, workers and the downtrodden. Sri Karumalai Thamizhaazhan recited a poem depicting the wellbeing of hardworking labourers. He wished that we should create a brand new world where the toiling masses are provided with basic necessities. Sri Kavirinadan recited his poems on patriotism, role of education and nobility towards all. Sri Kallai Malaradiyan read his poems on the new awakening among youth. Smt. Mayilai Ma. Chandra read her poems on young and innocent minds, the role of teachers and trainers. She mentioned that a new India would bloom if children were groomed well when they were young. The programme was telecast by Makkal TV, a popular Tamil channel, on 20 May 2017. A large number of poets, professors and discerning readers attended the programme. The event was covered by Kavikkuyil literary monthly and other news media.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

May 29, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted a 'Book Discussion' programme on 29 May 2017 at its office premises. Sahitya Akademi's recent publication 'Konguvelir', written by Dr. R. Vijayalakshmy, was taken up for discussion. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. He mentioned that Perunkathai (literally 'The Big Story') was based on 'Bruhadkatha', which dealt with the story of King Udayana and his son, Prince Naravana Datta. Konguvelir was a talented poet who lived in Vijayamangalam near Coimbatore in Tamilnadu. He also mentioned that Konguvelir had deep knowledge of Sangam literature, Silappathikaaram and Manimegalai and wrote Perunkathai as an interesting epic. Dr. M.R. Arasu, erudite scholar and retired Tamil Professor, was invited to speak about the book. He mentioned that the story happened in Vadva and Magada kingdoms of the present day Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Udayana was a handsome prince and Yugi was his close friend and minister. Udayana was made the king of Vaishali, by his uncle Vikra. Once, King Udayana was confined and taken as captive to Ujjain, by the Avanti king Prachodan. Udayana's minister Yugi devised a plan and created a rebellion in Ujjain. King Prachodan's elephant was in musth and wandered the streets of Ujjain violently. However, at the request of King Prachodan, the mutiny was controlled by Udayana. Udayana fell in love with Vasavadatta, the princess and daughter of King Prachodan. Later, Udayana escaped from Ujjain with princess Vasavadatta. The story was further developed in Lavana Kaanda and Magada Kaanda, about the difficulties and achievements of King Udayana. Dr. M.R. Arasu explained various incidents in the book and the poetic genius of Konguvelir. He mentioned that Dr. Vijayalakshmy had done extensive research on Perunkathai in Hamburg University, Germany, and produced a scholarly treatise on Perunkathai in about 125 pages. Ms. V. Geetha, Sri Tiruppur Krishnan, Sri P.K. Balasubramaniam and other scholars attended the programme. A brief interactive session followed the programme.



## HOMAGE TO DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY

June 12, 2017, Chennai



Dr K. Sreenivasarao paying homage to Dr C. Narayana Reddy as Prof K. Nachimuthu and Sri Prapanchan are listening

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai convened a homage meeting to mourn the sad demise of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, on 12 July 2017 at its office premises. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, expressed his heartfelt condolences on the passing away of an outstanding Telugu writer, critic, poet and lyricist. Dr. Sreenivasarao mentioned that Dr. Cingireddy Narayana Reddy, also known as Cinare, was an acknowledged authority on Telugu literature. His noteworthy poetry collections include Navvani Puvvu (The Bashful Flower), 'Vennela Vada' (The Moonlit Town), 'Jalapatam' (Waterfall), 'Divvela Muvvalu' (Candle Bells) and 'Rutu Chakram' (Cycle of Seasons). Dr. Narayana Reddy received Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetry collection 'Mantalu

Manavudu' (Flames and the Man) in 1970. His major poetic work 'Viswambhara' (The Earth) received the Jnanpith Award in 1988. The Government of India honoured him with the title of Padma Shri in 1977 and Padma Bhushan in 1992. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1997. Dr. Reddy was a well-known lyricist who penned most melodious and memorable songs, more than 3000 in number. He was elected as a Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, the Akademi's highest literary honour which is conferred on the immortals of Indian literature. His creative genius spanned many fields of human endeavor. Dr. Sreenivasarao expressed his deepest condolences on behalf of Sahitya Akademi, to the lovers of literature, literary connoisseurs and all the literary institutions of the country. Many eminent Tamil writers and scholars such as Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Member, Executive Board, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Palaniyappan, Sri Prapanjan, Sahitya Akademi awardee, Sri Elangovan, Sri Veeramani, Sri Selva Pandiyan, Sri Iyamam, Sri Aravindan, Prof. B. Mathivanan and all staff of the sub-regional office were present. One minute's silence was observed as homage to the great genius.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

June 15, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted a 'Book Discussion' programme on 15 June 2017 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was 'Draupadiyin Kathai', an Odia novel written by Pratibha Rai and translated into Tamil by R. Balachandran. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the gathering and informed the audience that Sahitya Akademi has published books such as Draupadi, Paruvam, Yugathin Mudivil and Irandam Idam in Tamil, on themes of Mahabharatha wherein Draupadi is portrayed in different perspectives. He introduced Sri Tiruppur Krishnan, senior writer, renowned scholar and a doyen of journalism, to the audience. He added that Sri Krishnan is presently the Editor of the reputed Tamil literary magazine 'Amudhasurabi'. Sri Tiruppur Krishnan presented an excellent analysis of the book. He felt that it was a privilege to be invited to Sahitya Akademi's 'Book Discussion' programme which gave him the pleasure of reading a very important novel based on the interesting personality of Draupadi. He appreciated the talent of Pratibha Rai and mentioned that he could discern the deep scholarship and wit which took Pratibha Rai to Sahitya Akademi Award and Jnanpith Award. He said that Draupadi faced untold sufferings



that ultimately led to the war of kingship. He told that the novel had fairly focused on the torment undergone by Draupadi in the royal court of Hastinapur and the blind male chauvinism that haunted her throughout her life. Sri Krishnan observed that, though the author had followed Sri Vyasa's Mahabharatha and occasionally Sarla Das's Oriya Bharatha insights, the novel had been presented in a modern, feministic view that questions the male dominated, patriarchal views. The programme was well attended by senior writers and scholars. A documentary film on Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai was screened before the programme.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

June 21, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai observed International Yoga Day on 21st June 2017 at its office premises in a grand manner. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, spoke about the benefits of Yoga in shaping the mind, body and soul. He said that Yoga would ensure a healthy, happy and disease-free life and will be a guiding host for the youngsters if they catch it when they are young. Sri Ravikumar, Yoga therapist and instructor and also an experienced Yoga Guru, was invited for Yoga lecture and demonstration. He explained about Mudras and Chakras and their role in ameliorating the body and the mind. He said that proper training and continued practice would ensure a healthy life and remove stress and strain from the body and mind. He also observed that Yoga would lead to peace of mind and better living conditions. Major Asanas such as Vajrasana, Dhanurasana, Ardha Matsyendrasana, Trikonasana, Yoga Mudrasana and Shanti Asana etc. were explained and demonstrated to the staffs. Sri Ravikumar brought a young practitioner, Mr. Aryan Kumar, aged 11 years, for demonstrating the Yogasanas. As per the instruction of his Guru, he demonstrated each cycle of Yoga practice from initiating the Yoga posture, proper practice and its closure. Sri Ravikumar explained that most of those asanas were remedies to blood pressure, diabetes and other related lifestyle diseases. An important feature of the demonstration was Surya Namaskar, which was done with precision and ease by all the staff members. The staff members eagerly participated in the practice of all the asanas as demonstrated by the Yoga instructor, with much enthusiasm. The instructor approvingly noted that the Yogasanas were properly done by the staff members and he hoped that they would continue the practice in the coming days and improve their well-being. Befitting the Yoga practice, healthy edibles such as bananas and milk were provided as refreshments to the guests and staff members.

