

annual
report
2015
2016

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-2016



SAHITYA AKADEMI
(NATIONAL ACADEMY OF LETTERS)

Annual
Report
2015–2016



Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)

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 inter-

national 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 litera-

ture. 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, Bangalore: 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 Bangalore 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 Sangrahalya 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, Bangalore 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 2015 presented
- Akademi Translation Prizes 2014 presented
- Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2015 presented
- Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2015 presented
- Bhasha Samman presented
- Sahitya Akademi Fellowships presented
- 55 Seminars, 48 Symposia and 2 Language Conventions organized
- 433 Books including reprints brought out
- 109 Literary Forum programmes including Pravasi Manch, Rajbhasha Manch, Cultural Exchange, Book Release, Writers' Meet etc. held
- 8 Workshops organized
- 18 Meet the Author programmes held
- 6 People and Books programme organized
- 11 Through My Window programmes held
- 6 Loka, 10 Mulakat/Yuva Sahiti, 10 Kathasandhi, 16 Kavisandhi, 5 Asmita and 10 Narichetna programmes organized
- 154 Book Exhibitions conducted/participated
- Six Issues of *Indian Literature* and Six issues of *Samakaleena Bharatiya Sahitya*

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARD 2015

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 17 December 2015 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, approved the selection of 24 books for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2015. The books were selected on the basis of the recommendations made by a jury of three members each in the concerned language. Awards for Bengali language was declared at a later date. The awards relate to books first published in any of the languages recognised by the Akademi during the five years prior to the year immediately preceding the year of award (i.e. between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2013).

Recipients of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015

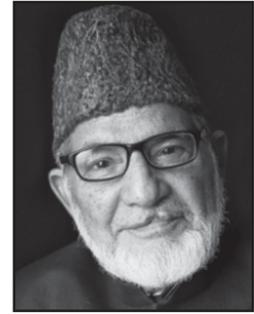
Assamese	Kula Saikia, <i>Akashar Chhabi Aru Anyanya Galpa</i> (Short Stories)
Bengali	Alok Sarkar, <i>Shono Jabaphul</i> (Poetry)
Bodo	Brajendra Kumar Brahma, <i>Baidi Dengkhw Baidi Gab</i> (Poetry)
Dogri	Dhian Singh, <i>Parchhamen Di Lo</i> (Poetry)
English	Cyrus Mistry, <i>Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer</i> (Novel)
Gujarati	Rasik Shah, <i>Ante Aarambh (Part 1 & 2)</i> (Essays)
Hindi	Ramdarash Mishra, <i>Aag Ki Hansi</i> (Poetry)
Kannada	K.V. Tirumalesh, <i>Akshaya Kavya</i> (Poetry)
Kashmiri	Bashir Bhadarwahi, <i>Jamis Ta Kasheeri Manz Kashir Natia Adbuk Tawareekh</i> (Criticism)
Konkani	Uday Bhembre, <i>KarnaParva</i> (Play)
Maithili	Man Mohan Jha, <i>Khissa</i> (Short Stories)
Malayalam	K.R. Meera, <i>Aarachar</i> (Novel)
Manipuri	Kshetri Rajen, <i>Abingna Yekshilliba Mang</i> (Poetry)
Marathi	Arun Khopkar, <i>Chalat-Chitravyooh</i> (Memoirs)
Nepali	Gupta Pradhan, <i>Samayaka Prativimbaharu</i> (Short Stories)
Odia	Bibhuti Pattanaik, <i>Mabishasurara Muhan</i> (Short Stories)
Punjabi	Jaswinder Singh, <i>Maat Lok</i> (Novel)
Rajasthani	Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadi', <i>Gawaad</i> (Novel)
Sanskrit	Ram Shankar Awasthi, <i>Vanadevi</i> (Epic)
Santali	Rabilal Tudu, <i>Parsi Khatir</i> (Play)
Sindhi	Maya Rahi, <i>Mahingi Murk</i> (Short Stories)
Tamil	A. Madhavan, <i>Illakkiya Suvadukal</i> (Essays)
Telugu	Volga, <i>Vimuktha</i> (Short Stories)
Urdu	Shamim Tariq, <i>Tasawwuf Aur Bhakti (Tanqeedi Aur Taqabuli Mutalea)</i> (Criticism)



Kula Saikia



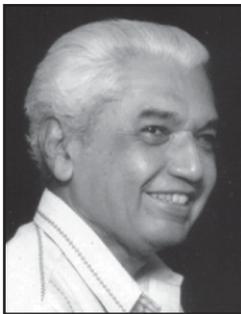
Cyrus Mistry



Bashir Bhadarwahi



Alok Sarkar



Rasik Shah



Uday Bhembre



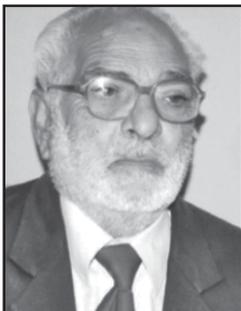
Brajendra Kumar Brahma



Ramdarash Mishra



Man Mohan Jha



Dhian Singh



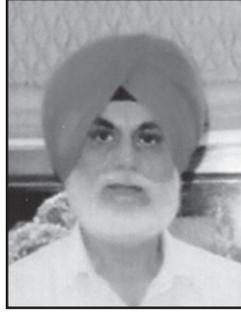
K.V. Tirumalesh



K.R. Meera



Kshetri Rajen



Jaswinder Singh



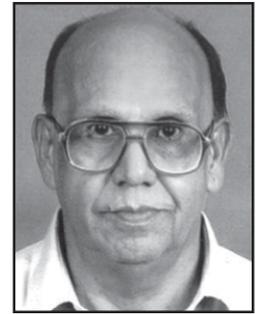
Maya Rahi



Arun Khopkar



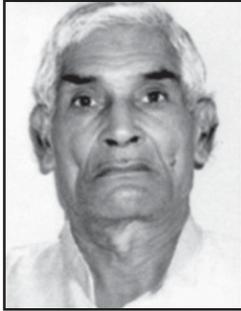
Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadi'



A. Madhavan



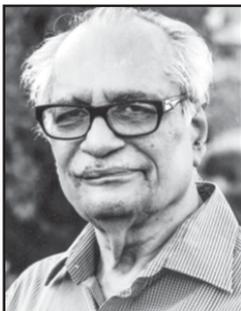
Gupta Pradhan



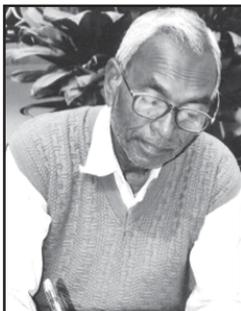
Ram Shankar Awasthi



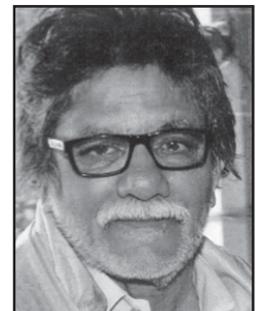
Volga



Bibhuti Pattanaik



Rabilal Tudu



Shamim Tariq

MEMBERS OF THE JURY FOR 2015 AWARDS

Assamese

Sri Gangapada Choudhury
Smt. Nirupama Borgohain
Prof. Dr. Namita Deka

Bengali

Dr. Pabitra Sarkar
Sri Manabendra Badhyopadhyay
Prof. Sumita Chakravarti

Bodo

Sri Gobinda Narzary
Dr. Indira Boro
Sri Mihir Kumar Brahma

Dogri

Sri Chaman Arora
Sri Prakash Premi
Sri N.D. Jamwal

English

Prof. Avadesh Kumar Singh
Ms. Namita Gokhale
Dr. Temsula Ao

Gujarati

Dr. Chankrakant Sheth
Prof. Prabodh Parikh
Prof. Mahesh Champaklal

Hindi

Prof. Mahendra Madhukar
Dr. Madhav Kaushik
Prof. Ramji Tiwari

Kannada

Sri G.N. Ranganatha Rao
Smt. Hema Pattanshetty
Sri Raghavendra Patil

Kashmiri

Sri Mohd. Yusuf Taing
Sri Makhan Lal Kanwal
Ms. Naseem Shafaie

Konkani

Sri Basti Vaman Shenoy
Sri Madhav Borcar
Sri N. Purushottam Mallaya

Maithili

Dr. Buddhinath Mishra
Dr. Indrakant Jha
Dr. Madhuri Jha

Malayalam

Sri Asha Menon
Prof. M.K. Sanoo
Dr. V. Rajakrishnan

Manipuri

Dr. Kangjam Ibohal Singh
Sri. Kh. Prakash Singh
Sri R.K. Jitendrajit Sinha

Marathi

Sri Arun Sadhu
Prof. Digambar Padhye
Sri N.D. Mahanor

Nepali

Smt. Bindya Subba
Sri Krishna Pradhan
Dr. Mahendra P. Lama

Odia

Sri Hara Prasada Das
Dr. Pratibha Satpathy
Prof. Raj Kishore Mishra

Punjabi

Prof. Manjit Singh
Prof. R.S. Bhatti
Sri Surjit Patar

Rajasthani

Sri Ambika Dutt
Dr. Bhagwati Lal Vyas
Sri Malchand Tiwari

Sanskrit

Dr. N.P.Unni
Prof. Radhakant Thakur
Prof. Uma C. Vaidya

Santali

Sri Bhogla Soren
Dr. Naku Hansdah
Sri Prithibi Majhi

Sindhi

Smt. Kala Prakash
Prof. Namdev Tarachandani
Sri Nand Chhugani

Tamil

Dr. K. Chellappan
Sri Nanjil Nadan
Dr. Sirpi Balasubramaniam

Telugu

Dr. A. Manjulatha
Dr. G. Yohan Babu
Dr. K. Ramachandra Murthy

Urdu

Prof. Abdus Samad
Prof. Akhtar-ul-Wasey
Sri Pritpal Singh Betab

SAHITYA AKADEMI PRIZE FOR TRANSLATION 2015

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 15 February 2016 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 2015. 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 2009 and 31 December 2013).

Recipients of Translation Prize 2015

Assamese	Suren Talukder, <i>Ganadevata</i> (<i>Ganadevata</i> [Bengali] Novel by Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay)
Bengali	Mau Das Gupta, <i>Anamdaser Putbi</i> (<i>Anamdas Ka Potha</i> [Hindi] Novel by Hazari Prasad Dwivedi)
Bodo	Dhansri Swargiary, <i>Jaharni Mwnthai</i> (<i>Aranyer Adhikar</i> [Bengali] Novel by Mahasweta Devi)
Dogri	Chhatarpal, <i>Kinne Pakistan</i> (<i>Kitne Pakistan</i> [Hindi] Novel by Kamleshwar)
English	Susheela Punitha, <i>Bharathipura</i> (<i>Bharathipura</i> [Kannada] Novel by U.R. Ananthamurthy)
Gujarati	Sharifa Vijliwala, <i>Jene Labor Nathi Joyun E Janmyo J Nathi</i> (<i>Jis Lahore Nahi Dekhya O Janya E Nai</i> [Hindi] Play by Asgar Wajahat)
Hindi	Damodar Khadse, <i>Baromas</i> (<i>Baromas</i> [Marathi] Novel by Sadanand Deshmukh)
Kannada	Na. Damodara Shetty, <i>Kochereti</i> (<i>Kochereti</i> [Malayalam] Novel by Narayan)
Kashmiri	Rattan Lal Shant, <i>Lal Ded</i> (<i>Lal Ded</i> [Dogri] Novel by Ved Rahi)
Konkani	Jaymala N. Danait, <i>Raag Darbaari</i> (<i>Rag Darbari</i> [Hindi] Novel by Srilal Shukla)
Maithili	Devendra Jha, <i>Badali Jaichh Ghareta</i> (<i>Bari Badle Jai</i> [Bengali] Novel by Ramapada Choudhuri)
Malayalam	K.C. Ajay Kumar, <i>Gora</i> (<i>Gora</i> [Bengali] Novel by Rabindranath Tagore)
Manipuri	N. KhagendraSingh, <i>Lishing Ama Supna Mariphumarigi Mama</i> (<i>Hajar Chourasir Ma</i> [Bengali] Novel by Mahasweta Devi)
Nepali	Shankar Pradhan, <i>Birataki Padmini</i> (<i>Virata Ki Padmini</i> [Hindi] Novel by Vrindavanlal Verma)
Odia	Sakuntala Baliarsingh, <i>Oru Kaveriyai Pola</i> (<i>Kaberi Bhali Jhiatia</i> [Tamil] Novel by Tripurasundari Lakshmi)
Punjabi	Balbair Parwana, <i>Manoj Das Dian Kahaniyan</i> (<i>Manoj Dasanka Galpa</i> [Odia] Short Stories by Manoj Das)
Rajasthani	Madan Saini, <i>Madan Bavniyo</i> (<i>Madan Bavniya</i> [Hindi] Novel by Rajendra Kedia)
Sanskrit	Tarashankar Sharma 'Pandeya', <i>Abmev Radha Abmev Krishna</i> (<i>Mein Hi Radha Main Hi Krishna</i> [Hindi] Poetry by Gulab Kothari)
Santali	Tala Tudu, <i>Baplanij</i> (<i>Porineeta</i> [Bengali] Novel by Saratchandra Chattopadhyay)
Sindhi	Sarita D. Sharma, <i>Lal Ded</i> (<i>Lal Ded</i> [Dogri] Novel by Ved Rahi)
Tamil	Gowri Kirubanandan, <i>Meetchi</i> (<i>Vimuktha</i> [Telugu] Short Stories by Volga)
Telugu	L.R. Swamy, <i>Sufi Cheppina Katha</i> (<i>Soofi Paranja Kadha</i> [Malayalam] Novel by K.P. Ramanunni)
Urdu	Suhail Ahmad Farooqi, <i>Gitanjali</i> (<i>Gitanjali</i> [Bengali] Poetry by Rabindranath Tagore)

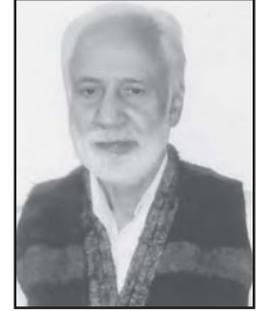
* Marathi Award will be declared later



Suren Talukder



Susheela Punitha



Rattan Lal Shant



Mau Das Gupta



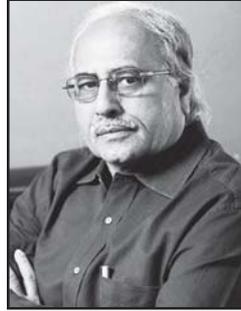
Sharifa K. Vijliwala



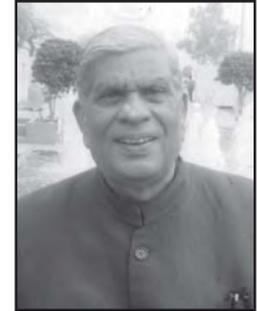
Jaymala N. Danait



Dhansri Swargiary



Damodar Khadse



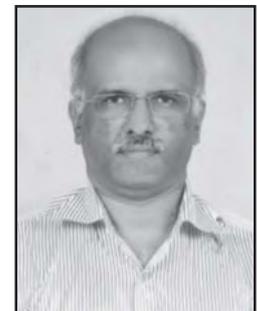
Devendra Jha



Chhatarpal



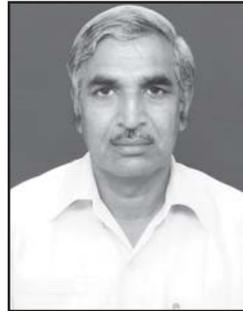
Na. Damodara Shetty



K.C. Ajaya Kumar



N. Singh Khagendra



Madan Saini



Sarita D. Sharma



Shankar Pradhan



Gowri Kirubanandan



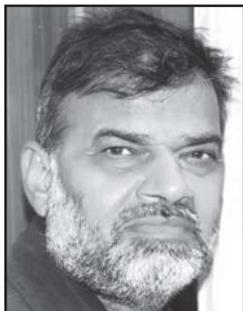
Sakuntala Baliarasingh



Tarashankar Sharma 'Pandeya'



L.R. Swamy



Balbir Parwana



Tala Tudu



Suhail Ahmad Farooqi

MEMBERS OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR TRANSLATION PRIZE 2015

Assamese

Sri Debabrata Das
Dr. Lakshminandan Bora
Sri Sibananda Kakati

Bengali

Smt. Jaya Mitra
Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta
Prof. Alok Roy

Bodo

Dr. Bhupen Narzary
Dr. Dinanath Basumatary
Dr. Kameswar Brahma

Dogri

Dr. Om Goswami
Prof. Shiv Dev Singh Manhas
Prof. Shiv Nirmohi

English

Dr. Alok Bhalla
Dr. C. N. Ramachandran
Dr. K. Srilata

Gujarati

Dr. Nitin Vadgama
Dr. Ranjana Argade
Prof. Sejal Shah

Hindi

Ms. Anamika
Prof. Jayaprakash
Prof. Mohan

Kannada

Sri B. R. Lakshmana Rao
Sri Bhalachanda Jayashetti
Sri Bolavar Mohammad Kunhi

Kashmiri

Dr. Aziz Hajini
Sri Moti Lal Kemmu
Prof. Shafi Shauq

Konkani

Sri Damodar Mauzo
Dr. Chandra Shekhar Shenoy
Sri Prakash Padgaonkar

Maiithili

Dr. Deo Kant Jha
Dr. Dharendra Nath Mishra
Sri Tarakant Jha

Malayalam

Sri K. Jayakumar
Dr. M. R. Ragava Warier
Prof. P. A. Vasudevan

Manipuri

Prof. H. Nani Kumar Singha
Prof. Kh. Kunjo Singh
Dr. Toijam Tampha Devi

Nepali

Sri Nar Bahadur Rai
Dr. Jeewan Rana
Ms. Shanti Thapa

Odia

Dr. Kailash Pattnaik
Prof. Khageshwar Mohapatra
Dr. Sangram Jena

Punjabi

Sri Balbir Madhopuri
Dr. Rattan Singh Jaggi
Prof. Satnam Singh Jassal

Rajasthani

Dr. Hemendra Singh Chandaliya
Smt. Prakash Amarawat
Sri Meethesh Nirmohi

Sanskrit

Dr. Iccharam Dwivedi
Prof. Keshab Chandra Dash
Dr. Viroopaksha V. Jaddipal

Santali

Sri Chandi Charan Kisku
Dr. Dhaneswar Manjhi
Sri Laxman Marandi

Sindhi

Sri Dholan Rahi
Sri Holaram Hans
Dr. Vimmi Sadarangani

Tamil

Ms. Ira Meenakshi
Sri Puviyarasu
Ms. G. Thilakavathi

Telugu

Dr. Dwana Sastry
Prof. Manikyamba P.
Prof. S. Sesharatnam

Urdu

Dr. Aziz Parihar
Dr. Kausar Siddiqui
Dr. Parwaiz Shaharyar

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR 2015

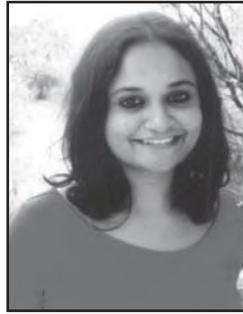
The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 24 June 2015 at Guwahati under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, selected 13 books and 11 writers for their total contribution for the 2015 Bal Sahitya Puraskar on the basis of recommendations made by a Jury of three members in the concerned languages in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. The Awards relates to books first published during the five years, year immediately preceding the year of Award (i.e., between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2013). However, during the initial ten years i.e. 2010 to 2019, 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 2015

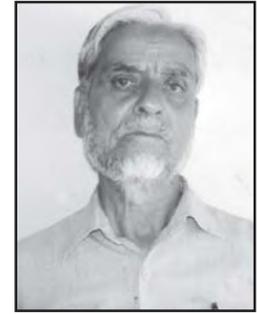
Assamese	Eli Ahmed, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Bengali	Kartik Ghosh, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Bodo	Tiren Boro, <i>Bokhali</i> (Novel)
Dogri	Tara Chand Kalandri, <i>Satrang Peengh</i> (Poetry)
English	Sowmya Rajendran & Niveditha Subramaniam, <i>Mayil Will Not Be Quiet!</i> (Novel)
Gujarati	Dhiruben Patel, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Hindi	Sherjung Garg, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Kannada	T.S. Nagaraja Setty, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Kashmiri	Nayeem Kashmiri, <i>Goloo Katha Boozive</i> (Stories)
Konkani	Ramnath G. Gawde, <i>Sadu Ani Jadugar Mhadu</i> (Novel)
Maithili	Ramdeo Jha, <i>Hansani Pan A Bajanta Supari</i> (Novel)
Malayalam	S. Sivadas, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Manipuri	Thokchom Thouyangba Meitei, <i>Eshusha Pupu Waree Leverage</i> (Stories)
Marathi	Leeladhar Hegde, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Nepali	Mukti Upadhyay 'Baral', <i>Malati</i> (Novel)
Odia	Snehalata Mohanty, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Punjabi	Sukhdev Madpuri, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Rajasthani	Krishna Kumar 'Ashu', <i>Dharti Ro Mo</i> (Stories)
Sanskrit	Janardhana Hegde, <i>Balakathasaptatih</i> (Stories)
Santali	Srikanta Saren, <i>Haryar Mayam</i> (Poetry)
Sindhi	Jetho Lalwani, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Tamil	Sella Ganapathy, <i>The dal Vettai</i> (Poetry)
Telugu	Chokkapu Venkata Ramana, Total Contribution to Children Literature
Urdu	Bano Sartaj, <i>Bachchon Ke Liye Yakhabi Dramey</i> (One Act Plays)



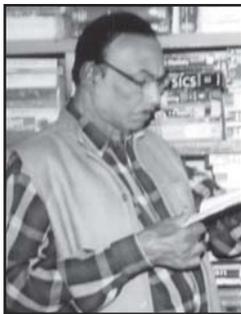
Eli Ahmed



Sowmya Rajendran Niveditha Subramaniam



Naycem Kashmiri



Kartik Ghosh



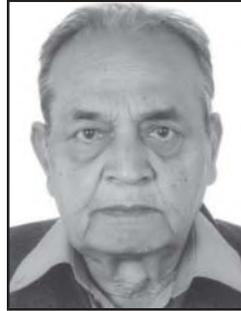
Dhiruben Patel



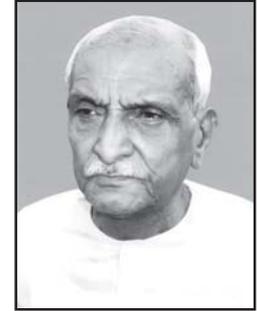
Ramnath G. Gawade



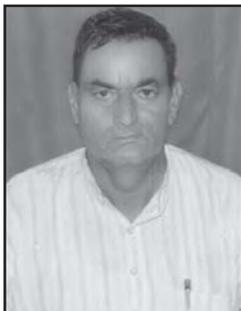
Tiren Boro



Sherjang Garg



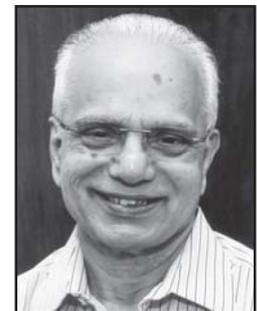
Ramdeo Jha



Tara Chand Kalandri



T.S. Nagaraja Shetty,



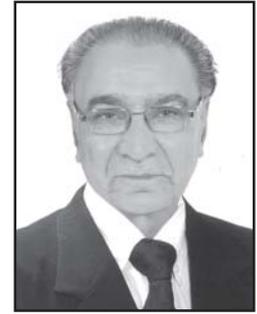
S. Sivadas



Thokchom Thouyangba Meitei



Sukhdev Madpuri



Jetho Lalwani



Leeladhar Hegde



Krishna Kumar 'Ashu'



Sella Ganapathy



Mukti Prasad Upadhyay



Janardhana Hegde



Chokkapu Venkataramana



Snehalata Mohanty



Srikanta Saren



Bano Sartaj

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Assamese

Ms. Anuradha Sharma Pujari
Sri Prasenjit Kr. Goswami
Sri Rabindra Bora

Bengali

Sri Arun Sen
Sri Swapnamoy Chakraborty
Smt. Yashodhara Roy Choudhury

Bodo

Sri Hari Narayan Khakhlari
Sri Rituraj Basumatary
Dr. Sunil Phukan Basumatary

Dogri

Sri Darshan Darshi
Dr. Nirmal Vinod
Prof. Shashi Pathania

English

Prof. GJV Prasad
Prof. Sacchidanand Mohanty
Prof. Sudha Rai

Gujarati

Prof. Sharifa Vijliwala
Sri Udayan Thakkar
Sri Yashwant Mehta

Hindi

Smt. Chitra Mudgal
Sri Ramdarash Mishra
Sri Swayam Prakash

Kannada

Sri. Fakir Mohammed Katpadi
Sri Na. Dsouza
Prof. Rajappa Dalavai

Kashmiri

Smt. Ateeqa Bano
Sri Ayoub Sabir
Sri Bashir Arif

Konkani

Prof. Bhushan Bhav
Ms. Sheela Naik Kolambkar
Dr. Priyadarsini Tadmokar

Maithili

Dr. Keshkar Thakur
Dr. Munishwar Jha
Dr. Ratneshwar Mishra

Malayalam

Dr. K. Sreekumar
Dr. P.V. Krishnan Nair
Sri Subhash Chandran

Manipuri

Sri R.K. Bidur Singh
Dr. Soibam Ibocha Singh
Prof. Tnouaojism Ratankumar Singh

Marathi

Sri Bharat Sasne
Sri Satish Kalsekar
Sri Yashawant Manohar

Nepali

Dr. H.P. Adhikari
Sri Sachin Rai
Dr. Mohan P. Dahal

Odia

Sri Dash Benhur
Dr. Prasanna Ku. Patnaik
Sri Satakadi Hota

Punjabi

Sri Amarjit Singh Grewal
Dr. Kuldeep Kaur Pahwa
Dr. Surjeet Judge

Rajasthani

Sri Bharat Ola
Sri Nand Bhardwaj
Sri Shankar Singh Rajpurohit

Sanskrit

Prof. Gangadhar Panda
Prof. Ramesh Chandra Panda
Prof. Satyavrat Shastri

Santali

Sri Jadumani Beshra
Sri Kherwal Soren
Sri Subodh Hansda

Sindhi

Sri Bansi Khoobchandani
Sri Goverdhan Sharma 'Ghayal'
Sri Sunder Agnani

Tamil

Dr. Abdul Rahman
Sri Ra. Natarasan
Sri Ko. Ma. Kothandam

Telugu

Dr. Bhoopal
Sri K.Sreenivas
Sri Yakoob

Urdu

Sri Nusrat Zaheer
Dr. Rashid Anwar Rashid
Sri Suhail Anjum

YUVA PURASKAR 2015

The Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on 24 June 2015 at Guwahati under the chairmanship of its President, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, approved the selection of 23 books for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2015. There was no award in Kashmiri. 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 2015

Assamese	Mridul Haloi, <i>Akale Aso Kushale Aso</i> (Poetry)
Bengali	Sudip Chakraborty, <i>Premier Size Battirish</i> (Poetry)
Bodo	Leben Lal Mwishahary, <i>Khwmisi Harni Alari</i> (Short Stories)
Dogri	Sandeep 'Sufi', <i>Mustakbil</i> (Poetry)
English	Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar, <i>The Mysterious Ailment of Rup Baskey</i> (Novel)
Gujarati	Rajesh Vankar, <i>Malo</i> (Short Stories)
Hindi	Indira Dangi, <i>Haveli Sanatanpur</i> (Novel)
Kannada	Mounesh Badiger, <i>Mayakolahala</i> (Short Stories)
Konkani	Shrinisha Nayak, <i>Khany Geli Aaji</i> (Poetry)
Maithili	Narayan Jha, <i>Pratiwadi Ham</i> (Poetry)
Malayalam	Aryambika, <i>Thonniyapoloru Puzha</i> (Poetry)
Manipuri	Angom Sarita Devi, <i>Mee Amasung Shaa</i> (Poetry)
Marathi	Veera Rathod, <i>Sen Saai Ves</i> (Poetry)
Nepali	Sapan Pradhan, <i>Kriti - Kirti</i> (Literary Criticism)
Odia	Sujit Kumar Panda, <i>Manasanka</i> (Short Stories)
Punjabi	Simran Dhaliwal, <i>Aas Aje Baki Hai</i> (Short Stories)
Rajasthani	Ritupriya, <i>Sapna Sanjovati Heeran</i> (Poetry)
Sanskrit	Rushiraj Jani, <i>Samudre Buddhasya Netre</i> (Poetry)
Santali	Suchitra Hansda, <i>Bera Ahla</i> (Poetry)
Sindhi	Manoj Chawla 'Tanha', <i>Pinjraa</i> (Poetry)
Tamil	Veerapandiyan, <i>Parukkai</i> (Novel)
Telugu	Pasunoori Ravinder, <i>Out of Coverage Area</i> (Short Stories)
Urdu	Ameer Imam, <i>Naqsh-E-Pa Hawaon Ke</i> (Poetry)

* No Prize in Kashmiri this year



Mridul Haloi



Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar,



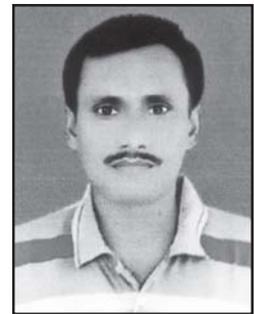
Shrinisha Nayak



Sudip Chakraborty



Rajesh Vankar



Narayan Jha



Leben Lal Mwsahary,



Indira Dangi,



Aryambika



Sandeep 'Sufi'



Mounesh Badiger



Angom Sarita Devi



Veera Rathod



Ritupriya



Manoj Chawla 'Tanha'



Sapan Pradhan



Veerapandiyan



Sujit Kumar Panda



Rushiraj Jani



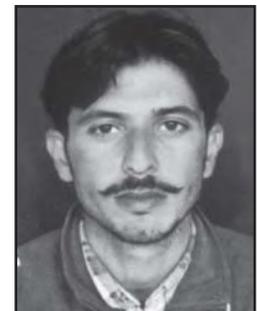
Pasunoori Ravinder



Simran Dhaliwal



Suchitra Hansda



Ameer Imam

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Assamese

Sri Debojit Bora
Sri Nilim Kumar
Prof. Pradip Acharyya

Bengali

Sri Tapan Bandopadhyay
Ms. Papri Gangopadhyay
Sri Sankar Basu

Bodo

Sri Aurobindo Uzir
Sri Janil Kumar Brahma
Sri Nandeswar Daimari

Dogri

Sri Raj Rahi
Prof. Satya Pal Srivats
Prof. Veena Gupta

English

Dr. Eunice D' Souza
Prof. M. Asaduddin
Dr. Sukrita Paul Kumar

Gujarati

Sri Bharat Naik
Prof. Hemant Dave
Sri Kirit Doodhat

Hindi

Sri Alok Gupta
Ms. Alpana Mishra
Sri Chittranjan Mishra

Kannada

Dr. B. A. Sanadi
Sri Bidarahalli Narasimha Murty
Smt. C. Sarvamangala Bai

Konkani

Sri Dilip Borkar
Dr. Jayanti Naik
Sri Tukaram Shet

Maitihili

Dr. Dayanand Mishra
Dr. Indira Jha
Dr. Yoganand Jha

Malayalam

Prof. K. P. Sankaran
Dr. M. Thomas Mathew
Dr. N. S. Madhavan

Manipuri

Sri Laishram Sadananda Singh
Prof. Naorem Khagendra Singh
Prof. Nahakpam Aruna

Marathi

Dr. Dilip Dhondage
Dr. Anand Patil
Prof. Rajan Gawas

Nepali

Sri Chakrapani Bhattarai
Sri Dal Singh Akela
Sri Nanda Hangkhim

Odia

Prof. Bijoy Kumar Satpathy
Smt. Paramita Satpathy
Sri Bhupen Mahapatra

Punjabi

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Dr. Tejwant Gill
Dr. Yograj

Rajasthani

Sri Bulaki Sharma
Dr. Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
Sri Upendra Anu

Sanskrit

Dr. C. S. Radhakrishnan
Prof. Maliepuram G. Venkatesha
Prof. Ram Kumar Sharma

Santali

Sri Aditya Mandi
Sri Singrai Murmu
Ms. Yashoda Murmu

Sindhi

Dr. Jagdish Lachhani
Ms. Rashmi Ramani
Sri Vasdev Mohi

Tamil

Dr. G. Balasudaramanian
Prof. T. Pazhamalai
Sri R. Venkatesh

Telugu

Dr. Pattipaka Mohan
Dr. P. Kusuma Kumari
Sri Vasireddy Naveen

Urdu

Sri Haqqani Al-Qasmi
Dr. Mahtab Alam
Sri Maher Mansoor

PROGRAMMES

FESTIVAL OF LETTERS 2016

Festival of Letters 2016 (Sahityotsav) was organised in Delhi on a grand scale from 15–20 February 2016 at several venues, FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium and Sahitya Akademi auditorium. Festival of Letters 2016 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 'Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities'.

Inauguration of Akademi 2015 Exhibition

Sahityotsav, Sahitya Akademi's Annual Festival of Letters, began with the inauguration of

Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2015 at the Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on 15 February 2016.



Manoj Das inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition

The exhibition was inaugurated by distinguished Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Manoj Das. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi in addition to the members of the Executive Board and General Council of Sahitya Akademi and staff.

In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the achievements of Sahitya Akademi during the previous year. He informed the learned audience that in 2015 Sahitya Akademi organised 479 literary events, participated in 189 book exhibitions across India, published 426 books in 24 languages, inaugurated the Centers for Tribal and Oral Literature at Imphal and New Delhi, presented 117 Awards in 24 recognised languages in addition to the conferment of Bhasha Samman to 9 scholars and Fellowships to distinguished writers Prof S. L. Bhyrappa and Dr C. Narayana Reddy and Honorary Fellowship to Dr Jin Dinghan of China opened Metro Bookshops

at Kashmere Gate and Vishwavidyalaya Metro Stations in New Delhi and sent 24 writers to Mauritius, Malaysia, Japan, China and Germany as part of delegations to Festivals of India Programme and Literary Exchange Programmes. The Akademi also hosted 3 Russian writers in addition to the literary delegations from Spain, Fiji, New Zealand and Thailand.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech, reiterated the Akademi's commitment to literary service across the country and highlighted that in the past year the Akademi organised one programme every 18 hours and published one book every 20 hours. He thanked the writers' community for their unflinching support and cooperation and appealed to everyone to highlight Sahitya Akademi's commitment and good work.

Dr Manoj Das, in his speech, thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate the Akademi Exhibition and said he was honored. Dr Das said but the for Akademi, most of good literature from vernacular languages would

have remained unavailable to majority of masses in other communities and the Akademi should be lauded for uniting the entire country through translations and also making best of literature from one language available in other languages. He shared an interesting anecdote from 1957 featuring the then President of Sahitya Akademi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and highlighted the Akademi's role in the



Akademi 2015 Exhibition



President speaks on the photos of the exhibition

rise and development of literature in regional languages. He congratulated the Akademi for its dignified stance in the middle of the controversy that erupted in 2015. He pointed out that his association with Sahitya Akademi is 55 years old and urged the youth of the

country to join and stay with the Akademi.

Later, the President took Dr Das and other members to visit the Exhibition and provided explanations regarding the photos depicting seminal events in the Akademi's history.

Tribal Language Poetry Festival

The theme and focus of 2016 Festival of Letters is Tribal, Oral and North-East Literature. As part of that focus, Sahitya Akademi introduced Tribal Language Poetry Festival featuring noted tribal poet from all over the country.

In his welcome speech, Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked all the poets for coming all the way from their native places and observed that no other country in the world is as rich and diverse linguistically as India is. He highlighted the role of oral traditions in the dissemination and carrying over of cultural components of

communities all over India and Sahitya Akademi's commitment to preserve and propagate the tribal and oral literature across India. He pointed out that the Akademi had its centers for tribal and oral literature in the North-East at different places and in the past year have opened centers in Imphal and Delhi dedicated to this task.

Prof Mrinal Miri, eminent scholar and educationist, inaugurated the Tribal Language Poetry Festival. Prof Miri thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate the festival and talked at length about various aspects of



Mrinal Miri delivering inaugural address

language formation and language propagation, especially among tribal communities, not only in India, but across the globe.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, thanked Prof Miri for the detailed exposition on language and talked at length about various Indian philosophical expositions on language. He also highlighted how the natural living of tribals renders their

language pure and simple even though theirs is a community living.

Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech observed that India is a home to more than 400 languages and most of them are tribal languages. He felt it is sad that when tribals are brought mainstream, ironically, they tend to lose their unique folk identity and folklores disappear from their lives. The following fifteen poets recited their composition on varied themes;

Shantha Nayak (Banjara), Mansing Chaudhary (Bhili), Jogamaya Chakma (Chakma), Jitendra Vasava (Dehwali), Enam Gamanga (Saora), Shiv Kumar Pandey (Halbi), Ravindranath Kalundia (Ho), Deiborni Nongpoh (War Jaintia), Streamlet Dkhar (Khasi), Shefali Debbang (Kokborak), Anand Madi (Koya), Anna Madhuri Tirky (Kuduk), Anuj Mohan Pradhan (Kui), Krairi Mog Choudhary (Mog), Urmila Kumare (Gondi). Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the event.

Cultural Programme: Karma Dance – the dance of the tribals of Odisha

In the evening there was a performance of Karma Dance, a ritual dance of Binjhal tribe of Odisha. The dance was performed by the Padampur Sangeet Samiti which is a registered organization devoted to the restoration of the glorious cultural heritage of Borasambar region. Troupe leader Sri Kesha Ranjan Pradhan spoke briefly about the dance and rituals. The organization has specialized unit in the performance of Karma. Their specialization showed out in the exemplary performance of the Karma dance to the delight of select audience. The



K. Sreenivasarao felicitating the troupe

movement of grace coupled with the poise of female dancers and grandiose of the music generated by the male performers coupled with the devotion to Karamsani stood out in the performance. It was an evening of

cultural entertainment mixed with spiritually uplifting theme and devotional performance. It was a new environment created by the troupe for the writers and scholars assembled in a serene atmosphere of the Rabindra Bhawan Lawns.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2015

Sahitya Akademi, India's Premier Literary Institution, presented Sahitya Akademi Awards to writers in 24 languages at a glittering ceremony in FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium in New Delhi on February 16, 2016. Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi was the Chief Guest at the function while Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented the Awards to the writers. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, eminent playwright and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi and Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi also attended the presentation ceremony.

In his welcome speech, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, stated that the Akademi is a home of writers and for the

writers. He highlighted various details and Akademi's achievements to point out how Akademi has been rendering literary service to the nation with writers at the core. He reiterated that the Akademi will always stand by the writers of all kinds. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the greatness of Indian literature in all its forms and urged the fellow nationals to give up aping colonial civilizations. He provided a number of examples to prove that even minor languages of India are much richer than the ones of Europe or America or Africa. Dr Tiwari said it is through literature can unity be achieved and communal & dividing elements can be defeated. Dr Tiwari said he is proud to be



The Award winners with the Chief Guest, President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

associated with the Akademi which is rendering selfless and yeomen literary service to the nation by preserving and propagating all the Indian literary traditions and in 24 recognised languages and also in minor languages and dialects of India.

In his speech, the Chief Guest Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, applauded Sahitya Akademi for carrying out literary service in all the 24 recognised languages and observed that Sahitya Akademi is the premier democratic literary institution that promotes writers and to the best of his knowledge no other organisation does it. He highlighted the resonance across cultures, from Lao Tze, Bedil, Ghalib & opined that all espouse the same thought and principle. Dr Narang said God

has given us beautiful earth but we humans have divided it on the basis of language and religion. Language binds but also causes schisms and it divides. Dr Narang observed that it is the responsibility of the writers to unite the humanity through language and literature. Dr Narang concluded by alluding to the grey area between darkness and light with written word and unwritten language and said that writing is the grey area between darkness and light and more than the written word it is the unwritten, unspoken word that carries higher meaning.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, read out the citations and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the Awards. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar honored the Awardees and also thanked all the dignitaries and media friends.

Interaction of Award Winners with Media

Winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and interacted with the representatives of various media houses at 11 a.m. on February 16, 2016 ahead of the Award Presentation ceremony in the evening. The session was moderated by Amar Nath 'Amar' and Rafiq

Masoodi. Earlier Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor of Hindi at Sahitya Akademi, introduced the Awardees.

The interaction started with Rafiq Masoodi asking the Awardees about the future of



Award winners interacting with the media

literature in the face of dwindling reading habits and vanishing sales of books, especially literary books. The Awardees led by Volga responded saying that future of literature should not viewed from the urban mindset but also should take into account enormous interest in books, reading and literature in the villages across India.

Sri Arun Khopkar said writers should come forward and embrace technology for electronic books have many advantages. He also agreed with fellow awardees on the interest for books and reading in the villages and pointed out strong Dalit current sweeping the villages of Maharashtra to substantiate that. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi opined that writers and educationists should use technology to their advantage and also for the betterment of writers' community.

Kula Saikia, Award Winner in Assamese continued the discussion and observed that while the reading is a social habit and books can be gifted but ebooks score over print versions because of their portability and web-access. He also did not agree that reading habits and publishing sector is in the wane. According to him the opposite holds true.

Sri Dhian Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, observed that writers should not write from

parochial motives and should have broad mindedness and he urged the fellow writers to maintain high standards.

Veteran writer Sri Ramdaras Mishra observed that newspapers are no longer the carriers of literature as they used to be in the past. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English, while replying to a question from media whether writer is a social reformer by design or default, observed that writer writes for his own satisfaction rather than with any other goal in mind. Sri Arun Khopkar felt that a writer has to engage with his medium and intentions do not matter.

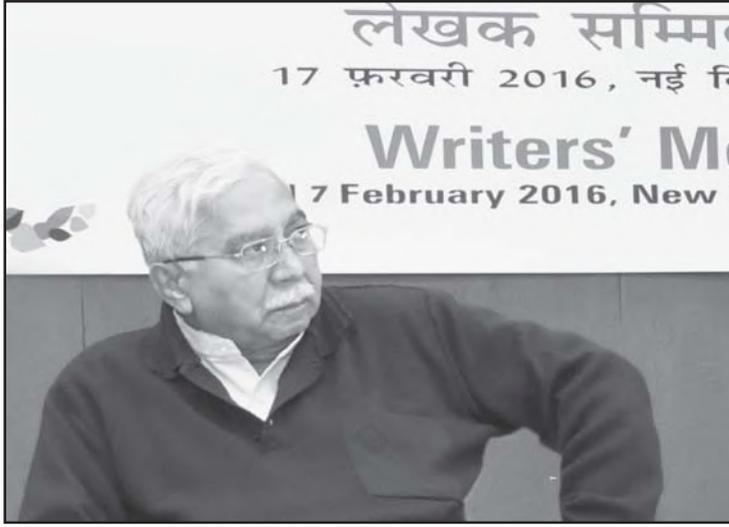
Cultural Programme : Following the Awards presentation ceremony, an act of Raas Lila was performed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy. Vasant Raas, which is one of the most beautiful of Raas Lilas and celebrated normally on Chaitra Purnima was enacted. The dance depicting the eternal love of Radha and Krishna was performed with grace by the troupe as divinity and fragrance of Godhead filled the air. Costumes, rich in texture and color, coupled with the grandeur of the act itself – gopis searching and wailing the vanished Krishna and the joy and holi color spread upon uniting with the Lord made the performance a truly memorable one.

Writers' Meet

17 February 2016, New Delhi

All the winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and shared with one and all their experiences during their journeys as creative writers / poets. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, briefly welcomed the Award Winners, spoke briefly about objective of the programme and requested Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi to

kindly conduct the proceedings of the meet. Sri Kula Saikia, the Award Winner in Assamese, spoke about varied subjective feelings, the relationship between the creator and the subjects of his works and the impact of recognition on writers. Sri Brajendra Kumar Brahma, the Award Winner in Bodo, described briefly his journey and evolution as a poet. Sri Dhian



Chandrashekhhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi presiding over the meet

Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, talked about how his life experiences reflect in his poetry and the travails and struggles of Dogra society, the pain and anguish are reflected in all of his works. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English, described his journey as a writer, as a journalist and his struggles with illness.

Sri Ramdaras Mishra, Award Winner in Hindi, described the process of creative journey through personal examples from his own life. Sri K.V. Thirumalesh, Award Winner in

Kannada, thanked the Akademi, his family and friends and his publisher. Sri Bashir Bhadarwahi, Award Winner in Kashmiri, talked about his journey as a writer and influences on him. Sri Uday Bhembre, Award Winner in Konkani, observed the seeds for many a story comes from the society in which the creator lives and described how his play came into existence. Sri Man Mohan Jha, Award Winner in Maithili, talked about his creative journey and alluded to the role of circumstances in the making of a creative writer. Ms. K.R. Meera, Award Winner in Malayalam, spoke at length about how she reflected

with the question that is the topic for the meet and how she derived different answers depending on the situation but ultimately she felt that all of us should write to ensure all of us can attain complete citizenship. Sri Arun Khopkar, Award Winner in Marathi, spoke about his dabbling in arts, including acting before moving on to study film direction course, how he ended up in writing and about synaesthetic effect of cinema.



Arun Khopkar sharing his experiences



Meera sharing her experiences

Sri Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh, Award Winner in Manipuri, described how the satisfaction provided by the poems and his love for Nature, ensured that he became a poet. Sri Gupta Pradhan, Award Winner in Nepali, described influences on his life and how that shaped his journey as a writer. Sri Bibhuti Pattnaik, Award Winner in Odia, described in an autobiographical narration his journey as a writer, his attempts, struggles and triumphs. Sri Jaswinder Singh, Award Winner in Punjabi, described in detail about his journey as a writer and the birth of Mat Lok. Sri Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadhi,' Award Winner in Rajasthani and Sri Ramshanker Awasthi,

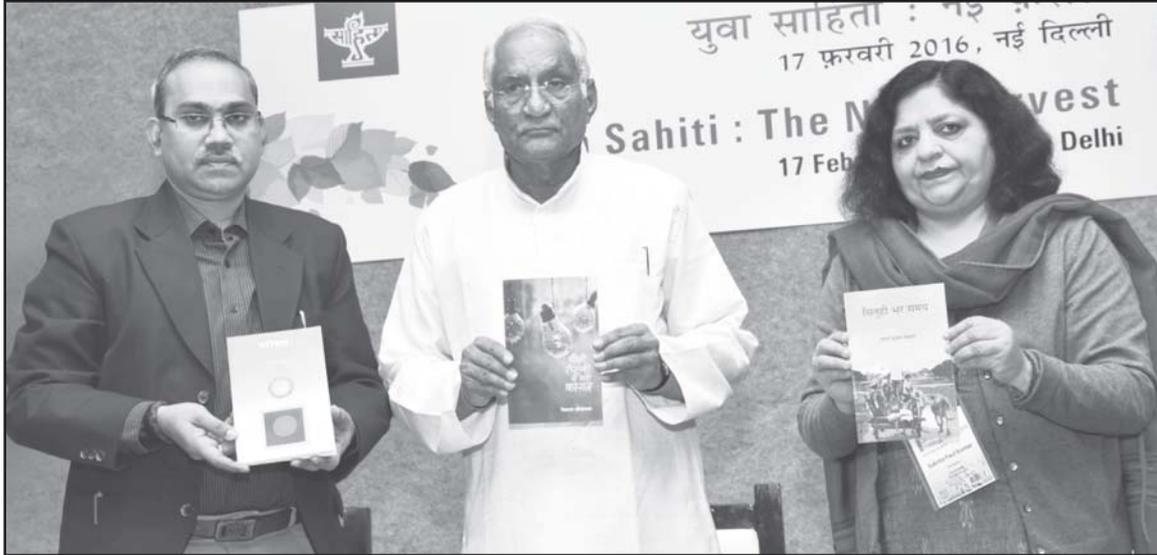
Winner in Sanskrit, described their journey into creative world.

Sri Rabilal Tudu, Award Winner in Santali, provided a brief account of his life and how his play Parsi Khatir came about. Ms. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi, talked about how partition and other travails of Sindhi community ensured she became a writer as she wanted to give expressions to her experiences. Sri Aa. Madhavan, Award Winner in Tamil, described his long and arduous literary journey in detail. Ms. Volga, Award Winner in Telugu, described her journey as a creative writer and also influences on her writing.

Yuva Sahiti: Young Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters continued for the third day and the first programme of the day was Yuva Sahiti, a programme devoted to the young writing across India.

In the inaugural session Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, young writers from all over the country and other participants. He talked about the value of young people



(L-R) K. Sreenivasarao, Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari and Dr Sukrita Paul Kumar

to all civilizations and observed that it is young people who are the drivers of change. He said young writing assumes more significance in the light of the circumstances and the times in which we are living and the crisis humanity is going through across the globe. He highlighted several programmes, schemes and projects that the Akademi has in place exclusively for the young writers / poets / translators across the country in addition to the Yuva Puraskar. He urged the young writers to utilize these facilities of Sahitya Akademi through any of its branches and benefit.

