

LIST OF PROGRAMMES
ORGANIZED BY
SAHITYA AKADEMI
DURING APRIL 1, 2016
TO
MARCH 31, 2017

ASMITA

Noted Bengali women writers
25 April 2016,
Kolkata

Noted Kashmiri women writers
30 April 2016,
Sopore, Kashmir

Noted Kashmiri women writers
12 May 2016,
Srinagar, Kashmir

Noted Rajasthani women writers
13 May 2016,
Banswara, Rajasthan

Noted Nepali women writers
28 May 2016,
Kalimpong, West Bengal

Noted Hindi women writers
30 June 2016,
New Delhi

Noted Sanskrit women writers
04 July 2016,
New Delhi

Noted Santali women writers
18 July 2016,
Baripada, Odisha

Noted Bodo women writers
26 September 2016,
Guwahati, Assam

Noted Hindi women writers
26 September 2016,
New Delhi

Noted women writers
16 November 2016,
New Delhi

Noted Odia women writers
25 November 2016,
Sambalpur, Odisha

Noted Manipuri women writers
28 November 2016,
Imphal, Manipur

Noted Assamese women writers
18 December 2016,
Duliajan, Assam

Noted Dogri women writers
3 March 2016,
Jammu, J & K

Noted Maithili women writers
18 March 2016,
Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

AVISHKAR

Sham Sagar
28 March 2017, Jammu

Dr Nalini Joshi, Noted Singer
10 May, 2016, New Delhi

Swapan Gupta, Noted Singer and Tapati
Gupta, Eminent Scholar
30 May, 2016, Kolkata

(Avishkar programmes organized as
part of events are subsumed under those
programmes)

AWARDS

Translation Prize
4 August 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Bal Sahitya Puraskar
14 November 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Yuva Puraskar
2 December 2016, Agartala, Manipur

Sahitya Akademi Award
22 February 2017, New Delhi

Bhasha Samman
8 February 2017, Pune
21 February 2017, New Delhi

BAL SAHITI

Panel discussion on “Present Challenges
in Children’s Literature”
11 January, 2017,
New Delhi

BHASHANTARA ANUBHAV

Arutchelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam
Translation Institute,
27 January 2017
Pollachi, Tamil Nadu

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOPS

Children’s Writing in Telugu
3-4 September 2016, Sircilla, Telangana

Story Writing
12-17 November 2016, Jammu, J&K

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Visit of seven-member Nepali writers’
delegation
15-21 July, 2016
Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra

Visit of five-member Chinese writers’
delegation
21-25 August 2016
New Delhi and Mumbai

Visit of six-member Korean writers’
delegation
29 September 2016,
New Delhi

Interaction with Foreign Poets
22 November 2016
Mumbai

Organized Symposium and Literary Meet
in
London Book Fair
March 14-16, London

DOCUMENTARY FILMS SCREENING

O.N.V. Kurup
4 June 2016, Bengaluru

Ramakanta Rath
22 June 2016, Bengaluru

Gulzar, Bhalchandra Nemade, Bholabhai Patel, Narayan Surve, Damodar Mauzo, Amrita Pritam, Ravindra Kelekar, Sunil Gangopadhyay and Arun Kolatkar
23-24 July, 2016, Goa

Mahasweta Devi
2 August, 2016, New Delhi

Akhtarul Iman (Urdu)
26 November, 2016, New Delhi.

Gopi Chand Narang
2 December 2016, Mumbai

Balamani Amma
8 March 2017, Bengaluru

Manoj Das
10 March, 2017, Bengaluru

Documentary on Four Santali Writers
30 March 2017, New Delhi

(Documentary Screening during National Book Week and other programmes are subsumed under those events)

FESTIVAL OF LETTERS (21-26 February 2017 – New Delhi)

Inauguration of Sahitya Akademi
Exhibition 2016
21 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

National Seminar on “Protecting Mother
Tongue”
21-22 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Bhasha Samman
21 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Meet the Author with Rupa Bajwa,
22 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Presentation of Sahitya Akademi Awards
2016
22 February 2017, Kamani Auditorium,
New Delhi

Yuva Sahiti: The New Harvest
23 February, 2017 Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Writers’ Meet (featuring 2016 Sahitya
Akademi Award Winners)
23 February, 2017 Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Samvatsar Lecture by Ramachandra Guha
23 February, 2017 Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Face-to-Face (Interviews with select 2016
Sahitya Akademi Award Winners)
24 February 2017, Meghdoot Auditorium
III, New Delhi

National Seminar on “Folklore: Tellings
and Retellings”
24-26 February 2017, Akademi
Auditorium, New Delhi

Purvottari: North-East and Northern
Writers’ Meet
24 February, 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Tribal Writers' Meet
25 February, 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Spin-a-Tale (Magic Show, Dramatized
Story Reading and Story and Poetry
Writing Competition for Children)
25 February, 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

Symposium on "Unwritten Languages of
India"
26 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

National Seminar on "Translation as
Retelling"
26 February 2017, Rabindra Bhavan
Lawns, New Delhi

FOUNDATION DAY

Dr Sitakant Mahapatra (Odia writer,
scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi)
10 March 2017, New Delhi

Akademi Award Winning Tamil Writers
10 March 2017, Chennai

Dr. H.S. Raghavendra Rao, (Eminent
Writer and Translator)
10 March 2017, Bengaluru

Eminent Scholars and Writers
10 March 2017, Kolkata

GRAMALOK

Gramin Vidya Vikas Vidyalaya
2 October, 2016,
Chapalgaon, Dist. Solapur, Maharashtra

Vijaya Bhavana
11 December, 2016,
Jonnavalasa Village, Vizianagaram,
Andhra Pradesh.

Gramvikas Shikshan Sanstha
11 February 2017,
Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

Pangalathur Village
17 February 2017,
New Villapuram Dist., Tamil Nadu

A.V.N. Mangainayagar Mandram,
11 March, 2017,
Piranmalai, Sivagangai Dist., Tamil Nadu

Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Government
Arts College
15 March, 2017,
Madagadipet Village, Pondicherry

KATHASANDHI

Dr Usha Kiran Khan, Maithili Fiction-
Writer
24 April, 2016,
Patna, Bihar

Dr Phanindra Kumar Debchoudhury,
Assamese Writer
27 May, 2016,
Dibrugarh, Assam.

Ms Bani Basu, Bengali Fiction-Writer
31 May, 2016,
Kolkata, West Bengal

Dr Rabi Swain, Odia Fiction-Writer
18 June 2016,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Sri Aurobindo Uzir, Bodo Writer
26 July, 2016,
Karabi Anglong Dist., Assam

Sri Swayam Prakash, Hindi Fiction Writer
12 August, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Chintakindi Srinivasa Rao, Telugu
Writer
21 August, 2016,
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Dr Sukhjrit, Punjabi Writer
24 August, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Shridhar Banavasi, Kannada Fiction-
Writer
26 August, 2016, Bangalore, Karnataka

Sri Gupta Pradhan, Nepali Fiction-Writer
10 September, 2016, Darjeeling, West
Bengal

Sri Kaladhar Mutwa, Sindhi Writer
20 September, 2016, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Dr L. Pramchand Singh, Manipuri
Fiction-Writer
28 September, 2016, Imphal, Tripura

Ms Joba Murmu, Santali Writer
1 October, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Ms Namita Gokhale, English Fiction-
Writer
17 October, 2016, New Delhi

Sri P.K. Parakkadavu, Malayalam Writer
26 October, 2016, Trichur, Kerala

Sri Edwin J.F. D'Souza, Konkani Fiction
Writer
30 October, 2016, Mangalore, Karnataka

Ms Geetanjali Shree, Hindi Writer
22 November, 2016, New Delhi

Dr Bhaskar Chandanshiv, Marathi
Fiction-Writer
27 December, 2016, Kolhapur,
Maharashtra

Dr Kamla Goklani, Sindhi Fiction Writer
22 January, 2017, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Dr Debabrata Das, Assamese Fiction-
Writer
27 February, 2017, Guwahati, Assam.

Sri Bipin Patel, Renowned Gujarati
Fiction Writer
15 February, 2017, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Sri Rajeshwar Raju, Dogri Fiction Writer
3 March, 2017, Jammu, J&K

Sri K. P. Ramanunni, Malayalam Writer
7 March, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

Sri George Joseph K., Malayalam Writer
7 March, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

KAVI ANUVADAK

Dr. Jayant Mahapatra, English Writer and
Sri Anubhav Tulasi, Assamese Writer and
Translator
28 August, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

KAVISANDHI

Sri Satilal Murmu, Noted Santali writer at Dumka

1 April, 2016, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh

Sri Madan Kumar Ojha, Eminent Nepali Poet

8 May, 2016, Kurseong, West Bengal

Sri Aditya Mandi, Well-known Santali Poet

5 June, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Sri Mridul Dasgupta, Noted Bengali Poet

13 June, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Dr Dillip Das, Eminent Odia Poet

18 June, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Sri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Noted Marathi and Hindi Poet

28 June, 2016, New Delhi

Dr Sameer Tanti, Noted Assamese Writer

28 June, 2016, Cotton College, Guwahati

Dr Yashodhara Mishra, Noted Odia Poet

8 July, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Shrichand Keswani, Eminent Sindhi Writer

28 August, 2016, Vadodara, Gujarat

Dr Ammangi Venugopal, Eminent Telugu Poet, 30 August, 2016, Hyderabad

Dr R. Vasunandan, Eminent Telugu Poet

4 September, 2016, Sircilla, Telangana

Ms. Vimmi Sadarangani, Noted Sindhi Poet

20 September, 2016, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Sri Harish Karamchandani, Noted Sindhi Poet

23 September, 2016, Adipur, Kutch, Gujarat

Sri Dharanidhar Wary, Noted Bodo Poet

21 October, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Dr N. Vidyasagar Singh, Noted Manipuri Poet

25 October, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Sri Saratchandra Shenoi, Noted Konkani Poet

30 October, 2016, Mangalore, Karnataka

Sri P.P. Ramachandran, Noted Malayalam Poet

9 November, 2016, Mallapuram Dist., Kerala

Dr. Vanita, Eminent Punjabi Poet

16 November, 2016, Chandigarh, Punjab

Dr Dharbasayanam Srinivasacharya, Eminent Telugu Poet,

18 November, 2016, Hyderabad, Telangana

Dr. R.A. Padmanabha Rao, Noted Telugu Poet

26 November, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Sri Yuddhabir Rana, Noted Nepali Poet

29 December, 2016, Tezpur, Assam

Dr. B. Hanuma Reddy, Eminent Telugu Poet
3 January, 2017, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Dr Devkant Mishra, Eminent Maithili Poet
5 February, 2017, Madhubani, Bihar.

Dr Chandrakant Topiwala, Eminent Gujarati Poet
15 February, 2017, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Dr Neerja, Noted Marathi Poet
17 February, 2017,
Mumbai, Maharashtra

Sri Bishan Singh Dardi, Eminent Dogri writer
5 March, 2017,
Jammu, J&K

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Paite Language Convention
22-23 January, 2017,
Imphal, Manipur

LITERARY FORUMS

Noted Kashmiri writers
8 April, 2016, New Delhi

Literary Forum
8 April, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Urdu Poets
11 April, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Hindi Writers and Release of *Five Decades*
18 April, 2016, New Delhi

World Book Day: Book Culture and the Expectation of Readers
23 April, 2016, New Delhi

World Book Day
23 April, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

World Book Day
23 April, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

World Book Day: Contemporary Reading Culture
23 April, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Noted Kashmiri Short Story Writers
30 April, 2016, Sopore, Kashmir

Nepali Ghazal Path by Nepali Ghazal Writers
08 May, 2016, Kurseong, West Bengal

Myth in Manipuri Culture and Literature
10 May, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Contribution of Oral Literature of Tribes to the Development of the Contemporary Literature of the Hmar, Paite, Tangkhul and Thadoi Kuki languages
11 May, 2016, Dist. Churachandpur, Manipur

Literary Forum
13 May, 2016, Srinagar, Kashmir

Literary Forum with Santali Writers
21 May, 2016, Keonjhar, Odisha

An Evening with Critic
26 May, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Mukhamukham (Face to Face) with Noted Malayalam Writers
28 May, 2016, Trivandrum, Kerala

O.N.V. Kurup's Writings and Release of Ee Puratana Kinnari
4 June, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Literature for Social Change: Reading and Discussions
7 June, 2016, New Delhi

Film and Literature
19 June, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

International Yoga Day: Lecture cum Demonstration of Yoga Asanas
21 June, 2016,
New Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai

Kavi Samay, 2016
26 June, 2016, Siddapur, Karnataka

Literary Forum
28 June, 2016, Koduvally, Kerala

Literary Forum
30 June, 2016, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh

Writers from Maithili, Sindhi, Hindi and Bengali Languages
8 July, 2016, New Delhi

Types and Varieties of Traditional Songs of four Tribes: Lamkang, Tarao, Moyon and Monsang
14 July, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Types and Varieties of Traditional Songs of four Tribes: Koirao/Thangal, Chothe and Kharam
16 July, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Interaction with Nepali writers' delegation
16 July, 2016, New Delhi

Mukhamukham (Face to Face)
18 July, 2016, Trivandrum, Kerala

Noted Hindi Writers
18 July, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Writes from English, Hindi and Odia
21 July, 2016, New Delhi

Life and works of G. Surchand Sharma
23 July, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Life and Works of T. Thoibi Devi
26 July, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Artistic Expression in Bodo Poetry
27 July, 2016, Udalguri, Assam

Literary Forum
29 July, 2016, Sirsi, Karnataka

Noted Writers from English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu Languages
29 July, 2016, New Delhi

Maharshi Manoranjan Bhattacharya and Release of Anthology of Bengali Short Stories
29 July, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Surendra Mohanty
31 July, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Translating Bharat – Reading India
3 August, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Gujarati Writers
13 August, 2016, Bhuj, Gujarat

Palakkad's Own Identity in the Literary
Landscape of Kerala
14 August, 2016, Palakkad, Kerala