## A TRIBUTE TO ASHOKAMITRAN

June 23, 2017, Chennai



(L-R) Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Sri Azhagiya Singar, Sri Sa. Kandasamy and Sri Amshan Kumar

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted 'A Tribute to Ashokamitran – The Master Storyteller' on 23 June 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, paid tributes to the doyen of Tamil literature and mentioned that Ashokamitran was a friend, philosopher and guide to Sahitya Akademi, especially to the sub-regional office. He was associated with Sahitya Akademi as an Award winner, translator, compiler and bilingual genius, who was a boon to the Akademi for interaction between Tamil and overall Indian readership. Sri Sa. Kandasamy, Sahitya Akademi Awardee, chaired the programme. He presented an erudite writeup by bringing out the great qualities of Ashokamitran as a man and an artist. He mentioned that the literary art of

Ashokamitran was simple, direct, lucid and appealed to many hearts. His novels like 18vathu Atchakkodu, Appavin Snehithar, Thanneer capture the imagination of the middle class of Chennai and Tamilnadu. Sri Amshan Kumar



paid glowing tributes to the person who radiated humanism in his approach and developed Tamil fiction to the international level. He shunned violent emotions when writing on the riotous incidents of Hyderabad, police action and riots which followed it. Sri Amshan Kumar said that Ashokamitran was very helpful when the documentary film was made on him and wished that the film would project his fellow writers, friends and his near and dear ones as well. Sri Azhagiya Singar recounted his conversations, meetings, friendship, admiration and emotions on his short stories like Rickshaw, Vimochanam and Athai. He also said that Ashokamitran should be read more and more for our own pleasure and enlightenment. The documentary film on Ashokamitran directed by Sri Amshan Kumar was screened in the function. Mrs. Ashokamitran, his sons Sri Ramakrishnan and Sri Ravi Muthukumaran also graced the programme and shared their memories of an endearing husband, fostering father who cared and shared his pleasures and pains with much dedication and sacrifice.

## INAUGURATION OF BOOK EXHIBITION

June 25-29, 2017, Pondicherry

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted a book exhibition from 25 June 2017 to 29 June 2017 at Tamil Sangam, Pondicherry. The exhibition was inaugurated on 25 June 2017. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. He informed that Sahitya Akademi is publishing many useful and highly readable books in Tamil and English, apart from the other 22 Indian languages. Sahitya Akademi is publishing important monographs on important writers to facilitate initial access to the stalwarts of literature. He also mentioned that Sahitya Akademi's publications are quite vivid, detailed and provides valuable insights to the readers. Sri T. Pazhamalai, eminent Tamil poet, inaugurated the book exhibition. He praised Sahitya Akademi for its pioneering role in promoting younger talents by awarding Yuva Puraskar and childrens writers by conferring Bal Sahitya Puraskar. He mentioned that many masterpieces of Indian literature are translated and made available at affordable rates to the reading public by Sahitya Akademi. He also expressed his satisfaction over the patronage given to poetry in general and Tamil poetry in particular. Dr. R. Sambath, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address said that Sahitya Akademi's literary projects and schemes would give fillip to the writing community. He said that the books published by Sahitya Akademi are scholarly and perfect, when compared to international publications. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was happy about the documentary films screened at the exhibition and requested the Akademi to bring out more films on eminent litterateurs. Prof. Ravikumar, veteran writer Seenu Tamizhmani and a host of discerning readers and scholars from Villuppuram, Cuddalore and Pondicherry participated in the inaugural function. The documentary film on the Tamil poet Bharathiyar was screened after the inaugural function. Films on Ashokamitran, Indira Parthasarathy, Jayakanthan and Neela Padmanabhan were also screened on the following days of the book exhibition.

## BOOK DISCUSSION

June 29, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted a 'Book Discussion' programme on 29 June 2017 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was 'Siruvar Kathai Kalanjyam', an anthology of stories for children compiled by Dr. R. Kamarasu and Dr. C. Sethupathi. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Smt. K. Manjula, a children's writer and reputed journalist, gave an interesting presentation on the stories. She mentioned that stories are for shaping the characters of children through fascinating anecdotes. Apart from the storyline, those stories normally have some moral value to groom the children to become noble citizens of the society. She said that the anthology contained stories written by Bharathiyar, Maraimalai Adigal, Bharathidasan, Periyasami Thooran and Ki. Va. Jagannathan, who were immortal Tamil literary personalities. Because of their love for the youngsters, such writers wrote simple and enjoyable stories for children. Sri Silamboli Su. Sellappan, doyen of Tamil literature and internationally known Tamil research scholar, graced the occasion and appreciated Sahitya Akademi's efforts for developing children's literature and the erudite lecture given by Smt. K. Manjula. Her lecture aroused much interest and many people purchased their copies immediately. A number of writers attended the programme and took part in the discussion that followed.

## LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

May 11, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized Loka: The Many Voices on ‘Mughal Tamasha – A Theatre of Social Harmony’ at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on May 11, 2017. The programme was inaugurated by Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board in the presence of Gautam Pal, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi; Pitabasa Routroy and Banoj Tripathy, Members, Odia Advisory Boards and others. At the beginning they felicitated Badal Sikdar and the play began after that. Mughal Tamasha is one of the leading folk theatre forms of Odisha. This dramatic form initiated with a vision to harmonized communal differences.

## ASMITA WITH ODIA WOMEN WRITERS

May 14, 2017, Paradip

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized an Asmita programme with Odia women writers at Paradip Officers’ Club, Paradip, Odisha on May 14, 2017. In the programme, noted Odia writers Smt. Laxmi Chand, Smt. Lipika Dash, Smt. Maheswata Sahu, Smt. Mousumi Parida, Smt. Sharmistha Sahu and Smt. Soudamini Behera read out their poems and short stories while Dr Gourahari Dash, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presided over the programme as chair.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 14, 2017, Paradip

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organised a Literary Forum on “Gandhi and Odia Literature” at Paradip Officers’ Club, Paradip, Odisha on May 14, 2017. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi. He spoke on the nature of Gandhian influence on Odia literature which was started from the third decade of the twentieth century – an age which is widely known as the era of Satyagraha. Dr. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave the

keynote address and also introduced the speakers to the audience. Dr. Bibhuti Patnaik, eminent Odia writer, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In the paper reading session, Smt. Banaprava Parida, Sri Santosh Samal and Sri Sriman Mishra presented their papers on different aspects of the influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Odia literature. After the discussions, Sri Rabi Swain, while speaking from the chair, summarized the speeches of the speakers and pointed out the key features of their arguments.

## AVISHKAR

May 14, 2017, Paradip

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organised an Avishkar programme on ‘Mardala and Indian Music Tradition’ at Paradip Officers’ Club, Paradip, Odisha on May 14, 2017. In the programme Sri Banamali Maharana and his troupe presented an illustrious performance on the theme of the programme.

## BHASHANTARA ANUBAHAVA

May 11-12, 2017, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized the Bhashantara Anubhava at Jaydev Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on May 11-12, 2017. Ramakant Rath, former Sahitya Akademi president and renowned Odia, inaugurated the program. Haraprasad Das, renowned Odia poet and critic delivered the key-note address and highlighted the multi-faceted challenges faced by translators. The programme was chaired by



Inaugural Session of the Bhashantara Anubhava in progress

Shri Sitakant Mohapatra, who spoke extensively about the difficulties of translation. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board introduced the programme as well the participants. Sri Gautam Pal, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the delegates and the august gathering and Banoj Tripathy, Member, Odia Advisory Board proposed the vote of thanks. In the first session Premnarayan Nath (Assamese), Tanmoy Chakraborty (Bengali) and Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo) recited poems in their own language followed by their English translation. Rakshak Nayak, renowned Odia poet, chaired the session and read out his Odia poems. The second session was chaired by Damayanti Beshra. Pankaj Parashar (Maithili), and Tuhinamsu Rath (Odia) recited their poems followed by their English translation. Shri Anubhav Tulsii, renowned Assamese poet, chaired the third session. Ritabrata Mitra (Bengali), Devakanta Ramchiary (Bodo) and N. Kirankumar (Manipuri) recited their original poems and English translation and also translations of their poems by their fellow poets. The fourth session was chaired by Manipuri poet Irom Robindro Singh. Ajit Azad (Maithili) and Dasarathi Soren (Santali) recited their poems and their translations. Gautam Pal, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme.