Prof Sukrita Paul Kumar, noted English poet and critic, in her inaugural address, dwelt at length upon the creative writing, the process involved and the impact it leaves on the writer and the reader. She said writing has nothing to do with age and she said she feels young whenever she starts writing. She laid out few principles of creative writing that she had imbibed during her career such as a catholic mindset, openness of the heart and uncluttered thought flow, which she thought might be useful to the young writers assembled. Freedom of mind, freedom of heart and freedom of physical space are vital for any creative writing. A writer should strive to release himself / herself from clutches of all kinds including that of a language and the cited examples of Samuel Beckett and Jhumpa Lahiri writing in a foreign language and then translating the same into the language of one's writing to establish that language need not be a constraining factor.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President,

Sahitya Akademi, agreed with the thoughts and principles of Prof Sukrita and said he is happy that more and more young writers are getting opportunities to express themselves at different levels. He thanked Prof Sukrita for agreeing to chair and inaugurate the young writers' festival. Seven noted young poets, Bijoyankar, Barman Ashok Amber, Sejal Shah, Arjun Golasangi, Arimbam Rimeeta Devi, Mary Margaret and Mohd Rasheedi, recited their compositions towards the end of the inaugural session.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Why do I write?' and chaired by Sri Angshuman Kar, three noted young writers, Sri Gauri Shankar Nemiwal (Rajasthani), Ms. Indira Dangi (Hindi) and Sri Veeran Kutti (Malayalam), presented their papers enumerating their reasons on why do they write. In the second session devoted to story reading and chaired by Shri Brajendra Tripathi, four noted young fiction writers, Sri Binod Ghoshal (Bengali), Sri Naresh Naik (Konkani), Sri Prashant Bagad (Marathi) and Sri Kshetrabashi Nayak (Odia) read out their stories. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Brajendra Tripathi, ten noted young poets, Sri Rujab Machahary (Bodo), Sri Mahtab Manzoor (Kashmiri), Sri Balkar Aulakh (Punjabi), Sri Seemal Tudu (Santali), Sri Navneet Kumar Jha (Maithili), Sri Ranjeet Gurung (Nepali), Ms. Vaneeta (Tamil), Sri Narayan Dash (Sanskrit), Ms. Sangeeta Bapuli (Sindhi) and Sri Mihir Chitre (English), recited their poems.

Samvatsar Lecture by Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari

Every year during the Festival of letters Sahitya Akademi invites an eminent scholar to deliver a lecture that betrays a deep concern for values, throws light on different ways of thinking, that engages the speaker and the audience about creativity, literature, life etc.

Many great minds have adorned this platform and great speeches have been delivered on the occasion. Some of the distinguished people who have delivered Samvatsar lecture in the past are Agyeya Vatsyayan, Umashankar Joshi, Vidya Niwas Mishra, Nirmal Verma, U.R. Ananthamurthy, Sitakant Mahapatra, Manoj Das, Amitav Ghosh, Karan Singh, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

The guest speaker of the day, Dr Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari is an eminent Gandhi scholar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker, spoke about the objectives of the programme and introduced the speaker to the audience.

Accepting Akademi's offer to deliver the annual Samvatsar lecture and feeling honored



Chandrashekhhar Dharmadhikari
delivering the Samvatsar Lecture

by the magnanimous gesture of the Akademi, Dr. Dharmadhikari at the outset made an admission that he felt wholly inadequate to address such an august gathering full of literary luminaries. He said that the language he uses is a curious admixture which he has named "hirathi" - an amalgamation of his mother tongue Marathi and the national language Hindi. He said he spent 10 crucial years of his childhood under Gandhiji's influence in Wardha. He is beholden to the 'samskara' of Swadeshi and one particular event - Gandhiji's interview to the BBC on 15th August 1947 where he said "tell the world that from now on Gandhi does not know Hindi" moved him so much that he took a vow to speak in Hindi, even in his verdicts as a dispenser of justice (judge) he has stuck to Hindi although barring some international seminars. He has wholeheartedly believed in the slogan of swadeshi, having worn khadi all along and having participated in the Quit India movement in 1942 when he was just 15 have left an indelible imprint on his mind. He said he had immense respect for literature and for the creators of literature. A writer has the unique talent to search for knowledge as well as bliss from all creation and from life itself.

He said that the human race is facing a very difficult time where old values, old established system of thought are facing decay and death and new systems have to be set in place yet. So these are times of flux. A writer has to express the same in his work; also it is important that a writer should be a living example of the writing he espouses. If there is an incongruence of thought and action, a writer may be living a split personality syndrome which would lead to a hypocritical dual lifestyle which is wholly undesirable.

The world faces crucial questions. Today's

world is one terrorized world. Everyone is busy safeguarding their interests. Nobody trusts the other. In such an atmosphere of distrust and disbelief how can one trust, love, respect and help the other? How can complete distrust be replaced by complete assurance? Man has become man's greatest enemy. It is then, the sacred duty of the writer to build bridges through his writing. He opined that we have to do a re-think and develop a sense of duty than just have an acute sense of rights. Doing one's duties well, one's rights are automatically assured. One should ruminate on one's Duties as well. Sister Nivedita, in response to a question on whether there is an Indian mind, opined that there are three special qualities that Indian possess and these are synthesis, harmony and co-ordination. Acharya Vinoba Bhave defined "Sahitya" as one which moves alongside life. Sahitya, according to Dr. Dharmadhikari is a kind of yagna - a ceremonial worship, an offering. Literature or Sahitya is not just a mirror to reality. It should lead to revolution in thoughts and action. Sahitya should reflect sincerity and commitment.

Today, more than ever, man has become self centered. Core values of life which are instilled by the family are missing because

parents are busy with their own lives. Often, the television acts as a babysitter, then can we really blame the young generation if they are not interested in literature? Does a writer live a part of what he writes as well - is something the new generation wants to know. if he does not, if there is a conflict or contradiction between what he writes and what he truly is, never will great literature be forthcoming. He then spoke elaborately about the havoc social networking sites are causing to the society instead of meeting face to face, people now prefer connecting on face book. A British organization-divorce online researched in 2012 and came up with the data that 33% of divorces took place due to face book. Virtual reality is taking over the larger reality. Also, the advent of smart phones has led to an increase in the problems of memory loss and deafness. People also live in anxiety and waiting for a reply or a like or a message and suffer from what is now called "nomophobia" also, increased use of digital devices has led to isolation of the individual whereas the crux of human life is socialization. How to bring back the human aspect in this era of commoditization is a big question facing the creator of literature.



(L-R) Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari & Dr K. Sreenivasarao

Sahitya means the welfare of all, according to an old definition. And what can be achieved by the pen cannot be achieved by the sword. Books/literature is not just a physical, tangible reality but an emotional reality as well. We are faced with new challenges in these new times for which readymade, instant solutions may not be available. We can face the change by the dictum of - think globally, act locally he then went on to talk about the system of justice and how it is dependent upon a number of factors. The law ensures that everyone is

equal in its eyes but a broader perspective should include equal opportunities as well. Today there is the paradox of “Bharat” vs “India”. Dr Dharmadhikari felt that justice should be dispensed in Hindi as well. The saints and philosophers of our country have taken forth the principle of one nation one people more than any other section of people. We have to arouse nationalism of the people - the work that was done by saints and philosophers in the past. We have to look a fresh at ourselves, removing our spectacles.

National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities

Every year Sahitya Akademi organizes a national seminar with relevant themes as part of the annual Festival of Letters. This year’s focus is on the three prominent makers of modern India.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and spoke briefly about the scope and objectives of the seminar. He stated that the seminar is one of the steps that Akademi is initiating in highlighting the importance and relevance of these doyens to the 21st century India.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about how Gandhi Nehru and Ambedkar, though each one

different and pursued different ideology and path, influenced each other in direct or indirect ways. He pointed out the ways in which Gandhi influenced Nehru and also pointed out that differences between Gandhi and Ambedkar



Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the Presidential address. Also seen are (L-R) Dr K.Sreenivasarao, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, Dr Manoj Das, Dr Krishna Kumar and Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar

on the issue of caste led to a full length discussion on the nature of the institution itself.

In her inaugural address, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, eminent scholar, talked about how great leaders like Gandhi and Nehru occupied the mental space of the masses. Dr Kapila Vatsyayan highlighted the spiritual dimension of Gandhi which Nehru and Ambedkar did not share and observed that unlike the current times where all the three leaders occupy our mental space, in the 1950's and 1960's only Gandhi and Nehru dominated the memory of the public. She wanted to find out from the Akademi experts if 'adivasis' can be equated with dalits and congratulated Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a wonderful seminar.

In his speech, Dr Krishnakumar, eminent scholar and educationist, highlighted the major distinctions among Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar and observed that while Gandhi's vision (at a fundamental level) centered around man, revolution and evolution of man and his relationship with the state. On the other hand Ambedkar's vision and contributions centered on the State and how to streamline social institutions. He also highlighted how Gandhi

and Ambedkar differed in their approaches on abolition of caste system.

In his keynote address, Dr Manoj Das, eminent scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about how and why all the three leaders should be treated as agencies for change for which India was ready. He said spiritual understanding of movement of this type is necessary, for, otherwise it would be impossible even to conceive how was it possible for one or two persons to galvanize the entire country at a time when there were no means of fast communication or travelling.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the changes that took place in almost all the spheres of human activity and how Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar were responsible for it.

In the first session devoted to 'Freedom and Non-violence' and chaired by Prof Sitanshu Yashaschandra, three eminent scholars, Sri Nand Kishore Acharya, Sri Pundalik Naik and Ms. Anuradha Roy, presented their papers 'Himsa se mukti hi swatantrata,' 'Gandhi Nehru aur Ambedkar: Saatatya aur asaatahya' and 'Gandhian social ideology coming to terms



The third session of the seminar in progress

with Nehruvian state: Thoughts and Experiments in Bengal' respectively. In the second session devoted to 'Response to the West' and was chaired by Dr Bhalachandra Nemade, two eminent scholars, Malchand Tiwary and Kunal Chattopadhyay, presented their papers focusing on the impact of the three leaders in Rajasthan to boycott western things and Ambedkar & Indian Nationalism, respectively.

The National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities continued for the second day at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 19, 2016.

The third session of the seminar and first session of the day was devoted to 'Freedom of Expression' and was chaired by eminent Kannada writer, Prof S.L. Bhyrappa. Two noted scholars, Sri Sudhish Pachauri and Prof Makarand Paranjape, presented their papers focusing on 'Jantantra Mein Lekhak aur Lekhak ka Jantantra' and 'India's Intolerance Battle' respectively. Sri Sudhish Pachauri talked about the freedom and various perspectives from the point of view of writers. He said there are various levels of freedom such as freedom from

the state, freedom from the social shackles etc. He highlighted how Mahatma Gandhi found his own way to freedom personally. Writers should reflect upon their position and role in the state and act accordingly. Prof Makarand Paranjape began by posing a question to the audience 'Is intolerance the other side of tolerance or is it the opposite of tolerance?' He gave the example of intolerance in India with the incidents involved with Sri S.L.Bhyrappa's work, who was in the Chair. He said that Sri Bhyrappa was also the victim of such intolerance in Karnataka. But instead of choosing to shouting slogans or be a part of any anti-national movement he chose to write a novel and he has shown how writers should fight intolerance. Prof Bhyrappa spoke extensively about caste and communal politics which is creating divisions among the citizens of the country. He said it is pitiable that governments in the country followed the same divide and rule policy of the Britishers.

The fourth session was devoted to 'Women and Equality' and was chaired by Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair. Three noted women writers Ms. S. Faustina Bama, Ms. Urmila Pawar and Ms. Rakshanda Jalil presented their papers about



The fourth session of the seminar in progress

women and equality with reference to Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar. Faustina Bama said that equality means equal freedom, rights and respect for women at home, in the streets, in the market places, in the work places, in the schools and universities and in places of worship. In other words, besides equal economic and political rights, we seek particularly equal social and cultural space. For all this to happen, we need not only changes in law but also in our mind sets, attitudes and cultural practices. She concluded her paper with the words of Baba Saheb Ambedkar said Equality “for ours is a battle not for wealth or for power. It is battle for freedom. It is the battle of reclamation of human personality.” Urmila Pawar highlighted the similarities in the views of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar about women. Rakshanda Jalil delineated the influence of Gandhian and Nehruvian ideas of women on theatre and film industry. A lively question-answer session followed the presentations.

The fifth session was devoted to ‘Caste and Equality’ and was chaired by Prof K. Satchidanandan. Three noted scholars Prof K. Enoch, Sri Ramdas Bhatkal and Sri Rajkishore presented their papers focusing on Caste & Equality and Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar. In his speech, Prof K. Satchidanandan delivered a lecture on the necessity of bringing back the philosophies of Nehru and Ambedkar on the face of increasing caste violence and communal disharmony that the country is witnessing. Prof Enoch focused on the evolution



Fifth session in progress

of caste and how it degrades other social institutions over a period of time. Sri Ramdas Bhatkal focused on the similarities and dissimilarities, continuities and discontinuities in the perceptions about Gandhi by Nehru and Ambedkar. His paper took Gandhian thought as focal point and looked at the continuities and discontinuities. Sri Rajkishore highlighted the plight of dalits and backward class people in India and observed that in this context the thoughts and philosophies of Ambedkar and Nehru are relevant today.

The sixth and last session of the day was devoted to ‘Language Question’ and was chaired



A section of the audience

by Dr Bhalachandra Nemade. Two noted scholars Sri Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi and Sri Soyam Lokendrajit Singh presented their papers focusing on 'Three Dimensions of Language Question' and 'Language, Communication and Domination' respectively.

The National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities continued for the third day at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

The seventh session of the seminar was first for the day devoted to 'Minority and Majority' and was chaired by Sri Nand Kishore Acharya. In this session, two noted scholars, Rana Nayar and Pravin Pandya, presented their papers 'Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate: Let us annihilate the cast as we eradicate untouchability' and 'Aadhe pul ki asamapt yatra' respectively. Nayar's paper focused on the system of caste with untouchability and the perceptions / positions of Gandhi and Ambedkar on it. He hoped for a society where Gandhi and Ambedkar can co-exist and such a society should be casteless and progressive. Pandya said that according to Gandhi minorities can be classified into three broad groups such as dharmic, samajik and rajneetik corresponding to personal, social and political spaces of the

state. For Ambedkar though majority is the community which is traditional and casteist while minority is something that may have religious leanings sans system of caste. He also highlighted the socialist principles of Nehru which laid the foundation for a secular state.

The eighth session was devoted to 'Culture and Education' and was chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, eminent poet and playwright. Two noted scholars Ms. Nilanjana Deb and Sri Satyanarayan Sahu presented their papers 'The Refracted Light of Asia: the Negotiations of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar with Orientalist Writing on Buddhism' and 'Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on education and culture' respectively. While the former focused on the different approaches taken by Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on utilizing orientalist sources in promoting Buddhism., the latter focused on the three doyens' contribution to education and culture. Prof Shivaprakash summed up the proceedings and observed that except Acharya Narendra Dev, all other makers of modern India based their understanding about the native texts through the prism of western ideas and western systems.

In the ninth and final session that was devoted to 'Religion and Democracy' and chaired by Sri Purushottam Agrawal, three noted scholars, Prof Satyakam Borthakur, Sri Sribhagwan Singh and Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented their papers on the topic of the session focusing on the trio's different approaches to religion and democracy and also on Gandhi's views on religions of the world. While Sri Sribhagwan Singh presented a paper on Gandhi's view of the religions of India, Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented a paper highlighting continuities and discontinuities in the approaches to religion and democracy and Prof Satyakam focused on highlighting the similarities and common points among the three doyens under consideration.



Shakespearean tragedy in Kathakali adaptation was performed by the International Centre for Kathakali, New Delhi (ICK).

Purvottari: North-East and Northern Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organised a programme 'Purvottari' featuring eminent writers and poets from North-East and Northern regions of India. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries and participants of the event. He observed that despite beautiful landscape, wonderful languages though mostly oral some time ago and vast amount of literature, almost all of literature from the region was not reaching other parts of India. He informed the audience that to remedy this situation and restore the balance with reference to relationship between various literary traditions, Sahitya Akademi has been promoting literature from North-East by way of organising a number multilingual writers/poets' meets connecting writers/poets from North-East and different parts of India and also publishing tribal and oral literature from the region.

In his inaugural address, Sri Lakshmi Nandan Bora, eminent Assamese writer said he is very happy that more and more writers

from North-East are getting to interact and learn from the writers and poets of rest of India. He said he is very happy that because of Sahitya Akademi, more and more translators from the North-Eastern region are getting to know nuances and techniques from translators of other regions and languages.

In his Presidential speech Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said The diversity of language and culture which we find in North-Eastern part, we can't see it in any other part. He also expressed his deep concern about the future of marginal languages which are in danger because of the electronic and print media. He also said that the promotion of North-Eastern literature is on the top agenda of the Sahitya Akademi.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Why do I write?' and chaired by Smt. Rita Chowdhury, five noted writers, Sri Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Sri Virendra Jain (Hindi), Sri Vikram Sampath (English), Ms. Lairenlakpam Ibemhal Devi (Manipuri) and Krishna Kumar Toor (Urdu), talked about why they write.



Inaugural session of the meet in progress

Sri Uzir said despite lot of efforts he is not able to trace the reasons for his writing and stated that writing came to him naturally and at a very early age. Sri Virendra Jain said a number of unsavory incidents in his life forced him to look for ways of catharsis and writing provided him best platform to express himself and free his mind. Sri Vikram Sampath said he would agree with Orwell and give four reasons of the former – sharing ego, aesthetic enthusiasm, historical and political purposes. Ms. Lairenlakpam Ibemhal Devi said her love for nature and her gregarious nature ensured she opted poetry writing. Krishna Kumar Toor said his craving to share his feelings took him to writing.

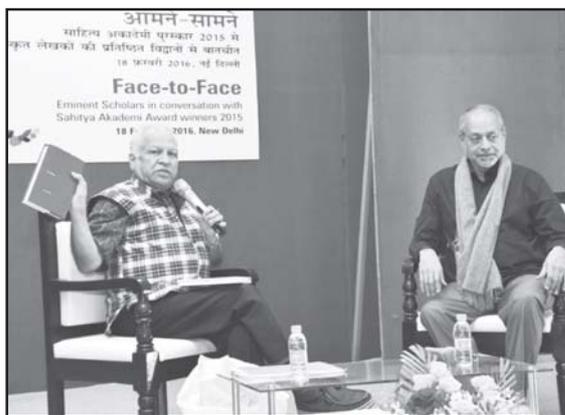
In the second session that was devoted to story reading and chaired by L. Joychandra Singh, two noted fiction writers, Ms. Manika Devec (Assamese) and Sri Roop Singh Chandel (Hindi) read out their short stories. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Leeladhar Mandloi, ten noted poets, Sri Pranjit Bora (Assamese), Sri Sushil Begana (Dogri), Sri Abdul Rashid Shad (Kashmiri), Sri Ajit Kumar Azad (Maithili), Sri Longjam Ibotombi Singh (Manipuri), Sri F. Lalzuithanga (Mizo), Sri Kritimani Khatiwada (Nepali), Sri Satish Gulati (Punjabi), Sri Chandra Bhushan Jha (Sanskrit) and Ms. Yashoda Murmu (Santali).

Face-to-Face Programme

Face-to-Face is a programme that takes place during the Festival of Letters every year. In this programme an eminent scholar from a particular language is invited to interview the Award winner in that language for that year. Every year select Awardees get to interact with scholars and the objective of this programme is to provide opportunities to other people to know more about the Award Winner.

The first Award Winner to take part in

the day was Marathi's Arun Khopkar. Sri Kumar Ketkar, well-known journalist interacted with Sri Khopkar. The questions ranged from the polyglot perceptions of Sri Khopkar to film aesthetics of Eisenstein to inspirations for making film on painting art and music for which Sri Khopkar said everything that is connected with art has a symbiotic relationship and in the whole parts just play a role of adding particulars.



Award winners in conversation with eminent scholars



Award winners in conversation with eminent scholars

Meena T. Pillai engaged Ms. K.R. Meera, and the conversations veered around women's status, countering male hegemony, patriarchal resistance to women writing in Kerala and feminist literature and women in journalism. Ms. Meera said she wanted to reclaim the lost lives of women in Kerala and also she wanted to venture into where other women have not ventured before.

Stuti Goswami was in conversation with Kula Saikia, Award Winner in Assamese, and the conversation centered around being a public servant and Saikia said like being a public servant writing is also a public endeavor. The conversation then moved towards and revolved around social reality, science fiction and writing in general.

Vivek Shanbag was in conversation with K.V. Thirumalesh, Award Winner in Kannada.

Conversation revolved around Thirumalesh's writing journey, his translations, his experiences as a reader and also as a writer.

Arshia Sattar was in conversation with Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English. Conversation revolved around presence of dreams in his narrative, common themes in his early works, his research on parsi corpse bearers.

J.L. Reddy was in conversation with Volga, the Award Winner in Telugu. Conversation centered around Volga's writing career, feminism in her writings, work done by Asmita and feminist writing in telugu region etc

Suresh Rituparna was in conversation with Ramdarash Mishra, Award Winner in Hindi. The conversation revolved around Mishra's writing journey, movement into urban spaces and future of literature in 21st century.

Symposium on Unwritten Languages

The second edition of the symposium on Unwritten Languages of India was organized on the Day 5 of the Festival of Letters 2016 at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns in New Delhi.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and

spoke about the discussion of the first edition and hoped this year too symposium would be successful. He urged the experts to speed up the process of preserving and propagating more and more unwritten languages since the number of unwritten languages are vanishing fast and thick. He thanked Dr Debi Prasanna

Pattanayak and Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra for participating in the symposium.

Dr Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, distinguished scholar and linguist and who was the Chief Guest of the Symposium, talked about the distinction between the written and unwritten languages and observed that with the advent of the printing press the hegemony of the written word gained supremacy and pushed the indigenous languages were pushed to the background. With this, the unwritten literature got relegated to folk literature and anthropology became a handmaid of colonialism. Written literature became a mark of culture. Dr Pattanayak also talked about the historical process by which the supremacy of written languages was established slowly and surely. He observed that what is not being documented and researched is the decimation of written languages and spread of illiteracy due to colonial domination. Telephone, Radio, Television, Computer, Mobile, Android Technology made writing superfluous. First casualty was letter writing and second was reading books. He stated that though technologies provide facilities to reach small languages and small communities using them, they also exerted pressure for getting rid of multiple channels for creation

and transmission of knowledge and go in for simple solutions of dominant mono-lingualism. Communities are being redefined as cyber-entities. Dr Pattanayak informed the audience that India is at the top of the list of endangered languages. He concluded saying that before our very nose written languages are slipping into unwritten spoken languages and are dying out with the last speaker of the language but our sophisticated technologies are not able to save them.

In his keynote address, Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, eminent scholar and folklorist, talked about beauty of Indian literary tradition is unwritten and oral. British education system corrupted the oral traditions with the force of written literature by the state. He quoted Gopabandhu “the literature people of this country may be head but larger masses of the country is the soul.” The unwritten languages were historically silenced due to the dominance of power with writing system during the past centuries. Dr Mishra also stated that the oral literary traditions like myths, epics and tales are necessary to understand the history of time and conditions of people and also that inspite of multilingual situation oral tradition of India fosters unity of thought and knowledge

representing a common paradigm in Indian literature. He also warned that 21st century will witness a rapid decline of linguistic diversities. He lamented that majority of people are unaware neither of the fact that so many languages are vanishing nor do they have any idea what it means to lose a language and that loss of language would mean loss of thought and knowledge.

In his presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi,



Inaugural session of the symposium in progress

stated that oldest literature in the world is Rg Ved and it is shruti – that which is heard. When the same is committed to memory is called Smrti and it is this process of committing to memory and creating a written literature that Max Muller. It is through unwritten language and oral tradition that vast amount of literature that was disseminated from one generation to another generation for thousands of years. Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the role of folklore and folksongs in the preservation and propagation of knowledge and culture from one generation to another. He informed the audience that majority of languages are unwritten and we should learn to look after the literature contained in the majority of literature and our ignorance and arrogance should not prove too devastating for humanity itself.

In the first session, devoted to ‘Challenges

of Scripting the Unwritten Languages’ and chaired by Dr Awadesh Kumar Mishra, three noted scholars, Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddy, Sri Pramod Pandey and Sri Ganesh Murmu, presented their papers focusing on different kinds of challenges that they face while trying to evolve suitable scripts of spoken dialects but unwritten in nature. In the second session devoted to ‘Unwritten Literature / Oral Tradition’ and chaired by Sri Bhagwan Das Patel, four noted scholars, Kikeri Narayan, Indranil Acharya, Basant Nirgune and Nila Shah, presented their papers on the history of oral traditions, orality of cultures, relevance of oral traditions in the modern and contribution of oral traditions in the nourishment of culture and literature etc. The programme was coordinated by Dr Devendra Kuma Devesh, Officer-on-Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

Seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian Literary Traditions

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian literary traditions as part of Festival of Letters at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and talked about how translation lies at the core of all of Akademi’s activities. He hoped with the help of translators’ community across India that the seminar on translation will become a regular feature of Festival of Letters.

In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi,

talked about the translation activity that is inherent in the social fabric of India. He pointed in a multilingual society like India where language changes every 100 kms, it is impossible to conceive of a life without translation of one kind or the other. Crude or refined, translation always existed and was on use on a day to day basis in India. He highlighted various works, periods, movements of translations over the past 2000 years and observed that translation is natural to Indians.

Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent Hindi scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, who was the Guest of Honor, sated that India is a translation area. He wondered why no single critical text specifying the art



Dr K. Sreenivasarao delivering the welcome address. Also seen an (L-R) Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari & Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri

or science of translation parallel to expert treatises in other fields and felt that maybe the exclusive attitude of Indians with regard to language and privilege of the speakers and their master narrative was responsible for this lacuna.

In his keynote address, Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, eminent Hindi scholar, said that translation permeates everything and the world is a construct of word but the word is a translation of the idea. Idea is abstract and languageless, translation facilitates its manifestation in concrete forms through different aural visual performative media of communication. In a way, no communication can become a reality without translation and translational consciousness.

Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar talked about translating cultural components of a language into another and highlighted traditional view points on translating / transporting cultural consciousness of one region into another.

The first session was devoted to 'Translational Transactions in Bhakti Movement' and chaired by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee,

eminent literary critic, two noted scholars T.S. Satyanath and Prakash Bhatambrekar presented their papers 'Translational

Transactions in Medieval Indian Vernacular Literary Cultures' and 'Bhaktikaal mein anuvadkiya aadaan pradaan' respectively.

In the second session devoted to 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India,' Sri Alok Bhalla chaired the session and two noted translators, Ms. Monalisa Jena and Sri Rajendra Prasad Mishra presented their papers 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India' and 'aupanivesika bharat mein anuvadkiya udyam' respectively.

In the third and final session that was devoted to 'Contemporary Translational Initiatives and Impacts' and chaired by Ms. Namita Gokhale, three noted translators, Sri N. Kalyan Raman, Ms. Neeta Gupta and Sri Harish Narang presented their papers. Ms. Neeta and Ms. Mini presented publishers' point of view. Sri Narang presented the perspective of the writer while Sri Kalyan Raman presented a paper on 'Translating the subaltern: Initiatives and impact.'

Spin-A-Tale Programme

Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters concluded with the last day devoted to Children and Children's Literature at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Chief Guest Sri Prayag Shukla and the participants. Dr Sreenivasarao talked about inculcating good reading habits in the children at a very young age and the benefits of such inculcation. He said reading habits formed in childhood go a long way in shaping the mindscape of children and it is these children who go on to become adults and citizens of the world.

Sri Prayag Shukla thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate Spin-A-Tale 2016 and talked briefly about the moulding of children in the right direction from a very young age.

Dr Sreenivasarao and Sri Prayag Shukla

released two books of Children's Literature – English translation of two Chinese books for children (Liao Zhai Zhi Yi: Selected Stories and Stories of Huainanzi) and two Hindi works *Papu bapu bane Mahatma and Bhartiya Bal Sahitya* edited by Harikrishna Devasare. Sri Shukla inaugurated the event by singing a poem from his works and children sang with him.

Children with special needs from Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Delhi enacted a cultural performance.

The Young Mizo Association of Mizoram performed Cheraw (bamboo dancing) for Children's entertainment. Certificates of appreciation were distributed by Dr Sreenivasarao to the students and faculty of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute and he spoke at length appreciating the efforts of the



Sri Prayag Shukla inaugurating the event

children and the institute. He requested the elders and faculty not to address the children as handicapped as that would affect the psyche of children.

Ms. Anupa Lal and Ms Valentina Trivedi presented their stories for the children.

A poetry writing competition in two topics “Swachh Bharat” and “Pollution” was conducted.

The winners — Swachh Bharat:

1st Prize: Khushboo Jalu Thariya

2nd Prize: Gauri Lakshmi

3rd Prize: Afsana

Consolation Prize 1) Aamir Hussain and
2) Ruchi Singh

The winners — Pollution:

1st Prize: Arunima Tripathi

2nd Prize: A.M.N. Madhuri

3rd Prize: Khushi Bhatt

Consolation Prize 1) D.M. Ramita and
2) Karan Raj

A workshop on creative writing by Rahul Saini and a workshop on painting by S.V. Rama Rao were organized as part of Spin-A-Tale.



Participants of Spin-a-Tale programme

PRESENTATION OF TRANSLATION PRIZES 2014

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 24 Indian languages, including English. Over the 56 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 publications of journals, monographs, individual creative works of every genre, anthologies, encyclopaedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, who's who of writers and histories of literature. (Source: <http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/aboutus/about.jsp>)

Since 1989, the institution has started to give an annual prize for translation of prominent and outstanding writings in all the recognised twenty four languages of India. The Translation Prize 2014 was conducted in Dibrugarh, the eastern most city of India. The three day event was held at the Dibrugarh University. It is for the first time that the Award ceremony followed by the Translators Meet and the Abhivyakti programme was being conducted on a university campus.

The Translation Prize 2014 began at 5 pm with a devotional song of Shri Shankardev presented by Shri Arun Hazarika and group.

Shri K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi was the master of ceremonies for the evening. He addressed the gathering and briefed them about Sahitya Akademi and the Translation Prize 2014.

Dr.Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President Sahitya Akademi, felicitated Dr. Pratibha Ray, eminent Odia writer was the Chief Guest



Winners of Translation Prize with Pratibha Ray, Chief Guest, President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

for the evening and Dr. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University felicitated Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, renowned Hindi poet, writer, and critic as well as the editor of 'Dastavez' was then called upon to give the presidential address. In his address, Dr. Tiwari highlighted on the multi-lingual diversity of India. He addressed that in this multi-lingual diversity, the North-Eastern region of India has the highest number of regional languages. He then spoke on the aesthetics of translation from one language to the other and how the problem of expression in a certain language arises during the translation of a story or poem into another language. He even emphasized on the importance of sound effects during the recitation or narration of a story or poem in a particular language and how in the process of translating into another language the entire essence of a story or poem can be lost. In his concluding remarks he mentioned that the best translation can be considered as the one which is understood and interpreted in one's own language.

Followed by the address, the prize distribution ceremony began and the awardees were felicitated by a plaque, *gamocha* (a piece of cloth of utmost respect in the Assamese culture) and a prize of Rs.50,000.

The awardees for the Translation Prize are as follows

Bipul Deuri won the Translation Prize in Assamese. His translation of Amish Tripathi's *The Immortals of Meluha* is from English to Assamese.

Benoy Kumar Mahata won the Translation prize in Bengali. His translation of Sudhangshu 'Sekhar' Chaudhuri's *Eh Batha Sansar* from Maithili into Bengali titled *Ei Prithibi Pagla-Garad*.

Surath Narzary won the Translation Prize in Bodo. His translation in Bodo is from



Surath Nazary receiving Translation Prize from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari

Rabindranath Tagore's collection of Poems *Gitanjali*.

Yashpaul 'Nirmal' won the translation prize in Dogri. His translation titled *Mian Deedo* is the Dogri translation of a Punjabi play called *Deedo Jammwal* by Kripa Sagar.

Padmini Rajappa won the translation prize in English. Her English translation of Kadambari is from Banabhatta's Kadambari in Sanskrit.

(Late) Nagindas Jivanlal Shah won the prize in Gujarati. His translation of Gunaratna's *Tarkarahasyadeepikais* from Sanskrit.

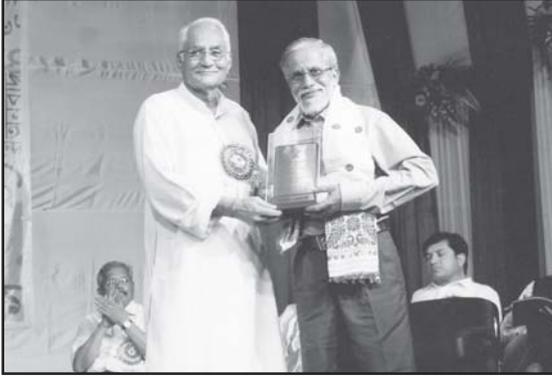
Phool Chand Manavwon the prize in Hindi. His translation is of *Annadata*, a Punjabi novel by Baldev Singh.

G.N.Ranganatha Rao won the prize in Kannada. His translation of the English biography of *Mohan Das: A True Story of a Man, His people and an Empire* by Rajmohan Gandhi.

M.H. Zaffar won the prize in Kashmiri. His translation of Vasu Gupt Reshi's *Siva Sutras* is from Sanskrit to Kashmiri.

Pandurang Kashinath Gaude won the prize in Konkani. His translation of Laxman Gaikwad's autobiography *Uchalaya* is from Marathi to Konkani.

Ram Nararyan Singh won the prize in Maithili. His translation of Thakazhi



Panduranga Kashinath Gaude receiving Translation Prize from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari



Saro Hansdah receiving Translation Prize from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari

Sivasankara Pillai's *Chemmeen*, is a renowned novel in Malayalam language.

Priya A.S won the translation prize in Malayalam. Her work *Kunju Karyangalude Ode Thampuram* is a Malayalam translation of Arundhati Roy's English novel *The God of Small Things*.

W. Cha Ibotombi Mangang won the translation prize in Manipuri. His work *Hi Irkapais* a translation of *Nauka Dubbee* by Rabindranath Tagore.

Madhukar Sudam Patil won the translation prize in Marathi. His work *Smrutibhramshantantar*, is a translation of Ganesh N. Devy's *After Amnesia* in English.

Dambarmani Pradhan won the translation prize in Nepali. His work *Maalai Joon Chaabincha* is the translation of Surendra Verma's *Mujhey Chand Chahiye*.

Rabindra Kumar Praharaj won the translation prize in Odia. His work *Thilagharar Gehlapua* is a translation of Tek Chand Thakur's *Alaler Gharere Dulal* in Bengali.

Tarsem won the translation prize in Punjabi. His work *Mann Da Manukh* is a translation of Sunil Gangopadhyay's Bengali novel *Moner Manush*.

Kailash Mandela won the translation prize in Rajasthani. His work *Kural Kavya* is the

translation of Tamil poetry *Tirukkural* by Saint Tiruvalluvar.

Narayana Dash won the translation prize in Sanskrit. His work *Vatyasarab* is a translation of a collection of short stories by renowned Odia writer Chandra Sekhar Dasbarma.

Saro Hansdah won the translation prize in Santali. Her work is the translation of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's novel *Devdas*.

Ram U. Kukreja won the translation prize in Sindhi. *Maru Tirth Hinglaaj* is his translation of the Bengali novel written by Avadhut.

S.Devadoss won the translation prize in Tamil. His translation *Laddakkilirundu Kavizhu Nizhal* is a translation of Babani Bhattacharya's novel *Shadow from Ladakh* from English to Tamil.

R. Santha Sundari won the translation prize in Telugu. Her translation *Intlo Premchand* is a translation of Premchand's biography by Shivrani Devi titled *Premchand Ghar Mein*.

Ved Rahi won the translation prize in Urdu. His translation *Lal Ded* is a translation of the Dogri novel of the same name written by him based on the life of Kashmiri saint poetess Lal Ded.

After the prize distribution for the best Translation Prizes, the Chief Guest for the event Dr.Pratibha Ray, eminent Odia writer

addressed the gathering. Her address stressed upon how translation is possible yet difficult. She commented that literature can be available in different languages is possible yet the process of translation is difficult. Originality is definitely lost in the process but it cannot be completely unjustified as translation has been present since time immemorial. She even added that the translator while translation is in the writer's shadow. She suggest that translators who want to translate books should only choose the books they love to read and not take up any commissioned work only then justice to the translated version of a book will be served. She even mentioned that the strength of Indian literature lies on the number of languages literature is written. That indeed is enriching yet the drawback is that the criticism of Indian literature is poor. She concludes by encouraging authors to translate more despite the shortcomings.

The evening came to an end with a spectacular presentation of Rajasthani folk songs performed by Anwar Khan Manganiar and group.

Translators' Meet

5 September 2015

The Translators' Meet was the second event that was conducted on 5 September, 2015 from 10 am onwards. The panellists comprised few of the winners, who won the translators prizes on 4th September, 2015.

Eminent Assamese writer Karabi Deka Hazarika was the chair for the respective session. The writers expressed their experience on working on the literatures that they have translated and which went ahead to win the prestigious

Translation Prize, 2014.

Surath Nazary who won the best translation prize in Bodo stated, "In my translation, I have discovered that is very difficult to carry the resonance of the creator as the meaning of the words is not always equivalent from one language to other. More difficulties are found when idioms, symbolism and metaphors dominate in the work. And if the language to be translated is below the mark of the original work, then it appears very delicate to carry the original meaning with concept. In this connection the standard of Bengali and Bodo can be cited. In such cases, originals words of the original work are retained. With such a measure, the translated work has the chance of imparting ideas and work more excellent work."

Yashpaul 'Nirmal' who won the best translation prize in Dogri shared, "I was of the firm view that the men who listens to one's mother tongue, learns and understand it with ease, this cannot be done in other languages. Having inspiration from this, I translated Shrimad Bhagawat Puran into Dogri in the year 1994-95 and this whole translated



Padmini Rajappa speaking at the Translators' Meet

work was published in instalments in Dogri Times. Getting a good response of this work from the common masses, translation becomes my favourite field.” He even added, “In the present era of world unity, world brother hood world peace and transformation of information, the role of translation is incredible.”

Rabindra Kumar Praharaj won the best translation prize in Odia. He said, “ The present translations (awarded for 2014 for ‘Alaler Gharer Dulal’ by Tekchand Thakur (nomdeplume) i.e. Pyarichand Mitra in the title of Thila Gharar Gehlapua’ is acclaimed as a classic novel published in 1857. Since then such masterly presentation of rural as well as urban life of Bengal has not appeared in Bengali language. Most probably this was the first novel in the Indian literature which depicted common people and their activities, when in other languages, historical and mythological romances were being attempted at.”

Padmini Rajjappa won the best translation prize in English. She commented, “I would like to talk about this problem that all translators encounter; faithfulness versus readability. This question becomes particularly pressing when translating in a work written several centuries ago and in classical Sanskrit. There are two aspect to the problem; faithfulness to the style of the author and faithfulness to the content of the work.”

Phool Chand Manav won the best translation prize in Hindi. The writer expressed that he loves to translate poetry as he can do an interpretation in his own way. In this way he can justify and make the original poet’s poetry better.

G.N. Ranganathan Rao won the best translation prize in Kannada. He stated, “A translator should perfectly understand the meaning and nuances of the original work. He should have fair knowledge of poetics, connotations and phoneme of both the languages. After analysing all these factors he

has to conceive it in his mother tongue. The moment he conceives it the translator becomes a surrogate mother,”

M.H. Zaffar won the best translation prize in Kashmiri. He said, “When we examine this tradition minutely we realize that its roots go deep into the spiritual and mystic culture of medieval Kashmir and especially in the Aagmic texts of which Shiv Sutra is the most important one and it is called Shiva Upanishad.”

Pandurang Kashinath Gaude won the best translation prize in Konkani. He said that literature based on issues like Dalit literature was very rare in Konkani. *Uchalaya* is one such work which is based on caste systems and the sufferings of the Dalits. This kind of literature creates awareness and educates the masses.

Ram Narayan Singh won the best translation prize in Maithili. He has expressed whatever he writes is for his own pleasure and satisfaction. This can be reflected in his own translated work that won the translation prize.

Dambarmani Pradhan won the best translation prize in Nepali. He spoke about the evolution of translation in the world. Citing some famous authors he said that the world becomes a small place for everybody to know everyone through different translated works.

Tarsem won the best translation prize in Punjabi. He said, “Translation is important because it is one of the important components rather a bridge that links one language to another language. Punjabi as a language has the tradition of translation from time immemorial.”

Kailash Mandela won the best translation prize in Rajasthani. He expressed *Kural Kavya* is also known as Pancham Ved. The book describes the norms of how a human being should lead his daily life.

Narayan Dash won the best translation prize in Sanskrit. He said that while translating a work the originality should be kept intact

of the source work. It shouldn't lose its essence and rather should be even more simplified than the original work.

Saro Hansdah won the translation prize in Santali. She said she was influenced a lot by the films. She could relate to the characters that motivated her to translate Devdas into Santali. It took her almost two years to translate the entire book.

S.Devadoss won the translation prize in Tamil. He said, "I have selected the field of non-fiction particularly translation as a vehicle for introducing new voices, new talent, new trends etc, from Indian and other languages. Having acquainted with varied and colourful culture and their expressions I have the fulfilment of meeting a number of people through literature. If the translators intention and objectives reach the people wholly, there would be tolerance and understanding among them.

Bipul Deuri won the Translation Prize in Assamese. He said, "At initial stage I was under the impression that translation is not a difficult task. But, gradually I realized that translation is a hard form of art, in its truest sense...I could very well realize that a translator should be very conscious in finding out the exact word and terms available in the vocabulary of the language on which the translation work is being carried out."

Abhivyakti

5 September, 2015

The Abhivyakti programme is one of the main highlights of the Sahitya Akademi. It is an important platform for writers to express themselves as well as interact and communicate with the audience. This year during the Translation Prize 2014, Abhivyakti programme was conducted over duration of two days.

On 5th September evening the Abhivyakti

programme started in the presence of Dr.Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr.Alak Kr Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, eminent Assamese writer and Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

The programme comprised of poetry readings in different Indian languages and in English by eight distinguished poets from across the country.

Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika addressed the gathering and spoke on how literature as a medium is so powerful, and praised Sahitya Akademi for being a delightful meeting ground for all the authors and their readers. She looks forward for such prestigious and informative events to take place more often in the campus of Dibrugarh University.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari also addressed the gathering and delivered an interesting talk on 'expression'. Dr. Tiwari spoke about the greatest challenge of a writer is how to express himself or herself. Many a times, when verbal language is converted in the form of words or written communication it loses a lot of its essence. Therefore, programme like Abhivyakti is conducted so that the readers, listen and gain knowledge out of it.

Followed by Dr. Tiwari's address, the Guest of Honour Dr. Alak Kumar Buragohain graced the occasion by a spectacular address on the merge of science and creative writing. He discussed on human genetics and diversity of nature as well as the value of creative writing.

The programme began with its first reading session on poetry.

Ratneshwara Basumatry recited in Bodo and even translated his poem in Assamese and Hindi. The poem in Assamese translation is titled as *Panimetekaburbeemetakahol*

Dr. Gurumayum Bijay Kumar Sharma recited two poems in Manipuri. He recited

a powerful poem on the socio-political-economic issues of the state and a poem on Durga Puja.

Arun Chandra Rai recited two poems in Nepali and in English. The first poem dealt with the social awakening of the poet's village and the second poem dealt with the theme of darkness and night.

Iyyappa Madhavan recited translated versions of his Tamil poems in English. He recited *Sleeping on Air*, *The Buddha Tree* among the others.

Kondreddy Venkateswara Reddy recited three translated poems of Telugu in English. *Scent of Tears* and *Surper recharging Element* being among the three.

Jiban Narah recited two poems in Assamese and translated it too from the listeners. The first poem is on Krishna leel transformation and the second is about a team of biologist and the grasshopper.

The last poet of the session was Raof Khair who recited *Nagmas* and *Shayari* in Urdu. He recited on daily activities like 'Shopping' as well as the on issues like 'Refuge'.

The session was followed by a dance presentation by the students of the Centre for

Performing Arts, Dibrugarh University. They presented three different ethnic dances of Assam.

On 6th Spetember the Abhivyakti programmes had three sessions.

The morning session called 'My World, My Writing' comprised of distinguished and renowned writers in their respective areas of writing. Nagen Saikia, eminent Indian writer and a former member of the Rajya Sabha. He was the chair for the first session.

The session comprised of Bengali writer Siladitya Sen, Malayalam writer P. Sachidanandan, Manipuri writer Irungbam Deven Singh and Marathi writer Rajan Gavas. In all of the writers' talks a common element of the human condition and their suffering was highlighted. Writer Siladitya Sen highlighted the impact of Inder Thakur's character and gave even highlighted Bibhutibhushan - A perfect example of human beings and their emotions due to different experiences that they come across.

Writer P.Sachidanandan 'Anand' recalled his days of service in the Indian Army and emphasized on the Chinese invasion in North East India and the East Pakistan partition. He highlighted that how human conditions were during those times and how he felt shameful for leaving them in tragic, painful and helpless condition. These experiences led him to write books on such socio economic issues.

Writer Irungbam Deven Singh a doctor by profession relates of medical experiences and human conditions and stresses on different social issues of women, children, corruption etc. He considers writers to be more of social activists trying to bring in a certain change in the society through expressing themselves through words.

Writer Rajan Gavas focuses yet again about the law and the society.



Nagen Saikia and Anand at the Abhivyakti programme

In his reading he discusses about third gender issues to the Devadasi movement that he has been a part of. He even spoke on issues like farmer suicide, caste system and its prejudices and even deaths and assassinations of writers.

Nagen Saikia expressed his opinion that a writer should have love for humanity without love for fellow men one cannot be a creative writer. He said that the socio cultural and intellectual aspects in a society will change but human emotions are common to all and never changes. He even stressed on the importance of translation. For him translation is an introduction of one culture to another in any part of the nation.

The second session had a short story reading with renowned Konkani playwright Pundalik Naik as the chair and Debasis Panigrahi a writer by passion and a police officer by profession. Debasis Panigrahi read his translated short story - *Ashamahita* about 'Durga Masi'. It is a heart touching story about a lady on how she dedicates her entire life in the service of her dear ones.

During the interactive session Shri Pundalik Naik speaks about how stories are important and stories have a place in every form of medium like radio plays, kathachitra which means feature films and even adaptations of books in to screenplays to stories being developed as tele serials or telefilms on television

Debasis Panigrahi comments on how he wants to be called as a writer who even works as a policeman. He speaks on the importance of short stories and how it is different from novellas and novels. He shares his difficulties of publishing short stories and how the publishing industry even works.

The last session of the day was on Poets' Meet. Renowned poet Chandra Prakash Deval



Chandra Prakash Deval at the Abhivyakti programme

was the chair and quoted poet Ghalib several times and the influence of poetry. He even recited few of his own poems like 'top kadar'. There were poets from different corners of the country.

Poet Mohan Singh recited three of his poems in Dogri named 'Tapti Dhoop', 'Vartmanka Chitra' and 'Murgaaaur Aadmi'

Poet SanjuVala recited in English as well as Gujarati named The Mystery and Manushya.

Poet Swayamprapha Jha recited in Maithali. She recited three poems 'Kalpanaka Mulya' being one of them.

Poet Jayshree Chattopadhyay recited in Sanskrit, she recited her first poem paying homage and tribute to the late 8th century Sanskrit poet Sheila Bhartakari. She even recited poems like 'Ratri' and 'Abhivyakti'.

Poet Satpal Bhikhi recited in Punjabi and Hindi. His poems are titled as 'Patniya', 'Teesri Ticker', 'Kaala', 'Pratiksha' and 'Gaudiya'.

The last poet of the session Harish Karmachandani recited in Sindhi. Some his short poems that he recited are ' Zameenki Kimat', 'Raja Ghussa Mey Hain', 'Basta', 'Sun meri Awaaz Sun' and 'Do Bacche'.

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR PRESENTED



The award winners with the President, Secretary Sahitya Akademi and Chief Guest Chandrakant Sheth

Sahitya Akademi organised its Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presentation ceremony at Ravindra Natya Mandir, Prabhadevi, Mumbai, on the evening of 14th November 2015 with Sri Chandrakant Sheth as Chief Guest, and Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the presidential address. The function began with the beautiful invocation by Ms. Chaitce Deshpande. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, guests, audience and media for attending the ceremony. He reiterated that children are the backbone of any civilization. They should be accessed to the rich literature which gives them to know their heritage. That is the reason why the writers of Children Literature are very important. He gave a brief about the function and various activities and initiative taken up by the Akademi to bring good literature to the people.

Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the Presidential

address. He said that Akademi publishes a book in every 16 hours and organizes a literary programme in every 19 hours which exhibits how active Akademi is in the literary field. It has also opened two book shops at Delhi Metro Stations. The main motto of Akademi is to honor rich literature and litterateurs. He emphasized that awards are conferred upon by the various institutes and so by the Akademi but he will not call it as a prize but an honor. He firmly believed that a prize is something a form of gift but an honor is a feeling of ownness. He described honor to *Yashakaya* while the money, a secondary aspect. The honor cannot be transferred as compared to a Kohinoor which can be easily transited. A writer takes pains to write a book which is his priceless creation. He thanked all the writers for bringing out rich literature. He believed that nature, women and children are in big dilemma globally as they don't have their independent language. The literature is



Dhiruben Patel receiving Bal Sahitya Puraskar from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari



Eli Ahmed receiving Bal Sahitya Puraskar from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari

something that gives such entities their language. Industrialization is a big curse for a united family which affected old age and children. The Indian literature promotes a united family.

The honors were bestowed upon the awardees in 24 languages.

Chandrakant Sheth, a renowned Gujarati writer, was the chief guest at the function. He said that a child is the human form of God. A child language has a different form which is free of any malign, pollution etc. He called Krishna leela as a main source of child language. The panchatantra and Ram Charit Manas, the epics, also depicts the children literature. It has a unique importance in day-

to-day life. The missionaries started the schools in India as they were aware that the language can get them near to the people. The children literature is having compulsions, it delivers with a commitment. The literature should be enjoyable to child at the same time it should be educative. The children language should be lucrative. The task, therefore, is performed by the genius who is sitting here today. He also distinguished children literature as a foundation for the adult literature.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks, elaborated the programmes to be held 15-16 November 2015 and appealed the audience to attend all the programmes.