Literature, Translation and
Interdisciplinary Approach to Dance and
Music Education
20 August, 2016, Canchipur, Manipur

Contemporary Manipuri Fiction: A
Critical Assessment (1990-2010)
21 August, 2016, Canchipur, Manipur

Rayalaseema Short Stories – Social
Awareness
22 August, 2016, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

The Importance of Translation in
Manipuri Literature
21 August, 2016, Campur, Imphal

The Life and Works of Pandit Atombapu
Sharma
23 August, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Dr. Ratankumar Singh, Noted Manipuri
Writer
23 August, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Book Release: Maa Oori Nadi (AW Tamil
Poetry Collection)
26 August, 2016, Chennai

Environment and Literature
26 August, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Postmodernism Trends in Assamese
Literature
27 August, 2016, Nalbari, Assam

Adivasi Sahityik Jatra
27-28 August, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Noted Konkani Writers
28 August, 2016, Curchorem, Goa

Noted Sindhi Writers
28 August, 2016, Vadodara, Gujarat

Kavi Kavya
28 August, 2016, Yellapur, Karnataka

Noted Gujarati Writers
29 August, 2016, Viramgam, Gujarat

Contemporary Odia Poetry
29 August, 2016, Sambalpur University,
Odisha

Dr. Gurdial Singh
29 August, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Bengali Poets
31 August, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Noted Gujarati Writers
30 August, 2016, Savli, Gujarat

Delhi Book Fair: Literary Forum with
Hindi Poets
31 August, 2016, Pragati Maidan,
New Delhi

Katha Kathan
3 September, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

On Sunil Gangopadhyay
7 September, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Hindi Diwas: Hindi Ki VartmanStithi:
Chunautiyaan Avam Samadhan
14 September, 2016, New Delhi

Hindi Diwas: Literary Forum
14 September, 2016, Kalol, Gujarat

Mahasweta Devi: Life and Works
16 September, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Swachhta Pakhwada: Literary
Programmes
16-30 September, 2016,
New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata,
Chennai

Life and Writings of Kuvempu: Sahitya
Spandana
17 September, 2016, Chikkamagalur

Hali Fahmi: Mukhtalif Jehat
20 September 2016, New Delhi

Japan Mein Bharat Sambandhi Adhyan
aur Adhyapan Ki Deeshayein
23 September, 2016, New Delhi

Children's Literature
24 September, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Literary Forum
24 September, 2016, Moodbidri,
Karnataka

Manipuri Short Story
25 September, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Telugu Novel – Contribution of
Rayalaseema
26 September, 2016, Kurnool, Andhra
Pradesh

Literary Forum
28 September, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Humorous Writings in Kannada
1 October, 2016, Mangalore Taluk,
Karnataka

The Impact of Bengali Literature on
Modern Manipuri Literature
4 October, 2016, Silchar, Assam

Sahitya Sobagu
4 October, 2016, Udupi, Karnataka

Telugu Novel – Development of Telugu
Literary Criticism and the Contribution of
Rayalaseema
20 October, 2016, Proddatur, Andhra
Pradesh

Bendre Kavyanubhava, Kammata,
Upanyasa MattuVichara Gosti
20 October 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Noted Hindi Writers
24 October, 2016, New Delhi

Noted writers from English, Hindi,
Punjabi and Urdu languages
28 October, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Konkani Writers
6 November, 2016, Sawantvadi and
Malvan, Maharashtra

Life and Works of Rajalakshmi
11 November, 2016, New Delhi

Telugu Fiction and Indigenous Telugu
Language
12 November, 2016, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh

Pena and Manipuri Literature and Poets'
Meet
12 November, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

Assamese Lyrical Literature
14 November, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Contribution of Char Chapori Area People
to Assamese Literature and Culture
15 November, 2016, Barpeta, Assam

Comparative Study of Bharathi's Kuyil
Pattu and Its Contemporary Echoes
21 November, 2016, Pondicherry

Literary Forum
21-23 November, 2016, Varanasi, UP

Modern Telugu Story
24 November, 2016, Guntur, Andhra
Pradesh

Life and Works of Konjenbam Toyaima
Singh
26 November, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Constitution Day: Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
26 November, 2016,
New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata,
Chennai

Malayalam Travel Writings
26 November, 2016, Trivandrum, Kerala

Radhanath Ray
27 November, 2016, Bhadrak, Odisha

Children's Literature and Theatre in
Manipur: Problems and Prospects
27 November, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

The impact of western critical theory on
Manipuri literary criticism
28 November, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Constitution Day: Lecture by M. Sridhar
28 November, 2016, New Delhi

Literary Festival
28-29 November, 2016, Kolkata,
West Bengal

Sri Asghar Wajahat, Eminent Hindi
Playwright and Fiction-Writer
29 November, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Hindi Writers
30 November, 2016, New Delhi

Literary Forum
2 December 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tamil Diaspora Literature
10 December, 2016, Mannargudi, Tamil
Nadu

Noted Sindhi writers
12 December 2016,
Mumbai

Dr Asru Kumar Sikdar
15 December, 2016,
Kolkata,

Release of Samakaleena Bharatiya
Sahitya
16 December, 2016,
Trivandrum, Kerala

Pattukkottai Kalyanasundaram
16 December, 2016,
Pattukkottai, Tamil Nadu

Language and Literature
16 December, 2016,
Mayiladuthurai

Noted Kashmiri Poets and Short Story
Writers
16 December, 2016, Jammu, J&K

Globalisation and Telugu Short Story
17 December, 2016, Kurnool,
Andhra Pradesh

Telugu Modern Mahakavyas of
Rayalaseema
18 December, 2016, Kurnool,
Andhra Pradesh

Duliajan National Book Fair: Progressive
Assamese Writing: Its Trend, Tendency
and Future
19 December, 2016, Duliajan, Assam

Comparative Study of Social Reforms of
Bharathidasan's Literary Movement and
Ambedkar's Social Movement
21 December, 2016, Pondicherry

Sahitya Spandana
21 December, 2016 Karkala, Kerala

Literature of Devanuru Lakshmis
22 December, 2016, Chikkamangaluru

Contribution of Folk Literature of
Chamarajanagar
24 December, 2016, Chamarajanagar

Telugu Literature and Working Class
25 December, 2016, Anantapur

Literary Forum on Rajbhasha and Yoga
27 December, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Singaravelar: Social Outlook and Creative
Works
4 January, 2017, Chennai

Autobiographies in Tamil
5 January, 2017, Karaikkal, Tamil Nadu

Noted Writers from Various Indian
Languages
14 January, 2017, New Delhi

Contributions and Receptivity of Kannada
Literature Kannada Sahityada Kolu
Koduge
9 January, 2017, Mangalore, Karnataka

Dr. Guillermo Rodriguez from Spain read
from his book When Mirrors are Windows
on A.K. Ramanujan's Poetics
11 January, 2017, New Delhi

Braille Poetry Festival 2017
19 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Aloke Sarkar, Noted Bengali Poet
23 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Noted Writers from English, Hindi and
Urdu Languages
24 January, 2017, New Delhi

Noted Konkani Writers
27 January, 2017, Panaji, Goa

Bengali Children's Literature
27 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Muslim Culture in Malayalam Literature
31 January, 2017, Kattilangadi, Kerala

Dr. Mohan Bhardwaj, Well-Known Critic
4 February, 2017, Patna, Bihar

Literature and Location
6 January, 2017, Kishangarh, Rajasthan.

Impact of Myths in Contemporary Tamil
Fiction
5 February, 2017, Ramanathapuram

Modern Kannada Women's Literature:
Recent Aspects
10 February, 2017, Mangalore,
Karnataka.

Contemporary Writings of Young Writers
and Challenges
11 February, 2017, Trichy, Tamil Nadu.

Prominent Telugu Classical Prabandhas:
A Re-evaluation
12 February, 2017, Kadapa,
Andhra Pradesh.

A. Chandrabose
14 February, 2017, Karaikudi, Tamil
Nadu.

Kshetra Literature in Telugu
15 February, 2017, Tirupati

Literary Forum
18 February, 2017, Nellore, Andhra
Pradesh.

Kannada Literature of Coastal Karnataka
18 February, 2017, Nitte, Karnataka

Kavita Utsav
24-26 February, 2017, Santiniketan

Literary Forum
4 March, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Literary Forum
8 March, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Media and Literature
5 March, 2017, Guwahati, Assam

Literary Forum
9 March, 2017, Chandigarh, Punjab

Literary Forum
10 March, 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Noted Bengali Writers/ Scholars
10 March, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Malabar Culture in Malayalam Literature
10 March, 2017, Malappuram, Kerala.

Writers of Kumbakonam
14 March, 2017, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

My World My Writing
16 March 2017, London

Sahitya Spandana
17 March, 2017, Dist. Mulky, Karnataka.

Literary Forum
19 March, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Dr. Gabor Lanczkor, Noted Poet and
Novelist from Hungary
20 March, 2017, New Delhi

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

Loka: The Many Voices: Baha, Lagne,
Dong and Sohray performances,
performed by Ramesh Marandi and his
group
5 June, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Loka: The Many Voices: Bodo Harimu
Afat, Bodo Folk performance along with a
scholarly lecture by Chiram Mohilary,
26 July, 2016, Karabi Anglong Dist.,
Assam

Loka: The Many Voices
10 September, 2016, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

Loka: The Many Voices on Kakching and
Kakching Khunou Haraoa 26 September,
2016, Kakching

Loka: The Many Voices with a troupe of
Mizoram
11-12 December, 2016, Purulia

Loka: The Many Voices with the
Directorate of Art and Culture,
Government of Goa
18 December, 2016, Goa

Loka: The Many Voices on Dhimal
Dance: A folk dance of North Bengal
19 January, 2017, Howrah, West Bengal

A Loka: The Many Voices: Recitation
of tribal epics of Karnakata like Biligiri
Ranga, Epic of Kudiyaru, Halasara
Hantike, Buduga Jangamara
27-28 March, 2017, Sagar, Karnataka

MEET THE AUTHOR

Ms. Esther David, Noted English Writer
3 April, 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Dr. Kirti Narayan Mishra, Eminent
Maithili Poet and Writer
24 April, 2016, Patna, Bihar

Sri Leeladhar Jagoori, Eminent Hindi
Writer
25 May, 2016, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Nar Bahadur Dahal, Distinguished
Nepali Writer
27 May, 2016, Kalimpong, West Bengal

Sri Badal Hembram, Noted Santali Writer
5 June, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Chandrakant Devtale, Eminent Hindi Poet
19 June, 2016, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Dr. Kalanath Shastri, Eminent Sanskrit
Writer
26 July, 2016, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Dr. Kolakaluri Enoch, Eminent Telugu
Writer, Critic and Researcher
29 July, 2016, Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh

Sri Daya Prakash Sinha, Eminent Hindi
Playwright
16 August, 2016, New Delhi

Dr. Namdev Tarachandani, eminent
Sindhi writer
20 August, 2016, Adipur, Gujarat

Dr. Ashok Kamat, Eminent Konkani
Writer
28 August, 2016, Curchorem, Goa

Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi, Eminent
Assamese Writer 29 August, 2016,
Nagaon, Assam

Dr. Tirumala Srinivasacharya, Eminent
Telugu Writer and Critic
03 September, 2016, Sircilla, Telangana

Sri Banshidhar Sarangi, Eminent Odia
Writer
10 September, 2016, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

Sri Durga Prasad Shreshtha, Well-known
Nepali Writer 22 October, 2016, Varanasi

Sri Makhonmoni Mongsaba, Noted
Manipuri Writer
12 November, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

Dr. Anil Kumar Boro, Noted Bodo Writer
28 November, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Dr. Ramshankar Awasthi, Eminent
Sanskrit Scholar
29 November, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Tarapati Upadhyaya, Distinguished
Nepali Writer
30 December, 2016, Udalguri, Assam

Ms. Champa Sharma, Noted Dogri Writer
16 January, 2017, Jammu, J & K

Sri Malchand Tiwari, Eminent Rajasthani
Writer
20 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Prof. Jayant Narlikar, Eminent Marathi
Writer and Scientist
22 January, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Dr. Baldev Singh Sadaknama, Eminent
Punjabi Writer
27 January, 2017, Chandigarh, Punjab

Dr. Bheemnath Jha, Eminent Maithili
Writer
4 February, 2017, Patna, Bihar

MULAKAT

Young Manipuri writers
09 May, 2016,
Imphal, Manipur

Young Hindi writers
11 May, 2016,
New Delhi

Young Assamese Writers
29 June, 2016,
Guwahati, Assam

Young Odia writers
29 July, 2016,
Koraput, Odisha

Young Bodo writers
26 September, 2016,
Guwahati, Assam

Bengali Women Writers
14 March, 2017,
Dist. Dinajpur, West Bengal

MULTILINGUAL MEETS

All India Poets' Meet
29 April to 8 May, 2016, Ujjain

Multilingual Short Story Reading
24-25 May, 2016, New Delhi

All India Poets' Meet
30-31 July, 2016, Shillong, Meghalaya

All India Multilingual Poets' Meet
3 September, 2016, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

All India Poetry Festival
9-10 November, 2016, New Delhi

All India Multilingual Poets' Meet
21 November, 2016, Assam
Multilingual Poetry Reading
24 November, 2016, New Delhi

All India Writers' Meet
23-24 December, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

All India Young Writers' Colloquium
7-8 January, 2017, Adipur, Kutch, Gujarat

Jammu & Kashmir Literary Festival
21-22 March, 2017,
New Delhi

Eastern Regional Short Story Writers'
Meet
29-30 March, 2017,
Kolkata, West Bengal

NARI CHETNA

Nari Chetna
13 June, 2016, New Delhi

The Image of Women in the Short Stories
of Rayalaseema Women Writers
21 July, 2016, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Nari Chetna
29 July, 2016, New Delhi

Noted Punjabi women writers
30 August, 2016, Tarn Taran, Punjab

Noted Sindhi Women Writers
23 September, 2016, Adipur, Kutch,
Gujarat

Noted Bodo Women Writers
22 October, 2016, Karbi Anglong, Assam

Noted Nepali Women Writers
6 November, 2016, Gangtok, Sikkim

Noted Odia Women Writers
26 November, 2016, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

Noted Manipuri Women Writers
26 November, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Noted Women Writers from Assamese, English, Hindi, Telugu and Urdu Languages

7 December, 2016, New Delhi

Kashmiri Women Writers

18 December, 2016, Jammu, J&K

Noted Hindi Women Writers

12 January, 2017, New Delhi

Noted English Women Writers

17 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Noted Malayalam Women Writers

8 March, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

Noted Tamil Women writers

8 March, 2017, Chennai

Nari Chetna

8 March, 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Bengali Women Writers of 19th and 20th Century: A Comparative Study

8 March, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

November 14-21: The Akademi celebrated National Book Week 2016 in Delhi and all its Regional Office at Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai and sub-office at Chennai and organized book exhibitions as well as literary programmes at Kozhikode, Kerala, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu and Bangalore, Karnataka during the Book week:

Kozhikode, Kerala

- 15: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on Thakazhi Siva Sankara Pillai, Subramanya Bharathi and M.T. Vasudevan Nair.
- 16: Organised a Poets' Meet by invited noted Malayalam poets.
- 17: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on D. Jayakanthan, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and U.R. Anantha Murthy.
- 18: The Akademi organized a short story reading programme by inviting noted Malayalam writers.
- 19: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on Ayyappa Paniker, Mahasweta Devi and Kamala Das.
- 20: Organised a Panel Discussion on Literature and Life.

Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu

- 15: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, Neela Padmanabhan and Kamala Das.
- 16: Organised a Poets' Meet by inviting noted Tamil poets.
- 17: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on D. Jayakanthan, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer and U.R. Anantha Murthy.

- 18: Organised a short story reading programme by inviting noted Tamil short story writers.
- 19: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on Mahasweta Devi, Subramanya Bharathi and Khushwant Singh.
- 20: Organised a Panel Discussion on Life and Literature.

Bengaluru, Karnataka

- 15: Organised a short story reading programme by inviting noted Kannada writers.
- 16: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on G.S. Sivarudrappa, Pu. Ti. Na. and Mulk Raj Anand.
- 17: Organised a Poets' Meet by inviting noted Kannada poets.
- 18: Organised the screening of documentary films, produced by Sahitya Akademi on Kuvempu, U.R. Anantha Murthy and Kamleshwar.
- 19: Organised a Nari Chetna programme by inviting noted Kannada women writers.
- 20: Valedictory session, chaired by Dr. C.N. Ramachandran, Dr. H.S. Venkateshamurthy, eminent Kannada critic delivered the valedictory address and Sri S.N. Nagaraja Reddy, Honorary Secretary, National Education Society was the guest of honour.

NORTH-EASTERN AND REGIONAL MEETS

North East and Eastern Writers' Meet
30 April-1 May, 2016, Burdwan, West Bengal

North East and Western Writers' Meet
18-19 May, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

North East and Southern Literary Festival
11-12 June, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

North East and Western Writers' Meet
9-10 July, 2016, Goa

North East and Southern Writers' Meet
19-20 July, 2016, Chennai

North East and Western Literary Meet
24-25 August, 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

North East Little Magazine Festival 2016
11 September, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

North Eastern Poets' Meet under
OCTAVE
23 September, 2016, Ajmer, Rajasthan

North East and Northern Writers' Meet
26-27 September, 2016, Kargil, Ladakh

North East and Northern Writers' Meet
7-8 October, 2016, Jalandhar, Punjab

North East and Southern Writers' Meet
9 December, 2016, Kochi, Kerala

Purvottari – Multilingual writers' Meet
with writers from North East
9 January, 2017, New Delhi

North-East Oral Literature Festival
19-20 March, 2017, Agartala, Tripura.

North East and Southern Writers' Meet
25-26 March, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

North East and Northern Writers' Meet
27-28 March, 2017, New Delhi

PEOPLE AND BOOKS

Ms. Pulak Banerjee, eminent Assamese
singer
28 April, 2016, Dibrugarh, Assam

Sri RamanandaBandyopadhyay, Eminent
Artist 17 June, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Prof. S. Shettar, Eminent Historian and
Writer
25 June, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Sri Shekhar Sen, Eminent Singer, Music
Composer, Lyricist 27 July, 2016, New
Delhi

Dr Priyambada Mohanty Hejmadi,
Well-known Scientist and Odishi Dance
Scholar
30 July, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Sri Bhanwarsingh Panwar, Eminent
Painter
21 August, 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Dr. K. Rajasekharan Nair, Well-
known Neurologist 9 September, 2016,
Trivandrum

Sri Subhash Chhetri, Well-known Artist
11 September, 2016, Sitong, West Bengal

Sri Arvind Kakodkar, Noted Theatre and
Cinema Personality 27 January, 2017,
Panaji

Sri Soli J. Sorabjee, distinguished Jurist
and former Attorney-General of India
3 February, 2017, New Delhi

Sri Narendra Jha, senior Auditor
4 February, 2017, Patna, Bihar

Prof. P.K. Sharma, Scientist and Vice-
Chancellor 5 March, 2017, Jammu, J&K

PRAWASI MANCH

Ms. Aruna Sabharwal,
Noted Hindi writer from United Kingdom
7 November, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Digambar Mishra
Eminent Social Scientist from USA
23 December 2016, Bhubaneswar

Sri Prafulla Mohanty
Eminent Artist from United Kingdom
7 March, 2017, Bhubaneswar

Dr Mridul Kirti
Noted Hindi writer from USA
16 March 2017, New Delhi
Rajbhasha Events

Hindi Week
14-21 September, 2016,
New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru
and Chennai

Discussion on “Present Status of Hindi:
Challenges and Solutions”
Between Subhash Chandra and Ashok
Chakradhar
14 September 2016, New Delhi

Rajbhasha Manch: A Lecture by Sri
Jaiprakash Kardam on “Directions of the
Implementation of Official Language in
Offices”
19 September, 2016, New Delhi

Implementation of Official Languages in
Southern India States
26 October, 2016, Chennai

Rajbhasha Internal Workshops
22 June 2016, New Delhi
20 September 2016, New Delhi
27 October 2016, Chennai
30 December 2016, New Delhi
29 March 2017, New Delhi

SEMINARS

Literature of 19th Century Bombay
Province in Large Cultural Contexts
2-3 April, 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Punjabi Bhasha, Sahit ate Sabhiyachar De
Sanmukh Chunotian
28-29 April, 2016, Badal, Punjab

Rajinder Singh Bedi
7-8 May, 2016, Hyderabad, Telangana

N.V. Krishna Warriar and Indian Poetry
13 May, 2016, Calicut, Kerala
Comparative Literature
14-15 May, 2016, Srinagar, Kashmir

Rajasthani Oral Literature
14-15 May, 2016, Udaipur, Rajasthan

Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy: Life and
Vision
19 May, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Mutiny and Odia Literature to
commemorate 200th year of Paika Bidroh
22-23 May, 2016, Khurda, Odisha

Dr. Nagendra-Birth Centenary
24-25 May, 2016, Agra, UP

Life and Works of Parasmani Pradhan
27-28 May, 2016, Kalimpong, West
Bengal

Oral Poetry, Performance and Aesthetics
18 June, 2016, Kokrajhar, Assam

Shiv Mangal Singh Suman: Birth
Centenary
20 June, 2016, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

Ch. Kalachand Singh Shastri: Birth Centenary
21 June, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Aspects of Kannada Poetics
25-26 June, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

The Silence of Dying Voices: Literatures on the Verge of Extinction in India's North East and the World
4-5 July, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

History of Santali Literature
17-18 July, 2016, Baripada, Odisha

Anubhashya: Towards Mutual Translation of Critical Writing in Konkani and English
21-24 July, 2016, Panaji, Goa

H. Dwijamani Sharma: Birth Centenary
24 July, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Janki Vallabh Shastri: Birth Centenary
28 July, 2016, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Nalin Vilochan Sharma: Birth Centenary
29 July, 2016, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

Amrit Lal Nagar: Birth Centenary Seminar
20-21 August, 2016, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Reflection of the Bodo Social Scenario in the Novels of Chittaranjan Muchahary
20-21 August, 2016, Kokrajhar, Assam
B.G.L. Swamy: Birth Centenary
16 September, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Rajasthani Drama: Tradition and Challenges
17-18 September, 2016, Bikaner, Rajasthan

Bahusabhyacharvad: Pachhan Da Sankat at Punjabi Literature
22-23 September, 2016, New Delhi

N. Krishna Pillai: Birth Centenary
22 September, 2016, Trivandrum, Kerala

Pearychand Mitra: Birth Centenary
23-24 September, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Pramod Ch. Brahma: Birth Centenary
24-25 September, 2016, Udalguri, Assam

Contemporary Women Writings in Eastern Regional Languages
26-27 September, 2016, West Medinapur

Telem Jogendrajit Singh: Birth Centenary
27 September, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Myths and Tales of Koch Rajbanshis of Western Assam
27-28 September, 2016, Golakganj, Assam

Santali Folk and Oral Literature
28-29 September, 2016, Santiniketan

Odia Plays
30 September, 2016, Sambalpur, Odisha

Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka: A Contemporary Perspective
3-4 October, 2016, Solapur, Maharashtra

Brajkishore Verma Manipadma: Birth Centenary
15-16 October 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Nature and Literature
22-23 October, 2016, Cuttack, Odisha

Suryamal Misran: Bi-Centenary
23-24 October, 2016, Kota, Rajasthan

Heisnam Mangoljao Singh
25 October, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Technical Literature in Sanskrit
26 October, 2016, Puranattukara, Kerala

Gurucharan Patnaik: Birth Centenary
30 October, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Cosmopolitan Spaces: Indian Literature and Counterpoints of Modernity
3-4 November, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Balwant Gargi: Birth Centenary
7-8 November, 2016, Patiala, Punjab

Laxman Jha, Babu Saheb Choudhuri and Nagendra Kumar: Birth Centenary
13-14 November, 2016, Raipur, Chattisgarh

National Integration – in Indian languages and literature
17-18 November, 2016, New Delhi

Dogri Lok Sahitya: Samkaleen Sameekaran
18-19 November, 2016, Jammu, J & K

Criticism, Theories and Approaches to Tamil Literature: Ancient & Modern
23-24 November, 2016, Thanjavur

Contemporary Story Writing in India and Iran
25 November, 2016, New Delhi

Akhtarul Iman: Re-reading
26-27 November, 2016, New Delhi.

Mythology and Modern Indian Literature
05-06 December, 2016, Majulli, Assam.

Narendranath Mitra: Birth Centenary
15-16 December, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Varna Ratnakar
17-18 December, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Folk Literature in Konkani
17-18 December 2016, Goa

Rajkishore Patnaik: Birth Centenary
24 December, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

GyanindraVerma: Birth Centenary
25 December, 2016, Cuttack, Odisha

Changing Society in Sindhi Literature
14-15 January, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Shakespeare in Indian Literature and Languages
18-19 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Multi Culturalism in Indian Writing
29 January, 2017, Tirur, Kerala

Hari Daryani 'Dilgir'
28-29 January, 2017, Adipur, Kutch, Gujarat

Tulsidas: A re-reading
3-4 February, 2017, New Delhi

Recent Trends in South Indian Literature
6-7 February, 2017, Chennai

Adivasi Literature: Different Dimenstions
11-12 February, 2017,
Ballarpur Dist., Maharashtra

Life Narratives in Indian Cultural Context
17-18 February, 2017,
Sambalpur, Odisha.

Sheila Bhatia: Birth Centenary
3-4 March, 2017, New Delhi

Sneha Devi: Birth Centenary
27-28 March, 2017, Dibrugarh, Assam

Abhinavagupta: Revisited
23-24 March, 2017, New Delhi

SYMPOSIUM

Emotion, Experience, Expressions: Ethics and Aesthetics
23 April, 2016, Santiniketan, West Bengal

Impact of Globalisation on Maithili Literature
24 April, 2016, Patna, Bihar

Indian Nepali Ghazal
8 May, 2016, Kurseong, West Bengal

Tagore and Gandhi: Dilemmas, Dialogues, Dichotomies
9 May, 2016, New Delhi

Chilka and Konark
21 May, 2016, Puri, Odisha

Nature and Literature in North Indian Languages
5 June, 2016, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

The role of newspapers on the development of Manipuri Literature
20 June, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Assamese Science Literature
26 June, 2016, Jorhat, Assam

Kashmiri-Punjabi short story
27 June, 2016, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

Bihuram Boro and His Literary Creation
30 June, 2016, BTAD, Assam

Birth Centenary of Belagere Krishna
Shastri
3 July, 2016, Chitradurga, Karnataka

Kshama Devi Rao
4 July, 2016, New Delhi

Shambhunath Singh: Birth Centenary
8 July, 2016, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

N. Subbu Reddiyar: Birth Centenary
22 July, 2016, Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Ali Jawwad Zaidi: Birth Centenary
23 July, 2016, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Poetry and Fiction of Haryana
24 July, 2016, Kurukshetra, Haryana

The place of Women Novelist in
Contemporary Manipuri Literature
25 July, 2016, Nambol, Manipur

Dialect Variation in Bodo Language
28 July, 2016, Lakhimpur, Assam

Birth Centenary of Vidwan Viswan
29 July, 2016, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

Women Writing: Pain and Vision
5 August, 2016, Mannargudi, Tamil Nadu

Kavignar Kalaivanan (Alias) Appulingam
6 August, 2016, Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Dalit Writings in Malayalam
17 August, 2016, Calicut, Kerala

Himalayan Echoes: Local and Global
Perceptions
19 August, 2016, Shimla, Himachal
Pradesh

Culture of Labour and Marathi Literature
of last 25 years
19 August, 2016, Nanded, Maharashtra