## SEMINAR

May 18-19, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with The Cultural Forum, Manipur Organized a two-day Seminar on 'Contemporary Manipuri Poetry and its Perspectives' on May 18-19, 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, D.M. College Campus, Imphal, Manipur. In the inaugural session Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the trends of Manipuri Poetry from the early period of the 20th Century to the modern time. In the inaugural and introductory address, H. Behari, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi spoke about the importance of organising a seminar on 'Contemporary Manipuri Poetry and its Perspectives' at Imphal. Prof. Naorem Khagendra Singh presided over the seminar as chair. He talked about the efforts to promote Manipuri



Prof N. Khagendra Singh delivering the Presidential Address

language and literature. In the first session, chaired by Elangbam Dinamani Singh, three scholars, Naorem Bidyasagar Singha, Th. Tarun Singh and R.J. Meitei, presented their papers on 'Folklore and Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'Problems of Cultural Identity in the poems of Elangbam Nilakanta Singh' and 'Perspectives of Post-Modernism in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. In the second session chaired by Longjam Joychandra Singh, Laishram Koirang Singh, Konjengbam Minaketan Meitei and Moirangthem Rajesh Singh, presented their papers on 'Love in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'Youth unrest in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry' and 'Style and Diction of Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. The third session was chaired by Kh. Kunjo Singh, where Nando Ningomba, Ahanjao Meetei and T Kunjakeshor, presented their papers, 'Women in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'Humor in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry' and 'Modernism in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. In the fourth session chaired by Rajen Toijamba, Haobijam Chanu Prema, Phuritsabam Khelendro Singh, Budhichandra Heisnamba and T Surajbala, presented their papers on, 'Nature and Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'Village Life reflected in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'A Critical assessment on Contemporary Manipuri Poetry' and 'Current International trends in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. Khwairakpam Sunita Devi, General Secretary of the Cultural Forum, Manipur proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 20, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Malem Ayeekol Khabam Lamkhai organized a Literary Forum on 'Evaluation of Translated Hindi Novels in Manipuri with Poets' Meet on May 20, 2017 at Imphal, Manipur. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. He said that translation from one language to another language is one of the major tasks of the Akademi. He further said that translation work is not an easy task, the translator is to have the full knowledge of both the languages. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board said that translation work has now become very important. But he was of the opinion that translation work in Manipur is very rare till date. Meghachandra Heirangkhongjam presented a paper on 'Assessment of translated Hindi novels in Manipur', R. K. Mobi Singh presented his paper on 'Evaluation of Kamleshwar's Kaali Anandi' and Waikhom Chingkheinganba presented his paper on 'Evaluation of Vinon Kumar Shukla's Deewar Mei Ek Khidki Rahati Thee'. At the end of the session Waikhom Mahendra Singh, President, Malem Ayeekol delivered the presidential address. The second session was poetry recitation, with Ng. Rabeichandra in the chair. The other readers of the session were Nepram Iboi, W. Birendrajit, Thokchom Subon and Babu Irengba. Ng. Rabeichandra recited 'Siroi Lily', while the other participants recited 'Khongchat', 'Namung Laitonbi', 'Khongchattuda' and 'Chei Leitabi Wani', respectively.

## KAVISANDHI

May 20, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized Kavisandhi with Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh on May 20, 2017 at Asheiningthou Garden, Matai, Imphal East, Manipur. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presided over the programme as chair. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address, after which, Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh, recited two poems entitled 'Apikpa Khonjel' and 'Railgadi'. After the interaction programme the

chairman asked Lanchenba Meetei, a famous Manipuri writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee to give his opinion about the poetry of Shri Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh.

## YOGA DAY

June 20, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized 'Yoga Day' on the occasion of International Yoga Day at the auditorium of the Regional Office, Kolkata on June 20, 2017. Sri Kedarnath Jaiswal was the yoga instructor who narrated the importance of the programme, demonstrated some of the postures of Yoga Asana to the staff members and narrated the benefits of yoga in our daily life. The staff members of the Kolkata Office participated in the programme.

## KATHASANDHI

May 21, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kathasandhi programme with Moirangthem Rajen Singh, the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award in Manipuri literature on May 21, 2017 at the Dave Literature Centre, Imphal, Manipur. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge welcomed Sri Rajen Singh and the gathering. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced Rajen Singh to the audience. Sri Moirangthem Rajen Singh read out his latest short story titled 'Case Diary' before the gathering. After the reading was over, there was a lively interaction session. Yaima Haoba proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 21, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with the Gitanjali Performing Group of Arts and Music (GPGAM), Imphal organized a Literary Forum on 'Manipuri Lyrical Literature' on May 21, 2017 at the Dave Literature Centre, Imphal, Manipur. The session was chaired by Nongmaithem Tomba, President, GPGAM. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge of the Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board,

Sahitya Akademi, on the dais. H. Behari Singh, delivered his speech on introducing the topic of this particular literary forum in terms of hunting undiscovered areas in Manipuri literature as per the format of the Akademi in force. The papers were presented by Sanqlakpam Achou Sharma, Yambem Tombi Devi, Soubam Tomba and Thounaojam Shyamo. Nongmaithem Tomba, President of the GPGAM chaired the session. R.K. Jnanranjan, an Executive Member of the GPGAM, proposed vote of thanks.

## THROUGH MY WINDOW

May 30, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Through My Window programme at Sahitya Akademi office auditorium, Kolkata on May 30, 2017 where noted writer Sri Sudhir Dutta spoke on noted Bengali poet Smt. Gita Chattopadhyay. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, introduced the speaker to the audience.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 9, 2017, Nagaon

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with B. K. B. College, Nagaon organized a literary forum on 'The Life and Works of Birinchi Kumar Baruah', at the college campus on June 9, 2017. Birinchi Kumar Baruah was a folklorist, scholar, novelist, playwright, historian, linguist, educationist, administrator and an eminent 20th century littérateur of Assam, with both scholarly and creative pursuits. The welcome address was delivered by Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahtiya Akademi. The programme was chaired by Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board. The other participants of the programme were Naren Kalita, Ramesh Pathak, Satyakam Barthakur, Swadhineta Mahanta and Upen Rabha Hakacham. Bhupen Saikia, Principal B. K. B. College proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the programme.

## AVISHKAR

June 9, 2017, Nagaon

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Sanskritik Gosthi Kallol organized an Avishkar programme on 'The Golden Voyage of Assamese Lyrical Literature' on June 9, 2017 at Nagaon. Sibananda Kakati welcomed the guests, while Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahtiya Akademi welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Sahitya Akademi. Naushad Akhtar Hazarika, General Secretary, Sanskritik Gosthi Kallol delivered the welcome address. Karabi Deka Hazarika conducted the programme. Arun Hazarika, Ranjita Gohain and Sasanka Baruah participated in the programme. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Gunajit Deva Goswami.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 9, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Patriotic Writers Forum Manipur, Imphal organized a Symposium on 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Literature' at the Manipur Press club, Imphal on June 9, 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the relevance of this topic to the present society. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi talked about the importance of organizing a symposium on Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Literature. Raghu Leishangthem, President, Patriotic Writers Forum, Manipur expressed his thanks to the Sahitya Akademi for allowing them to organize such a symposium as a mark of recognition of Patriotic Writers Forum. Rakesh Naorem, General Secretary, Patriotic Writers Forum proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Ph. Iboyaima Sharma, where three young scholars, Athokpam Umabati, Soibam Premila Devi and Haobijam Nirmala Devi, presented their papers on 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri

Novels', 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Short Story' and 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. At the end of the first session Ph. Iboyaima Sharma gave his observations on the concepts of Patriotism. The second session was chaired by Aribam Kumar Sharma. Three young scholars, L. Okendro Singh, Kh. Geetarani Devi and Kumari Tongbram Narmada Devi presented their papers on 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Drama', 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry' and 'Patriotism in Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', respectively. At the end of the second session Aribam Kumar Sharma gave his observations on the concepts of Patriotism.