Writers' Meet

The writers meet was arranged on second day of the function in which all the award winning writers kept their word before the audience. The meet was chaired by Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. He proclaimed that India is a diversified country. It has many languages and different cultures but still

democratic. The children language is different and unique from all the languages that exist in our country. It does not differ with state, region or province. Therefore, the children literature should be worshiped and not hypocrite. The language is the bridge between various cultures and regions in India which plays a very important role in bringing them



Dr K. Sreenivasarao and Sitanshu Yashaschandra

together. In childhood, the children should hear the folk tales which are the roots of our civilization. There should be simplicity while designing a children language that should be a prime goal of an adult literature. Kabir, a pioneer of Indian literature has also followed the rule of simplicity while writing the dohas. He called it as a *Saral Baat*. The Indian children should not be influenced by the western culture which is a big challenge today. He firmly believed that any writing should not be fore grounded.

The abstract from the awardees speech is given below:

Eli Ahmed (Assamese): All the races and communities have their own languages. Children first listen to songs, stories, lullabies



Janardan Hegde speaking at the Writers' Meet

in their mother tongue. They do not know how to speak but gradually begin to speak. We should be careful in this respect. It is desirable not to pronounce words incorrectly, not to speak words inappropriate. Children are imaginative and inquisitive. The writers for the children should take up the job with great responsibility. Language, literature, art and culture are identities of one's own motherland. It is always better that children learn the language of a country other than their own. They should be acquainted with the language-literature, art and culture of other countries.

Kartik Ghosh (Bengali): The children literature had taken a big area in the Bengali literature. All Bengali litterateurs such as Rabindranath Tagore to Upendrakishore Rouchoudhry has written for children in Bengali. All them have engraved for younger with the pen of gold. I have ordinary 'dot' pen and no voice to say.

Tiren Bar (Boro): An expression of thoughts in the form words is known as literature. But the thoughts should be acceptable by one and all. A research on a subject to throw a light on certain topics is the literary work which is helpful to society and country. Initially the thoughts were expressed through poems and later it form literature by adding prose and essays. A meaningful word expresses a thought.

Tarachand Kalandri (Dogri) : He narrated the sequential events which encouraged him to become a litterateur. He wrote his first book in 2010 and has written more than 100 children poems.

Sowmya Rajendran (English): She said that we are no longer in a world where children can afford to be silent. They must speak, they must ask, and they must never be quiet. She shared her experience what inspired her to write *Mayil* (the award winning book) along with co-writer Niveditha.

Sherjung Garg (Hindi): In present age

there is lot of literature present for children. The attractive covers and illustrations attract children to read the books which is a positive sign. The children literature is not only read children but also by young and adults which is its added specialization. Today's children are under the influence of terrorism, violence, and misunderstanding. Though diversified nations, the human thoughts are unique. A litterateur should accept the responsibility to destroy the agony, intolerance and violence amongst the society. The literature should firmly stick to its trueness, protect the human values and spread the affection.

T.S. Nagaraja Shetty (Kannada): A juvenile literature is the fruit of human culture. The modern literature is like a tree where children's literature is like the sprout and flower without which tree is barren. UNICEF has expressed that in the future decades, if people want to live in peace and prosperity, children's literature is the only way that will lead them to the right path and gives satisfaction to the mind. Healthy development in children can occur only through literature.

Ramnath G. Gawde (Konkani): The Konkani literature received its first short story which was a translation work from Sanskrit language. We wrote on the lines of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Panchatantra etc. We should write that much solid literature for children also. Today's children prefer to surf internet rather to read. We should bring an interesting literature to get the reading habit back. The children don't get that tradition, culture what it was there in ancient period.

Ramdeo Jha (Maithili): A child is first taught to speak, then he develops the strength of knowing language, meanings and reads different books. If he gets entertaining books, the reading habit develops in him. To cater the interest of children there is a need to bring out the books of health, education and fascinating children literature.

N. Sivadasa (Malayalam): He beautifully



Nayeem Kashmiri speaking at the Writers' Meet

described a writer as a flower opens its petals and spreads fragrance around, without its knowledge. A tiny drop of the sweet nectar emerges in its heart, that too without the conscious control of the flower. A writer too is born naturally as a result of the various influences around him and the natural traits in his inner soul. But once he become writer, he should have a great dream, to become the best, the most excellent. Today's children are demanding, they want to be successful. They expect new ideas, new dreams, new knowledge and exciting wisdom to guide them in their struggle for existence and success. The tragedy is that many children's writers are outmodelled, whereas most children are gifted with more knowledge than the writers.

Thochom Thouyangba Meitei (Manipuri):



Kartik Ghosh speaking at the Writers' Meet

He gave a brief history of Manipuri literature. Many writers wrote down and left the story of the creation of our earth and of many traditions we preserve and follow today. These manuscripts are called puyas. But not every Meitei (Manipuri) today can read these valuable puyas and those interested are called amaiba, who work with the rituals of the gods and spirits, can read them. His stories are usually folk tales written for young and old generations. One should write children literature that is enjoyable and encouraging. This will develop interest in children to read and make them strong foundations of our communities.

Mukti Upadhyay (Nepali): He reiterated that earth is blessed with the alluring beauty of mother nature. Nature and life are in perfect harmony with each other. The last creature evolved in the earth is human being. The amazing gift of nature is the human brain which has infinite power of thinking. Human brain is always wandering, thinking and knowing, scrutinizing and testing, inquisitive yet interested. This interest has led to many fold talents and one such is children literature. It develops in womb, lullabies, cradle songs, songs during feeding and sleeping etc. The rich heritage and the immense treasure of knowledge possessed by mankind must be provided to the children to answer their inquisitive nature.

Snehalata Mohanty (Odia): She said that the present trend does not show a positive approach. The future of children literature is not bright. Most of the parents prefer to send their children to English medium schools. They give more importance to dance, singing and drawing than to encourage their children to go for reading stories, essays or poems. There is no demand for children literature today as they lack to grasp the moral values or derive the theme. A writer has to mix with children to produce qualitative children literature.

Sukhdev Madpuri (Punjabi): He got inspired to write children literature by hearing lullaby, folk tales. Initially he started reading children literature in Urdu language. While in teaching profession, he experience children thoughts very minutely. He published his first children book in 1956 and continued writing since then. A foundation is laid in man kind since his childhood. A thinker and philosopher child's intellectual and mental strength develops through literature. A fine literature helps child to test his life.

Krishnakumar 'Aashu' (Rajasthani): He believes that lot of work is left to be done to promote children literature in Rajasthan. A child should know his heritage, surroundings etc. and also the big challenge of Environment, water scarcity and children education. The parents always think that his child should be at upfront of any race. While explaining him the importance of science and technology he should also develop the habit of reading literature in child.

Janardhan Hegde (Sanskrit): He worried that children literature in Sanskrit language is vanishing day-by-day as compared to other contemporary Indian languages. The main cause is lack of dailies and weekly magazines. The Sanskrit reader is also on decline as he is spread in pockets and lacks intercommunication. The lack of information about children literature in Sanskrit is also one of the reasons.

Srikanta Saren (Santali): He considered that if a writer wants to succeed, to remain as a good writer for a long period, one has to continuously learn, innovate, to navigate in unknown unfamiliar terrains of literature and knowledge. Today's children are demanding. They expect new ideas, dreams and exciting wisdom to guide them in their struggle for existence and success. The striking features of children literature must be on rhymes through which a child can be captivated.

The literature is such a branch of knowledge which cannot be measured in a nutshell.

Jetho Lalwani (Sindhi): He said that children literature is a foundation of society, country and language. It is a mirror of time. The children literature developed after independence. It became more interesting, entertaining and modern. We can call it a complete literature in present time. A writer has to become a child to write children literature. He has to enter the fantasy world of a child. The modern children literature is more repetitive due to lack of reading.

Sella Ganapathy (Tamil): He firmly believes that any children literature will be successful only when it deals with things that the children like. He calls Kulandai Kavignar Ala. Valliappa, a giant in the Tamil Children Literary field who induced many writers to write only for children. The writer for children have an important task to lead the children with responsibility and pleasing manners. The child should realize the importance of studying in mother tongue. Because of the influence of TV and other media, the reading habit among children has vanished. Without reading, their knowledge will not widen and ability will not improve. He appealed all the children writers to try to do something to cultivate the reading habit among children.

Chokkapu Venkata Ramana (Telugu): He said that story telling is foundation to children literature. The elder age writers are writing children literature but young writers are not showing interest in this field. To encourage writers to write children literature, he conducts story telling workshops. Our children literature should maintain international standards. To lead life safely, it is necessary to have human values like compassion, humanity, human relations, truth, love, courage, peace etc.



Sella Ganapathy speaking at the Writers' Meet

Children's stories teach all these values. They provide a trail run of life's possibilities. They also transmit the accumulated wisdom, and value of our culture. The good children stories must be powerful, imaginative and memorable. They resonate with readers of all ages and have a lasting and profound impact. The literature has got immense power to change people.

Bano Sartaj (Urdu): She follows the principle of her guru Shripat Rai who taught her to write in Urdu, Hindi, on children but to be dedicated towards writing. She believes that writing for children is a Hercules task. A writer should have to behave like a child to write children literature. The first target for every pupil is to make his child a good human being. The ratio of discourse and entertainment in children literature should be 5% and 95% respectively. There should be dramatization method to attract child towards literature. A child's mentality is just like a philosopher, who has a taste for every sort of knowledge, who is curious to learn and is never satisfied.

The meet concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

Seminar on Writing for Children Literature: The New Challenges

Sahitya Akademi, on the occasion of Bal Sahitya Puraskar function, organized a seminar on Writing for Children with focus on challenges in producing children's literature on November 15-16, 2015 at Mumbai. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, participants of seminar, dignitaries and media and spoke briefly about various challenges before the writers of children's literature. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, while presiding over the inaugural session of the seminar, derived that children's literature should be popularized for which young writers should come forward and accept the challenge of writing this genre. We should always think of writing in a simplified manner so that it can reach a child. A child has a great sense of imagination and therefore, it is a big challenge for a writer for children to reach that imaginary level and write. Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi was the chief guest of the session. He observed that a writer who writes

children literature has to face an uphill task of remaining afloat in the field. Sane Guruji has always written for children therefore devalued. He firmly opined that Cinderella tale is originally an Indian tale exported to Europe. Panchtantra tales are translated in Prakrit and modern languages which is a great Indian heritage but not put forward in a modern perspective which is a big challenge for contemporary Indian writer. He also highlighted the opinion that Indian education system neglects Children Literature. He also believed that print capitalism lives and dies but oral literature is immortal. The inaugural session was decorated with the recitation of poems by Anu Brahma, a Bodo poet who recited The Sands of Magnet, Music is nearing (in English translation) and Everlasting (in Bodo). Raksha Dave, a senior Gujarati poet, sung her poems like Kaun Khae Kaun Khele, He Din Din Bajata Hai in a very childish manner. Pratyush Guleri, a Hindi poet recited Yeh Mere Papa Ka Ghar Hai, Chandamama hame bulana, Hum the bhai chhote chhote. H.S. Byakod, a Kannada poet, recited Putta (in Kannada) and Bird and Sun (in English). Another poet from Konkani, Nayana Adarkar recited Ho Pakho (in Konkani), Maa Tumhare Bachpan Mein, Itwar, Adbhut Baaten (in Hindi). Sayyad Sallahuddin, a Marathi Poet from rural Maharashtra recited Hamare Gaon Mein Thi Ek Hira Rani, Aisa Din Aayega Kya Bol Na Naani?, Ek Gaon Paani Ke Vaaste Chand Par Gaya. The session was summed up with vote of



Participants of the seminar on children's literature

thanks by Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

On 16.11.2015, the second day of the seminar, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the audience and participants and invited the chair and paper readers of the first session. This session was chaired by Anant Bhave, an eminent Marathi poet. Rotindranath Goswami from Assamese, Dinesh Chamola 'Shailesh' from Hindi, Palliyara Sreedharan from Malayalam and Mahavir Jondhale from Marathi presented their papers. Anant Bhave opined that writing children literature is not considered noble and constructive profession. Rotindranath Goswami proclaimed that the children literature was introduced to Assamese literature by translating the Arabian tales. Assamese magazines have played a vital role for development of children literature. He believed that there should be a continued process of translating the literature in different languages. If the child does not develop the reading habit the trend will be followed in the adult generation too in future. Dinesh Chamola through his paper said that a child is a foundation for creating a developed country. A writer should write in such a way that a child should feel his attendance in a book while reading. A literature should inspire a child to face the challenges of life. Palliyara Sreedharan while presenting his paper described 'negligence' as a biggest threat in Malayalam literature. The writer avoids the children writing as he does not get due recognition. The elders should give full attention towards a child. Some ideal biographies can be given to him at this stage so that such stories will help very much to build a very good character influenced by the life of those characters. Mahavir Jondhale stressed the need of developing reading habit in a child. A parent should decide the good reading stuff for a child. A child should be connected to the nature and animals. We should adopt the reading culture which in

turn influences the children to adopt the same. Anant Bhave, the chair, recited a children poem in a very childlike manner to sum up the session. The second session was chaired by renowned Bengali scholar Amarendra Chakraborty. He observed that the parents and guide of a child is responsible for his habits and field of interest. Harikrishna Pathak, a Gujarati writer, while presenting his paper on challenges to children literature worried about growing influence of mobiles and televisions on children mind. An era was there when there were more books for children than for adults in Gujarati. The solution to develop the interest of literature in children is to conduct the poetry and short stories workshops for them, motivate them by giving prizes and rewards. The paper in Gujarati was followed by Manipuri which was presented by Gurumayum Bijoykumar Sharma. He said that writing for children is a rewarding field but hardly any writer shows interest and seriousness. Writing books for children demand skill, technical control and creativity of different level on the part of the writer. It should be comprehensible, entertaining and good enough to entice them. The writer should know the theme, plot and stories appropriate to the children of various stages. The major difficulty in writing for children in a state like Manipur is choosing the right subject matter which will draw their attention and solicit the emotional response of the young readers. Third session was poets meet chaired by Sitanshu Yashaschandra. The poets recited some of their children compositions. The participants includes Janak Dave (Gujarati), Jameer Ansari (Kashmiri), Kiran Mhambre (Konkani), Dnyanada Asolkar (Marathi), Kamaljeet Nilon (Punjabi), Deendayal Sharma (Rajasthani), Indermohan Singh (Sanskrit), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi) and T. Vedanta Sury (Telugu). Krishna Kimbahune, proposed the vote of thanks and thanked the audience for passionately attending all the sessions.

PRESENTATION OF YUVA PURASKAR



Winners of Yuva Puraskar with Sri Vishwas Patil, Chief Guest, President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

Sahitya Akademi organized its Yuva Puraskar and Young Writers' Festival at the Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi on November 18-20, 2015.

In the Awards Presentation Ceremony, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, participants of the festival, dignitaries and media and briefly spoke about the value and importance of young people for a country. He highlighted that young people are the drivers of change in all



Vishwas Patil delivering the keynote address

the countries and India cannot be an exception. He stated that in the digital era in which we are living it is essential to guide the youth to read and introspect and encourage them in all the fields.

In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, congratulated the award winners and observed that young writers give hope that the future is in safe hands. He stated that the young inspire, awaken and help in bringing about change and freshness.

Sri Vishwas Patil was the chief guest of the ceremony and presented the awards. Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the concluding remarks and he traced his own life's journey as a writer and expressed hope that each one of young writers would charter an illustrious journey for themselves.

The winners of Yuva Puraskar are:

Mridul Haloi (Assamese)

Sudip Chakraborty (Bengali)

Leben Lal Mwshahary (Bodo)

Sandeep 'Sufi' (Dogri)
 Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar (English)
 Rajesh Vankar (Gujarati)
 Indira Dangi (Hindi)
 Mounesh Badiger (Kannda)
 Shrinisha Naik (Konkani)
 Narayan Jha (Maithili)
 Aryambika (Malayalam)
 Angom Sarita Devi (Manipuri)
 Veera Rathod (Marathi)
 Sapan Pradhan (Nepali)
 Sujit Kumar Panda (Odia)
 Simran Dhaliwal (Punjabi)
 Ritupriya (Rajasthani)
 Rushiraj Jani (Sanskrit)
 Suchira Hansda (Santali)
 Manoj Chawla 'Tanha' (Sindhi)
 S. Veerapandiyan (Tamil)
 Pasunoori Ravinder (Telugu)
 Ameer Imam (Urdu)

Awardees' Meet

As part of Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar, the Awardees' meet was held on 19 November 2015 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi. Dr. Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi chaired the meet. All the awardees shared their experiences in creative writing. Some of the awardees also spoke on why they write, influences on their writing etc.

Avishkar: Young Writers' Festival

A part of Yuva Puraskar, Sahitya Akademi organised a two day All India Young Writers' Meet under the platform Avishkar on 19-20 November 2015 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi.

In the inaugural session Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the purpose of organising such meets. Eminent Hindi writer



Simran Dhaliwal receiving Yuva Puraskar from Viswanath Prasad Tiwari

Chandrakanta inaugurated the festival. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi presided the session. Alakesh Kalita (Assamese), Prmila Manhas (Dogri), Achyutanad Mishra (Hindi), Haris Rashid (Kashmiri), Chongtham Deepu Singh (Manipuri), Anpa Marndi (Santali), Aruna Naradabhatla (Telugu) and Jatinder Parwaaz (Urdu) presented their papers.

The Young Writers' Festival began with a session 'Why do I write?' The session was moderated by Ms. Humra Quraishi, well-known author and journalist. Four noted scholars, Raka Dasgupta (Bengali), Upasana Nrav (Hindi), Remya Sanjeev (Malayalam) and Nitin Rindhe (Marathi), participated in the discussion. In her introductory address,



Chandrasekhar Kambar garlanding Pasunoori Ravinder

Ms. Humra Quraishi observed that writing is a personal act, there is no particular formula on how to write and one tends to put down into writing what one's mind dwells upon most. She stated that what one writes also depends upon where one is and what one is going through. Raka Dasgupta observed that writing is essentially an intimate conversation with her own self and wondered whether her creations have their own mind. She dwelt upon her experiences to highlight such a possibility and stated that writing gives one the pleasure of communicating and connecting and felt that resonance of this type binds the writer and reader in a highly pleasurable and yet inextricable way. Upasana Nirav stated that whatever one observes, one writes and added that without a sense of discontent it may not be possible to write. She highlighted the possibility of recalling as a primary value of any written work and dwelt upon the potency of a work to touch the heart of a reader. She recited a poem of Vinod Kumar Shukla and also quoted Premchand to drive home her point. Remya Sanjeev stated that a writer writes to leave footprints and added that she exists through her writings. She quoted the four reasons given by George Orwell in his

now famous essay, 'Why I write?' - 1. Sheer egoism—one wants to be remembered even after death, 2. Aesthetic enthusiasm—wanting to portray the beauty of the external world, 3. Desire to be remembered by posterity and 4. Political purpose—no writing is a-political. What we write what we don't write is political. Nitin Rindhe stated that he is a reader first and the writer next and added that reading is a form of writing. He elaborated that when we read a work of another person, we often feel our experiences, emotions and start to think on the lines of the creator. So, in a sense, according to him, reader and the writer are equal and a writer, after all, tries to explore the possibilities in the world around him or her. In her concluding remarks, Ms. Humra Quraishi stressed on the importance on writing and highlighted some of the tools which unleash one's emotions. She stated that parents and teachers should encourage every child to write and opined that diary writing can be introduced in schools, colleges and even in jails.

The second session of the Young Writers' Festival was devoted to story reading and was moderated by Rahul Saini. Noted fiction writers Sri Sunder Chand Thakur (Hindi) and Sri Shubhranshu Panda (Odia) read out their



stories in the session. The session started with a brief discussion on whether the thought involved in the story or the language in which it is expressed is important. Sunder Chand Thakur read out his story “Manushya Kutta Nahin Hai” and Shubrangshu Panda presented his story, “Colonel Ki Maut.” Both were well received by the audience.

The third session of the Young Writers’ Festival was devoted to poetry recitation and was chaired by eminent poet Sri Arun Kamal. In the session nine young and noted poets recited their compositions. Buddheswar Boro recited his poems - translated from Bodo called, “Aye Mere Dil,” Kuldeep Karia recited his Gujarati poems, Dr. Jyoti Chawla recited Hindi poems “Jhoot Bolti Ladkyaan” and “Samajhdaro Ki Duniya Mein Maa Moorkh Hoti Hai,” Deep Narayan Vidyarthi recited

Maithili poems “Stree Hai Ya Machine,” “Main Kaun Hoon Tumhari,” “Bhookh,” “Pardes” etc., Basudeo Pulami recited Nepali poems “Pitaji Ka Chehra,” and “Eklavya Ka mantra,” Dr. Gursevak Lambi recited his Punjabi poems, Om Nagar recited his Rajasthani poems “Prem Ka Sahi Sahi Naap,” “Apni-Apni Chintaayein,” etc., Paramba Shri Yogmaya recited her Sanskrit poems, “Sneh Akhand or love is Infinite,” “Sahishnuta or Tolerance,” “Prithvi or I am the Earth” and Sunita Mohinani recited her Sindhi poems” Tanha” and “Ek Toofan Se.”

In his concluding remarks, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, observed that neither he nor his contemporary poets wrote such beautiful poems when they were young. He congratulated the young writers and poets for winning the Yuva Puraskar and thanked the public for their whole-hearted support.

BHASHA SAMMAN PRESENTATION CEREMONY

16 August 2015, Coimbatore

Sahitya Akademi conferred Bhasha Samman on eminent scholars from around India for their outstanding contribution and research in

Classical and Medieval Literature apart from their stellar roles in enriching the literature in minor languages and dialects on August 16, 2015 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Coimbatore.



Bhasha Samman Award Winners with Chandrasekhar Kambar and K. Sreenivasarao

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, the Award winners, scholars and writers who had assembled for the function, and media personalities. Dr Sreenivasarao explained in brief about Bhasha Samman and Sahitya Akademi's various initiatives in promoting research into ancient and medieval literature and also in the preservation and promotion of minor languages and dialects.

Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech said "The history of languages has a direct link with the evolution of man. Thus history plays a vital role in the development of any language. Man creates history and, in turn, history recreates man and language develops with the development of man. In order to recognize the contribution of individual scholars towards the development of their respective languages in India, Sahitya Akademi instituted the Bhasha Samman award in 1996 and has been recognizing noted scholars since then. And the recipients of this prestigious award today are undoubtedly the pride of our nation"

Dr Sreenivasarao read out the citation and Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar presented the Awards. Those who received Bhasha Samman are

Dr K. Meenakshisundaram, Acharya Munishwar Jha, Dr. Satyabati Giri and Dr Jaspal Singh [for their outstanding contributions to Classical and medieval literature]; Sri Charu Chandra Pande and Sri Mathuradutt Mathpal [for their valuable contributions to the enrichment of Kumauni language]; Sri Tagang Taki and Sri Arak Megu [for their valuable contributions to Adi] and Sri Vasant Nirgune [for his contribution to Bhili, the languages not recognized by the Akademi]

Dr Sirpi Balasubramaniam, eminent Tamil writer and poet, offered felicitations to all the award winners and observed that ancient and

medieval literature act as bridges between the hoary past and troublesome present while minor languages and unwritten dialects hold key to numerous secrets hidden from view.

Satyabati Giri, one of the recipients of the award from West Bengal, recalled: "My consciousness regarding the immense wealth of the pre-modern period of Bengali literature was awakened at a time when I was a girl. Later, I came across the oral literature being in the university curriculum on the title medieval literature, a signature mark of subaltern life, which receives far less importance and space than the literary efforts of the so called elite class." Munishwar Jha from Bihar, a veteran scholar in Sanskrit, Prakrit, Apabhramsha, Maithili, Hindi, English, Bengali and French, noted: "I have treasured my mother tongue as the language of my instinct. I firmly believe that the usage of the mother tongue for expressing one's feeling is instinctive in nature and the knowledge of languages other than the mother tongue empowers the speaker in storing ideas and communicating them to others". Arak Megu from Arunachal Pradesh, another recipient of the Basha Samman recalled: "It was in an excursion during my college days, I came to know that my forefathers had imported some essential articles from Tibet via the areas Bori and Ashing before the Ahom rule and the British annexation of Assam. It ignited my passion to dig deep into the history to know their cultural and literary aspects."

K.Meenakshi Sundaram from Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on whom the Bhasha Samman was conferred for his research into classical and medieval literary pieces in Tamil, averred: "Tamil language's glory is no more confined to territorial boundaries alone. It has reached new horizons. Today, it is recognized as a very old yet a living modern language due to its great literary heritage." Prof K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

AKADEMI FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION FUNCTIONS

Fellowship Presentation to Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada writer, followed by Samvad Programme

Sahitya Akademi organized the conferment of Fellowship programme on Sunday, 5 July 2015 at the seminar hall of Bengaluru University at 3 pm.

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi had delivered welcome address where he gave a brief introduction about the Fellowship to immortal Indian Writers. Fellowship is the highest honour bestowed to stalwarts of Indian Literature being elected by the General Council of the Akademi. And the living fellows limited to 21 only at any time. The General Council assembled on 9 March 2015 elected two doyens of modern Indian Literature. Dr. S.L.Bhyrappa and Dr.

C. Narayana Reddy. Now Sahitya Akademi has immense pride in presenting its highest honour to Dr. S.L.Bhyrappa, a household name in India as a novelist. Then he requested Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya to chair the 'Samvad' session, also extended welcome to the speakers, Dr. I.N.Choudhuri, Dr. R.Ganesh, Dr.Ajakkala Girish Bhat, Dr. Pradhan Gurudatta and Prof. S. Ramaswamy.

The first speaker was Dr. Shatavadhani R. Ganesh who is a scholar in Sanskrit and Kannada. He described Bhyrappa's writing as pursuit of excellence which is the hallmark of his novels. Calling Bhyrappa as a haunting writer, he said that each of his characters has



President and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi confer fellowship on Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa

gone through 'Agni Divya' . Ganesh quoted Sanskrit and Kannada phrases to highlight the author's creations in a unique style. Further he added that Bhyrappa's pre-occupation is the metamorphosis of values. The fact is that most of his novels have been translated into many Indian languages, including Sanskrit, lauded author's significance as a major novelist in Indian Literature, since he has a gripping way of story telling.

Dr. Ajakkal Girish Bhat, young critic who spoke next called Bhyrappa as a gifted writer and said that he had met many non-Kannada scholars who are familiar with Bhyrappa's works through translation opined that he is a unique novelist of great calibre.

Professor Indira Nath Choudhuri, eminent Scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi felicitated Dr. S.L.Bhyrappa as a 'legendary writer of present era'. Looking at Bhyrappaji, he said 'Sir, Please laugh, otherwise at this happiest moment your look seems so serious', he said in a gentle way for which author responded with a smile.

Dr. Pradhan Gurudatt, well known translator in his presentation, vividly described the writer as next to Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay as a pan Indian Writer. He added that his long lasting novels, has portrayed the sanctity of experiences and a new meaning of human life Bhyrappa's writings have no decay or death because of its tremendous worldview, he concluded.

Dr. Ramaswamy S. who has translated major novels of Bhyrappa into English and a wellknown English teacher spoke at a length about significant novels of the author including Vamshavriksha, which written 5 decades ago. Further he said it is matter of pride that Bhyrappa is a household name in North India through his translations and whole India accepted him as one of the immortal novelists of the modern age.

Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, in his

chairperson's remarks opined that Katha is the main feature of Indian tradition and that Bhyrappa is the best representative of the tradition. His novels played a major role in our life. Bhyrappa as a student of philosophy has portrayed many significant aspects of philosophy in his famous novel Vamsha Vriksha. His novels take us to a long a long journey in literature and life which have been ignored by critics by just calling him as a popular writer. In modern times he is as important as UR Ananthamurthy, Devanuru Mahadeva and Kambar for Kannada Literature, he concluded.

Following the Samvad, conferring the fellowship to Bhyrappa began with grand applause of his admirers.

At the outset, Dr. K.S. Rao, Secretary read the citation, wherein Bhyrappa was referred to as 'A Living Literary Legend'. He also credited him as the best selling author of India and as a writer whose fiction is a remarkable combination of Literature, Aesthetics, philosophy and music. He also stated that Bhyrappa is indeed a Natural Writer in the best sense of the term, there is no major official Indian Language into which he has not been translated. Then the Fellowship was conferred on Bhyrappa by the President of Akademi, Dr.Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari once again he was greeted by the audience with a loud applause.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, the President of the Akademi then in his Presidential Address said that it is a well deserved honour for Bhyrappaji to whom all over India readers, admirers are there. He further elaborated and called him 'Hindi Writer' as far Hindi speaking area is concerned. He concluded his speech with calling 'Bhyrappa is a Worldclass novelist of our time'.

In his acceptance speech, Bhyrappa thanked Akademi, the highest literary body of the nation and its President for this gesture. He

profusely thanked all his readers and admirers who assembled in the venue. Further he said that his study of both Indian and western Philosophy helped him to search the roots of Indian Cultural ethics and values. He believed that the recognition bestowed him because of his experience of the whole of this country and his writing is a process of exposing the shared culture, shared history and shared ethics. He quoted several instances of his experience in Indian Villages in North India, Gujarat, Maharashtra and naturally his home state Karnataka where he learnt common man's life genuinely which could be seen in his writings

for example novel like 'Mandra'.

Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, in his concluding remarks shared his long association with Dr. S.L.Bhyrappa and how it benefitted him to emerge as an outstanding writer. It was indeed a day of pride for Kannadigas as their favourite author has been honoured in Bengaluru by Sahitya Akademi and remain as a memorable event to everybody. He finally thanked everybody who stand with Akademi to honour Bhyrappaj and concluded with these words. "Bhyrappa's commitment to Indian Languages and writing is astonishing and unique in nature"

Fellowship Presentation to Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, eminent Telugu poet, followed by Samvad programme

Sahitya Akademi had organised the programme Fellowship Presentation to Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Eminent Telugu Writer followed by the Samvad programme on Monday 6th July

2015 at the Main Hall of Rabindra Bharathi, Hyderabad at 6.00 pm.

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered welcome address and read



Sri Narayana Reddy receives Sahitya Akademi Fellowship from Dr. K.S. Rao, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Dr. N. Gopi

the citation. The Akademi's prestigious Fellowship was conferred to Dr. C. Narayana Reddy by Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi and he had also delivered the Presidential Address. Dr. C. Narayana Reddy after having received the Fellowship had read his acceptance speech. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Sahitya Akademi's Telugu Advisory Board was present during the Fellowship presentation and also had chaired the Samvad programme. Well-known Telugu writers and critics Dr. M. Sujatha Reddy, Prof. R. Vasunandan and Dr. Y. Nityananda Rao had participated in the Samvad programme.

In his welcome address, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, had welcomed Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. M. Sujatha Reddy, Prof. R. Vasunandan and Dr. Y. Nityananda Rao and the audience too for this august occasion. Also he introduced the participating writers to the audience.

He gave a brief introduction of the aim of conferring Sahitya Akademi's Fellowship to an outstanding Indian writer. Fellowship is the highest honour being conferred by the Akademi on a writer is by electing him/her as its Fellow. The honour is reserved for the immortals of literature and limited to twenty-one only at any given time. For the year 2014, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, eminent Telugu writer and Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada writer were elected as Fellows.

After the welcome address, he read out the citation which highlighted very important biographical details and achievements of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy. He pointed out that Dr. C. Narayana Reddy is a truly multi-faceted personality whose creative genius spans many fields of human endeavour. He has excelled as an educationist and administrator, as a popular lyricist with a musical command of

the language, as an impressive orator and as an outstanding writer in Telugu literature. Renowned as a poet, essayist, playwright, and critic who has vastly enriched the cultural, pedagogical and literary spheres of Telugu and Indian literature. Hence, Sahitya Akademi takes immense pride in bestowing its highest honour of the Fellowship on Dr. C. Narayana Reddy. He requested the President, Sahitya Akademi to confer the Fellowship on Dr. C. Narayana Reddy.

Dr. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President conferred the Fellowship on Dr. C. Narayana Reddy by presenting him a memento of engraved copper plaque and a shawl and delivered his Presidential address. He said that Dr. C. Narayana Reddy is a great poet who took the progressive humanism to the culmination point of the Telugu literary world. His writings have influenced all genres of the Telugu literature, creative minds and the populace. He has left no stone unturned in his multifaceted endeavours. His poetry stands testimony to his humanitarian concerns. Of his creative endeavours, his poetry reflects humanity and carries a universal message of humanism and has been considered the paramount among all other writings by him. Apropos he got the Jnanpith Award for his Telugu poetry collection Vishwambara.

Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, having received the award, conveyed his heartfelt greetings and thanks to the esteemed dignitaries on the dais Dr. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, and the learned invitees Dr. R. Vasunandan, Prof. Y. Nityananda Rao and Dr. M. Sujatha Reddy and also the members of the audience.

In his acceptance speech, he said that this is indeed a delightful occasion with literary aroma on the dais pervading all around here. Every event organised by the Akademi will



Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering his presidential address

be distinctive for its perception and performance. I have been assiduously following the programmes of the Akademi including seminars, workshops, publications, awards etc.. I reminisce the day I received the Akademi Award for my poetry collection Mantalu Maanavudu (Flames and the Man).

I regard today's Fellowship Presentation by all means as a significant recognition of my lifetime achievement. I take his opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to one and all concerned with the Akademi in conferring this honour to me. I construe this honour as one that belongs to the entire Telugu literary fraternity. Some earnest researchers have identified eighteen genres in my works. Nevertheless, basically I am a poet and claim myself as such in unequivocal terms. I even called it my breath in a poem. He concluded his speech by quoting four lines from one of his poems:

Nadaka Naa Thalli
(Move is My Mother)
Parugu Naa Thandri
(March is My Father)

Samatha Naa Bhasha
(Equality is My Tongue)
Kavitha Naa Swaasa
(Poetry is My Breath)

The Fellowship Presentation was followed by the Samvad programme. Prof. N. Gopi had chaired the Samvad Session. He appreciated the manifold nature of Dr. C. Narayana Reddy's life and literary career. Dr. M. Sujatha Reddy, Prof. R. Vasunandan and Dr. Y. Nityananda rao distinguished Telugu writers and critics evaluated Dr. C. Narayana Reddy's unique style of writing, polygonal personality and enormous contribution to Telugu literature in particular and Indian literature in a larger context. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, and Sahitya Akademi. He thanked Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. N. Gopi, the distinguished invitees, press personnel and the audience for their participation and continued support in making the programme a grand success.

SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA AND CONVENTIONS

SYMPOSIUM ON CONTRIBUTION OF LITERARY MAGAZINES IN THE WESTERN REGIONAL LANGUAGES

20 April 2015, Mumbai.

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a symposium on Contribution of Literary Magazines in the Western Regional Languages on April 20, 2015 at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium in Mumbai. In the inaugural session, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, inaugurated the symposium. He said that Marathi, Bengali, Tamil, Assamese and Malayalam have remarkable tradition of literary journals. He said that he recently had attended a seminar on the same subject in West Bengal and found that there were above 400 literary magazines published in Bengali. The literary journals establish that the literary culture is quite vibrant in a particular language.

Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session and said that literary magazines play valuable role in creative and promotional literature. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, proposed a vote of thanks.

Sri Gokuldas Prabhu chaired the first session. Sri Deepak Doshi in Gujarati, Sri Sandesh Prabhudesai in Konkani, Ms. Aruna Dubhashi in Marathi and Sri Bansi Khubchandani in Sindhi presented their papers. Sri Gokuldas Prabhu said that literary magazines may play very significant role in a writer's career, and also a crucial role in the formation of writer in us. Sri Deepak Doshi said that some of the literary journals are as important as books. In the metropolitan life the role of literary magazines is very important. Contribution of literary magazines is very significant in the various literary movements in Gujarati. Sri Sandesh Prabhudesai said that Konkani faces quite a

problem while deciding the number of magazines, for Konkani is written in five different scripts in accordance with the geographical area it is spoken in. He emphasized that electronic writing that is in vogue today could also be considered as contribution to journals. Ms. Aruna Dubhashi said that literary magazines are promoting segment of literature. Simply magazines and literary magazines are different. She



Prof. Tanaji Halarnakar speaks, L-R: Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, Krishna Kimbahune

referred to literary magazines that established the idea of magazine devoted only to literature. Literary magazines provided several critical insights into literature. She also referred the literary magazine i.e., Rangabhoomi that included criticism of theatre. Literary magazines before 1960 in Marathi encouraged the form of short story, which latter was in the vogue. All these literary magazines made literary activity vibrant and brought forth ample of writing styles. Sri Bansi Khubchandani said that first literary magazine in Sindhi - Saraswati – published in 1890. Most of literary magazines are published in book form. Jodh literary magazine completed 50 years. Literary magazines in Sindhi promoted Sindhi literature all over India, and culture through the literature. Literary magazines in Sindhi helped the Sindhi language grow. They have also added to the number of Sindhi readership. He appreciated that the Akademi recognized Sindhi language quiet early, and that encouraged the publication of literary magazines. Sri Deelip Jhaveri chaired the second session. Sri Kishore Vyas in Gujarati, Sri Deelip Borkar in Konkani and Sri Ram Jagtap in Marathi presented their papers. Sri Deelip Jhaveri said that Marathi literary magazines reflected our own identity. They have helped in maintaining variety in creative literature. All these magazines continuously made effort to translate literature in one language into others. Sri Kishor Vyas observed that above eight hundred literary magazines are published in the Gujarati language, and they include almost every genre of literature, i.e., prose, poetry, story, novel, play and criticism although linguistic articles. Editors of magazines made attempts to identify new talents amongst the writers. All these together make a promising sign in Gujarati. He also observed that as literary magazines cannot be run without writers, writers also fail to achieve

recognition without literary magazines. Sri Deelip Borkar, editor of Bimb literary magazine narrated that struggles even financial in bringing out even a small literary magazine. Sri Ram Jagtap traced the history of literary magazine in Marathi and said that in almost every period a literary magazine contributed significant to literary activity in Marathi. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON CRITICISM IN BODO POETRY

10 July 2015, Karbi Anglong, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Bodo Sahitya Sabha, organized a symposium on “Criticism in Bodo Poetry” at Karbi Anglong on July 10, 2015. Sri Premananda Machahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the symposium. Sri Bhupen Narzary, President, KAD-BSS, delivered the keynote address and Dr Anil Boro, eminent Bodo writer, was the chief guest. Sri Nirmal Basumatary, Secretary, KAD-BSS, compered the session. Sri Toren Boro chaired the session devoted to “Criticism in Bodo Poetry” in which three noted scholars, Sri Bijoy Baglary, Sri Lankeswar Hainary and Sri Rituraj Basumatary, presented papers on ‘Antaini Okaphwr,’ ‘Udangsriniprai Gidingfinanwi’ and ‘Maidangsri of Sri Profulla Basumatary’ respectively. Sri Toren Boro proposed a vote of thanks.

Sri Aurobinda Uzir chaired the Bodo Poets’ Meet. In the meet, Smt. Nilima Brahma, Smt. Sunia Baglary, Sri Dipak Basumatary, Sri Prodip Kr. Brahma, Sri Rajaram Basumatary. Sri Uzir summed up and presented the evaluation of recited poems. Sri Madan Swargiary proposed a vote of thanks. A brief interactive session followed.

SYMPOSIUM ON BODO POETRY TODAY
11 July 2015, Udalguri, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Thunlai Bathwn and Department of Bodo, Rawta College, organized a daylong symposium on 'Bodo Poetry Today' at the college premises in Udalguri on July 11, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr Premananda Machahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Deba Kanta Ramchiary delivered the inaugural address. Dr Anil Boro, eminent Bodo writer delivered the keynote address and Sri Gopinath Brahma proposed a vote of thanks. Sri Nareswar Narzary chaired the first session in which four noted scholars, Dr. Sunil Phukan Basumatary, Sri Rustam Brahma, Dr Chinon Narzary and Smt. Rashmi

Brahma, presented their papers on "Modernism and Post Modernism in Modern Bodo Poetry," "Existentialism in Bodo poetry," "Psychoanalysis in Modern Bodo Poetry" and "Feminism in Modern Bodo Poetry" respectively. Dr Sunil Phukan Basumatary chaired the second session in which five noted Bodo scholars, Sri Bijoy Baglari, Sri Pranab Jyoti Narzary, Dr Nareswar Narzary, Dr Tulon Mushahary and Sri Gopinath Brahma, presented their papers on "Sentimentalism in Modern Bodo Poetry," "Deconstruction in Bodo Poetry," "Folk Elements in Modern Poetry," "Pure poetry" and "Anti-Poetry" respectively.

ADIVASI BHASHA SAMMELAN
July 11-12, 2015, Baripada

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a two-day 'Adivasi Bhasha Sammelan' on July 11-12, 2015 at Baripada.

In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience. Prof. Khageswar Mohapatra, Former Director, Academy of Tribal Language and Culture, Odisha, inaugurated the convention and talked about the importance of tribal languages and oral traditions in Ho, Mundari, Kharia, Kui, Santali and Kudukh. Sri Gangadhar Hansdah, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the session and Dr. Binod Chandra Nayak, an eminent linguistic graced the session as Guest of Honour. Dr. Nayak in his address talked about the past and present status of Santali, Ho and Mundari languages, as well he urged for the upliftment of other tribal languages like Kharia, Kui and Kuduk. Sri Gangadhar Hansdah in his presidential address said about the importance of such literary programmes. Sri Madan Mohan Sinen, Member, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by eminent Santali poet, Sri Jadumai Beshra, two noted fiction writers, Sri Mangat Murmu (Santali) and Sri Jaypal Singh Nayak (Ho), read out their stories 'Budaiyah Gira' (Budai's Invitation) and 'Kanka Guru' respectively, while the noted poet Sri Sridhar Singh (Mundari) recited his poems 'Banui Judi' (Have no lover) and 'Banuh Landa' (Laugh no more). All the stories and poems focused on rural life and travails of rural people. The stories and poems were summarized in Odia.

In the second session that was chaired by Sri Sunil Jena, a renowned Ho poet, Sri Dinabandhu Kandankel recited his poems 'Samaj Dukh' (Sorrows of Society) and 'Chetna' (A call) while Sri Birbal Singh, noted Mundari fiction writer read out his story 'Hemal umul' (Cool shadow) and Sri Gobinda Ch. Majhi (Santali) recited his poems, 'Atu



L to R - Madan Mohan Soren, Vinod Chandra Nayak, Khageshwar Mohapatra, Gangadhar Hansda and Devendra Kumar Devesh

Dison'(Rural land), 'Charak Ononhery' (A poetry of beauty), 'Tarasing Bedarey' (At afternoon) and 'Jati uiharkaty'(Remembering a community). The renderings were summarized in Odia language.

In the third session that was chaired by Dr Krushna Ch. Nayak, two noted fiction writers, Sri Nandalal Singh (Mundari) and Sri Basir Kiro (Khadia), read out their stories 'Rutu kirerg' (Purchase of a flute) and 'Chandra' respectively while Sri Basudev Khalkho (Kudukh) recited his poems 'Pokh rekha' (Like painted snake) and 'Doble Angle o yang kaatha' (My mother language is great).

In the fourth session that was chaired by Dr Damayanti Beshra, noted fiction writer Sri Mangla Khalkho (Kudukh) read out his story 'Karam Kismait' (Karam's Blessings), while well-known Kui story writer Sri Dinabandhu Kanhanr read out two of his stories 'Soru Penu' (God of Hill) and 'Budhi Budha Mutu' (The old man and woman killed) and noted poet Prof Mary S. Soreng (Khadia) recited her poem 'Bidhaba Aagnesh' (Life of a widow).

In the fifth session that was chaired by Dr Rajkishore Nayak, well-known Santali

poet recited his poems, 'Hor Hopon' (The Human Being) and 'Hopon Era' (The Bride), while renowned Kui poet Sri Nirod Chandra Kanhar recited his poems, 'Minka Dina' (Cry of fish) and 'Kui Kanjadi' (A hymn to lord Jagannatha) and well-known short story writer Sri Rabindra Nath Karundia read out a story 'Nimir Gapa Kateyakawah Singar' (The fashion of today's rat).

Sri Mahadev Toppo, eminent Kudukh critic chaired the valedictory session Sri Madhab Hansdah and Sri Sharat Ch. Naik spoke about the necessity to preserve and promote tribal languages. Sri Sharat Ch. Naik proposed vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON LIFE AND WORKS OF B. JAYANTAKUMAR SHARMA
16 July 2015, N.G. College, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Department of Manipuri, N.G. College, organized a daylong symposium on "Life and Works of B. Jayantakumar Sharma" at the college premises in Imphal on July 16, 2015. The

symposium was compered by Kh. Bishwamitra, a noted Manipuri film-maker. Sri Goutam Paul, officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Y. Momon Devi, Principal, N.G. College chaired the inaugural session. In the chief guest's speech, Professor H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, discussed on Jayantakumar's achievements.



Dr Ramakanta Rath delivering the inaugural address

Dr N. Achouba, Coordinator, NAAC, N.G. College, proposed a vote of thanks. Professor N. Khagendra Singh chaired the first session. Sri G. Bijoykumar Sharma presented his paper on the life and works of B. Jayantakumar Sharma, Professor Th. Ratankumar on the translation works of Jayantakumar Sharma and Dr K. Shantibala Devi on the unpublished works of Jayantakumar Sharma related to children literature. The second session was chaired by Sri Kh. Prakash Singh. Sri Ph. Iboyaima Sharma discussed the poetic beauty of his lyrics, Smt. K. Rashmani Devi narrated his patriotic songs and Dr L. C. Memi commented on his contribution to oral literature of Manipur.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON BAMACHARAN MITRA

19 July 2015, Bhubaneswar

The regional office Kolkata organized a birth centenary seminar on Bamacharan Mitra at the State Archives Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar on July 19, 2015. In the inaugural session, Sri Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Ramakanta Rath, Fellow, Sahitya Akademi,

inaugurated the seminar. Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory remarks. Sri Ramachandra Behera chaired the session while Sei Satrughna Pandab delivered the keynote address and Dr Bijayananda Singh proposed a vote of thanks. Professor Dasharathi Das chaired the first session. Sri Phanindra Bhusan Nanda presented a paper on “Kahanikar O Rachanakar Bamacharan”, Sri Khirode Chandra Behera on “Samasamayika Kathakar O Bamacharan” and Sri Pabitra Panigrahi on “Bamacharananka Sahityare Bharatiya Parampara O Mulyabodh.” Dr Jatin Nayak chaired the second session. Sri Babaji Ch. Patnaik presented paper on “Bamacharananka Sahityare Manabatara Charitra”, Sri Banchhanidhi Das on “Bamacharananka Jibana O Tanka Samaya”, Smt Bhagyalipi Malla on “Chandra O Champa ra Darshanikata” and Sri Premananda Mahapatra discussed on “Bamacharananka Sahityare Samajachitra”. Sri Pitabasa Routray proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON VANDAL LITERATURE

July 22, 2015, Thanjavur

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a daylong symposium

on 'Vandal Literature' on July 22, 2015 at Bharath Arts and Science College in Thanjavur. In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the importance of Vandal literature and the symposium. Prof K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address, talked about the relevance of regional literature and dialects. He highlighted how the vandal literature is the writing of common people and based on the Ainthinai classification of Sangam period. Sri M. Rajendra, Editor, Kanaiyaazhi, talked about the inseparability of the language, region and literature of Tamil country side literature. Ms. Punitha Ganesan, Chairman, Bharath Educational Trust, thanked the Akademi for hosting the symposium in the college premises. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Vyakulan who spoke about the creations of C.M. Muthu, three noted scholars, Sri M. Govindaraju, Sri K. Jawahar and Sri A.P. Bhalaiyan, presented their papers on 'Creations of Sa. Subashchandra Bose,' 'Creations of Solai Sundaraperumal' and 'Creations of Vaimainathan' respectively. In the second session that was chaired by Sri N. Gnanthiraviyam who spoke about creations of Su. Tamilselvi, two noted scholars, Ms. S. Kalpana and Sri S. Mathavan, presented their papers on 'Creations of Pavai Chandran' and 'Creations of Uttamacholan' respectively. Prof Nachimuthu summed up the day's proceedings. Sri Lenin proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON KANNADA LITERATURE AND NATIVITY

6-7 August 2015, Kalaburagi

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at

Bengaluru, in association with the Department of Kannada Studies, Central University of Karnataka in Kalaburagi, organized a two-day seminar on 'Kannada Literature and Nativity' at the University premises on August 6-7, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Kannada literature. In his introductory address, Dr Vikram Visaji, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about reciprocity of regionalism in literature and culture and unveiled the theme of the Seminar. In his inaugural address, Prof Giraddi Govindaraj, eminent Kannada writer, talked about the importance and relevance of regional identity in Kannada literature but observed that imbibing and absorbing other literary, cultural and linguistic traditions would only enrich nativism rather than replacing it. Prof H.M. Maheshwariah, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Karnataka, chaired the session and urged the scholars and laymen alike to rediscover native sciences and literature for the betterment of the local communities and the country. Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. N. Nagaraj, Registrar, Central University of Karnataka, Prof Shivaganga Rumma, Dean and Head, Kannada Studies Department were the Guests of Honour.

In the first session, three eminent Kannada writers and scholars, Sri H.S. Raghavendra Rao, Sri Nataraj Hulyar and Prof O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy, presented their papers on 'Kannada Literature - Culture and Native Perception,' 'Regional Sensibility and Universal Sensibility' and 'Limitations and Prospects of Nativity' respectively. In the second session, Ms. B.N. Sumitra Bai spoke on the

reconstruction of regional identities, Sri Ramzan Dara on Vachana literature and regional consciousness and Sri Chandrashekhara Nangali about metres like Ragale, Shatpadi and Sangatya and their role in evolving of regional identities. In the third session, three noted scholars, Sri Appagere Somashekhar, Sri Swami Rao Kulkarni and Prof O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy presented their papers on 'Tatvapada: An evolution of Regional Consciousness,' 'Notion of Nativity in Keertanegalu' and 'Drama and Native Perceptions' respectively. In the fourth session, three noted scholars, Sri Veeranna Dande, Sri K.Y. Narayana Swamy and Sri Krishnamurthy Hanur, presented their papers on 'Kannada Folk Poetics,' 'Nativity in Folk Stories' and 'The Native World Vision in Kannada Folk Epics' respectively. In the fifth session, two noted scholars, Sri S. Nataraja Budalu and Sri Amaresh Nugadoni, presented their papers on 'Modern Kannada Poetry: Nationality – Internationality- Nativity' and 'The Prospects and Risks of Native Perception in Kannada Stories' respectively.

