



SA.16/14/

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## PRESS RELEASE

### NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 70 YEARS OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE: LITERARY PORTRAYALS FEBRUARY 16, 2018, NEW DELHI

The National Seminar on "70 Years of Indian Independence" which is being organized by Sahitya Akademi as part of Festival of Letters continued for the second day at the Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 16, 2018. In the third session of the Seminar which was devoted to 'State in Crisis: India in 1950's and 60's & Literature' and chaired by Prof K. Satchidanandan. Three eminent scholars, Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, Smt. Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta and Prof Dhananjay Singh, presented their papers. In his speech Prof K. Satchidanandan addressed the issue of aesthetic transformation of Indian literature and stated that India of the 60's was characterized by urbanization which was very well portrayed in literature and depicted in the films of that time. Professor Udaya Narayan Singh stated that the problems India faces today are very different from what it faced in the 50s and 60s. Smt. Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta said that the 40's were a turbulent period for India—it saw the Partition, the famine of 1943-44 and the consequences of Gandhi's assassination. Sri Dhananjay Singh mentioned that disillusionment of the Indians happened after Independence. In the fourth session devoted to 'War Literature in Indian Languages' and chaired by Dr Bhalchandra Nemade. Three eminent scholars, Sri Bhupendra Adhikari, Prof Jatindra Kumar Nayak and Prof. Rajkumar, presented their papers. Dr Bhalchandra Nemade pointed out that the concept of war is deeply rooted in India and, for instance in Maharashtra, could be seen in the titles of literary works or names of political parties which started with the word 'Sena'. Nepali writer, Sri Bhupendra Adhikari, mentioned that Indian war stories carry details of brave men like Guru Gobind Singh, Maharana Pratap, Maratha warriors who fought back the Mughals, and these acts of bravery fascinate readers. Prof. Jatindra Kumar Nayak made an attempt to examine the impact of war on the native populations and talked about the dramatic changes that crept in Odisha when World War II broke out. Prof. Rajkumar talked about the invasion of Chamba by Pakistan, the bravery of the Indians, the Tashkent Declaration and the final outcome of the war. In the fifth session devoted to 'Emergency and Writing as a Political Tool' and chaired by Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash. The two eminent scholars, Sri Ved Pratap Vaidik and Sri Alok Mehta, presented their papers. Sri Ved Pratap Vaidik talked about Emergency and how different people reacted to it. Sri Alok Mehta quoted Dhoomil to highlight the plight of citizens during Emergency, 'I am not asking what the reason is; the way he expresses himself makes the silence more grave.' Prof H.S. Shivaprakash thanked the speakers for their insightful and interesting narrations. In the sixth session chaired by Sri Sudhish Pachauri, three eminent scholars, Dr. Sribhagwan Singh, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay and Dr C. Rajendran, presented their papers. Dr. Sribhagwan Singh in his paper 'Swadhinta Andolan Mein Sahitya Ki Bhumika: Vishesh Sandarbh Mahatma Gandhi', said that literature has played an important role to motivate our independence movement. Gandhi-literature scholars are well aware that Gandhiji had deeply studied Indian literature, and Western literature also had a significant contribution in shaping his ideas. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay spoke on Bengali Literature in the Independence Movement. Dr C. Rajendran spoke on the topic of 'Imaging Liberation: Malayalam Poetry' during the Independence Movement. He said that the movement made poetry a catalyst of social and political change. Concluding the session, Sri Pachauri said that through this seminar the Akademi has provided an opportunity for all to look back and have a glimpse of our past. On the evening of February 16, 2017, Sahitya Akademi organized a cultural performance, 'Medieval Poetry— A Musical Presentation' by a distinguished musician, composer, theatre personality and Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sri Shekhar Sen.

(K. Sreenivasarao)



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### PURVOTTARI FEBRUARY 16, 2018, NEW DELHI