## LITERARY FORUM

June, 10 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with All Manipur Manipuri Teachers' Association, Imphal organized a Literary Forum on H. Kanhailal Singh's contribution to Manipuri Dramatic Literature on June 10, 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, Imphal. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the contribution of H. Kanhailal to Manipuri Dramatic Literature as well as his position in the Manipuri literature. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory remarks. Four eminent scholars, K. Shantibala Devi, Rajen Toijamba, N. Premchand Singh and L. Gojendro Singh presented their papers on 'Life and Work of Kanhailal Singh', 'H. Kanhailal Singh as a dramatist', 'Theatrical Techniques in Kanhailal's plays and 'Contribution of H. Kanhailal to Manipuri Dramatic Literature', respectively. W. Jugindro Singh, President Manipur Teachers' Association gave the presidential speech, while Naorem Ahanjao proposed the vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 10, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Manipur Folklore Society, Imphal organized a Literary Forum on 'Folklore in Manipuri Literature' on June 10, 2017, Imphal. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience and talked briefly on the importance of folklore materials in the literature of any community. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board in his introductory remarks said that folklore and literature are inseparable as folklore enters literary works because it is an essential ingredient of lived reality. Th. Mohen Singh, M. Tuleshori Devi, W. Angela Devi and S. Robindro Singh presented their papers on 'Myths in Manipuri Literature', 'Legends in Manipuri Literature', 'Folk Tale in Manipuri Literature' and 'Ballads in Manipuri Literature', respectively. S. Chauba Singh, President, Manipur Folklore Society, Imphal talked briefly about the relevance of folklore to Manipur Literature. N. Ahanjao Meetei proposed the vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 10, 2017, Tezpur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Dandinath Kalita Memorial Trust organized a Symposium on 20th century Assamese Novel with Special Reference to Sadhana of Dandinath Kalita on June 10, 2017 at Tezpur, Assam. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and the audience. Madan Sarma, (Acting) Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University, the chief guest, while delivering the keynote address maintained that though ancient Indian literature abounds in novel-type episodes, the minute analysis of human mind that forms the nucleus of novel came to our literature from the West. He critically analysed 'Sadhana' of Dandinath Kalita and highlighted its characteristics. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi



chaired the inaugural session and in her speech briefly narrated the initiatives taken by the Akademi towards all round development of the languages and literatures of North East India. Further, she offered her thanks to the Dandinath Kalita Memorial Trust for organising a symposium on this renowned author of bygone days in association with Sahitya Akademi. Madhuri Kalita Choudhury proposed the vote of thanks in the inaugural session. The first session was chaired by Sunil Dutta, noted writer and academician. Participants of this session included Jamuna Sarma Choudhury, Namita Deka, and Arindam Barkataki. They spoke about novels of the 20th century Assamese from different angles and pointed out the salient features of ‘Sadhana’ as a distinguished novel of the pre-independence period. Valedictory address was delivered by Parag Kumar Bhattacharyya. Satish Chandra Bhattacharyya, coordinated the programme and in his concluding remarks thanked Sahitya Akademi for coming forward to make the occasion a success. Sunil Dutta, before presenting his discourse as chairperson, called upon Geeta Upadhyaya and Mausumi Kandali for expressing their views on the deliberations which they did to the satisfaction of all present in the auditorium. The chairperson in his thought-provoking speech touched upon the novels of the concerned period and spoke highly of the ‘Sadhana’ of Dandinath Kalita. He expressed his contentment at the illuminating lectures of all the participants.

Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi in his welcome address offered deep respect to Prabhat Borah and expressed his sincere thanks to all who were present in the meeting. Dipti Phukan Patgiri, Member, Assamese Advisory Board in her illuminating speech spoke about her association with Mahendra Bora, her teacher during her student period at the Dibrugarh University and the immense contribution made by the Bora family in the field of Assamese culture and literature. Sharing his experience, Prabhat Borah said that he had never been associated with Sahitya Akademi on any occasion and for the first time he is sharing this moment with Sahitya Akademi. He has also thrown light on various genres of literature and said that a novel is almost like an autobiography of the writer. From the audience Maheswar Kalita, Robin Salina, Jayashree Goswami Mahanta, fictionist Sibananda Kakoti, poet Samir Tanti took part in the discussion. Alok Adhikari, Organizing Secretary, Chirantan Sahityar Din proposed the vote of thanks.

**AN EVENING WITH  
A CRITIC**  
June 11, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Chirantan Sahityar Din, Guwahati organised ‘An Evening with a Critic’ in the Conference Hall of Cotton University on June 11, 2017. At the very outset, Shri Sankar Saikia, General Secretary, Chirantan Sahityar Din welcomed the participants and the guests and offered sincere thanks to Sahitya Akademi for giving a chance to organise the programme. Dipti Phukan Patgiri, Gauhati University chaired the programme. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo,

**SEMINAR**  
June 11, 2017, Imphal



Prof H. Behari Singh delivering the Presidential Address

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Gulapi Nata Sankirtana Academy organised a Birth Centenary Seminar on R. K. Surjaborosana at Dave Literature Centre, D. M. College, Imphal on June 11, 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the literary career of R. K. Surjaborasana.





Kanta Ramchiary. In his speech Ramchiary quoted some works by few noted Bodo writers which have been named after natural objects. In short he hinted at the vital role played by nature in the lives of the Bodo people, in their culture and in their literature. The inaugural session was soon followed by the first technical session in which only three readers presented their papers. Nailo Zalo Uzir, Asstt. Professor, Goreswar College, Niron Brahma, Asstt. Professor, Udalguri College and Mrs Rwiropo Brahma, Asstt. Professor, Barama College were the paper readers of this session respectively. This session was chaired by Tulan Mochahary, Sr Professor of LOKD College. While Nailo Zalo's paper is a sort of an analysis of one of Ishan Mochahary's poems namely 'Sonani Mala' whereas Niran's paper reflected on the use of nature imagery in few of Manoronjan Lahary's poems. On the other hand Rwiropo dealt on the role of nature in two of Bishnu Prasad Kachari's poems namely- (i) Sangrema jiu and (ii) He Dufang Aang Nwnghkhw Khulumw. At the end of the session there was a live interaction among the audience. Nareswar Narzary of Udalguri College chaired the second session and only two readers presented their papers in this session namely - Chittoranjan Mochahary, Asstt. Professor of Barama College and Maneswar Goyari, Asst. Professor of Udalguri College. Chittoranjan's paper was about the role of nature in Kali Kr Lahary's poems and on the other hand Goyari's paper analysed the natural and cultural elements in Pramod Ch. Brahma's poetry.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 12, 2017, Nambol

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Department of Manipuri, Nambol L. Sanoi College, Nambol organized a literary forum on 'The Place of Women in Myth and Legend' on June 12, 2017 at the auditorium of Nambol L. Sanoi College, Nambol, Manipur. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience and talked briefly on the importance and place of women in the Manipuri society. He also mentioned the great roles of goddesses like

Nongthang Leima, Leimarel Shidabi etc. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, gave his introductory remarks. While giving his introductory remarks, he said that not only in the context of Manipur but also for the world, the society will not be a better one if there is no woman. In the context of Manipuri society women have been playing an important role in the narratives of Myth and Legend since time immemorial. In the academic session four scholars, N. Ekashini Devi, S. Shantibala Devi, N. Ibemhal Devi and S. Memthoi Devi presented their papers on 'Role of Nongthangleima in the Creative Myth', 'Role of Women in Legend of Khongjomnubi Nongarol', 'Role of Thoibi and Khamnu in Khamba Thoibi Sheireng' and 'Role of Ima Leimarel Shidabi in creative myth' respectively. L. P. Baskota, Principal, Nambol College was in the chair. Kh. Tomba Singh proposed the vote of thanks.

