



SAHITYA AKADEMI

(NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LETTERS)



2014-2015

ANNUAL
REPORT

Annual Report

2014-2015



Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)

Annual
Report
2014-15



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary

President : Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari
Vice-President : Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar
Secretary : Dr K. Sreenivasarao

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ON SAHITYA AKADEMI (National Academy of Letters)

The Sahitya Akademi was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12 March 1954. The Government of India Resolution, which set forth the constitution of the Akademi, described it as a national organization to work actively for the development of Indian letters and to set high literary standards, to foster and co-ordinate literary activities in all the Indian languages and to promote through them all the cultural unity of the country. Though set up by the Government, the Akademi functions as an autonomous organization. It was registered as a society on 7 January 1956, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in twenty-four Indian languages, including English. Over the 60 years of its dynamic existence, it has ceaselessly endeavoured to promote good taste and healthy reading habits, to keep alive the intimate dialogue among the various linguistic and literary zones and groups through seminars, lectures, symposia, discussions, readings and performances, to increase the pace of mutual translations through workshops and individual assignments and to develop a serious literary culture through the publication of journals, monographs, individual creative works of every genre, anthologies, encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, Who's Who of Writers and histories of literature. It has so far brought out over 4800 titles, the present pace of publication being one book every thirty hours. Every year the Akademi holds at least thirty seminars

at the regional, national and international levels along with the workshops and literary gatherings, about 200 in number per year, under various heads like Meet the Author, Samvad, Kavisandhi, Kathasandhi, Loka: The Many Voices, People and Books, Through My Window, Mulakat, Asmita, Avishkar, Literary Forum and Cultural Exchange programmes with writers and scholars from abroad. New literary series programme such as Nari Chetna for women writers Purvotari for North East writers and Foundation Day celebrations have been introduced from this years.

Akademi gives twenty-four awards annually to literary works in the languages it has recognised and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India, both after a year long process of scrutiny, discussion and selection. Apart from Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar, Akademi also gives special awards called Bhasha Samman for significant contribution to classical and medieval literature. It has also a system of electing eminent writers as Fellows and Honorary Fellows and has also established fellowships in the name of Anand Coomaraswamy and Premchand. The Akademi has launched Centres for Translation in Bangalore and Kolkata, and an Archives of Indian Literature in Delhi. A project office for the promotion of Tribal and Oral literature has also been set up in Agartala. Many more imaginative projects are on the anvil. Sahitya Akademi is aware of cultural and linguistic differences and does not believe in forced standardization of culture through a bulldozing of levels and attitudes. At the same time, it is also conscious of the deep inner cultural, spiritual, historical and experimental links that

unify India's diverse manifestations of literature. This unity seeks an international species-dimension through the Akademi's Cultural Exchange Programmes with other countries on the globe.

The supreme authority of the Akademi vests in the General Council which consists of 99 members made up as follows:

The President, the Financial Adviser, five members nominated by the Government of India, thirty-five representatives of the States of the Union of India and Union Territories, twenty-four representatives of the languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi, twenty representatives of the universities of India, eight persons elected by the General Council for their eminence in the field of letters, one representative each of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the Federation of Indian Publishers and the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation.

The general policy of the Sahitya Akademi and the basic principles of programmes are laid down by the General Council and implemented under the direct supervision of an Executive Board. There is an Advisory Board for each language consisting of eminent writers and scholars on whose advice the specific programme in the language concerned is formulated and implemented.

The tenure of the General Council is five years. The present General Council, the twelfth since the inauguration of the Akademi, had its first session in February 2013. The General Council elects the President, the Vice-President, the members of the Executive Board representing languages, and Finance Committee of the Sahitya Akademi. Advisory boards for various languages are appointed by the Executive Board.

THE PRESIDENT

The first president of the Sahitya Akademi was Pt Jawaharlal Nehru. He was re-elected in 1963. After his demise in May 1964, the General Council elected Dr. S. Radhakrishnan as the President of the Sahitya Akademi. On reconstitution of the General Council, Dr. Zakir Husain was elected the President of the Sahitya Akademi in February 1968. After his demise in May 1969, the General Council elected Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterji as the President. He was re-elected by the General Council in February 1973. After his death in May 1977, Prof. K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, Vice-President, was designated as Acting President. In February 1978, Prof. Umashankar Joshi was elected as the President of the Akademi. In February 1983, Prof. V.K. Gokak was elected the President and in February 1988, Dr B.K. Bhattacharyya was elected. Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy became the President in 1993. Sri Ramakanta Rath was elected President in 1998. Prof. Gopi Chand Narang became President in 2003. Sri Sunil Gangopadhyay was elected president in 2008. The General Council was reconstituted for the term 2013-2017 which elected Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari as President in 2013.

THE CONSTITUTION

The Sahitya Akademi was established under a Government of India Resolution dated 15 December 1952 in which the Constitution of the Akademi was originally embodied. The Akademi functions as an autonomous organization, and the power to amend its Constitution vests in the General Council of the Akademi. This power has been exercised from time to time.

LANGUAGES RECOGNISED

Besides the twenty-two languages enumerated in the Constitution of India, the Sahitya Akademi has recognized English, Rajasthani and Bodo as languages in which its programme may be implemented. There are language Advisory Boards, which have been constituted to render advice for implementing literary programmes in 24 languages. The languages now recognized by the Akademi are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

THE ORGANIZATION

Head Office: The Head Office of the Sahitya Akademi is housed in Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi. This elegant building was constructed in 1961 to commemorate the birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore, and houses all the three National Academies, namely, the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the Lalit Kala Akademi and the Sahitya Akademi.

The Head Office looks after the publication and programmes in Dogri, English, Hindi, Kashmiri, Maithili, Nepali, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santhali and Urdu and functions as a regional office as far as these languages are concerned.

Regional Office, Kolkata: Set up in 1956 and now located at 4 D.L. Khan Road, Kolkata, this Regional office looks after the publication and programme work in Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Manipuri and Odiya, besides a part of publication work in English. It also handles programmes in the other North-East Indian

languages. The Regional office maintains a major library.

Regional Office, Bengaluru: Southern Regional Offices of Sahitya Akademi was established in 1959 at Chennai which was shifted to Bangalore in 1990. The Regional Office looks after the publication and programme work in Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu, besides a part of publications in English. Located in Central College Campus, University Library Building, Dr. Ambedkar Veedi, Bangalore, it maintains a major library as an important activity.

Chennai Office: Set up in 2000, it looks after part of the work of the Bengaluru office and is located in Guna Complex, Main Building, (II Floor) Rear Side, 443 (Old No. 304) Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai.

Regional Office, Mumbai: It was set up in 1972 and is located at 172, Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalaya Marg, Dadar, Mumbai. It looks after the publication and programme work in Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi and Sindhi, besides a part of publication work in English and Hindi.

Sale of Publications: Sahitya Akademi's Sales Section is at 'Swati', Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Besides this, its publications are sold at its offices at Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai and its new sales outlet at Puducherry.

Library: The Sahitya Akademi Library is one of the most important multilingual libraries in India which has a rich collection of books on literature and allied subjects in the 24 languages recognized by the Sahitya Akademi. The libraries at the Regional Offices are being

built up as centres for the concerned regional languages and are being envisaged as liaison institutions for important language libraries in the regions.

A showroom-cum-sales counter was opened from 27 July 2007 at Puducherry (Pondicherry). A Book Shop was opened at the Rabindra Bhavan premises of the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 14 February 2007. A permanent Sales Counter was opened on 10 October 2007 at Rabindra Sarobar Stadium, Kolkata.

Sahitya Akademi Website: Sahitya Akademi's website [http://www. Sahitya-akademi.gov.in](http://www.Sahitya-akademi.gov.in) carries details of the genesis, objectives, role and history of Sahitya Akademi, the complete catalogue of its books with descriptions about important publications arranged language-wise, information about its journals, literary activities, special projects like the Archives of Indian Literature and Translation Centres, detail of Awards and Fellowships, a description of the Library, and assessment of the achievements of the institution over the years. Reconstruction and updation of the Akademi website is in the anvil.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Akademi Awards 2014 presented
- Akademi Translation Prizes 2013 presented
- Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2014 presented
- Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2014 presented
- Bhasha Samman presented
- Sahitya Akademi Fellowships presented
- 55 Seminars, 70 Symposia and 1 Language Convention organized
- 339 Books including reprints brought out
- 164 Literary Forum programmes including Pravasi Manch, Rajbhasha Manch, Cultural Exchange, Book Release, Writers' Meet etc. held
- 8 Workshops organized
- 20 Meet the Author programmes held
- 13 People and Books programmes organized
- 18 Through My Window programmes held
- 5 Loka, 14 Mulakat/Yuva Sahiti, 17 Kathasandhi, 16 Kavisandhi, 8 Asmita, 12 Narichetna, 4 Avishkar, 6 Kavi Anuvadak, 1 Bal Sahiti and 2 Alphabet series programmes organized
- 32 Book Exhibitions organized
- 109 Book Exhibitions participated
- 4 Multilingual/Poetry/Short Stories programmes organised
- Six Issues of *Indian Literature*, Six issues of *Samakaleena Bharatiya Sahitya* and Two issues of *Sanskrita Pratibha* published

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2014

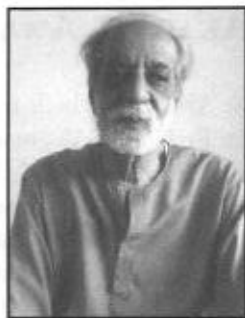
The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 19 December 2014 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, approved the selection of 24 books for the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2014. The books were selected on the basis of the recommendations made by a jury of three members each in the concerned language. Awards for two languages i.e. Manipuri and Sanskrit were declared at a later date. The awards relate to books first published in any of the languages recognized by the Akademi during the three years prior to the year immediately preceding the year of award (i.e. between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2012).

Recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2014

Assamese	Arupa Patangia Kalita, <i>Mariam Austin Athaba Hira Barua</i> (Short Stories)
Bengali	Utpal Kumar Basu, <i>Piya Mana Bhabe</i> (Poetry)
Bodo	Urkhao Gwra Brahma, <i>Udangnifrai Gidingfinnanci</i> (Poetry)
Dogri	Shailender Singh, <i>Hashiye Par</i> (Novel)
English	Adil Jussawalla, <i>Trying to Say Goodbye</i> (Poetry)
Gujarati	(late) Ashvin Mehta, <i>Chhabi Bhitarni</i> (Essays)
Hindi	Ramesh Chandra Shah, <i>Vinayak</i> (Novel)
Kannada	G.H. Nayak, <i>Uttaraardha</i> (Essays)
Kashmiri	Shad Ramzan, <i>Kore Kakud Pushrith Gome</i> (Poetry)
Konkani	Madhavi Sardesai, <i>Manthan</i> (Essays)
Maithili	Asha Mishra, <i>Uchat</i> (Novel)
Malayalam	Subhash Chandran, <i>Manushyanu Oru Aamukham</i> (Novel)
Manipuri	Naorem Bidyasagar Singh, <i>Khung-Gang Amasung Refugee</i> (Poetry)
Marathi	Jayant Vishnu Naralikar, <i>Chaar Nagarantale Maaze Vishwa</i> (Autobiography)
Nepalli	Nanda Hankhim, <i>Satta Graham</i> (Short Stories)
Odia	Gopal Krishna Rath, <i>Bipula Diganta</i> (Poetry)
Punjabi	Jaswinder, <i>Agarbatti</i> (Poetry)
Rajasthani	Rampal Singh Rajpurohit, <i>Sundar Nain Sudha</i> (Short Stories)
Sanskrit	Prabhu Nath Dwivedi, <i>Kanakalochanah</i> (Short Stories)
Santali	Jamadar Kisku, <i>Mala Mudam</i> (Play)
Sindhi	Gope Kamal, <i>Sija Agyaan Buku</i> (Poetry)
Tamil	Poomani, <i>Agngnaadi</i> (Novel)
Telugu	Rachapalem Chandrashekara Reddy, <i>Mana Navalalu - Mana Kathanikalu</i> (Literary Criticism)
Urdu	Munawwar Rana, <i>Shahdaba</i> (Poetry)



Arupa Patangia Kalita



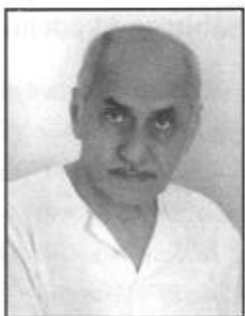
Adil Jussawalla



Shad Ramzan



Utpal Kumar Basu



(late) Ashvin Mehta



Madhavi Sardesai



Urkhao Gwra Brahma



Ramesh Chandra Shah



Asha Mishra



Shailender Singh



G.H. Nayak



Subhash Chandran



Naorem Bidyasagar Singh



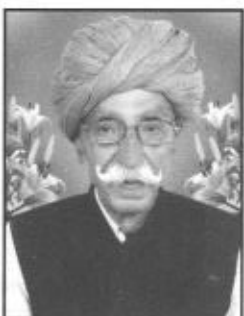
Jaswinder



Gope Kamal



Jayant Vishnu Naralikar



Rampal Singh Rajpurohit



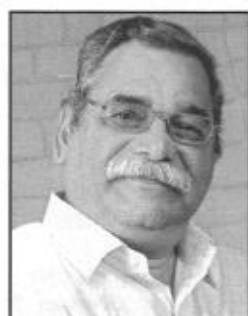
Poomani



Nanda Hankhim



Prabhu Nath Dwivedi



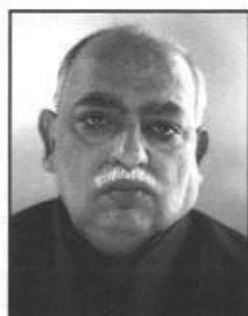
Rachapalem Chandrashekara Reddy



Gopal Krishna Rath



Jamadar Kisku



Munawwar Rana

MEMBERS OF THE JURY FOR 2014 AWARDS

Assamese

Sri Ismail Hussain
Sri Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi
Prof. Sailen Bharalii

Bengali

Sri Amiya Dev
Prof. Arun Kumar Basu
Prof. Sourin Bhattacharya

Bodo

Sri Aurobindo Uzir
Sri Uthrisar Khungur Basumatary
Sri Gobinda Basumatary

Dogri

Prof. Archana Kesar
Prof. Nilamber Dev Sharma
Dr. Sushma Rani

English

Dr. Alok Bhalla
Prof. Ganesh Devy
Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta

Gujarati

Sri Chandrakant Topiwala
Sri Dileep Jhaveri
Dr. Prasad Brahmabhatt

Hindi

Dr. Nandkishore Acharya
Ms. Nasira Sharma
Sri Raghuveer Chaudhari

Kannada

Dr. B.A. Viveka Rai
Dr. Pradhan Gurudatt
Dr. Veeranna Dande

Kashmiri

Prof. Basher Bashir
Sri Ghulam Nabi Gowhar
Dr. Roop Krishan Bhat

Konkani

Sri Damodar Mauzo
Sri R.S. Bhaskar
Sri Uday L. Bhembre

Maithili

Dr. Deokant Jha
Dr. Sureswar Jha
Dr. Shefalika Verma

Malayalam

Prof. Chandramathi
Sri K. Jayakumar
Prof. Sarah Joseph

Manipuri

Sri K. Radhakumar Singh
Sri R.K. Jhalajit Singh
Dr. Toijam Tampha Devi

Marathi

Prof. R.R. Borade
Sri Vasant Abaji Dahake
Smt. Vijaya Rajadhyaksha

Nepali

Sri Shankar Deo Dhakal
Sri Durga Prasad Shrestha
Dr. Jiwan Namdung

Odia

Dr. Adikanda Sahoo
Dr. Pratibha Ray
Sri Rajendra Kishore Panda

Punjabi

Dr. Atamjit
Prof. Satinder Singh
Dr. Vanita

Rajasthani

Prof. Bhanwar Singh Samaur
Sri Mohan Alok
Dr. Shaktidan Kaviya

Sanskrit

Prof. V. Kutumba Shastri
Prof. Mahaveer Prasad Aggarwal
Prof. K.V. Ramakrishnacharyulu

Santali

Sri Arjun Charan Hembram
Sri Purna Chandra Hembram
Sri Rupchand Hansda

Sindhi

Sri Mohan Gehani
Prof. Hiro Shewkani
Sri Vasudev Nirmal

Tamil

Dr. Erode Tamilanban
Ms. Shivashankari
Sri Puviyarasu

Telugu

Sri Ampasayya Naveen
Dr. Kethu Vishwanatha Reddy
Sri Sasisree

Urdu

Sri Mohd. Idrees 'Ambar Bahraichi'
Sri Khaleel Mamoon
Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam

SAHITYA AKADEMI PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION 2014

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 9 March 2015 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, approved the selection of 23 books for the Sahitya Akademi Prize for Translation 2014. The books were selected on the basis of the recommendations of Selection Committees in the respective languages. The Prizes relate to books first published during the five years prior to the year immediately preceding the year of the prize (i.e. between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012).