Sahitya Akademi organized Purvottari programme as part of Festival of Letters at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 16, 2018. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries, media personalities and audience. In his welcome address, he spoke about the platform, its objective and various initiatives of the Akademi to promote literature and literateurs of the Northeast. He observed that programmes, such as Purvottari help the Akademi in bridging varied cultural and literary traditions of the country. In his inaugural address, Sri Sonam Tshering Lepcha, eminent folk musician and Lepcha lyricist, started his speech with a song thanking and praising lord almighty and prayed for the well-being of all. A part of the inaugural session was devoted to story reading and was chaired by Sri S.R. Harnot who read a very touching story about a small bird named Aabi, who dwells around a lake in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. The story captures the catastrophic events of deforestation faced by the jungle and how it takes revenge on the deforesters. In the session Smt. Ningombam Sanatombi Devi, Sri Gobind Prasad Sharma and Sri Tikendra Mall Basumatary, read out their stories. Smt. Ningombam Sanatombi Devi read her story 'Hriday mein Gudgudi'—an interesting story about an unmarried, ageing bald guy who starts courting a girl living next door. The girl also tickles his heart, but later breaks it by eloping with an engineer. Gobind Prasad Sharma read his story about a man who recalls his boyhood days in his village when one could see an exotic bird, or a gazelle or a fragrance emanating cat in his backyard. Tikendra Mall Basumatary read his story about the people of a small village who have been promised a visit by their minister. They all wait the whole day but the minister does not show up, and only in the evening the organizer receives a message from the PA cancelling the visit.

In the first session, which was a panel discussion on 'My Creation, My World', the moderator, Sri Yeshe Dorje Thongchi, asked Smt. Yashodhara Mishra if the creative world and daily routine world of a writer are different. Smt. Yashodhara Mishra in response said that she had been a sickly child and writing was a door way to escape from her mundane life into a world of her own. Regarding this, Sri Shivmurti said that when a writer creates, he takes his readers with him to his world and makes them experience his feelings. Sri Thongchi asked Sri Hajowary if the ability of creativity is a divine blessing. Sri Thongchi asked Sri Shivmurti if a writer lives in the world of his character, living his life. Sri Shivmurti agreed and said that unless a writer becomes one with his character, he cannot write. Speaking about his literary process, Sri Thongchi said that he totally lives with his story, and only gets redemption from his feelings and experiences of many years, when he has written them out. Second session of Purvottari was devoted to Poetry Reading. Sri Leeladhar Jagoori, Hindi poet, journalist and recipient of the Padma Shri was in the chair. The following young poets recited their poems in the session—Sri Jyotirekha Hazarika (Assamese), Sri Sanjay Chakrabarty (Bengali), Ms Rashmi Choudhury (Bodo), Ms Promila Manhas (Dogri), Sri Vijay Wali (Kashmiri), Sri N.T. Lepcha (Lepcha), Sri Narayan Ji (Maithili), Sri Tongbram Amarjit Singh (Manipuri), Ms Induprava Devi (Nepali), Sri Ravinder (Punjabi), Sri Shankar Singh Rajpurohit (Rajasthani), Sri Ramshankar Awasthi (Sanskrit), Ms Yashoda Murmu (Santali) and Sri Qamar Suroor (Urdu). The programme was coordinated by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

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### SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATION AS RETELLING FEBRUARY 16, 2018, NEW DELHI

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

The first session of the program was chaired by Dr Ranjit Saha and papers were presented by Alok Gupt, Anamika and Tarsem on the topics 'Meaning of Translation in Indian Thought', 'Meaning of Translation in Western Thought' and 'Logic of Meaning', respectively. According to Ranjit Saha, we are not just translators, but rather, students of translation. Alok Gupt, in his speech, pointed out the fact that there is no proper book of the translation discipline. Anamika, in her speech, said that translators were supposed to be just translators of meaning. Tarsem said that translation is a powerful medium which helps in the transportation of thoughts between two languages. The second session of the Symposium on 'Translation as Retelling' was chaired by Prof O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy. The paper presenters were Dr. Krishna Kumar Goswami, Sri Angshuman Kar and Prof. Vanamala Vishwanatha. Dr. Goswami in his paper on 'Translator's Virtues, Task and Expectations' said that 20 to 25 years earlier a translator was considered a secondary person, but now he is being recognized. Prof. Vanamala Vishwanatha in her paper on 'Translation: A Negotiation to transform "Misery" into "Splendor"' admitted that '...rather than seeing translation as a problem to be solved, I would like to see it as a stimulating game, such as Sudoku or the cryptic crossword, a leela, the pleasurable act of playing with language.' Dr Angshuman Kar, in his paper on 'Translator's Responsibilities and Challenges' touched on various issues and the challenges a translator has to face while translating. Concluding the session, Dr O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy said that since morning we have been concentrating upon retelling and translation and repeated use of the original. He quoted the great thinker Signer, 'All cognition is translation.' In a way, all our expression or understanding is translation; therefore there is nothing to be termed as 'translation'. The programme was coordinated by Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi.

  
(K.Sreenivasarao)