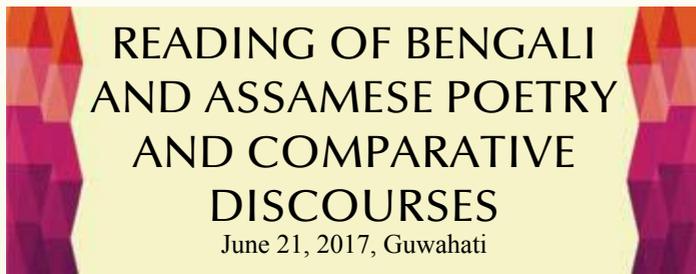
## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

June 12, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in association with Manipur University of Culture organized People and Books programme on 12 June 2017 at Government Dance College Hall, Imphal. Rajen Toijamba, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi welcomed N. Rajmuhon Singh, speaker of the programme and audience and talked briefly about the importance of reading of books. He further said that books play a very important role for forming a good and successful people in the society. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board gave the introductory remarks of the programme. Being a folklorist, he talked briefly about the relation of the people and books from the very beginning of human civilization to the modern digital era. He also said that Sahitya Akademi has been playing a very important role for the development of Manipuri language and literature. While giving presidential address N. Khagendra Singh, VC, Manipur University of Culture expressed his gratitude to the Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a programme in Manipur University of Culture. He mentioned what he is today



it is because of reading various books on different subjects. N. Rajmuhon, Dean of Mathematical and Physical Science, Manipur University, Canchipur. While delivering his speech he cited many relevant examples of the books that influenced his life and work. He stated the impact of books on various genius scientists and great personalities in the world. He had also talked briefly about the human self-consciousness which is very much important for a civilized world. Nobel Laureates like CV Raman and Chandrasekhar had been inspired by the books entitled *The Internal Constitution of Star* written by Arthur Eddington. While giving his talk, he cited many important illustrations to prove the importance of reading books for making a civilized world. Th. Khomdon Singh, Librarian, Manipur University of Culture, proposed the vote of thanks.



The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Pandu College, Guwahati, Assam organized a literary forum on 'Reading Of Bengali and Assamese Poetry and Comparative Discourses' on June 21, 2017 at Pandu College Auditorium, Guwahati. The programme began with the welcome speech by Sri Gautam Paul, Office in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. The Introductory Speech was delivered by Timir Dey, HOD, Department of Bengali, Pandu College. Inaugural Speech was delivered by Jogesh Kakati, Principal of Pandu College, while Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Chaired the Programme. The Programme was divided in three phases – First, there was recitation and Comparative lecture on two great Poets of Bengal and Assam – Jibanananda Das and Nilmani Phookan. The Second Phase was recitation and a comparative discussion between

Subhas Mukhopadhyay and Hiren Bhattacharjee and the third phase was again comparative study between Nirmalprabha Bordoloi and Nabanita Debsen. The Programme was started with the recitations of poems of Jibanananda Das by Gautam Bhattacharjee and some poems of Nilman Phookan by Bipul Bora. After the recitations of the poems of these two great Poets, Harekrishna Deka, a famous critic of Assam gave a Comparative discourses between Jibanananda Das and Nilmani Phookan. The poems of Subhas Mukhopadhyay was recited by Sibshankar Das and that of Hiren Dutta was recited by Nilmohan Roy. Ranajit Das did try to give a comparative lecture in between these two poets, i.e. Subhas Mukhopadhyay and Hiren Dutta. The third and the final phase of the programme was the recitation of Nirmal Prabha Bordoloi's poems by Chandana Singha Roy and that of Nobonita Debsen was done by Debolina Sengupta. The comparative lecture of these two great female poetesses was beautifully done by Swarnali Biswas Bhattacharjee. At the end, the chairperson Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay delivered a brief outline of the whole programme.



The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University, organised a two-day seminar on June 29-30, 2017 at the Conference Hall, New Academic Building, Gauhati University. The topic of the seminar was 'Representing Marginality: Texts and Traditions of Eastern Indian Languages' where experts from Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Manipuri, Maithili, Nepali, Santali and Odia discussed and deliberated upon the aspect of marginality associated with the literary texts, cultural traditions, folklores and performing arts belonging to their respective languages. The inaugural session, under the chairmanship of Aveek Majumdar, Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, began with the welcoming of



the delegates and guests by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge. The seminar was formally inaugurated by Mridul Hazarika, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University. In his inaugural address, Sri Hazarika stressed on the necessity to understand and adequately realise the marginal consciousness of the society in order to ensure its holistic progress and development. The keynote address was delivered by Dilip Borah, Head, Dept of MIL&LS, Gauhati University. Borah considered 'marginality' as the constant factor in each and every age of literature, and, operated at multiple levels within the society at large. In the process, he spoke at length on the complex interrelationships between society, literature, politics and marginality. Premananda Muchahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech as the Chief Guest on the occasion, traced the heritage of the Bodo community of Assam to the early periods of Indian history. He referred to the socio-religious worldview of the Kiratas as the primordial inhabitants of the region and drew attention to their 'marginal' status in the society of that time. As the chairperson of the session, Aveek Majumdar evaluated the speeches and thanked the distinguished guests and resource persons of the seminar. The first session of the seminar was chaired by Aveek Majumdar, and it featured four papers, respectively, by Mridul Bordoloi (Assamese), Pranab Jyoti Narzary (Bodo), P. Birchandra Singh (Manipuri) and Aveek Majumdar (Bengali) on the topics, 'Representing Marginality: A Reading of Birinchi Kumar Barua's Heuji Pator Kahini', 'Representing Marginality: Texts and Traditions with reference to Bodo Language and Literature', 'Marginality as Represented in Manipuri Literature: A Bird's Eye View' and 'Bengali Poetry: An Outline', respectively. The second session of the seminar was chaired by Kamal Ch Saikia, and it featured three papers by Naresh Mohan Jha (Maithili), Madanmohan Soren (Santali) and Kamal Ch Saikia (Assamese), on the topics, 'Literature ought to be associated with and energized by the society', 'Representing Marginality: Texts and Traditions of the Santali Language' and 'Silences in the

Archive', respectively. The third session of the seminar was chaired by Th. Ratankumar Singh, and it featured three papers by Sutapa Saha (Bengali), Vikas Kumar Jha (Maithili) and Th. Ratankumar Singh (Manipuri), on the topics, 'Representation of Marginality in Bengali Literature', 'Larger role of literature in promoting the feeling of empathy and goodwill amongst the members of the society' and 'Representing Marginality in Manipuri Literature', respectively. The fourth session of the seminar was chaired by Anil Kumar Bodo, and it featured two papers by Srijana Subba (Nepali) and Bhogla Soren (Santali) on the topics, 'Representation of Marginality in Indian Nepali Literature' and 'Representation of Marginality in Santali Literature', respectively. The session ended with remarks by the chairperson Anil Kumar Bodo. Prof Dilip Borah, Head, Dept of MIL&LS, Gauhati University, delivered the Vote of Thanks and appreciated the efforts of all the paper-presenters as well as the chairpersons for the successful organisation of the seminar.



The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kathasandhi programme with noted Bengali fictionist Sri Bhagirath Mishra at Sahitya Akademi office auditorium, Kolkata on June 27, 2017. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge of Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office. He introduced the author to the audience along with a brief focus on his major works and key features of his writings. Sri Bhagirath Mishra was born in 1947, West Midnapore, West Bengal. Among his major novels there are Antargat Nilsrot, Arkathi, Charanbhumi, Shikalnama, Mrigaya (5 vols), Amanushnama, Panch Kahini etc. He has written short stories and compiled belles letters as well. He has received many awards including Samaresh Puruskar, Tarashankar Puruskar, Bankim Puruskar, Sopan award, All India Katha Puruskar etc. Sri Bhagirath Mishra has read out from some of his writings and also spoke about his journey as a writer.