Recipients of Translation Prize 2014

Assamese	Bipul Deuri, <i>The Immortals of Meluha</i> (<i>The Immortals of Meluha</i> [English] Novel by Amish Tripathy)
Bengali	Benoy Kumar Mahata, <i>Ei Prithibi Paglagarad</i> (<i>Eh Batha Sansar</i> [Maithili] Novel by Sudhanshu Sekhar Chowdhury)
Bodo	Surath Narzary, <i>Geetanjali</i> (<i>Geetanjali</i> [Bengali] Poetry by Rabindranath Tagore)
Dogri	Yashpaul Nirmal, <i>Mian Deedo</i> (<i>Deedo Jamwal</i> [Punjabi] Play by Kripa Sagar)
English	Padmini Rajappa, <i>Kadambari</i> (<i>Kadambari</i> [Sanskrit] Novel by Bana)
Gujarati	(Late) Nagindas J. Shah, <i>Tarkarahasyadeepika</i> (<i>Tarakarahasyadeepika</i> [Sanskrit] Essays by Gunaratna Suri)
Hindi	Phoolchand Manav, <i>Annadata</i> (<i>Annadata</i> [Punjabi] Novel by Baldev Singh)
Kannada	G.N. Ranganatha Rao, <i>Mohan Das: Ondu Satya Kathe</i> (<i>Mohan Das - A True Story of a man, his people and An Empire</i> [English] Biography by Rajmohan Gandhi)
Kashmiri	Meem Hai Zaffar, <i>Shiv Sutra</i> (<i>Shiv Sutra</i> [Sanskrit] Essays by Vasu Gupt Reshi)
Konkani	Pandurang K. Gaude, <i>Uchalya</i> (<i>Uchalya</i> [Marathi] Biography by Laxman Gaikwad)
Maithili	Ram Narayan Singh, <i>Malabin</i> (<i>Chemmeen</i> [Malayalam] Novel by Thakazhi Shivashnakara Pillai)
Malayalam	Priya A.S., <i>Kunju Karyangalude Odeythampuran</i> (<i>The God of small Things</i> [English] Novel by Arundhati Roy)
Manipuri	Ibotombi Mangang, <i>Hi Irakpa</i> (<i>Noukadubee</i> [Bengali/Hindi] Novel by Rabindranath Tagore)
Marathi	M.S. Patil, <i>Smrutibhramshantanar</i> (<i>After Amnesia</i> [English] Literary Criticism by Ganesh Devy)
Nepali	Dambarmani Pradhan, <i>Malai Jun Chahinchha</i> (<i>Mujhe Chand Chahiye</i> [Hindi] Novel by Surendra Varma)
Odia	Rabindra Kumar Praharaj, <i>Thilaghavar Gehlapua</i> (<i>Alaler Gharer Dulal</i> [Bengali] Novel by Tek Chand Thakur)
Punjabi	Tarsem, <i>Man Da Mannukh</i> (<i>Moner Manush</i> [Bengali] Novel by Sunil Gangopadhyay)
Rajasthani	Kailash Mandela, <i>Kural-Kavya</i> (<i>Tirukkural</i> [Tamil] Poetry by Tiruvalluvar)
Sanskrit	Narayan Dash, <i>Vatysarah</i> (<i>Jhad O Anyanya Kahani</i> [Odia] Short Stories by Chandra Shekhardasvarma)
Santali	Saro Hansdah, <i>Devdas</i> (<i>Devdas</i> [Bengali] Novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay)
Sindhi	Ram Kukreja, <i>Maru Tirtha Hinglaaj</i> (<i>Marutirtha Hinglaj</i> [Bengali] Novel by Avdhoot)
Tamil	S. Devadoss, <i>Ladakkilirundu Kavizhum Nizhal</i> (<i>Shadow From Ladakh</i> [English] Novel by Bhabani Bhattacharya)
Telugu	R. Santha Sundari, <i>Intlo Premchand</i> (<i>Premchand Ghar Me</i> [Hindi] Biography by Sivarani Devi Premchand)
Urdu	Ved Rahi, <i>Lal Ded</i> (<i>Lal Ded</i> [Dogri] Novel by Ved Rahi)



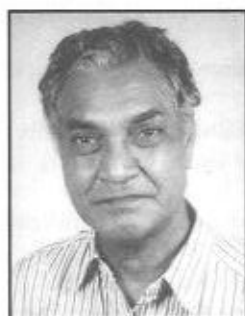
Bipul Deuri



Padmini Rajappa



Meem Hai Zaffar



Benoy Kumar Mahata



(Late) Nagindas J. Shah



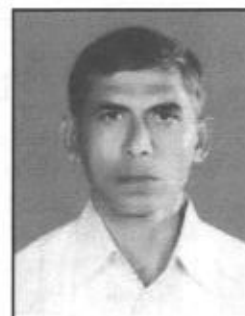
Pandurang K. Gaude



Surath Narzary



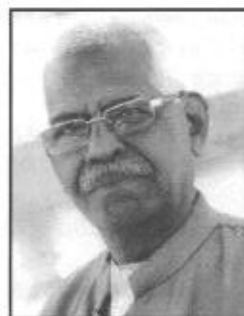
Phoolchand Manav



Ram Narayan Singh



Yashpaul Nirmal



G.N. Ranganatha Rao



Priya A.S.



Ibotombi Mangang



Tarsem



Ram Kukreja



M.S. Patil



Kailash Mandela



S. Devadoss



Dambarmani Pradhan



Narayan Dash



R. Santha Sundari



Rabindra Kumar Praharaj



Saro Hansdah



Ved Rahi

MEMBERS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR TRANSLATION PRIZE 2014

Assamese

Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Borah
Ms. Lutfa Hanum Salima Begum
Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta

Bengali

Prof. Jayanti Chattopadhyay
Dr. Soma Bandyopadhyay
Sri Ujjal Singha

Bodo

Sri Biseswar Basumatary
Dr. Anil Kumar Boro
Ms. Shanti Basumatary

Dogri

Prof. Champa Sharma
Sri Ganeswar Sharma
Smt. Vijaya Thakur

English

Prof. Anisur Rahman
Ms. Aruna Chakravarti
Dr. Sudhakar Marathe

Gujarati

Dr. Nalini Madgaonkar
Sri Suman Shah
Ms. Varsha Das

Hindi

Sri Prabhakar Shrotriya
Sri Ram Shankar Diwedi
Prof. Satya Paul Sehgal

Kannada

Dr. H. S. Venkatesha Murthy
Prof. K. S. Bhagavan
Dr. Rajendra Chennai

Kashmiri

Dr. Mishal Sultanpuri
Dr. O. N. Kaul
Prof. Rattan Talashi

Konkani

Dr. Harishchandra Nagvekar
Sri Melvyn Rodrigues
Sri N. Shivdas

Maithili

Dr. Amar Nath Jha
Prof. Basuki Nath Jha
Dr. Satyanand Pathak

Malayalam

Dr. M.M. Basheer
Prof. P. P. Raveendran
Sri Paul Zachariah

Manipuri

Sri A. Biren Singh
Dr. K. Shantibala Devi
Sri L. Joychandra Singh

Marathi

Sri Damodar Khadse
Prof. Nishikant Thakar
Smt. Prabha Ganorkar

Nepali

Sri Arjun Pradhan
Dr. Sanjay Bantawa
Sri Laxman Srimal

Odia

Dr. Bibhuti Pattanaik
Prof. Giribala Mohanty
Dr. Kalidas Misra

Punjabi

Dr. Brajinder Chowhan
Sri Khalid Hussain
Prof. Satish Kumar Verma

Rajasthani

Dr. C. P. Deval
Sri Jethmal Maru
Dr. Jyoti Punj

Sanskrit

Prof. Ashok Kumar Kalia
Prof. C. Rajendran
Dr. Shrinivasa Varakhedi

Sindhi

Dr. Jetho Lalwani
Sri Laxman Dubey
Dr. Kamla Goklani

Tamil

Dr. H. Balasubramaniam
Sri Indiran
Dr. Tamizhavan Carlos

Telugu

Sri A. Kutumba Rao
Dr. Chaganti Tulasi
Sri Y. Lakshmi Prasad

Urdu

Sri F. S. Ejaz
Sri Pritpal Singh Betab
Dr. Shahzad Anjum

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR 2014

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 22 August 2014 at Guwahati under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, selected 15 books and 8 writers for their total contribution for the 2014 Bal Sahitya Puraskar on the basis of recommendations made by a Jury of three members in the concerned languages in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. There was no award in Sanskrit. The Awards relates to books first published during the five years, year immediately preceding the year of Award (i.e., between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012). However, during the intital five years i.e. 2010 to 2014, the award may be given to an author based on his/her total contribution to children literature if no book is considered suitable for the award.

Recipients of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2014

Assamese	Dinesh Chandra Goswami, <i>Bijnanar Anupam Jagat</i> (Essays)
Bengali	Gouri Dharmapal, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Bodo	Kaushalya Brahma, <i>Gothosafozni Rao</i> (Poetry)
Dogri	Dhian Singh, <i>Pardhe Nyaane Gurdhe Syaane</i> (Poetry)
English	Subhadra Sen Gupta, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Gujarati	Ishwar Parmar, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Hindi	Dinesh Chamola "Shailesh", <i>Gayain Geet Gyan-Vigyan Ke</i> (Poetry)
Kannada	Anand V. Patil, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Kashmiri	Hamid Siraj, <i>Haari Jang</i> (Novelette)
Konkani	Surya Ashok, <i>Bhurgyanto Samsar</i> (Stories)
Maithili	(Late) Jeevakant, <i>Hamar Athanni Khaslai Van Me</i> (Poetry)
Malayalam	K.V. Ramanathan, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Manipuri	Rajkumar Bhubonsana, <i>Sana Kokchao Amasung Bhut Ningthou</i> (Stories)
Marathi	Madhuri Purandare, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Nepali	Munni Sapkota, <i>Junkiri</i> (Stories)
Odia	Dash Benhur, <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Punjabi	Kulbir Singh Suri, <i>Rajkumar Da Supna</i> (Stories)
Rajasthani	Neeraj Dahiya, <i>Jaadoo Ro Pen</i> (Stories)
Santali	Kanailal Tudu, <i>Bachra Bayar</i> (Poetry)
Sindhi	Vasudev 'Sindhu - Bharti', <i>Total Contribution to Children Literature</i>
Tamil	Era. Natarasan, <i>Vigghana Vikramaathithan Kathaikal</i> (Stories)
Telugu	Dasari Venkataramana, <i>Anandam</i> (Stories)
Urdu	Mahboob Rahi, <i>Rangarang Phulwari</i> (Poetry)

No Prize in Sanskrit this year



Dinesh Chandra Goswami



Subhadra Sen Gupta



Hamid Siraj



Gouri Dharmapal



Ishwar Parmar



Surya Ashok



Kaushalya Brahma



Dinesh Chamola "Shailesh"



(Late) Jeevakant



Dhian Singh



Anand V. Patil



K.V. Ramanathan



Rajkumar Bhubonsana



Madhuri Purandare



Munni Sapkota



Dash Benhur



Kulbir Singh Suri



Neeraj Dahiya



Kanailal Tudu



Vasudev 'Sindhu - Bharti'



Era. Natarasan



Dasari Venkataramana



Mahboob Rahi

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Assamese

Sri Anubhav Tulasi
Dr. Mukul Hazarika
Sri Sameer Tanti

Bengali

Sri Amar Mitra
Ms. Anita Agnihotri
Prof. Sibaji Bandopadhyay

Bodo

Smt. Anjali Prabha Daimary
Sri Bidyasagar Narzary
Sri Jagat Ch. Basumatary

Dogri

Sri Jitender Udhamपुरी
Sri Shamsheer Singh
Sri Sudarshan Rattanपुरी

English

Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan
Prof. K.C. Baral
Prof. Supriya Chaudhury

Gujarati

Dr. Chinu Modi
Sri Kanji Patel
Dr. Shraddha Trivedi

Hindi

Dr. Kamal Kishore Goyanka
Sri Rajesh Joshi
Dr. Vinod Chandra Pandey 'Vinod'

Kannada

Dr. Karigowda Beechanahalli
Prof. Mallika S. Ghanti
Sri Vishnu Naik

Kashmiri

Dr. Aziz Hajini
Sri Mohd Ahsan Ahsan
Sri Satish Vimal

Konkani

Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy
Dr. L. Suneetha Bai
Sri Madhav Borkar

Maithili

Dr. Dhirendranath Mishra
Dr. Indrakant Jha
Dr. Prabhas Kumar Jha

Malayalam

Prof. K.G. Sankara Pillai
Ms. K.R. Meera
Dr. Puthusseri Ramachandran

Manipuri

Prof. H. Nonikumar Singh
Prof. I.S. Kangjam (Kangjam Ibohal Singh)
Ms. Yengkhom Indira Devi

Marathi

Sri Anil Awachat
Sri Gangadhar Pantavane
Dr. Vasant S. Patankar

Nepali

Sri Kedar Gurung
Sri Krishna Pradhan
Prof. N.B. Rai

Odia

Dr. Archana Nayak
Dr. Sangamitra Mishra
Sri Santanu Kumar Acharya

Punjabi

Dr. Amarjit Kaur
Sri Gulzar Singh Sandhu
Dr. Jagbir Singh

Rajasthani

Dr. Chetan Swami
Dr. Mangat Badal
Sri Meethesh Nirmohi

Sanskrit

Dr. Balram Shukla
Dr. Rama Shankar Mishra
Prof. K. Ramasurya Narayana

Santali

Sri Bhujuram Murmu
Sri Chandi Charan Kisku
Sri Mangal Majhi

Sindhi

Dr. Moti Prakash
Sri Jhamu Chhugani
Ms. Indra Poonawala

Tamil

Dr. A. Alice
Dr. Sirpi Balasubramaniam
Dr. V. Arasu

Telugu

Smt. D. Sujatadevi
Sri Syed Saleem
Prof. Saratjyothsna Rani

Urdu

Dr. Abdus Samad
Sri Mohammad Ashraf
Sri K.L. Narang Saqi

YUVA PURASKAR 2014

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 22 August 2014 at Guwahati under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, approved the selection of 21 books for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2014. The books were selected on the basis of the recommendations made by a Jury of three members in the concerned languages.

According to the procedure, the Executive Board declared the Awards on the basis of unanimous selections or selection made on the basis of majority vote made by the Jury. The Award relates to books published by an author of the age of 35 and below as on 1st January of the year of the award.

Recipients of Yuva Puraskar 2014

Assamese	Manika Devée, <i>Jahar-Mahar</i> (Short Stories)
Bengali	Abhimanyu Mahato, <i>Mati (Earth)</i> (Poetry)
Bodo	Shanti Basumatary, <i>Thwinikhruibw Gwjasin Nwngni Gaba</i> (Poetry)
English	Kaushik Barua, <i>Windhorse</i> (Novel)
Gujarati	Anil Chavda, <i>Savaar Laine</i> (Poetry)
Hindi	Kumar Anupam, <i>Barish Mera Ghar Hai</i> (Poetry)
Kannada	Kavya Kadame, <i>Dhyanaake Thaareekhina Hangilla</i> (Poetry)
Konkani	Naresh Chandra Naik, <i>Gauman</i> (Short Stories)
Maithili	Praveen Kashyap, <i>Visdanti Varmal Kalak Rati</i> (Poetry)
Malayalam	Indu Menon, <i>Chumbanasabdatharavali</i> (Short stories)
Manipuri	Wangthoi Khuman, <i>Ngayonba Asheiba</i> (Poetry)
Marathi	Avadhoot Dongre, <i>Svatabala Faltu Samajnyachi Goshta</i> (Novel)
Nepali	Tika 'Bhai', <i>Paitalaltira</i> (Poetry)
Odia	Narendra Kumar Bhoi, <i>Pidaparba</i> (Poetry)
Punjabi	Gagan Deep Sharma, <i>Ikalla Nahin Hunda Banda</i> (Poetry)
Rajasthani	Raju Ram Bijarniyan 'Raj', <i>Chal Bhatooliya Ret Rama</i> (Poetry)
Sanskrit	Paramba Shree Yogamaya, <i>Samparkah</i> (Short Stories)
Santali	Anpa Marndi, <i>Namal</i> (Poetry)
Tamil	R. Abhilash, <i>Kaalkal</i> (Novel)
Telugu	Appireddy Harinath Reddy, <i>Seema Sahiti Swaram Sri Sadhana Patrika</i> (Essays)
Urdu	Iltefat Amjadi, <i>Chikne Paat</i> (Poetry)

No Prize in Dogri, Kashmiri and Sindhi this year



Manika Deveci



Anil Chavda



Naresh Chandra Naik



Abhimanyu Mahato



Kumar Anupam



Praveen Kashyap



Shanti Basumatary



Kavya Kadame



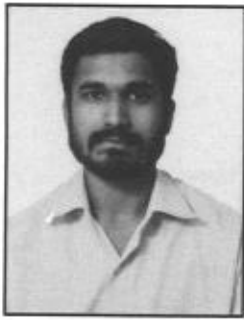
Indu Menon



Kaushik Barua



Wangthoi Khuman



Avadhoot Dongre



Anpa Marndi



Raju Ram Bijarniyan
'Raj'