Translation of Telugu Literature: Trends
and Techniques (Translation Experiences)
21 August, 2016,
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Minority Literature in Kannada
26 August, 2016, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Stylistics and Bodo Fiction
26 August, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Tasawwuf Aur Bhakti Ki Sheri Riwayat
27 August, 2016, Pune, Maharashtra

Reception and Translation of Indian
Literature: A Way of Literary and Cultural
Relations
27 August, 2016, Kokrajhar, Assam

Impact of Urbanisation on Odia Literature
27 August, 2016, Rourkela, Odisha

T.P. Perumal: Centenary
30 August, 2016, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

Telangana Women's Literature
30 August, 2016, Hyderabad, Andhra
Pradesh

Navin Punjabi Kahani
5 September, 2016, Moga, Punjab

The Trends of Post Independence Indian
Nepali Novels
10 September, 2016, Darjeeling, West Bengal

Sindhi Drama Writing Today – Gujarat
Champter
11 September, 2016, Vadodara, Gujarat

A.S. Gnanasambanthan: Birth Centenary
16 September, 2016, Pollachi, Tamilnadu

The Parsi Contribution to Indian
Literature
20 September, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

North-East Literature Today
23 September, 2016, Ajmer, Rajasthan

Thunchath Ezhuthachan: Time and Works
26 September, 2016, Tirur, Kerala

Recent Trends of Fiction Writing: A
Comparative Study of Assamese and
Bengali Novels
29 September, 2016, Golaghat, Assam

Translation: Multicultural Challenges
30 September, 2016, New Delhi

Moti Prakash: Life and Works
1 October, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Pandit Raghunath Murmu
1 October, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Contribution of Urdu writers of Punjab in
the History of Urdu Literature
4 October, 2016, Malerkotla, Punjab

Folk Narratives towards Contemporary
Manipuri Literature
5 October, 2016, Silchar, Assam

Literary Essence in Konkani Screen
Writing
7 October, 2016, Goa

Children's Literature: Its Present and
Future
15 October, 2016, Auroville, Tamil Nadu

Literature and Narratives from the
Conflict Zone
20 October, 2016, Jammu, J & K

Nirmala Devi
22 October, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Children's Magazines in Tamil
22 October, 2016, Kundrakudi, Tamil Nadu

Urdu, Marathi, Konkani Lok Geet
23 October, 2016,
Bhiwandi, Maharashtra

La.Sa.Ra.: Birth Centenary
26 October, 2016, Chennai

Loktak and Manipuri Literature
26 October, 2016, Moirang, Manipur

Literary Journalism
26 October, 2016, Trichur, Kerala

Contemporary Trends in South Indian
Short Story
27 October, 2016, Kuppam,
Andhra Pradesh

Recent Trends in Odia Literature
27 October, 2016, Bhanjanagar, Odisha

Childlore and Identity
4 November, 2016, Aizwal, Mizoram

Hundred years of Nepali poetry and short
stories
5 November, 2016, Jorhang, Sikkim

Young writing in Nepali Literature
6 November, 2016, Gangtok, Sikkim

Literary Contribution of Andhra Patrika
6 November, 2016, Vijaywada,
Andhra Pradesh

Va. Supa. Manickam: Centenary
8 November, 2016, Tiruchirapalli,
Tamil Nadu

Poetic Vision of Mahakavi Vallathol
9 November, 2016, Malapurram Dist.,
Kerala

Service of C.P. Brown and Contemporary
Relevance
10 November, 2016, Kadapa,
Andhra Pradesh

Classical Works in Mappila Literature
and Mehar a Socialist Poet in Mappila
Literature

12 November, 2016, Malappuram Dist.,
Kerala

Diversity of Subjects in Telugu Women's
Literature: Effect of Globalisation
18 November, 2016, Hyderabad

Life and Writings of Krishnamurthy
Puranik
20 November, 2016, Belgaum, Karnataka

Sanskrit Aur Dr. Ambedkar: Sanskrit
Sahitya Mein Dalit Vimarsh
29 November, 2016, New Delhi

D. Jayakanthan
12 December, 2016, Coimbatore

Paramahansa Dasan: Centenary
14 December, 2016, Karaikudi, Tamil
Nadu

Development of Kashmiri Literature in
Jammu Province
15 December, 2016, Jammu, J & K

Contribution of Sindhi women writer in
the Sindhi Literature
20 December, 2016, Ulhasnagar,
Maharashtra

Biographical and Autobiographical
Literature in Konkani
24 December, 2016, Ernakulam, Kerala

Issues of Women and Post-Independence
Literary Movements in Marathi
28 December, 2016, Kolhapur,
Maharashtra

Nationalism and Indian Nepali Literature
29 December, 2016, Tezpur, Assam

Parmanand Mewaram: Birth Centenary
1 January, 2017, Adipur, Kutch

Tenugulanka Tummalla Sitharama
Murthy's Writings
3 January, 2017, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Vellai Varananar
5 January, 2017, Madurai, Tamil Nadu

Bijan Bhattacharya: Birth Centenary
5 January, 2017, Kolkata, West Bengal

Preparation of District Literary Gazetteer
of Tamil Nadu
6 January, 2017, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu

Dravidian Poetics
9 January, 2017, Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu

Evaluation of the experiments in the
Marathi literature of the last 25 years
15 January, 2017, Sawantwadi,
Maharashtra

Satire in Sindhi Literature
22 January, 2017, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Punjabi Grammar: Theory and Practice
24 January, 2017, Chandigarh, Punjab

Experiments in children's literature in
Marathi of the last 25 years
27 January, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Guru Gobind Singh
29 January, 2017, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Impact of Maithili Literature on North
Eastern languages
4 February, 2017, Patna, Bihar

Impact of Maithili-Assamese Literature
on each other
5 February, 2017, Madhubani, Bihar

The Life and Works of L. Samarendra
Singh
28 February, 2017, Imphal, Manipur

Comparison of Modern Tamil and Telugu
Poets 3 March, 2017, Yanam,
Andhra Pradesh

The Impact of Globalization on Dogri
Literature
4 March, 2017, Dist. Samba, Jammu.

Youth writing in Dogri Language
5 March, 2017, Jammu, J & K

Fiction after C.V. Raman Pillai
7 March, 2017, Trivandrum, Kerala

Symposium: On the Occasion of
International Women's Day
8 March, 2017, New Delhi

Feminism in Odia Literature
8 March, 2017, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Indian Writing Today
14 March 2017, London

Birth Centenary of Pa. Vem. Acharya
18 March, 2017, Karkala, Karnataka

History of Creative Bodo Literature,
Translation, Reception
17 March, 2017, Bijni, Assam

Maithili-Santali: Paraspar Sambandh aur
Prabhav
18 March, 2017, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Kannada Short Story - Form and Basis of
Resistance
19 March, 2017, Sirsi, Karnataka

Maithili-Odia: Paraspar Sambandh aur
Prabhav
19 March, 2017, Bokaro Steel City,
Jharkhand

Rajasthan Chand Parampara
19 March, 2017, Sridungargarh,
Rajasthan.

Punjabiyaat De Vikas De Bhavikhmukhi
Model
24 March, 2017, Badal, Punjab

R.V. Pandit
26 March, 2017, Goa

THROUGH MY WINDOW

Sri Baldev Vanshi, noted Hindi writer
spoke on the life and works of late Sri
Mahip Singh
12 April, 2016, New Delhi

Sri Jayanti Rath, noted Odia writer spoke
about the life and works of Dr Banaj Devi
17 June, 2016, Bhubaneswar

Ms. Bibi Devi Borbaruah, noted
Assamese writer spoke on the life and
works of Dr Lakhya Hira Das
18 June, 2016, Guwahati

Suryaprakash Vyas, noted Sanskrit writer
spoke on the life and works of
Dr Batuknath Shastri, 26 July 2016, Jaipur

Sri Hundraj Balwani, noted Sindhi writer
spoke on the life and works of Sri Jetho
Lalwani, 21 August, 2016, Ahmedabad

Dr. H. Behari Singh, noted Manipuri
writer spoke on the life and works of
Dr Khumanthem Prakash Singh
28 September, 2016, Imphal

Sri Khiman Mulani, noted Sindhi writer,
spoke on the literature and works of Sri
Mohan Gehani
1 October, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Sri Shyam Darihare, wellknown
Maithili writer spoke on Rajmohan Jha,
distinguished Maithili fiction writer
16 October 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Ms Prabha Ganorkar, noted Marathi
writer spoke on the life and works of late
Dr Mangesh Padgaonkar
17 December, 2016, Buddhala,
Maharashtra

Dr Wali Mohd. Aseer, noted Kashmiri writer spoke on the life and works of Dr Janbaz Kishtwari, 18 December, 2016, Jammu

Dr. Amalendu Shekhar Pathak, noted Maithili writer spoke on the life and works of Dr. Sureshwar Jha
5 February, 2017, Madhubani, Bihar

Dr Jasbir Jain, eminent scholar spoke on the life and works of Dr. Anita Desai
7 February, 2017, Jaipur

Prof Bhalchandra Nemade, eminent Marathi writer spoke on the life and works of Bhau Padhye
10 March, 2017, Mumbai

Dr Prakash Vazrikar, noted Konkani writer spoke on the life and literature of late Sri R.V. Pandit
26 March, 2017, Goa

Prof Veena Verma, eminent Dogri critic spoke on the life and works of Sri Shivnath
28 March, 2017, Jammu

TRANSLATION WORKSHOPS

Multilingual Translation Workshop
19-21 May, 2016, Mount Abu, Rajasthan

Bhakti Traditions in India
26-27 May, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Nepali-Santali Translation Workshop on Short Stories 3-5 June, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Kashmiri-Punjabi Translation Workshop
24-26 June, 2016, Srinagar, J&K

Bengali-Nepali and Bengali-Assamese Dictionary Workshop
29-30 June, 2016, Kolkata, West Bengal

Three-day Translation Workshop:
Translation of Terminology of Criticism
21-24 July, 2016, Panaji, Goa

English-Assamese Translation Workshop
28-30 September, 2016, Dibrugarh, Assam

Khasi-Urdu Translation Workshop
22-24 October, 2016, Shillong, Meghalaya

Khasi-Kashmiri Translation Workshop
25-27 November, 2016, Shillong, Meghalaya

Manipuri-Bodo Translation Workshop
26-27 November, 2016, Guwahati, Assam

Odia-Santali Translation Workshop on Short Stories 26-28 November, 2016, Puri, Odisha

Konkani-Punjabi Translation Workshop
26-28 January, 2017, Goa

Hindi-English Translation Workshop
9-11 February, 2017, Chandigarh, Punjab

Translation Workshop on Translating
the Oral Resources of Some Oral
Communities in North-East India
24-25 February, 2017, Shillong,
Meghalaya

Translation Workshop
16-17 March, 2017, Guwahati, Assam

Santali-Maithili Translation Workshop on
poetry
16-18 March, 2017, Jamshedpur,
Jharkhand

ORAL AND TRIBAL LITERATURE PROGRAMMES

Tribal Poets' Meet (HO Language)
16 July, 2016, Baripada, Odisha

Tribal Writers' Meet
27-28 August, 2016, Ranchi, Jharkhand

J&K Tribal Writers' Conference
3-4 September, 2016, Kargil, Ladakh

Route to Oral Literature
19-20 September, 2016, Gangtok, Sikkim

Tamil Nadu Tribal Oral Literature
23-24 September, 2016, Puducherry

Seminar on Tribal Literature and Culture
19-20 November, 2016, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Tribal Writers' Meet
26-27 November, 2016, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

Seminar on Tribal Language and Culture
7-8 December, 2016, Calicut, Kerala

Seminar on Tribal Languages and
Literature of Odisha
23 December, 2016, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Tribal Writers' Meet
13 January, 2017, New Delhi

Seminar on Tribal Literature and Oral
Expressions in India
10-11 February, 2017, Port Blair

Seminar on Trends in Tribal Literature in
North East India
28 February-1 March, 2017,
Tura, Meghalaya

Seminar on Tribal Epics of Karnataka – A
re-reading
27-28 March, 2017, Sagara, Karnataka

WRITERS' MEETS

Santali Writers' Meet
1 May, 2016, Sahibganj, Jharkhand

Bodo Writers' Festival
19-20 June, 2016, BTAD, Assam

Sindhi Poets' Colloquium
25-26 June, 2016, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Bodo Fiction Writers' Meet
28 July, 2016, Lakhimpur, Assam

Bengali Poets' Meet
17-18 August, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Dogri Poets' Meet
10 September, 2016, Jammu

Nepali Rachna Path
11 September, 2016, Sitong

Kannada Young Writers' Conference
17-18 September, Honnavara

Nepali Poets' Meet
7-8 October, Varanasi

Poets' Meet
28-29 September, 2016, Imphal, Manipur

Nepali Poets' Meet
22 October, 2016, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Nepali Rachna Path
3-4 November, 2016, Jorthang,

Young Poets' Meet
22 November, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

Sanskrit Young Poets' Meet
26-27 November, 2016, Kolkata, West
Bengal

Telugu Writers' Meet
10 December, 2016, Yanam,
Andhra Pradesh

Nepali Rachna Path
30 December, 2016, Udalguri, Assam

Santali Poets' Meet
30 December, 2016, Tezpur, Assam

All India Sanskrit Poets' Meet
31 January, 2017, Guruvayoor, Kerala

Women Poets' Meet
8 March 2017, New Delhi

Maithili Poets' Meet
19 March, 2017, Bokaro Steel City,
Jharkhand

All India Santali Writers' Meet
30-31 March, 2017, New Delhi

YUVA SAHITI

Young Santali Writers' Meet
30 April, 2016, Dumka, Jharkhand

All India Young Writers' Festival
28-29 May, 2016, Agartala, Tripura

Rajasthani Young Writers' Meet
12-13 September, 2016,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Young Odia Writers' Meet
9 January, 2017, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Yuva Sahiti: Young Writers from Different
Languages

10 January, 2017, New Delhi
Yuva Sahiti: Young Tamil Writers
03 February, 2017,
Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Yuva Sahiti: Young Maithili Writers
5 February, 2017,
Madhubani, Bihar

BRIEF REPORTS OF THE
PROGRAMMES
ORGANIZED BY
SAHITYA AKADEMI
IN 2016-2017

FESTIVAL OF LETTERS 2017

February 21-26, 2017

INAUGURATION OF AKADEMI EXHIBITION 2016

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters kick-started with the inauguration of the Akademi Exhibition 2016. The Exhibition, showcasing glimpses of Akademi's activities and achievements in 2016, was inaugurated by Prof Satyavrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Prof Shastri, the office bearers of the Akademi, members of Akademi's Executive Board and General Council, literary lovers and the staff. He outlined Akademi's activities and achievements, launch of new programmes and seminal events of 2016. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, thanked Prof Satyavrat Shastri for inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition and



Dr Satyavrat Shastri inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition

talked about Sahitya Akademi's contributions for the development of literature in 24 recognized languages. In his inaugural speech, Prof. Satyavrat Shastri said that he had a very long association with Sahitya Akademi. India is a vast country with several languages but literature can be written in any language. Language does not matter. He said Shabda and Artha as equally significant – There is nothing without Shabdha or sound in entire world. Shabda is Brahma, Anadi. Music is Nada Brahma. Shabda is related with Artha or meaning. There is power in Shabdha to express Artha or meaning. Authors and poets, create their own world and create literature of extraordinary merit.