## KAVISANDHI

June 30, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kavisandhi programme with noted Bengali poet Sri Sambhunath Chattopadhyay at Sahitya Akademi office auditorium, Kolkata on June 30, 2017. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge of Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office. He introduced this senior poet to the audience along with his notable works and key features of his writings. Sri Sambhunath Chattopadhyay spoke on his life and works in the programme. He also read out from his poems. Born in Howrah district of West Bengal on 23 October 1930, he started writing poems from teenage. He has some book of poems to his credit. He has received many awards including a memorial award from Paschimanga Bangla Akademi, Scretis Puraskar and Adam Sammanana. He has edited journals and magazines like Akashganga, Jouban etc. He wrote stories for teenagers as well. His writings have been translated in foreign languages including Russian and Spanish. The style of his writing has close resemblance with that of another legendary Bengali poet—Jibanananda Das. Sri Shambhunath Chattopadhyay, without any conventional academic historical background, has mostly remains one of the isolated poets of Bengali language. His poems have been widely enjoyed in spite of not fitting into the comparatively familiar rhythmic poetry practice. Generally, his lines are not loaded with image and allegory. His message is very clear and down-to-earth. Working as a factory-worker, train-vendor, and hawker on footpath for several years, he worked as a proofreader later for ten years. All these years, his poetry used to get published in literary journals and poetry periodicals. The apparent reluctance of his narration is found in abundance in his poems. Simplicity is one of the main themes and mediums of his writings. Memoir plays a vital role in Sri Chattopadhyay's writing style and through this, he induces a very familial sensitivity in his poems.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 30, 2017, Balugaon

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Chilka Sahitya Samaj, Balugaon organized a literary forum on the eminent poet Godavarish Mahapatra at U. M. Conference Hall on June 30, 2017. The symposium was chaired by Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board. The speakers on the occasion were Bibekananda Panigrahi, Niranjana Mohanty, Satya Sarangi and Kailash Chandra Mishra. The symposium was inaugurated by Siba Mishra, eminent short story writer. The inaugural session was followed by a welcome song written by Godavarish Mohapatra. Bibekananda Panigrahi, an eminent research scholar presented his paper on the contribution of Godavarish in the field of Odia short stories for enrichment of Odia language and literature. Bibekananda Panigrahi unfolded the hidden talents of Mohapatra in each story to provide a message to society through characters and situations reflected in the stories. Niranjana Mahapatra, critique and research scholar, presented his paper on the contribution of Mohapatra in the field of poetry. He depicted memorable lines from different poems of Mohapatra to make his excellence and potentiality in literary activities. Godavarish wrote thousands of poems in different poems which were aimed at awakening the consciences of people in competition and politics as depicted by Mohanty. He also spoke on how the poems and customs of Mohapatra aimed at developing the patriotism of Odia people. Satya Sarangi, Professor of Odia language spoke on the literary contribution of Mohapatra in the field of novels. Sarangi expressed in detail the typical characters in novels reflecting a particular message to the society. Godavarish Mohapatra had mastery and command on Odia language to popularize among the common people. He also depicted the typical characters to mark the cultural traditions in the then society. Kailash Ch. Moharana fourth speaker of the programme presented article on the contribution of



Godavarish Mohapatra in the field of Odia magazines particularly ‘Niakhunta’. He spoke that Godavarish Mohapatra was excellent in publishing and editing different Odia magazines and made them extremely popular among Odia people. Siba Mishra, story writers and Chief Guest of the occasion reflected his feelings of being a writer after being impressed by the writing of Godavarish Mohapatra, Godavarish Mishra and Krushna Ch. Tripathy. Siba Mishra summarised the literary contribution of Mahapatra and expressed how it has motivated and impressed the young writers. Mishra also depicted the values lies in the writings of Mohapatra for awakening the consensus of Odia people. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, chaired the session. Gopinath Dash, member Chilka Sahitya Samaj proposed the vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 30, 2017, Nayagarh

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in collaboration with Tathastu organized a literary forum on Jadumani Mahapatra at Hotel Nila Madhav Auditorium, Nayagada on June 30, 2017, Nayagarh. Sri Banoj Tripathy, member, Odia Advisory Board welcomed the guests and participants of the programme. The literary forum was inaugurated with vedic hymn by Pandit Chandramani Pradhan. Bijaya Kumar Choudhury, Retired Reader in Odia presented his paper on the topic ‘Humorist Jadumani Mahapatra: His Wit and Satire in Contemporary Religious Tradition’. Banambar Prusty, Lecturer of Odia Language presented his paper on ‘Overall Application of Satirical Words and Stanzas of Jadumani’. In his paper Banambar Prusty said that Jadumani Mahapatra used juggling words to create humour, wit and satire for socio economic and religious reform. The writings of Jadumani also featured humour, fun, irony wit and satire. Pitabas Routray presented his paper on ‘The Role of Humour and Satire in Literature’. In his paper Pitabas Routray compared the contribution of Jadumani on humour and satire with other personalities of India and world of

his contemporary. Sarat Chandra Acharya depicted on the topic ‘The Family Humour of Utkal Granta Poet Jadumani’. In his paper he said that Jadumani was a great humourist, painter, poet of Romantic Age in literature of Odisha. Srijukta Satyanash, eminent humourist poet from Odisha presented his paper on ‘Humour in Literature and Literature in Humour of Poet Jadumani’. He said that humourous words of Jadumani in the writings created a laughter among the common people as well as the use of wit and humour in the writings bears some deep thought. He also described technique ‘Lalita’ which was used by Jadumani in his writings. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, from the chair said that literature is the contemporary history of the society and Jadumani’s literature covers the very picture of the society. He also compared the works and wits of Jadumani with that of Charlie Chaplin. Ashok Kumar Nayak, Chairperson of Kabi Jadumani Smriti Committee proposed the vote of thanks.



## SYMPOSIUM

May 4, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, organized a symposium on Contemporary Plays in Western Regional languages on 4 May 2017 in Mumbai. Sri Chandrakant Kulkarni delivered the inaugural address and Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board was chaired the inaugural session.

## NAMDEV FESTIVAL

May 9-10, 2017, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi celebrated the great Saint Namdev Festival on 9-10 May 2017 in Mumbai. The festival was arranged in Surendra Gavaskar Hall of Mumbai Marathi Granth Sangrahalaya, Dadar, Mumbai, in which the scholars and thinkers from various parts of India were invited to present their views on the religious movement of Saint Namdev. At the outset, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the dignitaries and guest writers. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address explicated the essentiality of celebrating the Saint festivals all over India. Such festivals depict the moral of equality and unity in Indian culture. He described that Sant Namdev and Sant Dnyaneshwar were the pioneers to form and develop the Bhakti movement in Maharashtra. Saint Namdev was a staunch follower of Warkari sect. The Namdev era is regarded as Bhakti era in Indian culture. He instituted Abhangas which is a devotional form of poem. His

Abhangas were never constrained in any Geographical threshold and were extended from South to North India. The entire medieval literature is not only dedicated to the poetry genre but also endorsed math, astrology, grammar, philosophy etc. thus, bridging ancient and modern literature. The saint poets sublime poetry lifted the masses and India always promoting multi-culture, thus providing litterateurs eliminating inequality based on social stratification. The Namdev's literature is more or less inclined towards Vaishnav Bhakti tradition. It adapts the Bhakti literature composed in Sanskrit. Poet popularizes Sankirtan tradition which is a tool for breaking barriers of caste system. His companions during worship sessions included Kanhopatra (a dancing girl), Sena (a barber), Savata (a gardener), Chokhamela (an untouchable), Janabai (a maid), Gora (a potter), Narahari (a goldsmith) and Jñāneśvar (also known as Dnyandev, a Brahmin). His poetry offers that everybody is equal in front of Vitthal (the god). He was a known figure in Punjab and recognized as Bhagat (a god man). Namdev legacy is emulisionworthy over 20th century and reserved for elite to masses.

The inaugural address was delivered by Prof Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board. He described that Namdev was preceded by Saint Poets in Modern India. He carried the tradition of Nath sect to modern age, thus surviving the culture and its values. The Marathis had developed a narrow sect against the world which was smeared off by the teachings of Saint Namdev. Saint Namdev set an example of national integrity by owing Punjabi culture too. He is considered the pioneer in developing biographies, folklores, philosophy, intellect. He not spread his teachings but also carried the legacy of Dnyaneshwari from Maharashtra to rest of the world, thus developing a pan-indian religious culture. He courageously handled the religious issues and became a part of Sikh revolution bringing saints of various religions together. Saint Namdev was not bounded by any script. He is considered as a liberal teacher of Bhakti movement which taught to live in the present. At the end, Prof Nemade proclaimed that such festivals bring spirit of the unity.