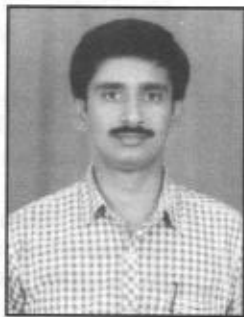
R. Abhilash



Tika 'Bhai'



Narendra Kumar Bhoi



Appireddy Harinath Reddy



Paramba Shree Yogamaya



Gagan Deep Sharma



Iltefat Amjadi

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Assamese

Prof. Madan Mohan Sarma
Ms. Nirupama Borgohain
Sri Kula Saikia

Bengali

Sri Pranab Kumar Mukhopadhyay
Sri Samik Bandyopadhyay
Prof. Ujjwal Kumar Majumdar

Bodo

Dr. Indira Boro
Dr. Bhupendra Narzaree
Sri Samiran Brahma

English

Ms. Arundati Subramaniam
Dr. Kavery Nambisan
Prof. Temsula Ao

Gujarati

Dr. Darshana C. Dholakia
Sri Jaydev Shukla
Sri Satish Vyas

Hindi

Dr. Krishna Dutt Paliwal
Dr. Urmila Shirish
Dr. Liladhar Mandloi

Kannada

Sri C. N. Ramachandran
Dr. Basavaraj Donur
Prof. Chandrashekhar Patil

Konkani

Sri Arun Sakhardande
Sri Saratchandra Shenoai
Sri Nagesh Karmali

Maithili

Sri Gangesh Gunjan
Sri Kamalakant Jha
Dr. Tarakant Jha

Malayalam

Sri Akbar Kakkatil
Dr. V. Rajakrishnan
Sri T. N. Prakash

Manipuri

Sri Khumanthem Prakash Singh
Sri Raghu Leishangthem
Prof. R.K. Jitendrajit Sinha

Marathi

Dr. Chandrakant Patil
Dr. Harishchandra Thorat
Sri Laxman Gaikwad

Nepali

Sri Gopichandra Pradhan
Dr. Jeevan Rana
Sri Sanu Lama

Odia

Dr. Malabika Ray
Sri Manoj Kumar Panda
Sri Rajkishore Mishra

Punjabi

Sri Balwinder Singh Grewal
Dr. Darshan Buttar
Dr. Kuljit Shalley

Rajasthani

Dr. Madan Saini
Sri Madhav Nagda
Dr. Satyanarayan

Sanskrit

Dr. N. P. Unni
Sri Narayan Dash
Prof. V. N. Jha

Santali

Sri Bhaja Hari Tudu
Sri Prithibi Majhi
Sri Sanat Hansdah

Tamil

Dr. Nanjil Nadan
Sri Prapanchan
Dr. Rama Gurunatham

Telugu

Dr. Vadrevu Veera Lakshmi Devi
Sri Krishna Rao
Sri Singamaneni Narayana

Urdu

Prof. Ghazanfar Ali
Sri Iqbal Masood
Dr. Shahina Tabassum

PROGRAMMES

FESTIVAL OF LETTERS 2015

Festival of Letters 2015 (Sahityotsav) was organised in Delhi on a grand scale from 9-14 March 2015 at several venues, Meghadoot Theatre Complex, Kamani Auditorium and Rabindra Bhawan lawns and Sahitya Akademi auditorium. Festival of Letters 2015 sought to reach out to the writers of all age groups across the country. The events of the festival included Sahitya Akademi Award Presentation Ceremony, Writers' Meet, Samvatsar and Foundation Day Lectures, Face-to-Face programmes, live performances of artists (Loka: The Many Voices), Purvottari: Northern and North-Eastern Writers' Meet, Young Poets' Meet, Bal Sahiti: Spin-A-Tale and a National Seminar on 'The Region and the Nation in Indian Fiction'.

Inauguration of Akademi 2014 Exhibition

Annual Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2014 was inaugurated in a glittering ceremony by

Dr Ramdaras Mishra, distinguished Hindi poet and fiction writer, on March 9, 2015



Ramdaras Mishra inaugurating the Akademi 2014 Exhibition



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari welcoming Ramdaras Mishra

various achievements of Sahitya Akademi in the year 2014. He informed the audience that in 2014, Sahitya Akademi organized and conducted 467 literary events across India including international literary events, regional and national seminars, translation workshops and a host of other programmes aimed at different sections of the literary community, and introduced a new programme series Bhashantara Anubhava. It published 569 titles covering 24 languages, brought out 6 issues each of *Indian*

Literature and *Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya* and 2 issues of *Sanskrita Pratibha*

Organized and participated in 186 book exhibitions and fairs across India and also at the Frankfurt World Book Fair and Sharjah Book Fair.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Chief Guest

at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns, New Delhi.

Sahitya Akademi Exhibition is an annual event organized by Sahitya Akademi during the Festival of Letters and the Exhibition showcases, through a series of photographs, the activities of the Akademi during the year.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the Chief Guest Dr Ramdaras Mishra, President of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Vice President of the Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, General Council and Executive Board Members of Sahitya Akademi and other dignitaries, briefly outlined the purpose and objective of the Akademi Exhibition. Dr Sreenivasarao also outlined in detail



Akademi 2014 Exhibition

and other dignitaries. He spoke briefly about the Festival of Letters 2015 and appreciated the good work done by all the staff of the Akademi in 2014. He appreciated that over the past two years, production rate of the Akademi has doubled compared to previous years and said that there is always scope for improvement. He introduced the chief guest Dr Ramdaras Mishra to the audience and spoke briefly about the contribution of Dr Ramdaras Mishra to Indian Literature.

Dr Ramdaras Mishra, speaking on the occasion, said he was pleased and honoured to inaugurate the Exhibition of the Sahitya

Akademi, India's premier institution of letters. He spoke at length about Sahitya Akademi's role in the development of literature in all the languages of India and observed that the Akademi is the only arena where 24 official languages of India interact and gain from each other. Dr Mishra said that language is a reflection of the life which people lead and felt that though the works and efforts of the Akademi are laudable, being the Indian national academy, it should do more and more to reach out to the villages and remote areas of the country as literature is becoming more and more city-centric.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2014

Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2014 were presented to 24 Award winners at a glittering ceremony held at Kamani auditorium, New Delhi on March 9, 2015.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his address welcomed Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished Hindi poet and scholar and chief guest of the occasion, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President,

Sahitya Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, all the award winners and the audience. He observed that though the Sahitya Akademi Award is given to a particular book in each language, it is much more than that in that it is also a recognition and celebration of the rich and long cultural and linguistic traditions that each author and a book represents.



Sahitya Akademi Award Winners 2014



Vice President with Assamese Award Winner



President with Rajasthani Award Winner

Dr Sreenivasarao also enumerated how these Awards along with various other activities of the Akademi represent the core that is nothing but service to literary communities all over India. He highlighted the role of the writers in particular in the success story of Sahitya Akademi which completed 60 years of literary service in India and abroad. He welcomed the writers and public to participate whole-

heartedly in the entire Festival of Letters to be held in Sahitya Akademi up to March 14, 2015. Finally, he highlighted various activities and achievements in the year 2014.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his Presidential address, talked at length about the uniqueness of the writers and special place of creativity in human existence. With specific reference to Sahitya



Manipuri Dance performance after the Award Ceremony

Akademi, he said the works of these Awardees are Akademi's voice. He observed that more often than not it is the writers and poets who plant the seeds of creativity, imagination and ideas into the common man and quoted "Yeh sahitya hi hai jo maun ko mukher karta hai, aur sannate ko shabd deta hai." Even politicians were inspired by writers and recalled how Gandhiji adopted 'Swadeshi' and 'Swabhiman' from the writing community. He appealed to young writers not get distracted by power and such elements as they often kill creativity.

Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished Hindi poet and scholar, who was the chief guest, talked about the diversity and richness of Indian Literature need to be protected. While acknowledging various initiatives of the Akademi in preserving and promoting numerous languages and dialects of India and the literature contained in them, he also appealed to the Akademi to take initiatives to preserve and promote like-minded literature but written in other scripts, like Tibetan. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar Vice-President Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

Writers' Meet

10 March 2014, New Delhi

Festival of Letters continued at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The day started with the Writers' Meet in the morning. Twenty Sahitya Akademi Award 2014 winners read out their papers on various aspects of creative writing and also shared their own experiences as writers. One Award winner sent in his paper as he could not be present.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the award winners and observed that writers' meet of this type have been envisaged to enable young writers to interact freely with the established ones and in the process learn from them. He then invited Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, to chair the session. Dr Kambar spoke briefly about the



K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the Award-winners



Ramesh Chandra Shah



Jaswinder Singh



Rachapalem Chandrashekara Reddy

awards, the writing process and leading a creative life before inviting the Award winners to present their papers.

Ms. Arupa Patangia Kalita, Award winner in Assamese, thanked the Akademi for choosing her work for the award and spoke briefly about her childhood and her life. She also talked about feminist perceptions, impact of literature on society and communication in literature. She observed that the effective use of translation and technology has resulted in that writers like her are now heard in many parts of the country.

Sri Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Award winner in Bodo, talked about the antiquity of tribal dialects and languages, including Bodo, across India and the vast amount of literature contained therein waiting to be tapped. He said that though a language like Bodo is very ancient, the history of formal literature is barely a century old. He appealed to Sahitya Akademi to consider setting up of a Tribal Language and Literature Promotion Bureau. Sri Shailender Singh, Award winner in Dogri, talked briefly about his life and at length about his award winning work, *Hashiye Par*. He enumerated the hues and varieties of cultural and social milieu portrayed and

contained in the work.

Adil Jussawala, Award winner in English and received in absence, whose paper was read out as he could not be present, talked about the role of a writer in any given society and ontological antinomies of a writer, especially a poet.

Sri Ramesh Chandra Shah, Award winner in Hindi, talked about his own life as a writer and what writing means to him. The communicable facets of writing are very important, without which a writer and his writing have no use nor relevance.

Sri G.H. Nayak, Award winner in Kannada, talked at length about the polemics in Kannada literary milieu, especially his own literary productions.

Sri Shad Ramzan, Award winner in Kashmiri, gave a detailed and precise overview of Kashmiri literature, before and after the advent of Islam in the valley.

Ms Asha Mishra, Award winner in Maithili, talked about her own life as a creative writer and appealed to Sahitya Akademi to collect and publish Writers' meet papers so that the coming generation of writers can benefit from it.

Sri Subash Chandran, Award winner in

Malayalam, talked about his early life, his work and his journey as a creative writer.

Sri Naorem Bidyasagar Singha, Award winner in Manipuri, talked about the craft and techniques of writing poetry, influences of and interactions with the society in the process and the need for writers to possess a deeper grasp of the sound and the word.

Sri Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, Award winner in Marathi, talked about the process of writing an autobiography, the challenges he faced and the contentment derived from the completion. He also talked about the various places he had lived in and their contribution to his autobiography.

Sri Nanda Hangkhim, Award winner in Nepali, talked about the nature of Nepali language and dialects, their close relationship to Sanskrit, his own writings and observed that creative writing is somewhat akin to enlightenment of any kind.

Sri Gopal Krishna Rath, Award winner in Odia, talked about the art and process of writing poetry and observed that poetry cannot merely be visualized and written or sung, but has to be lived. He urged fellow poets to lead a poetic life.

Sri Jaswinder, Award winner in Punjabi, talked about the antiquity of Punjabi civilization, culture and literature and observed that truthful living is essential to be a good poet.

Sri Rampal Singh Rajpurohit, Award winner in Rajasthani, thanked the Akademi for honouring him and his work, but more importantly felt this is a recognition for Rajasthani literature.

Sri Prabhu Nath Dwivedi, Award winner in Sanskrit, talked about the beauty of Sanskrit language, the power of literature, especially poems and stories, and the art of representation

of reality and imagination.

Sri Jamadar Kisku, Award winner in Santali, thanked the Akademi for choosing his play *Mala Mudam* for Award and talked about his literary experiences. He also spoke about the nature of Santal societies and their influence on writing.

Sri Gope Kamal, Award winner in Sindhi, talked about his journey as a creative artist, as a poet and a fiction writer and observed that poetry is an art of finding the inner self.

Sri Poomani, Award winner in Tamil, talked about the process involved in an Epic that is *Ajnadi*, award winning Tamil novel, the challenges he faced, difficulties he overcame and the ultimate satisfaction derived from the completion of the project.

Sri Rachapalem Chandrasekhara Reddy, Award winner in Telugu, talked about his literary productions and his journey as a creative writer and translator.

Sri Munawwar Rana, Award winner in Urdu, talked about various aspects and phases of writing poetry.

Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, summed up all the papers and congratulated the Award winners once again.



Munawwar Rana

Samvatsar Lecture by Ashish Nandy

Renowned critic, social theorist and political psychologist, Dr Ashish Nandy, delivered the annual Samvatsar Lecture as part of Festival of Letters 2015 at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on March 10, 2015.

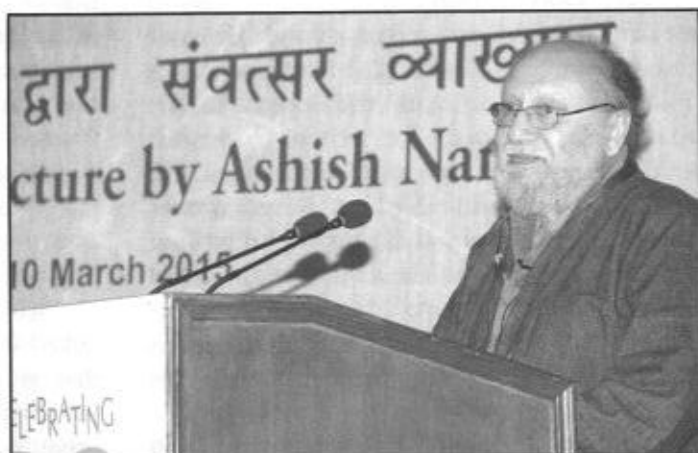
Welcoming Dr Nandy and other dignitaries, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, outlined the nature and purpose of Samvatsar lectures, besides listing out the doyens of Indian literature who had delivered Samvatsar lecture over the years. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Dr Ashish Nandy with a flower bouquet.

Dr Ashish Nandy who holds a Master's degree in Sociology and Doctorate in Psychology delivered a lecture titled 'Do we protect cultural diversity or cultural diversity protects us? The politics of culture in our times.'

He observed that values change with times, region and groups or communities. Changing values also bring forth contradictions in any given society. Dr Nandy pointed out that the aim of his lecture is to draw attention to various sources or causes of attack on cultural diversity rather than a deep analytical presentation.

Dr Nandy mentioned that cultural diversity is attacked from various sources and he is just merely listing the sources he knows of and there could be more, which a discerning reader or listener can explore and find out.

Dr Nandy observed that contributions of 18th and 19th century Europe with its colonization, mechanization, urbanization with all those attempt to convert the nature of differences between communities and societies from a horizontal or achronic to a vertical,



Ashish Nandy delivering the Samvatsar Lecture

perpendicular and diachronic schemas. This has resulted in the perceptions of all events as chronological, than as given in a symmetrical horizontal schema.

Dr Nandy listed development as a second source of attack on cultural diversity as in this set up a culture is looked at as something waiting for humans to intervene and change it and often leads to arrogant perceptions and claims such as one should leave out bad things out of a culture and absorb good ones only.

Religion which is often defined by the region, language and local mores and customs, is the third source of attack on cultural diversity across the globe. For, religions tend to uproot mobility and this, in a big way affects cultural diversity and also denies freedom. Dr Nandy lamented that because of these religious sensibilities we are fast losing multi-cultural communities and identities.

The Nation-State, according to Dr Ashish Nandy, is one of the powerful sources of attack on cultural diversity. For, cultural diversity boosts enhanced interactions between communities, possible eruption of differences

and violence and therefore is very difficult to manage and rule. Hence, Nation-States do not promote and encourage cultural diversity of any kind.

Dr Ashish Nandy, observed that people may be surprised to find out the European process of secularization is also one of the causes or sources of attack on cultural diversity. For, diverse cultural entities tend to foster,

propagate and promote, at times, in the eyes of European secularism school, pernicious traditions. This again, in turn has turned out to be against human freedom.

Dr Nandy finally said the mentality to reject those parts of the culture that are not marketable as a prime source of attack on cultural diversity in the 21st century.

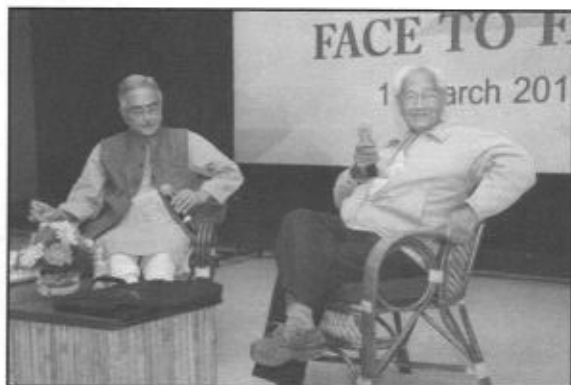
Face-to-Face Programme

Festival of Letters 2015 continued for the third day at Rabindra Bhawan complex on March 11, 2015 with the second edition of the Face-to-Face programme in which five Award winning writers were in conversation with eminent scholars of their language.