In the valedictory session, Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya chaired and talked about dangers of politicizing nativism while Prof Rajendra Chenni delivered the valedictory address and talked about the native world of Kannada novels.

SEMINAR ON 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BRAJMOHAN THAKUR AND BIRTH CENTENARIES OF UPENDRA THAKUR MOHAN, GIRIDHAR JHA VIKAL AND PARAMANAND SHASTRI
August 8-9, 2015, Purnea

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Brajmohan Thakur Vidhi Mahavidyalay, Purnea, organized a two day Seminar to commemorate 125th birth

anniversary of Brajmohan Thakur and birth centenaries of Upendra Thakur Mohan, Giridhar Jha Vikal and Paramanand Shastri at the university premises in Purnea on August 8-9, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and dignitaries. Smt. Mridula Mishra, Chairman, Bihar Land Tribunal, was the Chief Guest and spoke about uniting the communities and traditions through languages and literature and observed that Sahitya Akademi has been doing this job commendably for over six decades. In her inaugural address, Dr Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, provided elaborate overview of the presence of culture, history and literature in the works of Upendra Thakur Mohan, Giridhar Jha Vikal and Paramanand Shastri. The session was chaired by Sri Kamal Anand, noted journalist and he talked about literary connections of Purnea and his close association with Upendra Thakur Mohan. He observed the literary greats of Purnea and stated that this seminar will enrich further the literary status of Purnea. Sri Virendra Mohan Thakur, Secretary, Vidhi Mahavidyalay, proposed vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by Sri Sisir Kumar Jha, two noted scholars, Sri Ramnaresh Singh and Sri Surendranath, presented their papers. Sri Ramnaresh talked about 'Karuna Rasa' in the works of Sri Upendra Thakur Mohan. Sri Surendranath presented paper on 'Life and Works of Upendra Thakur Mohan.' In the second and third sessions that were chaired by Sri Saket Anand Jha, two noted scholars, Sri Gaurikant Jha and Sri Kamal Mohan Thakur, presented their papers. Sri Gaurikant Jha presented a critical evaluation and comparative analysis of the times of Sri Upendra Mohan Thakur and the



L-R Ashutosh Thakur, Bina Thakur, Mridula Mishra, D.K. Devesh and Kamal Anand

present life and observed that Sri Upendra Thakur Mohan's works are very relevant in the present times. Sri Kamal Mohan Thakur presented paper on 'Baji Uthal Murali' and highlighted Sri Upendra Mohan's sympathy towards oppressed in his works. In the fourth session that was chaired by Sri Lakshmidhar Mishra, three noted scholars, Dr Yoganand Jha, Sri Amalendu Shekhar Pathak and Dr Kulanand Jha, presented their papers. Dr Yoganand Jha evaluated Sri Upendra Thakur Mohan's works in the light of his contemporary poets such as Eshnath Jha, Madhup, Aarsi Prasad Sigh. Sri Amalendu Shekhar Pathak presented philosophical import of Sri Upendra Mohan's works. Dr Kulanand Jha talked about pithy aphorisms of Sri Upendra Thakur Mohan. In the fifth session that was chaired by Ms. Shanti Jha, three noted scholars, Sri Panchanan Mishra, Dr K.P. Yadav and Sri Phoolchandra Jha Praveen, presented their papers focusing on 'Characters and Creativity in Giridhar Jha Vikal's Works,' 'Diary of Brajmohan Thakur' and 'Maithilik Patratmak Shailik Upanyason Aanganak Rekha' respectively. In the sixth and seventh sessions that were chaired by Sri Vivekanand Thakur, six noted scholars, Sri Shiv Kumar Mishra,

Sri Bhairav Lal Das, Sri Kamalkant Jha, Sri Vidyand Jha 'Panjekar', Sri Virednra Mohan Thakur, Sri Indranath Jha, presented their papers focusing on 'Characters and Creativity in Acharya Paramanand Shastri,' 'Paramanand Shastri and Maithili Literary Research,' 'Works of Paramanand Shastri,' 'Characters of Brajmohan Thakur's Works,' 'Brajmohan Thakur and study of Maithili in Calcutta University' and 'Maithili Folk Art and Bikal' respectively. The sessions

were coordinated by Dr Bina Thakur. Sri Vivekanand Thakur concluded the session with his remarks.

BHISHAM SAHNI CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS August 8-10, 2015, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, commemorated the Birth Centenary of Bhisham Sahni in New Delhi on August 8-10, 2015. The celebrations started with the inauguration of Book and Photo exhibition by Dr Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) followed by the inaugural session of the Birth Centenary Seminar on Bhisham Sahni.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various facets of Bhisham Sahni. Addressing various literary enthusiasts who had gathered from nook and corner of the country, Dr Mahesh Sharma said that these centenary celebrations of Shri Bisham Sahani were just the beginning and his valuable compositions would be fondly remembered

forever. His works would be reminisced throughout the country by organizing such literary programs. Dr Mahesh Sharma told that whenever he had hard times, he would find solace in the compositions of great writers like Shri Bisham Sahani. He also noted that the Ministry of Culture would take all necessary efforts to conserve his house located at Rawalpindi and observed that India was being looked upon for her intangible culture. Time had come to celebrate such noted personalities so that people would get boundless inspiration from them. Eminent actor and nephew of Bisham Sahani, Shri Parikshit Sahani remembered his father Shri Balraj Sahani and his uncle and said that Bisham Sahani was like his father. He also said that versatile artists work whole heartedly and Shri Bisham Sahani was one such person. He told that his uncle brought him up and after his demise he himself had to manage everything. In his presidential address, Sahitya Akademi's President Shri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari remarked that Bisham Sahani's mother was a Punjabi and all his family members knew Urdu. He was an English lecturer but he would write in Hindi. He was calm and

submissive and his works were never a subject for controversy. He was polite and his works advocated compassion. Sri Narendra Kumar Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Sri Pramod Kumar Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture and Sri Ramesh Upadhyay graced the occasion. In the session a monograph on Shri Bisham Sahani was released. Sri Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the event.

In the first session that focused on Bisham Sahani's reminiscence, Smt. Kalpana Sahani, daughter of Bisham Sahani said that her father was a man of broad vision and even a common man could understand his compositions. Shri Kewal Goswami and Ms. Harshi Anand, famous film director Shri Govind Nihalani, Shri Devendra Raj Ankur and Shri Narendra Mohan were also part of the first session. The second session focused on Bisham Sahani and new story movement was chaired by Prof. Nityanand Tiwari. In this session, Shri Abdul Bismillah, Shri Ravi Bushan and Shri Ajay Tiwari presented their papers. Prof. Nityanand Tiwari read few stories of Bisham Sahani and said that his stories paved way for present approach to writing trends. Bisham Sahani



Dr Mahesh Sharma releasing the monograph on Bisham Sahani

was one such personality who was very rare to come across. The third session concentrated on 'Bisham Sahani's fiction: resistance to communalism and separation'. Shri Asghar Wajahat, Prof Gopeshwar Singh and Shri Ravi Tripathi presented their papers in this session. Bisham Sahani's writings were discussed and how he managed to bring in progressive ideals in his works. The fourth session was centered on Bisham Sahani's dramas and films and his creative sense. As part of his birth centenary celebrations, an exhibition comprising books and paintings was organized.

The Akademi also arranged the theatrical performances on the evening of both the days of the seminar at Abhimanch Auditorium of National School of Drama. On 9th August – Leela Nandlal Ki was staged, conceptualized and directed by Ramji Bali and on 10th August – Chief Ki Dawat and Other Stories was staged, conceptualized and directed by Devendra Raj Ankur.

SYMPOSIUM ON AYOTHI DASA PANDITHAR August 11, 2015, Puducherry

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in association with the Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, organized a daylong symposium on the eminent Dalit writer and scholar, Sri Ayothidasa Pandithar on August 11, 2015 at PILC premises in Puducherry.

In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi in promoting the welfare and literature of Dalits all over India and in 24 recognized Indian languages. Prof Bama, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, who chaired the session, talked

about various facets of Ayothidasa Pandithar and described him as a thinker, revolutionary journalist and fought for the upliftment of all the oppressed irrespective of caste status. She observed that Ayothidasa Pandithar was the forerunner of Ambedkar and yet did not receive the recognition he deserved. Sri Bhaktavatsala Bharathi, Director, PILC, spoke about the inspiring life of Ayothidasa Pandithar, how he overcame insurmountable odds, uplifted the oppressed masses, spread Buddhism in Tamil Nadu and toiled for lowest all his life. Dr Dharmaraj of Folklore Department, Madurai Kamaraj University, talked about the philosophy of Ayothidasa Pandithar and observed that it is essential to know about the fundamental philosophy of Ayothidasa Pandithar. He remarked that Ayothidasa was a purely rational person and provided rational explanations to many practices of Tamil Nadu and highlighted Ayothidasa Pandithar's proactive measures to get society rid of blind beliefs and superstitious practices. He stressed that in the 21st century it is imperative for youngsters to study Ayothidasa Pandithar's philosophy and works and that will help them to overcome new types of inequality brought about by the globalization and technological advances. Dr



Prof. Aranga Malika delivering lecture during symposium on Ayothidasa Pandithar

R. Sambath, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, talked about numerous measures taken by Ayothidasa Pandithar to uplift oppressed masses and proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, two noted scholars, Dr T. Parthiban and Dr Aranga Mallika, presented their papers on 'Movements of Culture of Ayothi Dasa Pandithar' and 'Ayothidasa Pandithar and Kundalakesi' respectively.

In the second session, two noted scholars, Mu. Shaktivel and Sathu Arimavalavan, presented their papers on 'Educational Perspective of Ayothidasa Pandithar' and 'Ayothidasa Pandithar and Avvaiyar' respectively.

In the valedictory session, Sri Manikko Pannerselvam delivered the valedictory address and talked about the multifaceted personality of Ayothidasa Pandithar and his philosophical explanations for many activities of everyday life. Sri Sundara Murugan proposed a vote of thanks.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON H.L. NAGEGOWDA

14 August 2015, Bangalore

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Karnataka Janapada Parishat, organized a seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Sri H.L. Nagegowda, eminent Kannada writer and folklorist at Nayana Auditorium in Bengaluru on August 14, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience and briefly spoke about seminars and birth centenary commemorations organized

by the Sahitya Akademi. Inaugurating the seminar, Dr H.C. Boralingaiah, Vice Chancellor, Kannada University, Hampi, talked about Sri Nagegowda's invaluable contributions to native culture research and folk literature. In his keynote address, Dr Karigowda Beechanahalli, noted Kannada fiction writer, highlighted the amount of research that Sri Nagegowda put into each of his work and his multifaceted career. Sri T. Thimmegowda, I.A.S. (Rtd.) and Chairman, Karnataka Janapada Parishat, chaired the session and talked about contributions of Janapada Loka. Smt. Indira Balakrishna, Managing Trustee of Karnataka Janapada Parishat and daughter of H.L. Nagegowda and Dr. Jayaprakash Gowda, President, Karnataka Sangha, Mandya were the guests of honour.

In the first session that was devoted to 'The life and literary works of H.L. Nagegowda,' three noted scholars, Dr Kuruva Basavara, Dr K.R. Sandhya Reddy and Dr Krishnamurthy Hanur presented papers on 'Life of H.L. Nagegowda,' 'Kannada Folklore and H.L. Nagegowda' and 'Prose Writings of H.L. Nagegowda' respectively that brought out several hitherto unknown facts. In the afternoon a documentary film on H.L. Nagegowda was screened.



Dr.Narahalli Balasubramanya and others seen.

Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the valedictory session and presented a critical evaluation of works of H.L. Nagegowda. Sri Go Ru Chennabasappa, eminent Kannada writer and folklorist, delivered the valedictory address. Sri H.R. Raje Gowda, Hon Secretary, Karnataka Janapada Parishat, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH LITERATURE ON MANIPURI LITERATURE
18 August 2015, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata in association with the English Literary Circle, Dept. of English, Manipur University, organized a daylong symposium on 'The Influence of English Literature on Manipuri Literature' at the university premises in Imphal on August 18, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the theme of the symposium. Prof H. Nandakumar Sarma, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University, was the Chief Guest of the symposium and talked about the importance and relevance of literature to society. In his presidential address, Prof N. Khagendra Singh, highlighted the sensitive nature of the Meiteis who have carved a niche for themselves in the fields of performing arts and observed that their sensitive nature may have helped Manipuri writers absorb and internalize English literature in their own writings. Prof Th. Ratankumar, eminent scholar, in his keynote address, provided overview of influence of English literature on Manipuri literature over the years and observed that with any other thing in the world, this has both positive and negative sides. Prof H.

Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, who was the Guest of Honor, talked about the direct and indirect influences of English literature on Manipuri literature. Ms. Kumari Malen Chanu of the Department proposed vote of thanks.

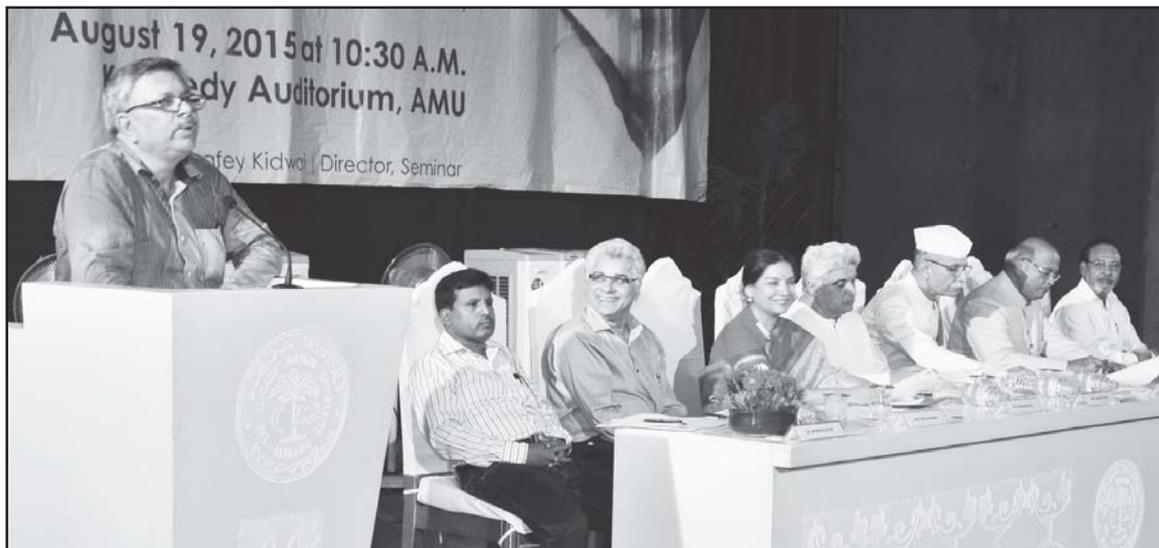
Prof N. Khagendra Singh chaired the first session and three noted scholars presented their papers. Dr Binata Nongmaithem spoke on the influence of English literature and literary trends on M. K. Binodini's short stories. Dr Ratnabali of Manipur College talked about the influence of English literature on Dr Kamal's works and Dr P. Dinesh Meitei spoke on the influence of T.S. Eliot on Biren's poetry. Prof Th. Ratankumar Singh chaired the second session and three noted scholars presented their papers. Sri L. Joychandra Singh spoke on the influence of English on pre-war and post-war Manipuri Poetry. Dr Th. Umabati Chanu spoke on influence of the stream of consciousness technique on Pacha Meitei's Imphal Amasun Magee Eshing Nungsitki Phibamand and Dr O. S. Devi spoke on influence of G. B. Shaw on the plays of G. C. Tongra.

SYMPOSIUM ON KAIFI AZMI
August 19, 2015, Aligarh

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Aligarh Muslim University, organized a daylong symposium on eminent Urdu poet Kaifi Azmi in Aligarh on August 19, 2015. In the inaugural session, Lt Gen Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd), Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, presided over, Prof Shafey Kidwai, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory remarks, Sri Javed Akhtar, noted poet and film lyricist, delivered the inaugural address, Brigadier Syed Ahmad Ali (Retd), Pro-Vice Chancellor,

Aligarh Muslim University, was the Guest of Honor, Ms. Shabana Azmi, well-known film actress and social activist, was the Chief Guest, Prof Irteza Kareem, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, delivered the keynote address, Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal, Convener, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered special address and Sri Mushtaque Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks. In his address Sri Javed Akhtar observed that despite the political and economic shifts in India, Kaifi Azmi retained his idealism and remained optimistic of a socialist future for India. Kaifi's optimism was reflected in poetry replete with dreams of a socialist egalitarian society in which the voice of another fellow human being would be heard like a resonating sound of one's self. Javed Akhtar also said that today the market forces and globalization may have turned society more selfish and self-centred but no human society can thrive if it fails to heed the call for justice to all sections, especially the marginalized, poor and down-trodden. In his presidential address,

AMU Vice Chancellor, Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah paid rich tributes to Kaifi Azmi through a poem "Ajeeb Admi Tha Who." AMU Pro-Vice Chancellor, Brigadier S Ahmad Ali, in his address pointed out that society needed another Kaifi Azmi. "When there are signs of people being divided and when there is a presence of hatred, a Kaifi Azmi is much needed to bring peace with his words," said Brigadier Ali. Ms Shabana Azmi remembered her father Kaif Azmi as person who was very different from other fathers. She said that she was a 'different' daughter of a 'different' father. "In fact, I now displayed it with such new found confidence that instead of being sniggered at by my class-mates, I became an object of envy", said Mrs Shabana Azmi. She highlighted many things she learnt from her illustrious father. In his keynote address, Prof Irteza Kareem said that like other famous poets, Kaifi Azmi began as a ghazal writer, cramming his poetry with the repeated themes of love and romance in a style that was replete with clichés and metaphors. However, his association with the Progressive Writers'



Inaugural session of the symposium in progress

Movement and Communist Party made him embark on the path of social discourse. “Kaifi’s poetry continues to influence generations for passionate espousal of causes. His poems celebrate love, compassion and human equality. The lyrical beauty and powerful expression of his film songs have captivated millions,” said Prof Kareem. Co-ordinator of the Seminar and General Council member of the Akademi, Prof Shafey Kidwai, said that Kaifi’s songs have been a part of our collective conscience. He said, “Kaifi was a poet of masses. He spoke in the voice of propinquity about injustice and exploitation. His poetry was rich with emotion and empathy towards the disadvantaged sections of the society,” said Prof. Kidwai in his introductory remarks. Mr. Chandra Bhan Khayal, Convener, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi also expressed his views on Kaifi Azmi. Dr. Mushtaq Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme and thanked the participants and audience. Ms. Shabana Azmi inaugurated the Kaifi Azmi Collection at Maulana Azad Library. On this occasion a catalogue of Kaifi Azmi’s Collection was also released.

After inaugural session, a day-long symposium on Kaifi Azmi was held in which several papers in Urdu, Hindi and English were read. Two different sessions of the symposium were presided over by Prof. Syed Mohd. Hashim and Prof. Khurshid Ahmad who highlighted the creative dexterity of Kaifi Azmi reflected in Ghazals, poems and film lyrics.

Prof Ali Ahmad Fatmi, Prof. Asim Siddiqui, Prof. Sami Rafiq, Prof. Sahab Ali, Dr. Ajay Bisaria, Dr. Sarwat Mehdi, Dr. Seema Saghir and Prof. Saghir Afraheem presented their papers on different topics during the symposium.

SYMPOSIUM ON LIFE AND WORKS OF ASHANGBAM MINEKETAN

19 August 2015, Kakching, Manipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Department of Manipuri, Kha Manipur College organized a daylong symposium on “Life and Works of Ashangbam Mineketan” at the college premises in Kakching on August 19, 2015. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Office-in-Charge, Sahitya Akdemi Eastern Region. The Chief Guest of the programme was Professor H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi with Sri Ksh. Shamu Singh, Principal, Kha-Manipur College, Kakching, in the chair. The vote of the thanks of the inaugural session was proposed by Sri P. Somorendra Singh. In the first session Sri P. Nabachandra Singh, Sri Th. Ratankumar Singh and Sri Rajen Toijamba presented papers on “Minaketan as an Essayist”, “Minaketan as a Critic” and “Minaketan as a Playwright” respectively with Professor N. Khagendra Singh in the chair. In the second session, papers were presented by Sri S. Lanchenba Meetei, Sri Ch. Rajketan Singh and Sri T. Kunjeshore Singh on the topics of “Minaketan as a Poet”, “Folklore Elements in Minaketan’s Literature” and “Diction of Minaketan” respectively with Smt N. Aruna Devi in the chair.

SYMPOSIUM ON CONTEMPORARY INDIAN POETRY

August 21-22, 2015, Shimla

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Department of Language and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, organized a two-day symposium on Current Scenario

of Contemporary Hindi Poetry at the Gaiety Theatre in Shimla on August 21-22, 2015. Dr. Arun Diwakar Nath Bajpai, Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University lighted the lamp and inaugurated the symposium. The first session was chaired by distinguished Hindi poet Shri Mangalesh Dabral. In his chair message, he highlighted the multidimensional aspects of contemporary Hindi poetry. Shri Anil Rakeshi and other three poets – Shri Om Nishchal, Shri Radhe Shyam Tiwari and Shri Jitendra Shrivastav recited their poems and pointed out the pattern, style and the crafts of Hindi poetry. In the second session, Dr. Satya Narayan recited a poem of Shrinivas Shrikant. Shri Suresh Sen Nishant narrated his artistic ability and appreciated his creative skills. In his chair message, Prof. Kumar Krishna noted that Shrinivas Shrikant's first poetry was written in 1954 titled 'Rehdi Wale ki Ladki' and observed that although this was a school level poetry, it had such a word power that enabled him to establish a Hindi Literature Department in his College.

In the poetry reading session on the second day, Shri Dwijendra Dwij, Shri Athma Ranjan, Ms. Rekha Vashisht, Shri Mohan Sahil, Shri Sudarshan Vashisht and other poets such as Shri Gyan Prakash Vivek, Ms. Arthi Smit, Shri Sanjay Kundan and Shri Sanjeev Kaushal recited their poems. Shri Gyan Prakash Vivek chaired this session. Shri Dwijendra Dwij read a Ghazal and Ms. Athma Ram recited few poems titled 'Prithvi Par Letna' and 'Shakti Puja'. Ms. Rekha Vashisht recited her poem on 'Nadhiyaan Raastha Badhalthi Hai' and Shri Brajendra Tripathi read his poem which described Delhi and people's lifestyles. Shri Gyan Prakash Vivek read his poem called 'Mandir ki Seediyon Par Deepak Jala Raha Hoon'. Shri Mohan Sahil's poems highlighted rural environment and its lifestyles in detail. The second session was

chaired by Shri Vishnu Nagar. Shri Ajay, Shri Tej Ram Sharma, Ms. Chandraleka Tadwal, Shri Keshav, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, Shri Pratyush Guleri and other poets such as Shri Ashutosh Dube, Shri Harishchandra Pandey and Ms. Leena Malhotra participated and recited their poems.

SYMPOSIUM ON JAMMU KASHMIR DI PUNJABI POTHOHARI KAVITA

August 22, 2015, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong symposium on 'Jammu Kashmir di Punjabi Pothohari Kavita' at K.L. Sehgal Hall of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu on August 22, 2015. Smt. Surinder Neer, Member, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Punjabi literature. The keynote address was delivered by eminent Punjabi writer Sri. Khalid Hussain. In the first session that was chaired by Dr Arvinder Singh Aman, Additional Secretary, J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Language, two noted scholars Prof Randheer Kaur and Sri Anwar Khan presented papers on the historical background and future of Punjabi Pothohari Kavita. In the second session that was chaired by Sri Davinder Vishvnagrik, six noted poets, Swami Antar Neeray, Gursharan Singh Gulshan, Saleem Javaid, Qari Mohd Ashraf, Parvaiz Malik and Sheikh Zahoor, recited their Pothohari poems

SYMPOSIUM ON SINDHI DRAMA WRITING TODAY: RAJASTHAN CHAPTER

23 August 2015, Bikaner.

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in association with Sujaag Sindhi

and Vishal Sindhu Samaj Samskritik Manch, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Sindhi Drama Writing Today: Rajasthan Chapter’ in Bikaner on August 23, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various literary initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Sindhi literature across the country. Inaugurating the symposium, Sri Shrilal Mohta thanked the Akademi for organizing the symposium in the city and briefly talked about various aspects of Sindhi literature. Sri S.L. Harsh chaired the session. In his keynote address, Sri Jetho Lalwani provided historical backdrop to Sindhi playwriting and bird’s eye view of the development and evolution of Sindhi drama. Sri Devichand Khatri, Editor, Sujaag, proposed a vote of thanks.

Sri Harish Devnani chaired the first session. In this session Sri Bhagwan Atlani presented a paper on development of published Sindhi plays in Rajasthan (last two decades). After the paper presentation Sri Suresh Sindhu read out his play Vajud. Sri Lachman Bhambhani read out Mamata Jo Mout. Sri Lachman Bhambhani chaired the second session. Sri Suresh Bablani presented his paper on development of staging Sindhi plays in



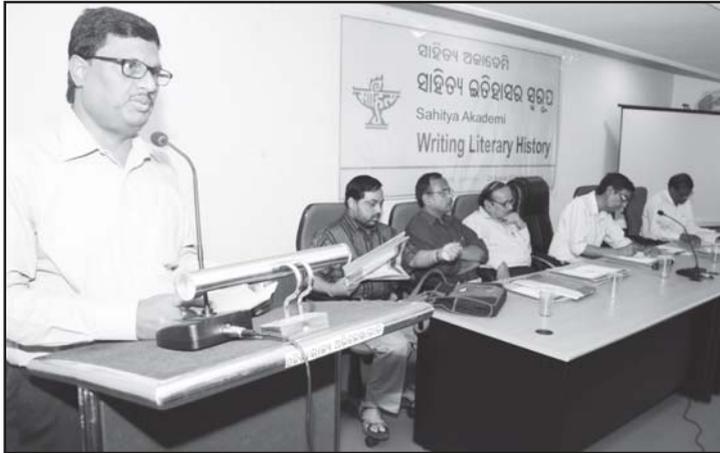
L-R: S.L. Harsh, Jetho Lalwani, Shrilal Mohta, Krishna Kimbahune, Devichand Khatri

Rajasthan (last two decades). He observed that Rajasthan was the first state of independent India where the first Sindhi Play Bigidyalu Gharu was written by Govardhan Bharati in 1960 and was staged in Delhi. Sindhi plays were usually performed during the festivals. In this session Sri Bhagwan Atlani read out his play Indradanush, and Sri Harish Devnani read out Mehanat. In the third session, which was chaired by Sri Bhagwan Atlani, Sri Suresh Hindusthani along with Sri Jaya Kishan Keshwani read out his play Shinakhat, and Sri Suresh Bablani read out his play Galleeche Jo Tukdo. Sri Bhagwan Atlani delivered valedictory address.

SYMPOSIUM ON WRITING LITERARY HISTORY

23 August 2015, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a daylong symposium on ‘Writing Literary History’ at Odisha State Archives Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar on August 23, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. In his presidential address, Prof Jatin Nayak observed that stories, poetry, novels that entertain people alone are not literature and historians of literature should include genres such as autobiographies, travelogues and tribal and oral literature as literature proper. In his keynote address Sri Prasanna Kumar Mohanty presented an overview of attempts to write literary histories in Odia. In his address Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, observed that though there are comprehensive regional and language-wise literary histories, there is no comprehensive history of Indian literature. Professor Niladri Bhushan Harichandan called for increased



Dr Gourhari Das delivering the lecture on Writing Literary History

discussions on Sarala Mahabharat and observed that such discussions would unfold many a new dimension of Odia literature. Sri Pitabasa Routray proposed vote of thanks. Prof Bauribandhu Kar chaired the first session and three noted scholars, Sri Animesh Mahapatra, Sri Sricharan Mohanty and Sri Surendra Maharana, presented their papers on various aspects of writing Odia literary history. Prof Gaganendranath Dash chaired the second session and three noted scholars, Sri Benudhar Padhi, Sri Santosh Kumar Tripathy and Professor Krushna Chandra Pradhan presented their papers. Sri Banoj Tripathy proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON “TRANSLATION”

25 August 2015, Sambalpur University, Burla

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Department of Odia, Sambalpur University, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Translation’ at Statistic auditorium, Sambalpur University in Burla on August 25, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi,

Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. In his inaugural address, Prof Chitta Ranjan Tripathy, Vice Chancellor, Sambalpur University, talked about the importance and relevance of translation in the multilingual country like India. In his presidential address, Prof Gopala Krushna Rath observed that literal translations are impossible and when made they lose the purpose. Prof Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, presented overview of translation activity in Odia over

the decades. Dr Panchanan Mishra’s translation of Rike’s elegies in Odia was released during the session. Dr Manindra Meher proposed a vote of thanks.

Sri Jagannath Das chaired the first session and two noted scholars Dr Panchanan Mishra and Dr Debi Prasanna Pattanaik presented papers on challenges before translators. Prof Kalidas Mishra chaired the second session in which three noted scholars, Prof Debendra Kumar Dash, Prof Manoranjan Pradhan and Sri Ashit Mohanty presented papers focusing on changing phases of translation in the changing world.

SYMPOSIUM ON BENGALI LITERATURE IN NORTH-EAST INDIA: HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY TRENDS

25 August 2015, Cotton College, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Cotton College, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Bengali Literature in North-East India: History and Contemporary Trends’ at the college premises on August 25, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul,

Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience. In his inaugural address, Prof Dhrubajyoti Saikia, Vice Chancellor, Cotton College State University, thanked the Akademi for organizing such an important event in the college. Dr Niroda Devi, Principal, Cotton College, traced Bengali literature within North Eastern regions of the country. In his keynote address, Prof Usharanjan Bhattacharya, presented overview of the impact and influence of Bengali literature in the region. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and chief guest of the symposium, observed that events of this nature will benefit the region. Dr Mita Chakraborty, Head, Bengali Department, Cotton College, chaired the session. Dr Prasanta Chakraborty proposed vote of thanks.

Prof Bani Prasanna Mishra chaired the first session and two noted scholars, Dr Amalendu Bhattacharya and Sri Debashish Dutta, talked about genesis of Bengali literary study in the region and socio-cultural and literary activities of Bengali community in Dimapur, respectively. Prof Tapodheer Bhattacharya chaired the second session and two noted scholars, Sri Rameshwar Bhattacharya and Dr Jyotirmoy Sengupta, talked about History of North East India's Bengali literature and contemporary trends in the region's Bengali literature. Sri Debiprasad Sinha chaired the third session and two noted scholars, Sri Malay Kanti Dey and Sri Pal lab Bhattacharya, talked about characteristics and definition of North East India's Bengali literature. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay chaired the second session and two noted scholars, Prof Baniprasanna Mishra and Prof Tapodheer Bhattacharya, talked about socio-politico-eco and cultural aspects of North East India to understand better the evolution and status of Bengali literature in the region. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay summed up the

papers and observed that fragmentation is hurting humanity badly and appealed to heed medieval Bengali poet Sri Chandidas' cry 'None but man is Absolute Truth.'

The welcome address was delivered by Sri Gautam Paul, Officer in-charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region. He extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries, participants and general audience with a hope that the intended programmed would achieve its goal. Professor Dhrubajyoti Saikia delivered a very short inaugural speech wherein he expressed his satisfaction and pressed the need of many such programmes in near and far future. Dr Niroda Devi delivered a special speech to the audience and expressed that diverse language and culture of this region will progress hand-in-hand and a new horizon will be unveiled.

Professor Usharanjan Bhattacharya presented a detailed key-note address which dealt many an aspect of the scope as well as the problems of Bengal Literature in the North-East. In his speech, he pointed out the effect of partition of the country and its aftermath. He strongly countered the question of short of class novels coming out from the writers of this region. Dr Bhattacharya specifically named of a few novels which in his views made deep mark in the reader's mind.

Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Chief Guest of the programme expressed his pleasure on today's subject of discussion with a wish that the discussion will fetch a very positive conclusion which will take North-Eastern literature in the right direction. Inaugural session and academic session were ended with the Vote of Thanks by Dr Prasanta Chakraborty.

SEMINAR ON BINTI LITERATURE IN SANTALI
29-30 August 2015, Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized Semi-

nar on Binti literature in Santali Language at Bhubaneswar on 29th and 30th August, 2015. Sri Nityananda Hembram inaugurated the seminar. In his brief speech he appreciated Sahitya Akademi for organising literary programme for Santali language and providing opportunity to the budding poets and writers. Binti for Santali People play a vital role in performing their social rites. It has got many social and Literal value. He has also described the important point on JOMSIM BINTI, KARAM BINTI, CHHATIYAR BINTI, BAPLA BINTI and BHANDAN BINTI.

At the beginning, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and the audience. He informed that after recognition of Santali language by the Government of India, SahityaAkademi has started works for Santali Language and literature from the year 2005. SahityaAkademi is organizing various type of literary programmes, which gives opportunity to the poets, writers and scholars to explore and share their literary creations. Sahitya Akademi has published so many books

in Santali Language with OLCHIKI Scripts, which have merits and needs of the time. Akademi also gives Awards every year like Sahitya Akademi Main Award, Translation Prize, Yuva Puraskar and Bal Sahitya Puraskar for outstanding works in the respective languages. Such programmes are held every year in the various parts of the country. Santali programme have been organized in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam. Apart from this some programme are being held at New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Port Blair.

Chairing the session, Sri Gangadhar Hansdah, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, expressed the importance of BINTI. He has also appreciated Sahitya Akademi's work for the development of Santali Literature.

The First Sesssion was chaired by Dr. Damaynati Beshra, which was devoted to JOMSIM BINTI. Sri Purnachandra Soren described and presented the paper on 'Dharti Sirjon' of JOMSIM BINTI. Sri Khetramohan Tudu described and presented the paper on 'Manmi Sirjon' of JOMSIM BINTI. Sri Laxman Marndi presented the paper on 'Manmiba,d and Parish Hating' of JOMSIM BINTI.

On the second day second sesssion of the Seminar was presided over by Sri Gangadhar Hansda. The session was devoted to KARAM BINTI. Sri Motilala Hansda ('Karmu Dharmu Kisan en Habij'), Sri Khetramohan Tudu ('Rengejog and Karma pante') and Dr. Naku



L-R Motilal Hansda, an artist, Naku Hansda, Gangadhar Hansda and Khetramohan Tudu

Hansda ('Karam then Seterarruwar') presented their papers on different aspects of KARAM BINTI.

Third Session was chaired by Sri Jadumani Beshra. This session was devoted to CHHATIYAR BINTI. Sri PradhanMurmu ('Chhut Pheraw') and Sri Sushil Soren ('Chhatiyar and Njutmem') presented their papers in this session.

Fourth Session was devoted to 'Bapla Binti', which was presided over by Sri Sobhanath Beshra. Sri Somai Kisku ('Raibar Khon Sunumsasang'). Sri Kalicharan Hembram ('Bariyat Daram and Itud Sindur') and Sri Gorachand Murmu ('ChadiKutam and Bala Njepel') presented their papers on different aspects of BAPLA BINTI.

Fifth Session was chaired by Sri Nityanand Hembram. This session was devoted to BHANDAN BINTI. Sri Rameswar Murmu ('Telnahan' of BHANDAN BINTI), Sri Somay Kisku and Sri LaxmanMarndi described on 'Jilingdaha' of Bhandan Binti.

SEMINAR ON LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN IN KONKANAI: PRESENT STATUS AND CHALLENGES IN FUTURE

30 August 2015, Panaji, Goa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in association with the Directorate of Art and Culture, Govt. of Goa, organized a daylong Seminar on "Literature for Children in Konkani: Present Status and Challenges in Future" in Panaji on August 30, 2015. In the inaugural session, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about Sahitya Akademi's initiatives to promote children's literature. In his inaugural address, Sri Gurunath Kelekar, eminent Konkani writer, talked about the need to inculcate reading

habit in children and urged all the creative writers to take up the task of writing for children. Sri Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and Chair of the inaugural session, said that literature for children should impart knowledge to the child reader in a fascinating way. In the age of globalization and high technology children obviously get easy access to the windows of several kinds of knowledge, and it was needed for a writer to understand this situation as challenge, he stated. Sri John Mendonsa, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the two sessions devoted to Konkani Bal Sahitya: Aayachee Sthitee and Konkani Bal Sahitya: Fudaranchi Awhaana and chaired by Sri Dinesh Manerkar and Sri Prasad Lolayenkar respectively, eight noted scholars of children's literature, Ms Rajani Bhembre, Ms Deepa Murkunde, Sri Prabhakar Bhide, Sri Prakash Paryenkar, Sri Guru Baliga, Sri Vinci Quadros, Ms Rajashri Bandodkar-Karapurkar, and Sri Ramnath Gawade, presented papers concerning several issues and challenges concerning children's literature in Konkani language.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON NATIVISM AND MARATHI NOVEL

1-2 September 2015, Nagpur

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Department of Marathi, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, and Girish Gandhi Pratishthan, Nagpur, jointly organized a two-day National Seminar on Nativism and Marathi Novel on 1 - 2 September 2015 in Nagpur. Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, inaugurated the seminar. Dr Ganesh Devy, eminent linguist and critic, chaired the inaugural session.

At the outset Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, in his welcome address briefed the idea of nativism initiated in 1980 by Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade in his article 'Sahityatil Deshiyata', saying nativism emphasizes the close connection of a writer to his/her own land, people, culture, and literary traditions. Quoting Prof. Nemade, he said that nativism believes in that the greatness of a literary movement or a writer is not decided by international standards. But is determined by how many functions ranging from spiritual evaluation to linguistic experimentation it serves. In the inaugural address Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade stated that the traditions of any region cannot be neglected by labeling any format as standard one. The traditional language will continue to be revived by the next generations. The regional language or expression suffered in the name of globalization, multinationalism. Despite these attacks the 'deshiyata' (Nativism) in our country has survived because of our history. Those who are trying to distort it in the name of modernization must be opposed, he professed. He further added that novel is a best medium for spreading this concept, as

it has better readership compared to other genres of literature. In the keynote address Sri Ranganath Pathare, Member, Marathi Advisory Board, said that to be 'deshiya' (Nativist) means connected to our own land. The concept of deshiyata includes being nativist and nativism as well. He also pointed out that nativism must not be exaggerated, saying that suffering has no cast, gender or religion, he drew an analogy between suffering and nativism. He recommended two canons for nativist criticism, one being internalization, and the other uncertainty. Speaking as the chair of the session Dr Ganesh Devy, said that 'deshiyata' means the memory of the human being at last seventy thousand years on the basis of which human being is able to be alive. Literature aims at keeping humanity alive and for being alive 'deshiyata' is essential. He also said that deshiyata is not only essential in India or Africa but also in the World, and for many centuries to come. Dr Akshaykumar Kale, Member, Marathi Advisory Board, made the introductory remarks. He spoke of how literature was considered sole right of the upper cast persons. Lately the literature and the language become Anglo-Indian. Dr



(L to R) Krishna Kimbahune, Ganesh Devi, Bhalchandra Nemade, Ranganath Pathare and Akshaykumar Kale

Shailendra Lende, Department of Marathi, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, proposed a vote of thanks.

The first session – ‘Deshivaad : Sankalpana aani Swaroop’, was chaired by Dr Ashok Babar. Dr Shobha Naik and Sri Ravindra Ingle Chavarekar presented their papers in this session. Dr Shobha Naik’s paper discussed that nativism is a vast and multidimensional literary theory and is a laurel in the hat of human culture. Prof. Nemade’s concept of nativism respects every society, civilization, culture, language, and strongly recommends to nurture the regional and local values of life. Sri Ravindra Ingle Chavarekar pointed out that concept of nativism appears to be incomplete, as it has nothing to suggest in the times of globalization.

The second session – ‘Deshiyata aani Marathi Kadambari : Anubandh’, was chaired by Dr Avinash Sapre. Sri Santosh Koti and Dr Alka Nathrekar Kulkarni presented their papers in this session. Sri Santosh Koti said that the roots nativism are in the philosophy of Gautam Buddha and Mahaveer. As far as the genre of novel is concerned, Deshiyata is first seen in Sane Guruji’s novel Shyamchi Aai. While thinking of deshiyata and Marathi novel we need to think of four aspects i.e. if the subject matter is deshi or not, the place where the plot takes place, structure and language, and the sensibility of the writer. Dr Nathrekar paper developed the concept of nativism referring to Rajan Gawas’ novel Bh-Balicha.

The third session – ‘Deshiyata aani Sathottari Marathi Kadambari’, was chaired by Sri Kautikrao Thale Patil. Sri Randhir Shinde and Sri Pravin Bandekar presented their papers in this session. Sri Randhir Shinde said that the native sensibility appears to be prominent in Marathi novel after 1960. The writers from various rural areas took themselves

writing. This also established their commitment to their land. Sri Pravin Bandekar observed that native culture could strongly be witnessed in Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s novel Bangarwadi and Anand Yadhav’s Gotawala and further in Uddhav Shelke, D.B. Mokashi, Bhalchandra Nemade, Bhau Padhye, Manohar Talhar, Baburao Bagul and others.

The fourth session – ‘Deshiyata aani Marathi Kadambari after 1990’, was chaired by Prof. Vasudeo Sawant. Sri Nitin Rindhe and Sri Nandkumar More presented their papers in this session. Marathi novel after 1990 established a genuine perspective for investigating into modernism. The characteristics of nativism could be seen in the novels of Krishnat Khot, Ramesh Ingle Utradkar, Rajan Gawas, Ganesh Awte and Baburao Musale, observed Sri Nitin Rindhe. Sri Nandkumar More’s paper investigated into the novels by Shyam Manohar, Vilas Sarang, Anil Damble, Makarand Sathe and Vishram Gupte.

The last session was chaired by Dr Keshav M. Sadre. Dr Sushama Karogal and Dr Prachi Gurjarpadhye presented their papers in this session. Dr Sushama Karogal presented her views on nativism and literature in Gujarati, and Dr Prachi Gurjarapadhye’s paper discussed nativism in Mahashweta Devi’s novels. Sri Suresh Dwadashiwar, delivered valedictory address. Dr Pramod Munghate, Department of Marathi, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON BIRTH CENTENARY OF UROOB 3-4 September 2015, Tirur, Kerala

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in association with the Regional Centre of Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit at Tirur organized a birth centenary



L-R: Alankode Leelakrishnan, C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board and others seen.

seminar on the distinguished Malayalam writer Sri P.C. Kuttikrishnan, popularly known by his penname 'Uroob' on 3rd and 4th September 2015 at the University premises. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and highlighted Uroob's significant literary contributions. In his introductory address, Sri K.S Ravikumar, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi highlighted Uroob's life, personality and works. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the seminar and shared his experiences with Uroob. Sri K. Jayakumar, Vice-Chancellor of Malayalam University delivered keynote address. Sri M.C. Dileep Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Sree Sankaracharya University chaired the inaugural session and elaborated Uroob's social, political and literary contributions. Sri Alankode Leelakrishnan, eminent Malayalam writer gave felicitations. Mr. Unnikrishna Pillai of Malayalam department proposed a vote of thanks. Sri P.K. Pokker, Professor of Philosophy in Calicut University chaired the first session in which

Smt. P. Padmini presented a paper focusing on 'Family Concepts in Uroob's Writings'. The subsequent session had Sri K.P. Sankran, eminent literary critic in the chair in which read their papers on 'Distance Concepts in Uroob's Writings', 'Films of Uroob' and 'World of Uroob's Stories' respectively. On the first session of the second day, Sri N. Sasidharan, well known playwright was in the chair. In that session, Sri Sunil Elayidom and Ms. Suja Susan George presented their papers on 'Texture Life in Sundarikalum

Sundaranmaarum' and 'New Humanitarian Concepts in Uroob's Writings' respectively. The fourth session was chaired by Sri Akbar Kakkattil, eminent Malayalam writer. Sri P. Surendran presented his paper on 'Nationalism and Humanism in the Novel Sundarikalum Sundaranmaarum' and Ms. L. Sushma presented her paper on 'Uroob in Liteary History' in that session. The valedictory session was chaired by Sri Unnikrishna Pillai and Sri C.V. Balakrishnan delivered a thoughtful valedictory address. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Smt. Rukmini.

SYMPOSIUM ON TRENDS IN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM LITERATURE

7 September 2015, Trivandrum

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a daylong symposium on 'Trends in Tamil and Malayalam Literature' in collaboration with Trivandrum Tamil Sangam on 07 September 2015 at Trivandrum. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering. The symposium was presided over

by Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Sri A. Madhavan, veteran Tamil writer gave felicitations. Sri M. Muthuraman, President of Trivandrum Tamil Sangam proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session, Sri Sukumaran, eminent poet, analyzed the trends in Tamil poetry. Followed him was Dr. C.R. Prasad, who presented his paper on contemporary Malayalam poetry. Dr. K.S. Ravikumar and Dr. M. Nainar spoke on Malayalam short stories and Tamil short stories respectively. In the second session, the theme was Dr. George Onakkur presented his paper on trends in Malayalam novels. Dr. Anandakumar gave an account of modern trends in Tamil novels. Papers on children's literature in Tamil and Malayalam were presented by Dr. C. Sethupathi and Dr. S.R. Lal respectively. Prof. K. Nachimuthu chaired the valedictory session. Sri Neela Padmanabhan, Sahitya Akademi Award winner delivered an informative valedictory address. Dr. George Onakkur offered felicitations and Sri Nellai Su. Muthu, Editor, Kerala Tamil, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON SUBALTERN ELEMENTS IN NORTH KARNATAKA LITERATURE
9 September 2015, Bellary, Karnataka

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University organized a daylong symposium on 'Subaltern Elements in North Karnataka Literature' on 09 September 2015 in the University premises. Eminent Kannada writer Sri S.G. Siddaramaiah inaugurated the symposium and stressed the need to preserve the cultural traditions of tribal communities. Prof. T.M. Bhaskar, Registrar of the University chaired the

symposium. The first session focused on 'Tribal Notions in North Kannada Literature' in which Sri Rajasekhara Halemane, Sri Venkatagiri V. Dalavai and Sri Vijay Boratti presented their papers. The second session, Sri V.B. Tarakeshwar and Sri Basavaraj Nellisari presented their papers on 'The Diverse Subaltern Groups'. Eminent Kannada writer Sri Shivaram Shetty in his speech insisted on the encouragement of writers who come forward to promote tribal literature.

SYMPOSIUM ON READING AND REFLECTING MALAYALAM POETRY
12 September 2015, Calicut

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Sanghaditha, women's monthly, organized a daylong symposium on 'Reading and Reflecting Malayalam Poetry' on

12 September 2015 at Anweshi Women's Councelling Centre, Calicut. Ms. Jayanthi, Member of Kerla Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and gathering. Ms. Charulatha delivered introductory remarks. Smt. Savithri Rajeevan, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board inaugurated the symposium. In her keynote address, Dr. T.V. Suneetha lauded the efforts of 'Sanghaditha' magazine for having come forward to conduct the symposium. Presidential address was delivered by Ms. K. Ajitha, Managing Editor of 'Sanghaditha' and President of 'Anweshi'. The session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Sreeja, Secretary of 'Anweshi'. The first session was chaired by Sri Kalpetta Narayanan wherein

Ms. V.M. Girija spoke on the works of Poetess Balamaniyyamma and Dr. P.M. Girish presented his paper on linguistics of poetry. In the next session, Ms. Usha Kumari spoke on feminist concepts handled in contemporary

poetry. Ms. Girija Pathekkara shared the challenges she faced in publishing field. She was followed by Ms. Sheeba Divakaran, who spoke on the challenges faced by poetesses between their creative and personal lives. On the next day, the speakers presented their own poems which were evaluated by Sri Kalpetta Narayanan and Ms. V.M. Girija.

SEMINAR ON MAITHILI LITERATURE AND PUNARJAGARAN
13-14 September, Allahabad

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Mithila Sanskritik Sangam, Allahabad, organized a two-day seminar on 13-14 September 2015 at Allahabad. The seminar was inaugurated by the chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, Professor Girishchandra Tripathi. In his address he emphasized on the richness and antiquity of the Maithili language and the immense literary heritage. Prof. Bina Thakur, Convener Maithili Advisory Board introduced the topic at seminar and in the keynote address, eminent Maithili scholar Prof. Vasukinath Jha talked about the importance and relevance of Maithili Language and literature in changing times. Dharnidhar Jha, the President of Mithila Sanskritik Sangam emphasized on the role of regional languages apart from the role of the mother tongue. The seminar was divided into 4 sessions each, which was presided by Shri Ramanand Jha 'Raman', Dr. Prabhash Kumar Jha, Dr. Yoganand Jha and Dr. Umaraman Jha. Among those who presented papers were Amalendushekhkar Pathak, Pankaj Parashar, Panchanan Mishra, Sri Yoganand Jha, Dr. Shankar Deo Jah, Sri Tarakant Jah, Dr. Jayshankar Mishra, Sri Manzar Sulaiman, Dr. Ashok 'Avichal', Ms. Revati Mishra and Navin Choudhary.