Manjeet Singh, a renowned Punjabi litterateur delivered the key-note address. He considered that Saint Namdev's teaching is a landmark in national integrity. His Bhakti movement is an ethos from South



Manjeet Singh delivering the Keynote address as Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Bhalchandra Nemade & K. Kimbahune looks on



to North. Saint Namdev spent a decade in Ghumman, a small town in Punjab and took his last breathe there. He is fondly called Bhagat (a spiritual personality) in Punjab. His prominence in Punjab can be measured by the fact that his 61 padas are included in the holy Grantha Sahib. His Abhangas are translated in Gurumukhi and rendered in Gurudwaras. His Padas (abhangas) depicted the devotion, sorrow, peace at the same time. Saint Namdev witnessed the teachings of Saint Dnyaneshwar, Muktabai and Nivruttinath and followed the same for whole life. Thus, in the course of his spiritual quest, Namdev had, from being a worshipper of the Divine in the concrete form (sargun), become a devotee of the attribute less (nirguna) Absolute. His Bhakti movement is considered a path of peace between the Mughal rule and Brahmins. Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks which concluded the inaugural session.

The First session on Social Reality in Sant Namdev's Era and Bhakti Tradition was chaired by Tribhuvannath Rai. The papers were presented by Rohini Mokashi-Punekar and Eknath Pagar. This session pitched how the teachings of Sant Namdev influenced the society. Along with the works of Jnanesvar and Tukaram, the writings of Namdev are at the foundation of beliefs held by the Varkari sect of Hinduism. He was among those responsible for disseminating the Vithoba faith. Sant Namdev used the Marathi language to compose his poetry, which made it accessible to the wider public. Namdev's simple words of devotion and his use melody appealed to common people. This helped spread his message and songs widely. Namdev attracted individuals from diverse classes and castes during community-driven bhajan singing sessions.

The second session on Sant Namdev and his contemporary Saint Poets was chaired by Bhalchandra Nemade while Govind Bhalerao from Marathi, Ranju Bala from Punjabi, Rajesh Pandya from Gujarati and Tribhuvannath Rai from Hindi presented their papers. It was reviewed that Namdev's poetry can be compared with metaphysical poets in other Indian languages and in English. In Hindi Kabir, Ravidas in Punjabi, in Marathi Dnyaneshwar and in Gujarati Akho, have all the same qualities : their poetry is the expression of sincere hearts trying to attain the ultimate salvation by breaking the cycle of rebirth, Karma and sansar. They preferred to talk in symbols and metaphors.

Their languages differ but their motto was identical to eradicate the caste system, untouchability, religious divisions and basic human degradation. These Hindu poets speaking in a mixture of Hindi (Khari boli).

The Third session in which Scholars from Punjab invited, was chaired by Rawail Singh. The session carried the topic on Shri Guru Grantha Sahib and Sant Namdev. Under the influence of saint Jnanadeva, Namdev was converted to the path of bhakti. Vitthala of Pandharpur was now the object of his devotion and he spent much of his time in worship and kirtan, chanting mostly verses of his own composition. In the company of Jnanadeva and other saints, he roamed about the country and later came to the Punjab where he is said to have lived for more than twenty years at Ghumman, in Gurdaspur district, where a temple in the form of samddh still preserves his memory. Sixty-one of his hymns are included in the Sikh Scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib. These hymns or sabdas share the common characteristic of lauding the One Supreme God distinct from his earlier verse which carries traces of admiration and saguna bhakti. Bahordas, Laddha, Vishnu Swami and Keshav Kaladhari were his disciples in Punjab.

The festival continued on 10 May 2017 with fourth session dedicated to Sant Namdev in Hindi Poetry. Ramji Tiwari chaired the session while Udaypratap Singh and Karunashankar Upadhyay presented their papers. Sant Namdev composed around 125 Abhangas in Hindi. He is considered one the five honoured gurus in the Dadupanth tradition within Hinduism, the other four being Dadu, Kabir, Ravidas and Hardas. Dadupanthi Hindus thrived in Rajasthan, compiling Bhakti poems including one of the largest collection of Namdev's songs. They belonged to the warrior-ascents of Rajput heritage who became a widespread happening in the 17th and 18th century North India, and were sannyasis who participated in confronting the Islamic Mughal empire, inspired by their Nath yogi heritage. Just like Dadupanth, another north Indian warrior group, the Niranjani Sampraday tradition within Hinduism describes Namdev as a holy person. The Niranjani Vani, which is their script just like the scripts of Dadu Panthi and Sikhs, includes poetry of Namdev, and is dated to be from the 17th and 18th centuries.



The fifth session chaired by Rohini Mokashi-Punekar carried the topic 'Sant Namdev's Poetry : Spiritual, Devotional and Philosophy'. Vilas Khole and Vidyasagar Patangankar presented their papers. Sant Namdev's philosophy can be derived from one line of his kirtan, Nachu Kirtanache rangi, Dnyandeep lavu jagi (Will dance to the tune of Kirtan, light the lamp of knowledge the world over). Namdev travelled through many parts of India, reciting his religious poems (Kirtans). In difficult times, he played the difficult role of uniting the people of Maharashtra spiritually.

Vasant Patankar chaired the sixth and final session of the festival and Aruna Dhere delivered her thoughts on The importance of Sant Namdev's different forms of poems. She described Sant Namdev as a cosmopolitan Poet of his time who traveled across the country from South to North. Sant Namdev's basic form of poem is Kirtan. In his early fifties, Namdev settled down at Pandharpur where he gathered around himself a group of devotees. His Abhangas became very popular and people thronged to listen to his Kirtans. Approximately 2500 of Namdev's Abhangas have been collected in NamdevVaachi Gaatha. The book also includes the long autobiographical poem Teerthaavali, talking about his travels in the company of Saint Dnyaneshwar. This poem makes him the first auto-biographer in Marathi literature. He has also written a biography on Saint Dnyaneshwar through Aadi, Samadhi and Teerthavali, which makes him the first Marathi biographer.

The last session of the festival can be considered a sincere tribute of Sant Namdev in which H.B.P. Bharatbuva Maharaj Naseerabdkar and his group of kirtankar's rendered the Kirtans with a very devotional attribute. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by intellectuals and varkaris. The rendering was melodious and soulful.

Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board proposed the vote of thanks and concluded the festival.



The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized the Yuva Sahitya Mahotsav of writers from the Western Indian languages on 27-28 May

2017 in Mumbai. The event was organized at Sahitya Akademi's basement hall, Dadar (East), Mumbai. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the dignitaries and guest writers. He emphasized that such festivals for young writers are a platform to bring the young talent from different regions together. Sahitya Akademi always encourages the young writers by promoting their work under Navodaya series. These writers are also felicitated with the Travel Grant scheme, the Yuva Sahitya Puraskar is also one of its many initiatives. While explaining the same, he gave an instance of how a young Santhali writer was surprised to discover his poem included in the Higher Secondary syllabus for which he was appearing for.

Tanaji Halarnkar, Convener of Konkani Advisory Board and Western Regional Board of Sahitya Akademi, while delivering introductory remarks, said "Youth is a tender cream of society, whose literature is energizing, enthusiastic and a hopeful creation. Such meets introduce a young writer to the contemporary trends. They are successors of literary kingdom. The big anguish today is that very less young writers attain the status of senior writers and particularly in Konkani, it is alarming. The present generation has allergy of writing and reading a book and only familiar with the bank pass book and face book. This century has started to pause due to challenges like globalization, corruption, regress of human values etc."