PRESENTATION OF BHASHA SAMMAN



Prof. Tiwari presenting Bhasha Samman to Thupstan Paldan

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Bhasha Samman on four distinguished scholars, Thupstan Paldan & Lozang Jamspal (Ladakhi), Harihar Vaishnav (Halbi) and Nirmal Minz (Kurukh), for their outstanding contributions to these languages at a glittering ceremony in Rabindra

Bhavan Lawns on 21 February 2017. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Award winners and spoke at length about the linguistic diversity of the Indian sub-continent and richness and depth of language clusters of Indian sub-continent. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the strength that varied languages offer to cultural traditions and the necessity to preserve and promote languages, especially those that are endangered. Dr Tiwari stated that in the era of globalization, variety and niche traditions and literature are diminishing. It is our duty to respect the writers of bhasha literature and the failure to do that is failing our languages. Sri Harihar Viashnav could not participate in the ceremony due to indisposition. After the conferment of the samman, the three awardees talked about their experiences in preserving and promoting unrecognized languages and shared commonalities found in all the languages.

SEMINAR ON 'PROTECTING MOTHER TONGUES'

To commemorate International Mother Tongue Day, Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day national seminar on 'Protecting Mother Tongues' at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 21 February 2017. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about the perils of not



Inaugural Session of the Seminar in progress

practicing one's mother tongue. He also highlighted advantages of mother tongue over acquired language. In his inaugural address, Prof S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi advocated changes in pedagogical systems in the light of threat to native languages in the contemporary educational sphere and stressed the importance of mother tongues. He observed that many languages are on the verge of extinction and with the loss of those languages will go away a large body of indigenous knowledge systems. In his keynote address, Dhrubajyoti Bora said mother tongues and regional languages are the soul of India. The very idea of freedom percolated through the mother tongue. The President of Sahitya Akademi Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, in his presidential address, reiterated the importance of the mother tongue especially in the field of creative writing. The concluding remarks were delivered by Prof. Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi who said that the role of mother tongue is getting more and more marginalized. To reverse the situation the mother tongue should be brought to the centre of the educational system. In the first session chaired by Dr Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Odia poet and scholar, three eminent scholars, Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, Prof Mishal Sultanpuri and Prof Palash Baran presented their papers. Prof Udaya Narayana Singh highlighted the causes and reasons of "killing" of the native languages. He blamed colonization, globalization, urbanization, genocide, natural disasters and 30 more causes for it. Prof. Mishal Sultanpuri talked about the historical importance and the background of the International Mother Tongue day which falls every year on 21st February. He said that this day which was proposed as a consequence of a language movement which began in Dhaka. He said languages provide a bank of memories and leaders and educationists all over the world from Aristotle to Mahatma Gandhi were in favor of imparting education through the mother tongue. He regretted that fact that Kashmiri and Dogri and other different languages in Jammu and Kashmir are under threat because of mainly globalization and commercialization. In his paper, Prof. Palash Baran

Pal stated that it is unfortunate that even the educated people in Bengal prefer Hindi as well as English over their own mother tongue Bengali. He felt that there should be free trade of movies and books between Bengal and Bangladesh. In his concluding speech, Dr Sitakant Mahapatra said that Sahitya Akademi has immensely promoted the cause of mother tongues by giving annual awards in 24 languages, Bhasha Samman, award in Children's literature and prize for translation in 24 Languages. He mentioned that Odisha has the biggest Pothi or palm-leaf library. He said that the objective should be to develop regional languages libraries in all states. In the second session of the seminar (first of the day), Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the chair and speakers of the session. In this session chaired by Prof Indra Nath Choudhury, eminent Hindi scholar and writer, three scholars, Sri Rahul Dev, Sri Chandra Prakash Deval and Sri Anisur Rahman, presented their papers. Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri said that coming to the Sahitya Akademi was like 'Home Coming' for him and stated that the present topic Protecting Mother Tongues had been discussed for over a hundred years since the colonial days. He recalled the circumstances in which the International Mother Tongue Day came about, highlighted the role languages played in many a movement and recalled Tagore's statement of a child doing well if education is imparted in the mother tongue. The first speaker, Dr. Chandra Prakash Deval, stated that only through language can people relate to others or communicate with people around or express one's thoughts and feeling or even describe the natural phenomena. If we do not preserve one's mother tongue, we will not be able to even record histories of one's community or even talk about God and mythology. He said of all the inventions of man, language is the most significant one and quoted Ghalib saying that if the language is lost then the identity of the individual as well as culture is lost. The next speaker, Sri Rahul Dev, began his speech by saying that we can protect the languages only if our society is seriously concerned that our languages are in danger. He stated that not only minor languages and dialects, but even the mainstream languages that are ancient and rich are in the danger zone of becoming extinct in the near future. He informed that UNESCO, after deep research, had setup nine parameters to calculate the liveliness of a particular language in the world. (1) Process of language passing through generation to generation, (2) Total number of people who use that particular language, is it increasing or decreasing, (3) total ratio of the people in a particular society who are using that language, (4) which are the domains in which that language is being used, (5) Whether these domains are increasing or decreasing, (6) what are the new inventions—technique, knowledge etc.— being used in that language, (7) Policies/ attitudes of government and non-government organization towards the language, (8) What are the new systems in relation to provide education in a particular language and (9) the new systems being developed in a particular language. The final speaker of the session, Prof. Anisur Rahman observed that languages which lived in shrunken linguistic habitats have turned either moribund or fixated, or been mummified as relics of the past. He said that protecting mother-tongue is protecting ones own identity, community and culture. There can be several ways and methods to protect a mother tongue but there is

no formula to do so because languages cannot be brought to a formulaic system to help them sustain and survive. Prof. Indranath Choudhuri concluded the session by reciting two poems—one by Michael Madhusudan Dutt and other a poem by Kuldeep Salil. In the third session of the seminar chaired by Dr. Chandra Prakash Deval, two noted scholars, Sri Vasdev Mohi and Sri Sa. Kandasamy, presented their papers. Sri Deval initiating the proceedings stated that preservation of mother tongue is an essential ingredient in the efforts to preserve and promote cultural traditions. Sri Vasdev Mohi stated that dwindling languages endanger the identity of the entire community and observed that the thought patterns of children learning in mother tongue is vastly superior to those of children learning in the acquired language. Sri Sa Kandasamy stated that according to socio-linguistic researchers of the 7000 plus languages, 90% would be extinct by the turn of the century. He said that language is not just a sound but the basis of all knowledge about culture, heritage philosophy, literature and civilization. He concluded by quoting the famous Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu “If you have to walk a thousand mile, never mind, begin the first step”, which rightly paves the way for initiating steps to safeguard our mother tongues.

MEET THE AUTHOR WITH RUPA BAJWA

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Meet the Author’ programme featuring eminent Indian-English writer, Rupa Bajwa at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 22 February 2017. This platform ‘Meet the Author’ was launched by Sahitya Akademi 30 years ago where eminent writers are invited to talk about their life and works. Rupa Bajwa is the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for her celebrated novel *The Sari Shop*. In the course of her talk she said that her novels mapped the lives of the marginalized individuals and power equations in the society that map their lives. She asks who are the metropolitan socialites to decide who will write? It makes her angry. Extremely fond of Chekhov’s books and also of Manto, she said she was influenced by them. She is not in favor of the term small town but referred to them as marginalized places. She says that English should be brought down from the ivory towers and ordinary people should be able to relate their world in English. She was an engineering student and left Amritsar at the age of 18 and then studied and worked in different cities. She passed her life in great difficulties and after saving Rs. 35000 she started her literary journey. Fame and recognition came with her acclaimed book *The Sari Shop* which won several awards, like Orange Prize for Fiction and Sahitya Akademi Award. It was written in 2004 and explores her home town and the complexities of small towns and class dynamics in India through the life of Ramchand, a shop assistant in a sari shop. Working on her third unpublished novel, she realised how little she actually knew about writing. It was a humbling experience. A lively question and answer session followed.

SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS 2016 - AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY



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

The Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2016 were presented to 24 writers at a glittering ceremony on 22 February 2017 at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi.

The ceremony began with the invocation. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the President and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, the Chief Guest, other dignitaries, Award winners and the audience. He congratulated the Award winners for their stupendous contribution to literature in all the languages of India and stated that it is writers who make Sahitya Akademi and hence Sahitya Akademi is the Writers' Home. He observed, it is true in a sense that the Akademi Awards are in recognition for a particular title, it is also true that the Akademi Awards are recognition of the long standing literary tradition and the lineage in which the author and awarded title exists. He also shared, for the benefit of the larger audience, the highlights and achievements of Sahitya Akademi in the year 2016.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao read out the citations and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, conferred the Awards on the awardees. Sri Jerry Pinto (English), Dr Sitanath Acharya (Sanskrit), Sri Chhatrapal (Dogri) and Sri Nandlal Javeri (Sindhi) could not attend the Awards presentation ceremony due to some personal reasons. In his Presidential address he observed that Sahitya Akademi Award is not a prize but an honor given to the writers and stated that the writer or poet does not belong to any one region or any other human stratification, rather it is a humanness of the writer and human values of his / her writings that earmark one. In our country there are millions of talented litterateurs in the countryside but talent alone cannot make one a good writer or poet but it is practice that makes a man perfect. Dr Tiwari appealed to all the writers of India to possess the

quality of fearlessness and equanimity in outlook – to face any problem in life and to portray the evils and injustice in society.

Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, distinguished physicist and eminent Marathi writer was the Chief Guest. In his speech, Dr Narlikar said that though he does not have depth of literary knowledge, he is well acquainted with science and technology and added that literature can be expressed through technology in a better way and coupled with the concepts of science. He observed that the present-day technology-filled societies should think of the future generations and try to preserve literature of the time as it is literature that reflects values and culture of the society but not technology. Dr Narlikar stated that the effects of science can be best described only through literature and only by litterateurs. This is the biggest relevance of literature, even the classical one, in the digital era and appealed to the writers to pen more science-based stories and poems. Dr Chandrashekhkar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the concluding remarks.

YUVA SAHITI: THE NEW HARVEST

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters continued for the third day at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 23, 2017. The first programme for the day was 'Yuva Sahiti: The New Harvest', a programme devoted to young writing of different languages across India. In the inaugural session Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries and participant young writers. He talked about the value of young people for any society and their role in the development of the society. B. Jayamohan, eminent Tamil writer in his inaugural address dwelt at length on the characteristics of modern and ancient writings. He said that modern literature is rescuing literature from the clutches of religions or religious writings. He recommended young writers to read ancient literature to know what was written 100 years back by our great writers to understand their worldview. Goreti Venkanna was the Guest of Honour. He is a household name in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. He rendered two folk songs, one of which was titled 'Gypsy'. His voice culture and performance mesmerised the audience. In the inaugural session Avinuo Kire (English), Pratishta Pandya (Gujarati), Nishant (Hindi), B. Raghunandan (Kannada), Sampreetha Kesavan (Malayalam) and Moien Shadab (Urdu) recited their poems in their native languages and Hindi/English translations. For the first time an interaction session was arranged with senior eminent writer Manoj Das. He shared his literary journey with the young writers and they asked variety of questions on the present literary scenario. He suggested that young writers should take special care while re-writing mythological stories or re-defining or re-structuring mythological characters. In the second session a lively discussion held on

the topic 'Writing: Passion or Profession'. Eminent Bengali writer Antara Dev Sen chaired this session and Bipasha Borah (Assamese), Devdan Chaudhuri (English) and S. Rajamanickam (Tamil) shared their views on the topic. A lively question-answer session followed. The session was concluded with a note that writing is more a passion than profession. The fourth session was devoted to short stories. Brajendra Tripathi chaired this session and Sayantani Putaunda (Bengali), Pargat Singh Satauj (Punjabi), Poodoori Raji Reddy (Telugu) and Koimal Dayalani (Sindhi) presented their stories. The last session of the programme was devoted to poetry. It was chaired by Bodhisatva. Kewal Kumar Kewal (Dogri), Muzaffar Hussain Dilbir (Kashmiri), Eknath Gaunkar (Konkani), Chandan Kumar Jha (Maithili), Sushil Kumar Shinde (Marathi), Budhichandra Heinamba (Manipuri), Amar Baniya Lahoro (Nepali), Ipshita Sarangi (Odia), Raju Ram Bijarniyani (Rajasthani), and Maheswar Soren (Santali) presented their poems in their language and Hindi/English translations.

WRITERS' MEET

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Writers' Meet' featuring Sahitya Akademi Awards 2016 Winners at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 23 February 2017. The event was presided by Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi. The Award winners present talked about their lives, works, the process of creative writing, etc.