SEMINAR ON KATHEYTAAR GADHYA-LITERATURE
September 18-19, 2015, Udaipur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur organized a two-day Seminar on Kathetan Gadhyā – literature beyond the story and the Novel on 18th and 19th September 2015 in Udaipur. The chief guest for the seminar was the President of the Sahitya Akademi, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari. The introductory speech was given by the Convener of the Hindi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Surya Prasad Dixit. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said that without imagination, nothing creative can take birth. Research also shows that readers prefer non-fiction to fiction. Diary-writing, interviews, Epistolary literature are all very much read and appreciated. Participants in the seminar included Satish Jaiswal, Gajendra Patel, Govind Mishra, Ramashankar Dwivedi Bharti Gorey, Krishna Kumar Sharma and Madhav Hada.

SYMPOSIUM ON CONSCIOUSNESS IN DOGRI LITERATURE
19 September 2015, Palampur (Himachal Pradesh)

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on Consciousness in Dogri Literature at D.A.V. Girls' college, Palampur. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address elaborated that one of the responsibilities of the Akademi is to make good literature available to people, even in the far-flung corners of the country. Renowned Dogri-Hindi writer Dr Pratyush Guleri presided over the session while the keynote address was delivered by Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board,

Sahitya Akademi. In the programme, papers were presented on Dogri Poems and Dogri Novels by Dr Bansi Lal and Dr. Nirmal Vinod respectively. The principal of the K.C.B.D.A.V Girls' College, Dr N.D. Sharma proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES; CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
21 September 2015, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar on 'Implementation of official language challenges and solutions' at New Delhi on 21 September 2015. In the inaugural session Dr. K. Sreenivasrao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri Ved Prakash Gaur, Director (Official Language), Ministry of Culture delivered the introductory speech. The session was chaired by Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Girish Shankar, Secretary, Department of Official Language, Min-

istry of Home Affairs, Government of India inaugurated the Seminar.

In his inaugural speech, Sri Girish Shankar said that Hindi language written as Official Language is quite different with the language, which is used for Hindi literature. We may say it a technical language. Even it is not spoken language also. Sri Gaur stated the condition and directions of Official Language today and said that Hindi is a language of human and cultural unity, but we have to be careful to use it as a language of translation. It is also necessary that we should use simple language.

In his presidential speech, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari said that we are in lack of the feeling of national integrity. We live in a diverse country, but our language should be single, as our flag is single. We should take efforts and practice to speak and write in Hindi. It is unfortunate, that we just celebrate Hindi weeks/fortnights only and satisfied with it.

The first session was focused on 'The



L-R. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, K. Sreenivasarao, Girish Shankar, V.P. Gaud and Devendra Kumar Divesh

Implementation of Official Language: Its States and Directions' chaired by Prof. Kesarilal Verma, Director, Central Hindi Directorate. Participants included Dr. Jaiprakash Kardam, Director, Central Hindi Training Institute and Dr. Jyotish Joshi, Editor, Lalit Kala Akademi.

Dr. Jyotish Joshi expressed his anxiety regarding the bad situation of the implementation of Official Language. He said that the work of implementation of Official Language and the officials concerned with are not taken seriously. We are just accommodating the burden of English for the sake of our jobs. Dr. Goswami stated that the policies of Official Language are not implemented appropriately, and this is only for the lack of the firm willingness and pressure of high level authorities. He said that we should avoid to be dependent on translations only. In his presidential speech, Prof. Kesarilal Verma stated about the plan and projects being operated by the Commission for Scientific and Technical terminology. He said that in supervision of the Commission various scholars were prepared subjectwise and Administrative terminology. Commission always stresses to use on simple words and language.

The second session was focused on 'Implementation of Official Language: Different Dimensions' chaired by Prof. Ganga Prasad Vimal, distinguished Hindi writer and Ex-Director, Central Hindi Directorate. Participants included Dr. A. Arvindakshan, Dr. Rita Rani Paliwal and Dr. Chandam Ingo Singh, who presented their papers on the implementation of Official language in Southern India; Northern India and North-Eastern India respectively.

Dr. Chandam presented brief history of Hindi activities and also stated the present scenario regarding Hindi in all the states of North-Eastern India. He said that though

Hindi is popular and getting much more reception in North-East and literature is being written, but status of the implementation of Official Language is not satisfactory. Dr. Arvindakshan said that in southern states of India, implementation of Hindi as an official language is much satisfactory. The work of implementation offices is adorable. Anyone can see the positive approach towards Hindi in the schools and colleges of South India. Dr. Paliwal said that the status of Official Language in Northern India is not satisfactory. We are not getting rid of imperialism. We don't get suitable material in Hindi medium, as in English. In his presidential remarks, Dr. Vimal said that the question of implementation of Official Language is not being solved yet, however in India, most of the works are being done in Hindi.

All the offices associated with TOLIC, Delhi (Centre) were invited to take part in the seminar. All the offices were involved to organize Rajbhasha celebrations in their offices, in spite of this, many offices attended the seminar actively. All the sessions of the seminar were conducted by Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty (Programme), who was the Incharge of the Official Language Implementation in the Akademi.

SEMINAR ON MEDIEVAL RAJASTHANI LITERATURE

22-23 September 2015, Jodhpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in association with Rammat, organized a two-day seminar on 'Medieval Rajasthani Literature' at the Town Hall Art Gallery in Jodhpur on September 22-23, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr Arjun Deo Charan, Convener, Rajasthani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi,

in his introductory address, stressed upon the necessity for the young scholars to first acquaint themselves with the millennium old traditions of Rajasthan. Dr Dev Kothari, who was the Chief Guest, talked about variety of medieval literary productions of Rajasthan and alluded to millennium old dohas and other materials of that period. In his keynote address, Dr Chandraprakash Deval observed that Rajasthan has been in the forefront so far as preservation is concerned and it is time for the concerned to highlight this achievement. The first session was chaired by Dr. Gajesingh Rajpurohit and papers were presented by Dr. Gajadaan Chaaran, Syam Sunder Bharti and Meenakshi Borana. The second session was chaired by Dr. Kundan Mali and the papers were presented by Dr. Rajendra Baarhat, Dr. Jagdish Giri and Dr. Prakash Amravat. The third session was chaired by Dr. Narpatsingh Sodha and papers were presented by Dr. Gajsingh Rajpurohit, Girdhardaan Ratna, Rajendar Kumar Vyas. The fourth session was chaired by Dr. Mangat Badal and poet Dr. Idan Singh Bhati presented several illustrations of the revival of Dingal poetry. Dr. Dhananjay Amravat presented a paper on the religious proclivity of medieval chaarans and participants included Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Zahoor Khan, Sohandaan Charan and Farooq Afridi. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Kiran Nahta.

SYMPOSIUM ON NEPALI LYRICAL POETRY
24 September 2015 at Geyzing (West Sikkim).

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Paschim Sikkim Sahitya Prakashan, organized a symposium on Nepali lyrical poetry on September 24, 2015 at Geyzing.

The inaugural session was chaired by Shri Pradyumya Shreshtha Member, Nepali Advisory Board Sahitya Akademi and the key

note address was delivered by Sri Thiru Prasad Nepal, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi. He traced the journey of Nepalese poetry and found it to be rich in expressions. While welcoming Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced the topic. He said poetry adds meaning to life. The business session was presided over by Bhupendra Adhikari. Participants include Sachin Rai, Sri Vijay Kumar Subba and Sri Kamal Regmi.

SEMINAR ON NON FICTIONAL PROSE OF BODO LITERATURE, ITS PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

25 September 2015, Dudhnoi, Assam

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar on “Non Fictional Prose of Bodo Literature, Its Past Present and Future” in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha on 25 September 2015 at Dudhnoi College, Dudhnoi, Goalpara, Assam.

In the inaugural session, the welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region and the introductory address was delivered by Sri Dr Premananda Machahary, Convener of the Bodo Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. The seminar was inaugurated by Sri Kameswar Brahma, President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The keynote address was delivered by Sri Bisweswar Baumatary, Vice President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha with Gopal Phukan, Principal of Dudhnoi College. The vote of thanks was proposed by Kamala Kt. Mushahary, General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

While in the first session papers were presented by Smt Indira Boro and Smt Swarna Prabha Chainary with Sri Bhupen Narzaree in the chair, in the second session, papers were

presented by Sri Jibeswar Koch and Sri Phukan Ch. Basumatary with Dr Anil Boro in the chair.

SYMPOSIUM ON FOLK-BALLAD OF RAJASTHAN
25 September, 2015, Shridungargarh

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Rashtrabhasha Hindi Prachar Samiti, Shridungargarh organized a Symposium on Rajasthani Folktales in the Sanskriti Bhawan auditorium, Shridungargarh on September 25, 2015. Chief Guest for the event was Dr. Sohandaan Charan while speakers included Prithviraj Ratnu, Dr. Bhawar Singh Samaur, Rameshwar Godara and others.

SEMINAR ON NON-FICTIONAL PROSE OF BODO LITERATURE – ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

September 25, 2015, Dudhnoi

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office organized a seminar on 'Non Fictional Prose of Bodo Literature – Its Past, Present and Future' in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha on 25 September 2015 at Dudhnoi College, Assam. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge delivered the welcome address and the introductory address was delivered by Sri Premananda Machahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. Sri Kameswar Brahma, President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha inaugurated the seminar and the keynote address was given by Sri Bisweswar Baumatary, Vice President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha with Sri Gopal Phukan, Principal of Dudhnoi College. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Smt. Kamala Kt. Mushahary, General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Noted

scholars such as Smt. Indira Boro and Smt. Swarna Prabha Chainary presented papers in the first session with Sri Bhupen Narzaree in the chair. In the second session, papers were presented by Sri Jibeswar Koch and Sri Phukan Ch. Basumatary with Dr. Anil Boro in the chair.

SYMPOSIUM ON NEPALI DRAMA

26 September, Kalimpong

A symposium on Nepali Drama was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong, 26 September 2015. In his welcome address, Sri Prem Pradhan said that Nepali drama should be given the true importance it deserves. Keynote address was given by Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Dean Sikkim University. Inaugural session was chaired by Sri Gyan Sutar, president of the smiti. The academic session was presided over by senior Nepali playwright Sri Nand Hangkim. Papers were presented by Sri Mukti Prasad Upadhyaya, Dr. Krishnaraj Ghatani and Dr. Mamta Lama.

SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN ASSAMESE DRAMA IN CONTEXT TO CONTEMPORARY INDIAN DRAMA

26 September 2015, Kokrajhar, Assam

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office organized a symposium on 'Modern Assamese Drama in Context to Contemporary Indian Drama' in collaboration with the Department of Assamese, Bodoland University, Assam on 26 September 2015. Prof. Hemanta Kr. Baruah, Vice Chancellor of Bodoland University inaugurated the symposium by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Welcome

address was delivered by Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board and Dr. Navjyoti Sarmah gave the introductory address. Dr. Hitendra Kr. Mishra, Associate Professor, NEHU, Shillong. Dr. Satyakam Bothakur chaired the first session in which three noted scholars presented their papers, namely Dr. Jagadish Patgiri, Dr. Naren Patgiri and Dr. Ismail Hussain. The second session had Dr. Bhabendra Kalita in the chair and papers were read by Dr. Binita Bora Devchoudhuri, Dr. Indira Boro Dr. Hemanta Kr. Das and Smt. Runu Devnath. In the valedictory session with Dr. Hitendra Kr. Mishra in the chair, Dr. Sekhar Brahma graced to be the Guest of Honour and the valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Jagadish Patgiri.

SEMINAR ON CONTEMPORARY MANIPURI POETRY

26-27 September 2015, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office conducted a two day seminar on 'Contemporary Manipuri Poetry' in collaboration with The Cultural Forum, Manipur on 26 – 27 September 2015 at Manipur Hindi Parishad Auditorium, Imphal. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the gathering and introduced Prof. Behari Singh who graced to be the chief guest in the inaugural session. Prof. N. Khagendra Singh introduced the theme of the seminar. The inaugural session was chaired by Sri Salam Birendra Singh. Prof. Behari Singh in his address spoke on the richness of Manipuri literature and the importance of encouraging young and aspiring litterateurs. Smt. Kh. Senita Devi, General Secretary of The Cultural Forum proposed a vote of thanks. The first session began with Dr. Saratchandra

Longzomba, Sri K. Radhakumar and Dr. Ng. Ekashini Devi as paper readers who presented papers on 'Trends of Contemporary Manipuri Poetry', 'Modernist Elements in the Poems of Elangbam Nilakanta' and 'Style and Diction of Ashangbam Minaketan's 'Bidai Ashirbad' and 'Asheibagee Nityapad' respectively with Professor Kh. Kunjo Singh in chair. After the lunch, the second session had Sri Th. Tarunkumar, Sri Nando Ningombam and Professor H. Nani Kumar as paper presenters who presented papers on 'Use of Irony and Living Speech in the Poems of Laishram Samarendra', 'Themes and Language of the poems of Sri Biren' and 'Impact of Folklore on the Poems of Arambam Ongbi Memchoubi' respectively with Professor N. Khagendra Singh in the chair. The seminar continued on the second day with Dr K. Bijaylata, Dr M. Tuleshwori, Sri O. Kunjo and Sri Kh. Inaobi as paper presenters in the third session, who presented papers on 'The Innovative Aspects in the Poems of Thangjam Ibopishak', 'Themes and Poetic of R. K. Madhubir's Poems', 'The Structure of the Poems of R. K. Bhubonsana' and 'Mythology in the Poems of S. Lanchenba Meetei' respectively with Sri Kh. Prakash Singh in the chair. Post lunch, the fourth session began with Sri Ph. Khelendro Singh, Sri M. Rajesh, Sri Budhichandra Heisnam and Dr K. Shantibala as paper presenters who presented papers on 'A Critical Study of the Poems of Birendrajit Naorem', 'Themes and Language in the Poems of Raghu Leishangthem', 'Tradition and Modernism in the Poems of Naorem Bidyasagar', and 'The Importance of Poetry in Contemporary Manipuri Literature' respectively with Professor Rajen Toijamba in the chair. At the end of the fourth session, Sri Naorem Ahanjao, life member of the Cultural Forum, Manipur proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON “ROMANTICISM IN BODO POETRY”

27 September 2015, BTAD, Assam

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office organized a birth centenary seminar on Shri Ishan Ch. Mwshahary (1915-2015) and a National Seminar on “Romanticism in Bodo Poetry” in collaboration with the Department of Bodo, Gyanpeeth Degree College, Assam on 27 September 2015 at the college premises. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the participants and the audience. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Anil Boro. Sri Brajendra Kumar Brahma graced to be the chief guest in the inaugural session with Dr Adaram Basumatary in the chair. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Pranab Jyoti Narzary, Secretary, Bodo Dept. Teachers’ Association. In the first session, papers were presented by Dr. Bhowmik Ch. Boro, Dr. Sunil Phukan Basumatary, Sri Birupaksha Giri Basumatary, Dr. Nareswar Narzary and Ms. Rwiroob Brahma with Dr. Bhupen Narzary in the chair. In the second session, papers were read by Dr. Tulon Mwshahary, Dr. Rajendra Kumar Basumatary, Sri Gwgm Brahma Kachary Sri Mihir Kr. Brahma and Ms. Dipali Kherkatary with Sri Janil Kumar Brahma in the chair.

SYMPOSIUM ON POST INDEPENDENCE TRENDS IN NEPALI LITERATURE

27 September 2015, Siliguri

Sahitya Akademi, organized a symposium on Post Independence trends in Nepali literature, in collaboration with Nandi Tiwari Smriti Pratishthan, on September 27, 2015 at Siliguri. Inaugural session was chaired by Sri M.B. Pradhan, noted Nepali writer. Sire Prem Pradhan convenor, Nepali Advisory Board

introduced the topic and key-note address was given by Dr. Jiwan Namdung, distinguished Nepali poet and critic. The academic session of the symposium was presided over by Dr. Jas Yonjan ‘Pyasi’, eminent Nepali writer. Participants included Shri Naresh Chandra Khatri, Shri Jai Cactus, Sri Tejman Baraiyali and Sri Megnath Chettri.

SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN RAJASTHANI STORY

27 September 2015, Bikaner

Sahitya Akademi, in association with Mukti Sanstha, Bikaner organized a symposium on Modern Rajasthani Story on September 27, 2015. Speakers on the occasion included Dr. Arjun Dev Charan, Chief Guest Bhanwarlal Bhramar, Mohd. Alok, Ramswarup Kisan, Madhu Acharya Ashawadi. Vote of thanks was given by veteran theatre artist Suresh Hindustani. Participants included Hiralal Harsh, Sardar ali Cadihar, Atmaram Bhati, Shamim Bikaneri and others.

SYMPOSIUM ON URDU SHAIRI IN TAMIL NADU

27 September 2015, Chennai



Inaugural session of the symposium in progress

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Symposium on 'Urdu Shairi in Tamil Nadu' at New College, Chennai on September 27, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Urdu literature in several parts of the country. Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal chaired the session. Sri Musa Raja inaugurated the symposium and evinced optimism about the future of Urdu poetry in Tamil Nadu. Well-known scholar Dr Sayeed Sajjad Hussain delivered the keynote address and presented a historical overview of Urdu poetry in Tamil Nadu. Sri Mushtaq Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks. First session of the symposium was chaired by Shri. Musa Raja and in the session two well-known scholars Dr. K.H.Kalimullah and Dr. M.Sauduhin presented their papers. Second session was chaired by Dr.Kazi Habib Ahmad. In this session, three well-known scholars, Dr.M.B.Amanullah, Dr. Thaiyab Kiradi and Dr. Muzaffaruddin presented their papers.

SYMPOSIUM ON "G. C. TONGBRA'S PLACE IN MANIPURI DRAMA"

28 September 2015, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office, in collaboration with the Manipuri Literary Society organized a daylong symposium on 'G.C. Tongbra's Place in Manipuri Drama' on 28 September 2015 at Manipur Hindi Parishad Hall, Imphal. Welcoming the huge gathering, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge highlighted his life and literary works. Professor H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, in his address as the Chief Guest, elaborated the rationale of the symposium. Sri Prahlad

Sharma delivered presidential address and Sri L. Deven Singh proposed a vote of thanks. Sri A. Kholchandra, Sri L. Gojen, Sri Ranbir Maugang and Prof. I. S. Kangjam and Sri I. Tinken, Sri Budha Chingtham and Sri L. Dorendra presented their papers in the first and second sessions respectively. Professor E. Dinamani Singh in his chair message of the last session summed up the day's proceedings.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON DINANATH SHARMA

28 September 2015, Gauhati University

The eastern region of Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on Dinanath Sharma in collaboration with the Department of Assamese, Gauhati University, on 28 September 2015 at the University premises. In the inaugural session, the ceremonial lamp was lighted by Sri Hariprasad Sarma, Rector of Gauhati University. Welcome address was delivered by Smt Arupa Barua, General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi. The seminar was inaugurated by Professor Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board. Prof. Dipti Phukan Patgiri of Gauhati University delivered introductory address. Prof. Gobinda Prasad Sarma, eminent writer along with Prof. Taranee Deka of Gauhati University delivered keynote address. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Kamaluddin Ahmed, Associate Professor in Gauhati University. In the academic session, papers were presented by Prof. Tarani Deka, Smt. Jahnvi Devi, Smt. Rekha Rani Devi, Sri Pranjal Sharma Bashishtha, Smt. Sarala Seal Kalita and Sri Jayanta Pathak with Sri Umesh Deka in the chair.

SEMINAR ON INDIAN LITERARY HISTORIOGRAPHY

28-29 September 2015, Tirupati

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Department of English, S.V. University, organized a two day national seminar on Indian Literary Historiography at the University premises in Tirupat on September 28-29, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the importance of the seminar. In his introductory address, Prof Harish Trivedi talked about various attempts at historiography and traced the reasons for their failure. Prof K. Rajagopal, Vice Chancellor of the University, thanked the Akademi for choosing S.V. University to organize a prestigious seminar like this. In his keynote address, Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent scholar, presented a historical overview of literary historiography in India. Prof K. Satchidanandan unveiled the theme of the seminar. Prof Madhurantakam Narendra proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by Prof K. Satchidanandan and compered by Prof P. Kusuma Harinath, three noted scholars, Prof E.V. Ramakrishnan, Prof P.P. Raveendran and Prof Ipshita Chanda, presented their papers highlighting overview of literary historiography in South India, Malayalam literary historiography and overview of Eastern Indian literary historiography, respectively. In the second session that was compered by Prof K. Suma Kiran and chaired by Prof M.A.K. Sukumar, three noted scholars, Prof Gopal Guru, Prof Avadhesh Kumar Singh and Prof Jatindra K. Nayak presented their papers featuring polemics of literary historiography, evolution of Hindi literary historiography and Odia literary historiography, respectively. In

the third session chaired by Prof G.M. Sundaravalli, four well-known scholars, Prof Malashri Lal, Prof Arindam Chakrabarti, Prof Madhurantakam Narendra and Sri Tirupati Rao, presented their papers on English literary historiography, Sanskrit literary historiography and Telugu literary historiography respectively. In the fourth session that was compered by Prof T. Sarada and chaired by Prof E.V. Ramakrishnan, three noted scholars, Sri Lalit Kumar, Ms. Prachi Khandeparkar and Sri Hemant Dave, presented their papers on literary historiography in Maithili, Marathi and Gujarati, respectively. In the fifth session that was compered by Prof P. Usha Rani and chaired by Prof Malashri Lal, three well-known scholars, Dr Esther Syiem, Prof H.S. Shivaprakash and Sri Judhajit Sarkar, presented their papers about literary historiography in North-Eastern languages, Kannada and Bengali, respectively. The valedictory session was moderated by Prof Harish Trivedi. Prof M. Devarajulu, Registrar of the University was the Guest of Honor. A panel discussion featuring Prof K. Satchidanandan, Prof Malashri Lal, Prof Ipshita Chanda and Prof E.V. Ramakrishnan took place analyzing and summing up the proceedings of the seminar. Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON YOUNG WRITING IN TAMIL
September 30 & October 1, 2015, Madurai

he sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in association with the Department of Tamil, Lady Doak College, Madurai, organized a two-day seminar on Young Writing in Tamil at the college auditorium in Madurai on September 30, 2015 and October 1, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya

Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote young writers, poets, playwrights and translators across the country and in all the 24 officially recognized languages of India. In his Presidential address, Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the necessity to promote literature by youth as young people are backbone of any civilization. He praised the Akademi for promoting young writing in all the languages and highlighted the impact of Sahitya Akademi's Yuva Puraskar on young authors across the country. In his keynote address, Sri M. Rajendran, Editor, Kanaiyazhi, presented an overview of the evolution of young writing in Tamil over the years and highlighted some of the important young Tamil writers in the current scenario.

In the first session devoted to 'Myself and My Writing' and chaired by Ms. Andal Priyadarshini, three noted young writers, Sri R. Abilash, Sri Ke. Veerapandian and Ms. Lakshmi Saravanakumar talked about their creative world and shared their experiences as creative writers.

In the second session devoted to 'Young Writing Today in Tamil' and chaired by Ms. Tamilselvi, two noted young scholars, Sri Sureshkumara Indrajit and Ms. Chandra, presented their papers on current young writing in Tamil.

In the third session devoted to readings and chaired by Prof P. Sivakami, young staff members of Lady Doak College presented readings of their select short stories and poems.

In the fourth session devoted to 'Promising Young Writing' and chaired by Sri N. Sivasubramanian, three noted young writers, Sri B. Anandakumar, Sri K. Parthibha Raja and Sri Stalin Rajangam presented their papers on the theme.

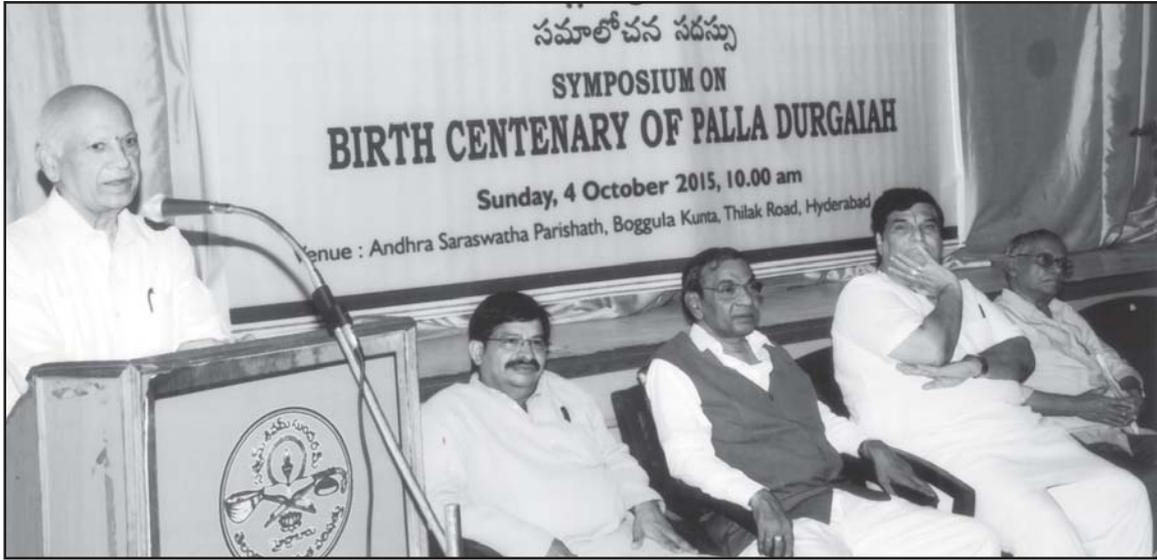
In the fifth session devoted to 'Future of Young Writing in Tamil' and chaired by Sri D. Seenichamy, three noted young writers, Sri N. Jeyabaskaran, Ms. Mubin Sadhika and Ms. Vidhya, presented their papers.

In the valedictory session, Dr. R. Kamarasu, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session, Sri Vannadasan, eminent Tamil writer, delivered the valedictory address, Sri Su. Venkatesan, well-known Tamil writer, presented felicitations and Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON BIRTH CENTENARY OF PALLA DURGAIAH

4 October 2015, Hyderabad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a daylong symposium on the life and literary works of Palla Durgaiyah on 04 October 2015 at Andhra Saraswatha Parishad, Hyderabad. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the participants and the audience. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board in his chair address remarked that Durgaiyah's works were commendable and also recited a few extracts from his poetry. Sri K.V. Ramanachari, Advisor to Telangana Government, in his speech highlighted his qualities and observed that Durgaiyah's works constitute a great treasure of Telangana's literature. Dr. Ammangi Venugopal, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, spoke on the critical observations made by Palla Durgaiyah on various Telugu poets. In the first session, Sri Manasa Chennappa chaired and also presented a paper on Durgaiyah's work 'Gangireddu' wherein Durgaiyah had depicted the travail of poor farmers of Telangana region. Sri Sanganabhatla Narasaiah presented his



L-R: A Ramanujachari, S.P. Mahalingeshwar, N. Gopi, Ammangi Venugopal and other seen

paper on 'The Development of Prabandha Literature: A Research of Palla Durgaiiah' and he elaborated on the fine analysis and commentary contained in the treatise. In the second session that was chaired by Sri Bhoji Vijaya Bharathi, papers were read by Sri Gannamaraju Girija Manohara Babu and Sri Chenna Keshava Reddy. Sri Gannamaraju's paper threw light on the way how Durgaiiah had depicted the pitiable state of farmers and Sri Chenna Keshava Reddy's paper made a deep analysis on Durgaiiah's lyrics. Dr. N. Gopi chaired the valedictory session and Sri C. Narayana Reddy, Fellow of Sahitya Akademi graced to be the chief guest of that session. Sri Narayana Reddy expressed his delight for having come forward to celebrate the birth centenary of a forgotten literary doyen. Sri Mamidi Harikrishna, Director, Department of Language & Culture, Government of Telangana, was the Guest of Honour and he remarked that he was elated at the literary activities that were being held in the newly formed Telangana state.

SYMPOSIUM ON NAVAN PUNJABI NOVEL
9 October 2015, Moga (Punjab)

A symposium on 'Navan Punjabi Novel' was organized by Sahitya Akademi on 9th October 2015 at Jagat Sewak Khalsa College for Women, Mahina, Moga. Dr. Surinder Kumar Daweshwar, Punjab University, Chandigarh chaired the programme and Harsimran Singh Randhava, KurukShetra University, Haryana was the guest of honour. Papers were presented by Surjint singh, Surjit Barar and Raman Sharma. Baldev Singh Sadaknama, Punjabi Advisory Board Member of Sahitya Akademi welcomed and convened the programme on behalf of Sahitya Akademi.

**SEMINAR ON BEYOND THE WRITTEN:
CONFLUENCE OF AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS**
9-10 October, 2015, Gangtok

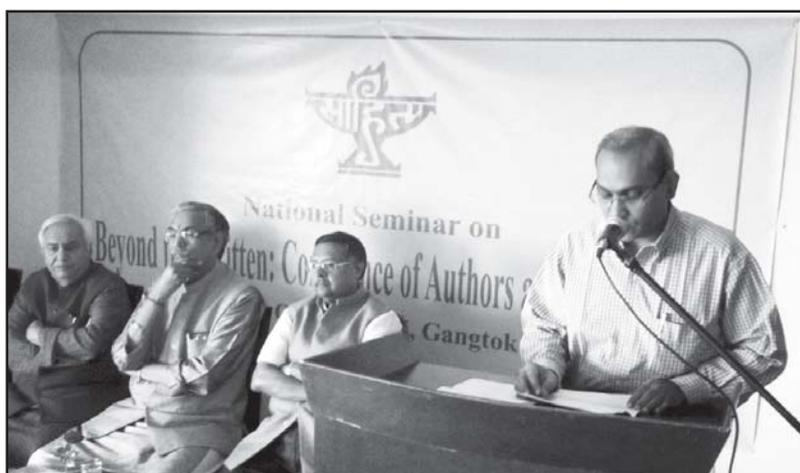
Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a seminar on Confluence of Authors and

Publishers featuring eminent authors, publishers and media personalities on October 9-10, 2015 at Tara Palace in Gangtok.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about the background in which the Seminar is taking place – emergence of digital publishing, mobile publishing etc and challenges they pose, especially for vernacular publishing. In his introductory remarks, Sri Arun Maheswari, Member, General Council, talked about the problems and challenges that publishers in India face from digital publishing and enumerated the details. He also highlighted the problem of sales that all the publishers face and the underlying reason of declining readership across the country, especially among the youth of the country. In his Presidential address, Dr Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust India, applauded Sahitya Akademi for taking initiative to bring together publishers and authors in this hour of crisis and also for agreeing to host more conferences in future across India. He talked about despite rapid advances of digital technology and modern innovative tools for reading and writing, the traditional printed books hold several advantages and urged the publishers, organizations like Sahitya Akademi, departments of Ministries in the government of India to take more initiatives to inculcate healthy reading habits in the children and youth of the country instead of telling all the time that reading habit has declined in the country. He agreed with Dr Sreenivasarao in

that writing and publishing fraternity should seriously deliberate on Richard Dawkins' assertion that science should also be treated as part of literature. He hoped this effort by Sahitya Akademi will bear wonderful fruits. In his speech, Sri Leeladhar Jagoori, eminent Hindi writer who was also the Guest of Honour of Seminar, talked about the necessity of publishers to be more helpful to the writing community in the process of production, monetarily and in all other ways. This is essential since print or digital are ways of production and at all costs writers' interests should be protected, preserved and promoted. Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Initial Phase of Publishing in Indian Languages' and chaired by Sri Arunesh Neeran, three noted editors and publishers, Sri Harsha Datta, Sri Deepchand Sankhla and Sri Ramgopal Sharma, presented their papers focusing on 'the history of book publishing in Bengal,' 'the history of book publishing in the Hindi speaking world' and 'the history of book publishing in India and impact it made on



K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivering the welcome address

the country' respectively. In the second session that was devoted to 'Publishing in Indian Languages in 21st century: Challenges and New Directions' and chaired by Sri Prakash Dubey, two noted editors and publishers, Ms. Neeta Gupta and Sri A. Krishna Rao, talked about the publishers' point of view and the writers' perspectives on the issue and challenges before the writers, respectively. In the third session that was devoted to 'Challenges in Promoting Book Culture and Role of Media' and chaired by Sri Prakash Dubey, two media personalities, Sri Rajeev Ranjan Nag and Sri Anant Vijay, presented their papers. Sri Rajeev Ranjan Nag focused on 'Digital Media's Role in Promoting Book Culture in India' and highlighted the needs and challenges in this regard. He also talked about the influence and impact of newer technologies in reading habits, especially among youth in the country and Media's role in promoting good literature. Sri Anant Vijay, in a powerful speech, listed out the problems and challenges in the writing community, problems faced by the media houses in devoting spaces for literary events of literary organizations and literary communities' unwillingness to embrace and adopt new technologies. A brief interactive session followed the presentations. Dr K. Sreenivasarao summed up the day's proceedings and proposed a vote of thanks. Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi initiated the proceedings of the second day and welcomed and introduced the participants of two sessions of the day. In the fourth session devoted to 'Relation between publisher and writers: Problem of copyright' and chaired by Prof Shafey Kidwai, three noted scholars, Prof Arun Kamal, Sri Arun Jakhade and Sri Akhilesh presented their papers. Prof Kidwai outlined the changing relationship between writers and publishers and also between writers and readers. Prof Kidwai highlighted challenges

before the authors and publishers and especially that of copyright. He said copyright act has fixed period of copyright but e-books are forever and wondered if that means copyright is forever. Prof Arun Kamal, in his speech highlighted the issues of copyright, royalty in the publishing sector in Indian languages. He said interests of the writers and monetary benefits they deserve should be protected and promoted. He observed that like in England and other countries writers' forum or trust or association should be created in India and institutions like Sahitya Akademi should come forward to fulfil this. Prof Arun Kamal said good relationship between authors and publishers is essential for welfare of writers of all genres and ensuring production of quality books. Sri Arun Jakhade, in his speech outlined number of ways to improve the relationship between authors and publishers and observed that publishers should be considerate towards authors when it comes to the issues like copyright and royalty. He also highlighted the changing nature of commercial interests of the writers and this is akin to the role reversal and is a worrying trend. He highlighted publishers' perspective of copyright issue. Sri Akhilesh, in his speech highlighted the problems faced by the writers at the hands of publishers. A brief but lively interactive session followed the presentations. In the fifth and final session of the seminar devoted to 'New Dimensions of Publishing: E-Books and Social Media' and chaired by Sri Maalan, three noted scholars, Sri Suresh Rituparna, Ms. Devapriya Roy and Sri Thiru Prasad Nepali, presented their papers. Sri Maalan, in his speech outlined the advantages and disadvantages of the electronic publishing and observed that print books will hold their space in publishing world. Sri Maalan highlighted that print and electronic versions are ways of production and what holds key

is quality content. Sri Suresh Rituparna, in his speech observed that tensions between authors and publishers will always exist and harmonious relationship will ensure quality productions. Sri Suresh Rituparna stated that even technology is changing and despite all the benefits and advantages that technology provides to publishing, it is too premature to call for the demise of print books. He said however technology has changed the perspectives of publishing and it will be prudent for both publishers and authors use it effectively. Sri Suresh Rituparna highlighted man is the center and important and all technology is there to serve humanity and not the other way around and it is important humans use technology effectively for betterment of humanity. Ms. Devapriya Roy, in her speech talked about the adaptability by authors and publishers to newer technologies. She illustrated how technology and social media helped in her writing her own work – something that is a physical, print book. She talked about many advantages that social media and e-books provide to authors, readers and publishers in India. Sri Thiru Prasad Nepal, in his speech observed that it is print books that are real and not the digitally produced books as the latter can never give the experience of reading a book. He highlighted both in the print publishing and digital publishing the relationship between authors and publishers have been smooth in the world of Indian-Nepali Writing. Sri Thiru Prasad talked about social media as a social instrument is only capable of reflecting the society and reality and reminded writers the quality of a book does not lie in the print or digital production but in the writer. A brief and lively interactive session followed the presentations. Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON LIFE AND WORKS OF PANDIT N. KHELCHANDRA SINGH

10 October 2015, Imphal

The eastern region of Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Manipur Sahitya Parishad organized a daylong symposium on the 'Life and Works of Pandit N. Khelchandra Singh' on 10 October 2015 at Government Dance College, Imphal. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge delivered welcome address and briefly outlined the literary achievements of Pandit N. Khelchandra Singh. Prof. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board in his introductory remarks revealed the multi faceted personality of Pandit Singh. Sri Th. Tombi Singh in his Presidential address asserted Pandit's relevance to the contemporary society of Manipur. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. L. Sadananda Singh of Manipuri Sahitya Parishad. In the first session that was chaired by Sri R.K. Jhalajit Singh, papers were read by Sri B. Kulachandra Sharma, Sri N. Indiramani and Dr. Th. Ibohambi Singh. The papers focused on the multitude contributions to Manipuri culture and literature. Prof. N. Tombi Singh chaired the second session and papers were presented by Sri L. Sharatchandra Singh, Sri Birachandra and Dr. Y. Kunjabihari Singh. Paper readers focused on the lesser known aspects of Pandit Khelchandra. The symposium ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Priyobrato Singh.

SEMINAR ON HUMOUR AND SATIRE IN DOGRI LITERATURE

10-11 October 2015 at Jammu

A two-day literary seminar jointly organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Dogri Sanstha, Jammu on the topic 'humour and

satire in Dogri literature.’ The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor, Central University, Jammu at KL Sehgal Hall, Jammu.

Congratulating the organizers for this first ever seminar on such an important topic, Prof. Aima said that it was obligatory on the part of CUJ to work for the promotion of one of the major languages of the Region. The inaugural session of the seminar started with welcome address by Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi introduced the subject of the seminar and gave an introduction of the papers to be presented. Dr Veena Gupta, former HoD, Dogri



L-R. Veena Gupta, Lalit Magotra, Ashok Aima, Chhatrapal, Nirmal Vinod and Devendra Kumar Devesh

Department, University of Jammu, read the key note address highlighting the prevalence of humour and satire in both folk as well as written literature of Dogri . The inaugural session was presided over by Sri Chhatrapal, President, Dogri Sanstha and conducted by Dr. Nirmal Vinod, General Secretary of Dogri Sanstha.

Two paper reading sessions were held on first day of the seminar. First session was presided over by Prof. Champa Sharma. Three papers were presented in the session on poetry by Sri Prakash Premi, Sri Surjit Hosh and Dr. Bansi Lal. In the second session Sri Susheel Begana and Sri Sunil Sharma read their papers on Dogri Ghazal and Dogri essay. The third paper of Dr. Rajesh Manhas was presented by Dr. Lalit Magotra in his absence. This session was presided over by eminent poet and intellectual Dhyan Singh.

Second day, first session was presided over by renowned poet and Sahitya Akademi awardee Sri Darshan Darshi. Eminent story writer Sri Shiv Mehta read out his paper on the element of humour and satire in Dogri short story quoting various short stories.

The second paper was presented by Dr. Chanchal Bhasin based on her study on Dogri novels. She identified element of satire and humour in Dogri novels and supported her paper with appropriate references.

Second session was chaired by well known litterateur Sri N.D. Jamwal. Three papers were presented by Sri Sandeep Dubey, Sri Raj Kumar Bahrupia and Dr. Rattan Basotra on *Kundaliyaan*, Dogri plays and one act plays respectively.

SYMPOSIUM ON 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PANUGANTI LAKSHMI NARASIMHA RAO
11 October 2015, Guntur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Annamayya

Kalavedika conducted a daylong symposium on the 150th birth anniversary of 'Kavi Sekara' Panuganti Lakshmi Narasimha Rao' on 11 October 2015 at Padmavathi Kalyana Vedika, Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple, Gudur. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru delivered the welcome address. In his presidential address, Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board explored the multifaceted greatness of Sri Panuganti Rao. Dr. Papineni Sivasankar, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, in his keynote address remarked that Panuganti Rao was a source of inspiration to the writers of all ages and explained how prose form gained prominence through the pen of Panuganti. Sri Mandali Buddha Prasad, the Chief Guest and Deputy Speaker, A.P. Assembly, paid floral tributes to the photograph of Panuganti Rao. In his address, he observed that Panuganti Rao was one of the pioneers of modern Telugu Literature. He also added that Panuganti used his literary talents to reform the society. Sri Modugula Ravikrishna proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Sri Modugula Ravikrishna. Sri Ravela Sambasiva Rao in his paper analysed on 'Humour and satire in 'Sakshi Essays' and Dr. S. Raghu read a paper on 'Panuganti as a Social Observer'. The second session was chaired by Sri Penugonda Lakshminarayana. In that session,



Symposium in progress

Dr. Narisetti Venkata Krishna Rao deeply analysed Panuganti's play 'Kanthabharanam'. Smt. Koganti Uma Rani presented her paper on the life of women in his work 'Sakshi Essays'. Sri Talluri Labon Babu in his paper gave a detailed account of 'Diversity in Language in Sakshi Essays'. In the valedictory session, Dr. N. Gopi was the chief guest. Dr. Papineni Sivasankar summed up the day's proceedings. Sri Modugula Ravikrishna proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON KIRAT BABANI 11 October 2015, Mumbai.

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a symposium on the late Kirat Babani, renowned Sindhi writer, translator, and activist, at its auditorium on 11.10.2015. At the outset, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai, welcomed the gathering and participants. He described Babani as a distinctive Sindhi litterateur, a Sahitya Akademi award winner and a wonderful fusion of different personalities. He was an ambassador of Sindhi culture. Ms Kala Prakash while presiding the inaugural session shared her memory of literary interactions with Babani. Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, delivered the key-note address. He opined that Babani was a dancing wave of a river which kept on flowing in spite of obstacles. He strived hard to keep the Sindhi legacy and culture floating after the Partition. He is considered as one of the pillars of Sindhi literature.

The first session was chaired by Laxman Dubey, and Mohan Gehani presented a paper on life and works of Babani. He was closely associated with Babani for sixty years. He opined that there should be a serious debate on various aspects of Babani's life and works.

Jetho Lalwani's paper was pitched on plays and short stories written by Kirat Babani who was awarded by Akademi for his play *Dharti Jo Sad*. The third paper of the session was presented by Sandhya Kundnani which was based on autobiographical writings of Babani.

The second session comprised of paper readers such as Laxman Dubey, whose paper was a review on poetic form of Babani's writing. Hundraj Balwani's paper was on Sindhiyat in Babani's writings. He said that Babani's writings were truly based on Sindhi life sketches. This session was chaired by Meena Rupchandani.

The third session which was chaired by Mohan Gehani witnessed the papers on Babani's contribution to Sindhi Criticism presented by Meena Rupchandani and Babani's travelogue presented by Shobha Lalchandani.

Kala Prakash shared her experience with Babani in the last session dedicated to Moments with Kirat Babani. This session was truly a tribute to Kirat Babani and was also shared by his kith and kin of Babani also.

SEMINAR ON POST-MODERNISM IN INDIAN NEPALI LITERATURE

17-18 October 2015, Darjeeling (W.B.)

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, Darjeeling, organized a two-day seminar on 'Post-modernism in Indian Nepali Literature' on 17-18 October 2015 at Darjeeling. The seminar was inaugurated by Akademi Award winner Nepali writer Sri Nand Hangkhim. The introductory address was given by Sri Prem Pradhan, convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, while Sri Karn Thami, President, Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, presided over the session. Dr Devendra

Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the gathering and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. The session was compered by Sri B. Raj Sunuwar, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Sammelan, who also proposed the vote of thanks at the end of the session. Following Sahitya Akademi publications were also released by the esteemed guests: *Murjhaye Vriksha* (Hindi translation of the Akademi Award-winning Nepali novel *Udasin Rukhharu* of Prem Pradhan by Omnarayan Gupta), *Paryavekshan* (Hindi translation of the Akademi Award-winning Nepali criticism of Jiwan Namdung by Kharagraj Giri), *Yo Prachin Veena* (Nepali translation of O.N.V. Kurup's anthology of Malayalam poems by Monika Mukhia), *Bharatiya Nepali Ekanki Sanchayan* (anthology of Nepali one-act plays, edited by Krishna Pradhan) and *Chowrang* (Nepali translation of the Akademi Award-winning Konkani plays of Pundalik N. Nayak by Bhanu Chhetri). First session of the seminar was chaired by Dr. Jiwan Namdung, well-known Nepali poet and critic. Sri Arjun Pradhan, Ms. Monika Mukhia and Dr Raj Kumar Chhetri presented their papers on



L-R. Manika Mukhia, Jeewan Namdung, Bhanu Chhetri, Prem Pradhan, Nand Hangkhim, Karn Thami and D.K. Devesh

‘Influence and consequences of Post-modernism in Indian Nepali Literature’, ‘Theoretical aspects of Post-modernism in Indian Nepali Literature’ and ‘Post-modernised writings in reference to the Contemporary Indian Nepali Literature’ respectively. Sri Laxman Srimal, noted Nepali writer, chaired the second session of the seminar. Dr Bina Hangkhim, presented her paper titled ‘Post modernism in Indian Nepali poetry’, while other paper on ‘Post-modernism in Indian Nepali Play’ was presented by Dr Navin Paudyal. Third session of the seminar was chaired by Dr Gokul Sinha. Dr Binesh Pradhan presented his paper on the topic ‘Post modernism in Indian Nepali novels’, while Sri Gyan Bahadur Chhetri talked on ‘Post modernized Nepali literature in North-Eastern India’. Sri C. K. Rai, member, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

SYMPOSIUM ON CONTEMPORARY POETIC GENRES AND SANSKRIT POETRY
October 18, 2015, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with Gujarat Arts and Science College, Ahmedabad, organized a daylong symposium on Contemporary Poetic Genres and Sanskrit Poetry in Ahmedabad on October 18, 2015. Dr Radhavallabh Tripathi, Convener, Sanskrit Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired over the first session. In the session, Sri Gautam Patel presented a paper ‘Gujarat ka Adhunik Samskrut Sahitya,’ Sri Abhirajan Rajendra Mishra presented a paper on ‘Adhunik Samskrut Mahakavya,’ Sri Ramakant Shukla on ‘Adhunik Samskrut Geethikavya’ and

Manujlata Sharma on ‘Hardik tanka evam seejokavya’ and Prof Arunendra Singh Rathore was the Chief Guest. Sri Vijay Pandya chaired the second session while Sri Harshdev Madhav presented a paper ‘Samskrut mei monoimage kavita’ and Sri Manibhai Prajapati presented a paper on ‘Adhunik Samskrut Sahitya aur vidhaye’ respectively.

BIRTH-CENTENARY SEMINAR ON FATURANANDA
18 October 2015, Bhubaneswar

The eastern region of Sahitya Akademi celebrated the birth centenary of Sri Phaturananda by organizing a daylong seminar on 18 October 2015 at Bhubaneswar. Dr. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, delivered welcome address. Sahitya Akademi’s Odia Advisory Board Convener Dr. Gourahari Das introduced Phaturananda’s life to the audience. Sri Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, Editor of Sambad inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Bijayananda Singh, Member of Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered keynote address and elaborated the multiple aspects of Phaturananda. Odisha Sahitya Academy President Sri Satkadi Hota presided over the seminar. In the first session



Inaugural session of the seminar in progress

that was chaired by Prof. Srinivas Mishra, Dr. Laxmikanta Tripathy discussed the poems of Phaturananda and Smt. Radhu Mishra talked on his autobiography. Dr. Bibhuti Patnaik chaired the second session wherein Prof. Ajay Kumar Patnaik discussed his translation works and Sri Mrunal Chatterjee spoke on 'Phaturananda Katha Sahitya and Sishu Sahitya'. Sri Pitabas Routray chaired the valedictory session and Prof. Nikhilananda Panigrahi delivered valedictory address.

SYMPOSIUM ON ACHARYA KSHEMCHANDRA 'SUMAN'

October 21, 2015, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Seminar on the Birth Centenary of distinguished writer and editor, Sri Kshemchandra 'Suman'. The symposium was chaired by eminent litterateur Sri Shyam Singh Shashi and the introductory speech was given by Indra Sengar. Others who presented their papers include Parmanand Panchal, Sudhesh, Hari Singh Pal and Dharmapal Arya.

It was emphasized that Kshemchandra 'Suman' was an accomplished writer whose huge body of work is unmatched. The welcome address was given by Brajendra Tripathi and the vote of thanks was given by Hindi Editor Sri Kumar Anupam.

SEMINAR ON 'NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND ASSAMESE LITERATURE'

28 October 2015, Guwahati

The eastern region of Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Assamese Department of Cinnamara College organized a seminar on 'National Consciousness and Assamese

Literature' on 28 October 2015 as part of Silver Jubilee celebrations of the College. In the inaugural session chaired by Dr. Ananda Saikia, Dr. Anjan Saikia, Principal of the College delivered welcome address and on behalf of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, welcomed the participants and the audience. Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora, Ex – President of Asom Sahitya Sabha inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Madan Sarma of Tezpur University delivered keynote address. Sri Dipen Nath proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora, Dr. Kusumbor Baruah and one of the College staff presented their papers on the creative and musical literature of Assam. In the second session, Sri Durlav Chandra Mahanta was in the chair and papers were presented by Sri Rajib Borah and Sri Padmaloson Nath on reflection of national consciousness in the socialistic thoughts found in Assamese poetry and literature. In the valedictory session chaired by Sri Ananda Saikia, Dr. Pradip Kumar Baruah delivered valedictory address and the seminar concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Bornali Borthakur.

SEMINAR ON WOMEN'S DISCOURSE IN SANSKRIT LITERATURE

29-30 October 2015, Sagar

A two day seminar was organized by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in association with the Sanskrit Department of Shri Hari Singh Gaur University on 29th and 30th October, 2015. Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi was the keynote speaker at the event. The chief guest for the event was Prof. Saashi Prabha Kumar, the Chancellor of Sanchi University. The inaugural address was given by Prof. Anand Prakash Tripathi. The first

session had speakers like Dr. Naunihal Gautam, Dr. Sukhdev Vajpeyi, it was chaired by Sri Ramratan Pandey. The second session was chaired by Prof. Umarani Tripathi, Dr. Ramhet Gautamey. Dr. Poornachandra, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Dr. Shashi Kumar Singh read the research papers. In the closing session the chief guest Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra said that women is a symbol of power. Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi said we need a society where man and woman exist equally. And literature that is written for the welfare of the society never goes waste. Prof. Kusum Bhuria Dutta chaired the fourth session in which Prof. Saroj Kaushal, Prof. Manjulata Sharma, Dr. Archana Choudhary, Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Singh Dev read their research papers. The vote of thanks was given by Prof. A. L. Tripathi.

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**SYMPOSIUM ON NINETEENTH CENTURY URDU
NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES**
October 31, 2015, Mumbai

On 31st October 2015, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a symposium on Nineteenth Century Urdu Newspapers and Magazines' Linguistic Study at Mumbai. Inaugural session of this symposium was chaired by Begam Abida Inamdar, Head of Deccan Muslim Institute, Pune. Keynote address was given by famous Urdu thinker and critic Shamim Tariq. He spoke about various aspects of nineteenth century Urdu magazines and newspapers. He told that Urdu



Inaugural session of the seminar in progress

Journalism has never left the peace and tranquility, and participated in the freedom fight. In this session Sayeed Yahya Nisheeth presented an article. Sahitya Akademi's Program Officer Dr. Mushtaq Sadaf welcomed the participants and audience. Begam Abida Inamdar gave an inaugural speech thanking Sahitya Akademi for giving us an opportunity to think about the previous years' Urdu newspapers and magazines. Second session was headed by Urdu Daily 'Inqilaab', Mumbai's editor Shahid Latif. In this session, Salim Shahzaad, Athar Ajiz and Shakil Rasheed presented their papers.

HALBI LANGUAGE CONVENTION 31 October 2015, Jagdalpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Bastar University, Jagdalpur, Chattisgarh organised a Halbi Language Convention at Jagdalpur, Chattisgarh. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address while the inaugural address was delivered by Dr. N.D.R. Chandra, Vice-Chancellor, Bastar University. Dr. Ramsingh Thakur, noted Halbi poet was the Guest of Honour in the inaugural session while Prof. Anvita Abbi, Director, Centre for Oral and Tribal Literature, Sahitya Akademi presided over the inaugural session. Two Halbi language books translated into Hindi titled Lakshmi Jagar by Harihar Vaishnav and Andhkar Ka Desh by Sonsingh Pujari, published by the Akademi were also released during the occasion. Apart from inaugural session there were four more session where a number of writers/scholars have participated and presented their papers on different aspect of Halbi language and literature as well as presented their poems and short stories. In the first session that was chaired by Prof

Harihar Vaishnav, five noted scholars, Yashvanth Gautam, Vikram Soni, Shivkumar Pandey, Baldev Patra and Khem Vaishnav presented their papers focusing on Written Halbi Literature, Evolution of Halbi language and script, Relationship between Halbi and Chattisgarhi, Culture of Halbi and Halba and World View of Halbis, respectively. In the second session that was chaired by Prof Mahendra Kumar Mishra, five noted scholars, Subash Pandey, Balbir Singh Kutch, Narayan Singh Baghel, Rudranarayan Panigrahi and Rupendra Kavi, presented their papers focusing on Past, Present and Future of Halbi culture, Halbi lok sangeet, Halbi parivesh ke lok nrtya, Halbi parivesh ke tyauhar evam utsav and sociological understanding of Halba communities, respectively. In the third and fourth session devoted to Story Reading and Poetry Recitation, two fiction writers read out their stories and twelve noted poets recited their compositions, respectively. The Akademi has also organised Loka: The Many Voices programme where four different local folk groups performed the traditional folk songs and dances of Chattisgarh

SYMPOSIUM ON GURAJADA'S LITERARY CRITICISM 1 November 2015, Srikakulam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Telugu Department of Gurajada Educational Society organized a daylong symposium on "Gurajada's Literary Criticism" on 01 November 2015 in Srikakulam. Sri Suresh Kumar, Programme Assistant, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the audience and dignitaries. Sri N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the inaugural session and spoke on Gurajada's literary

reforms. Sri G.V. Swamy Naidu, Chairman of Gurajada Educational Society delivered the inaugural address.

Sri Rachapalem Chandrasekhara Reddy, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his keynote address analyzed his greatest work 'Kanyasulkam'. Sri Ampalam Srinivasa Babu proposed a vote of thanks in the inaugural session. Sri Attada Appala Naidu chaired and presented a paper on 'A Review of the Literary Criticism on Gurajada's Short Story' in the first session. Two other scholars, Sri B.V.A. Rama Rao presented a paper on 'Gurajada's Life and Literary Personality' and Sri Kalidasu Purushottam presented a paper on 'A Review of the Literary Criticism on "Kanyasulkam"' in the first session. Sri Ganteda Gowri Naidu chaired and presented a paper on 'A Review of the Literary Criticism on Gurajada's Poetry' in the second session. Two other scholars, Sri A. Gopala Rao presented a paper on 'A Review on Negative Criticism on Gurajada's Literature' and Sri K. Sanjeeva Rao presented a paper on 'An Evaluation of Gurajada's Literary Criticism' in the second

session. At the end of the second session, a short film "Kamalini" (Gurajada's Diddu Batu) was screened. Dr. N. Gopi chaired the valedictory session. Sri G.V. Swamy Naidu was the guest of honour in the valedictory session. Sri B. Gowrisankar Rao, in his address, summed up the day's proceedings. Sri Phulakandam Srinivasa Rao proposed a vote of thanks.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON SINDHI GHAZALS, PRABHU CHHUGANI 'WAFI'
1-2 November 2015,

Sahitya Akademi, to commemorate the Birth Centenary of pioneer of Sindhi Ghazals, Prabhu Chhugani 'Wafi', organized a seminar on 1-2 November 2015, at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Sharda Cinema Bldg., MMGS Marg, Dadar (East), Mumbai. In his welcome address, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the participating litterateurs and gave a brief introduction of 'Wafi'. Vasdev Mohi, an eminent Sindhi Poet, in his inaugural address described 'Wafi' as a poet (shayar) of romance. His compositions are like a rhythm. He never cheated with his words. He morphed a Ghazal into a song. He is an inventor of Panchkada, a unique form of poetry consisting of five lines in Sindhi literature. His poems are aesthetic and full of romance. His shayari (poem) is a legacy for Sindhi poets. In his key-note address, Prem Prakash, Convener Sindhi Advisory Board explained the



Symposium in progress

audience the outline of the seminar and its various sessions. The motive behind such sessions is to find the different aspects of writings of 'Wafa'. Akademi feels privileged in organizing such centenary seminars to pay homage to a renowned poet. He described 'Wafa' as a sincere poet. He never wrote travelogue, diary or any other form and stick to his own form of poetry. A reader experiences the coolness of moonlight, twinkling of stars a wave in dark sunlight while reading his poems. His poems are the journey of sentiment. He was influenced by the works of Sindhi poets like Bewas and Nawaz. His poems are included in the Sindhi films. His poems (shayari) are the like color and glow which are the mirror of his emotions.

The inaugural session was followed by release of monograph on Prabhu 'Wafa' written by Mohan Gehani on the hands of Vasdev Mohi and Prem Prakash. Kamla Goklani and Vimmi Sadarangani recited some of the poems of 'Wafa' at the end of inaugural session.

The first session was chaired by Arjan Chawla, a member of Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. The paper presenters were Mohan Gehani, Veena Shringi and Hundraj Balwani. Mohan Gehani, a renowned writer and scholar, presented a paper titled 'Wafa's Life and Poetry'. He gave a conception of Wafa's inclination towards romantism. He brought suffism in Sindhi Poetry. Veena Shringi, a member of Sindhi Advisory board and a writer, gave her review on Wafa's collection of poems Jhankar. His poems depict delicacy, a hope, at the same instance distress. The book includes poems, kafiya, rubai, folk songs etc. The poems from the said collection are included in Sindhi film Abana. She recited some of the rubai's and poems from the book. Her paper was followed the paper of Hundraj Balwani, a renowned Sindhi writer. He gave his assessment on Wafa's book Parvaz (a

collection of poems). The book includes nazm, bait, rubai some poems on children, poems on politics which was a contrast to the form usually written by Wafa.

The second session included the writers like Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal', who chaired the session, Jetho Lalwani, Sandhya Kundnani and Sarita Sharma, the paper readers. Jetho Lalwani evaluated Wafa's collection of poems Surkha Gulab, Surahakhwab which won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981. The collection included the Wafa's creations namely Panchkadas, a poem of five lines. These panchkadas are translated in other Indian Languages also. Sarita Sagar reviewed Tun Sagar Maan Lahar again a collection of poems by Wafa. She described the poems of this collection as the waves of water, the emotions and experience of poet. Sandhya Kundnani gave her assessment on Achalji Unn, a collection of poems written by Wafa in 1992. The book included 73 ghazals, 43 poems, and also the Sindhi folk songs called Ladas and Bhagat. The session ended with reminiscence shared by the family of 'Wafa' which includes his daughters, son-in-laws, sisters etc. Shobha Lalchandani, Nand Jhaveri and Rahul Bijlani were also included in this session. They presented some of the panchkadas of Wafa.

The third session of the seminar which commenced on 2 November 2015 was chaired by Mohan Gehani. The papers were presented by Maya Rahi, Meena Roopchandani and Vinod Assudani. Maya Rahi gave her assessment on Seeja Lahan Te Aahe, a collection of poems by Wafa. The said collection was written by Wafa in his passing age. Wafa's poems which always created a positive vibe amongst reader are little sorrowful and distressed in this collection. Meena Roopchandani, a senior Sindhi writer, gave her thoughts on Luchhe Pai Yaktare Jee Taar,

a collection of Wafa's poems. This book carries 10 panchkadas, 38 ghazals, 13 poems, some Kafiya's etc. These poems takes readers in a musical aura at the same time depict the poet's sorrow of losing motherland. Vinod Assudani, a poet and scholar, presented a paper on Wafa's ghazals. He described Wafa's ghazals as sincere, of human values, soulful, musical and also of sufi values. He compared Wafa's ghazals with the poems of Wordsworth. His ghazals are bearing high sense of aesthetics, are visual imagery, of tactile sense, generates creative energy and are not influenced by post modernism. Mohan Gehani, the chair, concluded that selection and elimination are important in Art and Wafa remains in his own creative zone.

In the fourth session Kamla Goklani presented her paper on Wafa's panchkadas. She said, though panchkadas consist of words, phrases are expressive, soulful, reminds the music of an ocean, a newness of thoughts and touches the heart of a reader. The panchkadas epitomize an example of Shringar Ras, Vibhathsa Ras etc. where a silence is also having a notion. Another scholar Vimmi Sadarangani presented a paper on Wafa's poetry form 'Tissita' which is nothing but a haiku which brings a reality to its existence. The first haiku in Sindhi was written by Wafa. He brings nature in haiku also. He pays tribute to the poets like Shah Latif, Rohal through his haiku's. Khiman Mulani informed the audience about different forms of poems, baits, rubaiys in Wafa's writings. The session was chaired by Maya Rahi.

The fifth and last session comprised of Sindhi poets like Laxman Dubey, Arjan Chawla,

Goverdhan Sharma 'Ghayal and Nand Chhugani and was chaired by Vinod Assudani. Dubey who is also a popular Ghazalkar expressed that Wafa is a guide for a young poet, a thinker and poem is his religion. He is eternal romantic in line with poets like Bewas, Sachal, Shah Latif. He was a worshipper of beauty, nature but was not a philosopher as he believed that philosophy arising out of helplessness. Arjan Chawla presented his paper on aesthetics in Wafa's poems. He said that every poet wants to carve a striking creation and Wafa always adhered with this belief. Wafa is a lover's poet. His poems are sensual. Govardhan Sharma also presented his paper on same line and enlighten about the music in Wafa's poems. His creations have lyricism. Nand Chhugani reviewed Wafa's diversified form as a translator. Wafa, as a translator of Kaleel Jibran's Paigaam stands apart from other Sindhi poets. He did not disturb its originality while translating Paigaam and included some Ikhlaki Nukte also. Vinod Assudani, who chaired the session, opined that eternal poetry is not a mere expression but a process of finding self. Poet sees life with very different angle and has a futuristic vision which can be perceived in Wafa's poetry.



L-R: Khiman Mulani, Maya Rahi, Kamla Goklani and Vimmi Sadarangani

Prem Prakash summed up the seminar by evaluating each paper presented. The seminar was attended by very active, live and scholarly audience.

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BHARATIYA SAHITYA
MEIN DALIT STRI KA CHITRAN AUR
CHINTAYEIN**

2-3 November 2015, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi in association with Kamla Nehru College, Delhi held an seminar on Bharatiya Sahitya Mein Dalit Stri ka Chitran Aur Chintayein on 2-3 November 2015.

CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM ON HAIKU

3 November 2015, Karaikal

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in association with Avvaiyar Government College organized a daylong symposium at the college premises in Karaikal on November 3, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants, audience and other dignitaries and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote various forms of poetry across India and in 24 languages. In his address, Dr R. Sambath, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, who also chaired the inaugural session, traced the similarities between Haiku and ancient Tamil poetry, especially those composed during the Sangam age. He cited the examples of Tholkappiyam, Pathupaattu, Ettu Thogai etc. He highlighted that great Tamil poet of modern India, Sri Subramania Bharathi, has written about Haiku in Sudesamitran and observed that it is very appropriate that Sahitya Akademi is

commemorating the centenary of Haiku in Tamil language. He also enumerated on the nature of Haiku and grammar involved. Prof V. Anandhan, Principal, Avvaiyar Government College for Women, offered felicitations, thanked the Akademi for organizing the symposium in the college and appealed to the Akademi to organize more literary events in Karaikal. Prof V. Anandhan released the book on poet Kambathasan, published by Sahitya Akademi and Sri Sayubu Maraiakar, noted Tamil writer received the first copy. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the forms of Haiku and proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session, Dr N. Ilango, Head, Dept. of Tamil, Avvaiyar Government College for Women, chaired the session and presented a paper on 'Social Thoughts in Haiku.' He drew parallels between Haiku and ancient Tamil poetry and also cited the examples of Koans. In the session, two noted poets, Sri Thamizh Nenjan and Ms. G. Thenmozhi, presented their papers on 'Origin of Haiku - Puducherry' and 'Outcry in Haiku' respectively. Both the papers focused on various forms of Haiku expressions, their social relevance in 21st century and the benefits of Haiku over traditional poetry in the modern world. The second session was chaired by Sri Seenu Thamizhmani, noted Haiku poet and presented a paper on 'Genre of Haiku.' He highlighted various types of Haiku written by Haiku poets of Puducherry. In the session, two noted Haiku poets, Ms. Oviyam Thamizhselvi and Sri Pa. Thirunavukarasu, presented their papers 'Haiku-A Feminist Approach' and 'Haiku-An Aesthetic Approach' focusing on the role of women poets in the genre of Haiku and a number of aesthetic elements present in Haiku, respectively. A large number of writers, scholars and poets from Karaikal attended the symposium.

SEMINAR ON “ODIA NOVEL”
8 November 2015, Tulasipur, Cuttack

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Sarala Sahitya Sansad organized a seminar on “Odia Novel” on 8 November 2015 at Sarala Bhawan, Cuttack. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, delivered the welcome address. Sri Pravakar Swain of Sarala Sahitya Sansad was in the chair. Dr. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave introductory remarks. Prof. Sabita Pradhan of Visva Bharati University delivered keynote address. Smt. Pratibha Ray graced to be the guest of honour in the inaugural session. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Rabinarayan Senapati, three eminent scholars, Sri Hemanta Kumar Das, Sri Premananda Mahapatra and Smt. Sulochana Das presented their papers. In the second session, Sri Bipin Bihari Mishra was in the chair and two noted scholars, Sri Prasanna Kumar Swain and Smt. Sunamani Raut presented their papers. Sri Bairagi Charan Jena chaired the valedictory session and the valedictory address was delivered by Sri Baishnab Charan Samal. Sri Sanjay Kumar Patnaik proposed a vote of thanks.

**SYMPOSIUM ON “MANIPURI WRITINGS
OUTSIDE MANIPUR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO TRIPURA”**
9 November 2015, Agartala, Tripura

Sahitya Akademi organized a The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Manipuri Sahitya Parishad

organized a symposium on “Manipuri Writings outside Manipur with Special Reference to Tripura” on 9 November 2015 at Agartala Press Club, Agartala. Sri Gautam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, delivered the welcome address. The chief guest of the inaugural session was Sri Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, while Sri Suresh Sinha, President of Manipuri Sahitya Parishad was in the chair. Sri Abhiram Sinha proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session, three noted scholars, Smt. Sairta Sinha, Sri Premchandra and Sri Dilip Kumar Sinha presented their papers with Sri Kumar Sinha in the chair. In the second session that was chaired by Sri R.K. Jitendrajit Sinha, three noted scholars, Sri H. Karamjit Sinha, Sri L. Birmangal Sinha and Sri Th. Rathindra Sinha presented their papers.

**SYMPOSIUM ON STORYTELLING AND WOMEN’S
WRITING**
9-10 November 2015, Shillong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the department of English of North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), organized a two-day symposium on ‘Storytelling and Women’s Writing’ at the Old NEHU Guest House in Shillong on November 9-10, 2015. In the inaugural session, Sri Santanu Gangopadhyay, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. In her introductory address, Dr Esther Siyem, talked about the importance of both storytelling and women’s writing in the modern world and the interconnection between them. Prof. Badaplin War, Dean of department of Humanities at the university was the Guest of Honor, Prof. Sukalpa Bhattacharjee, Head, Department of English of the university chaired the session and Prof Suranjana Choudhury proposed a vote of

thanks. In the first two sessions devoted to Storytelling and chaired by Moon Moon Mazumdar and Esther Siyem, six noted scholars, Bibash Choudhury, Arupkumar Dutta, Deepa Balsavar, Rupanjali Baruah, Radhika Menon and Deeyali Nayar, presented their papers. In the third and fourth sessions devoted to Women's Writing and chaired by Mala Ranganathan and Jyotirmoy Prodhani, six noted scholars, Nandana Dutta, Temsula Ao, Anupama Basumatary, Lanosangla, Jahnvi Baruah and Uddipana Goswami, presented their papers.

SEMINAR ON "FOLK CULTURE OF ODISHA"
13-14 November 2015, Berhampur, Ganjam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with the Department of Odia, Berhampur University organized a two day seminar on "Folk Culture of Odisha" at the University premises in Berhampur on 13 – 14 November 2015. Prof. Prasanta Kumar Pathy, Vice-Chancellor (I/C) inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and dignitaries. Dr. Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave introductory remarks. Dr. Pratibha Ray, eminent fictionist was the chief guest in the inaugural session. Prof. Prasanna Kumar Swain proposed a vote of thanks. The first session focused on the topic "Odia Loka Nataka". Prof. Krushna Chandra Pradhan was in the chair and three noted scholars, Dr. Ashok Kumar Tripathy, Dr. Manoranjan Bisoyi and Sri Sidhartha Sankar Padhi presented their papers. In the second session, papers were presented on the topic "Odia Loka Geeta". Dr. Manoranjan Pradhan was in the chair and four noted scholars, Dr. Dwarakanath Nayak,

Sri Pradip Kumar Mishra, Dr. Samir Bhoi and Sri Ranjan Pradhan presented their papers. The seminar continued for the second day. In the third session, "Odia Lokachara" was the subject and Dr. Prasanna Kumar Swain was in the chair. Papers were presented by Sri Ashok Kumar Patnaik, Sri Krushna Chandra Nisanka, Dr. Sarat Kumar Jena and Dr. Simanchala Pradhan. The fourth session was chaired by Dr. Aswini Kumar Panda and the topic was "Odia Loka Kahaani". Papers were presented by Sri Alok Baral, Dr. Dilip Kumar Swain, Dr. Sangram Keshari Rout and Sri Sanjaya Kumar Bag. The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Ashok Kumar Mohanty, Registrar of Berhampur University. Dr. Devi Prasanna Patnaik of Odia Department delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Devi Prasad Satpathy proposed a vote of thanks.

**SYMPOSIUM ON BIRTH CENTENARY OF
PALAGUMMI PADMARAJU**
14 November 2015, West Godavari Dt.,
Andhra Pradesh.

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Rudraraju Foundation organized a daylong symposium on 'Palagummi Padmaraju' to commemorate his birth centenary. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the audience and gathering. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the inaugural session and highlighted Palagummi Padmaraju's literary achievements. Sri R.V.S. Raju, Founder Chairman of Rudraraju Foundation delivered the inaugural address. Smt. C. Mrunalini, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired and presented a paper on 'Padmaraju as Political Writer' in the first session. Two other scholars,

Sri P.L.N. Prasad presented a paper on 'Bathikina College – An Analysis' and Sri Vedagiri Rambabu presented a paper on 'Technique in Short Stories of Padmaraju' in the first session. Sri Rasa Raju chaired the second session and three noted scholars presented their papers. Sri Ch. Kumaraiah's topic was 'Humour in Padmaraju's Writings', Smt. Vadrevu Veeralakshmi Devi's paper focused on 'Influence of English Literature on Padmaraju's Writings' and Sri R.S. Venkateswararao presented a paper on 'Padmaraju's Dramas'. Sri Yendluri Sudhakar delivered the valedictory address and Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON SANTALI CHILDREN LITERATURE

14 November 2015, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on 'Santali Children Literature' at Akademi Auditorium, Sahitya Akademi Regional Office, Kolkata on 14 November 2015. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Regional Office, Kolkata welcomed the gathering. The keynote address was given by renowned Santali writer Sri Badal Hembram. In his address he



Participants of the symposium

mentioned the role of children's literature in the evolution of Santali literature. In this session Sri Purna Chandra Kisku and Sri Bipin Chandra Murmu recited their Santali poems for children, while Sri Panchu Gopal Hembram read out his short story for children. Sri Pradhan Murmu, Secretary ASECA, West Bengal also told a story for children, while proposing the vote of thanks. The first session of the symposium was chaired by Sri Shobha Nath Beshra. Sri Bishwanath Tudu and Sri Saridharam Hansda presented their papers on the topics 'children literature in Primary education' and 'modern trends in children literature.' Sri Beshra concluded the session and talked about contemporary Santali children literature. He said that literature for children should be compiled in such a way that it will not attract them to any superstitions.

SEMINAR ON BIRTH CENTENARY OF BUCHI BABU

15 November 2015, Eluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Sahithi Mithrulu, Eluru organized a daylong seminar on Buchi Babu, to commemorate his birth centenary on 15 November 2015 Hotel Madhulatha Conference Hall, Eluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, delivered the welcome address. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session and spoke on how Buchi Babu's works have been influencing generation of writers from time to time. Sri Lanka Venkateswarulu, President of Sahithi Mithrulu delivered inaugural address and Smt. Sivaraju Subbalakshmi was the guest of honour in the inaugural session. Keynote address was delivered by Smt. Katyayani Vidmahe, eminent Telugu

writer. In the first session, Sri Addepalli Rama Mohana Rao chaired and presented a paper on “Aesthetics in Buchi Babu’s Writings”. Two other scholars, Smt. K.N. Malleswari presented a paper on “Short Stories of Buchi Babu and Family Relations” and Sri Y. Rama Krishna Rao presented a paper on “Chivaraku Migiledi – Stream of Consciousness “in the first session. In the second session, Sri Thallavajjala Patanjali Sastry chaired and presented a paper on “Short Stories of Buchi Babu – Psychological Analysis”. Two other scholars, Sri R. Seetharama Rao presented a paper on “Buchi Babu’s Writings – Existentialism” and Smt. Putla Hemalatha presented a paper on “Essays of Buchi Babu”. The valedictory session was chaired by Sri N. Gopi and Sri Yendluri Sudhakar, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the valedictory address.

SYMPOSIUM ON COMPARISON OF POETS OF MODERN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM
November 20, 2015, Mahe

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi, in association with Sri Narayana College of Education, Mahe, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Comparison of Poets of Modern Tamil and Malayalam’ at the college premises in Mahe on November 20, 2015.

In the inaugural session, Sri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants, audience and other dignitaries and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote various forms of poetry across India and in 24 languages. He observed that symposia of this type are important as they lead to increased understanding between litterateurs of two languages. In his speech, Dr R. Sambath, Member, General Council,

Sahitya Akademi, talked about the similarities and differences in the production, nature, genres indulged in and craft deployed by the modern poets of Tamil and Malayalam. Prof A. Unnikrishnan, Principal, Sri Narayana College of Education, offered felicitations, thanked the Akademi for organizing the symposium in the college premises and talked about essential differences in the literary productions of Tamil and Malayalam. He cited various critical works to substantiate his point. In his keynote address, Dr Ilambharathi, noted translator and Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize recipient, talked at length about commonalities between Malayalam and Tamil literature and observed that enhanced translations between these two languages will lead to increased understanding and greater cooperation. He talked about the genres of stories, novels, poems and criticism in these two languages. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

Sri M. Parameswaran chaired the first session and also presented a paper on ‘Impact of Malayalam Literary and Cultural elements in Sundara Ramasamy’s portrayal of children, women and men.’ Two noted scholars, Sri Nirmalya and Sri Manjakkal Upendiran, presented their papers ‘Poems of Sachithanandhan – Impacts on Modern Tamil Aesthetics’ and ‘Vallatholle and Bharathiyar’ respectively. In the second session, five noted Malayalam poets, Sri A. Gangadharan, Sri Rajan Edayil Peedika, Sri Mukundan Pulari, Sri Jinachandran Chombala and Sri M. Ajaykumar, recited their Malayalam compositions. In the valedictory session, Prof Uru. Asokan chaired and talked about the confluence and influence of Malayalam and Tamil literature. Sri H. Padhmanaban delivered the valedictory address and talked about ‘Regional dialects in Tamil, Malayalam Novels

with special reference to the works of Suryakanthan and M.Mukundan.’ Many noted writers, scholars and poets from Mahe participated in the symposium.

SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN’S CONTRIBUTION TO SINDHI LITERATURE

21 November 2015, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with MARUEE, New Delhi, structured a Symposium on Women’s Contribution in Sindhi Literature at its auditorium at basement hall, Mumbai. While, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai, welcomed the guests speakers and audience. He reiterated the need to organize such women oriented events. Dr Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the symposium. He humorously described that he was the only male litterateur participating in the event meant for Women. He also thanked Akademi for accepting his proposal to organize a woman oriented symposium though there was another literary event of Akademi named Asmita for woman. Veena Shringi, member of Sahitya Akademi’s Sindhi Advisory Board also representing MARUEE, delivered the key-note address. She recounted that Sindhi women contributed to the literature since 1926. Some of the prominent women writers of pre-independence era named Chandra Advani, Guli Sadarangani, Devi Vaswani have written in different genre. The Sindhi literary world is celebrating their centenary. The Sindhi women writer lacks recognition as its men counterpart as they got scattered in post-independence era. Still Popati Hiranandani stands tall in the Sindhi literary circles. Sundari Uttamchandani, Rita Shahani, Kala Prakash expressed the anguish of a women through

their poems, ghazals, short stories etc. Their writings are the mirror of society. The contemporary Sindhi women writer’s viz. Devi Nangrani, Sandhya Kundnani, Ritu Bhatia, Kamla Goklani, Vimmi Sadarangani, Veena Karamchandani tried the different genres such as translation, travelogue, plays etc. Krishna Kimbahune delivered vote of thanks to end the inaugural session.

The first session was chaired by Veena Shringi and paper presenters were Maya Rahi, Devi Nangrani and Sandhya Kundnani. Maya Rahi through the light on the genre poem of Sindhi women litterateur. These poems are thoroughly based on love, emotions etc. Devi Nangrani described that new poem and its prologue is a medium of expression, emotions in Women literature. Sandhya Kundnani specified the genre travelogue in women literature which depicts the memoirs and experiences of a women litterateur. She illustrated some written by Popati Hiranandani, Sundari Uttamchandani, Rita Shahani and Veena Shringi. The second session was chaired by Maya Rahi. Shalini Sagar shared her experience about entering the Sindhi Literary world and how her profession of presenter at AIR helped her in doing so. She believes that women should write while doing any household work. Bharati Kewalramani



Prem Prakash delivering inaugural address
L-R: Krishna Kimbahune, Veena Shringi

shared her experience while reading Veena Shringi's book *Kiyan Visarya Vethichad*. Ritu Bhatia reviewed Indira Vaswani's *Mittiya Khan Mittaya Tai*, a book which describes Sindhi language and motherland. Shobha Lalchandani and Daya Lakhi Jashnani also shared their upbringing which created curiosity to enter the Sindhi Literary world. At the end of session a special poetry recitation session was enacted in which all the participants rendered poems, short stories etc. Prem Prakash delivered the valedictory address to conclude the symposium. The programme was attended by the Sindhi scholars, women litterateur and also the media.

SYMPOSIUM ON PRESENT TRENDS IN TELUGU LITERATURE IN KALINGANDHRA
22 November 2015, Berhampur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Vikasam, Berhampur, organized a daylong symposium on "Telugu Literature in Kalingandhra" on 22 November 2015 at Rotary Centennial Hall, Berhampur. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, delivered the welcome address. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his chair message elaborated on Akademi's ventures in promoting Telugu literature. Sri D. Sahadeva Rao was the guest of honour in the inaugural session and the keynote address was delivered by Sri Vijaychandra, Secretary of Vikasam. Sri Sripathi chaired and presented a paper on "Kalingandhra Short Story, Novel Echo of Social Identity" in the first session. Sri P. Dinakar

presented a paper on "Tapi Dharma Rao: A Reformist Writer", Sri Tatiraju Venkateswar Rao presented a paper on "Uppala Lakshmana Rao's 'Athadu – Aame' – Focus on Nationalist Movement, Gender Equality" and Sri Medipalli Ravi Kumar presented a paper on "Modern Telugu Poets of Kalingandhra" in the first session. Sri Chaganti Tulasi chaired and presented a paper on "Translations and Literary Exchanges with Neighbouring Languages" in the second session. Sri D. Sahadeva Rao presented a paper on "Literary Contribution of Panchagnula Adinarayana Sastry", Sri Guda Sriramulu presented a paper on "Scales and Parameters in Literary Criticism" and Smt. Turlapati Rajeswari presented a paper on "Primitivity of Telugu in Kalingandhra" in the second session. Sri N. Gopi chaired the valedictory session and Sri M.V. Kameswara Rao, Vice President of Vikasam delivered the valedictory address.

A SEMINAR ON MODERN TRENDS IN CRITICISM IN EASTERN REGIONAL LANGUAGES
24 November 2015, Tezpur University, Tezpur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a daylong seminar on "Modern Trends in Criticism of Eastern



A session of seminar in progress

Regional Languages” on 24 November 2015 at Tezpur University premises. Sri Gautam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor of the University inaugurated the seminar. Sri Srimanta Sankaradeva of Tezpur University delivered the keynote address. Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta proposed a vote of thanks. The academic sessions focused on literary criticisms pertaining to north-eastern languages. Prof. Madan Mohan Sarma chaired and also presented a paper on Assamese literary criticism along with two other scholars, Sri Gopinath Brahma (Bodo) and Dr. Ashok Avichal (Maithili). The second session was chaired by Prof. Bijoy Kumar Danta and four noted scholars, Dr. Kaijam Shantibala Devi (Manipuri), Sri Babaji Charan Patnaik (Odia), Dr. Naresh Chandra Khati (Nepali) and Sri Madan Mohan Soren (Santhali) presented their papers. Prof. Pona Mahanta graced to be the guest of honour in the valedictory session.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON KANCHAN BARUAH
27 November 2015, Dibrugarh, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a national seminar on “Kanchan Baruah” as part of 9th Dibrugarh Book Fair celebrations on 27 November 2015 at Dibrugarh, Assam. Dr. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the seminar. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Nagen Saikia. Sri Tapan Bandopadhyaya, eminent Bangla litterateur was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Ananda Bormudai made on the critical analysis on Kanchan Baruah’s literary works while Sri Atanu Bhattacharya

spoke on the life and works of Kanchan Baruah. Dr. B.N. Borthakur, President, Milan Jyoti Sangha proposed a vote of thanks.

BAWA BALWANT CENTENARY SEMINAR
27-28 November 2015, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan, New Delhi, organized a seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of renowned Punjabi Poet Bawa Balwant. The seminar was held on 27-28 November, 2015 in Sahitya Akademi. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcome the Guests, scholars and audience in the beginning. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convenor Punjabi Advisory Board introduced the scholars to the audience and also spoke about the literary contribution of Bawa Balwant. Dr. Satya Pal Gautam, Former Vice-chancellor Barelley University, UP inaugurating the Seminar expressed that Bawa Balwant’s contribution to Indian Literature needs to be re-evaluated in the changed world scenario. Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Former Dean Academic, Punjabi University, Patiala while delivering the keynote address, said that progressive movement in Punjabi Literature got strengthened with the Poetry of Bawa Balwant. Prof. Bhagwan Josh of Jawahar Lal Nehru, University of Delhi chaired the inaugural session. First session was chaired by Prof. Gurcharan Singh Arshi, Former Dean, Arts Faculty, Delhi University. Prof. Paramjit Singh Dhingra presented his Paper on ‘Bawa Balwant Da Kav Bhashayi Bimb’ and Monika Kumar spoke on ‘Bawa Balwant Kav Vich Prakish Chitran’. Second session was chaired by Prof. Jagbir Singh. Five papers were presented in this session. Prof. Sukhdev Singh presented his paper on ‘Bawa Balwant Da Pragativad and Bawa Balwani’, Mohanjit, ‘Bawa Balwant

Da Prageet Parbandh', Dr. Gurnaib Singh, 'Bawa Balwant Di Baudhik Virasat' and Dr. Yadwinder Singh spoke about the 'Bawa Balwant Di Kav Sirjan Parkiriya'. Third session was chaired by Dr. Karnajit Singh. Five scholars presented their papers in the session. Dr. Manmohan spoke about 'Bawa Balwant Di Vartak Di Vishva-Drishti' while Dr. Rajinder Pal Singh Brar, 'Bawa Balwant Di Kav-Vichardhara'; Dr. Vanita, 'Bawa Balwant Diyan Myth-Kavitavan cho Ubharda Nari Bimb'; Dr. Kulvir, 'Bawa Balwant De Drishtimoolak Pasar' and Dr. Amarjit Ghumman, presented her paper on 'Bawa Balwant Kav De Suhajatmak Adhyan.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON BODO AND ASSAMESE: MUTUAL INFLUENCE AND RELATION IN RESPECT OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURE"

28 November 2015, Guwahati, Assam

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with the Bodo Department of Cotton College and "Aalaap", organized a daylong seminar on "Bodo and Assamese: Mutual Influence and Relation in Respect of Language, Literature and Culture" on 28 November 2015 at the College premises. Dr. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. Introductory remarks were given by Dr. Maheswar Kalita, Secretary of Aalaap. Dr. Premananda Machahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Pramod Chandra, eminent scholar graced the session as the chief guest. Prof. Birupaksha Giri Basumatary of Cotton College proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Dr. Anil Kumar Boro, three noted scholars, Dr. Swarna Prabha Chainary, Dr.

Jibeswar Konch and Dr. Dilip Rajbongshi presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Dr. Tarani Deka and three scholars, Dr. Pranjal Sharma Basishtha, Sri Pramathesh Basumatary and Dr. Maheswar Kalita presented their papers. Prof. Dhruvajyoti Saikia, Vice-Chancellor of the College was the chief guest in the valedictory session. Prof. Manju Devi Pegu chaired the session. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Nur Islam Saikia and Dr. Abu Bakkar Siddique.

SYMPOSIUM ON IKKISWEIN SADI MEIN URDU NAZM

28 November 2015, Bangalore

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a symposium on "Ikkiswein Sadi Mein Urdu Nazm" on 28 November 2015 at Al-Ameen College, Bengaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants and dignitaries. The first session was chaired by Sri Mushtaf Iqbal Tausifi and three scholars, Sri Haqqani Ul Qasami, Sri Maher Mansoor and Sri Suleman Kumar presented their papers. The first session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Shaista Yusuf. Post lunch, the second session was chaired by Dr. Shaista Yusuf and three noted scholars, Dr. Afaq Alam Siddiqi, Dr. Zubaida Begum and Sri Sajeed Hameed presented their papers. Dr. Shaista summed up the day's proceedings and proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON "TRAVEL WRITING AND THE INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF INDIA"

28 November 2015, Bhopal

Sahitya Akademi in association with Maharani Laxmibai Govt. Girls PG Autonomous College,

Bhopal, organised a symposium on 'Travel Writing and the Intangible Heritage of India' in Bhopal on 28 November 2015, the environs of which city contain the valuable heritage of tribal lore, the Buddhist site of Sanchi and wondrous painted caves of Bimbedka.

The UNESCO speaks of the intangible heritage that is constantly recreated by communities and groups globally, and the INTACH document cites the need for conservation in India to safeguard some of the endangered cultural expressions. The Sahitya Akademi symposium entered this contemporary topic with the intention of relating literature to life and allowing interdisciplinary studies to expand the horizons. With this framework on travel writing, texts gained a spectacular relevance and Indian material such as travelogues and oral traditions yielded a cultural vibrancy. The papers reflected on a wide range of themes, authors and locations—Ladhak to Birbhum, colonial times, Bengali women travellers, early encounters in Orissa, hidden forts of Himachal and retold histories in Amitav Ghosh's inimitable style, among other explorations in the genre.

The inaugural session began with words of welcome from Principal, MLB College, Dr. Induprabha Tiwari and coordinator Dr Seema Raizada who spoke of the importance that the symposium held for the college students and faculty. Chief Guest, Bhopal's famous writer Prof. Ramesh Chandra Shah, awarded a Padma Shri, emphasised how literary learning helps to understand culture. The

Guest of Honour, Shri Padamvir Singh, educationist and administrator, expanded the subject towards philosophy of travel as a global discourse. The rationale for Sahitya Akademi's choice of subject was presented by Prof. Malashri Lal, member of the English Advisory Board. Bhopal's chairperson for the session, Shri Sujoy Thaosen, IPS, spoke eloquently on the need to open up the cultures of the north east as an example of the new horizons.

Two academic lectures followed. Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, Vice Chancellor, Central University, Koraput, presented his research on 'Imperial Gateways: Colonial Travel in Eastern India' wherein the examples of travellers from Odisha like Sailabala Das, Anada Shankar Ray, Kailash Chandra Bharatakar and Mahesh Chandra Ray, demonstrated that travel becomes a primary means of identity and self-definition during the colonial rule in Eastern India. From Calcutta University, Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta's paper on 'Travelling Bodies: Women Travellers of the Tagore Family' proved that the women— using 'the female gaze'— were able to write, record, comment and create in words, impressions



Usha Bande presenting paper during the symposium

and critical observations as they stepped out of their homes into the world.

The second session chaired by award winning writer from Bhopal, Shri Manzoor Ahtesham, presented Prof. Sumanyu Satpathy's work (University of Delhi) on the travel writing of Fakir Mohan Senapati from Orissa, specially the less commented works, *Bharmanakarira Patra* (1884) and *Waltair Darshan* (1903). Thereafter, writer and dream analyst Madhu Tandan presented her talk on Ladhak based on her new novel *Hemis, A Soul Adventure* which explores the Buddhist way of life in a remote monastery. The Chairperson's thoughtful remarks on the efficacy of travel writing alluded to his own creative work also.

The post lunch session, the third one, had a lavishly illustrated lecture by Dr. Usha Bande, Shimla, on 'Heritage Travel: The Intangible through the Tangible – A Tour of Forts and Palaces of Himachal Pradesh' showing them as singularly different from their prototypes in other parts of India. After that, Prof. Radha Chakravarty, Ambedkar University, Delhi, took the audience through the 'Real and Imagined Journeys: Reading Amitav Ghosh', a fascinating account of Egypt and its links with India, with a fine theoretical frame.

The fourth and final session presented Prof. Malashri Lal's pictorial documentation of 'Rural Tourism: Santhal Women in Birbhum, West Bengal' with the field evidence of literature and social change.

These afternoon sessions were chaired by Shri PK Das, IAS, whose own account of travels and the simultaneous inner journeys added another perspective to the symposium.

A warm thanks was accorded to the Sahitya Akademi for bringing this meaningful symposium subject and fine speakers to MLB College in Bhopal. Reciprocally, the speakers

on behalf of Sahitya Akademi thanked Prof. Seema Raizada profusely for the excellent coordination and arrangements. An audience of about 80 persons comprising of students, teachers and invited members of civil society, attended the sessions throughout the day. Deep appreciation was given to the quality of presentations and the engaged remarks of the Chairpersons.

The speakers supported by the Sahitya Akademi were also invited to participate in a programme of creative writing at the Club Literati of Bhopal titled *Outpourings* on 27 Nov held at the Bharat Bhavan. This had a large attendance of appreciative listeners from the city.

SEMINAR ON BHAKTACHARAN DAS

29 November 2015, Bolgarh (Khurda), Odisha

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nandighosh, a cultural entity, Bolgarh, Khurda organized a seminar on Bhakta Charan Das, an epoch making poet of Odisha. In the beginning of the seminar, the living jyoti from the birth place of the classical poet Bhakta Charan, Sanapadar was brought to the dias with full honour and grandeur surrounded by a devoted band of kirtan which was installed near the dias. This was followed by memorable Chhanda from Mathura Mangal of Bhakta Charan chanted by the girl students of the Rageshree Nelayam Music College of Bolgarh. The lighting ceremony was rather quite enchanting and soothing to the members present when Professor Rabindra Nath Panigrahi recited the Mangala Charan.

Inaugural Session: In the beginning Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the distinguished

participants and the audience which was followed by a short life sketch of the guest on the dias by renowned historian Sri Rabindra Kumar Parida. In his versatile genius, Sri Haraprasad Das, the great columnist and poet graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and observed that *Mathura Mangal*, the kavya by the poet of the middle age Bhakta Charan is one



L-R M.S.H. John, Shiv Pd. Yadav, keshkar Thakur, Bina Thakur and Awadh Kishore Ray at Maithili Symposium on 29 Nov 15, Bhagalpur

superb epic that surpasses all time and space. Other dignitaries were Sri Niranjana Sahoo, a man of literature and the Hon'ble Collector, Khurda graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor. The inaugural session was presided over by Sri J. B. Padhi, Vice-President, Nandighosh and Dr Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi spoke in detail of the superb and timeless creation of Bhakta Charan. The epic like kavya *Mathura Mangal*, *Manobodha Chautisha* are ever remembered by the reader - rural and urban literate and illiterate alike, he commented. Specifically Sri Niranjana Sahoo as the Guest of Honor said Manobodha Chautisha of Bhakta Charan awakens the human mind to get rid of any kind of ego and pride. Dr Balabhadra Sahoo Bureaucrat cum the first researcher in this literary genre made an intellectual deliberation in his key-note address which mesmerized the Bhakta Charan fans. Sri Haribandhu Sahoo, an educationist proposed the vote of thanks.

First and Second Session: In the first session, Bijay Kumar Choudhury, Biswanath Mallick and Purna Chandra Mohapatra presented

papers and dwelt on the creativity of Bhakta Charan Das's works with Sri Ramchandra Mishra in the chair. In the second session Sri Adikanda Sahu, Sri Kailash Chandra Bantha, Sri Pradip Kumar pattanaik presented their thought provoking papers on Bhaktacharan's works from many angles with Sri Dukhishyam Das in Chair.

Valedictory Session: Gopal Krishna Rath, a poet and General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi Chaired the valedictory session with Professor Prafulla Subudhi as the Chief Speaker and Professor Biswa Ranjan as the Chief Guest. All of them focused on the depth and width and the timelessness of Bhakta Charan's creations and in their words, all his creations were great pieces of monumental attraction which have got their conscientious impact even now on the younger generation.

The seminar was attended by a large number of educationists, poets, and media persons the great organisers like Sanjay Subudhi, Prafulla Mohanty, Sanatan Patasani, Gopinath Khadenga, Jagat Narayan Das, Saraswati Swain, Tapan Mahapatra, Pandit Chandramani Pradhan and many others.

SYMPOSIUM ON OF CRITICISM THE STATE AND EXPECTATION IN MAITHILI LITERATURE
29 November 2015, Bhagalpur

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Marwari College, Bhagalpur, organized a daylong symposium on 'The State of Criticism and Expectation in Maithili Literature' at the College premises on 29 November 2015. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address elaborated Akademi's efforts in organizing programmes and book exhibitions in far and unexplored Maithili speaking regions. Dr. Awadh Kishore Roy, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Bhagalpur University inaugurated the symposium. Dr. M.S.H. John of Marwari College chaired the inaugural session. In her introductory speech Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the importance of Maithili literature. Dr. Devendra Jha, eminent Maithili litterateur delivered the keynote address. Dr. Shiva Prasad Yadav proposed a vote of thanks. In the academic session that followed, Prof. Keshkar Thakur was in the chair and three noted scholars, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dr. Ramsevak Singh and Dr. Mahendra Narayan Ram presented their papers on different topics.

SYMPOSIUM ON MAITHILI SAMSKARA GEET
1 December, 2015, Saharsa

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with MLT College, Saharsa, organized a daylong symposium on 'Maithili Samskara Geet' at the College premises on 1 December 2015. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Dharendra Narayan Jha 'Dhir' eminent Maithili litterateur. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener,



L-R: D.K. Devesh, Dharendra Jha Dhir, Bina Thakur, Kulanand Jha & K. P. Yadav

Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave introductory remarks. In his keynote address, Dr. Kulanand Jha mentioned a few 'Samskara' texts in Maithili language and also gave a brief introduction of each text. Dr. K.P. Yadav of MLT College proposed a vote of thanks. In the academic session that followed, Dr. Jagdish Yadav was in the chair and three noted scholars, Dr. Ramnaresh Singh, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Singh and Dr. Harivansh Jha presented their papers on different topics.

SYMPOSIUM ON KONKANI POEMS AND SONGS
2 December 2015, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi organized one of its distinctive symposium on Konkani Poems and Songs at its basement auditorium on 2 December 2015. Krishna Kimbahunne, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai, welcomed the guest speakers, performers and audience. He briefed about the programme which was based on Konkani lyrical poetry. He also emphasized upon organizing the Konkani programmes in different region and not restricting to its homeland Goa. Ajay Vaidya, a renowned Konkani Playwright, inaugurated the symposium. He viewed that prosody is

a difficult form of poetry and a poem is the product free verse. Tanaji Halarnkar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi reiterated that Konkani songs got a wide recognition in Mumbai and its first song was broadcast on All India Radio, Mumbai as there was no facility available for song recording in Goa. Poem and song both are the same entity. Poetics has the boundaries of prosody. He said, literature was initially in the prose form and eventually it adopted a poetic form as it was easy to express in a rhyme.

The first session was chaired by Uday Bhembre, a renowned Konkani Poet. He states that a lyrical poem has the identical form irrespective of language but it concludes as per the ethnicity of language. The Konkani lyric depicts the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The Konkani lyrical poem lacks the recognition gained by the other language poems due to its invaders. The session comprised three papers based on different forms of Konkani poet. Akshay Nayak presented a paper on Konkani devotional songs. These songs are influenced by the Marathi saint poets like Tukaram, Namdev etc. The trend of spiritual songs was started by Manohar Shirgaonkar in Konkani culture.



Tanaji Halarnkar delivering the presidential address.
Also seen is Ajay Vaidya

Bindiya Vast presented a paper on emotion songs. She said that the first Konkani song of this genre was composed by Krishna Pai in 1952. These songs are worthy to express emotions, love, philosophy etc. The Konkani language has different ascent with every passing mile but the emotions are identical. Shakuntala Bharane presented her paper on the most popular form of Konkani songs named Kantar (Tiyatra). This genre of songs is the core identity of Konkani language. These songs are usually sung in parties, celebrations etc. The Kantar song is the contribution by Konkani Christians to the said culture. The songs are offbeat and influenced by western culture. The second session was one of its kinds of session with no paper presentation, it was truly a goan festival in which all the three paper readers sang the Konkani songs in their respective genres. The audience present was awestruck to witness the goan orchestra.

SYMPOSIUM ON CHANGING SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND VALUES IN MAITHILI LITERATURE

December 6, 2015, Jamshedpur

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Mithila Sanskritik Parishad, Jamshedpur, organized a daylong symposium on 'Changing Social Consciousness and Values in Maithili Literature' on 6 December 2015 in Jamshedpur. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri B.K. Das, Vice-President of Tata Steel inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the theme of the symposium. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ashok Avichal. Sri Harivallabh Singh graced to be the guest of honour on the occasion. The session was chaired by Dr. Lakshman Jha,

President of Mithila Sanskritik Parishad. In his presidential address, he pointed out the effects of Maithili literature on society. In the academic session that followed, Sri Braj Kishore Mishra was in the chair and three noted scholars, Dr. Ravindra Kumar Choudhury, Sri Jayant Kumar Jha and Sri Anmol Jha presented their papers. Sri Braj Kishore Mishra summed up the paper proceedings.

SYMPOSIUM ON CRAFT AND CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATIONS

December 9, 2015, Pollachi

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Arutchelvar Dr N. Mahalingam Translation Institute (AMTI), organized a daylong symposium on 'Craft and Challenges in Translations' at the Dr N. Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology Campus in Pollachi on December 9, 2015. In the inaugural session, Dr S. Rajmohan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience and briefly talked about various translation initiatives of Sahitya Akademi across India. Prof K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about various challenges in Tamil translations. Dr M. Manickam, Chairman, AMTI, thanked the Akademi and talked at length about the aims and objectives of AMTI. Prof Sirpi Balasubramaniam proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session chaired by Sri Maalan and devoted to 'Translating from English to

Tamil,' two noted translators, Dr Jayanthasri Balakrishnan and Sri G. Kuppuswamy presented their papers. In the second session chaired by Prof Sirpi Balasubramaniam and devoted to 'Translating among Indian languages,' two noted translators, Sri Puviyarasu and Dr Thara Ganesan, presented their papers. In the valedictory session chaired by Sri C. Ramaswamy, Convener, AMTI, Prof K. Chellappan presented the valedictory address and Prof A. Senthil Kumar, Asst. Professor, AMTI, proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON DOGRI POETRY

December 12-13, 2015, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu, organized a two day seminar on 'Dogri Poetry' on 12-13 December 2015 in Jammu. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. In his inaugural



L-R D.K. Devesh, Lalit Mangotra, R. D. Sharma, Chhatrapal and Padma Sachedeva

address, Prof. R.D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor of Jammu University talked about the importance of poetry in an individual's social life and quoted a few examples. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, praised the Akademi for having come forward to organize such a symposium as it would expose many unaltered aspects of Dogri poetry. The inaugural session was chaired by Smt. Padma Sachdev eminent Dogri poetess and the keynote address was delivered by Sri Chatrapal. Sri Arvinder Singh Aman, Additional Secretary of J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Language proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Sri Deshbandu Dogra 'Nutan' and three noted scholars, Dr. Om Goswami, Sri Narendra Bhasin and Sri Surjit Hosh presented their papers on 'The Political Consciousness in Dogri Poetry until 2000', 'The Political Consciousness in Dogri Poetry after 2000' and 'Humanitarian Approaches in Dogri Poetry' respectively. In the second session, Prof. Parameshwari Sharma of Jammu University was in the chair and three noted scholars, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dr. Yash Raina and Dr. Nirmal Vinod presented their papers on 'The Sufi Tone in Dogri Poetry', 'Myths in Dogri Poetry' and 'Dogri Poetry: The Present State' respectively. In the third session that continued on the second day, Prof. Archana Kesar was in the chair and two noted scholars Dr. Chanchal Bhasina and Dr. Ashok Ambar presented their papers on 'Women Deliberations in Dogri Poetry' and 'Urdu and Dogri Ghazals' respectively. The last and fourth academic

session was chaired by Sri Jnaneshwar and two noted scholars, Dr. Joginder Singh and Sri Jagdip Dubey presented their papers on 'Time Consciousness in Dogri Poetry until 2000' and 'Time Consciousness in Dogri Poetry after 2000' respectively. A brief interactive was followed at the end of each session.

**SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN LITERATURE:
NATURE AND CHALLENGES**
26 December 2015, Kalavan

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Institute of Knowledge Engineering, Nashik, and Arts, Science and Commerce College, Kalavan, organized a symposium on Children Literature: Nature and Challenges, on 26 December 2015 at the Arts, Science, and Commerce College, Kalavan, Nashik District. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the guests and audience. Mrs Mangala Warkhede made introductory remarks. Sri Baba Bhand, noted Marathi writer inaugurated the



Baba Bhand inaugurating the symposium.
LtoR Mangala Warkhede, Usha Shinde and Shashikant Pawar

symposium. In the inaugural address he said that literature very positively influence the children's mind. He referred to two recent experiments by Emory and Gregory Burns into Neuroscience which methodically established as to how children's way of thinking positively changes after having read short stories. He emphatically said that it was extremely difficult and challenging to write for children, and demanded that every successful writer should write for children. In Marathi there had been writers such as Sane Guruji, N.D. Thamhankar, Vinoba Bhave, Yadunath Thatte, B.R. Bhagwat, Sai Paranjpe, Vijaya Wad, and Bharat Sasne who had decidedly written for children. He professed that children's literature should be considered as significant, essential, and prestigious as what we call the main stream literature is.

The first session – 'Children Literature: Nature and Themes', was chaired by Sri G.A. Buva. Sri Navanath Tupe presented paper on 'Balakanchya Vicharaprakriyeche Manasshastra aani Bal Sahitya'. He observed that writers should not merely consider children's language but also consider children's thinking process. He also observed that literature should be available for children in accordance with their age. For instance literature for children of the age between 6 and 8 must differ from that for the children age of the between 10 to 12. Sri Narendra Lanjewar presented paper on 'Vaijnanik Ashay aani Bal Sahitya'. He said that oral story telling supports children's learning and development differently than stories read allows from picture books. It gives children opportunity to exercise their imagination and enhance their social literacy. Sri Vidyadhar karandikar presented paper on 'Bal Rangabhoomi: Nava Ashay, Navya Disha'. He said that children theatre in Marathi has tradition of 150 years. The theatre developed

from mythological, historical, and social to folk and fantasy. He suggested that the plays for children should be short that should not run into more than 15 minutes.

The second session – 'Translation, Adaptation, and other experiments in Children Literature', was chaired by Sri Eknath Pagar. Sri Pruthviraj Taur paper discussed that translated books that have attractive binding, coloured pictures, new things are liked by children. Sri Vilas Geethe paper discussed children literature in Bengali. Ms Sandhya Thaksale paper discussed experiment in children literature. Sri Bharat Sasne in his valedictory address emphasized that fantasy is the most important element in children literature. Finally, Sri Rajendra Kapade proposed a vote of thanks.

BIRTH CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM ON SATYENDRA NATH SHARMA

27 December 2015, Guwahati

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Asom Prakashan Parishad organized a birth centenary symposium on Satyendra Nath Sharma on 27 December 2015, Sunday at Guwahati Book Fair, Guwahati. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Eastern Region welcomed the participants as well as the audience. The keynote address of the symposium was delivered by Nagen Saikia, Eminent Scholar while Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, was the Chief Guest of the symposium. Gobinda Prasad Sharma, Manjumala Das and Sailen Bharali were the three participants who presented the papers on the occasion while Karabi Deka Hazarika was the moderator from the chair.

SYMPOSIUM ON FICTIONAL LITERATURE IN MARATHI

29 December 2015, Jalna

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with Smt Dankunwar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jalna organized a symposium on Fictional Literature in Marathi, on 29 December 2015 at College. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the guests and audience. In the inaugural address Sri Manohar Shahane, eminent Marathi writer, heartily thanked Sahitya Akademi for rigorously attempting for literary awareness for last so many years. In connection with the narrative he said that narration is the soul of each and every heart. The concept of narrating something to somebody was first seen in the art of painting, he added. In the keynote address Sri Avinash Sapre recommended to think of narratives on the background of the bond between literature and culture. Further he said that employing the faculty of imagination the writer/artist transforms his reality into fiction, and this transformation is art. In any fictional literature, he said that significant elements to be considered are story, development, the nature of the narrator, the quality of narration, style of language, the nature of the reader the writer has in his mind, and finally the worldview of the writer. Ms Alka Nathrekar, Head, Department of English, Smt. Dankunwar Mahila Mahavidyalaya, proposed a vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Sri Avinash Sapre. Sri Vidyasagar Patangankar –

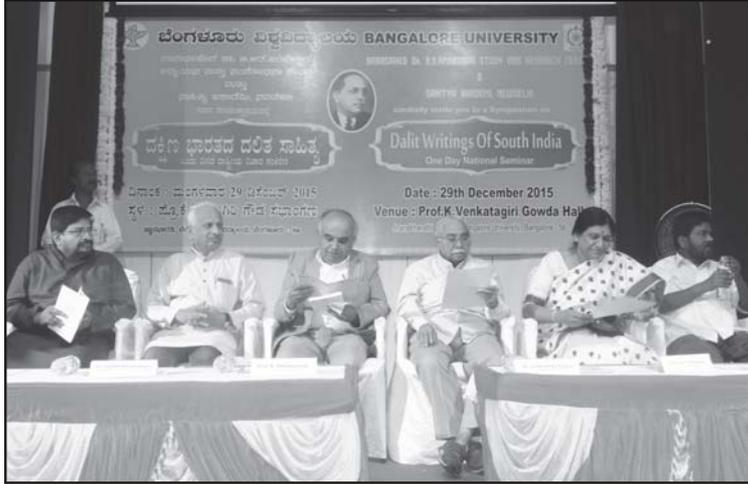
‘Prachin Marathi Sahitya ki Kathanaparampara’, discussed that the art of narration was developed from the dialogues between the speaker and audience, and out of the some were developed several styles and types of narration. In ancient times the types of narration prevalent were Akhyan, Pravachan, Kirtana etc., Sri Mahesh Kharat paper discussed several types of fictional literature i.e., short story and novel. Sri Raja Holkunde paper held that in fictional literature story, time and space, narrator, and style are important elements. Sri Randhir Shinde paper discussed the narrative techniques in folk literature. He observed that there were number of styles employed to narrate a story in folk literature, and it was very important that folk literature always narrated consciousness of the masses. The second session – ‘Mi aani Maaje Kathanatma Sahitya’, was chaired by Sri Pradeep Deshpande. Sri Krishnat Khot and Sri Asaram Lomte, shared their views about their creative writings.



L–R: Avinash Sapre, Raja Holkunde and Mahesh Kharat

SYMPOSIUM ON DALIT WRITINGS OF SOUTH INDIA

29 December 2015, Bangalore



Inaugural session of the symposium in progress

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study and Research Centre, Bangalore University organized a daylong symposium on “Dalit Writings of South India” on 29 December 2015 at Jnanabharati campus, Bangalore. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru delivered welcome address. Prof. B. Thimmegowda, Vice Chancellor of Bangalore University inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Prof. K.K. Seethamma, Registrar, Bangalore University and Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, were the chief guests on the occasion. Dr. Siddalingaiah, Director of the Research Centre delivered the keynote address. Dr. Sharada

proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session. In the first session, Sri S. Anilkumar presented a paper on “Dalit Fiction in Malayalam” and Dr. M.B. Manoj presented a paper on “Dalit Poetry in Malayalam”. In the second session, Sri Chilukuri Devaputra presented a paper on “Dalit Fiction in Telugu” and Dr. Putla Hemalatha presented a paper on “Dalit Poetry in Telugu”. Post lunch, the third session continued wherein Sri Ravikumar presented a paper on “Dalit Fiction in Tamil” and Dr. Aranga Mallika presented a paper on “Dalit Poetry in Tamil”. In the fourth and last session, papers were presented by Dr. Mogalli Ganesh on “Dalit Fiction in Kannada” and Dr. K. Anusuya Kamble on “Dalit Poetry in Kannada”.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON ISMAT CHUGTAI

2-3 January 2016, Kolkata



Participants of the National Seminar

The Akademi in Collaboration with Mahnama Insha organized a Birth Centenary Seminar on Ismat Chughtai at Kolkata. Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address while the introductory remarks were given by Sri Chander Bhan Khayal, Convener, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof. Nabaneeta Deb Sen, eminent Bengali writer and the presidential address was given by Smt. Padma Sachdev, eminent Dogri writer. The Keynote address was presented by Farhat Ahsas, eminent Urdu scholar and lyricist and vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Fay Seen Ejaz, Editor, Mahnama Insha – an International Urdu Magazine. Apart from inaugural session, there were five more sessions, which were attended by a number of writers and scholars.

SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATION CULTURE IN WESTERN REGION
6 January 2016, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a symposium on Translation Culture in Western Region, at its auditorium on 6.1.2016. At the outset, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai, welcomed the gathering and participants. He proclaimed that Translation Culture should adopt the policy of translating the landmark literature in different languages. The criticism should also be thoroughly translated. One should set a principle while doing any translation. The translation should be competent. Ram Pandit, an eminent Marathi translator, while delivering the inaugural address shared his experience of translation. He has meticulously translated Marathi literature into Urdu and vice-a-versa. He believed that such translation can reciprocate the culture of two different regions. The idioms of any language cannot be

translated. The most complicated work is translating poetry from a source language, as it is difficult to find the peer phrases in the target language. He also reiterated that in India, Hindi should be treated as a filter language and also suggested a need of dictionary containing at least 50,000 words in various translations. The presidential address was delivered by Moinuddin Usmani, an eminent Urdu author, and translator. He affirmed that translation is more difficult than original writing. A translation work is like a bouquet of flowers in which different languages and culture survive. India is a diversified country where language changes with every 50 km radius. It is a great anguish that translator is not credited for his work and treated as secondary compared to original author. A translator articulates his feelings in his works. He stressed to bring more translation work in Marathi and Urdu as there are numerous similar words between both the languages. The inaugural session concluded with homage paid to the departing litterateurs Mangesh Padgaonkar and Labhshankar Thakar.

The first session was chaired by Namdev Tarachandani and Raman Soni presented a paper on literary culture in Gujarati language. He started his paper by recalling the translation of *Panchtantra* which was a first printed translation brought out in 1824. The translation work was introduced in Gujarati literature by a Parsi which is a unique event. He recollected that majority of translation in Gujarati was done from Bengali language by Nagindas Parekh. He opined that translation workshops should be organized periodically to promote the translation culture. A paper on the Konkani translation culture was presented by Prashanti Talpankar. She referred to the young translators who do not understand the concept of translation. They lack mastery over the language and hence the work suffers. Some of the latest translations

have hybrid language where Konkani is primarily mixed with Marathi words and also sprinkled with Portuguese words too. She concluded that language should not be hated. Translation industry is knowledge based industry, colleges and universities should include translation studies in their curriculum. To maintain the unique character of Goa, we need to go back to our original nature – the multilingual characters and not mono-lingual. The third paper in the series on Marathi culture was presented by Neelima Bhawe. She described translation as a creative writing in Marathi. The initial translation was vastly of mythological tales. The translation of Bhagwad Geeta by Sant Dnyaneshwar is a milestone of translation in Marathi literature. The Marathi translation too is influenced by Bengali literature. Mama Warekar translated many short stories from Bengali into Marathi. Dilip Chitre brought the Western literature to Marathi. She also suggested of having quality review of the translations. The last paper in this session on Sindhi literature culture was presented by Jetho Lalwani who started with his paper with the phrase *Na Chhodo Na Jodo* which is well suited for translators. The first translation in Sindhi literature was done in

1736. The Sindhi translation includes the plays of Shakespeare of which the Sindhi litterateurs were influenced more. The translations by Hiro Thakur of *Samrathnavad* and *Kabir Vachnavali* by Kamla Goklani are considered a gem of work in Sindhi. The translation of Dnyaneshwari from Marathi into Sindhi by Laxman Hardwani is also considered a pearl. The translators also carry the media translations as there is no dedicated media channel for Sindhi. He also opined of having translation workshops and seminars on such subjects in Sindhi. Namdev Tarachandani, the chair, concluded the session by the phrase *Best Drama is No Drama* likewise a good translation is no translation but original.

The Second session was chaired by Raman Soni and paper presented in Gujarati, Konkani, Marathi and Sindhi were by Panna Trivedi, Gokuldas Prabhu, Balwant Jeurkar and Namdev Tarachandani respectively. Panna Trivedi while presenting her paper recalled the eminent Gujarati translator Umashankar Joshi who brought a journal named *Sanskriti* on the translation works. The criticism is the major field of interest for a translator. The translation work takes a reader on a journey of Indian culture. Gokuldas Prabhu pointed out that

Konkani people migrated in different states and adopted the local language which resulted a set back for Konkani literature. The translation work in Konkani primarily was of Marathi spiritual literature which gradually progressed to poetry, prose and plays. The Kannada works are also translated in Konkani but a vice-a-versa is still pending. He considered that Konkani language is exposed to many languages



Namdev Tarachandani speaks.
L-R: Raman Soni, Gokuldas Prabhu, Balwant Jeurkar

therefore it doesn't need any filter or intermediate language for translation. Balwant Jeurkar while presenting his paper on Marathi translation culture was glad to note that there were many literary journals which has resulted in positive atmosphere for translation. The translation regularly updates the contemporary world. He also stresses for having a dictionary on translation. He pointed that translation in Marathi literature is on cloud nine in contemporary generation and to prove his point he gave an instance of reviewing a Kannada work in Marathi which was translated again in Kannada and brought out in book form. While presenting his paper on Sindhi translation culture, Namdev Tarachandani affirmed that translator should be bi-cultural. He should have immense passions and calmness while translating a work. The translation is always compromised in Sindhi literature. The Sindhi literature lacks the selection of good literature for translation. The process of filtration should be challenging. He reiterated the need of reading habit in young generation which can result in good translator.

Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai, proposed the vote of thanks to sum up the symposium.

SACHIDANAND ROUSTRAY BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

January 12-13, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day Seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of eminent Odia writer, Sachidanand Roustray, at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on January 12-13, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Akademi to promote literature across the country and stated that remembering

doyens and immortals of modern Indian literature by commemorating their birth centenaries is one of them. In his introductory remarks, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the life and works of Sachidanand Roustray. In his keynote address, Dr Haraprasad Das, eminent Odia writer, talked about distinguishing and salient features of Sachidanand Roustray's writings. In his inaugural address, Dr Ramakant Rath, eminent Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about seminal contribution of Sachidanand Roustray to Odia literature. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the uniqueness of Sachidanand Roustray, originality of his perceptions and his timeless poetry and stated that Sachidanand Roustray did not belong merely to Odia literature but to the Indian literature. A documentary film on Sachidanand Roustray was screened before the commencement of inaugural session. In the first session that was devoted to 'The Poetry of Sachidanand Roustray' and chaired by Dr Sumanyu Satpathy, three noted scholars, Rohinikanti Mukherjee, Haraprasad Paricha Patnaik and Jatin Nayak, presented their papers on 'The schizophrenic duality: existential 'binary' in SWAGAT,' 'Lamenting the lost village: Rural metaphors in Pallishree,' and 'Death be not Proud: the romance of revolution in Baji Rout' respectively. In the second session that was devoted to 'The Poetry of Sachidanand Roustray' and chaired by J.P. Dasm, four noted scholars, Soubhagya Kumar Mishra, Bhagban Jayasingh, Sangram Jena and Basanta Kumar Panda, presented their papers, 'Sachi Roustray and Contemporary Odia Poetry,' 'Sachi Roustray: The Editor of Diganta,' 'The master's showcase: The defining poems of Kabita 1962' and 'Comparative study of Sachi Roustray with poet Jibananda Das' respectively. In the third session that was

devoted to 'Sachidanand Routray the Fictionist' and chaired by Pratibha Ray, three noted scholars, J.N. Patnaik, Adhyapak Biswaranjan and Dash Benhur, presented their papers 'A rereading of Chitragriha,' 'Mashanira Phula and other stories: The lingering metaphors of socialist concern' and Sachi Routray as a story writer' respectively. In the valedictory session, Prafulla K. Mohanty chaired the session and two noted scholars, Ashok Mohapatra and Devdas Chhotray, presented their papers 'Odisha of his time through Uttarakaksha, autobiography of Sachi Routray' and 'Romantic strain of Sachi Routray' respectively.

SEMINAR ON LITERATURE AND FREEDOM STRUGGLE

16 January 2016, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on 'Literature and Freedom Struggle in Eastern Regional Languages' in Bhubaneswar on January 16, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the power of literature to ignite movements, move the continents and spur people into action across the globe. In his introductory address, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Sahitya Akademi, compared literature to a supre-sensitive gold leaf that yields the quickest response to every stimulus, social or cultural and alluded to patriotic songs of India that filled the atmosphere with a strong nationalistic fervor that had a very strong impact on the common man and scholars alike. In his inaugural address, Sri Bhabani Patnaik, veteran freedom fighter, stated that to inspire the youth to save our country literature played a vital role and recalled the writings of Gopabandhu Das, Bira Kishore

Das and Banchanidhi Parida. He also highlighted the inspiration which Gandhi provided and observed that such a charisma cannot be easily matched. In his keynote address, Sri Rabindranath Sahoo, eminent scholar, stated that Indian independence movement was not merely an aim towards freedom from one thing or another, but rather it was Sarbik Mukti or total liberation, liberation of the self as much as that of the society and the nation. He highlighted the role of literature in this quest for total liberation. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Convener of Eastern Regional Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session. Sri Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the first session that was chaired by Prof Sachidananda Mohanty, Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Koraput, three well-known scholars, Sri Susanta Das, Dr Anil Kumar Boro and Sri Dilip Borah, presented their papers on 'Freedom Struggle and Bengali Literature,' 'Literature and freedom struggle with reference to Bodo literature' and 'Freedom Struggle and Assamese Literature' respectively. Sri Pabak Kanungo chaired the second session and four noted scholars, Ms. Jayanti Rath (Odia), Th Ratankumar Singh (Manipuri), Jiwan Namdung (Nepali) and Bairab Lal Das (Maithili) presented their papers.

SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN'S EXPRESSION IN KANNADA LITERATURE AND CULTURE

19 January 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Karnataka Women Writers' Association, organized a daylong symposium on 'Women's Expression in Kannada literature' at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bengaluru on January 19, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P.

Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about various activities of Sahitya Akademi to promote feminist literature across the country and in all the 24 recognized languages. In her introductory address, Dr Vasundhara Bhupathi, President, Karnataka Women Writers' Association, spoke about the necessity for more women friendly rules and laws and literature to reflect more on these issues. In her inaugural address, Dr Malati Pattanshetti, eminent bilingual writer, observed that despite the land being a male dominated society, Kannada women writers have traditionally showed the way by breaking the barriers and shackles that bind women in all the cultures and she alluded to the works of Akka Mahadevi and Sanchi Honnamma from the 12th century and other modern women writers to drive home her point. In his Presidential address, Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that life of any woman is multi-faceted and hence it is necessary to trace and listen to women's voices and feminist expressions in literature too.

The first session focused on the theme 'En Route to Struggle', wherein Dr. E. Rati Rao spoke on Women's Struggle and Smt. Rupa Hasan presented a paper on Children's Rights. During the second session on 'Media and Expression', Dr. L.G. Meera delivered a paper on Art and Smt. Sudha Sharma Chavathi spoke on Media. Smt. Geetha Krishnamurthy spoke on Law, Smt. B.S. Shylaja spoke on Science Literature and Smt. Asha Benakappa presented her speech on Medical during the third session on 'Popular Literature.' Dr. Dharanidevi Malagatti, noted Kannada writer, delivered the valedictory address and in her speech she traced the dominant women characters in the major literary works through

history and urged modern women to emulate those women found in the annals of literary history. Smt. Sarvamangala, Member, Executive Board of Karnataka Women Writers' Association, proposed vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF N.V. KRISHNA WARRIER

22 January 2016, Calicut

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Kerala Sahitya Samiti, organized a daylong seminar to commemorate birth centenary of N.V. Krishna Warriar on January 22, 2016 in Calicut. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Malayalam literature. In his inaugural address, Sri M.G.S. Narayanan, eminent historian, recalled that Sri Warriar was a polymath and polyglot who did not receive due recognition in his homeland and highlighted varied contribution of Sri Warriar to the growth and evolution of Malayalam literature and language. In his Presidential address, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, shared many interesting anecdotes from Sri Warriar's literary life and also highlighted his helpful nature in nurturing budding writers of all hues. Smt. P. Valsala, President, Kerala Sahitya Samiti was the guest of honor and Sri P.P. Sreedharanunni, General Secretary, Kerala Sahitya Samiti proposed vote of thanks. In the first session, Sri.M.R. Raghava Warriar spoke on N.V. Krishna Warriar and modernist movement in Malayalam poetry, while Sri. Atmaraman spoke on N.V. Krishna Warriar as a literary critic. In the second session, Dr.

Anil K.M. spoke on the Political thought of N.V. Krishna Warriar, while Sri Sreesylum Unnikrishnan spoke on the contribution of N.V. Krishna Warriar as an Editor and Prof K.P. Kunhikannan, spoke on the contribution of N.V. Krishna Warriar as an Environmentalist and Educationalist. In the valedictory session, Dr. C. Rajendran, the Vice-President of Kerala Sahitya Samiti and former Head of Department of Sanskrit, Calicut University delivered the valedictory address and Shri. P.M. Narayanan, Treasurer of the Kerala Sahitya Samiti proposed vote of thanks.

150TH BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON BAGMI BISWANATH KAR

23 January 2016, Cuttack

Sahitya Akademi organized a one day seminar on Bagmi Biswanath Kar in collaboration with Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Bijayananda Singh, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj presided over the inaugural session of the seminar. Dasharathi Prasad Dash, Chief Guest formally inaugurated the seminar. Debasana Dash, Vice President Utkal Sahitya Samaj delivered the introductory speech and Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme



Seminar on Bagmi Biswanath Kar in progress

Officer, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address.

Devendra Kumar, the main speaker observed that Bagmi Biswanath Kar was the founder of the Utkal Sahitya Samaj which is the first Odia literary organization. Like Utkal Gaurav, Madhusudan Das, Biswanath is one of the chairpersons of Odisha and Odia language. He was the first Odia to deliver his speech in Odia in Bihar-Odisha Vidhan Parishad (1921). He was much discussed and the most sought after man of his time. He addressed that the publication of his total writings shall be a fitting tribute to him. Many of his writings came out in some of the oldest Odia literary magazines like 'Asha', 'Sevaka' etc. He was a contemporary of the first Odia dramatist Gajamohan Lal, Gourishankar Ray and Pyarimohan Acharya. He was by far the first Odia editor who wrote from his heart and from his own experience. Never did he become a ghost editor nor take a pen name to hide his identity.

Gourahari Das, Convener of Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi expressed the necessity of organizing such programme for reaching every hook and corner of the state. He cited the example of Gopal Ch. Baharaj who had been corrected and rectified by Bagmi Biswanath Kar. He also recited a song of Baikuntha Pattanaik on Biswanath. He suggested the gathering to write books and produce documentary and films on Biswanath. Finally he said how Odia is a great old language for which it has got classical status.

Dasharathi Prasad Das, the Chief Guest of the session highlighted his essay written in 1960 on Biswanath Kar. He said he had a great desire to write on Brahma Dharma. He expressed his distaste for the dwindling standard of the Odia journal. Biswanath came

in contact with Rammohan Ray, Keshav Ch. Sen etc. He remarked that Brahma Dharma and Biswanath Kar are inseparable.

Bijayananda Singh, Member of Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi said all his essays are timely and unique. His realization is reflected in all his essays. His Utkal Sahitya Press is a writer-made factory. His love for Odisha and Odia is unparallel. He was much ahead of his time for which he became a social reformer besides being a great writer and speaker.

In the first session under the chairmanship of Archana Nayak three papers were presented by Bijaya Kumar Nanda, Pradipta Kumar Panda and the chair Archana Nayak respectively. Bijaya Kumar Nanda emphasized the growth and development of essays in general and Odia essays in particular. Pradipta Kumar Panda discussed the editing of Biswanath Kar.

The second session was chaired by Dasharathi Prasad Das while Krushna Chandra Pradhan throws light on the versatile genius of Bagmi Biswanath Kar. Gobind Chandra Chand highlighted the editorial ability of Biswanath Kar.

In the final session Sarat Ch. Pradhan presided over the meeting. D. P. Pattanaik, veteran linguist emphasizes the need of knowing the nation building spirit of Biswanath Kar. Jeevanananda Adikari extended the vote of thanks.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF BISHAM SAHNI

January 28-29, 2016, Amritsar

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized a two day seminar on Bisham Sahni to commemorate his birth centenary, on January 28 & 29, 2016 at Khalsa College, Amritsar.

The seminar was inaugurated by Sri Satyendra Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University. The inaugural session commenced with the screening of a documentary on 'Bisham Sahni's Life'. The documentary focused on important events that took place in Bisham Sahni's life, his journey from his hometown Rawalpindi to Delhi, his epic work 'Tamas' and the impact of various writers on his life. Welcoming the speakers and audience, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, told that the seminar was Akademi's second such programme that was being organized to celebrate the birth centenary of Bisham Sahni. He also noted that Bisham Sahni's writings were important documents of progressive tradition of Hindi literature. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He observed that Bisham Sahni's writings portray an in-depth understanding of fellow human beings. Sri Satyendra Singh was the guest of honor in the inaugural session. In his keynote address, Sri Aravindakshan stated that Bisham Sahni's writings were like a 'torch' to budding writers. The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Mehal Singh, Principal of Khalsa College.

The first session was devoted to 'Bisham Sahni: The Light of Creation and Literary Concerns' and was chaired by Sri Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In this session, three noted scholars, Sri Satish Verma, Sri Aarsu and Sri Venna Vallabha Rao presented their papers. The Akademi also arranged a theatrical performance on the evening of January 28, 2016 at Virsa Vihar. Bisham Sahni's play 'Leela Nandlal Ki' was conceptualized and enacted.

The seminar continued for the second day and the second session focused on 'Bisham



Inaugural Session of the Bisham Sahni Seminar in progress

Sahni: Literary Contribution'. This session was chaired by Sri Ramesh Kuntal Megh and two noted scholars, Sri Tarsem Gujral and Sri Madhav Koushik presented their papers.

The third session was chaired by Sri Bhanu Bharti, eminent theatre artist. Three noted scholars, Sri Rawail Singh, Sri Suresh Seth and Sri Phoolchand Manav presented their papers on 'Bisham Sahni and His Plays'. Some of his plays such as 'Hanush', 'Kabira Khada Bazar Mein', 'Madhavi' and 'Muavze' were discussed in the session.

The fourth session focused on 'Bisham Sahni: Contemporary Relevance' and was chaired by Sri Chandrika. In this session, two noted scholars, Sri Sudarshan Vashistha and Sri Arun Hota presented their papers.

In the evening, a theatrical performance of Bisham Sahni's play 'Kabira Khada Bazar Mein' was enacted at Virsa Vihar. As part of his birth centenary celebrations, a photo cum book exhibition of Bisham Sahni and his magnum opus 'Tamas' and its translations

into other languages of Akademi was organized. Several luminaries, writers, playwrights and literary connoisseurs participated in the two-day literary event.

On 28th January – Leela Nandlal Ki was staged, conceptualized and directed by Ramji Bali and on 29th January – Kabira Khada Bazar Mein was staged, conceptualized and directed by Kewal Dhaliwal.

SEMINAR ON SAMBHU MITRA 5-6 February 2016, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on Sambhu Mitra on 5-6 February 2016 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata.

In the inaugural session K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcoming the participants and guests narrated a brief outline on the life and times of Sambhu Mitra. The introductory address was delivered by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali

Advisory Board. He spoke about the significance of the context in which Sambhu Mitra appeared. The inaugural address was delivered by Rudraprasad Sengupta, eminent theatre personality. He stressed on the theatrical aspect of the daily life which every human being has to bear. For him, just like a theatre, we are used to put on masks as well everyday before facing everyday's ordeals. The keynote address was delivered by Samik Bandyopadhyay, eminent critic, essayist and scholar. He stressed on the differences of theatrical concepts of Sambhu Mitra and Bijan Bhattacharya as well as other major dramatists. He also pointed out the important features of his dramas. He also stressed on the changing trajectory of stagecraft as well as stage-production of Sambhu Mitra. Chandrasekhara Kambara, Eminent writer, scholar as well as the hon'ble Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, discussed on the distinguished features of Sambhu Mitra's drama. He also compared him with other great dramatists of India, while speaking from the chair of the inaugural session. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, conducted the inaugural session and proposed the vote of thanks of the inaugural session.

In the first academic session with its focus on the Age of Sambhu Mitra, Prabhatkumar Das and Malay Rakshit spoke on the topics of "Maharshi and Sambhu Mitra" and "Sisirkumar and Sambhu Mitra" respectively. Pabitra Sarkar, while speaking from the chair, dwelt on the topic of "Gananatya and Sambhu Mitra".

Both of the last session of the first day and the first session of the second day were on the stagecraft, stage production, acting and stage direction of Sambhu Mitra. Six eminent scholars presented their papers focusing on different Plays of Sambhu Mitra in those two

sessions. The speakers of those sessions were Arun Mukhopadhyay, Soumitra Basu, Debatosh Ghosh, Rusati Sen, Supriti Mukhopadhyay and Aveek Majumder. The dramas under focus included *Galileo-er Jiban*, *Char Adhyay*, *Bisarjan*, *Raja*, *Mudrarakshas*, *Raja Oidipaus*, *Chand Baniker Pala*, *Dashachakra* and *Putul Khela*. Debatosh Ghosh and Aveek Majumder chaired those two sessions respectively. On the evening of the first day the documentary film on Sambhu Mitra by Lady Mukhopadhaya was screened as well. The title of the film is "The Honest Theatre: A Quest".

In the second session of the second day, while Pradip Ghosh focused on the recitation of Sambhu Mitra, Debasis Majumder threw light on the alternative thoughts on drama as practiced by Sambhu Mitra. Majumder chaired the session. In the last session, Anit Kumar Roy, Ashok Mukhopadhyay and Amitava Ray spoke on the topics of essays written by Sambhu Mitra, implementation of theatrical techniques and Sambhu Mitra and Plays translated by Sambhu Mitra respectively. Prativa Agarwal chaired the session and presented a Paper on "Indian concept of drama



Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar delivering Presidential address

and Sambhu Mitra”. Gautam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, conducted the seminar and proposed the vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON LITERATURE OF THE NORTH-EAST INDIA: TRADITION AND INNOVATION
12 February 2016, Vadodara, Gujarat

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with West Zone Cultural Center, Udaipur, organized a Symposium *Literature of the North-East India: Tradition and Innovation*, and a *Poets' Meet* as part of Octave 2016 in Vadodara, Gujarat, at Sayajinagar Griha, Akota, on Friday, 12 February 2016. Dr Desmond Kharmawphlang, renowned poet and critic, delivered keynote address at the symposium.

At the outset Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the audience and introduced the poet and critic-participants - Sri Swmdwn Brahma in Bodo, Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary in Assamese, Sri Naorem Vidyasagar Singha and Sri. H. Nanikumar Singh in Manipuri, Sri Jivan Namdung and Sri Bhakta Sanwar in Nepali.

In the keynote address Dr Kharmawphlang said, “The movingly theatrical physical features of North-East India is home to a staggering



One of the sessions of the symposium

multitude of peoples and communities, who, till not very long, lived in close harmony with a bio-diversity almost unrivaled in the world. The songs and epics, the folklore and literature are the direct products of the interface between nature and culture - the human agency obtains its muse from this conflation and tongues and voices are created. Poets articulate and rejoice in dilating the aspects of the ecology, myths, rituals, mysteries, mysterious faiths and demographic traits. Their poetry is the celebration of the rural flavour of their native places and of their neighbours creating an almost illogical sense of yearning and belonging for the land, the inflections of which is rarely found in contemporary literature.”

After the keynote address Sri Swmdwn Brahma recited his poems - “Monthaini Saradu,” “The Funeral of Rights,” “Ekhamba Ekhamba,” “Sometimes,” “On the Field,” “Dreams,” “Lama”; Sri Naorem Vidyasagar Singha recited - “Refugee’s Geeta,” “Rivers, I Love You”; Sri Bhkta Sanwar recited - “Picture Memories,” “Divine Love,” “A Map of Africa”.

Sri Jivan Namdung, noted writer in Nepali, chaired the symposium, and Sri Dilip Bora in Assamese, Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary in Bodo, Sri H. Nanikumar Singh in Manipuri presented their papers.

Sri Dilip Bora stated that Assamese society, enriched with a bevy of folk festivals, celebrations and art and culture, has a huge treasure of folktales which has always been a subject to wonder for all. Just in the way these folk literature has reflected the traditional scenario of Assamese society, similarly, these have also proved the innovative qualities of Assam and its people as well. Modern Assamese literature also has gone a long way. It has to be realized that literature can never survive simply being confined in the traditions, traditions can just be considered as the base or foundation of literature, and literature keeps flowing towards an unseen future passing

through the traditions and innovations and the same momentum can also be witnessed in Assamese literature.” Sri Pranavjyoti Narzary observed that the Bodo language is a newly emerging language. The literary development in the language came centuries later in comparison to the other major languages in India. The genres - short story, novel, poetry in Bodo are still in the stage of adolescence. Nevertheless, the elements of tradition and modernity figure prominently in Bodo literature. The genres like travel writing, biography, children literature are coming up with new enthusiasm and genuineness. Social unrest, ethnic movements, and lack of lasting peace are other factors that have stood in the way of steady development of Bodo literature. Sri H. Nanikumar Singha’s paper discussed as to how traditions have played a significant role in making Manipuri literature innovative.

Finally, Sri Sudhanshu Singh, Additional Director, West Zone Cultural Center, Udaipur, proposed a vote of thanks.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON ‘CREATIVITY AND FREEDOM’

14-15 February 2016, Tirur, Kerala.

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in collaboration with Thunchan Memorial Trust, Tirur had organised a two-day National Seminar on Creativity and Freedom on 14 and 15 February 2016 at Thunchan Parambu, Tirur.

The inaugural session of the seminar started at 10.00 a.m. on 14 February 2016. Sri K.P. Ramanunni, Member, Sahitya Akademi’s Malayalam Advisory Board had welcomed the guests. Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade, Jnanpith Awardee and Convener of Sahitya Akademi’s Marathi Advisory Board inaugurated the programme. Sri. K. Siva Redy, eminent

Telugu poet delivered the keynote address.

Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade in his inaugural address stated that intolerance is not a new term and its usage has increased in recent days. By engaging oneself continuously in creative endeavour or Writing, we can achieve freedom or independence. We shouldn’t completely take advantage of freedom of expression and if one does so, he/she will be kept in prison. Mahatma Gandhiji, who advocated freedom of expression, wrote carefully using the very principle of it. Those who write against the interest of the public will receive threats. When we examine the history, it is being repeated in the developed countries too. After the invasion of British in India, most of the indigenous writers started writing in English and overlooked their mother tongues. English may be used for communication, but we must forget our mother tongue.

Sri K. Shiva Reddy presented keynote address. He stressed that with the real freedom one can write better courageously. Writings is not to fight for freedom, it is an urge to express oneself in a meaningful way retaining integrity and individuality.

Sri C. Radhakrishnan, eminent Malayalam fiction writer and Convener of Sahitya Akademi’s Malayalam Advisory Board chaired the inaugural Session. Thunchan Ezhuthachan spoke courageously and was truthful to his words and writings, pointed out Sri C. Radhakrishnan in his presidential address. Ezhuthachan fought against evil acts and had to endure a lot of troubles in his life. Power is against writings. Writings should be ideal and secular he said.

The second session on *Creativity and Freedom – The Indian Context* started at 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon. Prof. K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam and English writer had chaired the session. Dr.

Rukmini Bhaya Nair from New Delhi and Sri V.V. Subramanian from Chennai presented their papers.

The third session started at 10.00 a.m. on the second day 15 February 2016. Sri Sasikumar, eminent Malayalam writer and journalist chaired the session. Smt. Sarah Joseph and Sri K.C. Narayanan veteran Malayalam writers read their papers.

SYMPOSIUM ON ASSAMESE SHORT STORY 29 February 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with the Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University, organized a daylong symposium on Assamese short story at the university premises on February 29, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. In her Presidential speech, Prof KarabiDeka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presented a historical overview of the Assamese Short Stories and stated that today, Assamese short stories can compete with short stories in other languages in terms of quality and it is her desire to see more women writers come up in Assamese literature. Prof P. Pattanaik, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Delhi University, presented a keynote address. In his inaugural address, Sri Gobinda Prasad Sarmah, eminent Assamese writer, presented the scenario of Assamese short stories in the early years of post-Independence period, innovators, pioneers and trend setters in modern Assamese short story writing. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Gobinda Prasad Sarmah, three noted scholars, Bibhas Choudhury, ManojSaikia&TaraniDeka, presented their

papers focusing on 'Impact of Western philosophy and modernism on Assamese short stories,' 'Women Psychology and Feminism in Assamese short stories' and 'Changes of Short Story writing pattern', respectively. In the second session that was chaired by Prof Dilip Bora, three noted scholars, AnuradhaSarma, Apurba Borah and SidharthaGoswami, presented their papers focusing on 'The life of down-trodden people in Assamese Shorty Story during period 1950-2010,' 'Mass Movement of Assam and its impact on Assamese short story' and 'Impact of Folk Culture and Myth on Assamese Short Story' respectively. Sri Nilamoni Bora, noted scholar and critic, delivered a brief lecture on the topic of the symposium. In the valedictory session, Sri Kula Saikia, eminent Assamese short story writer, delivered valedictory address and stated that language is a powerful tool in writing a short story. Prof Dilip Bora, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE BODOS (MECHES) OF WEST BENGAL

6 March 2016, Alipurduar, West Bengal



Dance performance by a Bodo group

Sahitya Akademi and Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha organized a symposium on Linguistic and Cultural Background of the Bodos (Meches) of West Bengal on 6 March 2016 at Hemaguri, Alipurduar, West Bengal.

The Inaugural Session was presided over by Jnan Singh Basumata, President, Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Subin Saiba, General Secretary, Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha delivered the welcome address. The session was inaugurated by Ramesh Chandra Suba with a short speech. The key-note address was given by Balendra Mochhary. He commented that the identity of any community cannot be well defined without language as gradually they lose their identity in absence of the language of their own.

Both the first and the second business sessions were chaired by Phukan Chandra Basumatary, a Bodo Advisory Board member. Ashit Baran Narjary discussed on revitalization of the Bodo folklore in the context of West Bengal. Mahesh Chandra Narjinary discussed about the festivals of the Bodos of West Bengal briefly. Samendra Narjinary discussed phonetic and morphological character of the Bodo language of West Bengal. He continued, Bodo language is regarded as a dialect in West Bengal till now. This language should be recognized by the West Bengal Govt. immediately to make it strong and sound technically and grammatically. Without introduction in schools and colleges any language can neither be developed nor popular. Sri Gabinda Thakur delivered his paper on Folklore and Belief of the Bodos of West Bengal. He also stressed in his speech about rituals and customs

of the Bodo society. The customs of Bodo society and culture is rich and unique itself, he commented. Bidesh Suba proposed the vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON DECLINE OF THE TRIBAL CULTURE AND ITS FUTURE
7 March 2016, Bijni, Assam

Sahitya Akademi in association with Bijni College, Bijni, Assam organized a symposium on *Decline of the Tribal Culture and its Future* on 7 March 2016 at Bijni College, Bijni.

The inaugural function was presided over by Gobinda Basumatary, former General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The welcome address was given by Birhas Giri Basumatary, Principal of Bijni College. Dr Anil Boro, Associate professor, Department of Folklore, Gauhati University was the Chief Guest. Dr. Boro and Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatary, Associate professor, department of Bodo, Bodoland University presided over the first and second session respectively as chairperson.

Dr. Jibeswar Koch presented a paper on Folk Music of Garo and Rabha : Its existence



Paper being presented at the symposium

and decline. In this paper Dr. Jibeswar Koch discussed about the Folk music of the Garo and Rabha, two tribal communities of Assam. Like the other tribal in Assam the Garo and Rabha also have their own language, literature, culture and identity, he said.

According to Dr. Koch, the increase of use of bilingual language has diminished the importance of indigenous tribal language gradually. The mixture of loan words is found in almost all sentences. The pronunciation and dialects used by the tribals differ from place to place. However, though they speak in their own tone of dialect they sing very well with perfection.

Sukrajit Daimary presented a paper on Some Traditional Food of Bodo and Garo : Its Decline and Future. The paper is mainly based on the indigenous tribe of Assam, Bodo and Garo and their traditional Food. He also discussed how the traditional food system of these two tribes has declined day by day. Both Bodo and Garo lives on cultivation. The Garos mainly do *Jhoom* cultivation. The main food of both the tribe is Rice. Both the tribes collect food from nature. They collect green vegetables like- *Kheradapini*, *Khansisa*, *Manimuni* etc.

Motison Daimary presented a paper on Traditional Costumes of Bodos and its Decline. In his paper Motison Daimary has discussed about the traditional costumes of the Bodo and the reason behind its decline. Bodo is the largest tribe in Assam. They have their own language, dress or costume, culture and literature. The traditional costume or dress of the Bodo is *Dolhna*, *Phashara* or *Shima* (*shawl*), blouse for female and *Gamsa* for male. *Aronai* (*Maflar*) is also a traditional costume worn both by male and female. Different costumes are used in different occasion.

Champabati Khakhalary presented a paper on Decline of Assam Tribal's Tradition of

Weaving and Its Future. She discoursed on Tribal's tradition of weaving in Assam, its decline and future. At the very beginning Khakhalary pointed out all the tribals in Assam like – Bodo, Babha, Tiwa, Deuri, Mising, Dimasa. The tribals in Assam have their own language, literature and culture. It can be said that tribal culture has great contribution in Assamese culture. The tribal in Assam are Mongoloids. Its is seen that though most of the tribal in Assam are less educated, poor economic background, still they are rich in their tradition and culture. However, in the influence of modern period their tradition and culture is seen declining day by day.

Dr. Ada Ram Basumatary presented a paper on Tribal Culture and Its Threshold of Globalization –with Special Reference to Bodo. He narrated that Culture is transient as it keeps on changing. According to him Globalization has great contribution behind the transient nature of culture. As today is the world of science and technology, the knowledge of entire world can reach every nook and corner of the world. Here, in this paper Dr. Ada Ram has taken a particular area of study i.e. Bodo culture. The Bodo is the largest majority tribe in North East Assam. Bodo have their own culture & identity. However, now-a-days it is witnessed that different changes has come in their culture in different fields. For example- religion, dress and cloths, food etc.

Rupnath Ouary presented a paper on the Decline of Cottage Industries Among the Bodos. He dwelt on the influence of Cottage Industries among Bodo community. According to Rupnath Ouary the Cottage industries among the Bodos are witnessing a rapid change day by day. And this might be the effect of Globalization on them. Cottage Industries among the Bodos are actually an unorganized sector, it is made by economically

depressed peoples mainly the villagers. The Cottage Industries among Bodos are mainly Bamboo craft, Wood craft, Clay making and Weaving.

SYMPOSIUM ON TRENDS OF INDIAN NEPALI SHORT STORIES: AFTER INDEPENDENCE, IN COLLABORATION WITH NEPALI SAHITYA PARISHAD, MANIPUR,
7 March 2016, Charhazare, Manipur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Manipur organized a symposium on 'The Trends of Indian Nepali short stories: after independence' on 27 March 2016 at Charhazare, Manipur. Dr. Durga Sharma, Nepali scholar inaugurated the symposium. At the beginning Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi while welcoming the gathering spoke briefly about the activities of Akademi. He stated that this is first programme in Nepali which is organized in Manipur. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave introductory remarks and express his pleasure that his efforts to bring Akademi in un-touched language regions is successful. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Lok Bahadur Basnet, President, Nepali Sahitya Parishad. He said that Manipur is a historical place for Nepali language and literature, because first Nepali book was printed only here in 1893.

The academic session was chaired by Sri Arjun Pradhan which included the papers of Sri Milan Bantawa, Smt. Pushpa Sharma and Sri Tanknath Khatiwada on Post-modernism, Women discourse and War literature in context of Nepali short stories: after independence respectively. At the end, Sri Kirtimani Khatiwada, Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Manipur proposed the vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM IN THE MEMORY OF THE TWO GREAT LITTERATEURS - ESSAYIST YASHWANT SHUKLA AND DRAMATIST JASHWANT THAKER
13 March 2016, Nadiad

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai in collaboration with Balvant Parekh Centre, Vadodara and Surajba Mahila Arts College organized a symposium in the memory of the two great litterateurs - essayist Yashwant Shukla and dramatist Jashwant Thaker, on Sunday, 13 March 2016 at Nadiad.

Sri Prakash Shah, in his keynote address, recalled last days of Yashwantbhai and added that he was acquainted with educationists namely Umashankar Joshi, Bhogilal Gandhi, Jayantilal, Nagindas Parekh, Manubhai Pancholi and Yashwant Shukla.

Dr Raman Soni in his speech said that he was a student of Yashwantbhai in H.K.College from first year till his M.A. He also added that it was so pleasant to hear him in class during that time, he could not make the notes of his lessons due to concentration on hearing him. He recalled his arranging the categories of students on ground and various floors, so nicely. He then switched on to the subject given to him and concluded with many literary aspects of Yashwantbhai's contribution to literature.

Second half of the symposium was dedicated to Jashwant Thaker and the memories by their families. First such family member was Ms. Neela Jayant Joshi who was Yashwantbhai's daughter, who happens to be retired professor of philosophy. She recalled many incidents concerning Yashwantbhai how fortunate we all are to have him in literature despite many alternates that he had, that time. She always had some fear of his father and not father-in-law while showing her thesis of Ph.D for the critical evaluation of the work, she did. She could meet many towering

personalities of literature only because of his father's inter-actions with them. She also had memories of Jashwant Thaker's plays. She only had a knowledge of enjoying the play and playing the roles in a play, but she knew that it is also an Art and Jashwantbhai knew the technique of making audience to like the play.

Thereafter it was of Ashutosh's turn to remember his father Yashwantbhai who recalled some incidents and said that Yashwantbhai wanted him to belong to Arts discipline (faculty) though he was Engineer by profession as he could have shared many common things concerning literature. He also said about Jashwant Thaker and recalled one event where an actor could not reach to perform. Ultimately, he was made to perform the play with strict instructions 'you will only act which you were taught'. He expressed his gratitude of being accompanied by many literary personalities, only because of his father.

Two speakers, namely Hasmukh Baradi and Bharat Dave could not come due to their health. Ms. Devaki Dave (daughter of Bharat Dave) read the paper of his father and recalled some incidents of her childhood. In his paper, he also said about Jashwant Thaker.

There was also a video show on Jashwant Thaker which had contents of various aspects of international plays for all Gujarati audience.

Thereafter Pravin Pandya read some excerpts from plays of Jashwant Thaker and said that he was student of both the writers and recalled few incidents. Sri Sanmya Joshi, the grand son of Yashwantbhai and eminent poet, professor and dramatist read the play - 'Moti'.

The symposium concluded with vote of thanks where on any other writers, poets, vice-chancellor, novelists were also present.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR : HARCHARAN SINGH

14-15 March 2016, Bhatinda

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Baba Farid College, Bathinda organized a two day seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of veteran Punjabi writer Harcharan Singh. The seminar was held on 14-15 March, 2016 at Seminar Hall, Baba Farid Group of Institutions, Bhatinda. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convenor of Punjabi Advisory Board welcomed the guests, scholars and audience. He talked in detail on the literary contribution and achievements of Harcharan Singh. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, Chairman, Baba Farid Group of Institutions inaugurated the seminar. Chief Guest of the programme was Basant Garg (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Bathinda. Satish Kumar Verma, in his key-note address said that the contribution of Harcharan Singh to Indian literature needs to be re-evaluated in the present scenario. Renowned playwright Ajmer Singh Aulakh was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was divided into three sessions. Harbhajan Singh Bhatia, Jaswinder Singh, Satnam Singh Jassal chaired these sessions and Uma Sethi, Pali Bhupinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh Hundal, Anita Madia, Ranju Bala, Satpreet Singh Jassal, Gurpreet Kaur, Ravinder Kumar, Pardeep Kumar, Usha Rani, Manorama Samagh and Taraspal Kaur presented paper.

The programme ended with vote of thanks

TWO DAY BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON DINA NATH NADIMON

15-16 March 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi New Delhi in association with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized two Day birth centenary seminar on noted Kashmiri poet, late Dina



One of the sessions of the seminar

Nath Nadim on 15-16 March 2016 at seminar Hall of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Srinagar. The seminar evoked an interesting discussion among a large section of audience comprising writers, scholars and teachers.

The programme began with a welcome speech by Prof. Mohammed Zaman Azurdah, convener Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. In his welcome address Azurdah highlighted the role of Sahitya Akademi as well as that of JKAACL in promoting and propagating Kashmiri language and literature. As part of the event, Prof. Rehman Rahi presented inaugural address in which he highlighted various aspects of Nadim's literary work. Keynote address was read by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad on behalf of Mohammad Yusuf Taing. In his presidential address Prof. Marghoob Banihali emphasized the need to preserve and promote Kashmiri as a mother tongue and enhance its role in social sphere. Secretary Academy, Dr. Aziz Hajini highlighted the true contributions of Nadim to Kashmiri poetry on the occasion. Programme Officer, Dr. Mushtaq Sadaf presented vote of thanks.

First session of the seminar was presided over by Farooque Nazki and Shafi Shouq and Farooq Faiyaz presented their papers on life

and works of the poet Nadim. Second session of the seminar was presided over by Shanti Veer Kaul. Prof. Bashir Bashir, Ghulam Nabi Aatish and Abdul Ahad were presented their papers. The paper readers highlighted the role of Nadim in Kashmiri poetry with specific reference to the period in which the poet emerged.

The second day of the seminar and third session was presided by Ghulam Nabi Khayal. G.R. Hasrat Gadda, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq and Satish Vimal were presented their papers in this session. The last and fourth session was presided over by Mishal Sultanpuri and B.N. Betab and Afaq Aziz presented their papers.

A large number of Kashmiri writers, academics and linguists attended the two day seminar and took part in the discussions also.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON PRATIBHA BASU

17 March 2016, Cotton College, Guwahati

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Cotton College organized a birth centenary seminar on Pratibha Basu on 17 March 2016 at Cotton College, Guwahati. The welcome address of the seminar was delivered by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. Mita Chakraborty, Head of the Dept. of Bengali, Cotton College, delivered the introductory address. Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali writer graced the occasion as the chief guest of the seminar. The keynote address was delivered by Gopa Dutta Bhaumik, eminent Bengali scholar. The inaugural session was chaired by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Kolkata proposed the vote of thanks. Bela Das and Kankabati

Dutta read out about the novel writings of Pratibha Basu in the first session of the seminar. Sumita Chakrabarti chaired the first session. Binata Roychowdhury, Nandita Bhattacharya read out about the story writings of Pratibha Basu in the second session of the seminar while Madhumita Bhattacharya conducted the session from the chair. In the third session Aveek Majumder read out the works on Mahabharata by Pratibha Basu, Memoirs by Manju Das and Brajagopal Ray from the chair read out the Travelogues of Pratibha Basu. Valedictory address was delivered by Usharanjan Bhattacharya.

SYMPOSIUM ON PRACHIN SAHITYA AANI ITIHASACHER AADAARIT KONKANI SAHITYA
20 March 2016, Panaji, Goa

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office Mumbai, in collaboration with Goa Konkani Akademi and Institute Menezes Braganza organized a symposium on *Prachin Sahitya Aani Itihasacher Aadaarit Konkani Sahitya* (Konkani Literature Based on Ancient Literature and History) on 20 March 2016 at Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa. Dr Tanaji Halarnkar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, welcomed the guest



L–R: Madhav Borcar, Gopal Krishna Pai,
Tanaji Halarnkar, Sanjay Harmalkar

participants and audience. Sri Gopal Krishna Pai was the Chief Guest. Sri Uday Bhembre, Sri Mahabaleshwar Sail, Dr Jayanti Naik, Sri S.Ramkrishna Kini and Melvin Rodrigues presented their papers. Sri Madhav Borcar proposed vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON ROLE OF SMALL NEPALI LITERARY MAGAZINES IN SOCIETY IN COLLABORATION WITH NEPALI SAHITYA PARISHAD, SHILLONG
20 March 2016, Shillong

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong organized a symposium on 'The Role of Small Nepali Literary Magazines in Society' on 20 March 2016 at Manisingh Gurung Auditorium, Shillong. Sri Navasapkota, chief guest of the symposium stated the impact of literature on society and marked the role of Nepali literary magazines. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave introductory remarks. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Nar Bahadur Rai, Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Parishad. At the beginning Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi while welcoming the gathering spoke briefly about the activities of Akademi.

The academic session was chaired by Sri Vikramvir Thapa, which included the papers of Sri Sachin Rai (The role of 'Diyalo' magazine in the development of Indian Nepali literature), Sri Teknarayan Upadhyaya (The concern of Indian Nepali society and small literary magazines of Nepali), Sri Krishna Pradhan (A brief history of Indian Nepali literary magazines) and Smt. Laxmi Meenu (Small literary Nepali magazines from North-East and Indian Nepali Society).

SEMINAR ON BODO FOLK LITERATURE AND ITS SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC VALUE

21 March 2016, Baksa, Assam

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha organized a seminar on “Bodo Folk Literature and its Social and Academic Value” at Barama College, Barama, Baksa, BTAD, Assam on 21 March, 2016.

The Inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Tiken Ch. Das, Principal, Barama College. At the very beginning, a group of students of Barama College sang the inaugural song. The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Anil Boro, Ex-Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and Associate Professor, Gauhati University. He said that the Sahitya Akademi has been organizing many programmes for upliftment of Bodo literature. The Folk literature transmits from generation to generation which lasts forever. It has good Social and Academic value which can educate the people by the way of amusement and entertainment. The various festivals and rituals expose the educative value. It gives amusement and at the same time brings unity and also controls the society. Through the modern age is prominently known as scientific age, but till today the value of Folk literature is not undermined.

Padmashree Dr. Kameswar Brahma, the President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, delivered his speech as a special guest. He said that the topic has the immense importance for the development of language. He expressed his gratitude heartily to the College Authority for providing the venue of the College for holding the seminar. He said that this seminar has the great importance for Bodo language and Literature. He expressed his desire of holding more seminars by taking various topics, so that the people can understand the Bodo literature and get inspiration to be involved in this respect. For him, there should

be co-relation among various literatures, like Assamese, Bengali, English and so on.

Sri Bisweswar Basumatary, Vice President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha delivered the Key-note address. According to him, in the primitive age, people did not know how to speak, but communicated by means of signals. They learnt to sign during their day to day work and also learnt to speak by listening the sound of air, water and natural objects. The tales of grandmother or grandfather about Ghost, God-Goddess, Animals, Birds, Insects, Nature etc have the meaningful purpose of teaching the lesson among the children. Folk tales bear the moral values in the Educational Institutions. Singing the song in a group can maintain unity in the society. The mantras, tantras, songs have purpose to control the evil elements as well as the society. Generally, the story of Folk Literature can purify the thoughts, habits and attitudes of the people. The story of Panchatantra can give the good moral lesson among the society as well as the students.

In his speech, the Chairperson Dr. Tiken Ch. Das, Principal, Barama College expressed his satisfaction on holding the Seminar at Barama College, because, the students of this College have got the opportunity to learning about the Bodo Folk Literature. And for that he conveyed thanks and gratitude to Sahitya Akademi and Bodo Sahitya Sabha.



Participants of the seminar

The Inaugural Session came to an end after vote of thanks was proposed by Kamala Kt. Muchahary, General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

First Session: Dr. Birhasgiri Basumatary, Principal, Bijni College conducted the first Session of the Seminar Mrs. Rwirup Brahma, Asstt. Professor Dept of Bodo, Barma College, presented the Paper. According to her, a sentence can become meaningful, if the phrase and idioms are utilized properly and that can take a vital role in the society. In the day to day domestic works, in the paddy field, hunting, fishing, the proverbs, phrase and idioms are used by common people. Moreover, it contributes to the next generation for their peaceful living. Though, it does not have a particular name of writer, the Bodo Folk Literature can help educate the illiterate people, she said.

Sri Prasanta Boro, Asstt. Professor Dept. of Bodo, Rangapara College and Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha presented the paper on the topic. He attempted to discuss about social and academic value of the Folk literature. He appreciated and evaluated the tale of "Sandw baodia" which focused about the ancient Bodo people who knew how to keep clean and hygienic the river water even before Scientists have discovered the ways and means of purifying the water. He also evaluated the tale of "Oma and Swima" which gives the moral lesson to be self sufficient, active and intelligent; otherwise, it is certain that he will be deprived from all the side. Folk literature have many social responsibility and influences in the Society in every sphere. For him, culture does not simply mean dresses, food and living, but it includes morality also.

Replying to a question of an audience about Ballad in Bodo, Smt. Rwirup Brahma said about the Ballad relating to Bashiram Jwhwlao. The tales can inspire us and give us much entertainment. Moreover, it has

educative value in the society and educational Institutions, so that we must attempt to expand the Folk literature, said Dr. Birhasgiri Basumatary as the Chairperson of the Seminar.

Second Session: Sri Dharannidhar Wary, a Renowned Bodo Writer, Chaired the Seminar. Sri Rujab Mushahary, Asstt. Professor, of Bodo, Rangia College presented the Paper. According to him, folk literature plays a role of mirror of the society, because everything of the past of the community reflects in the Folk literature. It also reflects the thought and unity of the past society. Bodo phrase and idioms, Fables, Folk songs etc. can expose the moral values for the upliftment of society. The story of "Sikhna Jwhwlao", "Gambari Sikhla", "Basiram jwhwlao" etc the Legendary Stories gives us knowledge and excitement about ancient history of the Bodos.

In absence of Sri Nailo jalo Uzir, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Bodo, Goreswar College, Sri Chittaranjan Mushahary, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Bodo, Barma College presented the seminar paper. According to him, the name of some villages in the local area of Barama, Naktipara, Jaripara, Makhuli etc were originally derived from Bodo terms, but in course of time, these are converted to the terms to other language. Moreover, there are many names of places and villages all around, which were originally Bodo terms. Therefore, according to him, the last alternative way to recover the origin of the name of places is the Bodo Folk literature.

Participating in the discussion, Sri Sitaram Basumatary, President of Salbari Dist. Bodo Sahitya Sabha said that there are mainly three kinds of Folk literature (1) Mythology, (2) Legendary (3) Morals. But, none of these is discussed today.

Sri Dharanidhar Wary from the Chair said that Folk Literature is the beginning and complete frame of the literature and again it

can be regarded as the image of the community. He hopes that this topic can be discussed broadly in future to acquire the more and more knowledge.

SEMINAR ON TRIBAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES IN TELUGU SPEAKING AREAS
26-27 March 2016, Visakhapatnam

The language in use today is an evolved form of the language that the tribal people continue to use and it is wrong to consider the tribal language to be inferior, N. Gopi, convenor, Telugu Advisory Board of the Sahitya Akademi and former Vice-Chancellor of telugu university has said.

Speaking at the inaugural of the two-day seminar on “Tribal languages and literatures in Telugu-speaking areas,” jointly organised by the Sahitya Akademi and Girijan Cooperative Corporation at Visakhapatnam the city of destiny in the state of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday(26-03-2016), the former Vice-Chancellor of Potti Sriramulu Telugu University said: “It was not the Girijans that are getting alienated but in reality after getting ‘civilised’ we are going away from our roots.” He lauded the Sahitya Akademi for its efforts to organise such a programme for the first time in the history of the akademi.

Script was not essential for a language, Sahitya Akademi secretary K Srinivasa Rao said emphasising on the need for compilation of Girijan literature. The akademi had conducted a language convention for identification and promotion of tribal languages. The akademi was giving away Bhasha Samman awards in 24 languages, he added.

While there have been efforts to document the literature of some tribal languages and script developed, nothing has been done to sustain it, GCC Vice-Chairman and

Managing Director A.S.P.S. Ravi Prakash noted.

There were a lot of preconceived notions about a language, most important being script. “It is difficult to make people believe that there can be languages without a script,” leading researcher in linguistics and former Registrar of Potti Sriramulu Telugu University B. Ramakrishna Reddy said. West European languages – English, French, German, Spanish and Portuguese – use the same Roman script and each one has its own rich literary tradition, he pointed out.

“We have to accept the fact that there are differences in perception among societies as the value systems are different. While the Mahabharata of urban society portrays Karna as of a lower caste and tries to play down his role, the Mahabharata narrated by tribal people give him due respect as a warrior,” senior journalist and writer Chintakindi Srinivasa Rao said.

In the afternoon session of first day was held on the language and literature of several tribal groups. Mr.B.ramakrishna reddy chaired the session and spoke on languages and literatures of Jathapulu., Kondulu and gadaba. He explained the beauty of languages.

Sivaramakrishna director shakthi, organaigation for betterment of tribes presented a paper on languages and literatures of konda redlu, bagatha, valmikulu and konda doralu. He enphosiged about “nandhi padam” a song by tribes in eastern ghats, which tells the girijan life in the hills.

D.surya danujay and A.chendra shekar rao presented papers on banjara and savara tribes respectively.

The second day of the seminar i.e. 27 th, march 2016 elaborated the value system of girijans in the remote hill areas. The day started with a session of novel idea, “The influence of tribal languages and literatures

on classical telugu literature". K.Malayavasini former head, telugu department Andhra University spoke on the subject. She told about Kapavyopakhyanam in Indian ancient text. She also lauded the scarifies of Baktha Kannappa a girijan Shiva baktha.

Writer Vadrevu Veeralaxmi devi, K.Shyamala Teacher Dravidian University, Kuppam and prof.Madabhusi sampath kumar Presented papers in the session. Works on tribal languages, were well placed in the speech of veeralaxmi devi. K.Shyamala spoke on Chenchu and Yanadala languages and literature. Sampath kumar spoke in detailed about Erukula literature.

The next session was held on Korrajulu, Pujari, Koya languages. The session was presided by N.Bakthavatsala reddy, he spoke about Korrajulu and their literature. C.R.S.Sarma presented a paper on Koya language in the session.

Journalist Goparaju Narayana Rao spoke on 'Manyam uprising as reflected in Girijan literature' at the same session. N.Ch. Chakravarthy has addressed the audions on the topic "Tribal students and my experience"

The valedictory session held on 27th evening. Writer Vadrevu China Veerabhadru has bemoaned the neglect of rich tribal languages and literature and also the lack of awareness among the elite about the cultural heritage of Girijans. he said the intellectuals often speak of "tribal dialects" in a dismissive manner and were not even willing to grant them the status of languages.

Mr. Veerabhadru, with more than three decades of service in the Girijan Welfare Department, said there was a mantra in Chenchu folklore said to be much older than even the Vedas, according to a researcher.

He called upon Sahitya Akademi to get the literature of tribals translated into various Indian languages and to encourage such translators. Many of the tribal languages should

be included in the Scheduled List of Languages in the Constitution. He said languages like Tulu and Konkani were included in the Scheduled List though they were not widely spoken.

Convener, Telugu Advisory Board of the Akademi, N. Gopi underlined the importance of more research into tribal literature and languages.

Writer Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad felt that unless tribal literature was translated into Hindi comparative study would not take place. Sahitya Akademi Secretary K. Sreenivasa Rao said translations of tribal literature would be commissioned by the Akademi. However, there was a dearth of competent translators well-versed in tribal as well as local languages.

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON BHUBANESWAR BEHERA

27 March 2016, Bhubaneswar Odisha

Sahitya Akademi organized a one day Birth-Centenary Seminar on Bhubaneswar Behera on 27 March 2016 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Inaugural Session: At the outset a Monograph on Bhubaneswar Behara published by the Sahitya Akademi was released. In the Inaugural session Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcoming the participants-guests and audience said Bhubaneswar Behera was an engineer by formal education and a teacher by choice and narrated a brief literary career of Sri Behera. Dr. Gourahari Das, eminent fictionist and the convener of Odia advisory board of the Sahitya Akademi in his introductory remarks told that Prof. Behera will continue to inspire many a generation of Indian readers for his straight forward description and down to earth approach.

The Seminar was inaugurated by veteran

Odia poet Rajendra Kishore Panda who recollected his associations with Prof .Behera . Sri Panda described him as a personality who becomes a cult in his life time. His persona was much bigger than his literature and much of his illuminating self remained inexpressible, said Sri Panda. Ramakant Rath, celebrity Odia poet and former president of Sahitya Akademi attended as the Chief Guest. Paying his tribute to Prof. Behera Sri Rath said, he was a legendary writer who



Ramakanta Rath addressing the gathering in the inaugural session

narrated ordinary human characters with extraordinary artistic skill. Renowned fiction writer and daughter of Prof. Behera, Yashodhara Mishra presented the key-note address outlining the life and literature of Prof Bhubaneswar Behera. Prof. Behera's creative legacy in Odia is huge and a good number of his readers, critic and admirers attended the seminar to pay their rich tribute to the legendary writer. Prof. Behera was a highly qualified engineer who mentored major construction projects in post modern India, later joined in technical institutions as technical educator and institution maker began writing very late. He arrived in Odia literature with a huge repository of experience and expressional skill. He was exceptionally a talented prose writer and his writings added new flavor and style in Odia prose writing. He was one of the first batch travel writer in Odia who described the life and time of Western Africa to Odia reader. He was a sensible humorist, a brilliant craftsman of short stories and an erudite scholar. Presiding over the inaugural session eminent fiction writer Santanu Kumar Acharya described Prof. Behera as a master story teller who dealt with trials and tribulations of common man with great

empathy. Pitabas Routray, member, Odia advisory board of the Sahitya Akademi proposed vote of thanks.

First academic session: In the first session eminent scholars and critics discussed on the Criticism and Travelogue of Prof. Behera in details with Akademi award winning poet Sri Gopal Krushna Rath in the chair. Eminent poet Prativa Satpathy and Prof Sumanyu Satpathy from Delhi University presented their papers. As a travel writer Prof. Behera's approach to a foreign land was highly sensible and he drew a brilliant collage of memories inter weaving Odishan and African in his travelogues, said Prof.Sumanyu Satpathy. Prativa Satpathy in his critique described him as a pioneering essayist and specifically praised his poetic narrative in prose. Gopal Krushna Rath spoke about his personal memories. He also talked about the enchanting rural landscape in Prof.Behera's writing.

Second academic session: The second session was devoted to his Short stories and autobiography, chaired by octogenarian fiction writer Sri Satkadi Hota. Prof . Bhubaneswar Behera's autobiography 'Gaanra Daka' (call of the village) is a master piece and equally loved by the readers and the critics. After



Madhusudan Pati delivering Valedictory address,
Gourahari Das, sitting on the dias

...serving in various government offices and institutions as an authority he came back to his native village in Kalahandi, one of the poorest districts of India and infamous for hunger and malnutrition and he spent his life until his last. His experience in changing landscape and mindscape of the village are being vividly described in his semi autobiographic novel “call of the village”. Veteran poet Mamata Das presenting her paper on the contents and contexts of Prof. Behera’s short stories in detail. Binay Kumar Behera who translated “Call of the village” into English spoke about the life and time of the great author.

Valedictory session: Valedictory address was presented by Prof. Madhusudan Pati, veteran critic, poet and colleague of Prof. Behera in Sambalpur University. Prof Pati in his brilliant speech critically assessed the personality and creativity of this master story teller. Prof Pati said one cannot separate Prof. Behera’s life from his literature as his life was his message. He was the man who lived his literature and his literature was reflected in his life. Prof. Behera was a Gandhian who experimented his literature in his life, concluded Prof. Pati. The valedictory session

was chaired by Sri Gourahari Das and vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi.

Hundreds of Prof Behera’s admirers, critics and readers attended the seminar. Among them prominent names are Haraprasad Das, Raj Kishore Mishra, Subhendu Mund, S N Tiwari, Prof. Jatindra Nayak, Sangram Jena, Swaraj Mishra, Prabasini Mahakud, Kshirod Parida, Amiya Bhushan Padhi, Bhagyalipi Malla, Baikuntanath sahu, Niranjana Padhi, Satyanand Mishra and others.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON CULTURAL AND LITERARY TRADITIONS OF TRIBES OF INDIA
29-30 March 2016, Bangalore

In order to have a larger debate on the importance of bringing the tribal sects to the mainstream, a two day seminar had been organized by the Sahitya Akademi .

The seminar began on 29th March with the Welcome address by K.Srinivasa Rao, Secretary of the Akademy. He called upon all the writers to join hands with the government in bringing the tribals to the main stream.

In his introductory remarks, Dr.Narahalli Balasubrahmanya, Convenor, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademy, said this seminar had been organized to formulate a healthy atmosphere through a proper dialogue about the tribals. He felt that due to the advent of industrialization, oral traditions are being hit. Post colonial writers have given importance to oral studies. To address the present problems of the tribes, we need a proper understanding of their living conditions., he added.

Inaugurating the seminar ,eminent Odiya

writer and the Jnanapeeth awardee, Sitakant Mahapatra who has deep interest in the growth and development of all tribal cultures and who has translated and edited ten tribal oral poetry anthologies, observed that a separate academy be started for the Tribal studies and the proposed academy can handle that job and encourage scholar, writers and artists to study all the aspects of tribal culture and give it a pan Indian focus. And felt that this is important because, some forms of tribal culture are also dying or getting distorted before our eyes. Mahapatra also felt that a genuine awareness and growing interest in tribal culture will sustain our commitment to conglomeration of neighbor hoods.

In his keynote address, Dr Tejasvi Kattimani, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, said that tribals should be brought to the mainstream. He remembered that Verrier Elvin was asked by Kaka Kalelkar to work with the Adivasis. His writings are a must read by all those interested in the welfare of Adivasis and tribals. Expressing concern over the tribal languages being the endangered language, he felt that all efforts should be made to preserve it. He also spoke about the vital characteristics of the Tribal University and steps taken to study the life of tribals.

In his presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President of Sahitya Akademy, felt that today art is becoming a commodity. A Democracy cannot neglect the tribes, they must be brought to the mainstream and the exploitation of the forest and the forest dwellers should stop, he added.

Sri Mahalingeshvara Bhat, Regional Secretary of the Akademy, Bengaluru proposed a vote of Thanks.

FIRST SESSION: Myths in Tribal Languages, Literatures and Cultures: First

session began with Dr H.C. Boralingaiah of Kannada University Hampi, in the chair. B.R. Khacharia who spoke on the myths of Gir's Rabari; Sarjugan, said they sing songs from the song of their Goddess. They call their song "Sarjugan". All the stories and songs are in the oral tradition. Rabaris live in the midst of Nature and do animal husbandry and farming, They are found in the Gir forest spread over an area of 250 kilometers. Sarju is the only Goddess for them. They sing Sarju during Navarathri and marriage celebrations and on festivals.

The next speaker Javed Rahi's paper was on A Study of Gujjars and Baker tribes in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that Gujjars are 12% of tribal population found in Pakistan and Beluchistan. They worship Moukal, an invisible force.

Hemanth Kharke of Maharashtra said that the tribals in his state lead a happier life than the urban population. He also noted that their myths have intimate relation with religion. Inter clan marriages are promoted whereas Intra clan marriages are banned. Myths on the characters of Ramayana and Mahabharatha are reconstructed.

H.C. Boralingaiah who has done a good deal of field work with regard to tribals, made a power point presentation of the tribes, like Jenukurubas, Koragas, Siddhis, and others. About Siddhis, he said that they came from Zambia and were sold as slaves. Some of them came to Karnataka and others went to Gujarath. He further noted that the tribal leaders have established bond with the land and the people, namely, Manteswamy, Junjappa, Mylaralinga, and others. Oral narratives start with the stories of the creation. Myths are like the cultural indexes. Tribals concentrate on the prominence of women. They hold that chastity should be maintained not only by women, but also by men.

At this stage Sitakant Mahapatra observed that various commissions set up by government have not done much for the tribals. As such, the writers and artists working for the cause of tribals should see that they are brought to the mainstream. They must get proper education, health, and enough for their livelihood.

The evening, cultural programme comprised of A Lambani Dance by Sri Gujasatti Lambani Dance Troupe, of Benigeri Sanna Thanda, Davangere. (Karnatak) It was presented beautifully, by a group of ten Lambani Women to the folk tune.

SECOND SESSION: Tribes in Indian Literature, Cultural Change and Conservation. This session began with Arjun Dev Charan in the Chair. Dr H. Kamkenthang who spoke on the Cultural and literary traditions of the tribes of Manipur, said that the cultural and literary traditions of the people extend far back into the past and sprawl wide particularly in the valley of Imphal. He observed that the tribes have consciousness of their language. The aspiration of the tribes is to get their languages introduced as media of instruction. Every tribe has an organization to deal with their literary aspects of culture. The state govt has been permitting tribal languages at different levels as media of instruction at random without bothering to create teaching posts.

Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik spoke next on the cultural and literary traditions of Bengali Tribes. He referred to Santhali group as the main tribes whose medicine is a good contribution to Ayurveda. A Santhali dictionary is also being used, he noted.

Arjun Dev Charan who spoke from the chair said that culture means cult or cultivate. In Adivasi culture, concept of mind is the most important. Adi means, first to inhabit. So, they exercise their right to the land they inhabit.

THIRD SESSION: Influence of Globalization on Tribes of India. The session began with Bhanu Bharthi in the chair. Raj Kishore Mishra who spoke on the Tribes of Odisha, said that though they have a distinct identity of their own tradition and culture, they are receptive and responsive to change and that they are voluntarily coming forward to improve their life with a scientific and technological orientation. He further said that Odisha tribes have a culture of their own, like their counterpart elsewhere and their age old faith in animism which is the worldview that non human entities such as animals, plants, inanimate objects, phenomena etc possess a spiritual essence or faith in Sarnaism or the religion of the holy woods as we find in Central East India among the tribes of Munda, Santal and the Khuruk, is being localized and confined to the peers in their respective hamlets. He also observed that the most perplexing issue is whether the tribals would be allowed to come to the mainstream and join the process of globalization and remain insensate to their ethnic opulence. But their conversion to other religions should be left to their choice and all their cultural outfits behavioral practices mystic orientations and indigenous faiths should be appreciated and earnestly treasured, despite the onset of globalization and development interventions.

Fourth Session: Fourth session was on Myth and Reality of Tribal Culture, Chaired by Anil Dr. A.T. Mohanraj who spoke on the subject with special reference to Mallukurukumba Tribe of Wyanad of Kerala, said that construct of culture identity as savages, apes or rude type was part of a colonial project devised to enslave or dispossess them of their land or forest and added that when corporate giants destroy mountains and forests for mining or quarrying, tribal communities are evacuated from their land

or forced to migrate to distant urban spaces. In reality, tribal communities are struggling to adjust to the stark realities of globalization. Tribal life and culture has to be understood objectively without prejudices or Perspective of the hegemonic Communities.

Kashinath Vinayak Barhate who spoke on the Myths and Realities of Korku oral Literature said that the only way to preserve the mythology of the tribes is a search for its survivals is later folk love and folk theater, story telling and singing forms are endangered because, the entire context, of life even rural and tribal life on this planet is changing. Therefore, the traditional forms of folklore performance need to be transposed into the new world.

P.C. Hembram said that the tribals should fight for their rightful existence. Dr. H.M.S. Prakash, a geologist from Karnataka spoke on

his experiences and contact with the tribals in Nagpur and Shillong. He felt that preserving tribal culture amidst development is the need of the hour.

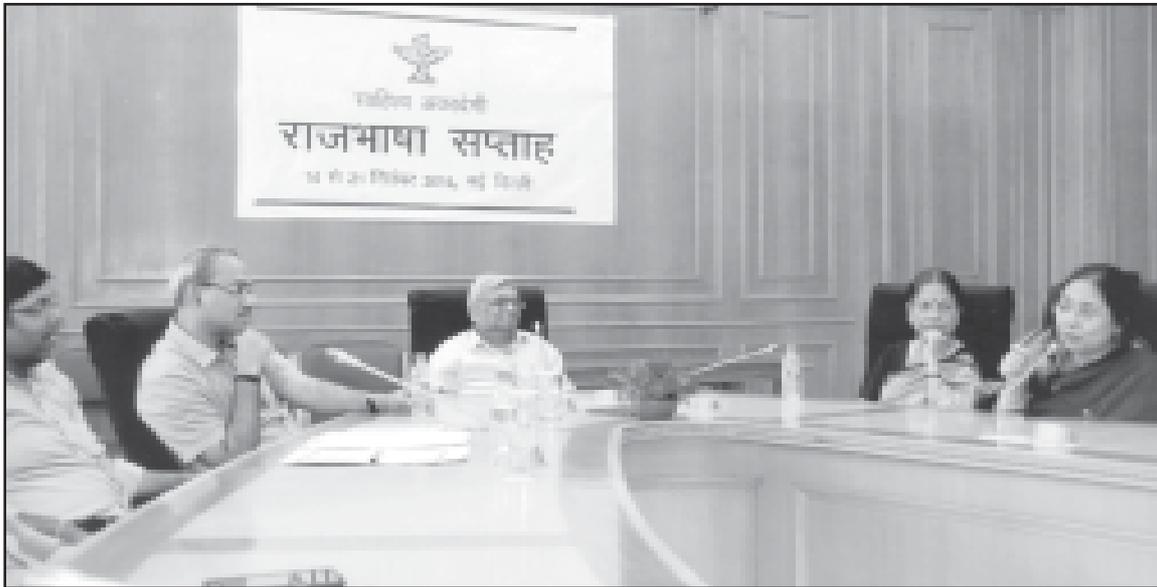
Anil Kumar Bora, who spoke as the president, said that there should be constitutional guarantee for tribals. In the evening, the cultural programme comprised Mao and Kabui Dance presented by the students of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy Imphal. It was a spectacular performance in colorful costumes. It was a grand finale for the two day seminar that provided insights on the culture and Myth of the tribals of India. The seminar concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, who thanked all the guests, participants, audience and media personnel for successfully conducting the seminar.

HINDI WEEK CELEBRATION

14-21 September 2015 New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized the Hindi week celebrations in the Head Office from September 14-21. The Chief Guest for the function was Shri Vimlesh Kanti Verma. The Secretary, Dr. K.Sreenivasarao, in his opening address to the gathering stressed that Hindi language binds us into a unified whole. He emphasized that more and more official work should be done in Hindi. Shri Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, said that one and all should take a firm resolve to carry out work in Hindi. The chief guest for the event Prof. Vimlesh Kanti Verma said that Indians should come out of their colonial mindsets and feel proud of speaking Hindi. He said Hindi is a link language of our country. Hindi is spoken in eleven regions of our country. Many people do not know how to write Hindi. We must help them out to learn and write Hindi. We need to change our mindsets and respect Hindi a lot

more than we currently do, he said. We should increase the usage of Hindi into the fields of education and law courts. Hindi is our national language. The Home Minister, Sri Rajnath Singh's message on this occasion, was read out by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty and Smt. Renu Mohan Bhan Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks. The week long celebrations included various competitions, workshops, Ghazal Path under Rajbhasha Manch, Essay writing competitions and translation competitions. The winner of these various competitions were given certificates and cash prizes by Dr Vishwanath.Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Rajbhasha Secretary Shri Girish Shankar, Shri Ved Prakash Gaur, Director, Raj Bhasha at the Ministry of Culture and Dr. K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



L-R. D.K. Devesh, K. Sreenivasarao, Vimalesh Kanti Verma, Dheera Verma and Renu Mohan Bhan at inauguration of Hindi Week

HINDI DIVAS CELEBRATIONS IN REGIONAL CENTRES

BENGALURU

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized 'Hindi Divas' as part of Hindi Week celebrations on 21 September 2015 at the Akademi premises in Bangalore. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the guest, Dr. Bhanwar Singh Shaktawat, Assistant Professor, Jain University. In his guest address, he highlighted the need to learn Hindi language and elaborated on the richness of Hindi literature. Various competitions were held for the staff and prizes were distributed. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.

CHENNAI

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai celebrated Hindi week on September 16, 2015 at the Akademi premises in Chennai. Sri K. P. Radhakrishnan welcomed the guest, Sri Souri Rajan and talked briefly about Akademi's efforts to promote Hindi across India. Sri Souri Rajan, talked about the importance and relevance of Hindi and the need for every citizen of India to learn the language. Various competitions were held for the staff of the Chennai Sahitya Akademi staff and Sri Souri Rajan distributed the prizes.

KOLKATA

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office organized 'Hindi Divas' as part of Hindi Week celebrations on 17 September 2015 at the Akademi premises in Kolkata. Two eminent guests, Smt. Rajani Poddar and Sri Ujjwal Singha delivered lectures on the use of Hindi as a medium of official language and its relevance in our daily lives. Various competitions were held for the staff and prizes were distributed.

MUMBAI

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai celebrated *Hindi Week* from 14th to 22nd September 2015. Competitions such as handwriting, essay writing, and translation were organized during the week. Staff members including the ones working on contractual basis enthusiastically participated in the competitions. Prizes to the winners in the competitions were given away on 16th September 2015 at the hands of Sri Vijay Kumar, noted Hindi litterateur.

MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

Executive Board

24 June 2015, Guwahati
17 December 2015, New Delhi
15 February 2016, New Delhi

General Council

24 June 2015, Guwahati
16 February 2016, New Delhi

Finance Committee

22 June 2015, New Delhi
26 October 2015, New Delhi

REGIONAL BOARD MEETINGS

Eastern Regional Board

7 June 2015, Impahal

Northern Regional Board

6 June 2015, New Delhi

Western Regional Board

17 June 2015, Mumbai

Southern Regional Board

10 May 2015, Hyderabad.

LANGUAGE ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS

Assamese	: 24 May 2015	Manipuri	: 16 May 2015
Bengali	: 16 May 2015	Marathi	: 1 May 2015
Bodo	: 24 May 2015	Nepali	: 23 May 2015 18 March 2016
Dogri	: 21 May 2015	Odia	: 15 May 2015
English	: 25 May 2015	Punjabi	: 22 May 2015
Gujarati	: 30 May 2015 13 December 2015	Rajasthani	: 25 May 2015
Hindi	: 14 February 2016	Sanskrit	: 25 May 2015
Kannada	: 9 May 2015	Santali	: 23 May 2015 18 March 2016
Kashmiri	: 29 April 2015	Sindhi	: 30 May 2015
Konkani	: 20 April 2015	Tamil	: 25 April 2015
Maithili	: 26 May 2015	Telugu	: 30 April 2015
Malayalam	: 26 th April 2015	Urdu	: 9 May 2015

WORKSHOPS ORGANISED BY THE AKADEMI

Hindi-Dogri Poetry Translation Workshop
25-28 May 2015, Patnitop

Bengali-Manipuri Translation Workshop
14-16 July 2015, Imphal

Malayalam-Rajasthani Translation Workshop
2-6 October 2015, Trivandrum

Workshop on Creation Myths in Unwritten
Languages
16 October 2015, New Delhi

Translation Workshop on Dalit Poetry
21-23 December 2015, Aurangabad

Manipuri-Dogri Translation Workshop on Short
Stories
9-11 February 2016, Imphal (Manipur)

Translation workshop: Regional languages –
Gujarati
15-16 March 2016 at Valsad

Assamese-Nepali Translation Workshop on
Short Stories
17-20 March 2016, Guwahati

PERIODICALS

Indian Literature (Bi-monthly in English)

Guest Editor: Subodh Sarkar

Six issues were brought out from April 2015 to March 2016

Samakaleena Bharatiya Sabitya (Bi-monthly in Hindi)

Guest Editor: Ranjit Saha

Six issues were brought out from April 2015 to March 2016

Sanskrita Pratibha (Six monthly)

First Editor: Radhavallabh Tripathi

Second Editor: Bagivathinand

Two issues were brought out from April 2015 to March 2016

TRAVEL GRANT TO WRITERS

The following authors availed of travel grants during the year 2015-2016

- Kannada* : Sri S.M. Bhyrappa visited Seemandhra (A.P.)
- Konkani* : Sri Yugank Naik visited Kolkata
Sri Chandrababu Shetty visited Goa
Sri Vyankatesh Nayak visited Punjab
- Maitihili* : Sonu Kumar Jha visited Karnataka
- Marathi* : Ms. Ignatius Dias visited Madhya Pradesh
Sri Chandrashekhar Malkampatte visited West Bengal
Sri Sandip Jagdale visited Madhya Pradesh
Sri Maruti N.Dugdumwar visited Karnataka
- Nepali* : Bhanu Adhikari visited Assam
- Sindhi* : Ms. Bharati Sadarangani visited Maharashtra
Ms. Mamata Parwani visited Assam

LITERARY PROGRAMME SERIES

MEET THE AUTHOR

Sahitya Akademi periodically arranges 'Meet the Author' programmes in which a distinguished writer is invited to speak on his life and works so that other writers, scholars and readers have a deep and personal understanding of the writer and his writings. The following distinguished writers participated in this programme this year.

Sri Vasudev Nirmal (Sindhi poet and writer)
16 May 2015, Mumbai.

Lakshmi Nandan Bora (Assamese)
23 May 2015, Guwahati

Nagen Saikia (Assamese)
26 July 2015, Namrup, Assam

Giraddi Govindaraj (Kannada writer)
5 August 2015, Kalaburagi (Gulbarga)

Sheela Kolambkar (Konkani writer)
27 August 2015, Panaji, Goa

Piyush Guleri (Dogri Poet and writer)
19 September 2015, Palampur (Himachal Pradesh)

Kedar Gurung (Nepali Poet and writer)
24 September 2015, Geyzing (West Sikkim)

Samiran Chhetri 'Priyadarshi' (Nepali fiction writer)
27 September 2015, Siliguri (West Bengal)

Kapilavai Lingamurthy
3 October 2015, Hyderabad

Ramachandra Behera (Odia)
18 October 2015, Bhubaneswar

Saniya (Marathi fiction writer)
31 October 2015, Sangli

Bharat Sasne (Marathi fiction writer)
5 November 2015, Nagpur

Laxman Dubey (Sindhi poet)
28 November 2015, Mumbai

Atin Bandyopadhyay (Bengali)
4 December 2015, Kolkata

Geeta Upadhyaya (Nepali writer)
10 January 2016, Tezpur

Uday Bhembre (Konkani writer)
31 January 2016, Ernakulam, Kerala

Mangal Singh Hazowary (Bodo)
7 March 2016, Bijni, Assam

Haraprasad Das (Odia)
26 March 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

THROUGH MY WINDOW

In this series, an eminent writer presents his or her impression on the life and works of another eminent contemporary writer. The following writers were invited to participate in this programme series.

Kamla Goklani on the life and works of Sri Sunder Agnani
6 June 2015, Jaipur

C. R. Majhi, well-known Santali writer on Doman Sahu 'Samir', renowned Santali Scholar
12 July 2015, Baripada (Odisha)

S. Nataraja Budalu on G.S. Sivarudrappa
17 July 2015, Bengaluru -

Baldev Budhrani "Deep" on life and literary works of Sri Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal', Sindhi poet, critic, and biographer
27 July 2015, Pune

Gouridas Pradhan spoke on Mangauli Charan Biswal
24 August 2015, Jharsuguda, Odisha

Arindam Barkotoky on Nalinidhar Bhattacharya
23 August 2015, Guwahati

Sachin Das on Prafulla Ray
24 September 2015, Kolkata

Yuvaraj Kafley, well-known Nepali critic on Daan Kaling, eminent Nepali poet
26 September 2015, Kalimpong (West Bengal)

Ashok Shahane on late Arun Kolatkar, distinguished Marathi and English poet, translator
16 October 2015, Mumbai

Prakash Parienkar on the life and works of the late J.B. Moraes, eminent Konkani litterateur
17 October 2015, Mumbai

Lalit Magotra, well-known Dogri writer on Narendra Khajuria, eminent Dogri writer
27 October 2015, Jammu

KAVISANDHI

The aim of this series is to give poetry lovers

an opportunity to hear poetry being read out by the poet himself herself. Fifteen programmes were organised in different languages in different parts of the country this year:

Aruna Dhere (Marathi poet)
12 June 2015, Aurangabad

Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy (Kannada poet)
22 June 2015

K.G. Sankara Pillai (Malayalam poet)
26th July 2015, Bengaluru

Maya Kharangate (Konkani poet)
27 June 2015, Mumbai

Subrata Rudra (Bengali)
31 July 2015, Kolkata

Kodumal Janib (Sindhi poet)
16 August 2015, Vadodara

Nilim Kumar (Assamese)
20 August 2015, Dibrugarh, Assam

Anis Uz Zaman (Assamese)
21 August 2015, Sibsagar, Assam

Vinod Assudani (Sindhi poet)
23 August 2015, Raipur

Saroj Ranjan Mohanty (Odia)
22 August 2015, Bhubaneswar

Harishchandra Harit (Maithili Poet)
13 September 2015, Allahabad

Vishnu Sharma Adhikari (Nepali poet)
27 September 2015, Siliguri (West Bengal)

Brajendra Kumar Brahma (Bodo)
25 September 2015, Kokrajhar, Assam

S.V. Satyanarayana
4 October 2015, Hyderabad

Mohan Singh (Dogri poet)
10 October 2015, Jammu

Norjan Syangden (Nepali poet)
18 October 2015, Darjeeling

KATHASANDHI

Under this series, fiction writers read excerpts from their recent novels or read out short stories and then interact with the readers. The following writers participated this year:

Meena Kakodkar (Konkani writer)
27 June 2015, Mumbai

Bansi Khubchandani (Sindhi writer)
28 June 2015, Mumbai

Bibhuti Pattanaik (Odia)
20 June 2015, Bhubaneswar

Abhijit Sen (Bengali)
24 July 2015, Kolkata

Shivdeo Sushil (Dogri Fiction writer)
2 August 2015, Jammu

Jayant Pawar (Marathi writer and playwright)
27 August 2015, Kolhapur

Janil Kumar Brahma (Bodo)
25 September 2015, Kokrajhar, Assam

Solon Karthak (Nepali fiction writer)
26 September 2015, Kalimpong (West Bengal)

Naveen, Eminent Telugu fiction writer
27 September 2015, Warangal.

Khadak Raj Giri (Nepali fiction writer)
10 January 2016, Tezpur

ASMITA

This programme is meant for writers who write in search of a collective identity. Following writers participated in this popular series and read out their works before their readers.

Junu Basumatary, Swapna Baglari, Rashmi Choudhuri, Rupali Swargiary and Sansumwi Khungri Basumatary (Bodo writers)
12 July 2015, Guwahati

Critical Realism and My Short Story
16 August 2015, Kadapa

Maithili Short Stories by women writers
29 November 2015, Bhagalpur

Chhanda Mishra, Jharana Patnaik, Pallavi Nayak, Swarnamayee Purohit, Prajnashree Rath and Sanjukta Mohapatra (Odia writers)
22 January 2016, Baripada, Odisha

Juri Bora Borgohain, Malini Goswami, Jyotirekha Hazarika, Monalisha Saikia, Ila Borgohain, Paimthi Gohain and Binita Dutta (Assamese writers)
15 March 2016, Tingkhong, Assam

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

Programmes on folklore consisting of lectures as well as demonstrations are organised under this series. The following programmes were organised.

Recitation of Tatvapadas by the troupe Tamburi
14 August 2015, Bangalore – 560 002.

On “Prahllad Nataka”
14 November 2015, Berhampur, Ganjam

On Folk Dances
25-26 November 2015, Purulia, West Bengal

On ‘Puppet Play of Assam’
25 November 2015, Nagaon, Assam

Sri Eric Ozario and his fellow artists
20 December 2015, Belgaum

On Raibeshe Chand Dance and Boishabu
Nritya
21 & 24 January 2016, Howrah, West Bengal

Abhijit Choudhury, Jyotirmoy Sengupta,
Debiprasad Sinha, Swarnali Biswas
Bhattacharjee and Sanjay Chakraborty (Bengali
writers)
24 August 2015, Guwahati

Readings by young Maithili writers
1 December 2015, Saharasa

Readings by young Santali writers
5 December 2015, Jamshedpur

Dwiti Chandra Sahu, Prakash Behera, Rajat
Ranjan Swain, Tanmayee Rath and Pallisri
Patnaik (Odia writers)
24 January 2016, Rayagada, Odisha

Gitali Bora, Kamal Kumar Tanti, Sanjib Pol
Deka and Arindam Borkotoky (Assamese
writers)
13 March 2016, Majuli, Assam

MULAKAT/YUVA SAHITI

This programme provides special platform for younger writers from different languages who hardly have any chances of exposure of their literary calibre. The programme consists of reading from the creative works, talks and exchanges. Following programmes were held this year.

Kannada Short Story Reading and Interaction
programme
27 June 2015, Gadag

Deba Kanta Ramchiary, Ripen Boro, Sansuma
Khungur Boro and Golap Boro (Bodo writers)
12 July 2015, Guwahati

Kh. Anandini Devi, Chongtham Ongbi
Subadani, Haobam Seityati Devi,
Kshetrimayum Subadani, Binapani Thokchom,
Mutum Devala (Manipuri women writers)
14 July 2015, Imphal

KAVI ANUVADAK

Sitanshu Yashachandra (Gujarati poet) and
Gagan Gill (Hindi translator)
2 April 2015, New Delhi

Jas Yonjan ‘Pyasi’ (Nepali Kavi) and Sebanti
Ghosh (Bengali Anuvadak)
30 September 2015, Kolkata

Chandrasekhara Kambar (Poet) and O.L.
Nagabushana Swamy (Translator)
12 July 2015, Bangalore

Madan Mohan Soren (Santali poet) and Arjun
Charan Hembram (English translator)
5 December 2015, Jamshedpur

N. Gopi (Telugu Poet) and G.S.R.
Krishnamurthy (Sanskrit Translator)
30 January 2016, Tirupati

AVISHKAR

Aruna Dhere (Noted Marathi poet and writer)
Shama Bhate, (Katthak dancer)
Chandramohan Kulkarni (Celebrated painter)
Pt Satyasheel Deshpande (Classical Singer)
9 September 2015, Nashik

On *Nabarasa* (nine emotions)
19 July 2015, Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar

Musical presentation of Dinubhai Pant's Dogri
poetry by Brij Mohan and his group
11 October 2015, Jammu

On Story Telling with a Musical Background
16 March 2016, Guwahati

NARI CHETNA

Readings by Santali women writers: Chinmayee
Hansda, Malati Hembram, Mukulbala Mandi,
Soma Hembram and Sushma Hembram
30 June 2015, Kharagpur (W.B.)

Discourses on New Feminism and New
Responses, Literary Readings and Interaction
6 July 2015, Bangalore

A Discourse on Half of the Sky in Telugu
Literary Criticism
12 July 2015, Kadapa

My Story and Feminist Experience
8 August 2015, Kurnool

G.V. Murjani, Bharati Kewalramani, Varsha
Udhavdasani, Kalpana Chellani, Jayashri
Murjani, Sunita Vasvani, Chandani Devajani,
and Vandana Hirani
16 August 2015, Vadodara

Maya Nepra, Longjam Sangeeta, Hekrujam
Roybala, Ng. Ekashini, Ch. Jamini Devi,
Wahengbam Kumari Chanu, Arambam Ongbi
Memchoubi and Haobam Nalini Devi
(Manipuri women writers)
17 August 2015, Imphal

Aruna Mohanty, Ira Mohanty, Mamata
Mohapatra, Sangeeta Rath, Shasiprava Bindhani
and Shreemayee Sweta Snigdha Mishra (Odia
women writers)
17 October 2015, Bhubaneswar

Gita Debnath, Laxmi Bhattacharya, Panchali
Bhattacharya, Phulan Bhattacharya, Krishna
Basu and Tapati Chakraborty (Bengali writers)
7 November 2015, Agartala

Prabha Ganorkar, Vrishali Kinhalkar, Urmila
Chakurkar, and Shailaja Wadikar
9 January 2016, Udgir

Jaimala Danait (Konkani), Sanskritirani Desai,
(Gujarati), Cecilia Carvalho, Geeta Bindrani
8 March 2016, Mumbai.

Jyotirekha Hazarika, Monalisha Saikia and
Jyotimala Gohain (Assamese writers)
15 March 2016, Tingkhong, Assam

PEOPLE AND BOOKS

Jadunath Prasad Das (Cardiologist and artist)
26 April 2014, Bhubaneswar

Sabyasachi Mohapatra (Odia film-maker)
21 June 2015, Bhubaneswar

Naa. Someswara (Physician and writer)
27 June 2015, Bengaluru

Hitbandhu Khajuria, retired Chief Engineer
2 August 2015, Jammu

Col Sukul Pradhan
17 October 2015, Darjeeling

Chittatosh Mookerjee (Bengali; Hon'ble Chief
Justice)
15 January 2016, Kolkata

AN EVENING WITH A CRITIC

In this series, an eminent critic presents his/
her impression on the creative/critical tradition
of Indian literature. The following distinguished
writers participated in this programme held
under the aegis of the Eastern Region this
year:

Alok Ray (Bengali)
10 September 2015, Kolkata

PRAVASI MANCH

In this series, an eminent *pravasi* intellectual
presents his/her impression on his life and the
society and literature. The following
distinguished scholars participated in this
programme held under the aegis of the Eastern
Region this year:

Dhirendra Kar (Odia, from USA)
23 August 2015, Bhubaneswar

FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE

On the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's
Foundation Day, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, eminent
Indian author and Hon'ble Member of the
Parliament delivered Foundation Day Lecture
12 March 2016 Sahitya Akademi's Auditorium,
New Delhi