The meet was formerly inaugurated by Padmashri Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. He opined that listening is an essence of creative writing. We should observe the world through the eyes of a child. Every generation has great teachers. A sincere writer should oppose the teaching of his guru, scholarly. He should write a yashogatha for which there should be a criticism in society, than only a writer attains sovereignty. The writers' status should not be measured by how much he writes, but it should be calculated on his experience and excellence of writing. While explaining present scenario he said, a writer today are sold to a blueprint. They have to write as per market trends but creative writing gets lost in this process. Therefore a writer should be decisive and rebel. He appealed young writers to understand the history of languages, its theory of development etc. otherwise they remain a



lyrical writer only. The intense speech was followed by the poetry recitation by poets from Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi and Sindhi. Piyush Thakkar recited Khabar Nathi, Jovun Chhun, Pachhi Thay Te Thik, Ek Cheharo in Gujarati and Ek Andh Andar Ka, Bahar Ka Arth, Iss Shahar Mein, Atapate Sapnon Ki Baatein, Who Ek Kothari in Hindi translation and As if entering the home in English translation. While poet from Konkani, Yuga Adarkar, presented her poem Ek goli (a bullet) in Konkani and Ten Rupee Coin, a satire in English, Nadi-Ek Bandist Panchhi, Pyaas Aur Bhukh in Hindi translation. Rashmi Bhirud, a young Marathi poet, recited Pruthvi, Sangharsh, Mothyanchya Baika in Marathi, Khushbu Insaniyat Ki and Kashmir in Hindi translation. Sindhi poetess, Priya Vachhani, recited her poem Ae Zindagi, Bantwara, Aurat Ka Safar and Mujhe Apne Gale Se Laga Lo Maa in Sindhi and its Hindi translation. This session commenced with the vote of thanks delivered by Krishna Kimbahune.

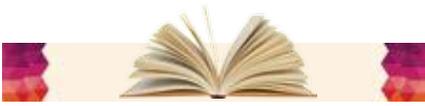
The first session on short story reading was chaired by Tanaji Halarnkar. Ram Mori read out his Gujarati short story titled Rang in Hindi translation, Tanmayi Sahakari presented her Konkani short story Maatam in Hindi translation. The Marathi short story Chautai in Hindi was presented by Hansraj Jadhav while Roshni Rohra, young Sindhi writer presented her short story Bhigna – Ek Ehsaas in Hindi. Tanaji Halarnkar, while speaking from chair, reviewed all four short stories. He informed the writers with the skills of writing the short stories. A story should have theme, plot and a geographical ambience. A story should be attractive and suggestive which should pose a challenge of imagination to a reader/ listener.

The second session was commenced on second day of the meet and chaired by Sitanshu Yashaschandra. This session can be considered a core of the entire meet carrying the subject “Me, and literature of my era”. The western Indian languages viz. Gujarati was presented by Panna Trivedi. She highlighted the changing trends in Gujarati literature. The contemporary literature is more realistic. It is not restricted to the human values but traces the socio-geographical issues too. Yugank Naik’s presentation on Konkani literature depicted the post colonial era of Goan culture. The raw sentiments in Konkani literature are expressed through Youth festivals in Goa. The Konkani writer is overcoming the colonial boundaries by revolutionary writings with

the help of visual media. The Marathi literature was represented by Sandeep Jadgale. He emphasized the drawbacks of industrialization and globalization to the Marathi literature. The politics and displacement of society is also an alarming factor. The young writing includes the bold subjects to attract the readers. The writing depicts the urban life more than the rural. Mahesh Khilwani while presenting his thoughts on Sindhi literature worried the westernization dethroning the language and culture. The deprive facilities provided to study the Sindhi literature are attracting its reader to sweep to other language. Sitanshu Yashaschandra suggested all the young writers to alert each other for new possibilities. The young writing should have foresight of the presumption and plotting to succeed.

The third session on poetry recitation was chaired by Kamal Vora, a renowned Gujarati poet. He questioned the definition of young writer and believed that a writer when makes a break through should be considered a young irrespective of his age. A poet before attempting a poem should very well know, what is not poetry. This session included the poets Anant Rathod from Gujarati, who rendered Mane Hath Maan Laee Ne, a Gujarati Ghazal in English translation, I have hidden the truth and Diary also in Hindi. The second poet from Konkani, Purva Gude, rendered Jewels of Life and Nostalgic movements in English, Lawaris Ki Laash, Subah, Chingari, Bharat Desh Ya Mata, Bachpan in Hindi translation. Sunil Awchar rendered his Marathi poems BPL Cha Gahu, Ambedkar-2017, Khairlanji in original Marathi form and Bhumandalikaran ka Manavi Chehra in Hindi. While Heena Agnani, a Sindhi poet, rendered Icchanji Kaid Mein, a Sindhi Ghazal with its Hindi translation, Sehra Agar Nahi Tha, Prem Bhi-Ghruna Bhi, Jaal, Khyal Ko Khyal Hi Main Kahati, Sara Jag Registan Hai in Hindi translation. The presentations made by these poets were very expressive and well received by audience.

The valedictory session was addressed by Pushpa Bhave, a senior Marathi writer. She also proclaimed that self can be a young, and there is not any age bar to measure the parameters. The attempt should be always there for building a new thinking and expressing in unique forms. She worried of loosing the wonder of language. She congratulated all the young writers for their work and appealed to research new dimensions in literature and culture.



**SAHITYA AKADEMI ALSO ORGANIZED THE FOLLOWING  
PROGRAMMES IN THE MONTHS OF MAY AND JUNE 2017**

Sl. No.	Date	Venue	Programme
1.	1/5/2017	New Delhi	Book Discussion
2.	4/5/2017	New Delhi	Meet the Author with Shefalika Verma
3.	5/5/2017	New Delhi	Prawasi Manch with Sneh Thakore
4.	8/5/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum on Rabindranath Tagore
5.	12/5/2017	New Delhi	Play Reading by Narendra Mohan
6.	13-14/5/2017	Darbhanga	North-East and Northern Writers' Meet
7.	14/5/2017	Kreeri	Symposium on Mir Sonallah Kreeri
8.	17/5/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum with Kashmiri Writers
9.	18-19/5/2017	New Delhi	Seminar on Language, Literature and Gender
10.	25/5/2017	Ernakulam	Symposium on M.M.T. Ganapati Shastri
11.	27/5/2017	Bisfi, Bihar	Gramalok
12.	28/5/2017	Mayurbhanj	Gramalok
13.	30/5/2017	Samalsar	Gramalok
14.	3/6/2017	New Delhi	Book Release
15.	10/6/2017	New Delhi	Kathasandhi with Malti Joshi
16.	10/6/2017	Kandhamal	Tribal (Kui) Writers' Meet
17.	11/6/2017	Vadodara	Symposium on Nature of Children Literature in Western Indian Languages
18.	11/6/2017	Shillong	Symposium on Growing Impact of Urbanisation in Indian Nepali Literature
19.	12/6/2017	New Delhi	Homage Meeting – C. Narayana Reddy
20.	16/6/2017	Raipur, J&K	Gramalok
21.	17/6/2017	Indore	Symposium on Literary Journalism in Northern Regional Languages
22.	17-18/6/2017	Jammu	Birth Centenary seminar on Dinu Bhai Pant
23.	19/6/2017	New Delhi	Book Release
24.	21-22/6/2017	Rajsamand	Workshop was "How to increase reading habits in children"
25.	23/6/2017	New Delhi	Literary Forum
26.	24/6/2017	Dharampur	Gramalok
27.	25/6/2017	Dhalbhumgarh	Gramalok
28.	27/6/2017	Ujjain	Through My Window
29.	27/6/2017	Ujjain	Through My Window
30.	27-28/6/2017	Rajnandgaon	Birth Centenary seminar on Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh
31.	29/6/2017	Goa	Meet the Author with Shivdas
32.	30/6/2017	Nainital	Symposium on Art and Poetry: Inter-relation
33.	30/6/2017	Jaipur	Translation Workshop on Women's Writing

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17. The plans for travel should be so drawn that the amount of travel grant payable remains within the maximum limit of Rs. 15,000 (Rupees fifteen thousand only).
18. A writer who has availed of one travel grant of the Sahitya Akademi will not be eligible for another travel grant.



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Edited by S. Rajmohan and Published by Dr K. Sreenivasarao on behalf of  
Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi - 110001.

Designed & printed by P S S Rao, Spectrum Graphic Studio, Chennai.