Pradeep Acharya in his opening conversation with Arupa Kalita viewed the Face-to-Face sessions as an endeavor to celebrate the award winning authors. Kalita, as an academic and a creative writer, started by speaking about the balance and sustenance between the two. As she was asked about her novels, especially her award winning novel, she spoke of the forces that drive her to write.

The political questions that have plagued Assam for over a century and the unsung heroes of these struggles, especially the women, form some of the central questions of her works. She further talked about the need to use oral literature in her works. The session concluded with Kalita's expounding the role of women in her works as central characters.

The second Face-to-Face session saw eminent Hindi writer Ramesh Chandra Shah in conversation with Prayag Shukla. They started the dialogue with Shah's foray into such varied genres and the art of story-telling through them. He talked about his childhood, the formative years which had a lasting



Prayag Shukla in conversation with
Ramesh Chandra Shah



Vilas Khole in conversation with
Jayant Narlikar

impression on him, all his understanding of human characters stemming from those years. Shah also talked of his profession as a teacher. He ended this dialogue by talking about his experiments and success in children's writings and his tussle with the self over his autobiography.

The third Face-to-Face saw famous astrophysicist and eminent writer Jayant Narlikar in conversation with Vilas Kolhe. Since Narlikar had won the award for his autobiography, the dialogue in the session too addressed some of his personal concerns. The entire session focused on the tussle between the scientific thought and the religious spirit. Narlikar stated that as a scientist one realizes that the more you find, the lesser you know. At being asked what the inspiration for his writing the autobiography was, he stated that he just wanted to write to satisfy himself as a person.

Punjabi writer Jaswinder in his conversation with Dr Vanita eminent Punjabi writer spoke of his childhood, difficult circumstances and the impression they left on him. He was born in a backward village of Bathinda, and he somehow managed to get a degree in engineering. And it was while he was studying

in college, there was a movement of 'navikavita' in Punjabi which influenced an entire generation. Ghazal became his preferred mode of poetry as it was highly appreciated by his audiences. Even though the form has Arabic and Persian roots, his poetry is deeply rooted in his context.

Telugu critic Rachapalem Chandrasekhara Reddy was engaged in a conversation with Telugu scholar J L Reddy. Rachapalem Reddy described his journey from a small agricultural village in Andhra Pradesh to being the winner of Sahitya Akademi Award. His father was a farmer and had had no education. Reddy worked in the fields every day and yet managed to travel 30-40 km for his education. He expounded on his role as a critic and the role of the critic in society. He states that being a good critic is more difficult than being a good poet. For him, subscribing to a certain ideology is the main tenet of a good critic and integrity of character. As part of his critical exposition, he stated that exposing the problem is only half the job done, the critic also needs to provide a solution for the problem raised. To conclude, he said that the critics need to reevaluate the literature to be studied every 20-30 years.

Yuva Sahiti: Young Writers' Meet

In the inaugural session of the meet, held on 11 March, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Prof Giriraj Kishore, eminent Hindi writer and scholar, Smt. Chitra Mudgal, distinguished Hindi writer, Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, the chairs of various sessions, writers and poets and the

audience. He talked about the value of youth and youth writings and listed the various schemes and projects and publications of the Akademi catering to the youth of India.

In his inaugural address Prof Giriraj Kishore, appealed to young writers not to be merely selfish but work hard for higher ideals and the nation.

In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath

Prasad Tiwari talked about the value of writers' meets and it is the wonderful opportunity for young writers that Akademi has given a platform for them to interact with and learn from each other.

Smt. Chitra Mudgal, the first woman writer to receive Vyas Samman, in her speech talked about the role and relevance of literature in today's world and observed that decoding this is the biggest challenge in front of all young writers of the country today.

Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, in his remarks said that choosing wrong priorities has resulted in humanity being nothing more than a bundle of contradictions and chaos. He appealed to the youth not to ape the west since India has much better methods emanating from a multi-ethnic, multilingual and multi-cultural society.

In the first session that was devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Dr Manager Pandey, seven young poets, Ranjit Gogoi (Assamese), Anil Chavda (Gujarati), V. R.



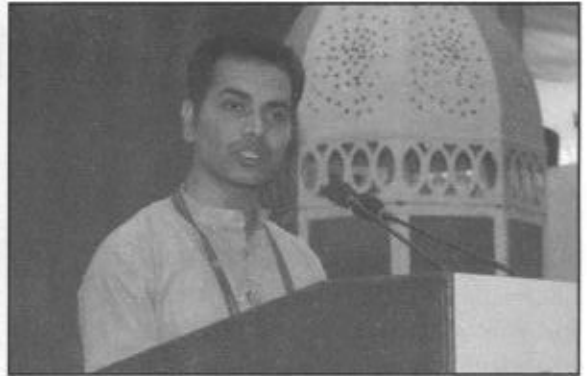
A participant at Yuva Sahiti :Young Writers Meet

Carpentar (Kannada), Praveen Kashyap (Maithili), Wangthoi Khuman (Manipuri), Tika Bhai (Nepali) and Narendra Kumar Bhoi (Odia) read out their poems. All the poems focused on contemporary themes but at the same time drew heavily from the ancient lore and mythology and presented the poems in new styles.

In the second session devoted to short story reading and chaired by Abdul Bismillah,



Participants of the Young Writers' Meet



Participants of Yuva Sahiti: Young Writers' Meet

two young fiction writers, Indu Menon (Malayalam) and Vishal Kandeparkar (Konkani), read out their stories, focusing on the angst of an eunuch and travails of everyday existence, respectively. Sri Abdul Bismillah summed up the stories and presented a critical appreciation. He also read out one of his stories.

In the final session of the day devoted to poetry reading and was chaired by Vishnu

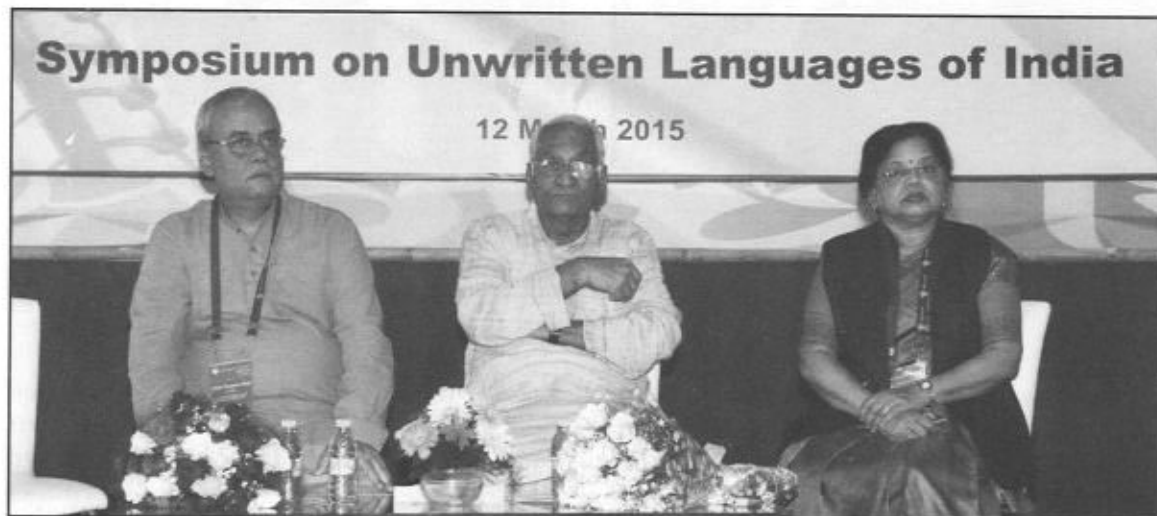
Nagar, eleven young poets, Pranjal Dhar (Hindi), Sagar Nazeer (Kashmiri), Ravi Korde (Marathi), Gagandeep Sharma (Punjabi), Kumar Ajay (Rajasthani), Anpa Marandi (Santali), Rajkumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Anita Dayal Tejawani (Sindhi), Uma Devi (Tamil), Manthri Krishna Mohan (Telugu) and Wasif Yaar (Urdu), recited their poems.

The day ended with Bharatanatyam classical dance performance by Geeta Chandran.



Dance performance by Geeta Chandran

Symposium on Unwritten Languages



Udaya Narayan Singh, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari and Anvita Abbi

A symposium on Unwritten Languages was organised on 12 March, at Rabindra Bhawan complex.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, distinguished linguist and writer, Prof Anvita Abbi, eminent linguist and academician, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, the participants and the audience. Dr Sreenivasarao talked about the challenges of collection and scripting the unwritten languages and enumerated Sahitya Akademi's efforts and programmes in this regard.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, in his Presidential address, talked about the evolution of written languages of India and highlighted the importance of unwritten languages. He observed that while writing has taken over the place

of word, it also entails the loss of philosophical truth of the spoken word.

Prof Anvita Abbi, who chaired the session enumerated the details of language structures and sound forms which contribute in a major way to multilingual India. India is not only multilingual but also multi-scriptural. Prof Anvita detailed the reasons for the need to script and catalogue the unwritten languages,



A section of the audience



Ayesha Kidwai



Anvita Abbi

preservation being foremost of them and also listed numerous challenges on that front with complications arising from the conflict with the existing scripts. She also talked about various methods of preservation of spoken and unwritten languages.

Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, in his keynote address, observed that the first reason for scripting unwritten language is the purpose of recording and the second is to secure the validity which the unwritten / oral languages do not enjoy at present. Prof Udaya Narayana Singh then presented a comparative analysis of writing and painting, highlighting that though writing and the written script evolved from painting, the painting involves more of spatial awareness while writing requires, spatial awareness and understanding numerous things apart from the context. Prof Singh also highlighted the flipside of the process of evolving scripts and observed that unlike a spoken word, writing often hides the emotions and at the same time also has the potential to express unintended.

In the first session devoted to "Challenges of scripting the unwritten languages" and chaired by Prof Ayesha Kidwai, four eminent scholars, Prof Umarani Pappuswamy, Prof

Kavita Rastogi, Prof Yashwanta Ch Singh and Prof Awadhesh Kumar Mishra, presented their papers, "Issues and Challenges in search of effective orthography for Unwritten Languages of North-East India," "Challenges of Scripting Raji, an endangered language," "Least Written Languages of Manipur" and "An overview of Unwritten Languages" respectively. At the commencement of the session, Prof Ayesha Kidwai observed that script lends identity to a language, empowers the speakers to communicate, interact and gain from others outside the community and highlighted that technology has transformed oral into visual and scripting the unwritten languages is a must in the modern world.

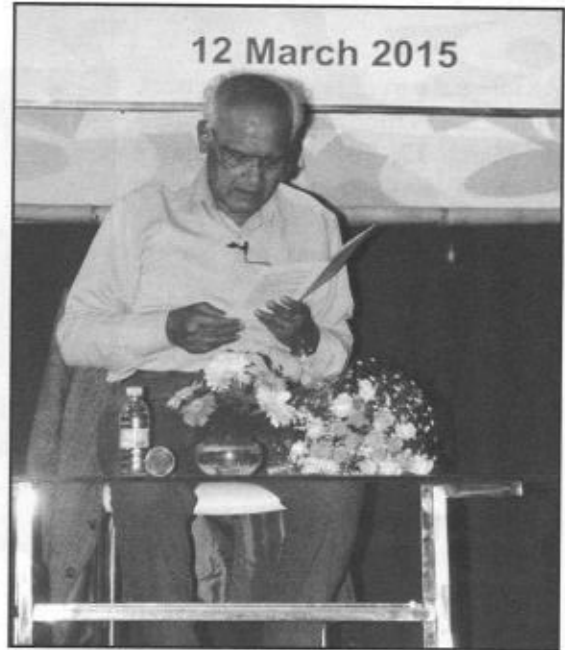
In the second session that was devoted to "A World of Myths and Tales" and chaired by Prof. Awadhesh Kumar Mishra, five eminent scholars, Prof B.N. Patnaik, Prof B.R.K. Reddy, Prof Mahendra Mishra, Prof Imtiaz Hasnain, Prof Farooq Ahmad Mir and Prof Pradip Prabhu, presented their papers, "Bhabana Bhuta," "Dravidian Tribal Lore," "Oral Epics and Literary Traditions in Odisha," "Vanishing Folk, Receding Myths: A Comparative Study" and "The Logic of Orality and the Substratum of Conviviality" respectively.

Foundation Day Lecture: S.L. Bhyrappa

March 12th is the day on which Sahitya Akademi was founded in 1954. As a mark of remembrance and thanksgiving Akademi started inviting eminent scholars and writers to deliver a lecture on that day from 2013. Prof S.L. Bhyrappa delivered the 3rd Foundation Day Lecture on March 12, 2015 after Dr Kapila Vatsayan in 2013 and Justice M.N. Venkatachalaiah in 2014.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed Prof Bhyrappa and briefly talked about Foundation Day Lecture series and thanked all the staff of the Akademi who has been contributing tirelessly to its development and success.

Delivering his lecture, Prof Bhyrappa gave an overview of the climate that prevailed in India in the past sixty years, especially what creative writers in native languages of India underwent. He presented a neat and detailed analysis of the status of the country's intelligentsia from pre-independence to post-independence to economic liberalization period and how the vocal intelligentsia has not reconciled itself to the inevitable economic change. He explained how aping the false identities by the successive governments and massive mis-governance have percolated down to affect the cultural structures all over the country. He pointed out the mind-set of the young people of 21st century has not fallen from the sky but is the result of the above factors in the past sixty years. He picked the adoption of English as a medium of education ahead of native languages of India especially



Sanskrit, out of those factors for discussion and further enumeration. He lamented that this adoption of a false language and identity has seeped deep into villages across India with many a family willing to compromise numerous factors and rushing to give English education to their children. Prof Bhyrappa highlighted how aping an alien tongue affects us right from the conceptualization to expression and observed that Literature written in English by native Indians can never become first rate. Finally he thanked the Akademi for giving this opportunity to talk on its Foundation Day.

National Seminar on The Region and the Nation in Indian Fiction

An integral part of Festival of Letters, a three day National Seminar, started on March 12, 2015 at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium. The theme and concept for this year's seminar was 'The Region and the Nation in Indian Fiction.'

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Sri Kiran Nagarkar, distinguished bilingual writer and playwright, Prof Neera Chandoke, eminent writer and academician, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, scholars and writers who had assembled to participate in the seminar. He also enumerated the concept and theme of the seminar.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari in his Presidential Address said that this seminar is particularly related to the rise of the regional novel in the Bhashas. The 50s saw a rapid



Kiran Nagarkar and Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari

rise in such novels in all Indian languages, and in Hindi they came to be known as "Anchalik." He concluded his talk by stressing the need for writer's vision in bridging the gaps.

The inaugural address by Kiran Nagarkar focussed on a different yet central tangent of the seminar. Nagarkar focussed on the conflicts of language within the country. A bilingual writer himself, he stated that he is often asked why did he switch from writing in Marathi to English, and he further understood this question as underlying the question why did he stop writing in Marathi. But his meeting Dilip Chitre and his contact with the journal 'Abhiruchi' inspired him to write his first short story, and subsequently his first novel. Hence while talking about his precarious position where he only knows two Indian languages, and his love for the English language, he stressed the need to preserve the languages.



Secretary speaking at the inaugural session of the National Seminar

Neera Chandhoke in her Keynote address spoke of the various paradoxes of being a nation-state in the South Asian context. She located the emergence of nations in response to serious provocations such as colonialism, institutionalised injustice and rampant discrimination, or the need to define the identity of a certain group against another. At the same time there is the construction of the ideology of nationalism. India bears witness to the construction of national boundaries fomenting politics of distrust and nurturing the sentiment of segregation and elimination, often causing immense harm to human beings. Even with the births of nation states through trials of blood-stained histories, South Asia is yet to learn its lessons. While distinguishing between the civic and organic nationalism Chandhoke elaborated on the western theorists notions of good and bad nations. She concluded by asserting the need to see the similarities between differing regions and the need to come together, rather than the deep insistence on ruptures.

Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was devoted to "Region and Fiction in North Indian Fiction" and chaired by Prof Gopi Chand Narang, distinguished Urdu writer and scholar, three noted scholars, Sri Farooq Fayaz, Sri Nand Bhardwaj and Dr Radhavallabh Tripathi presented their papers "Nation and Region in Kashmiri Fiction," "Katha-Srijan Mein Kshetra aur Rashtra ka Pratibimb" and "National and Regional Identities in Modern Sanskrit Fiction" respectively.