Nasera Sharma reading her speech

Assamese - Sri Jnan Pujari, Award-winner for his collection of poetry Meghamalar Bhraman, talked about the creative process of writing poetry and recited some of his poems.

Bengali - Dr Nrisinha Prasad Bhaduri, Award-winner for his collections of essays, Mahabharater Astadashi, in his speech talked about the Epic Mahabharata, the female protagonists and the lessons to be learnt by all from the Epic.

Bodo - Smt. Anjalee Basumatary, Award-winner for her collection of poetry, Ang Mabwrwi Dong Dswng, said, "I get encouraged to create poetry by the urge of my soul. The urge comes from natural beauty, various issues, and happenings in of real life. Poetry leads me to a different world. I pass through my difficult journey of life with the help of poetry..."

Gujarati - Sri Kamal Vora, Award-winner for his collection of poetry, Anekek, said, “I do not write poetry to explore my ‘inner self,’ but to seek confrontation with poetry truths. Such confrontations compel me to gather the fragments of my being; make me whole and place me before pure poetry.”

Hindi - Smt. Nasera Sharma, Award-winner for her novel, Parijata, began her speech with a sentence “Kabhi Jannat To Kabhi Dojakh” which is the gist of her writing career. She further said that her novel Parijata, is one of the parts of the tree which was aroused from the “Sagar Manthan” of which one branch was roped by Krishna in “Kanchan Van”, which is still available in Barabanki, UP.

Kannada - Sri Bolwar Mahamad Kunhi, Award Winner for his novel Swatantryada Ota, thanked the Akademi for the Award and talked about his early life, influences on his writings and the process of creative writing.

Kashmiri - Dr. Aziz Hajini, Award-winner for his collection of critical essay, Aan-e-Khane, in his speech quoted Ghalib, “DekhnaTaqreer Ki Lazat Ki Jo us neiKaha/ Mene Yun Jana Ki ye be Merydil men hai”. He further said, “In my opinion the good critic is one who helps a reader appreciate a creative piece. His basic job is to vouch for the possibilities hidden in the word order and imagination of a piece of literature. Reader-oriented and reader-friendly literary criticism is the best in my opinion.”

Konkani - Edwin J.F. D’Souza, Award-winner for his novel, Kallem Bhangaar, in his speech said, “Kallem Bhangaar means Black Gold a synonym for crude oil from which various petroleum distillates are derived and in turn which fuel the entire world.” He further said, “This novel does not essentially relate to a process of fractional distillation of the Black Gold but covers much more.”

Maithili - Sri Shyam Darihare, Award-winner for his collection of short stories, Barki Kaki at Hotmail Dot Com, in his speech shared his personal experiences which developed him to be a poet and short story writer. He further said that all credit goes to his father who played a major role in shaping him as a short story writer.

Malayalam - Sri Prabha Varma, Award-winner for his novel, Shyama Madhavam, in speech said, “Writers write. Is it for the recognition which may or may not be conferred on them by those who are in power? No, not at all! Even if no one is there to recognise, writers will write. Was it for laurels that Valmiki wrote? Did Vyasa expect any award when he penned the Mahabharata? No. Writers write. They have no option but to write.”

Manipuri - Sri Moirangthem Rajen, Award-winner for his collection of short stories, Cheptharaba Ishingpun, in his paper shared his views about Manipuri literary tradition and his journey (which is endless) as a creative writer.

Marathi - Sri Aasaram Marotrao Lomte, Award-winner for his short story collection, Aalok, in his speech said, “I think, the writers have been burdened with more responsibilities

in these times. I think, this is the need of the hour to write something to make people restless, uneasy and to melt down their self-centred compassion. There may be abundance of products for “healthy” life in the market but the writer must not write to upset / cause harm to health.”

Nepali - Ms Gita Upadhyaya, Award-winner for her novel, Janmabhumi Mero Swadesh, in her speech described her awarded work thus, “The novel Janmabhumi Mero Swadesh is based on the life of Chhabilal Upadhyay and the freedom movement of our country. It is a story about how the people of a tiny helmet in North-Eastern part of our country participated in the struggle for Independence.”

Odia - Smt. Paramita Satpathy, Award-winner for her collection, Prapti, in her speech said, “As a human being, as a woman, I do feel inhibited on many occasions. But, writing has been an arena for me, where I feel absolutely free and I take refuge in it...”

Punjabi - Dr.Swarajbir Singh, Award-winner for his play, Massia Di Raat, in his speech said, “My experience shows that one of the demands which hang heavily on the head of the author is to unshackle the language from the ideology and it is a formidable task. It is not an easy one...”

Rajasthani - Sri Bulaki Sharma, Award-winner for his collection of short stories, Murdhat Ar Dujee Kahaniyan discussed one of the stories from his award-winning collection, Murdhat presenting a realistic picture of the status of women in a patriarchal society and their travails and woes.

Santali - Sri Gobind Chandra Majhi, Award-winner for his collection of poems, Nalha, in his speech talked about the about Santal life and characteristics of poetic forms in Santal poetry

Tamil - Sri Vannadasan (S. Kalyansundaram), Award-winner for his collection of short stories, Oru Siru Isai, in his speech said, “I believe the small things are the bigger things. Just because of the existence of these small people with their small things, they make this bigger universe bright and beautiful. When there could be a ‘God of small things’, there would always be a ‘man of small things’”.

Telugu - Dr.Papineni Siva Sankar, Award-winner for his collection of poems, Rajanigandha, in his speech said, “No writer can change the system of society even with all of his writings.” He concluded his speech with reciting a few lines from the Rajanigandha, which is one of the poems of his award-winning work.

Urdu - Dr. Nizam Siddiqui, award-winner for his collection of essays, Mabad-e-Jadidiyat Se Naye Ahed Ki Takhlikiyat Tak, in his speech informed that the content of the awarded book ranges from the post modernism to new age creativity. He further said, “This book merges the talents of the circumspect but absorbed creative author, the avid lifelong scholar and the discerning and the fertile idea man in the higher literary criticism.”

SAMVATSAR LECTURE BY DR RAMACHANDRA GUHA

Sahitya Akademi's annual Samvatsar Lecture for the year 2017 was delivered by Dr Ramachandra Guha, eminent scholar and historian at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on the evening of February 23, 2017. Samvatsar Lecture is an annual lecture delivered by a distinguished writer and a creative thinker who has a thorough understanding of Indian literature. These lectures may reflect a deep concern for values and should open up new vistas of thinking regarding a literary movement, a current literary trend, some original thinking about a great writer or a great classic or a new path in literary criticism or literary creation. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker and introduced him to audience. Dr Ramachandra Guha spoke about why Indians, especially Indian historians shy away from writing a historical biography and also about the art of writing a biography.



Dr Ramachandra Guha delivering the Samvatsar Lecture

Brief excerpts from his lecture: “Historical Biography is that part of history more allied to literature than any other parts of history. History oscillates between social sciences and literature. Why do historians stay away from biographies? First is the burden of religious inheritance. Religions such as Hinduism are inimical to writing a biography due to its inherent belief system based on karma and rebirth. The second reason is scholarly inheritance, especially Marxism since Marxism diminishes the importance of the individual. The third reason is history's tilt towards social sciences though history began as a branch of literature. The fourth reason is Indians' indifference to record keeping. The archives in the country, central and state, are in complete disarray. The fifth reason why Indians are diffident on writing biographies is the fear of giving offense to eminent individual. The sixth reason is biography is a challenging literary form. The seventh reason is writing of biography requires writers and scholars to suppress their own egos and write about another writer with equally a big ego. These are the reasons why historical biography never took off in a big way in India. The following are four central tenets of writing a biography: a) the secondary characters are critical to the story b) the biographer must look for sources emanating from places other than the central character c) the biographer should not anticipate and d) the biographer should not be deterred even if there exists already a comprehensive biography.” Dr Guha described how the Verrier Elwin's life and works transformed him and his critical outlook. He illustrated the challenges of writing a biography through his attempts to write a biography of Verrier Elwin. He observed that while historical biography is an underdeveloped field and challenging, young scholars should tell their stories since historical biography in India is on the rise and in the coming

years we are likely to see more number of historical biographies. A brief interactive session took place after the lecture and Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked Dr Ramachandra Guha for accepting Akademi's invitation and delivering a fabulous lecture.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON FOLKLORE: TELLINGS AND RETELLINGS

Continuing with the tradition of having a national seminar on an important theme during the Festival of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi organized a three-day national seminar on Folklore: Tellings and Retellings between February 24 and February 26, 2017 at the Akademi auditorium in New Delhi.



Dr Manoj Das delivering the Inaugural Address

In the inaugural session on the first day, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke at length about the importance and relevance of folklore in preserving cultural traditions of a society, their function as bridges between the past and present, their uniqueness, the role of folktales, folksongs and folk art forms as recorders of history, the ways and means to preserve folklore and folk art from

becoming extinct. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the presence of folklore in all the regions and languages of India and informed that most of the earlier work on Indian folklore was done by foreigners. He also said that globalization and its impact have created a disconnect with the folk literature. India is an oral tradition-based country and stated that even Buddha imparted his teachings through folktales. In his inaugural address, Prof Manoj Das, eminent writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, stated that while folklore occupied the largest area of literature, it is very difficult to separate folktales from myths and legends. He said that the Epics were adopted into local traditions and folktales and folksongs were incorporated into those epics thus elevating their status and that is how indigenous knowledge systems were formed, but in the rapidly changing world this ancient tree of knowledge is fast disappearing. Folktales are to be told and re-told and he appealed to all the writers to preserve the folklore and folk art forms immediately before it is too late. Prof Tabish Khair, eminent English writer was the guest of honor and in his speech stated that the stories are the most common, most pervasive and the oldest way of expressing human thought and humans could be the only animals who can think in stories. He stated that



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, delivering the Presidential Address

retellings of folklore is very essential and as pointed by A.K. Ramanujan, the Epics of our country have been told and retold and will continue to be retold. In his keynote address, Prof Jawaharlal Handoo, eminent folklorist, talked about folklore, orality and discourse of power and pain. He stated that the orality of folklore is its strength and not its weakness as is assumed commonly and oral traditions of the country have ensured successful survival of indigenous knowledge systems through thousands of years but the essence of folklore is a discourse on pain. In his concluding

remarks, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, said that the folk tradition is facing a crisis, which has threatened its continuity. The crisis is not due to industrialization or the growth of mass media. Folk tradition can face all these hostile conditions and survive. But, the crisis is in another form, that of self-consciousness. The folk artists, especially actors, are re-absorbed into the fold. The actor returns as a farmer or a carpenter. But in the middle-class culture, an actor, both on and off the stage, remains an actor. He is condemned to be an actor. As long as the folk-culture needs art and as long as it continues to be folk-culture art will continue.”

In the first session chaired by Dr Pratibha Ray, eminent writer and scholar, three eminent scholars, Sri Prakash Premi, Prof H.S. Shivaprakash and Sri Hasu Yajnik, presented their papers. Sri Prakash Premi talked about folklore from the perspective of modern Dogri literature and adaptations into Dogri plays. Prof H.S. Shivaprakash talked about varied adaptations of folklore in the pan-Indian scenario with the infusion of local flavors and traditional knowledge. He said, thus, folklore of one region gets adapted into another and this free interplay of folklore of different regions makes folklore of India a very unique phenomenon and amplifies the country’s central character. Sri Hasu Yajnik presented his paper on the modern adaptation of folklore in Gujarat and contrasted method based knowledge systems of modern era with the folklore and observed that archived folklore has its own purpose of either creating a new modern lore or helping retelling the ancient folklore. In the second session chaired by Prof P. Raja, eminent Tamil writer, three eminent scholars, Prof. Surya Dhananjay, Prof. A. Achutan and Dr. Ratan Hembram, presented their papers. Prof. Surya Dhananjay presented her paper on Preservation of Folklore in Telugu Areas with Special Focus on Banjara Tribe. Prof A. Achuthan presented his paper on ‘Kerala ke Loknatya – ‘Pottan Thaiyyam’” aur Pratirodhi Samskar. He focused his paper on two types of drama forms of Kerala – Dravidian form and Classical form. He

then dwelt on the traditional knowledge of the dalit songs in which their life-visions and customs are discussed. Prof. Ratan Hembram presented his paper on 'Preservation of Folk Literature'. In the third session of the seminar which was first for the day, devoted to 'Folklore and Religious Practices' and chaired Prof Jancy James, three noted scholars, Sri Manjit Mahanta, Prof. T. Dharmaraj and Dr. Balvant Jani, presented their papers. Prof. Jancy James initiated the proceedings by observing that the folk tellings and retellings are both challenges and complementary discourses to the classical text, especially the epics. She stated that the Tellings and Retellings of myths and legends are universal, and constitute the cultural wealth of all nations in the world. They have become related to religion and worship mostly in South Asia where multi Gods and their worship prevail much more than in a monotheistic society. In his paper on 'Some Aspects of Folk Belief and Religion Practice among the Traditional Oraon Society: A Case Study,' Sri Manjit Mahanta spoke about how beliefs and religious practices play a major role in understanding



Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, delivering the Concluding Remarks

the latent cultural values from the 'emic' point of view and to some extent such an understanding plays a significant role in implementing many developmental projects. In his paper 'Performing the Book: Orality of Letters in Tamil Society,' Dr T. Dharmaraj highlighted the extraordinary character exhibited by Tamil orality while encountering the technology of writing for the first time and said that he documented a folk religious practice called "Performing the Book" in Tamil Nadu in which elders of an agrarian society

cultivated a methodology to exploit the literal device of knowledge, the book. Rather than simply started worshipping the new technology, there the 'book' as sacred, this agrarian mass entertains an indigenous way of celebrating the meaning blossomed from that. In his paper 'Folk knowledge and Folk Religious Activities,' Dr Balwant Jani said that the practice of folk knowledge and folk literature is possible only on the basis of folk religion-folk culture. In the fourth session devoted to 'Folklore and the Art of Storytelling' and chaired by Prof Malashri Lal, three noted scholars, Ms. Tanashree Redij, Dr. P. Raja and Ms. Fatima Siddiqui, presented their papers. Prof Malashri Lal highlighted the difference between archived folklore and living practices of folklore, recalled her experiences in Chamba tribal communities and said that the oral traditions are remembered only by the older generation while the younger people were passing on to a flattened out narrative through television and other social media. In her paper 'Understanding Gauri Vow,' Ms. Tanashree Redij spoke about the practice of taking a vow and narrated the story of Gauri vow and presented an analytical representation focusing on the stories of Gauri vow with respect to their social and regional variations along with their local inputs. She

said that these stories are devotionally narrated and heard during the vow and they help one to understand the relation between ritualistic practices of vow given in the scriptures and the present day practices. Dr. P. Raja in his paper said, storytelling in India is serious business. He said that a reading of the story collections of the world will reveal the fact that stories were told, entertainment apart, for a wide variety of reasons. In her paper ‘Labyrinth of Folk Memories: Syncretism of the Indian and Iranian in Dastan-e-Amir Hamza,’ spoke about how storytelling is the world’s oldest form of literary communication and Folklores - be they folktales, myths, religious stories, epics, ballads, fables or legends, together account for the majority of the stories told in public and private spaces. She said oral traditions are common to all societies but the Eastern world has had a special relationship with the oral storytelling art. She focused her paper on epics such as Dastan-e-Amir Hamza, Shahnama, Qissa Char Darvesh etc. which were extremely popular in Persia and India. She mentioned that the professional story tellers or Dastangohs narrated these stories at the royal courts and local bazaars as a way to pass time, earn livelihood and also possibly live on court patronage. In the fifth session devoted to ‘The Relevance of Folklore in 21st Century’ and chaired by Prof Avadhesh Kumar Singh, three eminent scholars, Sri Arabinda Patnaik, Dr. Raghavan Payyanad and Prof. H. C. Boralingaiah, presented their papers. Prof Avadhesh Kumar Singh expressed his appreciation for Sahitya Akademi’s endeavors to bring in folklore in the centre of discussion. According to him folklore is a rich reservoir of human knowledge. He further said that in the 21st century it has become even more important because ICT and fast modes of transport have integrated the world and this has lead to a confluence of folklores of the whole world, paving way for their comparative study and learning from each other. Sri Arabinda Patnaik presented his paper on Fasts and Festivals in Odisha: Khudurkuni Osa. He said that the religious fasts and festivals are popular in the tradition of India. In the fasts, rituals tales and in the festivals, festive-songs are common. Folklore is thus a part of these religious observances. Dr. Raghavan Payyanad presented his paper on Relevance of Folklore in 21st Century. He said that till the middle of the 19th century Popular Antiquities was the term used by



Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, thanking the participants and audience

scholars and collectors to refer the area of their work what we refer to day as Folklore. He said that the process of communication and transmission is not only telling and retelling but, seeing and imitating also. Prof. H. C. Boralingaiah presented his paper on Cultural History and Folk Performances with reference to Karnataka. Compared to the other South Indian states, the folk arts of Karnataka are not only greater in number but are also richer in diversity. And the reasons for this are not difficult to fathom; its cultural tradition and

geographical location. Born responding to a variety of causes in different historical contests and taking unique shapes and forms in different geographical locations, these folk arts continue to reflect the concerns, hopes and even the life worlds of its people. In the sixth session devoted to 'Performing Folklore' and chaired by Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, two eminent scholars, Sri H. Nani Kumar Singha and Sri Jetho Lalwani, presented their papers. Prof. H. Nani Kumar Singha presented his paper on Folklore traits in the Manipuri Vaishnavite ritual practices. He mentioned that folklore is a discipline within the paradigm of Cultural Studies. Oral narratives, oral poetry, folk speech, physical folk life or material culture, social folk customs and performing folk arts, etc. are the different genres of folklore in which each folk member of a folk group has as its constituents since quite early times. Sri Jetho Lalwani who has done his research work on Sindhi Folk Songs of Bani-Kutchh, presented his paper on "Sindhi Bhagat : Prastuti Ke Pariprekshya Mein". In his paper, he elaborately mentioned about the two kinds of performing arts, one that includes Padas, Bhajan and kirtan and the other rasas, lecture, artistic and poetical folk tales. 'We also call them prose based and poetry based literature', he said. The National Seminar on Folklore: Tellings and Retellings continued for the third day. In the seventh session devoted to 'Folklore: Multilingual Perspectives' and chaired by Prof Bhalachandra Nemade, three eminent scholars, Dr. Anil Boro, Dr. Kashinath V. Barhate and Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, presented their papers. Dr. Anil Boro said that "folklore plays a most significant role in the multilingual society of Northeast India. In the tradition-oriented society that we are living today, we are surrounded by folklore- be it oral song or oral tale or the rites and rituals. Even our lives in the urban setting may not be completely divorced from these. As time changes, contexts of folklore may change, but the appeal remains the same as folklore is the pulse of the people." Dr. Kashinath V. Barhate began his paper saying that the special feature of Indian culture lies in multilingualism and different cultures. He focused his paper on 'Korku; sub-tribe and Korku language and discussed in detail its history, the areas where these people live in different parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta's paper dwelt upon a distinctive tradition, a sacred and ritual performance in nature, spirit and content, ritually held in large congregations in Sattras, the Vaisnava monasteries of Assam. He talked about the Guru-lore or sacred life stories of religious saints, often viewed as religious texts oral or written, meant to propagate and popularize teachings and ideals of religious saints passed through oral transmission or recorded in writing, are moreofless a common practice in all religious denominations. In the eighth session devoted to 'Folklore Narrative' and chaired by Dr Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, three noted scholars, Sri Ramendra Kumar, Dr. Barun Chakraborty and Dr. Surjeet Singh, presented their papers. Sri Ramendra Kumar discussed in his paper the interaction between folk tales and mythology and the paradigm where the influencer and the influenced get so inextricably entwined that it is difficult to separate one from the other. He took the folktales of Odisha and Panchatantra along with the mythology associated with Jagannath Consciousness and Ramayana to reiterate his thesis

that the dynamic blending of these two forms of storytelling is essential to create a literature which is endearing, enduring and eternal. Dr. Barun Chakraborty said that the folktales are the most attractive specimen of folk literature. It easily arrests the attention of the listeners both young and elderly persons. The main reasons lie in its story element. Folktales can never be regarded as an important medium of entertainment only. Rather it plays a very vital role in educating the commoners especially morality. Dr. Surjeet Singh said through his paper that disciplinary boundaries to blur, tradition, a key to historical knowledge is to be understood as a process of cultural construction.

In the ninth session devoted to ‘Folklore and Culture’ and chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, two noted scholars, Dr Seema Sharma and Prof Aparajita Shukla, presented their papers. Dr. Seema Sharma presented her paper on ‘Folklore Through Popular Media – The Representation of the ‘Subaltern’. Her paper examined what aspects of folkloric cultures and stories get highlighted, and conversely, what aspects get marginalized in retelling through popular media. Ms. Aparajita Shukla in her paper on ‘Jagar of the Hills: A Musical Rendition of Culture and Society’ said that the folk religion of Uttarakhand that envelops the religious dimensions of its folk culture also includes social causes, concerns and a rich culture and also foregrounds a shared ideology between its two geographically demarcated regions of Garhwal and Kumaon.

FACE-TO-FACE

Sahitya Akademi organized a Face-to-Face programme featuring eminent scholars in conversation with the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2016 winners at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 24 February 2017. Some of brief excerpts from the conversations:

Smt. Nasera Sharma, the awardee in Hindi, who was in conversation with Ashok Tiwari, talked about her literary life. “I have faced so many ins and outs, ups and downs that my lap is full of experiences”. And these experiences motivate her to write on the different aspects of life. When she was asked a question on Partition, she said that there were two types of people who faced violence at the time of Partition— One, who faced it directly and two, who faced it mentally.



Kamal Vora



Aasaram Marotrao Lomte



Papineni Siva Sankar



Paramita Satpathy



Aziz Hajni

Sri Aasaram Lomte, the awardee in Marathi, who was in conversation with Dr. Randhir Shinde, shared that his short story dealing with rural life, in the earlier phase, was merely entertaining. The rural life depicted in his short stories now is terribly agonized and hopeless. He also observed that the politics in our villages has terribly changed and has lost human values. He also fiercely spoke of the exploitation and suppression of women in our villages.

Sri Kamal Vora, the awardee in Gujarati who was in conversation with Dr. Dileep Jhaveri, said, “To me poetry is not a means to explore myself but an attempt to explore the language that contains all the manifestation and offer an aesthetic experience..... Poetry allows me to keep all the intentions temptations and provocations of life at an arm’s length.”

Dr Papineni Sivasankar, the awardee in Telugu, who was in conversation with Sri Amarendra Dasari, talked about his own literary creations, the moods he underwent, influences on his writings and the preferences that a writer will have to make on his / her creations. He stated that the content of any genre of writing first sprouts in his mind and later he decides whether to write poetry, short story or an essay.

Smt. Paramita Satpathy, the awardee in Odia, who was in conversation with Rajendra Prasad Mishra, emphatically said that politeness of woman should not be mistaken as their weakness. “My writings are an attempt to explore womanhood. I was born in a family of writers and brought up with books around me. I have indeed been influenced by Indian writers as well as foreign writers. She shared that a writer is like a mother, and as the mother takes more care of her weakest child the writer deals with the issues that are more difficult.

Dr. Aziz Hajini, the awardee in Kashmiri who was in conversation with Farooque Fayaz, said that he was born in a family of farmers. The place where he was born, he said, was not royal but was aesthetically rich. Here he came into contact with Mohiuddin Hazin, the Arabic scholar, for which he feels proud. He said that the river Vitasta and the life on the banks of it have deeply influenced his life and his writings.

PURVOTTARI

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Purvottari’ programme featuring eminent Northern and North-Eastern writers and poets at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 24, February 2017. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the participants and the audience spoke briefly about the Akademi’s initiatives to preserve and promote literature of North-East and the principle behind organizing various North-Eastern and regional meets across the country throughout the year. In his inaugural address Dr Robin Ngangom, eminent English poet and translator, talked about the linguistic and



Participants of the Purvottari programme

literary diversity of the North-Easter regions of India and hoped that today's seminar will definitely transmit the values and culture of the North-East to North and vice versa. He stated that the literature of North-East is very alive, has been motivating the readers for a long and it does not carry any fear or terrorism inside it instead it carries peace and nature with it. He said that despite the diversity of languages, cultures and religions in North-East, its literature accepts others too wholeheartedly. He further said that the poetry of the new generation who is living in the modern cities express deep pain they are facing due to displacement. He concluded his address by saying that today's poetry of North-East is reflecting the folklore and folk-literature in a new flavor to the reader. In the inaugural session, four noted fiction writers, Baig Ehsas (Urdu), Chaman Arora (Dogri), Ano Brahma (Bodo) and Rishi Bashistha (Maithili), under the chairmanship of Sri Kula Saikia read out their stories. In the first session devoted to "My Creation, My World" and chaired by Ms. Uma Vasudev, four noted writers, Sriprakash Mishra (Hindi), Maharaj Krishan Santoshi (Kashmiri), Kshetri Rajen (Manipuri) and Devkanta Ramchiary (Bodo), talked about varied perceptions, representations and portrayals of their creative journey, the world around them and its influences on their writings. In the second session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Darshan Darshi, twelve noted poets, Madhu Acharya Ashavadi (Rajasthani), Amitabh Devchoudhury (Bengali), Yuyutsu Sharma (English), Irshad Magami (Kashmiri), Sudha M. Rai (Nepali), Madan Mohan Soren (Santali), Brajesh Kumar Shukla (Sanskrit), Tulika Chetia Yein (Assamese), Ramesh (Maithili), Jyotish Payeng (Hindi), Narendra Debbarma (Kokborok), Hiramoy Chakma (Chakma) and Ghanshyam Bodra (HO), recited their compositions.

TRIBAL WRITERS' MEET

It was a conglomeration of languages – from the most ancient (Asur) and a language with very few speakers (Toda), from the Northern frontiers (Gojri and Ladakhi) to the language echoing in the hills of Meghalaya in North-East (Khasi) at the Tribal Writers' and Poets' Meet organized by Sahitya Akademi as part of its Festival of Letters in New

Delhi on February 25, 2017. In the first session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the importance and relevance of tribal literature as repositories of indigenous knowledge systems and also outlined Sahitya Akademi's initiatives in this regard. Dr Anvita Abbi, Director, Center for Tribal and Oral Literature, Sahitya Akademi, spoke about how creation myths connect human beings to Nature and that creation myths are the running traditions among all the tribal communities linking the past to the present. Sri Ashwini Kumar Pankaj, eminent tribal scholar and editor of Akhra, said that the creation myths across the tribal settlements are similar in that they describe man and Nature, the genesis of cosmos and Homo sapiens. He said Creation myths are the stories of tribes over a period of thousands of years and the basis for these myths can be found in modern science and from tribal literature one can know about many things such as the decline and extinction of Indus civilization. Tribal literatures are the seeds from which many a literature is born and it is amazing that tribal literature is still alive and among all literature, it is in tribal literature can one find comprehensive treatment of creation. In the inaugural session, five noted tribal scholars, Remis Kandulana, Gloria Soreng, Saran Oraon, Dobro Buruili and Sundar Manjo Hembram, recited the creation myths. Remis Kandulana recited Munda creation myths and folksongs. Gloria Soreng said our creation myths link us directly with Nature and recited Kharia creation myth. Saran Oraon presented the genesis of human beings through Kurux creation myth. Dobro Buruili recited Ho creation myth and Sundar Manjo Hembram recited Santali creation myth in Santali and Hindi and stated that Santal tribes are maintaining till today the ancient tribal customs and rituals. The second session chaired by eminent Tribal scholar and writer Smt. Ramnika Gupta, 17 poets representing diverse tribal languages, Samuel Birija (Asur), Asim Ray (Chakma), Faneline K. Marak (Garo), Jaan Mohd. Hakim (Gojri), Jaminikant Tiriya (Ho), Sadhu Charan Deogam (Ho), Wansalan E. Dhar (Khasi), Vandana Tete (Kharia), Francisca Kujur (Kurux), Shanti Khalkho (Kurux), Nirad Chandra Kanhar (Kui), Thupstan Norbo (Ladakhi), Vidyeshwar Dhaley (Missing), Joachim Topno (Mundari), Santosh Picha Pawara (Pawari), Gagrini Sabar (Saora) and Vasamalli (Toda), recited their compositions. Smt. Ramnika Gupta lauded the efforts of Sahitya Akademi in preserving and promoting tribal languages.