In the second session that was devoted to "Region and Nation in

Indian English Fiction" and chaired by Prof Alok Bhalla, three eminent scholars, Dr Kavita Sharma, Dr Ipshita Chanda and Dr Sachin Ketkar presented their papers "The Politics of Mahabharata," "Hum Apke Hain Kaun?: On neither region nor nation in Indian English Fiction" and "Translating Darkness into Light: A Cultural Semiotic Reading of the Nation and the Region in the White Tiger" respectively.

In the third session held on March 13, 2015 the topic was "The Region and the Nation in South Indian Fiction".

Prof K. Satchidanandan, in his chairperson's remarks talked about the evolution of the concepts of region and nation in Indian Fiction. In the pre-Independence era from the last decades of nineteenth century onwards till the middle of the twentieth century, novel was viewed mainly as a tool for narrating a nation. The independence movement lent enough fuel to this conceptualization. Early Indian novels were nothing more than a reflection or expression of collective angst and craving for freedom. However, novel being a western concept and art form restricted to



Damodar Mauzo presenting paper at seminar on Region and Nation in Indian English Fiction

a great extent multitudinal sensibilities of the Indian psyche. India has always been a multilingual, multicultural and multi-layered society. One Epic, Mahabharata, contained within itself the expression of collective consciousness as well as regional sensibilities. To a great extent the post-independence regional novel structures are in one way or another going back to the root of that Epic or at least an aspiration towards that.

Sri M. Mukundan, eminent Malayalam writer, in his paper "Region and Nation in Malayalam Fiction," observed that nation-building is a perpetual process and all regional writings, especially regional fiction, should be perceived as contributors to the cultural unity of the country and the perpetual nation-building process. He drew attention to the various perceptions of India as a nation - among the people of ancient and medieval India, the perception of English and Moghuls who ruled the country and perceptions of India as a nation in the post-independence era. Sri Mukundan asserted that the idea of nation existed in Malayalam literature much before the freedom struggle.

Two noted scholars Sri Ampashayya Naveen and Sri A.R. Venkatachalapathy, presented papers, "The Region and the Nation in Telugu Fiction" and "Black is Beautiful: The literature of the black cotton soil (Karisal) region of Tamil Nadu with special reference to the fiction of Cho. Dharman," respectively.

In the fourth session devoted to "The Region and the Nation in North Indian Fiction" and chaired by renowned Marathi writer and scholar and winner of 2015 Jnanpith Award, Prof Bhalchandra Nemade, two noted scholars, Prof Kanji Patel and Prof Rana Nayar presented their papers, "Tribe and Nation in Gujarati Fiction" and "Region and Nation in Punjabi Fiction" respectively. Prof. Nemade said that demarcation of region is polemical and changes constantly and also that in one way or another all writers are regional writers only.

In the fifth session devoted to "The Region and the Nation in West Indian Fiction" and chaired by Prof Sitanshu Yashaschandra, renowned bilingual writer, three eminent scholars, Prof Damodar Mauzo, Sri Mohan Gehani and Ms. Prachi Khandeparkar, presented their papers, "The Region and the Nation in West Indian Fiction," "The Region and the Nation in Indian Fiction: Perspective - Sindhi Fiction" and "The Region and the Nation in Modern Marathi Fiction - Shyamchi Aai, Ranangan, Bahishkrut, Vavthan, Baromas, Brr and Hindu" respectively.

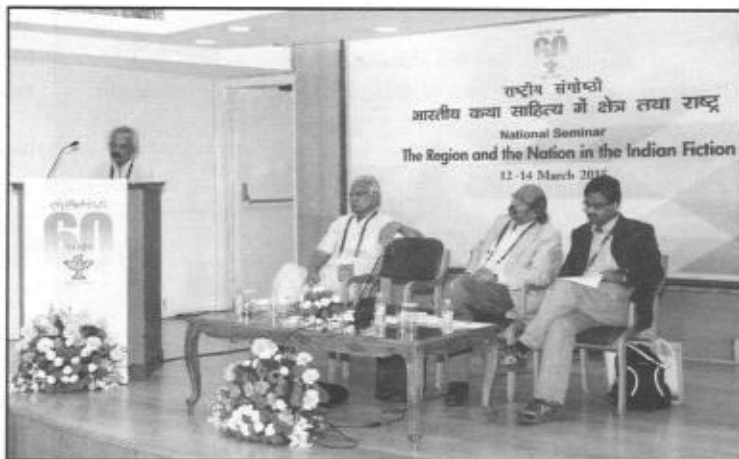
In the sixth session devoted to "The Region and the Nation in North-East Indian Fiction" and chaired by Dr Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, three eminent scholars, Dr Anil Kumar Boro, Prof Th. Ratankumar Singh,



L-R: Kanji Patel, Bhalchandra Nemade and Rana Nayar

Dr M. Asaduddin, presented their papers, "The Region and the Nation in Bodo Fiction: A Critical Appraisal with reference to a few Bodo novels," "The Region and the Nation in Manipuri Fiction" and "Literatures from North-East India: Problems of Definition and Anthologisation" respectively. In his introductory remarks, Dr Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee talked about the relationship between the concepts of region and nation. He observed that if the idea of region is more real than that of a nation, then we should explore more about the nature of their relationship, whether it is dialectical or complementary etc. He said there is a phenomenal amount of proliferation of regional fiction in the last three decades and wondered whether this means the death of the novel as a tool to depict or narrate the nation. Dr Asaduddin, in his paper talked at length about various issues and challenges in understanding fiction from North East and observed this itself stems from the challenges in understanding the region of North East. Dr Anil Kumar Boro observed that Bodo fiction which is not more than five decades old, is highly sub-regional in nature and presents an iconoclastic view of homogenous branding culture.

Day six started with the seventh session devoted to 'Women and Nation in Indian Fiction' and was chaired by Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair. Three eminent scholars, Ms. Volga, Dr Leena Chandorkar and Dr Anamika, presented their papers "Lived Realities of Dalits in a Free Nation: Some reflections on the novel *Swarajyam*," "The 'Woman Question' in Gauri Deshpande's Fiction" and "Weaving a nation on a 'Novel' tapestry: The womanist perception of a nation in three recent novels" respectively.



M. Mukundan presenting his paper at the seminar

In her chairperson's remarks, Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair, congratulated the Akademi for arranging a session on women and nation and praised its efforts to make women writers more visible across the country. She observed that this triangulation of region, nation and women in literature is not new in the country and traced it back to Rabindranath Tagore's earlier writings.

Ms Volga, in her paper revolving around the novel *Swarajyam*, talked about the congruence between the feudal culture and power of the State in building the nation in the early years of independence and observed that this congruence is strengthened by capitalist, patriarchal, and communal forces to oppress dalits, women, minorities, ethnic and linguistic groups. Dr Leena Chandorkar, in her paper on Gauri Deshpande's feminist novels, talked about the dilemmas of early feminist writers in Marathi fiction world and observed that it is Gauri Deshpande who opened the gates for open discussion on man-woman relationship and acted as a springboard for other writers to address various feminist issues in Marathi fiction. Dr Anamika in her paper, talked about the challenges and problems faced by the writers while addressing women's



L-R: Mohan Gehani, Damodar Mauzo, Sitanshu Yashashandra and Prachi Khandeparkar

issues and talked about the inability of many feminist writers to breach the line of transcendence in Hindi, Urdu and other such language fictions.

In the eighth session devoted to "Dalit and Nation in Indian Fiction" and chaired by distinguished Dalit writer and scholar Ms. P. Sivakami, three noted scholars, Ms. Maya Pandit, Ms. Ramnika Gupta and Dr Harish Narang, presented their papers "Nation from below: Anna Bhau Sathe and Construction of Nation and Region," "Bharatiya Katha Sahitya Mein Dalit" and "The Idea of Region and Nation in Dalit Literature" respectively. Ms. Sivakami, inaugurating the session, talked about how the early Indian fiction, literary exercises and discourses were primarily aimed at promoting nationalism and observed that even for some time after independence literature was focusing on nationalism primarily due to state institutions and structures

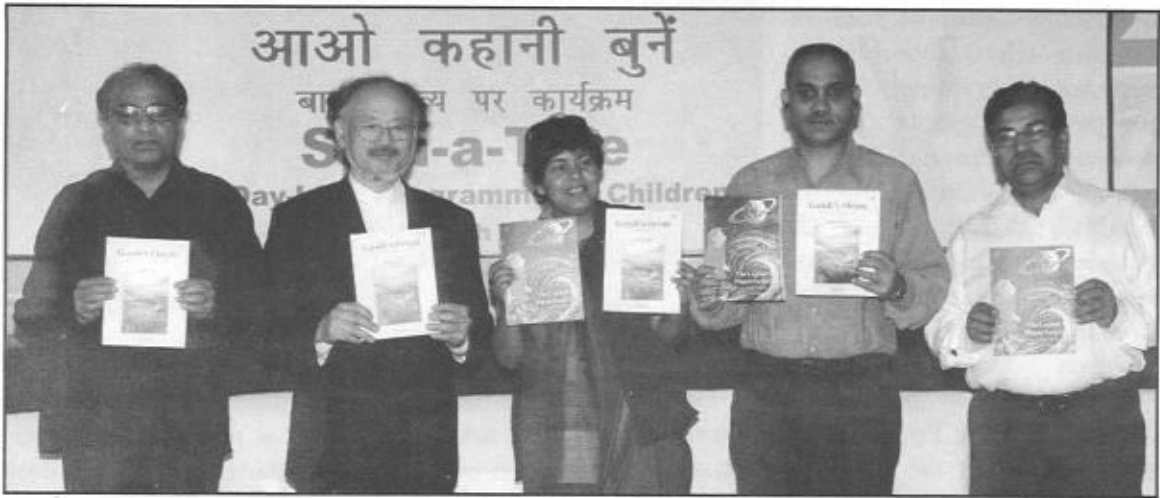
all over the country were designed in such a way as to promote nationalism.

In the ninth session devoted to "The Region and the Nation in East Indian Fiction" and chaired by Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, three noted scholars, Dr Ram kumar Mukhopadhyay, Dr Udaya Narayana Singh and Sri Mahendra P Lama, presented their papers "The Region and the Nation in Indian Fiction – Bengali," "Foregrounding Hinterlands – Amiyabhushan's Literary Landscape in Dukhiyar Kuthi" and "The Region and the Nation in Indian Nepali Literature: Connecting threads, instruments and institutions" respectively.

In the tenth and final session devoted to "Critiquing Region, Nation and Indian Fiction" and chaired by Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, three noted scholars Dr Siraj Ahmed, Dr A.J. Thomas and Dr Avadhesh Kumar Singh presented their papers "Refracting the Region and Nation through Cities: Redefining Indian Fiction in English," "Life of Migrant Workers in Kerala Reflected in Contemporary Malayalam Short Fiction" and "Against Bonsaification: 'Region' and 'Nation' as Cognitive Categories and Indian Novel" respectively.

Providing the concluding remarks for the seminar, Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked all the writers and scholars who came from all over the country to participate in the national seminar and making it a grand success.

Spin-A-Tale Programme



Book release during Spin-A-Tale programme

Under its one of the flagship programme Bal Sahiti and as part of the Festival of Letters, Sahitya Akademi organized a day-long programme for children, "Spin-A-Tale" at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on March 14, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Mr Tajima Shinji, well-known Japanese children's writer and other dignitaries present along with scores of children who had assembled to participate in the programme. He talked about the importance of children to the society, relevance of good children's literature and Sahitya Akademi's role in it. He enumerated various activities, publications and awards of Sahitya Akademi to promote children's literature in India.

On the occasion, English translations of Japanese writer Tajima Shinji's *Gaudi's Ocean* and *Legend of Planet Surprise* were released. Speaking at the release function Tajima Shinji said the books were written by him about 40 years ago when he himself was a child.

He talked about the importance of providing good reading material to children to enable them to develop themselves into strong and balanced persons.

It was followed by dance performance by



Performance by children with special needs

children with special needs belonging to Aanchal Special School. Sri Rakesh Srivastava of Machan Group of Performing Arts talked about his experience in training children for the choreographic presentations in Aanchal Special School. Ms. Vidushi, Director, NDMC, also spoke on the occasion and talked about the challenges in presenting information and knowledge to these children.



Poetry competition during Spin-A-Tale

In the 'Story Telling' session, Devendra Mewari, Madhu Pant and Robinson read out their stories. In the poetry competition the theme was 'Swachh Bharat'. Several children in the age group of 6-18 years participated.

In the afternoon session a workshop on 'Illustrating Children's Books' conducted by

Debabrata Sarkar and Manas Ranjan Mahapatra was held followed by a panel discussion on 'Writing Books for Young Adults' featuring Nivedita Sengupta, Manasi Subramanyam, Priyamvada Bhattacharya, Manisha Chaudhury and Manasranjan Mahapatra and moderated by Pranav Kumar Singh.

Purvottari: North-East and Northern Writers' Meet

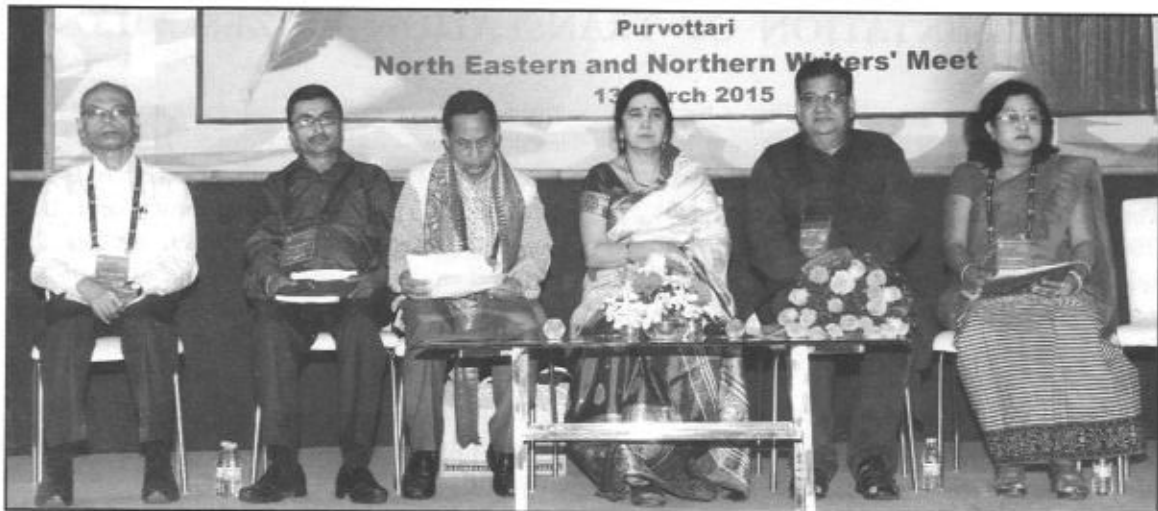
As part of its commitment to promote and encourage literature from all the North Eastern languages and providing ample opportunities to litterateurs from North East regions to interact with writers from rest of the country, Sahitya Akademi organized a day-long 'Purvottari: North-East and Northern Writers' Meet' at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on March 13, as part of the Festival of Letters.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President Sahitya Akademi, Dr Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board,

Sahitya Akademi, who inaugurated the meet, the writers and scholars who had assembled to participate in the meet and other audience. He spoke about the ethnic and linguistic diversity of the North East and the rich literature contained in their oral traditions.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, in his speech said that North East is the only place where we find several unwritten languages and we come to know about all this only through oral literature. He summed up his speech with the recitation of one of his famous poem, "Gunaho Ke Saboot."

Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika inaugurated



Uday Kumar Sarma, Bhavani Adhikari, Nabin Malla Boro, Karali Deka Hazarika, Mithesh Nirmohi and K. Joymati Devi

the programme and delivered the inaugural speech. She said that literature is one of the finest ways of self-expression. According to her "a single poem is itself a tiny book of literature."

In the first session that was devoted to poetry reading, ten noted poets Bhavani Adhikari (Nepali), K. Joymati Devi (Manipuri), Uday Kumar Sarma (Assamese), Nabin Malla Boro (Bodo), Mithesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani), Udbhrant (Hindi), Pankaj Parashar (Maithili), Jagwinder Jodha (Punjabi), Saroj Kaushal (Sanskrit) and Majid Majaji (Kashmiri) recited their poems.

In the second session that was devoted to short story reading and chaired by Dr Anil Kumar Boro, four noted story writers, Jayant Madhav Bora (Assamese) 'Ravana' (in English Translation), Mayanglambam Kandesh Singh (Manipuri) 'Who is the unknown person' (in English Translation), Bhagwan Das Morwal (Hindi)

'Bas, Tum Na Hote Pitaji' and Bina Biswas (English) 'My Obituary' read out their stories.

In the third session that was devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Suresh Rituparna, ten noted poets, T. B. Chandra Subba (Nepali), Ranjit Kumar Barua (Assamese), Dinanath Basumatary (Bodo), H. Venubala Devi (Manipuri), Alka Sinha (Hindi), Darshan Singh Buttar (Punjabi), Shyam Besra



Rajasthani Folk Singing in the evening of 13 March

PRESENTATION OF TRANSLATION PRIZES 2013

Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prizes for 2013 were presented at a grand ceremony held at Pragyaajyoti Auditorium, ITA Centre for Performing Arts, Guwahati on August 22, 2014. Sahitya Akademi and Jnanpith Award winner Dr Kedarnath Singh graced the occasion as a Chief Guest and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi presided.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the Chief Guest, participants, award winning translators and other literary connoisseurs who attended the ceremony. He spoke at length about various efforts and programmes of the Akademi to promote literature through India and abroad. Translation is the core of all the activities of the Akademi and through translation the Akademi brings together various cultural and literary traditions together and unites such diverse country like India in its own way. Dr Sreenivasarao also talked about how the translations not only bring the traditions of various cultures of the present

time together but also act as bridge between remote past and the future. He cited the examples of translations of, in various Indian languages," Kalidasa and Homer and how those translations enriched local literary and cultural traditions in each region of India and the world. He said he is proud that Akademi not only celebrates the legendary writers and their works but also their translators and translations. Akademi has been doing whatever it can for the cause of translators and translations.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his address talked about various facets of translations and their role in enriching literature. Translation is one area that has been by and large neglected hitherto by the literary community world over and it is time others too emulate the work of the Akademi in this regard and promote translations. For, translations in addition to their role of carrying creative literature beyond known boundaries also act as rebirth of the



Award Winning Translators with the President, Vice-President and the Secretary of the Akademi and the Chief Guest Dr Kedarnath Singh



Dr Kedarnath Singh addressing the inaugural session

original creative writings. Also translation, especially of poems, supply to other literary traditions crafts, tools and rhythms hitherto unknown to them. He cited several examples from Hindi poetry and their transportation into English.

Sahitya Akademi and Jnanpith Award winner, Dr Kedarnath Singh, in his address, spoke at length about the role and place of translations in any given literature. He was very happy that the Akademi is recognizing and celebrating the translators and translations and also financial incentives are available now a days to the translators. He also enumerated how the translations widened the horizons his own life and enriched his literary career. He also said institutions like the Akademi should take up the work of translations of major Indian literary works in other languages of the world. He said translations play a very vital role in compiling histories of various literary traditions of diverse country like India.

The Secretary of the Akademi read out the citations of each award winner, the Vice President of the Akademi Dr Chandrashekhara

Kambar honoured each awardee with the traditional Assamese Gamocha and the President of the Akademi distributed the prizes and cheques. The Vice-President proposed a vote of thanks.

List of award winning translators

(Late) Dipika Chakraborty – Assamese / Soma Bandyopadhyay – Bengali / Gobinda Boro – Bodo/ Veena Gupta – Dogri / Ranjit Hoskote – English / Buddhadeva Chatterji – Hindi / Jagannatha Pandurang Dodamani – Kannada / Aziz Hajini – Kashmiri / Hema Naik – Konkani / Gunanath Jha – Maithili / Ulloor M. Parameswaran – Malayalam / Ibocha Soibam – Manipuri / Rev Father Francis D'Britto – Marathi / I.K. Singh – Nepali / Bilasini Mohanty – Odia / Balbir Madhopuri – Punjabi / (Late) Shanti Lal Bhardwaj 'Rakesh' – Rajasthani / Abhiraja Rajendra Mishra – Sanskrit / Mangal Majhi – Santali / Khiman Mulani – Sindhi / Iraiyaadiyan – Tamil / Nalimela Bhaskar – Telugu / Nizam Siddiqui – Urdu

Translators' Meet 23 August 2014

Translators' Meet, featuring all the award winning translators of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prizes 2013, was held at the Vivekananda Kendra, Guwahati. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed all the award winning translators and Dr K. Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi presided over the meet. A minute's silence was observed at the beginning of the meet as a mark of respect to U.R. Ananthamurthy, eminent Kannada writer and the past President of Sahitya Akademi.

At the meet all the award winning translators shared and talked about their experiences as writers and translators. Soma Bandyopadhyay, who won the award for Bengali, shared how her travelling to different places in India and exposure to various literary and cultural traditions enriched her sensibility towards different sounds, rhythms and concepts, thereby enabling her to become a better translator. She thanked the jury and the Akademi for selecting her works and said meets like this will benefit all the translators. Gobinda Boro, renowned Bodo translator, spoke about how translation enabled him to realize that the translator has more responsibility than the writer while translating the award winning book. Veena Gupta, Dogri translator, said that over the years translating different works has given an awareness, more acutely in the award winning title, that fidelity to the original does not mean only syntactical but semantical too.

The replication of expressions with similarity in the meanings will enable the translations to achieve rhythm of the original too. Aziz Hazini, Kashmiri translator, spoke about the peculiarities of his native tongue, the difficulties of translating alien tongue into Kashmiri and his journey as a translator. Hema Naik, Konkani translator, talked about how translations are attempts and tools at restoration of the cultural and literary traditions in different modes and they also serve the additional purpose of informing people who do not know the original language. Gunanath Jha, Maithili translator, spoke about how his love for his native tongue and works of scores of great translators in Maithili helped him to become a better translator. Ulloor Parameswaran, Malayalam translator, too spoke in the same vein as the speaker before and cited the presence of his father and prominent translators of his time as big influences on his works. Ibocha Soibam, Manipuri translator, positive messages and energy of the titles he choose including his award winning title are the reasons for success of his translations. Francis



Soma Bandyopadhyay speaking at Translators' Meet with Chandrasekhara Kambar in the chair



Participants of Translators' Meet observing a minute's silence in memory of U.R. Ananthamurthy

D'Britto, Marathi translator, spoke about the challenges in and satisfaction that one derives out of translating such epic works like Bible into languages very remote from the original. Dr Sushmita represented her father I.K. Singh, Nepali translator, and read out a speech of the latter thanking the Akademi. Bilasini Mohanty, Odia translator, spoke about how translations themselves are creative works and often they spur the original writings subsequently. Balbir Madhopuri, Punjabi

translator, spoke about the events and circumstances in his life that enabled him to become a better translator and also big influences on his career. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, Sanskrit translator, talked about various influences on his translations and also about the necessity to translate Sanskrit works into languages world over. Mangal Majhi, Santali translator, talked about how he has been striving to bring Santali works to the knowledge of many and also about difficulties of translating into Santali language. Khiman Mulani, Sindhi translator, talked about the

difficulties of translating from / to Sindhi and also about conduciveness of translation in Sindhi literary community. Iraiyaadiyan, Tamil translator, recalled the encouragement given by the Akademi in his translation efforts and also about the influences of other translated works on his own works. Nizam Siddiqui, Urdu translator, shared his journey as a translator. Dr Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, thanked all the translators and other participants.

Abhivyakti

In the second session of the day, a programme, 'Abhivyakti', was organized at the same venue. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and briefly outlined the nature and objective of the programme where translators from all the 24 languages recognized by the Akademi read out excerpts from their works. He also talked about great literary and cultural tradition heritage of Assam. Nagen Saikia,

eminent Assamese writer inaugurated the programme and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi and Karabi Deka Hazarika, noted writer also participated. Karabi Deka Hazarika thanked the Akademi for conducting such an important function in Guwahati, hoped that this will give fresh impetus to literary efforts in Assam and said listening to translators from 24 languages is like experiencing different colours of India sitting on the banks of Brahmaputra.

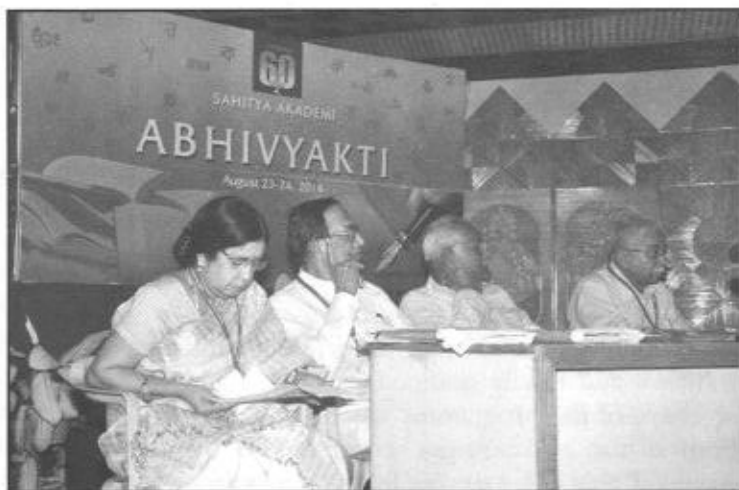
Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari talked about how even the title Abhivyakti is very appropriate for programme like this and enumerated the thought process behind it. He said the term means expression and also immortal poems of God. This is a platform where the creative people give expressions to feelings and thoughts and as such is an art that is beyond the capabilities of common man. He also said translators play a vital role in carrying and the sounds rhythms of one language and tradition to other languages and traditions. Nagen Saikia, in his inaugural speech said though different languages may have different origins and also different cultural and literary traditions and hence different forms of expressions and art forms, the thought, feeling and creativity behind are same universally. So, as such translators are boats who ferry one tradition into many. He also congratulated the Akademi for bringing together and giving opportunity to 45 Indian contemporary writers in single platform and felt such efforts enrich all the literary traditions. Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar read two of his poems, 'A Tree by a Bank of a River' and 'Mirror'. Twelve poets from different languages, in two groups, Sumitra Goswami (Assamese), Gautam Basu (Bengali), Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Rajesh Pandya (Gujarati), Ekant Shrivastava (Hindi) and Arif Raja (Kannada), R. K. Bhubonsana Singh (Manipuri), Anuradha Patil (Marathi), Sudha M. Rai (Nepali), Vennila A. (Tamil), Pratap Singh Betab (Urdu) and Y. Ramakrishnarao (Telugu) rendered their poems and the translations were also read out. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi thanked all the poets, participants

and delegates for making the programme successful.

A day long 'Abhivyakti' for short story writers and a Poets' Meet was held on August 24, 2014 at Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati, as part of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2013 festival.

The first session of Abhivyakti for short story writers began with Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi welcoming the participants and the audience and Sri Lakshmi Nandan Bora, eminent Assamese writer chairing the session. Five fiction writers, Devabrata Das (Assamese), Rai Rahi (Dogri), Manu Baligar (Kannada), Paresh Patnaik (Odia) and M. Narendra (Telugu) read their stories in the original language and also in translation.

In the second session of Abhivyakti that was chaired by renowned writer Pradip Acharya, five writers, Srabani Pal (Bengali), Kavery Nambisan (English), Ramesh Chandra Shah (Hindi), Asha Menon (Malayalam) and Irom Robindro Singh (Manipuri) spoke about why they write and shared their experiences as writer. The Chair, Sri Pradip Acharya, summed up and evaluated all the speeches



Karabi Deka Hazarika, Nagen Saikia, Viswanath Prasad Tiwari and Chandrasekhara Kambar

and observed that it is always an interesting learning experience to be part of a platform where various thinking minds representing diverse cultural and literary traditions meet and also how such gatherings give rise to quality post-modern discourses.

The third session of Abhivyakti, chaired by noted writer Dr Anil Boro and five short story writers, Urmila Shirish (Hindi), Mahendra Kadam (Marathi), Dev Bhandari (Nepali), Bharat Ola (Rajasthani) and Solai Sundaraperumal (Tamil) read out their stories and translations. Dr Boro summed up and evaluated the stories presented.

Poets' Meet marked the fourth and last session of the day. Prof Robin S Ngangom, eminent Manipuri writer and translator chaired

the session and nine poets, Jnan Pujari (Assamese), Mangalsingh Hazowary (Bodo), G. M. Ajir (Kashmiri), Madhav Borkar (Konkani), Phoolchandra Jha 'Praveen' (Maithili), Surjit Judge (Punjabi), Balram Shukla (Sanskrit), Arjun Charan Hembram (Santali) and Jaya Jadwani (Sindhi), presented their poems and translations. Robin Ngangom then summed up and evaluated the poems presented.

Three day Translation Prize 2013 festival came to a colourful end with the Secretary thanking all the literary connoisseurs from all over Assam, participating poets and writers, award winning translators and other delegates and luminaries for making the event successful.

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR PRESENTED

Sahitya Akademi presented annual Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2014 to twenty three eminent writers of Children's literature at a glittering ceremony

at Kuvempu Kalakshetra, Bengaluru on November 14, 2014. The awards were presented to the winners by Dr Chandrasekhara



The award winners with the Chief Guest G. Venkatasubbiah and Secretary and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi



Subhadra Sengupta receiving the award

Kambar, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi who is a distinguished poet and playwright and Jnanpith Award Winner.

Welcoming the large number of writers and scholars, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, congratulated the award winners and observed the happy coincidence of the Award Presentation Ceremony and 125th birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. He spoke the importance of children to any given society and their role in the development of nations. He outlined the steps taken by the Akademi to promote children's literature across India in all the 24 recognized languages and also in scores of minor languages of the country.

Prof G. Venkatasubbaiah, doyen of Kannada lexicography and eminent writer was the chief guest of the function. In his address, Prof Venkatasubbaiah remembered the words of S. Radhakrishnan that all literature of India is covered by similar cultural ethos and stressed that Children's literature in all Indian languages cannot be exceptions. He delineated the prominent Kannada writers of Children's literature and recited few poems to reinforce his point of view. He appealed to visual media in all the languages to take up the cause of Children's literature.

Presenting the awards, Dr Kambar spoke about the duty of writers to children. He said while in modern Bengali literature every noted writer has contributed to children's literature – from Tagore to the present, it is not the same case with all other languages of India. While there are notable and major exceptions to this in every language, the general trend is to neglect contributions to children's literature. He felt this trend should change very soon for the betterment of all of Indian literature. Dr Kambar also cited examples from European and American literature to drive home his point.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao conducted the programme and thanked everyone for their presence and support.

The writers who were presented Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2014:

- Dinesh Chandra Goswami (*Assamese*)
- Gouri Dharmapal (*Bengali*)
- Kaushalya Brahma (*Bodo*)
- Dhian Singh (*Dogri*)
- Subhadra Sen Gupta (*English*)
- Ishwar Parmar (*Gujarati*)
- Dinesh Chamola "Shailesh" (*Hindi*)
- Anand V. Patil (*Kannada*)
- Hamid Siraj (*Kashmiri*)
- Surya Ashok (*Konkani*)



Surya Ashok receiving the award

(Late) Jeevakant (*Maithili*)
 K.V. Ramanathan (*Malayalam*)
 Rajkumar Bhobonsana (*Manipuri*)
 Madhuri Purandare (*Marathi*)
 Munni Sapkota (*Nepali*)
 Dash Benhur [Jitendra Narayan Dash] (*Odia*)
 Kulbir Singh Suri (*Punjabi*)
 Neeraj Dahiya (*Rajasthani*)
 Kanhailal Tudu (*Santali*)
 Vashdev 'Sindhu Bharati' (*Sindhi*)
 Era. Natarajan (*Tamil*)
 Dasari Venkataramana (*Telugu*)
 Mahboob Rahi (*Urdu*)



Madhuri Purandare receiving the award

Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized a Writers' Meet of all the award winning writers of Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2014 at Nayana auditorium in Bengaluru on November 15, 2014.

Welcoming the award winning writers and other scholars present, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, outlined the purpose and objectives of these writer meets. He said that Akademi is committed to promoting literary exchanges and dialogues.



Audience at Writers' Meet

The meets of this nature promote healthy discussions and enables all the writers concerned to learn more about the art of writing itself. Dr Rao also said the core of Akademi's purpose is to bring various literary and cultural traditions together and the Akademi organizes such meets all over the country through the year so that writers from one cultural and literary tradition get exposed to and learn from other traditions of India.

Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the meet.

Interesting and multi-dimensional perspectives of the genre of Children's writing in Indian languages came to the fore as all the award winning writers presented papers sharing their creative experiences.

From science writing in ancient Assam (presented by Dinesh Chandra Goswami, Assamese Award Winner) to the presence and purpose of themes of history in Children's writing (presented by Subhadra Sen Gupta, English Award Winner) to the inspiration

and uniqueness of the world of Children's writing (presented by Anand V Patil, Kannada Award Winner) to the responsibility and role of writers in enriching Children's literature (presented by Surya Ashok, Konkani Award Winner) to the role of folk songs, nature and traditions in Children's literature (presented by K.V. Ramanathan, Malayalam Award Winner) and the relevance of Children's literature in nurturing young minds in the

present world (presented by R.K. Bhubonsana, Manipuri Award Winner), confluence of interesting and inspirational thoughts and philosophies marked the meet. There was plenty of personal element too as writers shared their experiences from personal lives too.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked everyone for their presence and support.

Seminar on Writing for Children: New Challenges

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar on "Writing for Children: The New Challenges" and a Poets' Meet at Nayana auditorium in Bengaluru on November 16, 2014, as part of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presentation Ceremony.

Eminent writer Shashi Deshpande inaugurated the Seminar and Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the inaugural session. Sri Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the speakers and the panelists. Welcoming the guests of honor, speakers, panelists and writers assembled, Dr K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, spoke about the challenges of writing children's literature in a multi-lingual and multi-cultural society like India and also about the diverse sensibilities and cultural backgrounds in a vast country like India. Ms. Shashi Deshpande spoke about the writers' challenges on creating children's literature and

also the challenges they face in getting them across to large number of children through publishers. She talked about the rapidly changing world and the need of writers to adapt themselves to this daunting task all the time. Dr Kambar spoke at length about the need to create vast literature of science and other subjects in Indian languages to widen the horizons of vast number of children who are at disadvantage when it comes to English education.



K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the participants of the seminar

Ms. Anita Nair, eminent Indian English writer, who chaired the first session of the seminar, said that the present children have been caught between two worlds; the traditional world on one hand and on the other hand media influenced world. It is a constant battle for a children's writers to pitch a story for children. The literature should excite children to read it thereby creating good psyche and personality in them. Mrs. Nandita Phukan, Assamese writer, Sri Vinod Chandra Pandey, Hindi writer, Sri G.B. Harish, Kannada writer and Sri Rajiv Tambe, Marathi Children's litterateur spoke on the challenges ahead of them in writing for children's in their respective languages.

The second session was chaired by Dr. Sirpi Balasubramaniam, eminent Tamil writer, who spoke on the history of Tamil children's literature, present condition of the family and societal system in India. He urged the state governments to restore children's education

in the mother tongue. The children should move from nursery rhymes towards adventurous science fiction. The real challenge is to free child from all shackles of traditional oppressions. Mrs. Joya Mitra, Mrs. Manorama Biswal Mohapatra, Sri Unnikrishnan Ponkunnam, presented their papers.

The programme concluded with a multilingual poets' meet. Dr H.S. Venkatesha Murthy, eminent Kannada writer chaired the session. Poets representing Bodo, Manipuri, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Sindhi, Santali, Urdu recited their poetry for children. Dr H.S. Venkatesha Murthy said that writing for children is a peculiar state of mind. The child in us should be eternal. The writing for children is a passion. He also highlighted that 'Today's reading leads to tomorrow's success.'

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi thanked all the writers, audience and media for their co-operation in making the Puraskar a successful event.

PRESENTATION OF YUVA PURASKAR 2013

The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar Awards for 2014 were presented to 21 young writers at a glittering ceremony on February 10, 2015 at U Soso Tham auditorium, State Central Library, Shillong.

Welcoming the award winners, dignitaries and audience Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, talked at length about the purpose and objectives of Yuva Puraskar. He highlighted the importance of young minds to every country around the world and the need to recognize young writers and scholars. He enumerated various schemes and initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote young writers, poets and scholars across India in all the 24 official languages. He observed that Yuva

Puraskar was instituted to fill the gap as winners of central Akademi awards are felicitated after substantial achievement and progress and to encourage young writers to continue writing till that point, Akademi instituted the award. He also observed that this Award presentation is being held for the first time in Shillong and hoped that this would inspire more young writers to take up serious writing and emerge as leading writers.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, in his Presidential address, talked about conditioning effect of time and observed that literature and art are no exceptions. He urged the young writers to make best use of their youth and record their reflections of their life. Dr Tiwari



Yuva Puraskar Awardees with the Chief Guest, President and Secretary of the Akademi

also observed that many a best writing from around the world have been produced by young minds and young writers are vital to the growth of any and all literature and in all languages.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao read out the citations and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the awards. The winners of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for 2014 are:

Smt. Manika Devce (Assamese)
Sri Abhimanyu Mahato (Bangla)
Smt. Shanti Basumatary (Bodo)
Sri Kaushik Barua (English)
Sri Anil Chavda (Gujarati)
Sri Kumar Anupam (Hindi)
Ms. Kavya Kadame (Kannada)
Sri Naresh Chandrakant Naik (Konkani)
Sri Praveen Kashyap (Maithili)
Ms. Indu Menon (Malayalam)
Sri Wangthoi Khuman (Manipuri)
Sri Avdhoot Dongre (Marathi)
Sri Tika 'Bhai' (Nepali)
Sri Narendra Kumar Bhoi (Oriya)
Sri Gagan Deep Sharma (Punjabi)
Sri Raju Ram Bijarniyan 'Raj' (Rajasthani)

Dr. Paramba Shree Yogamaya (Sanskrit)
Sri Anpa Marandi (Santali)
Sri R. Abilash Chandran (Tamil)
Dr. Harinatha Reddy (Telugu) and
Sri Iltefat Amjadi (Urdu)

Sri Jeet Thayil, well-known Indian writer and Chief Guest of the function, talked about the values and virtues of youth period and the high percentage of flow of creativity during that period. He, however, highlighted the perils of being a full-time writer in a country like India with market providing very little to no financial gains to the writer. He however, applauded Sahitya Akademi for encouraging young writers in all the Indian languages. He also observed that poetry yields little benefits to the young writers and also about shortage of quality translators. He urged Sahitya Akademi to train more youngsters in the field of translation.

Prof. Sylvanus Lamare, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks and the awards presentation ceremony was followed by a folk-dance presentation by the Khasi troupe.

Awardees' Meet

As part of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, the Awardees' meet was held on February 10, 2015 at the Arts and Culture Hall, State Central Library, Shillong. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the meet. All the twenty-one awardees shared their

experiences in creative writing. Some of the awardees also spoke on why they write, influences on their writing etc. The session ended with a word of thanks by the chairperson to all the awardees who have presented their views.

Avishkar: Young Writers' Festival

As part of Yuva Puraskar, Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day All India Young Writers' Meet under the platform Avishkar on February 11, 2015, at the Arts and Culture Hall, State Central Library, Shillong.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the benefits of such meets. He also highlighted various schemes and initiatives of the Akademi for the benefit of the young writers. In his inaugural address, Sri Lakshmi Nandan Bora, well-known Assamese writer, talked about the value of young writers as 'determining factors' in the growth of literature. He urged the young writers to have principled professional life as writers and follow truthful presentation as far as possible in their writings. Dr. Sylvanus Lamare, who was the guest of honour, thanked the Akademi for hosting this prestigious awards function in the North East and also spoke briefly about the rich oral history of Khasis for the benefit of the 21 award winners from all over India. In the poetry session that followed, seven noted young poets, Bijoy Sankar Sharma (Assamese), Riquoma Laloo (Jaintia), Aribam Rimeeta Devi (Manipuri), Geethika (Telugu), Surjit Hosh (Dogri), Irshad Magami (Kashmiri) and Vishal Khullar (Urdu) recited their poems in original and in

translations. Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Why do I write?' and chaired by Prof K.C. Baral, six noted young writers, Chintan Shelat, Kulvir, Manushi, Ritabrata Mitra, Salil Gewali and Uddipana Goswami, presented their papers focusing on curiosity, attempting to reach the unreachable, ability of writing to soothe pain, nature, literary heritage and personality trait as the reasons for their being writers respectively.

In the second session that was devoted to short story reading and chaired by Dr Streamlet Dkhar, three noted young fiction writers, Saroj Bal (Odia), Alfidarie Kharsyntiew (Khasi) and Prajna Mattihalli (Kannada) read out their stories.

In the final session that was devoted to poetry reading session and chaired by Prof Esther Syiem, Member, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, nine noted young poets, Mr. Dilip Kumar Jha 'Lootan' (Maithili), Mr. Dushyant (Rajasthani), Kamal Regmi (Nepali), Amey Naik (Konkani), Kaushal Tiwari (Sanskrit), Manoj Chawla (Sindhi), Jean S. Dkhar (Khasi), Ravi Laxmikant Korde (Marathi) and Fuguna Goyari (Bodo) recited their poems. Prof Esther Syiem delivered the valedictory address and Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan proposed a vote of thanks.

BHASHA SAMMAN PRESENTATION CEREMONY

24 April 2014, Varanasi

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Bhasha Samman for 2013 on Pt. Hariram Dwivedi for his contribution to Bhojpuri language and literature in a ceremony organised on 24 April 2014 at Gardey Conference hall of Paradkar Smriti Bhawan at Golghar, Varanasi. This honour is equivalent to Sahitya Akademi's main award. It has been given twice earlier for contribution in Bhojpuri language, to Dharikshna Mishra and Moti B.A

The Programme started with hymn singing by Dr Preeti Vimarshini, Acharya, Panini Sanskrit Gurukul, Varanasi and her students. It was followed by 'Saraswati Vandana' by Sri Govind Shukla. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his welcome address referred to the famous quote of Saint Tukaram 'words are only jewels I possess' and said that Sahitya Akademi considers the works of literature in regional languages and dialects very precious. He said that despite the absence of scripts, minor languages and numerous dialects form healthy portion of rich cultural and literary traditions of India and oral traditions are part and parcel of ancient, medieval and modern Indian literature. He explained that the Sahitya Akademi initiated Bhasha Samman to encourage and promote literature in these languages.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi delivered his presidential address in Bhojpuri and stated that

literature of Bhojpuri is quite wide and it has various forms. He also said that Hariram Dwivedi's speciality is that he writes only poetry which places him in the category of pure poets and their poetic approach is very humble as that of legendary Tulsi. In Dwivedi's poetry one experiences the Folk beauty. It is very lyrical which is outcome of inner emotions and tremulousness. He has composed poetry in almost every folk tune. He further said that Hariram Dwivedi is associated with Gorakhpur Radio Station since its inception.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, honoured Hariram Dwivedi with Bhasha Samman and Dr K. Sreenivasarao read the citation. Later Hariram Dwivedi was felicitated with a plaque and prize money Rs. 1,00,000.

Hariram Dwivedi, in his acceptance speech said that "Bhojpuri is my mother tongue which I have learned from early years of my life." He also said that since childhood he had liking for Bhojpuri songs. He used to accompany his mother to various marriage



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presenting Bhasha Samman to Hariram Dwivedi, K. Sreenivasarao looks on

parties and other ritual ceremonies being organised in their villages and listen to the songs. Later, even as he was discouraged by his father, one day he felt a strong urge and thought that he can also compose these songs which helped him to discover the poet in him. Hariram Dwivedi stated that he never suffered from any complex while writing in Bhojpuri his mother tongue. He has not only experienced this folk language but he has lived it. He also recited some of his songs which were well received by the audience.

The programme was co-ordinated by Sri

Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The programme was attended by well-known litterateurs, journalists and scholars like Dr Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, Dr Dayanidhi Mishra, Prof Sadanand Shahi, Prof Vaishtha Anup, Neerja Madhav, Dr Ram Sudhar Singh, Dr. Kamalakar Tripathi, Ramavatar Pandey, Moolchand Sonkar, Jawaharlal Kaul, Vachaspati, Mukta, Manjula Chaturvedi, Prof Shraddhanand, Prof Varshitha Narayan Tripathi, Gorakhnath, Ashok Anand, Gautam Arora, Dr Saleem Rahi, Prof Rajendra Acharya among others.

5 October 2014, Thiruvananthapuram

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Bhasha Samman on those scholars who have made exemplary contribution to the preservation and promotion of classical and medieval literature and minor languages and dialects at a glittering ceremony at Kanakakunnu Palace Main Hall, Thiruvananthapuram on October 5, 2014.

Bhasha Samman for contributions to classical and medieval literature was conferred on Puthussery Ramachandran and Sumerchand Kesarichand Jain. Vishwanath Tripathi was conferred the Samman for his contributions to medieval Bhakti poetry. Bhasha Samman for the category of minor languages and dialects was conferred on Mahadeo Savji Andher (Posthumous) for his effort to preserve literary heritage of Warli language, on Motiraj



Bhasha Samman Awardees with the President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi and the Chief Guest, Smt. Sugathakumari

Bhajnu Rathod and Ramchander Ramesh Arya for their contributions to Banjara / Lambadi language and on B. Lalthangliana for his contribution to Mizo language.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the awardees and the scholars assembled and briefly enumerated the efforts of the Akademi in preserving and promoting literature contained in all the major and minor languages of India, including numerous dialects. He praised the efforts of all the award winners for this year for their stupendous contributions to the minor languages and dialects.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferred the awards that comprised a cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and a plaque. Dr Tiwari spoke about the relevance of preserving the literature contained in scores of dialects as they symbolize the hoar philosophies handed down from the remote past and carry relevance for all ages. He also said in his Presidential address that all the awardees of 2014 are gurus and all are worthy of the honor they have received.

Smt Sugathakumari, eminent poet and activist who was the chief guest of the evening spoke about how confluence of rich and diverse languages along with numerous customs, mores and rites that make up the

soul of the nation. She said Sahitya Akademi should be saluted for encouraging and promoting literature even in minor languages, the Akademi is doing a great service to the nation as a whole. She also thanked the Akademi for choosing Thiruvananthapuram as a venue for presenting these awards.

Receiving the award, Puthusseri Ramachandran said he was very happy for this recognition and award by the Akademi but felt more research and studies are needed into medieval literature especially in Malayalam. Ramchander Ramesh Arya talked about how languages can be compared to a bouquet with different flowers and thanked the Akademi for its efforts in this direction. Lalthangliana said he was very excited to receive the award as this is a signal that not all have forgotten the tribal languages. Sri Mahadeo Savji Andher's son received the award on behalf of his father while Vishwanath Tripathi and Sumerchand Kesarichand could not attend the function due to ill health.

Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board proposed a vote of thanks. The event was well attended by more than three hundred scholars from all over Kerala and both print and electronic media covered the function prominently.

18 December 2014, New Delhi

At a glittering ceremony, Sahitya Akademi presented its Bhasha Samman for 2014 to Dr. Vishwanath Tripathi for his exemplary contributions to the promotion of classical and medieval literature on December 18, 2014 at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi.

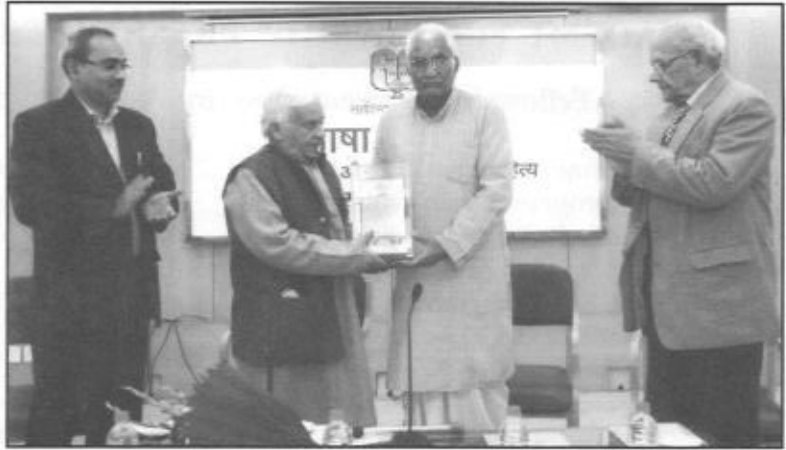
Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced Dr.

Tripathi to the audience and read out the citation. Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked at length about the life and works of Dr. Tripathi in an invigorating speech, interspersed with interesting anecdotes from his life. After the citation recital, Dr. Tiwari presented Dr. Tripathi with the cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, a shawl and a plaque.

Dr Tripathi has made stellar contributions in area of medieval bhakti literature,

especially in interpreting Tulsidas and Meerabai. Before this award, Dr. Tripathi was the recipient of Vyas Samman, Soviet Land Nehru Award and Sahityakar Samman among others. Some of his popular publications include Parambhik Awadhi, Lokvadi Tulsidas, Vyomkesh Darvesh, Desh ke is Daur Mein and Ped Ka Hath.

Dr Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presenting Bhasha Samman to Vishwanath Tripathi, K. Sreenivasarao & Suryaprasad Dixit looks on

AKADEMI FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION FUNCTIONS

Fellowship Presentation to Asit Rai, Nepali Writer

Sahitya Akademi organised a fellowship presentation programme in Darjeeling to felicitate Sri Asit Rai, eminent Nepali fiction writer, poet, literary historian and critic on 20 June 2014. The programme began with Saraswati Vandana by Miss Sonu Rai.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the scholars and literary connoisseurs present and spoke briefly about the life, works and legacy of Sri Asit Rai and the reasons for the Akademi to confer its highest honour on the celebrated Nepali writer. He read out the citation of Asit Rai, who is the author of nineteen novels, five collections of short stories, four poetry collections, four books of criticism and literary history and five other books. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented Asit Rai the Fellowship and delivered his presidential address. He appreciated Sri

Rai for his contribution to the development of Indian literature and spoke about the value of literature in human society.

In his acceptance speech, Asit Rai spoke about his literary and personal life and his contribution to the society. He said, "In yesteryears, there was no recognition or any awards but literature was there, dedicated writers were there. To further enable this creative endeavor, there is now the tradition of awards and honors, which has taken literature to this height and affluence is commendable." After his speech, various literary, social organisations and individuals from different parts of the country also felicitated Sri Rai.

Following the presentation, a 'Samvad' programme was held, which was presided over by Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board. The three speakers Jiwan Namdung,



Viswanath Prasad Tiwari confers Akademi fellowship on Asit Rai

Shankar Deo Dhakal and Gokul Sinha discussed about the literary contribution of Asit Rai. They said that by conferring fellowship on Asit Rai, Sahitya Akademi has done a great work and has recognised his literary contribution to the society and the country. Sri Dhakal gave a power point presentation of the literary journey of Sri Rai. Sri Namdung evaluated Sri Rai as a Progressive writer. He referred his novels including the

Akademi Award winning novel *Naya Kshitijko Khoj* and presented a brief analytical survey of his literature. Speaking from the chair, Prem Pradhan appreciated Sri Rai and spoke highly about Sri Rai's analytical representations and imageries and literary trends in the present context. He also spoke about his contributions in Nepali literature to make the Indian literature rich. The programme was covered in the local and national media.

Fellowship Presentation to Abhimanyu Unnuth, Hindi Writer

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Honorary Fellowship on Dr Abhimanyu Unnuth, eminent Hindi writer from Mauritius at a grand ceremony in New Delhi on August 26, 2014.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya

Akademi, welcomed Dr Unnuth, the prominent writers and scholars from Delhi and the audience and spoke briefly about the life, works and legacy of Dr Unnuth. He also explained to the audience that Honorary Fellowship of the Akademi is conferred on



Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferring Honorary Fellowship on Dr. Abhimanyu Unnuth

those eminent writers and scholars who live outside the sub-continent but have contributed in a big way to the promotion and development of Indian literature.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, said he was honoured to felicitate Dr Unnuth. He said Dr Unnuth's writings were inspiration for generations of Hindi readers and said his writings reflect and portray the trials, tribulations and sufferings of Indian diaspora community not only in Mauritius but world over. As such his writings are important contributions to migrant literature written in any language over the past century.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao read out the citation followed by presentation of the fellowship by Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari to Dr Unnuth.

Accepting the Fellowship, Dr Unnuth in his speech said when he started writing about fifty years ago he did not even think that he would be bestowed with this highest honour, anywhere and he was extremely proud that

Sahitya Akademi chose him for this honour. He said this honour was not merely for himself but for all the marginalized people all over the world. He said he has written what all he could but there is a lot left to be achieved and even he himself is aware that he has not written all that he wanted to. He said this honour reminds him one more time in his life that creative works are more important than the one who has created them and whatever life we are living today it is only on the sweat and blood of those who lived before us. Life is a continuum and no one has got any right to say they own anything. This award also reinforces in me in a very strong way that I should continue to write in Hindi, my language, till I breathe last. He also remembered and thanked all the countless readers of his writings, critics who have been touchstone of his writings, publishers who published him over past five decades and fellow writers who pushed him to achieve more. He also read out and quoted excerpts from his works.

SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA AND CONVENTIONS

SYMPOSIUM ON NAGA ORAL LITERATURE 4-5 April 2014, Kohima

The two-day symposium on Naga Oral Literature, sponsored by Sahitya Akademi was organized by North East Centre for Oral Literature, Agartala on 4th and 5th April 2014 at the Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema. The Symposium was held in collaboration with the Department of Tenyidie & Linguistics, Nagaland University.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Temsula Ao, Member, Advisory Committee, North-East Centre for Oral Literature. About 70 people attended the inaugural session. The keynote address of the symposium was delivered by Prof D.Kuolie, Coordinator of the Symposium. Prof A. Lanunungsang, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema, in his inaugural address conveyed his gratitude to Sahitya Akademi, NECOL for holding the Two-Day Symposium on Naga Oral Literature. He requested students to take up the task of collecting, preserving and disseminating oral literature of Nagaland, to the degree possible in their lives. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Mimi K.Ezung.

The first academic session was chaired by Dr A.J.Sebastian, Professor of

English. Six scholars Dr. Kevizonuo Kuolie, Vivolhuno Punyü, Chingang Konyak, Kerevilie Kire, V.Rita Krocha and Ms. Petekhrienuo Sorhie presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Dr Mimi K. Ezung, Asstt. Professor, Department of Tenyidie and five participants presented their paper in turn. In the third academic session, five scholars presented their papers and the session was chaired by Nigamananda Das, Associate Professor & Head, Department of English. Six scholars presented their papers in the fourth academic session that was chaired by Prof D. Kuolie, Head, Department of Linguistics & Tenyidie. The valedictory session was chaired by Prof D. Kuolie. The certificate of participation was distributed to all participants by Prof Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay the Director of North-East Centre for Oral Literature. Prof Kethokhrienuo Belho, Department of Tenyidie, proposed the vote of thanks.



Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay, Director of North-East Centre of Oral Literature speaking at the symposium

SYMPOSIUM ON ARABIC MALAYALAM AND MAPPILA PATTU

17 April 2014, Kondotti

Sahitya Akademi and Mahakavi Moyinkutty Vydier Mappila Kala Academy jointly organized a one day Symposium on "Arabic Malayalam and Mappila Pattu" on 17 April 2014, at the Vydyer Memorial Trust Hall, Kondotty.

Dr Shamsad Hussain welcomed the audience and the scholars. She emphasized the importance of Mappila Kala Academy in preserving the traditional art forms of Malabar. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board inaugurated the symposium. He pointed out that it is the duty of educated people to study and appreciate the origin of their language and culture. He talked about the contributions of Muslims to the traditional Hindu culture prevailed here before the coming of Islam and the amalgamation of both resulted in today's rich hybrid culture.

Kerala Folklore Academy Chairman Prof Muhammed Ahammed presented the keynote address. He called our attention towards the fact that Quadi Muhammed composed Muhiyyadeen Mala even before Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam language. Preservation of Hindu Muslim hybrid culture with all its virtues is the only solution for communal harmony. Mappila Kala Academy Chairperson Sri C.P. Saithalavi delivered the presidential address in which he advised all to study Arabi-Malayalam to be on familiar terms with our culture. Sri A.K. Aburahiman, Vice-Chairperson appreciated the literary programme. Singer Sri K.V. Abutty and Sri Kanesh Poonur talked in the function and Asad Wandoor delivered the vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by the eminent

scholar Dr. M.N. Karassery who delivered a scholarly talk on the history of Arabi-Malayalam and opined that it is the language that moulds us and not vice versa. Dr.Illias M.H. presented a paper on the history of Arabi-Malayalam and its political importance. Sri K. Sethuraman presented a paper on the cultural tradition of Arabi-Malayalam and suggested that we should include the poems of Moyinkutty Vydier in the school syllabus. Dr. P.A. Aboobaker talked on the scientific books in Arabi-Malayalam. Sri Balakrishnan Vallikunnu pointed out the similarity in Mappila Pattu Ishal with the traditional folk tunes of Vadakkan Pattu, Pulluvan Pattu etc., while presenting his paper on meter and musical characteristics of Mappila Pattu. Dr K.M. Sherrif presented a paper on how mappilapattu cannot be considered as a minor literature as it was parallel to the main stream literature.

The afternoon session was chaired by the eminent writer Sri P.K. Parakkadavu. He praised Mappila Pattu as a song genre which defended the social evils. Dr Ummer Tharammel presented a paper on the genres in Mappila Pattu. Dr Raghavan Payyanad's paper focused on the identity crisis of Muslims as they have already abandoned their traditional dress code, songs and language. Dr P. Pavithran's paper outlined how religious texts should also be treated as literary. Dr Sherin B.S. argued that we are getting a totally different but authentic picture on the women's lives in Malabar from Mappila Pattu. She was the only female representative among the paper presenters and talked on the importance of women in Mappila Pattu tradition. Mappila Pattu didn't get the deserving place in the Bhakti movement as Muhiyyadheen Mala was written even before Poothanam's Jnanappana. The programme was well attended and covered by the media.

SYMPOSIUM ON SANJAYAN'S HUMOROUS WRITINGS

4 May 2014, Payyannur

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on Sanjayan's Humorous Writings in association with Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam at Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam, Annur, Payyannur on 4 May 2014.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the guests and gathering. Prof. M. Thomas Mathew inaugurated the symposium and said Sanjayan was a great writer of humour in Malayalam who had only sorrows in personal life. In a short span of life he wrote essays, humorous writings, journalistic posts, travelogues etc.

Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board presided over the session. He spoke about how Sanjayan influenced so many writers of his generation. He highlighted the unique style and narration of Sanjayan which inspired the fellow writers.

Dr. K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi delivered keynote address and explained how humor in Sanjayan's writings healed many a wound across the state.

Sri Bhaskar Poduval spoke Sanjayan's life and his connections with Payyannur where the only memorial library has been established. Sri P. Kammara Poduval proposed vote of thanks on behalf of Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam.

In the following sessions, papers were presented by Sri C.P. Rajasekharan, Dr. E.P. Rajagopalan, Sri T.N. Prakash and Sri Ramankutti. The sessions were chaired by Sri C. Radhakrishnan and Sri P.K. Parakkadavu respectively.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge expressed thanks to the guests and participants. Writers, students, researchers, teachers, including reading public participated

in the symposium. Print and electronic media covered the programmes and deliberations effectively.

SEMINAR ON CRITICISM IN RAJASTHANI LITERATURE

May 31 - June 1 2014, Jodhpur

The Akademi organized a two-day Seminar on Criticism in Rajasthani Literature on May 31 and June 1, 2014 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The seminar was conducted in four sessions over two days to showcase the evolution and development of literary criticism in Rajasthani literature over the past century. Dr Arjun Dev Charan, Convener, Rajasthani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the seminar and chaired the inaugural session. Ms Manjeet Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, welcomed the delegates, participants and literary connoisseurs from all over Rajasthan who had assembled at Jodhpur for this very important literary event. Sri Gajsingh Rajpurohit proposed a vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Dr Kiran Nahta and three Rajasthani scholars, Dr Kundan Mali, Dr Chetan Swami and Dr Mangat Badal, presented their papers. Sri Dulharam Saharan proposed a vote of thanks.

The second session was chaired by the noted writer Ambika Dutt and three scholars, Kumar Ajay, Om Nagar and Dr Dhananjay Amaravati, presented their papers. Dr Rajesh Kumar proposed vote of thanks.

The third session was chaired by Dr Narpat Singh Sodha and three scholars, Sri Gajesingh Rajpurohit, Dr Rajendra Barhat and Dr Meetha Sharma, presented their papers. Sri Kundan Mali proposed a vote of thanks.

The final session was chaired by Madhu Acharya and two scholars, Shyam Maharshi and Maalchand Tiwari presented their papers. The seminar concluded with the

summing up and vote of thanks by Dr Arjun Dev Charan.

**SEMINAR ON UPENDRAKISHORE
RAYCHOUDHURI AND SUKUMAR RAY**
4-5 June 2014, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar on 'Upendrakishore-Sukumar', eminent figures in the field of children's literature in Bengali, on 4-5 June 2014 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, 4 D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700 025. The seminar was organized to commemorate 150th birth-anniversary of Upendrakishore and 125th birth-anniversary of Sukumar Ray.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. He spoke about the life and works of Sukumar Ray and Upendrakishore Raychoudhuri in a nutshell. He informed the audience of Upendrakishore's association with Rabindranath Tagore as well as the other noted literary figures of the era. He focused on Sukumar as the printer cum editor of 'Sandesh' magazine. He also threw light on the narrative technique employed by Sukumar in his works which gained him immense popularity. He referred to the nonsensical creations of Sukumar, which in a different way speaks of sense. He also compared the nonsense literature of Sukumar with that of Lewis Carroll.

Prof Manabendra Bandyopadhyay, former Convener of Bengali Advisory Board, inaugurated the seminar.

Professor Bandyopadhyay explained the political and social background of *Abol Tabol*. In printing technology, the introduction of halftone is his landmark contribution.

The keynote address was delivered by Sri Prasadranjan Ray, eminent scholar as well as the one of the descendants of the Ray family. He traced the origin of Upendrakishore, the lucid style of Sukumar and musical compositions of Upendrakishore Raychoudhuri.

Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, enumerated the overwhelming literary output of both Upendrakishore and Sukumar in such a short period of time. While establishing Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhag and printing press, Tagore took the suggestions of Sukumar. He referred to two writings in particular – one which was written by Sukumar after the death of his father and the speech Tagore delivered after the death of Sukumar Ray. Dr Mukhopadhyay presented the cultural and literary ethos of the era in brief.

Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office, proposed the vote of thanks.



K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the audience

The first academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: The Man and His Time'. The speakers of the session were Professor Amal Kumar Paul and Sri Hemanta Kumar Addhya with Professor Biswanath Ray in the chair. Professor Amal Kumar Paul spoke on those magazines contemporary to Upendrakishore and Sukumar, which were primarily meant for children. Sri Hemanta Kumar Addhya spoke on the life of Upendrakishore. Professor Biswanath Ray, while speaking from the chair, opined while the members of Ray family emphasized on the practical sides as well as on the theoretical discourse of different branches of art and science, Upendrakishore stressed the technical knowledge.

The second academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: The Writer'. The speaker of the session was Sri Kartik Ghosh with Professor Baridbaran Ghosh in the chair. Sri Kartik Ghosh focused on *Tuntunir Boi* in particular and his inimitable writing style. Professor Baridbaran Ghosh, while speaking from the chair, opined that Upendrakishore was well aware of the nooks and corners of a child-mind. In the interactive session, Professor Sumita Chakravorty and Sri Debasish Mukhopadhyay enlightened with some interesting information regarding Upendrakishore.

The third academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: In Other Artistic Mediums'. The speakers of the session were Sri Debasis Dev and Sarbananda Chaudhuri with Sri Hiran Mitra in the chair. Sri Debasis Dev spoke about Upendrakishore as an illustrator. Sri Dev explained the techniques of painting used by Upendrakishore. Sri Chaudhuri spoke on the contribution of Upendrakishore in the field of music, particularly in playing harmonium and behala. Being also a musician, Upendrakishore wrote two books about music in Bengali - *Sohaj Behala Shikkha*, about

learning to play the violin, and *Sikhak Batorike Harmonium*, about learning to play the harmonium as an accompaniment to Indian music.

The fourth academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: Editor and Printer'. The speakers of the session were Sri Debasis Bandyopadhyay and Sri Subhendu Dasmunsi with Sri Asis Khastagir in the chair. Sri Debasis Bandyopadhyay spoke about Upendrakishore as an editor of *Sandesh*, a popular children's magazine in Bengali that is still published today. Upendrakishore (and later his son Sukumar and grandson Satyajit) published most of his children's literature here. Sri Subhendu Dasmunsi said about 'Upendrakishore as painter vs U. Ray as printer'. Sri Dasmunsi stressed on the four stages of Upendrakishore's printing - the use of simple line, complex line, black and white halftone, coloured photograph. Sri Asis Khastagir, while speaking from the chair, referred to the role of Vidyasagar in establishing printing press.

On the second day, the first academic session of the seminar was on 'Sukumar Ray: The Man and His Time'. The speakers of the session were Sri Ashoke Kumar Mitra, Professor Krishnarup Chakravarti and Sri Shyamalkanti Das with Sri Amitrasudan Bhattacharya. Sri Ashoke Kumar Mitra presented a portrait of Kolkata at the time of Sukumar, Monday Club and related literary activities. Professor Krishnarup Chakravarti's paper was entitled 'Sukumar Ray: His Family and Time'. He said about writings by sisters of Sukumar Ray. He quoted for the diaries of Punyalata and other family members of Sukumar. He also said about the funny, witty side of the character of Sukumar as well as the depressed side of Sukumar. Professor Chakravarti quoted from the funny poems of Sukumar to explain the real facts behind them. Sri Shyamalkanti Das emphasized the fact that Sukumar was outside the influence of Tagore in many respects. He

quoted from poems of Sukumar while explaining them. Sri Amitrasudan Bhattacharya, while speaking from the chair, referred to other contemporary writers and their distinguished traits.

On the second day, the last academic session of the seminar was on 'Sukumar Ray: His Words and Arts'. The speakers of the session were Sri Mrinal Ghosh and Sri Palashbaran Pal with Smt Esha De in the chair. Sri Mrinal Ghosh spoke on the influence of Surrealism on the writings of Sukumar. He said about some of the earlier forms of Sukumar. Sukumar translated Abanindranath Tagore's writing related to painting. Sukumar wrote on the difference between painting and poetry. Sri Palashbaran Pal said about the use of words in Sukumar Ray as well as in Lila Majumdar. He also said about the choice of words. The seminar ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Goutam Paul.

SEMINAR ON "AESTHETICS IN KASHMIRI POETRY"

7-8 June 2014, Srinagar

A two-day seminar on "Aesthetics in Kashmiri Poetry" was organized by Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, Srinagar on 7-8 June, 2014 at the auditorium of Humanities Block, University of Kashmir, Srinagar

The inaugural session was presided by Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, Prof A.M. Shah as chief guest and other dignitaries present were celebrated Kashmiri poet and Jnanpith Award Winner, Prof Rahman Rahi. Dr K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, Prof Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, President Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Dr Aziz Hajini, noted Kashmir scholar and Prof. Shad Ramzan.

Prof Shad Ramzan in his address highlighted the glorious past of Kashmiri literature and attributed its richest literary traditions to the 14th century luminaries Lal Ded and Shaik-ul-Alam. He also opined that Kashmiri Sufi poetry was highly influenced by Sanskrit and Persian poetry and can be classified along with the best of poetry from around the world.



A.M. Shah delivering inaugural speech