SPIN-A-TALE: CHILDREN ACTIVITIES

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Spin-a-Tale', a children's programme featuring magic show, dramatized story reading and Story and Poetry writing competition for children at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on February 25, 2017. A large number of children from various Delhi schools participated in the event. The programme was formally inaugurated by Ms. Rashmi Narzary, eminent children's writer and winner of Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Ms. Narzary and spoke briefly about the importance of children and the necessity to inculcate good reading

habits among children. He highlighted the importance of books and the habit of reading in the development of children's personality and contrasted the role played by gadgets and technology with that of books in a child's development. In her inaugural speech, Ms. Narzary talked about the value of reading and writing and urged the children to read more and write more. She briefly narrated the core of her Bal Sahitya Puraskar winning book which is a story of how a poor tribal overcame poverty and all odds in life to become a civil servant and the value of hard work. She reiterated the benefits of hard work, knowledge, understanding, intelligence and concentration. She told the children where and when we are writing is not relevant or important and how and what we are writing are essential and one should keep writing to not only become good writers but also good human beings. Prof B. Kamesh performed a magic show and also taught few tricks to the children. Sansaptak, a theatre group, performed a dramatized story reading conceptualized by Tarit Mitra and directed by Anjan Basu. The stories which were staged revolved around social and environmental issues. There was also a story and poetry writing competition for children.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON TRANSLATION AS RETELLING

As part of its annual festival of letters, Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on 'Translation as Retelling' at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on 26 February, 2017. Many eminent translators and scholars from across the country participated in the seminar. The focus of the Seminar was on the Indian tradition of retelling epics and classics in different tongues as opposed to the western practice of 'translation'. In the inaugural session of the seminar, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about how translation lies at the core of Akademi's activities and why Sahitya Akademi publishes a large number of translations, organizes translation workshops and seminars, symposia and literary forums on translation across the country. He also talked about the tradition of anuvad as retelling in regional languages and how it is different from the conventional western notion of translation. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that India's translation tradition predates that of Europe with Ramkatha and Mahabharata being told and retold in almost all the languages of the country. With varied interpretations and ways of retelling with different connotations such as Tika, Bhashya,



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talking about translation traditions of India

Vritti etc., the Indian understanding of translation is far superior to that of others and translation is an original work and a re-creation in another language. In his inaugural address, eminent Gujarati scholar Prof Sitanshu Yashaschandra elaborated on the Indian practice of anuvad as punar kathan and stated that good translations as retelling withstand the test of time and leave lasting impression on the minds. In his keynote address, Prof Sumanyu Satpathy, eminent English scholar, talked about how retelling as a practice with liberty has made the epics and classics relevant through times and in diverse cultures and languages. He said that translators were re-creators and cited the example of Sarala Dasa and others and stated that this practice has become invisible today. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, provided the concluding remarks. In the first session chaired by Ms. Mini Krishnan, two eminent translators, Sri Chandrakant Patil and Dr J.L. Reddy, presented their papers. Initiating the session, Ms. Mini Krishnan said we are forgetting to translate the writers of 40's, 50's and 60's and Indian languages are vanishing from schools. Sri Chandrakant Patil presented a paper 'Translation as Retelling in Bhakti Movement: Marathi Perspective' and spoke about anuvad having different connotations in the medieval period. He observed that whenever the mainstream literature suffers from staleness and become lifeless, it turns toward the vast treasure of medieval literature and folk-literature searching its roots and cultural identity for revitalization. Concluding his paper he said, "The Hindi translation of selected hundred abhangas of Tukaram by Chandrakant Devtale is a remarkable attempt to retelling. It is significant that the retelling of medieval Bhakti literature has played such an important role even in modern times." Dr J.L. Reddy presented a paper 'Anuvad Punarkathan Ke Rup Mein' and delivered an analytical representation of different translations and retellings of Ramayana in the context of Telugu language and stated that it is our tradition to produce new definitions of Indian Folklore and Indian myths. He observed that nowadays a translator not only translates a story or ideas but also he translates it keeping in mind each "word". As a result, his translation is quite close to the original. But in the ancient times a translator/writer instead of translating or retelling any story or idea word by word, used to take liberty according to the taste of his country/region and principle. Concluding his paper he said "Without referring to Tulsidasa's Ramcharitmanas this debate on translation in the form of retellings cannot be complete. There are a number of sources available in connection with Ramcharitmanas by Tulsidasa. So the question arises which are the sources which have important role in the collection of Ramcharitmanas by Tulsidasa. The fact is that Tulsidasa does not detain himself with a particular source. In the second session chaired by Dr. Blanka Knotkova, eminent Indologist and expert in Bengali culture and literature, three eminent translators, Sri Ramshankar Dwivedi, Dr Rana Nayar and Dr Rakshanda Jalil, presented their papers. Initiating the session, Dr Blanka Knotkova spoke about translation tradition of Czech Republic, her acquaintance with Bengali language and Indian translation tradition. Sri Ramshankar Dwivedi presented a paper 'Anuvad:

Etiyah, Parampara aur Samasya’ and dwelt on the problems that arise at the time of translation, retranslation or telling or retelling of a particular text into other languages, because of the lack of good dictionaries in those languages. He also gave an example of Sri Sushil Kumar De who has a collection of more than 10 thousand proverbs in Bengali, but their translations into Hindi are not available. Concluding his paper, he suggested two ideas: 1) At the time of writing history of Hindi literature we should also simultaneously write the history of Hindi translation; 2) Every editor, publisher wants translation, every writer wishes that his writings should be translated into other languages particularly in Hindi, but we do not have any Who’s who of Hindi translators. Dr Rana Nayar presented a paper ‘Translation as Kayakalpa: An Indian Perspective’ and said that in the process of translation, a new kind of language is created, which may largely be seen as a mutated form of the ‘target language; but has strong, ineffaceable traces of the ‘source language’ stamped on it... The most important aspect of Kayakalpa that has a definite bearing on the notion of translation is that through this process, a ‘translated text’ suddenly begins to exist in two separate time-zones, one within which it was originally created in the ‘source culture’, and the other in which it is sought to be translated in the ‘target culture’... Concluding his paper he appealed to the present audience “If I have managed to pose a few relevant questions and provide some tentative solutions to the practicing translators, I’d say, this exercise has not been a total waste.” Dr. Rakshanda Jalil presented a paper ‘From Text to Context: A Personal Journey’ and narrated her journey as a translator and said “One is often asked: what is the parameter of a good translation? My answer is: first and foremost, it should be readable; the translation should read as a stand alone text that draws the reader with the power of its writing. One should bear in mind that translations are seldom done for fellow translators; they are meant for the general reading public who may know nothing about the text that ‘speaks’ to you and is so compelling for you.” Concluding her paper, she appealed, “There has to be a clear vision document for a National Translation Policy which is not merely just and fair to all languages but is seen to be so. For this to happen, culture should not be interpreted in a narrow way according to the diktats of whichever government is in power.”

SYMPOSIUM ON UNWRITTEN LANGUAGES OF INDIA

Sahitya Akademi organized a day-long symposium on ‘Unwritten Languages of India’ at the Akademi Conference Hall in New Delhi on 26 February, 2017. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to preserve and promote unwritten languages of the country. In the inaugural session, Dr. Avdhesh Kumar Mishra discussed the North-East languages of India. He expressed

his concerns that North-Eastern languages are being written or scripted in the different languages of India. The dialects of different regions subscribe to the major language usage of the region. But most of the languages of North-Eastern regions have been adopted by the different ways of Roman script. Dr. Avadhesh Kumar Singh of Indira Gandhi National Open University, in his paper said that oral literature is more important than written literature. Prof. Purushottam Bilmale and Dr. Shalendra Mohan presented their papers with reference to Tulu and Nihali languages and discussed the specialty of these languages with the audience. Prof. Anvita Abbi concluding the session said that India is a language-rich country and it is for us to preserve our oral literature as well our traditions. On this occasion Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, released *Unwritten Languages of India* edited by Anvita Abbi and Kalahandi Ke Vachik Mahakavya by Mahendra Kuamr Mishra and translated from English to Hindi by Dinesh Malviya, published by Sahitya Akademi. He further said that there was a time when only oral literature was important, but in today's context written literature is more important. In the second session devoted to 'Issues and Perspectives in Unwritten Languages' and chaired by Prof. Sukrita Paul Kumar, three noted scholars, Prof. Anand Mahanand, Prof. Bhaktavatsala Bharathi and Prof. C. Maheswaran presented their papers. Prof. Mahand in his power-point presentation introduced the audience with the rich tribal traditions and their annual festivals. Papers presented by Prof. Bharati and Prof. Maheswaran were devoted to Toda and Alu Kunuwa schedule tribes situated in the heart of Nilgiri hills. The third session was a panel discussion on Survival of Unwritten Languages chaired by Awdhesh Kumar Singh. The discussants were Ayesha Kidwai, Kirti Jain, Joseph Bara, Vasamalli and Karthick Narayanan.

TRANSLATION PRIZE 2015

AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY

August 4, 2016, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Translation Prize for the year 2015 on 24 Translation Prize Winners at a glittering ceremony in Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium, Imphal, on August 4, 2016. The Award Presentation Ceremony began with the traditional invocation in Manipuri. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, Award winners and audience and highlighted how translation lies at the core of all of Akademi's activities and various initiatives of the Akademi to promote translational activities across the country in 24 recognized languages. Prof Raghuv eer Chaudhary, eminent Gujarati writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, was the Chief Guest and he spoke about the importance and relevance of translation, especially in a multilingual



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

society like India. He highlighted how translation makes the philosophical notion of unity in diversity a practical reality. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about various aspects of translation and the role translation plays in the enrichment of regional literature thereby Indian literature. He also expressed his happiness that the Akademi is organizing its award function for the first time in Manipur. Dr K. Sreenivasarao summed up the proceedings and read out citation while Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari feted the Award winners. In the evening, a cultural performance, Krishnamayee Meera Dance Ballet by Nalini and Kamalini was staged.

TRANSLATORS' MEET

August 5, 2016, Imphal



Translators' Meet in progress

Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prize 2015 event continued for the second days with Translators' Meet on August 5, 2016, at the Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium in Imphal. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Prize winning translators, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the purpose of organizing the meet.

He said meets of this type enable translator from one language / region to understand more about translations and techniques of translation in other languages and regions in addition to becoming aware of other cultural and linguistic traditions. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the Translators' Meet. In the meet, all the Prize winning translators present talked about their experiences as translators and also as creative writers. They also talked about their experiences in translating the Prize winning works. Summing up the meet, Prof Behari Singh stated that translation is not only a bridge between languages and linguistic traditions but also between cultures and cultural traditions. Dr K. Sreenivasarao thanked all the participating translators and also Prof Behari Singh for chairing the session.

ABHIVYAKTI

August 5-6, 2016, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi organized 'Abhivyakti' programme as part of Translation Prize 2015 event on August 5-6, 2016, at the Maharaja Chandrakirti Auditorium in Imphal. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering Presidential address at Abhivyakti programme

participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote literature in the North-Eastern region of the country and also about the platform Abhivyakti. In his introductory remarks, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about how the programme is a medium of expression as the title suggests and expressed

his happiness to be part of such a multilingual programme. In her inaugural address, Prof Temsula Ao, eminent poet, writer and folklorist, talked about creative expressions by not only the writers but also common people in the society and observed that it is on a common platform of earth do expressions take place. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that the term 'Abhivyakti' denotes expression and also poems of God and further observed that this is a platform where creative people give expressions to their feelings and emotions. In the session, eight noted writers, Pankaj Gobinda Medhi (Assamese), Bijay Baglary (Bodo), Shiv Dev Sushil (Dogri), Hariram Dwivedi (Hindi), L. Ibemhal Devi (Manipuri), Indu Prava Devi (Nepali), Yuma Vasugi (Tamil) and A.S.P.S. Ravi Prakash (Telugu), read out from their works. Dr K. Sreenivasarao summed up the proceedings and thanked the participants and dignitaries. In the first session devoted to short story reading and chaired by K. Radhakumar, four noted fiction writers, Jayaprakash Mavinakuli (Kannada), Sheela Kolambkar (Konkani), K.A. Beena (Malayalam) and G.K. Ainapure (Marathi), read out their stories. The chair, K. Radhakumar also read out two of his stories while summing up the presentations. In the second session devoted to 'My inspiration in writing' and chaired by Prof Harish Trivedi, five noted writers, Amar Mitra (Bengali), Mahendra Sinh Parmar (Gujarati), Santosh Alex (Hindi), L. Loychandra Singh (Manipuri) and Sitesh Tripathy (Odia), talked about their writings and their inspirations. Prof Harish Trivedi, while summing up, talked about the varieties of experience and inspirations for the writers. In the third session devoted to poetry recitations and chaired by Dr Sudeep Sen, nine noted poets, Rahim Rahaber (Kashmiri), Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), N. Kirankumar (Manipuri), Baljeet Singh Raina (Punjabi), Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthani), Banamali Biswal (Sanskrit), Joba Murmu (Santhali), Namdev Tarachandani (Sindhi), Shakeel Shamsi (Urdu) and Temsula Ao (English), recited their compositions. The Chair also recited few of his poems. Sri Gopal Ch Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks.