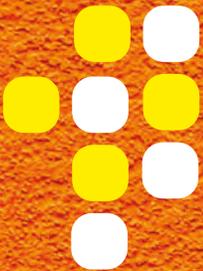
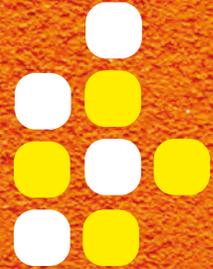




Sahitya Akademi

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2025



Secretary Speaks...

The first quarter of 2025 has been an invigorating period for Sahitya Akademi, marked by renewed energy, widening outreach, and meaningful literary engagements across the country. As always, our efforts during these months were guided by the Akademi's core mission: to nurture, preserve, and promote the multilingual literary heritage of India while ensuring that literature continues to remain accessible, relevant, and enriching for diverse audiences. This period saw a wide array of activities—creative, scholarly, commemorative, and community-oriented—conducted in different regions, bringing together authors, translators, scholars, students, cultural practitioners, and readers. Whether through discussions, readings, exhibitions, interactions, or collaborative gatherings, each initiative reaffirmed the Akademi's belief that literature is not confined to books alone; it thrives wherever there is a spirit willing to engage with ideas and a mind prepared to reflect. Several commemorative events held in memory of eminent writers and cultural figures served as moments of reflection and gratitude. They provided opportunities to revisit the vast intellectual contributions of these luminaries and to understand how their works continue to shape contemporary thought. Community outreach remained an important focus throughout these months. Engagements in different towns and cities—whether in northern, eastern, southern, or western India—allowed us to connect with readers in intimate and meaningful ways. The Akademi continues to believe that literature must reach people where they live, work, and create, and this vision guided our efforts to foster dialogue across linguistic and geographical boundaries. Sessions dedicated to folk literature, oral traditions, and regional creative expressions further enriched these exchanges and highlighted India's extraordinary cultural plurality. Our academic engagements during this quarter—ranging from discussions on classical literature to contemporary critical perspectives—brought much-needed depth to literary discourse. Scholars and experts from various regions contributed to nuanced conversations that examined texts, contexts, and evolving interpretations. These intellectual interactions reinforced the Akademi's longstanding role as a hub for literary research and critical inquiry. A special highlight of this quarter was the **Festival of Letters**, held in March. As the Akademi's flagship annual celebration, the festival brought together writers, thinkers, and readers from across the country in an atmosphere of joy, camaraderie, and mutual respect. The gathering served as a national platform to recognize excellence, celebrate linguistic diversity, and honour literary achievements across regions. Its sessions, exhibitions, and public interactions underscored the idea that literature continues to inspire, question, and illuminate—remaining one of the most powerful means of cultural expression and social understanding. Our online and hybrid initiatives continued to ensure that literary conversations extended far beyond physical venues. These digital interactions allowed audiences from even the most remote areas to participate in readings, discussions, and exchanges. As we move further into 2025, we remain deeply grateful for the generous participation of writers, translators, scholars, cultural institutions, and readers who continue to enrich every activity of the Akademi. Each contribution—whether a poem, a scholarly insight, a critical question, or an attentive listening—adds to the collective strength of our literary community. With renewed enthusiasm, we look forward to the months ahead and to the many opportunities they will bring for celebrating the creativity and wisdom embedded in India's literary traditions.

— K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary, Sahitya Akademi

NEW DELHI

Gramalok

5 January 2025, Gaya

A “Gramalok” with Urdu writers was organised on 5 January 2025 at Akash International Public School, Karbala Chakand, Gaya, Bihar. Many writers participated in the programme from the remote areas. During the programme Sri Manazir Hasan Shaheen, Ms. Nusrat Rasul, Sri Sultan Ahmad, Sri Misbahuddin Tariq and Ms. Arzoo Parveen read their stories. The programme was conducted by Sri Ahmad Sagheer.



Ms. Nusrat Rasool, Sri Misbah Uddin Sri Tariq, Sri Sultan Ahmad, Sri Manazir Hasan Shahin, Ms. Aarzo perween and the Principal of Aakash international school on the stage

Symposium on ‘George Grierson and Maithili Literature’

7 January 2025, Patna, Bihar

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of eminent linguist George Abraham Grierson, a symposium on ‘George Grierson and Maithili Literature’ was organised under the joint aegis of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Chetna Samiti, Patna at Mithila Bhawan, Patna. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi spoke on the efforts being made by the Sahitya Akademi for Indian languages. In his opening remarks, the Secretary of Chetna Samiti, Mr. Umesh Mishra called the symposium crucial in brining awareness towards the works of George Grierson. Dr. Taranand



Dr.Taranand Viyogi, Mr. Umesh Mishra, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh and Dr. Premlata Mishra Prem



NEW DELHI

Viyogi, Member of the Maithili Advisory Board at the Akademi, in his keynote address highlighted the contributions of Grierson towards the Maithili language and literature. The session was presided over by Dr. Premlata Mishra Prem, Vice President of Chetna Samiti.

The first session was chaired by Shri Ashok. In this session, Prof. Kamalanand Jha read his paper on the topic of 'Life and Creation of Grierson', Prof. Dev Shankar Naveen read his paper on the topic of 'Grierson's

work on Indian Languages' and Shri Yoganand Jha read his paper on the topic of 'Grierson's work on Maithili'. Sri Ashok also emphasized for the need of more research and revision on Grierson's works.

The last session of the symposium was presided over by Shri Vinod Narayan Jha. In this session, Dr. Ramanand Jha 'Raman' presented paper on the topic of 'Maithili Grammar and Grierson, Shri Raghunath Mukhia presented his paper on the topic of 'Maithili Folk Subject Studies and

Grierson' and Prof. Vijayendra Jha presented his paper on the topic of 'Maithili Vocabulary by Grierson: An Analysis'. In his presidential address, Shri Vinod Narayan Jha described George Abraham Grierson as an ardent admirer of Maithili.

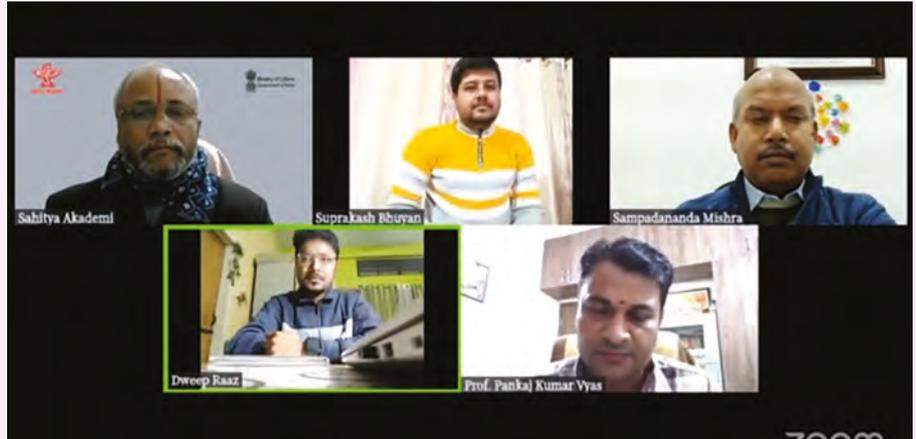
At the end of the symposium, former president of Chetna Samiti Shri Vivekanand Jha gave vote of thanks, while the entire programme was conducted by Shri Jaidev Mishra.

Yuva Sahiti

(UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT)

8 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Weblines Literature Series organised a Yuva Sahiti programme with poetry and short story readings in Assamese and Sanskrit on 8 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At the outset, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the participants underlined the main aim of the programme wherein the Akademi would provide a single platform to the writers by bringing together two different languages. He further informed that this programme which is part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat shall comprise presentations in Assamese and Sanskrit. The one-hour session



[L-R] Dr N. Suresh Babu, Sri Suprakash Bhuyan, Dr Sampadananda Mishra, Sri Dweep Raaz and Dr Pankaj Vyas

witnessed poetry readings by Sri Dweep Raaz, eminent Assamese poet, and Dr Pankaj Vyas, eminent Sanskrit poet whereas short stories reading were

done by Sri Suprakash Bhuyan and Dr Sampadananda Mishra, both eminent writers in Assamese and Sanskrit, respectively.

Yuva Sahiti (UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT)

9 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Weblite Literature Series organised a Yuva Sahiti programme with poetry and short story readings in Manipuri and Nepali on 9 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At the beginning, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the invited poets and writers. He also highlighted the objective of the programme wherein the Akademi would provide a single platform to the writers by bringing together two different languages. Elaborating further, he said that this programme is organised as part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and shall comprise readings in Manipuri and Nepali. Sri Imojeet Ningombam, eminent Manipuri poet and Ms. Bimala Luitel, eminent Nepali poet, recited their poems whereas short



[L-R] Dr N. Suresh Babu, Sri Imojeet Ningombam, Sri Keithellakpam London, Sri Bishnu KC and Ms. Bimala Luitel

stories were read by Sri Keithellakpam London and Sri Bishnu KC, both eminent writers in Manipuri and Nepali, respectively.

Bal Sahiti (UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT) 10 January 2025 – Virtual



[L-R] Dr N. Suresh Babu, Dr Sunil Phukan Basumatary, Sri Z.D. Basumatary and Dr Preeti Pujara

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Weblite Literature Series organised a Bal Sahiti programme with poetry and short story readings in Bodo and Sanskrit on 10 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At the beginning, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, introduced all the invited poets and writers besides welcoming them. Highlighting the main objective, he said that the Akademi through the medium of this programme has provided a single platform to the writers belonging to two different languages. Elaborating further, he said that the programme organised as part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat shall witness readings in Bodo and Sanskrit. The participants, Dr Sunil Phukan Basumatary (Bodo) and Dr Preeti Pujara (Sanskrit) recited their poems and Sri Z.D. Basumatary (Bodo) and Dr Swetapadma Satapathy (Sanskrit) read their short stories during the programme.



NEW DELHI

Symposium on the life and literary contributions of Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki

12 January 2025, Bandipora

Sahitya Akademi New Delhi organised a one-day symposium on 12 January, 2025 on the life and literary contributions of Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki, a renowned Kashmiri poet, writer and broadcaster, at Mohi u Din Hajini Memorial Public High School Hajan Bandipora, Kashmir. The inaugural session of the event was presided over by Professor Shad Ramzan, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. At the outset Sri Majeed Majazi, Member Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi warmly welcomed all the guests. The inaugural speech was delivered by Sri

Shabnum Tilgami, Member Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He said that writers like Sri Mir Ghulam Rasool Nazki are our asset and we should always remember our ancestors. President of the Adbi Markaz Kamraz Jammu and Kashmir and Advisory Board Member of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Mohammad Amin Bhat, in his keynote address, appreciated the efforts of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi for working towards introducing of poets and writers from the remote areas of Kashmir. Prof. Shad Ramzan, in his presidential address, said that Sahitya Akademi has done remarkable work

in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years and has provided a stage for hundreds of famous and lesser known poets and writers.

The next session of the event was presided over by renowned poet, writer and historian Sri Abdul Khaliq Shams. He was accompanied by Sri Shakir Shafi and Sri Zameer Ansari on the presidium. Sri Amin Fayaz, Sri Mir Tariq Rasool, Sri Mansoor Muntazir, Farooq Hajni, Adil Mohi ud Din and Abdul Khaliq Shams presented their papers. Sri Mir Tariq Rasool, General Secretary of Literary Forum Bandipora, presented the vote of thanks.

Bal Sahiti (UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT)

17 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Webline Literature Series organised a Bal Sahiti programme with poetry and short story readings in Nepali and Santali on 17 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At the outset, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the participants also gave their brief introduction. He emphasised the objective of the programme wherein the Akademi would provide a single platform to the writers belonging to two different languages. Expressing further, he said that this programme is organised as part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha



[L-R] Dr N. Suresh Babu, Sri Tulshi Ghimirey, Sri Mukti Baral, Smt. Yashoda Murmu and Smt. Saleema Marandi

Bharat and shall comprise readings in Nepali and Santali. Sri Tulshi Ghimirey, eminent Nepali poet and Smt. Yashoda Murmu, eminent Santali poet, recited their poems whereas short stories were read by Sri Mukti Baral and Smt. Saleema Marandi, both eminent writers in Nepali and Santali, respectively.

Literary Forum (UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT)

20 January 2025 – Virtual



[L-R] Sri Banamali Biswal, Dr N. Suresh Babu,
Sri Kiran Yele, Sri Ganesh Matkari and
Sri Buddheswar Sarangi

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Weblite Literature Series organised a Literary Forum programme with poetry and short story readings in Marathi and Sanskrit on 20 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. Compering the one-hour long programme, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the participants at the outset besides welcoming them. He underlined the objective of the programme wherein the Akademi would provide a single platform to the writers belonging to two different languages. Adding further, he said that this programme is organised as part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and shall feature poetry and short story readings in Marathi and Sanskrit. Eminent poets - Sri Kiran Yele (Marathi) and Sri Buddheswar Sarangi (Sanskrit) recited their poems whereas eminent writers - Sri Ganesh Matkari (Marathi) and Sri Banamali Biswal (Sanskrit) read their short stories during the programme.

Literary Forum (UNDER EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT)

21 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi as part of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign under its Weblite Literature Series organised a Literary Forum programme with poetry and short story readings in Nepali and Odia on 21 January 2025 at 7.00 pm. At the outset, Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the poets and writers and gave their brief introduction. He also highlighted the objective of the programme wherein the Akademi would provide a single platform to the writers belonging to two different languages. He also said that this programme is organised as part of the series under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and shall comprise poetry and short story readings by eminent Nepali and Odia writers and poets. Sri Raja Puniani (Nepali) and Dr Biranchi



[L-R] Dr N. Suresh Babu, Sri Aravinda Das,
Sri Raja Puniani, Sri T. B. Chhetri and
Dr Biranchi Kumar Sahoo

Kumar Sahoo (Odia) recited their poems and Sri T. B. Chhetri (Nepali) and Sri Aravinda Das (Odia) read their short stories during the programme.

Literary Forum on Brij Narayan Chakbast

25 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme focusing on the famous Urdu poet Brij Narayan Chakbast on 25 January 2025 under the Weblite Literature Series. Eminent Urdu writer Sri Shamim Tariq, Sri Mehmood Malik, Sri Gaus Siwani and Sri Moid Rasheedi presented their papers during the programme. Sri Shamim Tariq in his speech spoke on the many aspects of the life of Brij Narayan Chakbast. He spoke on the importance of Ramayana written by Chakbast in Urdu language. Sri Mehmood Malik focused his paper on Chakbast's poetry. Sri Gaus Siwani said that Chakbast used to be involved in social services and also wrote poems in Urdu. Sri Pandit Brij



[L-R] Sri Gaus Siwani, Sri Anupam Tiwari, Sri Mehmood Malik, Sri Shamim Tariq and Sri Moid Rasheedi

Narayan got a place in the first row of Urdu poets. Sri Moid Rasheedi, in his paper, highlighted the points on the interrelationship between Chakbast's life and poetry. The programme was conducted by Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi.

Literary Forum on Urdu-Sanskrit: Bahmi Tarazim

28 January 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme on 28 January 2025 under the Weblite Literature Series. The topic of the programme was "Urdu-Sanskrit : Bahmi Tarazim". Eminent Urdu Writer Sri Zahid Abrol and Sri Pankaj K. Singh 'Rahib Maitreya' presented his papers on the topic. Sri Pankaj K. Singh said that Sanskrit texts have been translated into Persian and Urdu for a long time. He spoke about the translations of texts like *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, Kapil Muni's *Sankhya Darshan* and 'Yoga Vashishtha' etc. in Urdu. Sri Zahid Abrol spoke on the many Sanskrit texts translated into Urdu and the quality of translations of those literary works. He said that many translations have been done from Sanskrit to Urdu but there are not many translations available from Urdu to Sanskrit.



[L-R] Sri Zahid Abrol, Sri Anupam Tiwari and Sri Pankaj K. Singh

Both the speakers said that there is need for working in this direction. The programme was conducted by Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi.

Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Literature

28 January 2025, Delhi



Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Mata Sundari College speaking during the programme

Sahitya Akademi organised a symposium on “Artificial Intelligence and Literature” on 28th January, 2025 at Mata Sundari College, University of Delhi. During the inaugural session Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya

Akademi. welcomed the participants and the guests. He spoke on the changing scenario of the creative world during the times of AI. In her inaugural address Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Mata Sundari College underlined the importance of AI in

daily life and literature. Prof. Madhuri Chawla, in her keynote address cited examples from the world literature where AI has been used to create new narratives. Prof. Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address said that AI can be more useful if authors collaborate it with open mind. He said that tools like Writing Assistant and others can be useful to edit written text of authors, it’s only an author who can infuse emotions in the literature though.

The first session was chaired by Prof. Kulvir Gojra, Professor and Head of the Department, Department of Punjabi, University of Delhi. Prof. Rajwinder Singh from Punjabi University, Patiala presented his paper on ‘Punjabi Language and AI’. Prof. Manjeet Singh, SGND Khalsa College, Delhi presented his paper on the AI oriented short story ‘Barf Di Bulbul’ by Ajmer Sidhu. Prof. Amarjit Singh from Guru Nanak Dev Open University Patiala also presented his paper on three Punjabi texts.

Second session was chaired by Prof. Harpreet Kaur, Principal, Mata Sundari College. Prof. Kumar Sushil from Punjabi University, Talwandi Sabo Campus presented his paper on ‘AI and Authorship’ and Prof. Tarvinder Kaur, GGSC of Commerce presented her paper on Punjabi texts.

Prof. Harwinder Singh, Convener, Punjabi Department, Mata Sundari College gave the vote of thanks.



NEW DELHI

Cultural Exchange Programme

31 January 2025, New Delhi



(L-R) Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Hon'ble Ambassador of the Embassy of Lithuania in India, Her Excellency Diana Mickevichiene, Sri Yaroslavus Melnikus and Dr. Rekha Sethi.

Sahitya Akademi on 31 January 2025 organised a literary evening in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in which eminent Lithuanian writer, philosopher and literary critic, Yaroslavus Melnikus, read a story from his collection of stories 'The Last Day'.

Hon'ble Ambassador of the Embassy of Lithuania in India, Her Excellency Diana Mickevichiene, presided over the event.

At the beginning of the programme, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, K. Sreenivasarao welcomed everyone by presenting Angavastram and books of the Akademi. In his welcome address, he said, "all writers try to understand

the relationship between our lives and the environment around us. During this process, every writer sees and writes about it in a different way. Yaroslavus Melnikus, being a philosopher and thinker, has also been raising questions about human existence and has written about the changes that have come in modern society due to the development of technology by feeling them very deeply. He also examines the impact of this on our moral conduct".

Her Excellency Diana Mickevichiene, Hon'ble Ambassador of the Embassy of Lithuania, while thanking the Sahitya Akademi for this event, said that it will be their endeavour that in future also the literature of

Lithuania should be translated into Indian Languages and the literature of India should be translated into Lithuanian Language. Yaroslavus Melnikus, while introducing himself, said that he has published 15 books which have been translated into English, German and French. Recently, a feature film based on his story was also screened there. After this, he read an excerpt from his story in Lithuanian language, whose English translation was presented by Her Excellency, the Ambassador. After this, Rekha Sethi presented the Hindi translation of the entire story titled 'Kya Tum Mujhe Maaf Kar Doge'. The story was centered on a man shooting a masked man who suddenly entered his house one night. This depicted the emotional changes in the dead man and his family. The touching presentation of human emotions makes the story unique. In the end, the readers present also asked the author many questions about the story, etc.



NEW DELHI

Symposium on O. N. Koul

3 February 2025, Jammu



Sri Vijay Wali, Dr. Gulzar, Sri Shamshad Kralwari & Sri Aseer Kishtwari on the stage

Sahitya Akademi organised a symposium on 3 February 2025 on at K. L. Saigal Hall, Jammu. Prof. Shaad Ramzan, Convener of Kashmiri Board, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the large number of audience and extended his gratitude to audience who had come from different areas to attend the event. Guest of Honour Sri Trisal also highlighted the contribution of Koul. The Chief Guest of session Hangloo former V. C. in his address delved into history to high light the contribution O.N. Koul.

In his presidential address M. Zaman Azurdah' spoke on the importance of linguistics in the development of

literature and language and highlighted the importance of Koul's contribution at international level.

In the first session, papers were presented by Sri R. L. Talashi and Sri B.N. Betab. The session was chaired by eminent poet and writer Manshoor Banhali. In the concluding session, Sri Shamshad Kralwari and Sri Vijay Wali presented their papers on the life and works of late poet. The session was chaired by renowned poet and expert Sri Aseer Kishtwari.

The symposium was anchored by Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Member, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. At the end vote of thanks was presented by member Kashmiri Advisory Board Sri Dolly Tiku Arwal.

Indo-Russian Writers' Meet

4 February 2025, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Embassy of the Russian Federation in India and Russian House, New Delhi, organised the Indo-Russian Writers' Meet in Conference Hall of Rabindra Bhawan, on February 4, 2025. The theme of the meet was "The Art of Translation: Fidelity vs. Creativity." The special guests on the occasion were Ms. Yulia Arayeva, Counselor of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in India, and Ms. Elena Remizova, Director of Russian House. The participants from Russia included Sri Sergei Shargunov, Sri Dmitry Bak, Sri Vasily Natsintoff, and Ms. Anna Shipilova, while the participants from India included Sri Hem Chandra Pandey, Sri Pankaj Malviya, Ms. Ranjana Saxena, Ms. Ranjana Banerjee, Ms. Kiran Singh Verma, and Ms. Sonu Saini.

Dr. K. Srinivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests with Angavastram, he said that through the Writer-Translator Meet, we will be able to discuss the potential and limitations of translation. He acknowledged the challenge of presenting cultural context in translation and emphasized that we must also remember that for creative translation, the translator should be given some latitude so that they can do justice to the translation. Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address, said it is a historical day for the writers and translators from India and Russia. Recalling the golden days of India –



Dr. K. Srinivasarao, Secretary; Sri Madhav Kaushik, President; Ms. Elena Remizova, Director of Russian House and the rest of the delegation

Russia relations, we can re-establish a new foundation, and at the core of this foundation, as before, will be the writers. Further, speaking on the importance of translation, he said that translation has played a crucial role in transitioning from the Stone Age to the Space Age. He urged Russian and Indian translators to involve a new generation in the translation process, so that translations of modern writers can also forward. Ms. Yulia Arayeva, Counselor at the Russian Embassy, said that Russia, like India, has an ancient tradition of storytelling. Until now, only classics have been translated, but now there is a need to prioritize the translation of modern literature. The Director of the Russian Centre said that translations of

literary works are essential to better understand each other's countries. This also requires understanding the cultural environment and sensibilities of those countries. Russian and Indian writers and translators then shared their thoughts on the long translation process. Poet-translator Sri Anil Janvijay, who had come from Russia, also expressed his views. Everyone believed that books by contemporary writers should also be translated, and for this, a new generation of translators needs to be prepared. Everyone also agreed that translating poetry is difficult and requires a lot of caution and balance. The programme was conducted by Deputy Secretary Devendra Kumar Devesh.

Cultural Exchange Programme

6 February 2025, New Delhi



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao and Ms. Danuta Stasik

Cultural Exchange Programme in its Conference Hall in Rabindra Bhawan, on February 6, 2025. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed her by presenting an Angavastram. Ms. Danuta Stasik shared the experiences she has had while teaching and translating Hindi in Poland. Being very fluent in Hindi, she spoke in detail about the important works being done by her department for promotion and development of Hindi in Poland. She also spoke about her Polish translations of Kunwar Narayan's poems, essays. She also shared information about her work on the Ramayana. At the end of the programme, the audience put some questions to her about her Hindi literature translations and also about the contemporary Polish literature.

Sahitya Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme with the Polish writer Ms. Danuta Stasik, Chairperson of the Department of Oriental Studies, Faculty of South Asian Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland under the

Interaction with the Writer

7 February 2025, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised an Interaction with the Writer programme with renowned Maithili writer Sri Subhash Chandra Yadav during World Book Fair 2025. Renowned author Sri Vidyanand Jha had the interaction with him. Speaking about his creative journey, Sri Subhash Chandra Yadav said that his first collection of stories was published in 1983. On the question of why he chose Maithili for his writing despite being a Hindi professor, Sri Yadav replied that he used to read the Maithili magazine,

“Mithila Mihir” at the Supaul station and longed for his work to be published in that magazine. Also being influenced by Sri Ramanand Renu and others, he chose to write in Maithili. About the straightforward, natural descriptions in his writings, rather than ups and downs, he said that he wanted to write as naturally as life itself. He also spoke on his three famous novels, he said that all three are based on real characters. The reason for choosing these characters is that the problems they face are universal and we all have to deal with them.

Regarding the presence of depression in his novels, he said that his life has also been full of struggles, hence its influence reaches his writing as well. Talking about his language, he said that it brings out the playfulness of rural life. A question and answer session was held at the end of the programme, while replying to those questions he added that he wants to write his autobiography based on the vast experiences he has had in his life. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme.



NEW DELHI

Yuva Sahiti

8 February 2025, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised a Yuva Sahiti Programme at the World Book Fair 2025 on February 8, 2025. During the programme Sri Ranjay Sarkar (English), Ms. Nikita Naithani (Hindi), Ms. Swati Shakambhari (Maithili) and Sandeep Sharma (Punjabi) participated and recited

poems. Maithili poet Ms. Swati Shakambhari recited her poem on the topics of childhood and nostalgia she experiences while visiting her village. Sri Sandeep Sharma said that he expressed his silence through his poetry, he recited four of his poems. Sri Ranjay Sarkar recited some of his love poems and a long poem titled Maps.

Ms. Nikita Naithani recited her Hindi poems. Her poems focused on the struggles and will-to-survive of women in mountain. Her poem on language was also greatly appreciated by the audience. The programme was moderated by Ajay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi.

Hindi Poets' Meet

10 February 2025, Prayagraj



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi organised a Hindi Poets' Meet at Kalagram Manch, Sector-7, Prayagraj during the Maha Kumbh on 10 February 2025. The Meet was chaired by eminent poet and lyricist Sri Buddhinath Mishra. Other participating poets were Sri Yash Malviya, Ms. Preeta Vajpayee, Ms. Rachna Saxena and Ms. Vandana Shukla. Welcoming everyone at the beginning of the Meet, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that - the holy Saraswati

in Sangam is now extinct as a river, but the knowledge given by her is still flowing uninterrupted from the pens of our creators. Saraswati is still alive and flowing. The biggest proof of this is our respected poets seated on this stage. In the Rigveda, the 'poet' has been called a 'rishi'. Therefore, on behalf of Sahitya Akademi, I am feeling very happy to welcome and congratulate all of these 'Saraswati Putras'.

In his presidential address, Sri Buddhinath Mishra, while describing

the features of the four Kumbhs as well as the twelve Kumbhs, he said that all these public gatherings underline the upliftment of our social and cultural concerns along with our religious faith. He described this Poets' Meet organised by Sahitya Akademi on such a historic occasion as very meaningful and useful. He further said that Sahitya Akademi is doing exemplary work to ensure its participation in every important social and cultural event organised anywhere in the country. He sang songs on mother Ganges. Famous lyricist Sri Yash Malviya also sang a song titled, "Ganga Maa Man Hi Man Bol Rahi Hain..." and many other couplets. Ms. Vandana Shukla presented a song dedicated to Prayagraj and also recited several ghazals including Jai Pushkar Bhoomi. Ms. Rachna Saxena spoke on Goddess Sharada as well as compositions dedicated to Kumbh Mela and Lord Rama. Ms. Preeta Vajpayee also sang songs and ghazals on Kumbh. Several of the local writers and poets including Sri Vijayanand and Sri Ajay Malviya were present during the programme.

Symposium on “Temsula Ao and the Northeast”

10 February 2025 – Virtual

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of English, NEHU Shillong organised a symposium on “Temsula Ao and the Northeast” on February 10, 2025 online. In her inaugural address of the symposium, Prof. Malashri Lal, Convener of the English Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the important contributions Temsula Ao made to Northeast literature. She said Temsula Ao opened up the stories of Northeast to the rest of the world. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Jyotirmoy Prodhani described Temsula Ao as the great matriarch of Northeast literature and highlighted how the story of her life was equally powerful and inspiring for all. The Dean of Humanities, Prof. Moon Moon Mazumdar, who chaired the first academic session spoke about Temsula Ao as a writer and described her as one of the most important voices from the Northeast. She also recalled her association with Temsula Ao as the professor of English and the Dean of Humanities at NEHU. In the session, Prof. Mala Renganathan discussed the various dimensions of Temsula Ao’s



[L-R] Prof. Desmond Kharmawphlang, Sri Krishna R. Kimbahune, Prof. Malashri Lal, Prof. Jyotirmoy Prodhani, Dr Preetinicha Barman and Prof. Esther Syiem

short stories when Prof. Desmond Kharmawphlang recalled his experiences with Professor Ao as a teacher and later as a fellow poet who shared her interest in music with him. Prof. Esther Syiem, who presided over the valedictory session, described her memoir, “Once Upon a Life: Burnt Curry and Bloody Rags” as a significant literary achievement that narrated the stories of universal predicaments of a woman. Prof. K. C. Baral, former Director of EFLU Shillong and former Pro-Vice Chancellor of EFLU Hyderabad in his valedictory address, read by Dr. Preetinicha Barman, explored the rich body of her literary works as a poet and a critic. In her concluding remarks Dr Setolu Tunyi paid a rich tribute to Temsula Ao as the most important woman voice of Nagaland. Krishna Kimbahune, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, who moderated the online event, described the symposium as a fitting tribute to the great author who redefined the way marginal voices narrate their tales from the periphery.

Gramalok

27 February 2025, Jammu

“Gramalok” with Dogri poets was organised on 27 February 2025 at Boys Middle School, Village Chack Desa, District kathua, Jammu. In this welcome address Sri Mohan Singh, Convener Dogri Advisory Board

Sahitya Akademi, shared his views about various schemes of Sahitya Akademi to the gathering. During the many poets recited their poetry, which includes the names of Sri Tilak Raj Sumbria, Sri M. L. Tufan, Sri Randhir Singh Katal, Ms. Saroj Bala and Sri Shashi Kant. The programme ended with presentation of a vote of thanks by Sri Mohan Singh.



Ms. Saroj Bala speaking during the programme



NEW DELHI

Symposium on Travel, Transposition and Translation

3 March 2025, New Delhi



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), New Delhi organised Symposium on “Travel, Transposition and Translation” on March 3, 2025 at Mir Anis Hall of the university: The symposium, consisting of three sessions, was organised to provide a platform for examining the ways in which travel influences literature and how literature, in return, inspires both physical and spiritual journeys, as well as the significant role that translation plays in enabling these experiences.

The symposium began with a welcome address by Dr. Saba Bashir from the Department of English, JMI, in which she anchored the intention of the event as looking beyond conventional definitions and purposes of travel and

translation. This was followed by the inaugural address by eminent translator Ms Maria Skakuj Puri, wherein she drew from the insights she has collected over several decades of her translation practice across Polish, Hindi, and English. The first session concluded with the presidential address delivered by the Head of the English Department, Prof. Mukesh Ranjan, in which he talked about how travel and transposition transform the stories we tell about ourselves.

The second session was chaired by Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi. The first presenter Dr. Vinita Sinha from Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, presented a paper on “Life Experiences and Intermedial Translation: Analysing Untold Stories

in Art”, wherein she talked about the intersection of orality, translation and art and argued that intermedial translation expands the meanings of a text by providing the scope for more media. The second presenter, Dr. Anjana Neira Dev from Gargi College, University of Delhi, in her presentation, ‘Walking the Indian Streets, ‘I remember another moment that refers only to itself’”, used the metaphor of a suitcase to present a bouquet of writers, focusing on Ved Mehta, to illustrate how translation secures a new lease of life in other cultures. In the last paper of this session, Dr. Amit Ranjan, contested the popularly held view of the face-off between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh as warrior vs. poet respectively and argued for a more nuanced reading of both beyond these labels. He went on to throw light on Dara Shikoh’s accomplishments as a translator of the Upanishads.

The third and final session was chaired by Prof. Nishat Zaidi from the Department of English, JMI, and had two presenters—Dr. Haris Qadeer and Ms. Chandana Dutta. Dr. Haris Qadeer’s paper was titled “Documenting/ Translating Lives: Academic Travels of Three Muslim Women in Late Colonial India”. In it, he focused on the lives of Atiya Fyzee (1877–1967), Mohammadi Begum (1911–1990), and Iqbalunnisa Hussain (1897–1954) who travelled to England for their education. The last speaker, Ms Chandana Dutta, provided the unique perspective of a publisher into the role of translations in bridging the gap between distinct cultures. She drew parallels between the acts of translation and travel. The symposium ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Saba Mahmood Bashir.

Festival of Letters

7 March 2025, New Delhi

India's most Inclusive Festival for Over Four Decades

Started in 1985, Festival of Letters - the annual literature festival of Sahitya Akademi, is India's most prestigious, longest, and inclusive literature festival. Last year, in 2024, the festival was a grand literary spectacle spread over six consecutive days featuring more than 190 sessions with over 1100 writers representing more than 175 languages. On this occasion, Sahitya Akademi was recognized for organizing the Largest Reading Relay by writers and poets in multiple languages within a single day and received a certificate in acknowledgement from the World Book of Records, London. The Akademi also made a world record for organizing the World's Largest Literature Festival and for its remarkable achievement received the Einstein World Record Certificate.

A major highlight of the festival was the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024 Presentation Ceremony, in which the renowned English playwright, Mahesh Dattani, was the Chief Guest.

This year's, theme for the festival was "Indian Literary



Traditions: Heritage & Evolution", exploring its diverse expressions. The events focus on underrepresented communities through Poetry Readings by LGBTQ Poets, Tribal Story Readings and Dalit Sahitya: Giving Voice to the

Voiceless during the festival which also broadens the scope of Indian Literature by engaging in discussions about Philosophical Literature of India, Rivers in Indian Literature, Classical Languages and the

2025 Edition of Festival of Letters

ASIA'S LARGEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL

2025 edition of festival of letters was the largest literature festival of Asia. Featuring 700+ writers representing 50+ languages in the festival, that was hosting 100+ sessions over six days from 7 March to 12 March 2025.

The event was held at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.



NEW DELHI

Cultural Heritage of India, The Idea of BHARAT, among many others. Modern literary discourse also finds its place, addressing contemporary themes such as artificial intelligence in literary creation, the significance of translated works, and the challenges faced by writers of children's literature.

This year, the festival celebrated the birth centenaries of literary stalwarts like Omcherry N.N.

Pillai and Mohan Rakesh, with special seminars devoted to them. The National Seminar was on Indian Literary Traditions: Heritage & Evolution. Samvatsar Lecture by eminent English writer, Upamanyu Chatterjee, Meet the Author with eminent Bengali poet, Subodh Sarkar, and a Kathasandhi with eminent Hindi fiction writer, Jitendra Bhatia, were some other highlights of the festival along with additional programmes including popular events

from previous years such as Yuva Sahiti, Asmita, Multilingual Short Story Readings and Poets' Meet, among others.

This year, the festival featured captivating cultural performances, including flute recital by Rakesh Chaurasia, 'Dastaan-e-Mahabharat' performance by Fouzia Dastango and Ritesh Yadav, Hindustani classical vocal by Nalini Joshi.

Inauguration of the Akademi Exhibition 2024

The inauguration of the Exhibition formally marked the commencement of the festival. The Akademi exhibition showcased highlights from the previous calendar year including awards, Fellowships, books published, programmes organised, and other activities. The Akademi Exhibition 2024 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism, Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on 7 March at 6 p.m. at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns. Each day of the festival also featured a book exhibition from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. showcasing Akademi's publications available for purchase.



Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism

SAHITYA AKADEMI 2024 AWARD WINNERS

Assamese

Sameer Tanti is an eminent Assamese poet and writer. He was born on 6 February 1955 in Assam. He has 15 collections of poems, along with other 8 books to his credit.

Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane is a collection of forty-two outstanding poems in Assamese. The poems are set in the North-East India, and finely express the North-East India in the post-colonial age, its rich, natural beauty, political ups and downs, diverse cultures, high levels of spiritual life and enviable simplicity.



Bodo

Aron Raja alias Akan Basumatary is an eminent Bodo writer. He was born on 6 June 1968 at Chatianguri, Bijni, Assam. He has 14 novels and four collections of short stories to his credit.

Swrni Thakhai is an exceptional novel in Bodo that depicts woes and travails of Bodo families. The novel thoughtfully addresses issues of human existence and breakdown of family relations.



Dogri

Chaman Arora is an eminent Dogri writer and playwright. He was born on 19 February 1945 in Jammu, and breathed his last on 28 August 2024. He produced the Dogri telefilm *Jine Di Qaid*. His publications include *Lohe Dian Feengran*, *Kandha Te Qile*, *Mitti Di Khushboo*.

Ik Hor Ashwthama is a collection of 15 remarkable short stories in Dogri. The stories marvellously encapsulate many a theme like human relationship, dire necessity to improve social ethics, etc.



English

Eastrine Kire is an eminent English writer and poet. She was born on 29 March 1959 in Kohima, Nagaland. She has 44 publications to her credit including translations from German and Norwegian.

Spirit Nights is a masterful fictional account of Naga legends and society. Issues of gender and patriarchy are subtly addressed. The pellucid depiction of Naga society is such that the region becomes familiar to all readers.



Gujarati

Dileep Jhaveri is an eminent Gujarati poet, writer and critic. He was born on 3 April 1943 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He has seven publications to his credit in Gujarati and seven publications in English and other languages.

Bhagwan-ni Vato is a collection of 16 separate prose poems. But thematically it is a single long poem. It creates a complex collage about God, a serious central theme treated in light and conversational language.



Hindi

Gagan Gill is an eminent Hindi poet, writer and translator. She was born on 18th November 1959. She worked in Times of India group and *Sunday Observer* as literary editor for over a decade. She has 10 publications to her credit.

Main Jab Tak Ayi Bahar is a collection of excellent poems in Hindi. The inner voice of the poems is majorly spiritual. The poems form a rare combination of spirituality and modernity.





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Kannada

K.V. Narayana is an eminent Kannada linguist and critic. He was born on 20 October 1947 in Kampalapura, Mysore District, Karnataka. He has more than 3 dozen publications to his credit besides edited works.

Nudigala Alivu is an exceptionally scholarly work of language studies. The book intends to discuss endangerment of languages and the efforts to save them from extinction. The book brilliantly critiques Sapir-Whorf's thesis that culture and language are inseparable.



Kashmiri

Sohan Kaul is an eminent Kashmiri writer and playwright. He was born on 17 June 1955 in Parnewah, Kashmir. He has 16 novels and 15 plays to his credit. He is a recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Firaq Memorial Award, Bakhshi Memorial Award and many others.

Psychiatric Ward is a significant novel in Kashmiri. It describes entire socio-political milieu of Kashmir, and is a saga of miseries and helplessness. Using the metaphor of sickness powerfully, it reveals the problems of an ailing society.



Konkani

Mukesh Thali is an eminent Konkani writer, playwright, critic and translator. He was born on 5 June 1963, at Mardol, Goa. He has six books to his credit, a few of which are *Hansdhwani*, *Aksharbrahma*, *Jivangandh*.

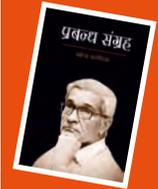
Rangtarang is a collection of 24 essays in Konkani. The collection has a superb variety of subjects. The essays are written in highly poetic and beautiful language and their seamless lucid flow is fascinating.



Maithili

Mahendra Jha alias Mahendra Malangia is an eminent Maithili playwright and researcher. He was born on 20 January 1946 at Malangia, Madhubani, Bihar. He has 12 full-length plays and more than 24 of one-act plays, five research works, four collections of short stories to his credit and has also edited five books.

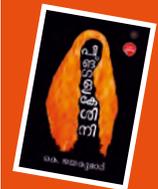
Prabandh Sangrah is a collection of 19 essays. These essays are genuinely exploratory in nature and open new windows into the development of language and literature.



Malayalam

K. Jayakumar is an eminent Malayalam poet and writer. He was born on 6 October 1952 in Thiruvnanthapuram, Kerala. He has 47 books to his credit, 40 in Malayalam and seven in English.

Pingalakeshini is a collection of 40 poems in Malayalam. The poems are exceptional with a plethora of original images, subtle nuances of expressions, with a flowing diction that make them truly ingenious.



Manipuri

Haobam Satyabati is an eminent Manipuri writer. She was born on 1 February 1954 in Imphal, Manipur. She has eight publications to her credit.

Mainu Bora Nungshi Sheirol is a long poem, written in a prayer chhanda form, based on a tragic love story from 18th century Manipur. The setting of the story is spread over the geographical area from Manipur to Assam and Tripura.



Marathi

Sudheer Rasal is an eminent Marathi critic and writer. He was born on 10 August 1934 in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. He has six books to his credit. *Vindanche Gadyaroop* is a significant work of meta-criticism, and discusses in detail critical writings of Vinda Karandikar, Jnanapeeth Award winning distinguished Marathi poet and critic. The author simultaneously dismantles and reorganizes Karandikar's literary criticism.



Nepali

Yuva Baral 'Anant' is an eminent Nepali writer. He was born on 6 April 1973 in Bering, Pakyong, Sikkim. He has published one collection of poems and three short-story collections. *Chhichimira* is a collection of short stories in Nepali. The short stories brilliantly encapsulate several aspects of contemporary Nepali society, and thought provokingly speak of current social, cultural, economic, educational and political scenario.



Odia

Baishnab Charan Samal is an eminent Odia writer. He was born on 27 February 1939 in Kendra Para, Odisha. He has published more than 160 books in different genres. *Bhuti Bhakti Bibhuti* is a collection of 32 literary essays on transcendental Indian philosophy and the Bhakti tradition. The author has penned greatly enriching essays with spiritual musings focusing on the qualities like empathy, compassion and renunciation.



Punjabi

Paul Kaur is an eminent Punjabi poet. She was born on 15 May 1956 in Patiala, Punjab. She has ten poetry-collections, two works of non-fiction, one book of criticism to her credit. *Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihasnama Punjab* is a collection of long poems about the historicity of the region of Punjab. The poet begins it with the advent of civilization in the region and thoughtfully journeys through history, eventually holds dialogues with Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Maharaja Dalip Singh.



Rajasthani

Mukut Maniraj is an eminent Rajasthani poet and writer. He was born on 30 December 1955 in Kota, Rajasthan. He has twelve publications to his credit in Rajasthani and Hindi. He writes in the form of poem, ghazal, song and blank verse. *Gaun Ar Amma* is a collection of 50 poems, written in blank verse, in Rajasthani. The poet has presented a modern perspective on tradition, while fretting on the deteriorating human-values.



Sanskrit

Dipak Kumar Sharma is an eminent Sanskrit writer, poet and translator. He was born on 1 February 1961 in Nalbari, Assam. He is the Founder Vice Chancellor of Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, Nalbari, Assam. He has fifteen publications to his credit. *Bhaskaracaritam* is a beautiful poem describing the ancient, medieval and modern history of Assam in general and the King Kumar Bhaskar Varma, in particular. It is an authentic, faithful and beautiful poem on the history of Assam.





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Santali

Maheswar Soren is an eminent Santali writer and playwright. He was born on 18 January 1980 in Mayurbhaj, Odisha. He has four publications to his credit. He has also written stories for two Santali movies.

Seched Sawnta Ren Andha Manmi is an excellent full length play in Santali. The book is a powerful dramatic presentation of the negative impact of globalization on the educated people in the Santal society.



Sindhi

Hundraj Balwani is an eminent Sindhi writer. He was born on 9 January 1946. He has published more than 200 books in Sindhi, Hindi and Gujarati.

Purzo is a collection of 11 short-stories. The stories in the collection bring forth contemporary social evils, and brilliantly depict the constant effort of human beings to achieve peace in a chaotic society and subsequent exploitation.



Tamil

A. R. Venkatachalapathy, born on 30 June 1967, has 18 books to his credit. He is recipient of the V.K.R.V. Rao Prize, the Mahakavi Bharati Award, Vilakku Pudumaippithan Award and Iyal Virudhu.

Tirunelveli Eluchiyum Va.Oo.Chi.yum 1908 is a lively and gripping narrative of a series of events which took place at the height of the Swadeshi movement.



Telugu

Penugonda Lakshminarayana is an eminent Telugu writer and critic. He was born on 1 May 1954 in Palanaadu District, Andhra Pradesh. He has compiled, edited and co-edited more than 100 books and has also written more than 200 literary essays.

Deepika is a collection of 36 critical essays. The essays cover topics of cultural renaissance movement, the necessity of cultural policy, and highlight the solidarity of the poets and writers of Andhra Pradesh. during the Telangana armed struggle during the years 1947-1951.



Urdu

Ateequllah is an eminent Urdu poet, critic and dramatist. Born on 2 July 1940 at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. He has more than 25 publications to his credit including "A Dictionary of Literary Terms" (in three volumes).

Bain-Ul-Uloomi Tanqeed is a collection of 23 essays, an interdisciplinary study of creative writing in Urdu. This work deals with the analysis and assessment of modern Urdu criticism.



Sahitya Akademi Exhibition, Rabindra Bhavan Lawns

7 March 2025, New Delhi



Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Hon'ble Minister of Culture

and Tourism, Government of India, Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, on 7 March 2025. While inaugurating the Festival, he emphasized that literature is the strongest thread that unites India together. Highlighting the dynamism and vibrancy of Indian literature, he noted that with advancements in technology and translations, Indian literature is now on the brink of becoming global. He further remarked that Indian literature serves as a guiding force, remaining relevant through every era and circumstance, and will continue to do so in future. In his welcome speech, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, underlined the Akademi's achievements over the past year, mentioning that the Akademi published 484 books and organised 459 literary events. At the beginning of the event, Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2024 by cutting the ribbon and lighting the ceremonial lamp. Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, and Smt. Amrita Prasad Sarabhai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, also graced the occasion.

The 41st edition of Sahitya Akademi's festival of letters – Asia's Largest Literature Festival- was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture

Ganga Sabhagar / 7 March 2025, New Delhi

Multilingual Short Story Readings

The session was chaired by Sri Apurba Kumar Saikia. He welcomed the readers and the audience. Sri Shashi Tarikere read the English translation of his deeply moving Kannada story about the plight of people living in the lower strata of the society. Smt. Girima Gharekhan read the Hindi translation of her Gujarati short story 'Tukda' meaning 'fragment'; a thought provoking story about the dilemma and challenges faced by a single mother while juggling between her professional life and personal problems. Sri Saikia concluded the session by reading the English translation of his Assamese story 'Geometry', an intriguing introspection about the author's fascination with the geometrical shapes especially circle, which only keeps escalating as he ages.



Ms. Girima Gharekhan, Sri Apurba Kumar Saikia and
Sri Shashi Tarikere on the stage



NEW DELHI

The Role of Literature in Education in Boosting Critical Thinking

The session was chaired by Prof. Sunaina Singh. She shared her views about the importance of the notion of reflection in the Indian literary tradition. She quoted famous writers on philosophy around the world and set the tone for the session. Sri Jyotirmoy Pradhani spoke about disagreement as

an expression of critical thinking by classical philosophers like Socrates, Bhashya while citing examples from his famous play 'Urubhangam'. Sri Raghunandan shed light on the importance of critical thinking being essential in the present world of fake news media. Sri Surendra Dubey presented Maharishi Aurobindo's idea about role of literature in inspiring

a reader's mind, a role which rather should be played by education. Prof. Sunaina Singh summed up the session by saying that the world of literature has ample evidence where it inspires critical thinking. The session was followed by a question and answer session.

Autobiographical Literature in India

The session was chaired by Ms. Naseria Sharma. She spoke about the contemporary writings which have autobiographies written by Dalit writers and writers from the transgender community. She shared how reading their first-hand accounts through their autobiographies makes the readers

empathise with them. Sri Vikas Jha spoke in detail about his experiences while penning the biography on Usha Utthup, an iconic pop singer from the 70s. Pranav Khullar spoke on international best-seller 'An Autobiography of a Yogi' by Sri Yogananda. Ms. Sujata Prasad shared her experiences while developing the biographies on world renowned dancer

Sonal Mansingh and also the public hero J P Narayan. Ms. K. Srilata shared her thoughts on a biography, she penned on her daughter, who faced learning difficulties with the traditional system of education. She also recited a somewhat autobiographical poem, 'Three Women in a small room'.

Philosophical Literature of India

The session was chaired by Prof. Mrinal Miri. He said with the arrival of British in India, they set aside the Indian philosophy of 'Darshana' and carried on with their classical philosophical ideologies. The Indian 'Darshana' philosophy

resurfaced with the end of the British era. Ms. Alka Tyagi further spoke on Indian 'Darshan', and how it provides a chance to the seeker to be one with the ultimate. Sri Jyotish Joshi made quotes from the Vedas and spoke about the idea of 'Parmarth' as being the essence of Vedic Philosophy. Sri

S. A. V. Prasad shared his thoughts about the ever existing presence of structural philosophy in Indian literature. Sri Shafey Kidwai reflected upon Indian philosophy of 'Darshan' in the backdrop of Urdu writers.

Brahmaputra Sabhagar / 7 March 2025, New Delhi

Challenges before the Writers of Children's Books

The session devoted to Challenges before the Writers of Children's Books began with Kshama Sharma in the Chair. While speaking about the topic of the session she opined that there are several challenges before a children's writer. Writing for children is a tough work as one needs to understand a child's psychology. She also said that nowadays pvt. publishers are unwilling to publish children's books because they are less commercial, therefore, bringing out books before the readers is a challenge. Sri Birendra Mohanty said that children are a messenger of God. it is the responsibility of a children's writer to make them humane and serve them with good literature. The authors should be careful in choosing their contents, their characters, etc., since their writings have a long-lasting effect on a child's mind. Sri Rajiv Tambe speaking about the challenges said that a significant challenge accrues from the publishers who pressurize the authors to



Sri Birendra Mohanty, Sri Vikas Dave, Ms. Kshama Sharma and Sri Rajiv Tambe on the stage

change the content of children's books, as a result sub-standard books are available in the market. He opined that a true author doesn't surrender to such pressures, though he/she is sidelined. Writing across multiple genres, AI generated illustrations are some other challenges before the writers. Sri Vikas Dave opined that children's literature is being considered a second rate work nowadays. Though gadgets do not pose a

challenge before children's literature but because of them children are getting away from printed books. It is the elders' responsibility to inculcate reading habits in a child. Further, concentration should be on the sensitivity quotient of the children rather than on their intelligence quotient to enable them to be a good human, and that's the responsibility of children's literature.

My Literary Inspirations

This session was chaired by Keshari Lal Verma with Sri Nitin Pramod, Sri Ritwick Bhattacharjee, Sri Sanjay Kshotriya, and Sri Shaleena Chaturvedi as the speakers. At the outset, Sri Keshari Lal Verma said that for

every literary creation there is an underlying inspiration, it can be personal, emotional or inspired by nature and its diversity, history or classical works like Ramayana, Mahabharata, etc., culture or literature. Sri Ritwick Bhattacharjee was reminiscent of his school days

where the library was divided into two sections— senior and junior, and he was not allowed to enter in the senior section. His inquisitiveness to know the books hidden there and the wish to read them, inspired him to read and write. He opined, the



things we read, the life we live and the circumstances we face are the inspirations of our writers. Sri Nitin Pramod said that he writes love centric-poetry, as such it is difficult to tell the source of inspiration. He also said that a good writer is one whose work is a mixture of several elements and not simple. A poet should not aim entertainment alone but should have moral teachings in

his poetry. He recited a few lines of his poem 'Swapna', which he told was a major source of inspiration for him. Sri Sanjay Kshotriya speaking about his inspirations said that the tales told by his mother from Panchtantra ki Kahaniyan, Premchand's Godan, Mahadevi Verma's poems, Harivansh Rai Bachchan's Madhushala inspired him to write. The feeling to create good literature was another source of inspiration for him to

write. Ms Shaleena Chaturvedi stated that it is very difficult for a person to mention the name of a particular writer or a book as a source of inspiration to write. Speaking further, she said 'Shabd' is Brahma, 'Shabd' is 'Shakti' and it is 'Shabd' that inspires to write. 'Shabd' has emanated from Indian culture, therefore, it is great.

Vanishing Rural Spaces in Indian Literary Creations

This programme was chaired by Sri Arun Kamal. He said that he never felt that such a topic can be discussed as all writers are basically from their villages, no matter they live in cities now. Ms Bina Biswas said that with rapid urbanization villages are vanishing not only in reality but also in books. She also dealt at length the writers who mourn the decline of rural life in their works. The vanishing of rural space is not only an Indian scenario but of the world at large. Smt. C. Mrunalini speaking about three phases of rural life said that rural life was in a romantic phase before 1990 which was soulful and spiritual. After

1990 there was an economic phase, which was soulless with figuratively vanishing rural spaces. The third phase is where the villages have physically vanished. Today, literature is shifting its focus to cities because of the larger societal shift. Ms Mamang Dai opined that though the character of village has changed due to rapid development and modernization but a writer should try to retain in his/her literary works all the goodness of a village. Sri Raghav Chandra said, "When we are urbanized largely, exposed to global ideas, the rural space starts vanishing from our writings". He further said that when a writer writes a story, it is the context which is important, no matter where it is in a rural space or an

urban space. Sri Sanjoy Hazarika said, "A village travels with us wherever we go. When we travel languages travel with us. Instead of vanishing we should say transcending rural spaces". He also said that village may have died but the writer is still alive. Sri Taren Ch. Boro said that vanishing rural spaces is a crucial concern. Globalization, digital transformation, artificial intelligence are some reasons of vanishing rural spaces which is also visible in literature. Concluding the programme Sri Arun Kamal said that today villages do not have their original character but literature is expected to retain the character of the original village.

21st Century Indian Poetry: Multilingual Poets' Meet

This session presided over by Sri Purnanand Chari witnessed poetry recitations by eminent poets in different Indian languages – Sri Nirmalya Mukherjee (Bengali), Sri Pabitra Brat Daimary (Bodo), Sri Rakesh Verma (Dogri), Ms

Mandira Ghosh (English), Sri Nisar Azam (Kashmiri), Sri Vinayak Govenkar (Konkani), Ms Mongjam Sobita Devi (Manipuri), Ms Manjusha Kulkarni (Sanskrit) and Sri Khadar Mohiuddeen (Telugu). The poets also read the Hindi/English translations of their poems.

Concluding the session Sri Purnanand Chari said that the programme featured poems depicting human tragedy and the positive efforts made. He also recited some of his poems in the end.

Narmada Sabhagar / 7 March 2025, New Delhi

Multilingual Poets' Meet



Participants during the programme

Daimary opened with a reading of her Bodo poems on mythology, village life and nature. She was followed by Ms. Singh's poem on keeping hope through tough times. Ms. Nayak's work was a tribute to women and Sri Geetesh Shinde examined family and the infringement of technology in everyday life. The session concluded with Sri Satyanarayana's recitation of his Telugu poem. All poets read their work in Hindi and English translations as well.

The Multilingual Poets' Meet was chaired by Sri S.V. Satyanarayana (Telugu) and Ms. Mainasri Daimary (Bodo), Ms. Nilima Singh (Hindi), Ms. Shobha Nayak (Kannada) and Sri Geetesh Shinde (Marathi) shared the dais. Ms.

Our Story, Tales to Tell: Multilingual Story Readings

This session was chaired by Sri Madhuranthakam Narendra (Telugu) and Ms. Rashmi Narzary (English) and Sri Prempal Sharma (Hindi) shared the dais. Ms. Narzary read her story "Console"

set in a Bodo village, about deriving joy from traditions. Sri Narendra read his story "Kumbha Mela" which was about the need to connect and communicate with nature. He was followed by Sri Prempal Sharma's "Shraddhanjali", a

tribute to women who migrate to big cities in the hope for a better life. The session concluded by Sri Narendra stressing the importance of short stories across India.

Indian Poetry in Different Tongues

This session was chaired by Sri Madhu Acharya. Ms Urna Bose (English), Sri Narayanji (Mathili), Sri Ningombam Imo Singh (Manipuri), Sri Indrajit Ganapat Ghule (Marathi), Sri Arun Kumar Sahu (Odia), Ms Joja Murmu and Ms Modouri Vijayakumar (Telugu), recited their poems dwelling with



Participants during the programme

the emotions of common man, different hues and joys of ‘Vasant’, humours, farmers and their struggles, Covid-times etc., in their respective

languages. Sri Madhu Acharya in his concluding remarks said that poetry was the oldest form of literature. Earlier poetry was meant to be heard, but now

it is reduced to reading. However, Sahitya Akademi’s forums instills confidence that poetry can still hold on its own in the literary world.

In a Nutshell – Multilingual Short Story Readings



Ms. Anju Ranjan speaking during the programme

The programme, devoted to the multilingual short story readings, chaired by Sri Manu Baligar, commenced with a story by Sri Anju Rajan from her collection of short-stories Sheetal Dhoop. Sri Babasaheb Anna Parit read

his story “Gast” (Patrolling) dealing with a man addicted to liquor that ruined his family; Sri Prem Pradhan’s story dealt with environment, loss of green cover, population explosion, and Bijay Nayak’s story “Mantra”, captured the innocent excitement of a school-going child on being assigned the duty of serving snacks to the visiting Minister. Sri Manu Baligar concluded the session with his story ‘Life and Death: An Endless Play of Illusion’, the narrative of which was philosophical.

Godavari Sabhagar / 7 March 2025, New Delhi

Grand Efflorescence: Tribal Poetry Readings

This programme was chaired by Sri Hari Ram Meena. THD Chungboi Chiru (Chiru), Naseem Akhtar (Gojri), Sampri Kimi Phangcho (Karbi), Khanpo Konchok Rigzen (Laddakhi) and Anita Konwar (Tiwa) recited their poems in their respective languages and also their translations in Hindi and English simultaneously. Chairing the session Sri Hari Ram Meena said that we all can feel from these recitations that poetry has no language barrier and the emotions are generally common in all the languages. Language is only a mode of communication. He further said that we can find similarities in emotions and expressions in all these languages and that is the beauty of our country.



Participants during the programme

Discussion on “Creation Myths” in Tribal Literary Creations

The discussion on “Creation of Myths” in Tribal Literary Creations was moderated by Smt. Streamlet Dkhar, a renowned author and scholar of Khasi language. Sri Shanta Naik (Banjara), Ms Shankutala Tarar (Chhattisgarhi), Ms M. P. Rekha (Kadova), Ms Zoramdinthara (Mizo) and Ms Thailow Mog (Mog) expressed their views in details on creation of myths literature and other arts in their respective languages. From the chair Smt. Streamlet Dkhar said that while listening to scholars in their (tribal) languages one can imagine that all the languages and cultures have their myths similar to each other. One who doesn't have myths cannot be a living language because mankind is progressing on mythical history. He further added



Participants during the programme

that the rich literary traditions are always taking cues from myths and it is our rich treasure.

We Tell Tales: Tribal Story Readings

Ms Vandana Tete, a renowned author and scholar of Kharia language chaired the session. Ms Gyati Rana (Apatani), Sri Bijoy Debbarma (Kokborak), Sri Dipak Kumar Doley (Nyishi) and Khruvolu (Teynidie) read folktales in their respective languages. It was evident from their tales that folktales may be written in different languages but their essence and messages are common in nature. Ms Vandana Tete in her concluding remarks said that from these tales we can reach to the conclusion that they are full of life and represent collective human mind and that is the reason we always say that these tales shape our society.



Participants during the programme

Touching the Stars: Tribal Poetry Readings

The session was chaired by eminent Kurukh poet, Sri Mahadev Topo. Poets like Rasheed Nandavara (Beary), Jaigneswari Deori (Deuri), Parikshit Kumar Malsom (Halam), Lalitankimi (Mizo), Athrady Amrita Shetty (Tulu) and Jyotipriya Rabha (Rabha) recited their poems in their respective languages and also read their translations. Sri Mahadev Topo also recited his poems and shared his views about the poems recited during the session. He said that one can feel the commonality in the poems of these different tribal languages. All the poets are concerned with the occupation of their resources. Thus, they share a common concern.



Participants during the programme

Kaveri Sabhagar / 7 March 2025, New Delhi

Dalit Chetna: Story Readings

This programme was presided over by noted Tamil storyteller, Ms P. Sivakami. She expressed her gratitude to Sahitya Akademi and recited the story “Ariyam Malar” which means ‘rare flower’ in English. The story was based on raising voice against caste and class discrimination. Ms Kalyani Thakur read her story “Pakhi Premi” in Bengali and then read its English translation. Sri Mohan Parmar and Ms Rajni Disodia read their stories “Dhool” and “Chhoti Bahu Kahani” respectively in Hindi.



Ms. Rajni Disodia, Ms. Kalyani Thakur, Ms. P. Sivakami and Sri Mohan Parmar

Rivers in Indian Literature

This event was presided over by Sri Mohd. Zaman Azurdah. He said that literature is as important as water in our lives. Prof. Swapna Rani Singh, through her article “Rivers in Odisha’s Literature”, discussed the various perspectives of rivers in Odia novels, and Odisha’s historical geography, etc. Sri Pulikonda Subbacharya in his paper on “Rivers in Telugu literature” said that rivers reflect our culture. Ms Anuradha Sharma Pujari mentioned the poems associated with the Brahmaputra and Godavari river as also the songs of Gitanjalee. She also informed that thousands of songs of legendary singer Bhupen



Sri Mohd. Zaman Azurdah chairing the session

Hazarika are based on rivers. Sri Shyam Sunder Dubey said that rivers try to connect with each other. If rivers had not flown, poetry would not have been written.

Knitting India: Readings of Short Stories

This session was chaired by noted Hindi story writer Ms Urmila Shirish, an eminent Kannada storyteller. Sri Amaresh Nugdoni read out one of his stories 'Girls of the Floral Town' in English, which depicts the synergy of love between a grandmother and a granddaughter. Noted Kashmiri storyteller Majeed Majazi read his story “Widow Wood Mother” in Kashmiri and also summarized it in Hindi. Rajasthani and Hindi fiction-writer, Sri Madhav Nagda read his Rajasthani story “Srijangatha” in Hindi. In this story, the narrator paints a creative picture of the domestic chores of a husband and a wife. Concluding the session



Participants during the programme

Ms Urmila Shirish said that it is the stories through which the picture of different states of India emerges before us.

Folk Culture of North East and Western Region of India

This programme was chaired by Sri Bhagwandas Patel, an expert in Gujarati folklore, who discussed in detail the Ramayana of the Bhil tribals of North India. Eminent Sindhi writer Namdev Tarachandani spoke on Sindhi couplets Soratha and folk dances Jhumir, Bhagat, etc. Pandurang Phaldesai, an expert in the rich folklore and folk music tradition of Goa, delivered

his lecture on Perni Jagor, a Goan folk dance. He spoke of the preservation of the GPZ community which is now on the verge of extinction. Professor Prithviraj Taur spoke of the folk culture of Maharashtra, and also about Pungul Charitra, Dhagar community, Gudi Padwa, Bhog, etc. Sri Rajesh Kumar Vyas, a seminal thinker of Indian culture, said that culture is a way of life and folk is its expression. He presented the essence of 'Gauri

Gatha'. Young writer Pukhraj Jangid spoke of the Warli society as one that expressed itself creatively. He also mentioned the focal points and folk evidence of working people. Presiding over the session noted Manipuri writer, L. Joychandra Singh briefly discussed some aspects of Manipuri folk culture.

Presentation of Sahitya Akademi Award 2024

8 March 2025, New Delhi



Award winners during the ceremony

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 Presentation Ceremony was held in Kamani Auditorium on 8 March 2025 at 5.30 pm. Sri Mahesh Dattani, eminent English playwright and theatre personality, was the Chief Guest at the Ceremony.

The event commenced with invocation of Goddess Saraswati. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, requested Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, to formally welcome Sri Mahesh Dattani. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that the social and anthropological understanding of literary creations was necessary to understand the role of literature in the society and also the kind of service that literary creators render to the communities and societies. Compared to other

human expressions, literary expressions were capable of transporting the readers to far off cultures and lands and bring home to millions, the knowledge about other traditions and regions, he added. He also briefly stated the activities undertaken by the Akademi.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, while delivering the presidential address said that the literary world has been proud of the Akademi's efforts in the last seven decades towards promoting the diverse languages of the country. The Festival of Letters is the biggest literary gathering in terms of languages covered. Writers are the wordsmiths who mould and influence the society. It mirrors the creative prowess of the litterateurs. Later, Sri Kaushik, presented the Sahitya Akademi Awards to the writers in 23 Indian languages. The Akademi Award winners were

Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Aron Raja Basumatary (Bodo), Easterine Kire (English), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sohan Koul (Kashmiri), Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Yuva Baral 'Anant' (Nepali), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit), Maheshwar Soren (Santali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi), AR Venkatachalapathy (Tamil), Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu) and Ateequallah (Urdu). Awards of Late Chaman Lal Arora (Dogri) and Easterine Kire (English) were received by their family members on their behalf. There was

no award in Bengali this year. While the Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, read out citations, bouquets were presented by the Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi, Smt. Kumud Sharma.

Sri Mahesh Dattani, addressing as Chief Guest of the Ceremony, congratulated all the awardees and Sahitya Akademi for organizing

Asia's largest literature festival. He said that no other country in the world has attempted to honour wordsmiths from such diverse languages. India is the wonderland of languages, and a land of stories, he added. He lauded the role of Sahitya Akademi in preserving and promoting diverse languages and cultures, as also promoting high quality literature.

Professor Kumud Sharma, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, in her concluding remarks said that literature links past with the present. It is the glue that binds humanity with all its hues. The programme concluded with a soulful rendition of Hindustani music by Sri Rakesh Chaurasia on flute, where he also presented fusion music.

Ganga Sabhagar / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, Sahitya Akademi organised the following three programmes devoted to Poetry, Short Story Readings and Contemporary Women Writings of India

Asmita: Abundantly Mellifluous: Poetry Readings by Women Poets



Participants during the programme

The session was chaired by Ms. Anamika. She said that all the languages are like sisters seamlessly flowing into each other. She called Hindi, English and Urdu as the 'Sutradhaar' languages in the current literary scenario, which are ready with open arms for translation into other Indian languages to facilitate them with a better exposure. Ms. Sebanti Ghosh recited a poem in Bengali, 'Sampradaya'; two Hindi poems 'Do Chaar Baatein' and 'Salami'; and two English poems 'Girls Stories' and 'The Married Girl'. Ms.

Anjali Basumatary recited her Bodo poem and later rendered its English translation titled 'Main Kaali Bol Rahi Hun'. Ms. Nandini Sahu recited her poem 'Sisterhood' and 'Akshayapatra in Jagannatha Puri', both in English. Ms. Nikita Bhagwat recited one Hindi poem and also presented a musical rendition of her Sanskrit poem. Ms. Preeti Pujara also presented a musical rendition of her poem about the sensitive issue of girl infanticide. Ms. Mallika Naseem recited her Urdu poem 'Ek Aurat' about the trials and travails faced by a woman. Ms. Anamika concluded the session by reciting her poem 'Women' in Hindi and English.

Asmita: We Weave Magic: Story Readings by Women Writers

Ms. Suryabala as Chair began the session by congratulating all on the occasion of the International Women's Day. She proclaimed that today the world has been brought to a state of disaster, but women have and will keep working to beautify the world. Ms. Nirmal Vikram, read out her Dogri story 'Chamba', a narrative perception of a woman from the elite class on her house help. Ms. Padmini Nagaraju read out English translation of her Kannada story 'Woman's Inherent Talent Manifest' on the problems arising out of generational gaps and struggles of constantly modernizing world. Ms. Guruaribam Ghanapriya Devi read out Hindi translation of her



Participants during the programme

Manipuri story 'Meri Ma Ke Swarna-Rupi Paon', which portrays the emotions of the son of a single mother. Ms. Shalini Sagar read out Hindi translation of her Sindhi story 'Mamta ki Mout', based on a transgender who raises an abandoned baby. The Chair concluded the session by reading out her Hindi story 'Ek Stree Ke Karname' depicting the frustrations of a wife on the very cold, all accepting, non-involving attitude of her husband. She also added that literature is the factory of humanity on this earth.

Asmita: Contemporary Women Writings of India

Ms. Kavery Nambisan chaired the session and wished the gathering on the occasion of the International Women's Day. Ms. Arupa Patangia Kalita spoke about the contemporary women writers, poets and translators from Assam, who are writing in Assamese as also in English and Hindi. Ms. Neerja Madhav pointed out that women writers while announcing freedom from patriarchy might unknowingly be serving the patriarchs themselves. Ms. P. Jyothi deliberated on the contemporary Telugu writers, writing in traditional as well as non-traditional genres besides speaking about the industrious scale of translation that is being produced in Telugu from other Indian languages. Ms. Panna Trivedi spoke about contemporary literary trends in Gujarati and



Participants during the programme

the changes it is undergoing. Ms. Pushplata Rath discussed the current literary trends in Odia language. Ms. Sonya J. Nair spoke about the thriving environment of contemporary Malayalam literature and also read out an excerpt from the Malayalam short story 'No Onion No Garlic'.

Brahmaputra Sabhagar / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

Classical Languages and the Cultural Heritage of India

Dr. Siddharth while chairing the session said that there are a total of 11 Indian classical languages. The Government of India has laid down three criteria for inclusion of a language in the classical status, i.e. it should be 1500-2000 years old; should have vast literature, and writings should be in original.

Sri Ashok Kumar Jha 'Avichal' said that when we speak about classical language, we think about its antiquity, continuity and originality. He also gave a comprehensive review of Maithili language with its historical background. Sri Basanta Kumar Panda said that the cultural heritage of India is based on the classical languages. He also observed that Sanskrit and Tamil are the most ancient languages of India which have preserved the literary cultural



Participants during the programme

heritage of India for centuries, besides imparting ethical teachings. Sri Elchuri Muralidhar Rao dealt at length on a reflective conceptualization of the classical languages of India. Having concern for the endangered languages, he also spoke about the ethnic groups. Sri Rajnish Mishra said that the word 'Classical' should not be translated, classical language should be called classical language. He also said that every language retains the culture in it, Indian languages are such that they keep changing from region to region and simultaneously there is a reflective change in the culture. Sri Veersagar Jain spoke about Prakrit language which has recently been given the classical language status by the Government of India. Considering Prakrit as the most ancient language, even older than Sanskrit, he surfaced some historical facts about Prakrit language.

Partition Literature of India

Sri Navtej Singh Sarna speaking as the Chair of this session said, “Truth is that partition is still alive with us, it lives in our families, in our photo albums. Partition has not gone away from our lives and can be witnessed in a cricket match with Pakistan or in a disturbance on the borders today”. He also said enough has been written on Partition, history alone cannot capture the emotions, it is literature that has a deeper scope and reflects the voice of the people.

Sri Bhupinder Aziz Parihar said that partition



Sri Navtej Sarna chairing the session

literature is a very prominent genre in the history of Indian literature that captures the division of the nation. It portrays the human cost of Independence, Britishers' cruelty, bloodshed, sorrow, anxiety and much more. Sri Chandrashekhar Talya read some excerpts from Khushwant Singh's Train to Pakistan, when the summer of 1947 was burning more

than the burning sun. He also detailed Bisham Sahni's Tamas, Manto's stories, among other books, reminding the great tragedy of history. Sri Prashant Pole said that such a tragedy is rare in history where more than 15 lakh people died and over 1.5 crore dislocated, but it has not been truly reflected in literature. He considered that it is absolutely imperative to write such

literature which gives a true picture of partition. Sri Ravi Tekchandani spoke on the topic underlying Sindh region and the partition literature that is available in Sindhi language. He also highlighted the troubles faced by the Sindhi people, their sufferings and the pain of dislocation at the time of partition.

Right to Create: Publishing and Copyright



Participants during the programme

This session was chaired by Sri Ramesh Mittal. He said that there are different areas before a book actually comes in its printed form, one is, creation by author, and the other is, publishing by a publisher. He asked questions from the panellist sitting on the dais and spoke out the key points from their talks thereafter.

Ms. V. K. Karthika said that the biggest challenge for a writing is protecting its copyright. There are apps or Google from where the books can be downloaded. Authors with their royalty and publishers with their sale proceeds are

comprising due to piracy. Sri Prabhat Kumar thanking the Akademi said that publishing and copyright is an important topic. A writer when writes owes some right over his work, but due to piracy the author has to compromise. He also said that reading is important but reading original and not a pirated version should be in ones thought process. Sri Ravi Decece informed that publishing is one lakh crore industry in India. Market turnover is actually 50 per cent because of piracy. The challenge is that maybe the publishing industry may not survive unless the publishers could do something to safeguard copyright just like the film or music industry

which have overcome this problem. Sri Pranav Gupta dealt at length with the copyright law. Further he said that there are several challenges regarding the copyright of a book, technological advancement is one of them. AI companies are using publishers' content. Everyone is losing revenue—the author, publisher and the government. Sri Ankit Sahni urged that Copyright Act needs to be amended. He also showed his concern over the multi-fold increase of pirated books on e-platforms due to which the authors and publishers are suffering.

Narmada Sabhagar / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

**Interaction of Sahitya Akademi Award 2024
Winners with the Media**



Award winners answering the questions of media

Sahitya Akademi Award winners for the year 2024 interacted with media personnel and shared their experiences today during the ongoing Festival of Letters 2025. Writers and poets are influenced by the happenings around them. The emotional outpourings of the writers through their pens turns out to be master pieces of literature. Awardees who interacted with Media were: Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Aron Raja Basumatary (Bodo), Dileep Jhaveri

(Gujarati), Gagan Gill (Hindi), K.V. Narayana (Kannada), Sohan Kaul (Kashmiri), Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili), K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Sudhir Rasal (Marathi), Yuva Baral ‘Anant’ (Nepali), Baishnab Charan Samal (Odia), Paul Kaur (Punjabi), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani), Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit), Maheswar Soren (Santali), Hundraj Balwani (Sindhi), A. R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil) and Penugonda Lakshminarayana (Telugu).

Portability of Culture in Tradition

The session witnessed the release of Rekha Sethi’s book, Jugalbandi, by Prof. Anisur Rahman, who chaired the session, coinciding with the International Women’s Day.

Sri Damodar Khadse, dwelling on the subject said that the idioms have to be understood in the socio-cultural context, and while translating, it should be adapted into the language of translation. Sri Gauri Shankar Raina felt that a translator, while translating, is actually creating a New Work. Sri Kishore Kumar Peter Gonsalves opined that a



Participants during the programme

translator, in fact, has to be the cultural ambassador of the two languages that he is dealing with. Cultural nuances cannot be strictly adhered to; they are lost in the translation as they may not exactly fit into the language in which translation is attempted. Ms. Mini Krishnan hit the bull’s eye when she said that it is easy to shoot an arrow through a screen; but difficult to shoot the second arrow through the same hole. A translator’s job is thus summed up. The translator is under



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pressure from the author, the editor, as also the cultural ethos of the language into which translation is being attempted. Smt. Rekha Sethi pondered over whether translation is transcreation. Sri S. Nagamalleswar Rao traced the history of translation of English works into Telugu since the mid-nineteenth century. He shed

light on the altered ambience of English novels to suit the Telugu readers, so that they were able to identify more easily with the narrative. Ms. Sujata Shiven, an Oriya to Hindi translator, felt that the cultural and food habits as described in the original work should be retained in the translated work, so that readers in that region get to know and understand

the socio-cultural ethos of the home state. Summing up, Prof. Anisur Rahman who chaired the session, said that every language has its own culture. Thus a translator has to negotiate two cultures. Every word has a certain weight, volume and meaning. It has to combine and correlate with culture.

Godavari Sabhagar / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

Ensemble of Image, Rhythm and Beauty: Multilingual Poetry Readings

The session was chaired by Sri Vinod Joshi, a renowned literary figure from Gujarat. He said that image, rhythm and beauty are important components of poetry and aesthetics. It is the poet who can create images from his imagination and has the capacity to bind it in rhythm with beautiful words and symbols. The session witnessed poetry recitation by eminent poets: Ms Neha Sharma (Dogri), Sri Bhaveshkumar Manilal Vala (Gujarati), Sri Anant Bhatnagar (Hindi), Sri Saiddappa C. Kotaragasti (Kannada), Sri Manzoor Akash (Kashmiri), Ms Pritidhara Samal (Odia), Ms Swetapadma Satapathy (Sanskrit) and A. Sathia Saradhamani (Tamil).



Sri Vinod Joshi chairing the session

Path Breaking Works in Indian Literature

This session was dedicated to the classical epics in Indian literature under the title of 'Path Breaking Works in Indian Literature". Sri Bhagyesh Jha chaired the session where five classical epics were discussed. Sri Bhooma Veeravalli spoke on Subramania Bharati, Sri Dilip Dhondge expressed his views on Gyaneshwari, Ms Karabi Deka Hazarika spoke on the classic works of Madhavadeva, Sri Manoj Srivastava on Geeta Rahasya, and Sri Swami Shastrajnananda expressed his views on Anand Math. In his concluding remarks Sri Bhagyesh Jha said that these creative literary epics are the backbone of Indian ethos, the authors of contemporary period must take advantage of this wisdom. He said, "Our forefathers created such a solid ground for us and we should always be thankful to them".



Participants during the programme

Poetry: The Mirror of Soul—Poetry Readings



Participants during the programme

In this programme poems were recited by the poets from different vernacular languages. Sri Rajib Borah (Assamese), Ms Akanksha Dikshit (Awadhi), Sri Dipak Raval (Gujarati), Ms Ankita Khattry ‘Naadan’ (Hindi), Ms Rani Srivastava (Maithili), Sri Makhan Mann (Punjabi), Smt.

Yashoda Murmu (Santali) and Sri N. Sivanesan (Tamil) recited their poetry in their respective languages followed by their translations in Hindi/English. Ms Rani Srivastava also recited her poem especially written for the Women’s Day. In his remarks from the chair Sri Mohan Singh, renowned playwright, theatre person and a poet said that he is over-whelmed by the emotions presented in the poetry of these poets.

Kaveri Sabhagar / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

Dalit Chetna: Multilingual Poets’ Meet

During the session, Sri K. Enoch, noted Telugu writer, presided over. He congratulated Sahitya Akademi for the wonderful programme besides praising its thoughtful naming of the auditoriums based on great Indian rivers. Saints, poets, artists of India all seek inspiration from rivers by worshipping them, he added. He also said that he looks at human values in writings and this is essentially an Indian idea. Sri Ashis Kumar Hira, noted Bengali writer, in his article considered that being born as a ‘shudra’ is a boon. Noted Gujarati poet, Sri Vinod Gandhi recited four poems including Budbak, Mochi and Ishwar Tumhari Jaati Kaun Si Hai,



Participants during the programme

eminent Hindi writer, Ms Rajat Rani ‘Meenu’ recited six poems including Stree Aur Shram, Desh Ki Betiyaan, eminent Kannada writer, Sri Ramesh Aroli recited three poems including The Slate in the Nation’s Head, eminent Marathi poet, Ms Pradnya Daya Pawar presented the English translation of her Marathi poem Shambuka, among others. Noted Telugu writer, Sri Nagilla Ramesh rendered Telugu poems Kumkumaduklapatta and Evru in English and noted Urdu poet, Sri Jayant Parmar rendered nine poems including Manu and Kaagaz.

Multilingual Short Story Readings

Renowned Assamese writer, Ms Manikuntala Bhattacharjya read out the Hindi translation of her story “Rajputra”, noted Dogri writer, Sri Rajeshwar Singh Raju also read the Hindi translation of his story “Usne Kaan Band Kar Liye”, well-known English writer, Ms Nadini Sen presented her story “Second Wife” and eminent Malayalam writer, Sri C. Ganesh presented his story “JCB Girl” in English, with a few excerpts in Malayalam. Smt. Jancy James, a renowned Malayalam author and academic, in her presidential address



Participants during the programme

said, "Personally, I am a voracious reader of stories and I feel that this genre is reaching unprecedented horizons of creativity. We can only maintain and preserve the creativity of writers”.

What We See, We Weave Magic: Multilingual Poetry Readings

The session was chaired by renowned Kashmiri poet, Sri Shad Ramzan. He said that poetry is a game of words, it depends upon what the content is. He also said that the greatest beauty of India is that people of different languages are present on the same platform. During this session, Sri Ramesh Arya, eminent Banjara writer and poet, recited his poem 'Bayaan', which means labourer, in Hindi, noted English poet, Ms Barsa Ray recited the poem “Sundarbans” along with two more poems, noted Hindi poet, and Ms Sangita Agarwal recited her poem “Beti se Maa ka Samvad”. The other poets of the session were



Participants during the programme

Ms Sheela Pandey (Hindi), Sri Rajat Hegde (Konkani) and Ms C. Vanlaldingpuii (Mizo) who recited their poems in their respective languages along with their translations in Hindi/ English.

Kamani Auditorium / 8 March 2025, New Delhi

Cultural Event: Sri Rakesh Chaurasia



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sri Rakesh Chaurasia and Sri Madhav Kaushik, President

Sahitya Akademi organizes cultural events by distinguished artists on the evenings of Festival of Letters. As part of its annual Festival of Letters 2025, the Akademi for its first cultural event, welcomed the famous Indian flautist, Sri Rakesh

Chaurasia, who plays magnificent bansuri - the Indian bamboo flute, and is the most proficient disciple and the nephew of renowned flautist, Sri Hariprasad Chaurasia. An accomplished musician, Sri Rakesh Chaurasia is a recipient of the Indian Music Academy Award, Aditya Birla Kalakiran Puraskar,

Nakshatra Samman and many other accolades. Sri Rakesh Chaurasia played Bansuri and different ragas in Hindustani classical after the presentation ceremony of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2024. He also performed fusion to delight the audience.

Samvatsar Lecture: Upamanyu Chatterjee on 'Something to Talk About'

9 March 2025, New Delhi



Sri Upamanyu Chatterjee speaking during the occasion

today for the 38th edition of Samvatsar Lecture by eminent English writer and a retired Indian Civil Servant of the 1983 batch, Sri Upamanyu Chatterjee. The Akademi was privileged to hear words of wisdom of scholars each year, he said. The President and Vice-President of the Akademi, Sri Madhav Kaushik and Prof Kumud Sharma, respectively, honoured the Guest Speaker with a shawl and a couple of books published by the Sahitya Akademi.

The free-wheeling lecture on an abstract subject as 'Something to Talk About', had the audience hear in rapt attention of the journey of Chatterjee from his early education in English, then his drift to reading Bengali literature and coming back to writing in English. His novels included English August: An Indian Story, The Last Burden, The Mammeries of the Welfare State and Weight Loss. He was a recipient of the coveted French Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in the year 2008, and the Sahitya Akademi Award.

The Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, welcomed a gathering of litterateurs in the Brahmputra Auditorium

Ganga Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Indian Historical Fiction

In this session, Sri Bodhisattva cited instances from history and myth as well, where the opposite sides of any story propagated and glorified itself. Sri Rizwan Kadri spoke about Gujarati writers' contribution in creating and shaping literature written around the Independence era. Sri Sadanand Prasad Gupt spoke on the literary contributions of Shatrughan Prasad. Sri Vishwas Patil as the Chair concluded the session by sharing his experiences while penning his novel Mahanayak on Mahatma Gandhi.



Participants during the programme

The Universality of Literature and Shared Human Experience

Sri Amarendra Khatua began the session by quoting famous writers and poets across the world. Ambassador Diana Mickeviciene speaking about Lithuanian language called it a dinosaur among European languages. Ambassador Juan Antonio March Pujol spoke about his book Momentum and hoped that it inspires the newer generations to choose exploring this wonderful earth rather than war. Ms Lakshmi Puri spoke about the western cannon which has been the universal standard where west



Participants during the programme

has clearly become the standard for the entire world. Ambassador Monica Browarczyk recited her poems 'Parai Sundarata' and 'Sambhavnaein'. She said that literature is part of the larger human stories forging an emotional link between the writer and the

reader breaking barriers of nations, cultures, times and eras. Sri Vijay Kumar Tadakamalla shared his thoughts about the set stereotypes in the name of universalism, which is actually not even inclusive of all.

Brahmaputra Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Straight from the Heart: Multilingual Poets' Meet

Sri Hara Prasad Das beginning the session as Chair said, "If you read a dozen poems in English or in Hindi or any other language, you will find the same kind of content, reason being, we've been taught by trained poets to write poetry in the same manner". He suggested that the gap between words and verse should remain in a creative work. Besides discussing the scenario of Indian poetry, he also focused on the poetry of Latin America, France, Asia and Africa. Eminent poets included during this session were Ms Sadhana Brahma (Bodo), Sri Ashwani Kumar



Participants reading their poetry

(English), Sri Mukul Kumar (English), Sri Davendra Kumar Dhodawat (Hindi), Sri Dhananjay Singh (Hindi), Ms Suman Keshari (Hindi), Sri Satish Vimal (Kashmiri) and Ms Rajashree Warriar (Malayalam), who recited their poems in their respective languages along with their translations in Hindi/English.

A. Revath said that nowadays both the trans-men and the trans-women are equally recognized through their writings. Reading some excerpts from her Tamil book, she gave the message that conversion from a man into a woman is difficult but living the life of a woman is more difficult. Reshma Prasad expressed her pain of suffering discrimination. Writing should not be gender based. When literature writes 'kinnar samaj' it is challenging. Literature should

not be in terms of body parts. All are respectable, all are equal. Akshaya K. Rath felt that the government recognized transgender programmes to social platforms off-late. The pre-Independence India never gave them a voice and the Free-India too hardly gave them a space. Sanjana Simon expressed her feelings by saying that some write for their livelihood, some as a hobby, some write just to write and some write when they are unheard. She wrote as she was unheard. Devika

Devendra Mangalamukhi began with the question that how the writings of transgender communities are different from other writers? and replied by saying that they write on contemporary issues. Shiven Gureja said that words are not only a medium of communication but have the power to change lives. Words gave him recognition.

I Am by Myself: Poetry Readings by LGBTQ Poets



Participants during the programme

At the outset, Hoshang Merchant, serving as the Chair of the session, captivated the audience by reading a few poems from his book, *My Sunset Marriage*. The poets: Chitra Vyas recited her poems “Ek Saheli Baag Mein Baithe

Baithe” and “Tune Tali Kyun Bajayi”, Dibyajyoti Sarma recited his poem “Apne Premi Ke Shaadi Ka Card”, Jameela Nishat read a few Nazms and Joshua Muiywa recited his poems “Hands”, “Mouth”, and “Knees”. M.N. Parasuraman read a paper on the topic “What is Queer: About Queer Poetry”.

In his concluding remarks, Hoshang Merchant extended heartfelt congratulations to all the poets and his student, M.N. Parasuraman, for their remarkable presentations. He also conveyed his best wishes for the success of Sahitya Akademi’s Festival of Letters.

Narmada Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Writers' Meet



Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice President with the participants

In the beginning of the session, Professor Kumud Sharma, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the 2024 award winners. She observed how each writer has their own journey, emotions and inspirations. Sri Sameer Tanti, the award winner in Assamese, expressed his gratitude to the natural world and the relationship to nature as a resident of the North-East. He ended with a call for the protection of the natural world and freedom. Sri Aron Raja Basumatary, award winner in Bodo, spoke of the village where he lives, the social aspects of which have given him the strength to write stories. Ms Easterine Kire, award winner in English, in her paper narrated the challenges faced in writing her award winning book *Spirit Nights* working with geographically distanced tribes and the theme of darkness. Sri Dileep

Jhaveri, award winner in Gujarati talked about the concept behind his award winning book *Bhagavan ni Vato*. Ms Gagan Gill, award winner in Hindi, spoke of the hardships of writing poetry and the years long journey every poet undergoes with their work. Sri K.V. Narayana, award winner in Kannada, talked of the effect of the 1970s ideological milieu on writers and literary criticism in Kannada literature, and the importance of interdisciplinary studies. Sri Sohan Kaul, award winner in Kashmiri, spoke of the harsh conditions from which his novel *Yotan Saier Poelt Gov* was born. He expressed the need for a rejuvenation of Kashmiri storytelling and publishing. Sri Mukesh Thali, award winner in Konkani, told the audience about the influence of Ravindra Kelekar on his journey as a young writer. Sri Mahendra Malangia, award winner in Maithili, talked about the legacy of the Maithili language. Further he discussed one of the essays

“Vidyapati Ka Ugna” from his book. Sri K. Jayakumar, award winner in Malayalam, opened with talking about the importance of poetry as a reflection of its time. He outlined his life and his constant gravitation towards poetry and verse. Ms Haobam Satyabati Devi, award winner in Manipuri, spoke about the 20-year writing process of her award winning book *Mainu Bora Nungsi Sheirol*. Sri Sudhir Rasal, award winner in Marathi, spoke of the need to engage with critical theory in Marathi and gave a short history of Marathi literature. Sri Yuva Baral ‘Anant’, award winner in Nepali, narrated his history as a writer and the clarity that writing affords. Sri Baishnab Charan Samal, award winner in Odia, spoke of the importance of culturally influential literature that does not conform to market trends. Ms Paul Kaur, award



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winner in Punjabi, said that she has been face to face with poetry ever since she came face to face with herself. Since then, she lives in poetry and poetry lives in her. Sri Mukut Maniraj, award winner in Rajasthani, spoke of the military and cultural history of Rajasthan as well as that of the Rajasthani language and its preservation. Sri Dipak Kumar Sharma, award winner in Sanskrit, spoke of the importance of classical Sanskrit literature. About his own book, he emphasized the presence of

a concurrent English translation to act as a bridge to encourage people to explore Sanskrit literature. Sri Maheswar Soren, award winner in Santali, talked about the history of his language and its script, as well as his own interest in it from a young age. Sri Hundraj Balwani, award winner in Sindhi, talked about his language. The language that got the alphabet only one hundred or two hundred and fifty years ago, the language whose script is still being discussed and debated, Sri A.R. Vankatachalapathy, award winner in Tamil, talked about the real events

behind his award winning book and the dramatic elements of the riots, and its expansion from an essay to a book. Sri Penugonda Lakshminarayana, award winner in Telugu, talked about his work with the Progressive Writers' Association and paid his respect to the writers who influenced him.

Professor Kumud Sharma concluded the session by highlighting the myriad ways in which each writer interprets and interact with life and seeks the beauty among thorns.

Indian Literature in Global Literary Landscape

The session was chaired by Sri Harish Trivedi with Ms Arundhati Subramaniam, Ms. Kavita Sharma, Sri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Ms Nishat Zaidi, Sri Paul Zacharia, Sri S.P. Ganguly and Sri Sandeep Khanna as the speakers. The chair opened by talking about the evolution of the 'global' literary landscape in India from its interactions with East and South East Asia, expansion to Persian cultures with the Mughals, and finally the influence of the British.

Sri Bhattacharjee acknowledged the influence of ancient Indian literature but questioned how its waning global presence can be turned around. He also talked about the preference given to literature written in English in terms of gaining global appreciation. Ms Zaidi called for a rethinking of space and nation as



Participants during the programme

concepts to conceptualise Indian literature which has always been global within its contexts. Sri Paul Zacharia emphasized the importance of translation from all Indian vernaculars into English to expand their reach. He also decried referring to Indian languages as "regional" which implies the presence of a non-existent centre. Sri S.P. Ganguly spoke of the history of translating Indian literary works into Spanish, including Tagore's influence on the language, as well as exchange projects such as that between India and

Mexico that studies the literatures of the two countries in comparison. Sri Sandeep Khanna spoke of his journey writing his book about India for a global audience and the need for good translations. Ms Kavita Sharma highlighted the potential of digital platforms to disseminate literature in many forms, not just written. She also talked about literatures of people of Indian origin who were taken around the world by the British as plantation workers.

Knitting India: Readings of Short Stories

The session was chaired by Sri Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali fiction writer, with Sri Bishwajyoti Sharma (Assamese), Ms. Annapurna Sharma (English), Ms. Madhu Kakaria (Hindi), Sri Keshava Malagi (Kannada) and Sri Appasaheb Yashwant Khot (Marathi) on the dias. At the outset Sri Bishwajyoti Sharma read English translation of his short story “The Beat”. Ms Annapurna Sharma read her story “All Things Good”. Ms. Madhu Kakaria narrated a short version of her story about an Indian army office suffering from a loss of self after being sent to



Participant reading his poetry

one of the most dangerous posts in the country. Sri Keshava Malagi read English translation of his short story “An Evening of Magha”. Sri Appasaheb Khot read Hindi translation of his story “Maikē ki

Rah”. From the Chair Sri Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay also read one of his stories in translation about a pandal maker and his relationship with his brothers and his dying father.

Krishna Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Birth Centenary Seminar on Omcherry N.N. Pillai



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao on the dais

A seminar on the birth centenary of esteemed Malayalam writer, Omcherry N.N. Pillai, was held as part of the annual Festival of Letters. At the outset, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the attendees. He said that this seminar was a tribute to the colossus of novels and plays churned by Sri Omcherry N.N. Pillai spanning over eight decades. He was a humanist and social activist, too. Two books were released on this occasion, one was Ajit G. Maniyam’s *Vilasa Latika*, BA (Hons), a book written by Omcherry, and the second

was *Edassericar* by K.P. Ramanunni. Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, declared Omcherry a socially conscious and complete writer. Sri K.P. Ramanunni said that Omcherry’s writings were profoundly relevant to society even today. Sri Omcherry’s daughter, Ms Deepti Omcherry Bhalla, spoke on the lesser known aspects of her father’s life. In his Keynote Address, Sri V.P. Joy called Omcherry the “Acharya” of Malayalam drama. He further said that whenever Omcherry wanted to speak the truth, he resorted to pen a drama, soaked amply in humour.

The Dramatic Universe of Omcherry

The second session on “The Dramatic Universe of Omcherry” was chaired by Sri Sabu Kottukkal. From the chair Sri Sabu Kottukkal threw light on the yeoman service of Omcherry as a social activist. He also observed the characteristics of a good playwright, all of which Omcherry possessed, and his use of humour to represent his resentment towards the hypocrisy of society. Sri Babu Panicker spoke of the social contributions Omcherry made, including opening multiple schools and social aid work. He also highlighted Omcherry’s contributions to the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan during his tenure as its Principal. Sri Madhavan Kutty dwelt on the humanism of Omcherry’s dramatic works. The political instability of post-Independence India



Participants of the second session

inspired his creativity. Sri Ravindran Manoddi focused on the political undertones in Omcherry’s plays.

Omcherry-A Cultural Icon and Mother Tongue Advocate



Participants of the third session

The third session on “Omcherry-A Cultural Icon and Mother Tongue Advocate” was commenced with Sri A. J Philip, an eminent journalist, in the chair. Introducing Pillai to the audience, he said the author was not a mere wordsmith. He was a social activist who led from the front. As a champion of language, he was instrumental in the opening of Kerala Schools that are dotted in the NCR-Delhi region. Sri Aneish Rajan dwelt on the two dimensions of “Omcherry’s Art and Activism”. Omcherry was a product of the formation of the nation not only in terms of literature, but also in the blossoming of theatre art. His plays were contemporary and moved with the times on subjects that were relevant and related to the socio-political scenario of the times. He observed that all indigenous forms of theatre may not suit for presentation of drama. He, therefore, amalgamated the traditional with the contemporary to produce

a unique form that blended with the presentation of his plays.

Sri K. Sashi Kumar spoke on “Omcherry’s Cultural Legacy – Contributions and Impact”. He highlighted his pivotal role in promoting, protecting and propagating Malayalam beyond the boundaries of India. The Mission is recognised by the Government of Kerala, and had spread to 64 countries across the globe.

Omcherry’s contributions to the Malayalam mother-tongue Movement were monumental, said Sri N.B. Sudheer Nath, a renowned cartoonist, writer and columnist. Omcherry’s life in Delhi spanned over seven decades, yet he was deeply rooted to his home state and language. Concerned about the declining use of Malayalam among the children of expatriates, he played a crucial role in setting up language learning centres in Delhi.

21st Century-Indian Poetry: Multilingual Poets' Meet

This was chaired by Sri Mithesh Nirmohi. Sri Shrutakirti Dutta recited her poems in Bengali followed by their translations in English. Her poems highlighted fatherhood, loneliness and grief. Sri Sushil Begana recited his poems in Dogri and their translations in Hindi. His poems narrated daily struggles of ordinary people. He also recited a ghazal in translation. Ms Chitra Singh reflected feelings of belongingness to her poems. Sri Shaida Fayaz recited his poems in Kashmiri with their translations in English. His poems were basically focused on the friendship and separation. Sri



Participants during the programme

Waikhom Chingkheinganba recited his poems in both Hindi and English translations. His poems were about nature and river. Ms Nisha Dange recited poems and ghazals in Marathi as well as in Hindi, reflecting unhappiness on birth of a girl child in rural areas and

plight of females. Sri Chinmaye Hansdah Marandi recited translations of his poems in Hindi and English, highlighting essence of time. Sri P. Sakthivel recited English translation of his poems reflecting how to live in darkness.

Godavari Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Yuva Sahiti: Sparkling Dawn: Poetry Readings by Young Poets



Participants during the programme

This session was chaired by the eminent Konkani author, Melvyn Rodrigues. Sri Abhjeet Gogoi (Assamese), Ms Sansuma Khungur Boro (Bodo), Ms Renuka Ramanand (Kannada), Sri Aditya Davane (Marathi), Ms Paramba Shree Yogamaya (Sanskrit), Ms Sarojini Beshra (Santali), Ms

Subhashini Thota (Telugu) and Sri Jatinder Parwaaz (Urdu) recited their poems in their respective languages and also rendered their translations in Hindi or English. In his concluding remarks Sri Melvyn Rodrigues said that the modern poets are in search of truth and they all are shirking from the traditional way of poetry writing, thus, finding their own poetics. They are also introducing new metaphors with which they are enriching the poetical expressions.

Yuva Sahiti: Fresh Waves: Story Readings by Young Story Writers

The programme featured five young fiction writers from different Indian languages who read their short stories— Sri Shiv Kumar Rai (Hindi), Sri Hemant Aiya (Konkani), Ms Keithellakpam London (Manipuri), Sri Gurmeet Arif (Punjabi) and Sri Jayesh Sharma (Sindhi). The special characteristics of the short stories read in the session were that though the flavour of each and every language was there but all the authors were on the same



Participants during the programme

wave in weaving the narrative. Chairing the session eminent Marathi scholar, Sri Narendra B. Pathak appreciated the art of storytelling of these young

authors and expressed his hope that by listening to them one can feel guaranteed for the future of fiction writing in India.

Yuva Sahiti: Ascending Path: New Trends in Young Writing of India



Participants during the programme

Sri S. Mahadevan Thampi chaired the session. Sri Gagan Sandhu, the first speaker, recited his poetry in both Punjabi and Hindi. Sri N. Kanagarasu spoke about the aesthetics in Yuva Tamil poetry and inspirations behind it. He also recited his poems in Tamil. Ms Neelima V.S. Rao spoke about the new trends in different languages, especially Telugu. Sri Rahul Saini speaking about the commercial fiction in India said that we have started shunning western thoughts and coming back to our roots by exploring old myths

of our varied culture. Sri Vishal Pandey talked about the new trends in Hindi literature. In his concluding remarks Sri S. Mahadevan Thampi warned that though the social media has connected all but literature being published on these platforms is unedited and can be consumed as fast food, which is tasteless, unhealthy and doesn't touch the soul of the readers.

Yuva Sahiti: Fast Forward: Futuristic Writings by Young Writers

This session was devoted to fast forward-futuristic writings by young authors. The panelists included Sri Anil Pandey, Ms Basudhara Roy, Sri Debabrata Das, Sri Lalit Khambhayata, Sri S. Hareesh and Sri Soumyajit Sen. A varied of

concerns and futuristic approaches were discussed in the session. Panelists also talked about the apprehensions of authors and governing dispensation effecting the creative world. Chairing the session, renowned Assamese author and scholar, Sri Kula Saikia said that in the globalised world when people are

connected with each other through advanced communication modes, the authors are at the benefit too as they get much more subjects to write about. However, there are many hurdles in the thought process and he felt that contemporary time is very conducive for creativity.

Kaveri Sabhagar / 9 March 2025, New Delhi

Indian Poetry in Different Tongues



Participants during the programme

Sri Harekrushna Satapathy presiding over the session said that the event is similar to the Maha Kumbh Mela of Prayag. Here, too, there is an inexhaustible current of all the rivers. The poet participants

included during the session were Sri Pranay Phukan (Assamese), Sri Agni Rai (Bengali), Ms Priya Sarukkai Chhabria (English), Sri Rafiq Masoodi (Kashmiri), Ms Ambika Dutt (Rajasthani), Ms Mohini Hingorani (Sindhi), and Sri Rajendra

Kanojia (Hindi) who recited poems in their respective languages along with their translations. At the end of the programme, Sri Harekrushna Satapathy recited his poem based on the Kumbh Mela.

Moments in Time – Multilingual Short Story Readings

This session was chaired by noted Maithili storyteller, Smt. Bina Thakur. At the beginning, she read her Maithili story

“Nai Bandhai Hai” (Nahin Bandhungi) in Hindi. Sri Bitan Chakraborty (Bengali) read the story 'The Mask'; Ms Vadana Yadav (Hindi) read her story “Middle

Man”; Sri Sridharam (Maithili) read “Dharmakhata Kahani” in Hindi; and Sri Rajeev Prakash Sahir read the story “Dus Ka Teen Har Maal”.



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Pilgrimage in Modern Indian Literature

The session was presided over by Sri Rishi Raj, Chief Manager of Metro. He said that visits to pilgrimage sites provide an opportunity to understand each other's culture. Travels also add to our knowledge. He also said that travelling experiences should also be documented. Sri Hasit Mehta spoke on Modern Indian Literature on Gujarati pilgrimages. He highlighted the difference between tourism and pilgrimage. He also said that pilgrimage contributes significantly to the establishment of human values and the creation of literature on the intrinsic value of human life. Sri Ravindra Bembare said that pilgrimage has a great contribution in uniting a vast country like India. He described Pandharpur Wari in detail and mentioned that author, Deepa Mokashi, wrote a novel Dindi on this Wari. He said that pilgrimage promotes oneness and also leads to cultural exchange.



Participants during the programme

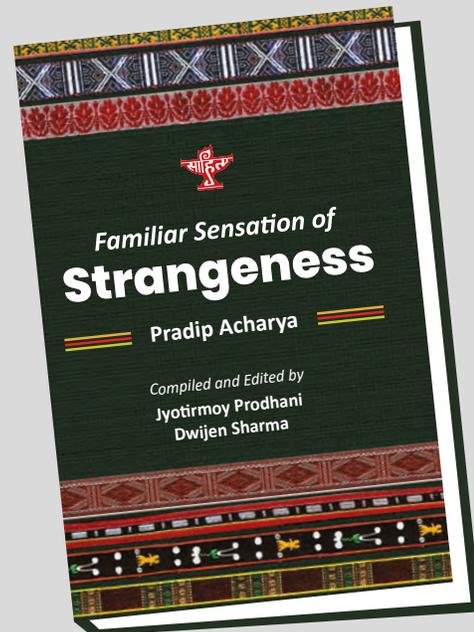
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10 March 2025, New Delhi

Ganga Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

Poetry Unbound: Multilingual Poets' Meet



Ms. Mridula Garg chairing the session

Ms Mridula Garg from the chair began the session by welcoming all the participant poets. Ms Aarthi Bellary recited her poems, 'Far away house in Himalayas',

'Letter', etc., and Ms Barnali Ray Shukla her poems, 'Dhanushkodi', 'Misunderstanding', etc. in English. Sri Anil Mishra recited his Hindi poems, 'Nahin pan Jat taro' and 'Anubhav'. Ms Smitha Sehgal recited some of her English poems including 'Red Husk' from her poetry collection, This is how women become poems in Malabar. Ms Jayashree Kambar recited her poems, 'Tears' and 'First rain'. Ms Dolly Tiku Arrwal sang a Kashmiri ghazal and presented its Hindi translation. Sri Sagar Tripathi recited ghazals in Hindustani and Sri Ashis Giri recited his poems in Bengali. Ms Mridula Garg while concluding the session pointed out that all the poems were beautiful but mostly gloomy, which is quite a reflection of the current times. She also recited her poem 'Daanbhiru'.

The Idea of "Nation" in Pre-Independence Indian Literature

Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma began the session with the idea of nationality being the essence of the nation. Ms Pankaj Mittal referred to the 'Bhakti Movement' and the literature written during the freedom movement era. She also spoke about Mahatama Gandhi's slogan of Unity in Diversity. Sri Shiv Kumar Rai spoke about the presence of the notion for love for nation in the Vedas. He also cited example from Vishnu Upanishad where the concept of Bharat exists. The Chair concluded the session saying that the young generation carries the responsibility of nationality. He also said that the concept of nationality is not geographical but cultural, which wishes good for all, the whole world. The session was followed by a question and answer session.



Sri Shiv Kumar Rai, Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma and Ms. Pankaj Mittal

Literature and Social Justice

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President of Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Justice Dipak Misra, the former Chief Justice of India, along with other eminent speakers on the dais. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, shared that it is for the first time that the Akademi during its Festival of Letters has organised a discourse on the topic of literature and social justice, and hoped for its success. Sri A. P. Maheshwari shared heart-wrenching incidences experienced during his services as a police officer which subsequently not only inspired but also compelled to bring them out in the shape of literature. Sri Mukul Kumar said



Sri Dipak Misra, Chief Justice of India chairing the session

literature is the conscience keeper of the society, one person's intense personal experiences have universal appeal. Sri Ashwani Kumar said that in the entire process of the rise of the novel over the centuries, one would find social-justice in the centre of it. Justice Dipak Mishra concluded the session by saying that literature works and affects the readers, and thus, serves the society in multiple long lasting ways. He quoted the works of great literary genius across the world, who made tremendous contributions on the issues of social injustice and how their writings consequently lead to great social revolutions.

Are Comics Literature?

The session was chaired by Ms Amruta Patil. Sri Savio Mascarenhas talked about joining Amar Chitra Katha as a young writer adjusting output through generations and the years of research that go into producing each volume. Sri Vikas Singh spoke about his comic's collection and the impact of mis-marketing on modern Hindi comics. Sri Sumit Kumar talked about writing humorous comics while navigating facts and humour even while writing about controversial topics. Sri Harsho Mohan Chattoraj spoke about balancing volume and technical artistry while also introducing comics as a vocation among children. Ms Raj



Participants during the programme

Kumari spoke about writing her brothers' story with honesty, which pressurized her to write it in her mother tongue. Ms Ikroop Sandhu spoke of maintaining nuanced complexity while writing about Bhagat Singh, and presenting a new perspective on his story as a woman. Sri Bharat Venkatesh Murthy talked about the influence of Japanese comic styles on his work and his publishing house creating a dialogue between Indian and Japanese comics. Sri Aniruddha Sen Gupta spoke about his quarterly "Comixense" and navigating large collaborative projects. He also talked about including politics in their stories and navigating parental critiques. The Chair deliberated on the talks of all the participants in the end.

Brahmaputra Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

Our Story, Tales to Tell: Multilingual Story Readings



Participants during the programme

This session which was chaired by Smt. Mamta Kalia, a well-known Hindi fiction writer and poet, began with the Bengali story, "Koruna Dhara Shor" read in English translation by Sri Arunoday Saha. The second story, "Laukhar Omkham Jahenayav" was read in Bodo by Sri Hagkhyar Uzir. The third story was read in English translation by Ms Mona Lisa Jena, the fourth story, "Sandhya" was read in Hindi translation by Sri Bhagwan Atlani and the last story "Portrait" was read in Hindi by Sri Tariq Chhatari. Smt. Mamta Kalia in her concluding remarks said that stories have ample power to represent one's problems, anguish and struggles of daily life and it is from there that literature begins. Literature has the power to transform darkness into light.

What We See, We Weave Magic: Multilingual Poetry Readings

The session featured poetry recitations by eminent poets like Sri Akbar Ahmad (Bengali), Sri B.L. Gaur (Hindi), Smt. Asha Mukhia Lama (Nepali), Smt. Pravasini Mahakud (Odia), Sri Mohan Himthani (Sindhi), Sri Goret Venkanna (Telugu), and Sri Aslam Hassan (Urdu) who recited their poems in their respective languages along with their translations in English/Hindi. In the end, distinguished Kannada poet and former President of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Chandrashekhar Kambar, while chairing the session,



Participants during the programme

recited his poems in English "Two Trees", "Mirror" and "The Character I Created". Concluding the session, he said, "We Weave Magic' is a sentence

very close to my writings, folklore has been my second language".

Theatre as a Reflection of Changing Indian Society

At the beginning of the session, Sri Atamjit as the Chair said that the subject deals with how theatre addresses contemporary realities. There is a gradual change in the youth, in the women, as well as in the issues of national integration, lifestyle and technological advancements which is well reflected in the modern theatre. Sri D. Vizai Bhaskar while particularly emphasizing on Telugu theatre, also spoke about Natyashastra which is a true reflection of Indian society. He also added that theatre served as a reflection of society right from Kalidas. Sri Rajen Toijamba dealt with the history of theatre. He said that the roots of Indian theatre can be traced back to ancient times and the origin of modern Indian theatre can be found in Bengali theatre. Sri Amitabh Srivastava opened up saying old plays like "Andha Yug", "Adhe Adhure" have been relevant in the past are being staged even today. Theatre is a mirror of society, he added. Sri Satish



Participants during the programme

Verma opined that it is difficult to tell whether theatre is a reflection of society or a speculation. Theatre is like a wave which remains in the mind and not on the stage. Sri Arjun Deo Charan quoting from Tantrashastra and Atharvaveda stressed that there is a change in society, the reflection is well prevalent and the theatre reflects this change. Sri Waman Kendre said that anything which happens at a time is contemporary to that period and is bound to change. To understand a society one needs to watch its theatre.

What Makes Specific Stories as Timeless Tales

Sri Vivek Shanbagh as Chair began the session with his opening remarks, "It is the tongue which goes back to the wounded tooth, we go back to the literary works as they fire our imagination". Smt. Vartika Nanda said that silence is the biggest story, what the eyes see is also a story. Each person has a story and every person is a story. Smt. Shubha Sharma opined that a story which forces to think, disturbs, connects and makes curious about what next seems to be a timeless tale. Sri P. Raja while differentiating between a story and a tale asserted that folktales are eternal stories in contrast to the modern stories. Smt. Paramita Satapathy expressing the characteristics of the timeless tales said that the stories which do not satisfy curiosity and remain connected with the readers, keep moving from generation to generation. Sri Ashwani Kumar wondered as to how to think about conceptually as to the timelessness of a story? The story should be



Participants during the programme

filled with aesthetic material and needs an aura to become universal. Smt. Manisha Kulshreshtha spoke about four stories including O Henry's "The Last Leaf" where the protagonist dies to save his beloved's life. Relating further, she said, that stories which makes us love or hate or want us to change climax are the stories beyond the boundaries of time and space.

Narmada Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

**Face to Face
Sahitya Akademi Award Winners 2024 in
conversation with eminent writers/scholars**

Sahitya Akademi Awardees 2024 were in conversation with eminent scholars in different genres, bringing the audience closer to the lesser-known facets of the paths traversed by them that brought them to limelight. Those who participated in the tete-a-tete were:



Sameer Tanti (Awardee in Assamese) and Dinkar Kumar

Sameer traced his baby steps in his journey as a poet, beginning with his first attempt when in sixth grade in school, to the political turmoil in his home state in his youth, as a government deputed official to note changes in implementation of policies in the late 1980s. He revealed that, in fact, the award-winning work was drawn from the diary notings of his observations of that period.

K. Jayakumar (Awardee in Malayalam) and P. Krishnanunni

Intrigued by the 12-year hiatus of Jayakumar from the Literary World, and coming back with a bang, Krishnanunni wanted to know the reasons. Jayakumar said that he felt a slow estrangement from social bonding due to his official status as a civil servant. He wanted to re-discover himself, find his humaneness and read more to write again.



Gagan Gill (Awardee in Hindi) and Anjum Sharma

Gill read a couple of poems from her award-winning collection of poems, Mai Jab tak aayee Baahar... One of the poems, 'Iss Tarah Aap Khol Tee Hai Langar' touched a raw nerve in the hearts of the listeners. On being asked if translations can catch the latent emotions, as in the original text, Gill felt that the emotions could be caught in other Indian languages, but not in English, as basically, all Indian languages spring from one fountain-head of Indianness.





Dileep Jhaveri (Awardee in Gujarati) with Komal Vora

A physician by profession, Jhaveri forayed into literary world simultaneously. Curiously, though regularly writing since early academic years, suddenly he took a decision to go into a shell for 15 years. Answering for his deliberate disappearance, he said that he wanted to read more, listen to music, view paintings for understanding himself better. Ultimately, he said, he understood that poetry or art were entities beyond definition, but they required multiple experiences for expanding one’s consciousness.

A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Awardee in Tamil) and D.I. Aravindan

To a poser from Aravindan as to the role of imagination in history and literature, Venkatachalapathy said that imagination was central to any writing, historical or literary; the two were not antithetical to each other. He insisted that anachronism would creep in if historians did not read literature.



Poetry: The Mirror of Soul – Poets’ Meet



Sri Mrityunjay Singh chairing the session

In the Chair was Mrityunjay Singh, an IPS officer of 1987 batch, who marched in the parallel world of Hindi poetry with equal elan. Participants were Mahua Sen who read her poem in English ‘When Did You Feel Married?’, followed by Suja K. Menon’s reading verses on Love-Wine, Day-Night, etc. Kanji Patel, a Gujarati poet showcased his multilingual prowess in reading poetry in Hindi ‘Birsa ke Bhandu’ and English ‘Ram-Ravan’. Aditya Srivastava read a poem in Hindi on

the life of a married woman. Mita Das’ ‘Jallad ke Aansoo’ dwelt on the unseen and unfelt agony and tears of an Executioner; it brought the audience to tears. Her other poems in Hindi were on ‘Corona’ and ‘Bastar aur Bastaria’. Anita Thampi read two poems in Malayalam, ‘Kachapadi’ and ‘Pretam’, and their translated versions in English. Surya Mishra read a poem in Oriya, followed by one in English. Mrityunjay Singh, who was in Chair, summed up the different hues presented by the poets, and concluded with his own in Hindi.

Krishna Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

National Seminar on “Indian Literary Traditions: Heritage and Evolution”



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary; Sri Makarand Paranjape; Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sri Sukanta Chaudhuri

The National Seminar on “Indian Literary Traditions: Heritage and Evolution” began on the fourth day of the Festival of Letters. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, and Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, were joined by Sri Sukanta Chaudhuri and Sri Makarand Paranjape for the inaugural session.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao began the session with his welcome address, where he highlighted the evolution of Indian literary works from the varied ancient literatures, to the rise of Dalit and women’s writings in the 20th century and the modern expansion into new genres and the impact

of translation in bringing out works from vernaculars to the new readers. In his inaugural address, Sri Sukanta Chaudhuri talked about the need for a wider scope of thought to engage with the extent and variety of Indian literature. He expanded on the concept of evolution in literature and emphasized the timeless nature of literature, where every work of the past is capable of being rediscovered in the present. He called heritage a dynamic entity evolving in the present. Keynote speaker, Sri Makarand Paranjape talked about the concept of an Indian Renaissance. He highlighted the many threats to the flourishing of literary culture in modern India and emphasized the need to move forward

from the glorification of the past to new creations and forward movement to contend with the myriad challenges faced by literature in the present day. Sri Madhav Kaushik in his presidential address spoke of the impact of revisiting literature encountered earlier in life. He stated that Indian literature is based on compassion and humanity. He also acknowledged the continued influence of oral traditions in India and highlighted the importance of literature beyond literacy. He concluded with a call to move forward by embracing but not dwelling on the past.

The first session on “Indian Drama: Defining Excellence” was chaired by



Sri Arjun Deo Charan chairing the session

Sri Arjun Deo Charan. Sri Abhiram Bhadkamkar in his speech introduced the evolution of Indian classical drama in Sanskrit. He highlighted the movement of theatre from an elite to a more socially representative art form engaging with emotions that speak to everyone. He also highlighted the fact that though contemporary thought necessitates moral lessons in stories, it is more important to impart an understanding of people through theatre. Sri C. Rajendran talked about the diversification of Indian theatre during the medieval period through the lens of the Koodiyattam Theatrical Tradition in Kerala that is the sole witness of a completely extinct form of Sanskrit theatre. He talked about the musicality of the productions, their staging within temples and their intricate relationships with rituals as a part of the performance. A lot of the changes Koodiyattam

went through were during the medieval period, he added. Sri Chittaranjan Tripathy spoke on the present state and future of Indian drama. He said that the present generation is reluctant to engage with ancient Indian theory like the *Natyashastra*. There is a need to expand civil consciousness from purely political activism to cultural activism and to engage with the cultural and artistic history of the country. Concluding the session, the Chair highlighted the importance of understanding historical contributions to storytelling and theory to continue developing an Indian theatrical tradition.

The second session on “The Origins: Ancient Indian Literature” was chaired by Ms Indrani Sanyal. Sri Govindaswamy Rajagopal spoke on Tamil Sangam literature which consists of 18 literary works, 8 anthologies and 10 songs. He explained the kind of themes explored in these works, and the poetic convention of not naming human characters. He

also examined the construction of Sangam love poetry and their relationship with the environment and geography. The Chair, Ms Indrani Sanyal, spoke on the Upanishads and Puranas through examining the work and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo as present in his book, *The Life Divine*. She also talked about how Sri Aurobindo’s training in Britain influenced him in terms of rational thought, whereas Indian philosophy prioritises revelation rather than rationality.

Ms Rita Kothari chaired the third session on “Anuvada: Translation in India”. She said that in the translation scenario of India there are literary and non-literary works. Ms Mini Chandran gave reference from the Malayalam text *Harinamakirthanam* by Ezuthachan. She spoke about Aurobindo’s anxiety about the texts which were being translated by the European scholar Max Mueller, when he worried about the worthiness of the recipient of the original work. Sri Manu V. Devadevan through his teaching experience cited instances where the translation was honest but the cultural difference either ruined or changed the interpretation altogether. Sri Sayantan Dasgupta said it is the diversity of the Indian languages that makes translation necessary and exciting as well. Ms Rita Kothari concluded the session by speaking about the anxiety of the recipients who would be able to understand the seriousness and magnitude of the work of translation they were receiving.

To be continued...

Godavari Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

Multilingual Short Story Readings



Participants during the programme

Ms Nidhi Aggarwal (Hindi) -“Hansiya Chand”; Ms Rupa Keni (Konkani) -‘Pukar’; Sri Dilip B. Patil (Marathi) -‘Palanhaar’; and Ms Shakuntala Paliwal (Rajasthani) -‘Kesar Ki Chhore’, carrying the colours of their regional cultures and traditions, in their respective languages along with their translations in Hindi/English. In his concluding remarks, Sri R. Thamotharan said that these stories were a blend of traditional oral forms, emerging digital platforms and diverse themes, personal experiences and magical realism with focus on representation and decolonization.

This session was chaired by Sri R. Thamotharan, well-known Tamil fiction writer. The participants who read their stories were Ms Nijira Mushahary (Bodo) -‘Shuruaat’;

Poetry Readings by Young Poets

In this session the poets who participated included Sri Abhirup Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), Sri Kumar Harsh and Ms Shivangi Sinha (both English), Ms Priti Jaiswal (Hindi), Sri Devdas Mairambam (Manipuri), Ms Subhashree Subhasmita Mishra (Odia), Ms Simran Aks (Punjabi) and Sri Asad Ali Asad (Urdu). Chairing the session eminent Urdu poet, Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal, commented that contemporary poetry engages with western modernist movements like imagism and surrealism adapting these influences with form and language. He was of the view that modern poetry often delved into the inner workings of the human mind, employing techniques, like multiple perspectives and unreliable narration to reflect the complexities of human experience.



Participants during the programme

Homeland (India) in Diaspora Writings

This session was chaired by Sri Rituparna Suresh, eminent Hindi poet. Sri Anil G. Joshi, Dr A.J. Thomas, Sri Divik Ramesh, Sri Maalan, Ms Mridul Kirti and Sri Manmohan spoke about the nostalgia and love for homeland in the literature of the languages they belong to. All the panellists expressed the similar thoughts that in diaspora writings, diaspora is a complex and often contested space, serving as a source of identity, nostalgia and a point of connection for writers who lived in far reaches of their native land. Sri Suresh Rituparna in his concluding remarks said that homeland is often seen as the sense of identity, presenting a sense of roots and belonging. The authors frequently grapple with the emotional impact of leaving their homeland.



Participants during the programme

Writing as a Medium of Self-Expression and Social Change

This session was chaired by Sri Chittaranjan Mishra. The panellists in the session were Sri Bijayananda Singh, Sri Indushekhar Tatpurush, Sri Jayendra Sinh Jadav, Sri M.C. Abdul Nazar, Sri Niranjana Dev Bharadwaj and Sri Sanjeev Paliwal.

The speakers were of the view that through its ability to address social issues, challenge norms and create apathy, literature has the potential to drive social change and foster a more inclusive and understanding world. In his concluding remarks, Sri Chittaranjan Mishra said that people

decide with emotion and justify with effects. Authors express their inner soul and also the real happenings of the world in which they reside, and thus, the literature created by them conveys emotion and catalyse action. It's action that is required for social change.

Kaveri Sabhagar / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

Multilingual Short Story Readings

This session was chaired by Sri Khalid Hussain, a bilingual fiction writer in Punjabi and Urdu. Sri Atanu Bhattacharya (Assamese) read out the English translation of a

singer's story "Raghunath Wear Your Clothes"; Ms Yojna Rawat (Hindi) read her story "Mera Pata Likh Lijiye"; Sri Satyanarayana Soni (Rajasthani) read the Hindi translation of his story "Emoji"; Sri Vempalle Shareef (Telugu)

read the English translation of his story "Crippled World"; and Sri Saifi Sironji read his Urdu story "Haaji Saheb". Sri Khalid Hussain discussed all the stories in the end.

Ensemble of Image, Rhythm and Beauty: Multilingual Poetry Readings

The session was chaired by Sri A. Krishna Rao. He said that poets are weird human beings who think differently from the ordinary people. Anything and everything distracts them to write poetry. The session featured a diverse group of poets, including Sri Anand Kumar Singh, Sri Pawan Kumar, Sri Vivek Chaturvedi, and Sri Vivek Kumar Gautam (all Hindi), Ms Poornima Suresh (Kannada), Ms Sukraj Diyali (Nepali), Sri Manorama Biswal Mohapatra (Odia), and Sri Amit Goswami (Urdu). Each poet recited their poems in their native languages, followed by translations in Hindi or English.



Participants during the programme

Challenges in Translating Literary Works among Culturally Disparate Languages

The programme was chaired by Sri Sumanyu Satpathy. He said that it is very difficult to translate literature of Indian languages into English because of the differences between cultures. He also spoke about his initial experiences of translation in Odia. Ms Kirti Ramachandran said that a translator acts as a bridge, a pathway to another culture. The translation process reveals the translator's connection with the original text.

Sri Mukunda Ramarao said that every literary work, when translated, takes a new form, sometimes it gets recreated. Sri Rajendra Prasad Mishra spoke about the challenges faced in translating from Odia to Hindi and shared his experiences of the challenges faced by him in many Odia works and their solutions. Sri Rana Nayar said, "Translation is a challenge due to the disparity of languages. When I translate from Punjabi to English, I have to take care of everything". Sri

Ranjit Saha said that translation is a cursed genre. It is a parasitic genre. We have not been able to establish its independent status or authority. There are many challenges in translating, but we are not able to please the reader. Mr Zameerpal Kaur Sandhu Bajwa made the audience aware of the difficulties faced in translating from Punjabi and the technical problems.

Straight from the Heart: Multilingual Poetry Readings

Sri Buddhinath Mishra as chair began the session by reciting 'Muktak', a form of poetry. The poignant poetry session witnessed eight talented poets sharing their heartfelt creations in their native languages, followed by translations in Hindi and English. The participating poets were: Ms Abha Bodhisattva, Sri Deepak Pakhare, Sri Rajendra Upadhyay, and Sri Siya Sharan (all Hindi), Ms Gayatribala Panda (Odia), Ms Sanskriti Mishra (Maithili), Sri Rajendra Bhimsingh Rathod (Marathi), and Sri Vinaiyan (Tamil).



Participants during the programme

Meghdoot Open Air Theatre / 10 March 2025, New Delhi

Cultural Event: Dastan-e-Mahabharata

As a part of the ongoing series of cultural events, during the Festival of Letters, Sahitya Akademi hosted a Dastangoi, "Dastan-e-Mahabharata", which was a unique and mesmerising storytelling performance, scripted and directed by Sri Danish Iqbal and performed by the renowned Dastangoi performer duo, Fouzia Dastango and Ritesh Yadav.

Dastangoi is an ancient art form of oral storytelling in Urdu that originated in Persia. The word "dastangoi" comes from the Persian words dastan, which means "tale", and goi, which means "to tell a tale".



Dr. K. Sreenivasrao, Secretary and Sri Madhav Kaushik, President with the artists

11 March 2025, New Delhi

Ganga Sabhagar / 11 March 2025, New Delhi

Myths & Legends of North Eastern and Eastern India



Participants during the programme

Dr Jiwan Namdung spoke on the myths and legends of Kanchenjunga range of the Himalayas. He shared the local lores and legends among the locals of Darjeeling considering the ranges as being the abode of Lord Shiva. Ms Mimi Kevichusa Ezung read her paper about the various myths and lores existing amongst the 17 tribes of Nagaland. Sri Satyakam Borthakur said that unlike the myths and legends of the rest of the country, the folks and legends of North-East are composed in verse, filled with dramatic expressions as also ritualistic beliefs and practices. He said even with the religious transformation the area experienced, the folk narratives remained unchanged. Ms Swagatika

Swain spoke on the 15th century saint poet Sarala Das, who is revered as the first poet of Odisha. She shared that Sarala Das created adaptations of Mahabharata, Vilanka Ramayana, and Chandi Puran, and embedded the local elements in them. It also helped those who didn't know Sanskrit. Sri Anil Boro, as Chair, concluded the session by speaking in detail about the myths and legends prevalent within various tribes all over the North-East India. He also pointed out towards the presence of origin myth exclusively pertaining to a region. The session was followed by a question and answer session.

The Idea of Bharat



Participants during the programme

Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi chaired the session. Sri Janhwij Sharma spoke about the preserved archaeological sites found in India. He also shared about the evidences which have been found outside India in countries like Oman, Thailand and Cambodia which is evident about the exchanges existing between ancient

civilizations. Sri Y. L. Srinivas said that the primary objective of education in ancient India was to inculcate value and morality. He said that there is a need to bring back that system of inculcating values for teaching soft skills to students. Sri Mrityunjay Singh while asserting India as a political-geographical entity, cited references from Veda, Puranas and Upanishads. He said that the idea of Bharat emanated from the emotion which was already present in ancient scribes. The readings were followed by a question and answer session. Prof. Sachchidanand Joshi concluded the session by saying that the idea of Bharat is an emotional entity, this idea has risen from the emotion of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. 'Rashtra' is a living entity which originates from 'Bhav'.

Shared Spaces between Literature & other Art Forms



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary; Sri M K Raina, Sri Jatin Das, Sri P S Sreedharan Pillai, Hon'ble Governor of Goa; Sri Madhav Kaushik; Sri Sundeep Bhutoria and Sri Sanjay K. Roy

Hon'ble Governor of Goa, Sri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai chaired the session. Ms Ranjana Chopra said that all the allied forms of arts are complimentary to each other and help the recipient to understand one form with the help of another. Sri Jatin Das advocated for an all-inclusive approach while imparting the education of art. He said that an overall approach gives a complete idea to the students.

Sri M.K. Raina shared his experiences during his work in theatre as a director and actor and cited incidences where one form of art became a great carrier for a meaningful showcase of the other. Sri Sanjay K. Roy said that the meaning of art is having the possibility of an original idea. Most of the ideas in any art form are borrowed from some other art forms. Sri Sundeep Bhutoria cited reference from diverse art forms across India like Tikuli and Madhubani of Bihar, Pattchitra of

Southern India and illustrated how these arts adorn the literature of epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana. Hon'ble Governor of Goa, P.S. Sreedharan Pillai said a writer writes for the common people and not to appease the ruler or the government. He said that a common reader is the rightful judge of a work of creativity, may it be literary, visual, expressive or any other form of art.

Poetry Unbound: Multilingual Poet's Meet

Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam chaired the session. Ms Trina Chakraborty recited one of her Bengali poem with its English translation, 'When we have not seen each other for ages'. Ms. Neha Bansal recited her English poems, 'Yashodha', 'Unwed Mothers', 'Six of Cups', 'Good Old Doordarshan', 'Vasudhaiva Kumtambakam' from her poetry collection, Herstork. Sri Jyoti Krishan Verma recited his short and crisp and deeply philosophical poems, 'Lakshay', 'Sochata Hun', 'Prateeksha' Raahgeer', 'Ankhon Mein Tumharai', 'Vidambana' 'Mulakat' and 'Kuchh Nahin'. Sri Laxmi Shankar Bajpai recited his Hindi poems 'Purane Din',



Participants during the programme

'Ghure ke bhi din badalte hain' as also a ghazal. Sri Mahesh Garg joined through online mode.

that whether women are writing what they think? Smt. Nitu said, "When we talk about man as a hunter, we forget about woman as a gatherer or woman as a nurturer". History was written by man, it is his story, not the story of a woman, she added. Smt. Samragnee Bandyopadhyay dealt comprehensively with feminist history across different eras primarily focussing on Bengali literature. She said that even epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana

are men-centric. The works of Qurratulain Hyder, Nayantara Sehgal, among many others, celebrates feminism. Smt. Sarabjeet Kaur Sohal said that a woman in her efforts to live dies every moment. Women welfare is much talked about as a topic but actually her situation is deteriorating. Gurunanak Dev has acknowledged the supremacy of women. Smt Sarojini Sahoo said that feminism helps to achieve gender equality and talks about every right to live respectfully with equal opportunities. Smt.

Shaista Ahmad opined that the male authors need to be uplifted to uplift feminism. There poetry expresses women but the women are suppressed. She wondered whether one can imagine literature without women? Smt. Ranu Uniyal said that Indian feminism is not a parody of western feminism. It is not just about responsibilities it is also about rights. The power of pen has carved a niche for the women writers, she admitted.

What Poetry Means to Me?



Participants during the programme

The session began with Smt. Lakshmi Kannan's remark that it is difficult to tell why a writer chose to write poetry. Poetry find readers on its own and is worth it, she felt. Poetry is like a prayer for her, she added. Sri Madan Kashyap said that poetry stands to him as searching the meaning of life. It

centres around human beings and their lives. Replying to what poetry does, he said it enriches one's experiences, deepens understanding and expands the scope of imagination. Smt. Varsha Das said that poetry is the art of the ear and the mother-tongue of the heart. She said that she loved reading poems on nature, humanity, relationships and

was shaken by wars and turmoil, and relived emotional expressions by penning down poems. Smt. Lakshmisree Banerjee said that the essence of poetry is the intercourse, the integration of the inner-self and the outer-self. Poetry is the genesis of all literary creations and is a divine inspiration. Sri Karuna Shankar Upadhyay said that poetry for him is a recreation of life and universe. Poetry is a medium of eradicating darkness from human life. Smt. Ambika Anant opened up with syllables and words that makes poetry and said that as a poet she handles the words with care. For her, poetry is a medium that allows one to travel unhindered. Sri Jerry Pinto as chair summed-up the vibrant discussions of all the panellist in the end and suggested reading poems to encounter much more interesting dreams.

Narmada Sabhagar / 11 March 2025, New Delhi

Me, My Heroes & My Villains: Mythological Characters in Society

The session was chaired by Smt. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, albeit online. Sri Mayank Kumar Agrawal said that he was inspired to dwell into mythology in his writings, mainly inspired by his father, who was a Sanskrit scholar. ‘Mythology’ may have been derived from the word ‘Myth’, which may indicate to an element of ‘Untruth’. However, while the basic facts of the story-line may have actually happened, the layers of narrative shrouding the facts might make it look unreal. Sri Dheeraj Bhatnagar felt that no character in epics was completely perfect – as it is believed that when God took human form, he had



Participants during the programme

imbibed in him both good and not-so-good qualities. There were shades of grey in every character, whether Hero or the Villain. On the other hand, Smt. Anuja Chandramouli hero-worshipped Arjuna, the renowned archer of the epic Mahabharata. According to Sri Yugal Joshi, there was but a thin line that demarcates Myth-History-Facts.

In any period of time, there were traces of the heroes and villains of mythology in humanity. Summing up, Smt. Divakaruni, revealed that in the books penned by her, she tried to project the perspective of the central women characters in the epics.

Madhur Kokila: Poetry Readings by North East and Northern Poets

The session which was chaired by Smt. Sagari Chhabra featured six eminent poets, each reading three poems: Sri Amarjit Kaunke (Punjabi), Sri Thaneswar Goyary (Bodo), Smt. Ranjeeta Srivastava (Hindi), Sri Qasim Khursheed (Urdu), Sri Padam Dev Singh (Dogri) and Sri Sanjay Purohit (Rajasthani). All the poets recited poems in their respective languages along with



Participants during the programme

their translations in Hindi/English. Smt. Sagari Chhabra concluded the session by reciting her poems

“Homework”, “Ode to a Tree”, and “Keeper of Memoirs”.

was chaired by Sri H.S. Shivaprakash. Sri Om Dwivedi spoke on the relationship between dharma and climate change. He highlighted the importance of reading and critique as a way to restructure destructive ideologies and reshape the future while still remediating the past. Sri T.S. Krishnan talked about the importance of Dharma literature in the modern world. He mentioned social problems like stress, crime and environmental degradation due to the new sedentary lifestyle that is aided by technology and highlighted how 'Dharmic' texts engage with such problems and provide an ideological framework to deal with them. He called for a strong social support system instead of hyper-individualism, a prioritization of skills and ethics and a respect for the environment. The Chair then welcomed questions from the audience during which each speaker took the chance to elaborate on their presentations. The Chair talked about the meaning of the word Dharma, something that literature is always striving to understand. He emphasized that the modern impulse to use certain isolated aspects of Dharma as the absolute truth and conflating it with religion displays a fundamental misunderstanding of the concept.

The sixth session on "Medieval Bhakti Literature: Force of Unity" was chaired by Sri Surya Prasad Dixit. Ms Sudha Seshayyan focused her talk on the South Indian Bhakti landscape, exploring the works of the saint poets working in Tamil, Kannada and

Telugu. She highlighted the lyrical beauty, philosophical depth and the plethora of spiritual insights, and emphasized Bhakti poetry's focus on personal devotion and the rejection of ritualistic practices. She said that Bhakti literature serves as an impetus for spiritual awakening. Ms. K.K. Geethakumary examined how Kalidasa interprets and represents the concept of Dharma in his works. She focused on how the concept of Dharma evolved over time, as well as what it says about polity and ethics, how it interacts with nature and how it is at times weakened to serve selfish motives. She remarked on the poet's success in navigating the complexities of Dharma. Sri Pradeep Jyoti Mahanta talked about Bhakti as a unifying force during the age of the Upanishads. He characterized Bhakti movement as a consecutive series of movements across different regions all of which adopted their local languages, reaching out to the common people and aiming at bringing spiritual unity in society. The Chair talked about the polymorphic history of Indian thought as a result of Indic polytheism. He said that a big drive for the Bhakti movement was to promote unity as a reaction to attempts to sow discord among people due to these differences. He mentioned passages from Bhakti poetry that directly speak against social divisions.

The seventh session titled "Nari Chetnam: Efflorescence of Women's Writing" was chaired by Ms Malashri Lal. She emphasized the significance of the ongoing cultural dialogues that have marked the growth of women's presence in literature and that the richness of the multicultural and multilingual country

is unique and each such association views women's writing through a different lens. Ms Garima Srivastava focused on the modern landscape of women's writing in India. She acknowledged how modern women's writings in various Indian languages is representing a new side of femininity unrestricted to themes of domesticity. At the same time, it is hard to break beyond the categorization of 'women's writing'. She outlined the works and contributions of women writers from the 1970s onwards and expounded on feminist and women's works from many Indian languages, communities and forms of writing. M.S. Asha Devi presented on medieval women's writings, calling for an alternative way to view history that decentres the male experience. She talked about the splitting of women's identities into different roles in the context of the Bhakti movement. She acknowledged medieval women writers as torchbearers of feminism and highlighted their progressive work and the use of the body as a form of protest. Ms Jay Saha presented on women writing in Ancient Indian literature and how women's domestic identity was prioritized. She highlighted the lack of conservation of literature by women as compared to works by men. She also provided names of influential women mentioned in Vedic literature and the differences in their philosophies as influenced by their feminine experiences.



NEW DELHI

Godavari Sabhagar / 11 March 2025, New Delhi

Birth Centenary Seminar on Mohan Rakesh



(L-R) Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Sri Jaydeo Taneja, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Sri Govind Mishra, Sri Anupam Tiwari and Sri Vaibhav Singh

On 11 March 2025, the fifth day of Sahitya Akademi's Annual Festival of Letters, Mohan Rakesh was remembered on the occasion of birth centenary. In his welcome address, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, described Mohan Rakesh's personality as multifaceted and emphasized the need to reevaluate his writings. Govind Mishra, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, stated in his introductory remarks that Rakesh was the first playwright whose plays meet the standards of theatre in every sense. Jaydev Taneja, renowned Hindi theatre critic, while delivering the keynote address remarked that



Sri Devendra Raj Ankur chairing the session

Rakesh is perhaps the most exposed writer in Hindi literature. He also addressed many myths constructed around Rakesh, noting that he was the first to bestow a dignified image upon the Hindi playwright. In his presidential

address, Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, stressed on the point that rather than focusing on Rakesh's personality one should read and discuss his writings.

While presiding over the session

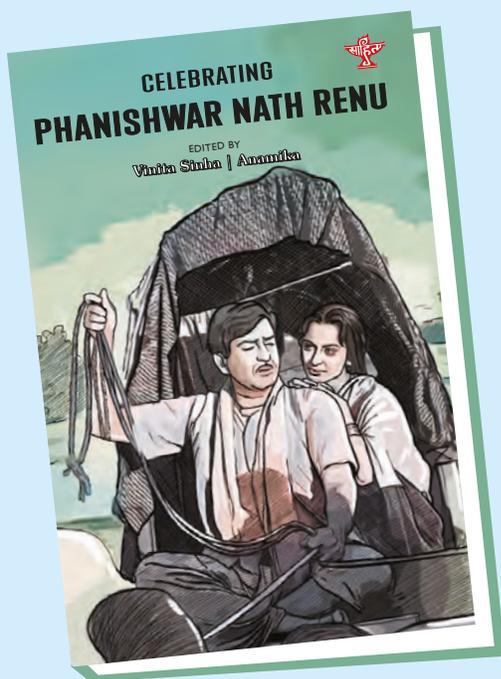
on ‘Mohan Rakesh’s Dramatic Literature’, M.K. Raina said that Rakesh captured the soul of theatre and transformed its language. Ashish Tripathi said that Rakesh approached his plays like a designer. The language of his plays opens new possibilities for actors to enhance their performances. In the session on ‘Mohan Rakesh’s Fiction’, presided over by Devendra Raj Ankur, Ajit Rai, Shambhu Gupta, and Vaibhav Singh shared their insights. Shambhu Gupta said that Rakesh’s fiction reflects the reality of ordinary life. Ajit Rai criticized some of Rakesh’s plays as being anti-women in today’s context and suggested separating his personal



Sri M K Raina, chairing the session

life from his literary work. Vaibhav Singh considered Rakesh a complete writer and noted that he always feared institutional acceptance. Devendra Raj Ankur concluded by stating that

Mohan Rakesh’s personality and literature were one and the same. In his plays, he narrated stories and portrayed many parts of his own life realistically.



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Kathasandhi: Jitendra Bhatia



Sri Jitendra Bhatia reading out his story

A Kathasandhi programme with eminent Hindi fiction writer, Sri Jitendra Bhatia was organised as part of the annual Festival of Letters 2025. Before reading his short story, Sri Jitendra Bhatia spoke about his literary journey. He told the audience that he began writing his travel experiences; spent his childhood in Kolkata and started writing about the city, its various places of interest and its culture. He also wrote about the streets of Lahore without personally experiencing the place physically. With these writings he started writing in other genres, but his travel experiences of Jaipur and Mumbai brought maturity to his pen. He also shared some of the important incidents of his life and then read his short story, 'Amarnath ki Maa' in Hindi. The subject of the story was weaved around the partition of 1947, and thus, contained the pain of the time when people were made homeless and murdered mercilessly by the mob.

Kaveri Sabhagar / 11 March 2025, New Delhi

Tasty Sound: Poetry Readings by North East and Southern Poets

Sri N. Kirankumar Singh, a renowned Manipuri poet and lyricist, chaired a poignant poetry reading session. From the chair he said, “all the emotions, feelings, thoughts, happiness, sadness, etc., are expressed in the form of poetry. Literature is what connects people. We are here not only to appreciate the words but also to understand their worldview”. Finally, he recited two of his Manipuri poems “Frozen Tears” and “Laments on the Graveyard” in English and Hindi. Six talented poets then took the stage, sharing their soulful creations in



Participants during the programme

their native languages, followed by translations in Hindi or English. The participating poets included Sri T.K. Santhoshkumar (Malayalam), Sri Siddhartha Sankar Kalita (Assamese),

Sri Rangkitbok Dikrut (Khasi), Sri Thiru Prasad Nepal (Nepali), Ms Mandarapu Hymavathi (Telugu), and Ms Akshata Raj Perla (Tulu).

Poetry: The Mirror of Soul-Poetry Readings

Sri Shafi Shauq, a versatile literary figure and multilingual poet, fiction writer, translator, and a linguist, chairing the session said, “In this 21st century we will have to develop some new ways of writing poetry, otherwise we will be left on the margins. We can regain our existence only through good writing”. At the end he also recited the English translation of his poem “Let me be Here”. The session then showcased the talents of six exceptional poets, who recited their soulful creations in



Participants during the programme

their native languages, accompanied by translations in Hindi and English. The participating poets were Ms Mullengada Revathi Poovaiah (Kodava), Ms Jyotsna

Mishra (Hindi), Ms Sudha Kumari (Hindi), Sri Badri Mishra (Odia), Sri Vikash Vatsnabh (Maithili), and Ms J. Vijaya Rani (Tamil).

Meghdoot Open Air Theatre / 11 March 2025, New Delhi Cultural Event



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary and Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, with Ms. Nalini Joshi and her fellow artists.

As part of the ongoing Festival of Letters 2025, the city's art and literature enthusiasts were treated with a mesmerizing performance of Hindustani Classical Vocal by the acclaimed vocalist, Nalini Joshi. Renowned for her soul-stirring renditions, Nalini Joshi's music

embodies the perfect blend of a rich, melodious voice, impeccable technique, and a deep understanding of the classical tradition. A disciple of renowned classical vocalist Padma Vibhushan Dr Prabha Atre from Kirana Gharana and celebrated Thumri singer, Vidushi Savita Devi, Nalini Joshi has enthralled audiences worldwide

with her intricate ornamentation, nuanced expressions, and emotionally charged performances. A recipient of the prestigious Sangeet Ratna Award and Mithila Ratna among many other awards and honours, Nalini Joshi's concert was a testament to her mastery of Hindustani classical music.

Novels of Future



Participants during the programme

Sri Dhruba Jyoti Borah opened up the session by saying that the concept of novel writing is a western gift to India which is witnessing evolution during the recent times. He spoke about the timeless epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata

on the themes of which several novels have been written and are being written. Ms Lakshmi Puri quoting famous writers from across the world deliberated on the role of novel in literature, besides remarking on the contemporary literary trends. Sri Imayam read his paper on

literary traditions and evolution of Tamil language, progressing through Sangam literature; Bhakti movement dominated by Alwars, Nayanaras and women poets like Anda!; and moving towards contemporary literature which is being dominated by Dalit literature. Ms Yashodhara Mishra spoke about history of novel in Odisha. She called Fakir Mohan Senapati 's 'Our Six Acres' as the first work on socialism in India. Sri Nand Bhardwaj said that in order to know about the richness of any region or language one should learn about their folk literature. The readings were followed by a question and answer session.

Impact of Globalization on the Cultural Traditions of India

The Chair, Ms Sadhna Shankar began the session by inviting the first speaker, Sri Jatin Nayak, to speak. Sri Nayak spoke on the impact of globalization with particular emphasis on language. He pointed out that global tends to devalue local and standardization, which is a product of globalization, mars the essence of any creativity. Sri Nanditesh Nilay personified globalization in a poetic satire. He said globalization has turned a human into a product and a product into a human, it has eroded human values and built brand values, where the ethics and values have been put into a utopian



Participants during the programme

attire completely removed from reality. Sri S. Carlos spoke on the subject in the backdrop of Tamil literature. He also spoke about the idea of textuality professed by acclaimed academician, Gayathri Chakravarthy Spivak.

Sri Kumar Vikram gave references from history where Indian rulers and explorers also made expansions into the far-east Asia, in the same manner as has been done by the west in contemporary times.

He called globalization as an expansion of nationalistic ambition without raising an actual war. He said the need is to negotiate globalization by choosing Buddha's middle path.

Ms Sadhna Shankar concluded the session by saying that changes that take place once do have a long lasting impact, the need of the hour is that we learn the art of negotiating with

globalization and move along. The session was followed by a question and answer session.

Brahmaputra Sabhagar / 12 March 2025, New Delhi

The Importance of Reading the Translated Works



Participants during the programme

The session began with the remark of the Chair, Smt. Ratnotama Sengupta, who said that people are blessed in India to have so many different languages. She remembered how she grew up reading translated works, watching America, Korean and other foreign cinema with the help of subtitles. Translation is very important in a democracy in order to have a glimpse into the lives of others. Sri Laikhuram Rameshwar Singh reading his paper on the session's topic said translation facilitates mutual understanding among people of different languages, regions and cultures. Translation helps to know the great literatures of other languages.

Smt. S. Sesharatnam said that translation makes one thoughtful global. To spread culture across the world translation is mandatory. Sometimes translated works become more prominent than the original, therefore, it cannot be considered as a second rate work. Sri Jeewan Rana said translators construct the world and this highlights the significance of translation. Apart from giving an opportunity to understand different cultures and people, translation also helps in enhancing knowledge, know the world, know various literary styles enabling a better understanding of literature, at large. Smt. Neelam Sarin focusing primarily on J&K and the language, Dogri, spoke that till 1930s there were no books in Dogri,

however, it was translation from other Indian languages into Dogri that has enriched the Dogri literature of today. Sri Arvind Shah spoke about translation literature with particular emphasis on poetry. He pointed out some rules for translating poems are strict discipline in choosing words, involvement with the subject and capacity to go beyond established rules. Sri Shantanu Gangopadhyay, surfacing the importance of translation, said, "India is a translation zone. It is said our water changes every thirty miles and the language changes every fifty miles. So how do we know each other without translations?"

Unity and Social Cohesion - Strengths of Diverse India

Sri Bharat Gupta chairing the session said, “We have been discussing for long on ‘unity in diversity and diversity in unity’ as also that India is a composite culture” but such a discussion was never understandable, he admitted. Neither socialism nor secularism contributed to unity. What is the basis of Unity then? Is cultural nationalism the basis of unity? He also asked a crucial question, Was there no code of conduct in India before Constitution? Sri Kailash Narayan Tiwari said that where there is a dialogue about social unity there will definitely be a talk about diversity. However, sometimes diversity comes to the surface, and that’s a serious issue. If nationalism has to be connected to culture, then one needs to go back to the roots, to the Rigvedas. Sri Vagesh Palwai began by saying that the journey from “me to us” is called unity. The strength of a nation depends upon its unity and integrity. He also said that every person who visited Maha Kumbh, without being called or without bothering for equal



Participants during the programme

resources or without bothering for expenses, received the ‘Amrit’ and this is known as social cohesion. Sri Sachin Ketkar spoke out from his work ‘Critical History of Marathi Literature’ citing examples from 17th century Maharashtra and important works of Eknath. He said that a lot has been discussed about what divides but not about what unites. He also said, sharing and translational dialogue are the strength of diverse India.

Poetry Unbound: Multilingual Poets’ Meet



Participants during the programme

The Chair, Sri Pramod Jain beginning the session said that it’s a treat listening to so many poets representing different Indian languages. He recited two paras from his poem ‘Walked On’

from his collection of poems penned during the Covid-19 pandemic. The poet-participants: Sri Khajur Singh Thakur rendered some dohas and sang a song in Dogri; Smt. Neelam Saxena Chandra recited a few lines in

Hindi and her English poem, ‘One learns things’; Sri Kaushal Nath Upadhyay recited his poem ‘Vache Samay’ and Sri Radheshyam Tiwari his poem ‘Lautna’ in Hindi; Sri Gunjam Shree recited his poems in Maithili; Smt. Sujata Chaudhry recited her Odia poem, ‘Hope Resurrection’ in English translation; and Sri Ravi Subramaniam sang a song in Tamil and rendered English translation of his Tamil poems, ‘Word’ and ‘The FIR’. In the end there was a second round of poignant poems presented by the Chair and the poets on the dais.



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Meghdoot Open Air Theatre / 12 March 2025, New Delhi

Spin-A-Tale, a beloved children's programme, captivated a large and energetic audience of students from diverse schools of Delhi, among others. The event, which welcomed young students, featured an exciting array of competitions, carefully crafted around two themes: drawing/ painting and elocution.

The drawing/ painting competition was divided into two categories - "My Dream House" for classes 1-3 and "Famous Landmarks I have seen" for classes 4-6. Later, the elocution competition took place, with separate categories for classes 7-9 and classes 10-12, focusing on topics "The Importance of Kindness" and "The Power of Positive Thinking",

respectively. Renowned experts, Sri Uday Shankar (for drawing/painting) and Ms Sukrita Paul Kumar and Sri Brajendra Tripathi (for elocution) judged the competitions. The students showcased their talents and creativity, and the winners were felicitated with prizes by Dr K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



Children participants during the programme

Narmada Sabhagar / 12 March 2025, New Delhi

Story Sparks: Multilingual Short Story Readings



Participants during the programme

Sri Ram Bachan Rai chaired the first session wherein the first eminent writer, Smt. Jwishri Boro read a story ‘Aoluri Arw Udang Shree’, life of a village girl from eight to eighty years.

Smt. Swarna Kilari read a story ‘Mauf Karo Dost’, from her published collection of stories, Nalla Bangaram. Smt. Golap Manjari Kar read the English version of her story ‘The Abode of Love’, the heart-wrenching

story of an abandoned girl-child. This was followed by Sri Answar Uddin’s English version of a Bengali story, titled ‘Tears of the two Tabladaars’. Summing up the session, Sri Ram Bachan Rai said that although the short-stories had no more than two characters in each story, the social messages through their dialogues was loud and clear. With such limited characters, weaving a story was an art in itself, he added. President of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Madhav Kaushik, was also present, and lauded the literary skills of the participants.

Artificial Intelligence and Literary Creation

Kick starting the session, and focusing on the possibilities of translation into a host of languages from the original text, Sri Balendu Sharma Dadhich said that the type of translations may be chosen by the user to suit the purpose. The ‘Method’, may change, but not the end result. As experimentations progress, the glitches being experienced now would be ironed out, he added. Sri Ashok Chakradhar felt that while AI does not possess the five senses granted by Nature to humanity and a heart to feel, it has a mechanical brain. However, the shortfall may be bridged in due course. Sri T.T. Sreekumar was sure that the onslaught of AI cannot be stopped. The future has to brace up to tackle it by gearing up to draw legal protection for its right usage. Summing up, Sri Girish Nath Jha, Chairman of Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, New Delhi, said that India had a large number of documented and undocumented



Sri T T Kumar, Sri Balendru Sharma Dadhich, Sri Girish Nath Jha and Sri Ashok Chakradhar

languages. For the preservation and promotion of such languages, AI would help immensely. But the hitch was that in India we do not have our own algorithms; they borrowed foreign algorithms that did not exactly meet our requirements. These had to be developed first before venturing to apply AI to Indian Literature.

Krishna Sabhagar / 12 March 2025, New Delhi

National Seminar on Indian Literary Traditions: Heritage & Evolution

Eighth Session: Indian Poetry: Inspiration Unbound

This session was chaired by Sri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, former President, Sahitya Akademi. Ms Ami Upadhyay began the session talking about the dynamic relationship between poetry and the dance form Kathak. She spoke about how the dance form draws from poetic influences and integrated poetic elements that shape its depth and style. She also highlighted how different Gharanas drew inspiration from the poetics of their local languages. She framed the relationship between the two art forms as a symbiotic one, enriching each other. Sri Badri Narayan expounded on the varieties of Indian poetry and emphasized the importance of oral literatures and the cultural diversity of the country in his presentation. He talked about the importance of a culture that encourages imagination and creative engagement, an imagination that has been protected within



Ms. Ami Upadhyay, Sri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Sri Badri Narayan and Sri M A Alwar

literature and provides a bridge between people, especially through orality. Sri M.A. Alwar focused on Sanskrit literature and talked about poetry in the Vedas and religious poetry, emphasizing that poetry did not begin as a primitive practice. He spoke of the epics as a continued influence for Indian poetry and the different emotional facets of Sanskrit poetry that appealed to a wide and diverse audience. The Chair called India a poetry state since the poetic production of ancient India cover all aspects of life. He also highlighted that before the Vedas were written, the same knowledge systems were purely oral for hundreds of years.

Ninth Session: Dalit Sahitya: Giving Voice to the Voiceless



Participants during the programme

The session was chaired by Sri Sheoraj Singh Bechain. Sri Ramanand spoke about the legacy of Dr Ambedkar and Swami Achhootanand's writings and contemporary Dalit literature's engagement with it. He also recognised Swami Achhootanand's work with the Dalit community in the early 20th century in tandem with Ambedkar's activism, conducting a concurrent study of both their writings and legacies. Sri Baliram N. Gaikwad in his paper on "The Legacy of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar", spoke of the 12th century Dalit



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literature that marked its beginning, highlighting that it is not a recent phenomenon. He marked a fundamental difference in Dalit expression in the 20th century worlds. He talked about how multiple dimensions and intersectionality has found its way into Dalit literature and mentioned seminal works of Dalit women's literature. Ms K. Suneetha Rani, who joined the session online, spoke about Dalit women's literature and the liberatory and transformative nature of writing especially when coming

from marginalized communities. She delved into the challenges encountered when writing down one's identity. The Chair spoke of the importance of acknowledging Dalit literature before the activism of Dr Ambedkar. He talked about the importance of literature to bring forth challenges faced by various communities, highlighting the importance of writing about various issues faced by the Dalit community in order to bring them light. He emphasized the immediacy of the anti-caste movement.

Tenth Session: Adhyatmika Sahitya: India's Gift to the World

This was chaired by Sri Vishnu Dutt Rakesh. Sri Sunil Kulkarni spoke on the spiritual heritage of India, which he called one of the greatest strengths of the country due to which it stands out among other examples of ancient world literature. He said that understanding the spiritual literature of the country is a necessary first step to develop a sense of collectivism and understanding our cultural inheritance. He discussed the knowledge about a multitude of subjects, including scientific and philosophical, present in Indian spiritual literature. The Chair explained the types of spiritual literature in India. He said that the main aim of such literature is to promote unity and prevent social discord, as well as to promote self-sufficiency and social work. The Chair then opened the floor to questions from the audience.



Sri Sunil Kulkarni and Sri Vishnu Dutt

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Multilingual Poets' Meet

21 March 2025, Weblive Literature Series – Virtual



Sri Kshetrabasi Naik, OIC RO Kolkata, Ms. Bornali Borgohain, , Sri Lakshman Adhikari, Sri Shashi Bhushan Biswal, Ms. Rashmi Choudhury, Ms. Nivedita Jha, and Sri Arnab Saha

Sahitya Akademi organised a Multilingual Poets' Meet on the occasion of World Poetry Day on 21 March 2025 in virtual mode under Weblive Literature Series.

The welcome address was delivered by Kshetrabasi Naik, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region. He introduced the speakers. In the programme, noted Assamese poet Bornali Borgohain, Bengali poet Arnab Saha, Bodo poet Rashmi Choudhury, Maithili poet Nivedita Jha, Manipuri poet Devdas Mairembam, Nepali poet Lakshman Adhikari, Odia poet Sashibhusan Biswal and Santali poet Bhujanga Tudu read out from their recent poems. The vote of thanks was proposed by Avishek Rath, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi.



Children participants during the programme

Bal Sahiti

22 March 2025, New Delhi

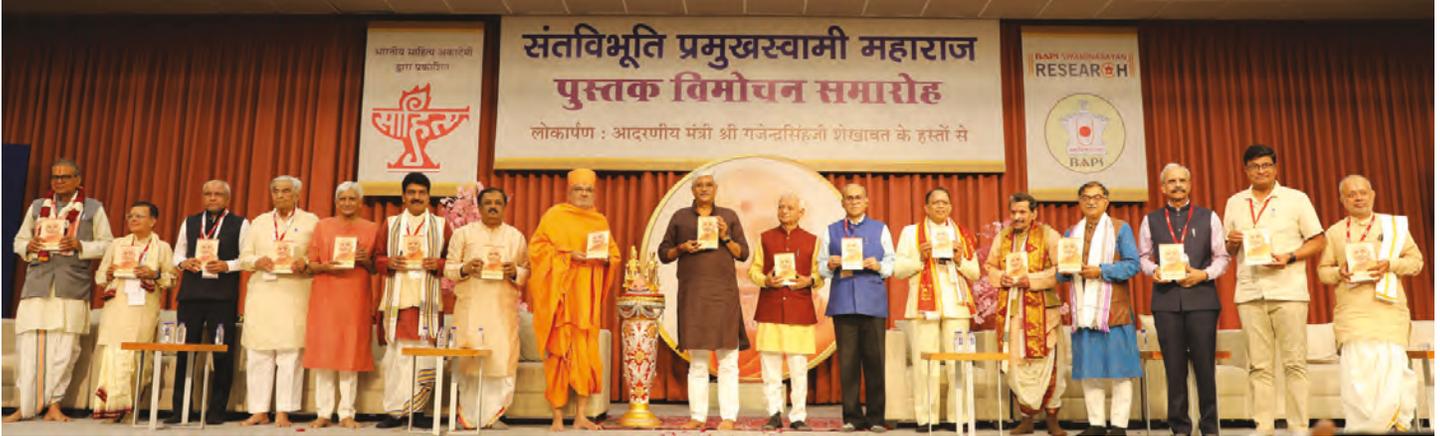
Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation organised a Story Telling programme for the Children of the staff of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation at Patel Chowk Metro Station Museum on 22 March 2025. Dr N Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi welcomed Children and their parents; and spoke about the importance of the habit of book-reading which also plays an important role in keeping the children away from the electronic gadgets. Dr Rishi Raj, Additional General Manager/Nodal Officer, DMRC, New Delhi, briefed about the programme and encouraged the children for active participation during the programme. Ms. Stuti Gupta and Ms. Jai Shri Sethi mesmerized the children with their story-telling skill which was thoroughly enjoyed by the kids and parents as well. At the end of the programme children literature books by Sahitya Akademi were distributed amongst the children.



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Santvibhuti Pramukh Swami Maharaj Book Release Ceremony

23 March 2025, Ahmedabad



Dignitaries during the 'Santvibhuti Pramukh Swami Maharaj' book release ceremony

In a momentous literary and spiritual celebration, the Sahitya Akademi – India's National Academy of Letters under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India – in collaboration with BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute, Delhi, launched the book Santvibhuti Pramukh Swami Maharaj at the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Ahmedabad in the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Culture, Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi; Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Publication, Sahitya Akademi; Padma Shri Gautambhai Patel, a renowned Sanskrit scholar from Gujarat; Madhav Ramanuj, a celebrated Gujarati poet, writer, and critic; Tarun Vijay, former editor of Panchjanya and retired MP; Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi,

Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University, Delhi; Prof. Harekrishna Satapathy, distinguished Sanskrit scholar; Prof. Murlimanohar Pathak, Vice-Chancellor of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, Delhi; Prof. G.S.R. Krishna Murty, Vice-Chancellor of National Sanskrit University, Tirupati; Prof. Sukant Kumar Senapati, Vice-Chancellor, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Veraval; and Sri Virendrakumar Tiwari, Former Director of IIT Kharagpur; and Sri Bhagyesh Jha, President of Gujarat Sahitya Akademi and former IAS officer. Authored by Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadrashdas Swami, the book presents an insightful portrayal of the profound life, works, and global services of Pramukh Swami Maharaj and his contributions to the elevation of Indian culture. It reflects upon his spiritual influence and service-driven leadership that brought global

recognition to India's timeless heritage of Sanatan Dharma. During this grand event, the distinguished dignitaries lit the ceremonial lamp and offered floral tributes at Pramukh Swami Maharaj's feet. During the launch assembly, the eminent guests shared their wisdom. Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture, Government of India, said that it is impossible to capture Pramukh Swami Maharaj's vast life journey in a single book. The moment he had darshan of Pramukh Swami Maharaj was the most fortunate and blessed moment of his life. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a rare soul. He was a saint who dedicated every moment of his life to public welfare. He was a saint who lived every moment in infinite bliss, seeing the entire world as a manifestation of God. He was the embodiment of infinite peace, yet simultaneously simple, straightforward, and humble.



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By dedicating every moment of life to public welfare, he made an immense contribution to preserving Sanatan Dharma. Amidst numerous invasions, the reason Indian culture remains uninterrupted and eternal is because of such saints who have donned saffron robes and made sacrifices. He kept Indian culture perpetually renewed. At a time when Indian culture needed preservation and the saint tradition needed strengthening, Pramukh Swami Maharaj initiated saints, built temples and promoted scriptural traditions. He was full of affection and capable of delivering eternal wisdom in just a few words. People felt that every message he gave was for their welfare, and his words would resonate deeply in their hearts. The changing global role of India today has a special contribution from Pramukh Swami Maharaj. By publishing this book about his life, he felt that his ministry and he has been blessed. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, said that Pramukh Swami Maharaj was one of the greatest spiritual personalities of the 20th century. He was a spiritual guide and supreme friend to everyone. He showered selfless love towards all. Due to Pramukh Swami Maharaj's tireless efforts, BAPS has

served in numerous spiritual and social activities. Sahitya Akademi is extremely pleased to publish this book about his life, written by Bhadreshdasji Swami. This book is a brilliant document of a divine life and philosophy.

Dr. Bhagyesh Jha, President, Gujarat Literature Academy, Gandhinagar, said that Pramukh Swami Maharaj blessed many devotees like him. He met him 29 times. In 2000, he spent 24 hours with him in Sarangpur. At that time, he realized that the globally venerable Pramukh Swami Maharaj never used a single moment for himself, but used every moment for society, religion, and cultural protection. Being in the proximity of such a person was a blessed moment of his life. His blessings were a greater honor for him than even the Padma Bhushan. This book is not just a book, it is a guru's saga, a poem, the essence of our shastras, and the purpose of human life. Despite managing a vast empire-like organization, Swami Bapa always smiled like a child. Today, the subtle presence of Pramukh Swami Maharaj is here. Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadreshdas Swami, author of the book shared his thoughts and said that Pramukh Swami Maharaj's life was not lived in a single time period;

it was an immortal historical event. Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a noble saint. A supreme devotee of God, a pure heart, pure thoughts, and pure actions were his identity. Such a saint is called Brahmaswarup in spiritual philosophy. Pramukh Swami Maharaj's extraordinary life infused energy into us. In the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, Lord Shri Krishna says, 'Esha Brahmi-sthiti' – This is the Brahmic state. Another name for the Brahmic state is Pramukh Swami Maharaj. He was the living embodiment of the 'sthitaprajna' described in the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. His existence is eternal. Presently, Mahant Swami Maharaj is the representative of Pramukh Swami Maharaj. This book is a unique offering at the feet of Pramukh Swami Maharaj on behalf of the Government of India, for his divine life and selfless service works.

On this occasion, all the dignitaries the dais who expressed their indelible remarks on both the book and Pramukh Swami Maharaj. The event concluded with a grand unveiling of the book by Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Culture, and the stage dignitaries, to the excited applause of the packed auditorium.

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Creative Writing Workshop

24 - 26th March 2025, Jammu



Group photo of creative writing workshop

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Post Graduate Department of Dogri, University of Jammu, organised a three-day workshop on Creative Writing from 24th March to 26th March 2025. The workshop aimed to encourage budding writers, scholars and students to sharpen their creative expression in the Dogri language.

The workshop commenced on 24th March 2025 with an inaugural ceremony graced by eminent Dogri literary personalities. Sri Prakash Premi, a distinguished poet and scholar, delivered a highly insightful lecture on the finer aspects of Dogri poetry, focusing on imagery, symbolism, and emotional resonance in creative expression. He encouraged young writers to remain rooted in their cultural ethos while embracing new literary techniques. This was followed by a thoughtful session by Sri Darshan Darshi, who spoke on poetic inspiration, stylistic nuances, and the role

of Dogri literature in the broader national literary landscape. Both speakers emphasized the significance of writing in one's mother tongue and preserving linguistic heritage through literature.

On the second day, 25th March 2025, the focus shifted to specialized literary forms. The first session featured Col. Raj Manawari, who presented an enriching lecture on Dogri Ghazal. He highlighted the unique structure, meter, and rhyme patterns of Ghazals and discussed how this genre has flourished in Dogri literature with contemporary relevance. In the second session, Sri Thakur Khajoor Singh, a celebrated poet and songwriter, delivered an inspiring lecture on Dogri Geet, explaining the importance of melody, rhythm, and cultural motifs in composing Dogri songs that resonate with the masses.

The final day of the workshop, 26th March 2025, was dedicated to literary theory and critical analysis. Ms. Archana Kesar delivered a lecture on Bhartiya

Alochana De Sidhanth te Kavita vich Alankar da Prayog (Principles of Indian Criticism and the Use of Figures of Speech in Poetry). She elaborated on classical and contemporary theoretical frameworks and demonstrated how rhetorical devices (Alankars) can elevate the quality of poetic and creative writing, making it aesthetically rich and impactful.

The workshop attracted enthusiastic participation from a wide range of students, scholars, and faculty members from other departments, including the Department of Law, MCA, English, History, and Buddhist Studies of the University of Jammu. This interdisciplinary participation highlighted the growing interest in regional language literature and creative writing among students and faculty across diverse academic fields.

Sri Mohan Singh, Convener of Dogri Language, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, played a key role in organizing the workshop. In his remarks, he expressed great satisfaction at the vibrant participation and stressed the need for nurturing literary talent in regional languages. The workshop concluded with an interactive valedictory session, where participants shared their learning experiences and presented their own creative compositions. Certificates were distributed to all participants. In her address, Sucheta Pathania, Head, Department of Dogri, congratulated the participants and expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, for their collaboration and support.

Beyond Horizon: All India Writers' Festival

27-28 March 2025, Sri Vijaya Puram



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Department of Art and Culture, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, organised a Literary Festival 'Beyond Horizon: All India Writers' Festival' on 27-28 March 2025 in Sri Vijaya Puram, Andanam & Nicobar Islands. The festival was inaugurated by Admiral DK Joshi, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and Vice Chairman, Islands Development Agency. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address said that the beauty of nature always inspires writers and poets and the bounties of nature prevailing in A&N Islands are bound to inspire thousands of writers, thinkers and poets who visit this place. He further said that this is the fourth Writers' Festival of the Akademi in Sri Vijaya Puram and showered all praise for the unity in diversity prevailing in A&N Islands.

In his introductory address, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Dr Chandra Bhushan Kumar, while welcoming one and all stated that this Writers' Festival is the beginning of the Literary Festival in A&N Islands as this will be followed by a 'Book Fair'. He said that the Hon'ble Lt. Governor has desired that this festival should be incorporated in the list of year-round activities carried out by the A&N Administration. The Chief Secretary further said that literature always grooms us and has the power to unite people.

While proposing the vote of thanks, the Secretary (Dept. of Art & Culture), Ms Jyoti Kumari, thanked the participants, Lt. Governor, Chief Secretary and Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, for making possible this grand literary festival. During the inaugural function, the artists of Kailashpati Dance Academy presented a colourful classical dance (Saraswati

Vandana). The Akademi had also put up a Book Stall with more than 2700 titles in different Indian languages. The inaugural session of the festival followed by five more sessions on Poetry Unbound: Multilingual Poets' Meet, Poetry with the Ocean: Literary Waves of Mini India, What Makes Specific Stories a Timeless Tales, Poetry: The Mirror of Soul: Poets' Meet and Hasya Kavi Sammelan with the participation of writers/poets/scholars from different Indian languages such as Harish Meenashru, Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Monikuntala Bhattacharjya, Anju Rajan, Jagdish Narayan Rai, R. Gopalan, Pronob Kumar Sircar, Ayush Dubey, Lucas Robert, Sudershan Raja, Preeti Shenoy, Benyamin, Rashmi Choudhury, among others.



KOLKATA

Literary Forum on 'Life and Works of RK Maipaksana'

4 January 2025, Imphal



(L-R) Sri Rajen Toizamba, Sri Laishram Memo Singh and Sri Lambam Gajendro

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with RK Maipaksana Memorial Trust, Imphal, organised a literary forum on 'Life and Works of RK Maipaksana' on 4 January 2025 in the Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Imphal.

The welcome address was delivered by Ms Rajkumari Gayatri, Trustee, RK Maipaksana Memorial Trust. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Nongmaithem Kirankumar Singh, eminent Manipuri writer with Sri Rajen Toizamba,

Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in the Chair. Dr Nongmaithem Kirankumar Singh spoke on the life and works of RK Maipaksana in brief. Sri Aribam Balkrishna Sharma spoke on 'RK Maipaksana as a Journalist'. Sri Laishram Memo Singh spoke on 'Life and works of RK Maipaksana'. Sri Lamabam Gojendra Singh spoke on 'RK Maipaksana as a writer'. The vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Wangkhemcha Shamjai, Trustee, RK Maipaksana Memorial Trust.

Gramalok with Assamese Writers

10 January 2025, Manikpur, Assam



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Manikpur Anchalaik College, organised a “Gramalok” with Assamese writers on 10 January 2025, at Manikpur Anchalaik College, Manikpur, Assam.

The programme commenced with Bargeet. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Karunakanta Ray, President, of Manikpur Anchalik College. S/Sri Amar Das, Bhanita Das, Chayanika Nath, Nityananda Ray and Ramesh Chandra Ray read from their recent writings. While speaking from the Chair, Sri Diganta Biswa Sarma, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, focused on the value of education. The vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Martuz Ali Ahmed, Principal I/C, of the college.

Gramalok with Assamese Writers

11 January 2025, Jamugurihat, Assam



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with The Taxila School (TTS), organised a “Gramalok” programme with Assamese writers on 11 January 2025 at The Taxila School (TTS), Dhalaiabil, Jamugurihat, Assam. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Priyanku Hazarika. S/Sri Himangshu Ranjan Bhyan, Sharanan Deva Nath, Satyabrat Borah, Rupali Borah and Dambaru Acharjya read from their recent writings. The chairperson of the programme was Sri Kamal Rajbanshi.



KOLKATA

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2024

12 January 2025, Bhubaneswar



Award Winners during the ceremony

Sahitya Akademi organised the presentation ceremony of its Yuva Puraskar at Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Auditorium Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 12 January 2024.

Awards were presented to 22 Award winners by Dr Madhav Kaushik, President of the Sahitya Akademi. The awards were accompanied by an engraved copper plaque and a cheque of fifty thousand rupees. Before the presentation of the awards, citations were read out by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The award winners were felicitated with a bouquet by Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi. The award winners were Nayanjyoti Sama (Assamese), Sutapa Chakraborty (Bengali), Self Made Rani Baro (Bodo), Heena Choudhary (Dogri), K. Vaishali (English), Rinku Rathod (Gujarati), Gaurav Pandey (Hindi),

Shruthi B. R. (Kannada), Mohd. Ashraf Ziya (Kashmiri), Adwait Salgaonkar (Konkani), Rinki Jha Rishika (Maithili), Shyamkrishnan R. (Malayalam), Waikhom Chingkheinganba (Manipuri), Devidas Saudagar (Marathi), Suraj Chapagain (Nepali), Sanjay Kumar Panda (Odia), Randhir (Punjabi), Sonali Suthar (Rajasthani), Muni Parshwasundera Vijayaji (Sanskrit), Anjan Karmakar (Santali), Geeta Pradeep Rupani (Sindhi), Lokesh Raghuraman (Tamil), Ramesh Karthik Nayak (Telugu) and Md. Javed Ahmad (Urdu). Among them, Mohd Ashraf Bhat and Muni Parshwasundera Vijaya could not be present in the award presentation ceremony.

At the beginning in his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that young writers are the flag bearers of the language and literature of any country and of the world. He also

informed the audience of major projects of Sahitya Akademi like Yuva Sahiti, Navodaya Prakalpa and Travel Grant which are specifically designed to give the young writers a wider platform. In his presidential address, Dr Madhav Kaushik said that young writers are the future of Indian literature. They are the real captains of languages. He recalled the famous quote of Vivekanand, arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached. A writer never stops anywhere. As long as the human civilization exists, moves on, the writers won't stop. Affluence derails sometimes. Risk & responsibility of the young writers is enormous. Diversity is the unique Identity of India, find nowhere in the world. Whole Europe manages with 5 or 6 languages, but India cherishes with as many as 24 languages. Chief Guest of the ceremony, Jerry Pinto, eminent English poet, expressed his happiness



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have and to create a world which is different from the actual one we live in. Being born and brought up in a village he found it difficult to couple up with the city life style but the works of some eminent writers changed his perspective of life and gave him inspiration to write. Sutapa Chakraborty (Bengali) expressed her gratitude for receiving the Award in Bengali poetry, hoping it deepens her understanding of art and literature. She honoured notable Bengali writers while emphasizing the importance of remembering her literary roots. Rani Baro (Bodo) emphasized the importance of storytelling and the need to amplify the voices of their community. She highlighted literature's ability to connect with people, preserve cultural heritage and address universal themes. Heena Choudhary (Dogri) expressed her deep appreciation for her mother tongue and reflects on her journey of understanding language as a powerful medium for expressing thoughts and emotions. K. Vaishali (English) expressed the joy and disbelief at winning the Yuva Puraskar. She shared the complex relationship with writing, shaped by dyslexia and dysgraphia, which complicated the reading and writing process. Despite these challenges, writing serves as a refuge for exploring her identity and personal truths. Rinku Vajeshinh Rathod (Gujarati) shared her journey of struggle for education and self-expression as a woman in a patriarchal society. Despite facing challenges, including low literacy rates and societal norms she pursued her studies and found solace in poetry during difficult times. Her work reflected deep emotions, women's sensitivity, and societal issues. Her writing serves as a voice for the marginalized, expressing

hope for change and empowerment in her community. Gaurav Pandey (Hindi) said that creative journey influenced by his father's teaching and mother's writing. Themes in his collections, such as 'The Earth is also a Bird' addressed compassion, love, and the challenges in relationships, making them highly relevant today. Shruthi B.R. (Kannada) expressed gratitude for receiving the Yuva Puraskar. She liked poetry as a free-flowing river which reflects personal and universal experiences. Citing Basavanna and Kuvempu, she emphasized the poet's independence and transformative power. Adwait Salgaonkar (Konkani) viewed the recognition for the Pedne region in Goa. He highlighted the uniqueness of the Pedne dialect, which he used in his book Pedyacha Samara which showcased its richness and counter stereotypes. Rinky Jha Rishika (Maithili) reflected her journey as a poet, which is inspired by her grandfather and her love for nature. Her poetry addressed to different untold issues of women. Despite facing criticism initially, she emphasized the importance of focusing on the positive. Shyamkrishnan R. (Malayalam) highlighted the rich legacy of Malayalam literature, shaped by influential writers. Waikhom Chingkheinganba (Manipuri) narrated about his literary journey and his father's role in the journey too. Devidas Saudagar (Marathi) narrated about the challenges faced by the traditional tailors due to the rise of ready-made clothing and their struggle for livelihood. As a tailor himself, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, he has a deep connection to this profession. With a passion for reading and writing poetry since the age of eighteen, he

aimed to depict the impact of changing times on hardworking individuals. Suraj Chapagain (Nepali) said that he took pride in Nepali language and dedicated the award for his poetry collection Kyanbhasako Kshitij to those who had worked for the preservation of Nepali literature. Sanjay Kumar Panda (Odia) expressed gratitude for the award, acknowledging the influence of his village, Iram, on his literary journey. He emphasized the importance of giving voice to the voiceless and called for continued advocacy against injustices. Randhir (Punjabi) reflected on the essence of poetry, questioning its origins and its connection to human experience. Sonali Suthar (Rajasthani) acknowledged the divine intervention in her literary journey. Anjan Karmakar (Santali) grew up in a Santhal village, he cherished the cultural experiences and the friendships formed with Santali-speaking peers. He thanked poet Rameshwar Murmu for his guidance and acknowledge all those who have inspired them. Geeta Pradeep Rupani (Sindhi) narrated her literary journey and said that literature is a powerful medium for conveying emotions and ideas. Lokesh Raghuraman (Tamil) shared his experience and emphasized about the role of nature, compassion and ecological factors on literature. Ramesh Karthik Nayak (Telugu) narrated his writings with an exploration of indigenous literature and the Banjara community's rich history. Md Javed Ahmad (Urdu) discussed about his writing process and inspirations. At the end, vote of thanks was proposed by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

Symposium on Indian Poetry Today

18 January 2025, Kolkata



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Intercultural Poetry and Performance Library (IPPL), organised a Symposium on ‘Indian Poetry Today’ at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Library, Kolkata, on 18 January 2025. The event commenced with a welcome address by Sri Avishek Rath, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, followed by introductory remarks by Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta, who expressed enthusiasm about future projects between IPPL and Sahitya Akademi. In his inaugural address, Prof. GJV Prasad said that Indian English Poetry had never been healthier or more diverse, with more publishing opportunities, more independent publishers, and more

performance venues, with poets trying out various possibilities of intermedial expression, especially online. Prof. Bashabi Fraser in her keynote address, spoke on the origin and development of Indian Poetry in English. She focused on the post-colonial Indian English poets in particular, with their extended area of creativity. Prof. Sachidananda Mohanty, in his presidential address, spoke about the reception of poetry and how the concept of poetry evolved during ages and across regions. He focused on the role of poetry circles and societies in promoting the genre across regions. Prof. Nishi Pulugurtha proposed the vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta. Sri Gopal

Lahiri discussed contemporary themes such as Dalit and Women’s poetry, eco-feminism, and Anthropocene narratives. Prof. Julie Mehta explored the idea of alienation and how the idea of home shapes their personalities and values, standing for love, tenderness, kinship which these poets longed for. The second session was chaired by Ms. Navamalati Neog Chakraborty. Prof. Nandini Sahu spoke in detail about her innovative ideas for promoting multilingual literary discussion and the importance of reviving indigenous literary traditions including folkloristics. Prof. Nishi Pulugurtha’s paper examined the use of myth in Indian poetry with reference to the poetry of Gurram Joshuva, Arun Kolatkar, Kala Ramesh and Arundhati Subramanian.

Gramalok with Santali writers

19 January 2025, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Santhali Writers' Association, organised a 'Gramalok' programme with noted local Santali writers on 19 January 2025 at Kacha Village, Bagbera, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

The welcome address was delivered by Sri Shyam C. Tudu, Member, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. S/Sri Laxman Marndi, Birshant Hansda, Ledem Hembram, Sushila Hembram, Mani Soren, Mahi Soren, Bari Tudu and Ishwar Hansda read from their recent writings. The programme was chaired by eminent Santali writer Ms. Yashoda Murmu, and Sri Ganesh Thakur Hansda, General Secretary, Santhali Writers' Association, proposed the vote of thanks.

Symposium on Trends of Modern Santali Poetry

24 January 2025, Kolkata



(L-R) Sri Shyamacharan Hembrom, Sri Aditya Mandi, Sri Badal Hembram, Sri Sukchand Soren, and Sri Anjan Karmakar

Sahitya Akademi organised a symposium on "Trends of Modern Santali Poetry" on 24 January 2025 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata.

The welcome address was delivered by Avishek Rath, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi. The keynote address was delivered by Aditya Mandi, eminent Santali writer. He spoke in brief about the origin and development of Santali poetry with special emphasis on its current trends. The inaugural session was chaired by eminent Santali writer Sri Badal Hembram. Noted Santali writers and scholars, S/Sri Anjan Karmakar, Shyamcharan Hembrom, Sukchand Soren and Subodh Hansda spoke on various modern trends of Santali poetry along with their distinguished characteristics. They also referred to significant Santali works while explaining their important aspects.

Seminar on The Present Situation of Indian Nepali Literature

24 January 2025, Gorubathan



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Sajha Sahitya Sanrakshan Sanstha, Gorubathan, organised a one-day seminar on “The Present Situation of Indian Nepali Literature” on Friday, 24 January 2025 at Sadbhav Mandap Hall, District Kalimpong, West Bengal. Sri Subash Sotang, Member, Nepali Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi welcomed and delivered the keynote speech which was followed by the inaugural address presented by Sri Rustam Sharma, Secretary of Sajha Sahitya Sanrakshan Sanstha. Dr Naresh Chandra Khati presided over the inaugural session and Sri Tarun Rai, President of Sajha Sahitya Sanrakshan Sanstha, concluded the session with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their presence and contribution.

Dr. Krishnaraj Ghatani, eminent Nepali writer, chaired the first session which was on the thematic aspects and studies of Indian Nepali literature. Dr Surendra Chamling read his paper on “Indian Nepali Tea Literature: A Study” and explored the metaphorical representation and cultural significance. Dr Yogesh Khati in his paper on “The Present Situation of

Indian Nepali Prose Literature” presented insights of the prose literature while highlighting contemporary trends and challenges. Sri Dhan Bahadur Chhetri in his paper “Indian Nepali Eco-Literature: A Study” examined the eco-literature underlining environmental themes in literary works. Dr Krishnaraj Ghatani said that the session provided rich discussions and critical perspectives on the development of various genres in Indian Nepali literature.

The second was chaired by Sri Yogbir Shakya, eminent Nepali writer. It delved into niche aspects of Indian Nepali literature, including gender, translation, and children’s literature. Four papers were presented during this session. Smt. Munnu Gautam discussed “The Present Situation of Indian Nepali Women’s Literature” addressing themes of representation, identity, and empowerment. Sri Nabin Paudel elaborated on “The Present Situation of Indian Nepali Translation Literature” highlighting its role in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps. Dr Sonam Sherpa focused on “The Present Situation of Indian Nepali Children’s Literature” examining its educational and imaginative elements, and Sri Bhanu Adhikari concluded with a paper on “The Present Situation of Metered Poetry in Indian Nepali Literature” emphasizing the technical and aesthetic aspects of traditional poetic forms. Sri Yogbir Shakya, the chairperson, while addressing the gathering at the end highlighted some key points of the paper readers. The seminar concluded successfully with valuable insights shared by the speakers. It highlighted the richness and diversity of Indian Nepali literature while addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities for growth. The event reinforced the need for sustained efforts to promote and preserve Nepali literature in India.

The seminar witnessed a diverse audience, including senior students from surrounding schools and colleges, as well as a good number of local writers and scholars. Their active participation and attentive engagement besides adding vibrancy to the programme showcased the region’s strong literary culture and enthusiasm.

Multilingual Poets' Meet

25 January 2025, Agartala

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Manipuri Literary and Cultural Forum, Tripura, organised a Multilingual Poets' Meet on 25 January 2025 at NECOL Auditorium, Sahitya Akademi, Nazrul Kalakshetra Complex, Agartala.

The welcome address was delivered by Ashangbam Netrajit, Member, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi with Kh. Biral Singh, Member, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Noted Bengali poet Sri Khoibam Saibya Singha, Chakma poet Ms. Uttara Chakma, Kokborok poet Sri Suranjan Kundu Choudhury, Manipuri poet Sri Seleibam Khelamohan and Mog poet Sri Krairi Mog Choudhury read poems from their recent writings. The vote of thanks was



Participants during the programme

proposed by Sri Khoisnam Mangol, General Secretary, Manipuri Literary and Cultural Forum, Tripura.

Birth Centenary Seminar on Silabhadra

14 February 2025, Lakhimpur, Assam



(L-R) Sri Diganta Biswa Sarma, Sri Raghav Parajuli, and Sri Biman Chandra Chetia

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Department of Assamese, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) organised a Birth Centenary Seminar on Silabhadra on 14 February 2025 at North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Lakhimpur, Assam. The inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by Dr Biman Chandra Chetia, Principal of the college, while Sri Kshetrabasi Naik, In-Charge of the Kolkata Zonal

Office of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. Sri Diganta Biswa Sarma, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory lecture. He highlighted the deep introspective aspect of Silabhadra's creative talent and gave an insightful explanation of the simplicity of his works as a contemplative bearer of Indian cultural tradition and the profound nature of humanity inherent in them. Dr Raghav Parajuli, Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, North Lakhimpur College delivered the vote of thanks.

The first session of the seminar was conducted by Prof. (Dr) Arabinda Rajkhowa, a literary critic and columnist-cum-Head of the Assamese Department, North Lakhimpur College. In this session, Dr Lohit Hazarika, Swapnali Borgohain and Dr B.D. Nisha presented their research papers. All three participants spoke about Silabhadra's novels, the artistic beauty of Silabhadra's short stories while evaluating Silabhadra's works. From the chair, Dr Rajkhowa

said that Silabhadra’s works have also played a role in connecting the undivided Goalpara district with Assam and the Assamese identity. The second and final session of the seminar was conducted by Dr Ratul Kumar Lahan, poet and

Assistant Professor of Economics, North Lakhimpur College. In this session, research papers were presented by Dr Bhaskar Bhuyan, Dr Barnali Borah, Dr Nipon Panging and Dr Runjun Bora. The session mainly discussed the artistic,

aesthetic beauty and social consciousness of Silabhadra’s short stories. Dr Dhiraj Patar delivered the concluding lecture which was attended by a large number of dignitaries, professors, researchers and students of the district.

Symposium on Children Literature in Manipuri

28 February 2025, Silchar, Assam



Sri Mehdi Hasan Chowdhury speaking during the inaugural session

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Gurucharan College, Silchar, organised a Symposium on ‘Children Literature in Manipuri’ on 28 February 2025, Conference Hall, Gurucharan College, Silchar, Cachar, Assam. During the inaugural session, welcome address was delivered by K. Nayan Chand Singha and

Bibhas Deb presided over. H. Nani Kumar Singha graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Ashraf Hussain as the Guest of Honour. The vote of thanks was proposed by Anju Devi. In the academic session, noted scholars and speakers like Mehdi Hasan Chowdhury, O. Usharani Singha, Sandhya Rani Singha and Kh. Anjana Devi spoke on different aspects of the children’s literature in Manipuri. They also focused on the evolution of this genre of literature with reference to major texts and writers of this genre.

Narichetana with Bodo Women Personalities

8 March 2025, Assam

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bengtol College, Chirang, Assam, organised a ‘Narichetana’ programme with noted Bodo women personalities on 8 March 2025 at Bengtol College, Chirang, Assam.

The introductory address was delivered by Jwishri Boro, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The programme was inaugurated by Ranjit Kumar Narzary, Principal, Bengtol College, Chirang, Assam. The programme was chaired by Rahel Mochari, HOD, Dept of Bodo, Bengtol College. Firfila Mwshahary, Maphie Rojje Boro, Mina Rupa Narzary and Rangina Bargayary read out from their recent writings and informed the audience of their struggle to success. The vote of thanks was proposed by Ebria Khakhlary, Coordinator, Women Cell, Bengtol College, Chirang.



Participants during the programme

Kathasandhi with Hari Narayan Khakhlary

8 March 2025, Assam



Sri Hari Narayan Khakhlary speaking on the occasion

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bengtol College, Chirang, Assam, organised a ‘Kathasandhi’ programme with noted Bodo writer Hari Narayan Khakhlary on 8 March 2025 at Bengtol College, Chirang, Assam.

In the programme, Hari Narayan Khakhlary read out from their recent writings and informed the audience of his literary journey. He referred to the writings which influenced his literary carrier. He also focused on the writers who influenced him. He also spoke on the distinctive aspects of his writings and why he chose such themes and literary style.

Multilingual Poets’ Meet

11 March 2025, Assam

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Organising Committee of Uriamghat Book Fair and Literary Festival 2025 organised a Multilingual Poets’ Meet on 11 March 2025 at Uriamghat Book Fair premises, Uriamghat, Golaghat, Assam.

In the programme, the welcome address was delivered by Pratap Gogoi, Secretary, Organising Committee of the Book Fair. The Chief Guest of the programme was Phanidhar Basumatary, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural session was chaired by Pradip Swargiary, President, Organising Committee. The vote of thanks of the inaugural session was proposed by Sabiram Saikia, Vice President, Organising Committee.

The poetry reading session was chaired by Dilip Kr. Sarmah. In the session noted Assamese poets Pranab Phukan and Spanani Gigoj Chetia, Bodo poets Moheswar Basumatary, Gopinath Hazowary and Bilaisri Daimary, English poet Prasanta Kr. Sahoo, Nepali poet Rikute Pulami and Rabha poet Rohit Kr. Rabha read out from their recent writings. At the end, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dilip Kumar Sarmah.



Participants during the programme

Birth Centenary Seminar on Doman Sahu 'Sameer'

22 March 2025, Jharkhand



Participants during the programme

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Adivasi Socio Educational & Cultural Association, Santala Pargana's Desh Majhi Pargana Baishi and All India Santali Writers' Association of Jharkhand, organised a Birth Centenary Seminar on Doman Sahu 'Sameer' on 22 March 2025, Duladi Nagar Bhavan, Jamtara, Jharkhand. The welcome address was delivered

by Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The keynote address was delivered by eminent Santali writer Madan Mohan Soren. Distinguished Santali writer Chunda Soren 'Sipahi' inaugurated the seminar. They spoke in brief on the life and works of Doman Sahu 'Sameer'. Grandson of Doman Sahu 'Sameer', Koushal Kishore graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. The inaugural

session was chaired by Shankar Soren, General Secretary, ASECA, Jharkhand. The vote of thanks was proposed by Adviser, Desh Majhi Pargana Baishi, Santal Pargana. In the first session, Najir Hembram spoke on 'Life and Works of Doman Sahu 'Sameer'. Lakhai Baskey spoke on 'Doman Sahu 'Sameer' as a Poet : An Overview'. Mohan Ch. Baskey focused on 'Doman Sahu 'Sameer' as the Editor of 'Hor Sambad'. The first session was chaired by Subhas Chandra Marndi. The second session was chaired by Bhujanga Tudu who threw light on 'Doman Sahu 'Sameer' : A Compiler of Santali Songs'. In the session Shibu Tudu presented paper on 'Doman Sahu 'Sameer's Contributions as a writer of Children's Literature' and Ramo Tudu presented paper on 'Doman Sahu 'Sameer's essays and short stories : A Literary Evaluation'.

Kathasandhi with Shyam Beshra 'Jiwi Rarej'

22 March 2025, Jamtara, Jharkhand

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Kathasandhi' programme with eminent Santali writer Shyam Beshra 'Jiwi Rarej' on 22 March 2025 at Duladi Nagar Bhavan, Jamtara, Jharkhand.

In the programme, the welcome address was delivered by Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He introduced the speaker to the audience.

In the programme, Shyam Beshra 'Jiwi Rarej' read out from his recent writings and informed the audience of his literary journey. He also referred to important Santali writers in this context and how they influenced his writing. The vote of thanks was proposed by Madan Mohan Soren.



MUMBAI

Birth Centenary Symposium on Vasant Kanetkar: Literature & Persona

10 January 2025, Nashik



(L to R) Sri Om Nagar, Sri Nitin Thakare, Sri Vishwas Patil, Sri Sanjay Sonwane and Sri Dilip Dhondge

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Birth Centenary Symposium on Vasant Kanetkar: Literature & Persona, Birth Centenary on 10 January 2025 at the Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj Sanstha, KTHM College, Gangapur Road, Nashik in collaboration with the Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University. Dr.Om Prakash Nagar, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the guest of honour Shri Nitin Thackeray, Secretary, Maratha Vidya Prasarak Samaj, Nashik. The Introductory speech was delivered by Sri Dilip Dhondge, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, while Sri Sanjeev Sonawane, Vice-Chancellor, Yashwantrao Chavan University, chaired the inaugural session. The presidential address was delivered by Sri Vishwas Patil, Executive Board Member, Sahitya Akademi. And lastly, Jaideep Nikam, Director of the University,

proposed a vote of thanks followed by a documentary film screening on Sri Vasant Kanetkar.

The first session was chaired by Satish Alekar, where Sri Ulhas Ratnaparkhi read an article on Kanetkar's Mythological and Historical plays, followed by Sri Ashutosh Potdar who read an article on Kanetkar's Biographical plays, and lastly, Ms.Pratima Kulkarni delivered an article on Kanetkar's Social Drama.

The second session was chaired by Sri Madhav Vaze, where Sri Vijay Kenkare and Sri Praveen Bhole presented their essay on "Kanetkar's Contemporary Plays" followed by Sri Swanand Bedarkar who presented an essay on "Narrative Literature of Kanetkar".

Both the sessions were highly interactive. The valedictory session was chaired by Sri Hemant Takle, while Sri Ramdas Bhatkal delivered the valedictory address. The event was compered by Sri Datta Patil and Sri Sachin Shinde. Sri Bhaskar Dhoke delivered the vote of thanks.



Yuva Sahiti (Konkani)

12 January 2025, Udupi, Karnataka

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Yuva Sahiti on 12 January, 2025 at Ashiyana, Pandeshwar, Sastan, Udupi, Karnataka in collaboration with the Kavita Trust, Mangalore. Henry Mendoca, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the poet participants Ms. Antara Bhide, Sri Venkatesh Nayak, Sri Amey Naik and Ms. Supriya Kankonkar, who read their penned poems and writings. The event was chaired by the eminent Konkani poet Andrew L. D’Cunha. The event was attended by a large number of audience and the litterateurs. Sri Stany D’Souza, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the vote of thanks.



(L to R) Sri Venkatesh Nayak, Ms. Supriya Kankonkar, Sri Amey Naik, Sri Andrew L. Dcunha and Ms Antara Bhide

Sahitya Manch (Gujarati)

12 January 2025, Bhavnagar, Gujarat



(L to R) Ms. Harsha Dave, Ms. Neha Purohit, Sri Nikunj Bhatt, Dr. Firdaus Dahiya, Sri Daan Waghela, Sri Dr. Vinod Joshi, Sri Jeet Chudasama

Sahitya Manch programme was organised by the Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, in collaboration with KavitaKaksh, Bhavnagar on 12 January 2025. The programme was organised at Shri Gyanguru University, Opp.Rammantra Building, Kaliyabeed, Bhavnagar, Gujarat. Sri Firdaus Dekhaiya, Advisor, KavitaKaksh, Bhavnagar, delivered the welcome address and gave information about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the poet participants S/Sri/Ms Vinod Joshi, Dan Vaghela, Neha Purohit, Harsh Dave, Jit Chudasma and Nikunj Bhatt who read their poems and writings and shared their journey in the literary world. Lastly, Sri Himal Pandya, Convener, KavitaKaksh, Bhavnagar delivered the vote of thanks.

Literary Forum (Konkani)

13 January 2025, Goa



(L to R) Sri Dinesh Manerkar, Ms. Anju Sakhardande, Sri Vasant Bhagwant Sawant and Ms. Rajashree Bandodkar Karapurkar

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Literary Forum on Science Fiction in Konkani, on 13 January 2025 in the Auditorium of Dhempe College of Arts and Science, Miramar, Goa, in collaboration with Dhempe College, Goa and Goa Konkani Akademi. Sri P. S. Ramu Murthy, Principal of Dhempe College of Arts and Science delivered the welcome address. The session was chaired by eminent Konkani author, Sri Vasant Bhagwant Sawant, where Sri Dinesh Manerkar read his paper on “Zoology and space in Konkani writings”, followed by Ms. Rajashree Bandodkar Karapurkar who read a paper on “Physics Based Konkani Writings”, and Ms. Anju Sakhardane delivered a paper on “Science Based Konkani Writings”. The event was highly appreciated by the large number of audience and litterateurs.

Nari Chetana (Gujarati)

18 January 2025, Mumbai



(L to R) Ms. Nandita Thakor, Ms. Asha Purohit, Ms. Sanskritirani Desai, Ms. Mansi Sonik and Ms. Sejal Shah

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Nari Chetana, on 18 January 2025 at Kalagurjari, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai, in collaboration with Kalagurjari. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. - Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the poet participants to the dais. S/Smt Sanskritirani Desai, Nandita Thakor, Sejal Shah, Asha Purohit and Manasi Shethji Sonik participated and recited some of their poems and shared their views on the importance of female consciousness, women empowerment and their recognition and also the future of female gender in leading the society in every aspect. The event was largely appreciated by the audience, and requested fore more such woman awareness programmes to be organised. Ms. Hemang Jangla, Head, Kalagurjari, delivered the vote of thanks.



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Nari Chetana

24 January 2025, Mumbai



(L to R) Ms. Bineeta Nagpal, Ms. Reshma Rohada and Ms. Barkha Khushalani

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Nari Chetana, on 24 January 2025 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Marathi Granth Sangrahalaya Marg, Dadar (East), Mumbai. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. - Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the poet participants. Ms. Khushalani read her poems, followed by story reading by Ms. Reshma Rohda. Ms. Vinita Nagpal shared her views and thoughts on the importance of women empowerment. The event was largely appreciated by the audience and the guests who requested for more such woman awareness programmes often. Lastly, Dr. Om Prakash Nagar delivered the vote of thanks.

Yuva Sahiti (Sindhi - Odia)

28 January 2025, Virtual Live Programme

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Sindhi – Odia Poetry Reading, a virtual live programme under Weblive Literature Series, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat on 24 January 2025. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Mumbai delivered the welcome address. He gave a brief introduction of the poets participating in the event. Ms. Daksha Udhani and Sri Anwar Sama were the two poets representing Sindhi language and Sri L. N. Hota and Ms. S. Priyadarshini were representing the Odia language. The guest poets read their poems in their respective languages along with Hindi/English translations, which were highly interactive. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar gave the concluding remarks and delivered the vote of thanks.



Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Sri Laxmi Hota, Ms. Daksha Udhani and Sri Anwar Sama

Symposium on Gujarati Literature: Lullabies and Wedding Songs

1 February 2025, Porbandar, Gujarat



(L to R) Sri Lakanshi Goraniya, Sri Bhimji Khanchariya, Sri Om Nagar, Sri Balram Chavda, Sri Anupam Nagar, Sri Arvind Barot, Sri Pratap Singh Dabhi 'Hakal', Sri Sanjay Patel, Sri Snehal Joshi and Ms. Narottam Palan

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Symposium on Gujarati Literature: Lullabies and Wedding Songs, on 1 February 2025 at Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College Auditorium, Porbandar, Gujarat in collaboration with Gujarat Sahitya Akademi, Gandhinagar, Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College, Porbandar and Navrang Sahitya Sangeet Kala Pratishthan. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, officer-in-charge of Sahitya Akademi, R.O. - Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi, while Sri Anupam Nagar, Principal of the Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College delivered the opening remarks. Sri Narotam

Palan, well known Gujarati writer delivered the inaugural address; Sri Bhagyesh Jha, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the keynote address, and Lakhanshi Gorania, Head, Navrang Sahitya Sangeet Kala Pratishthan delivered the vote of thanks.

In the first half of the session, Sri Balram Chawda chaired the proceedings, where Sri Arvind Barot and Sri Pratap Singh read their articles on Gujarati Literature and lullabies, whereas Sri Bhimji Khanchariya and Sri Sanjay Patel read their articles on Gujarati Literature and Wedding Songs. The session was highly interactive. Ms. Sneha Joshi, delivered the vote of thanks.



MUMBAI

Symposium on the role of Environment in Literature

6 February 2025, Khandola, Goa



(L to R) Sri Govind Mishra, Ms. Purnakala Sawant, Sri Uday Bembre, Sri Om Nagar, Sri Asha Gehlot

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organised a Symposium on the role of Environment in Literature, on 6 February 2025 at Government Arts, Science and Commerce College Auditorium, Khandola, Goa in collaboration with the College. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer-in-Charge of Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. Sri Govind Mishra, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory remarks, followed by Sri Uday Bhenne, eminent Konkani writer delivering the opening speech. Sri Purnakala Samant, Principal of the Government College, delivered the Presidential statement and Ms. Asha Gehlot, Vice Principal of the Government College, delivered the vote of thanks.

In the first half of the session, Ms. Vrishali Mandrekar

chaired the session, where Sri Jitendra Bhatia, Sri Brijpal Singh Gehlot and Ms. Manisha Gawde read their articles on Creativity and Environment.

On the second session Namdev Tarachandani chaired the session, where Jaishankar, Amrita Dinge and Sapna Pelpakar read their article texts on the Role of Environment in Fiction.

In the third session, Sri Ajay Singh Chauhan chaired the session, where Ms. Asha Gehlot, Ms. Mamta Verlekar and Ms. Sneha Su. Prabhu Mahambre read their articles on the Role of Environment in Poetry.

In the valedictory session, Sri Govind Mishra chaired the session, while Ms. Jayshree Rai delivered the valedictory statement and Ms. Dilecta De'Costa, Deputy Principal & IQAC Director of the Government College, delivered the vote of thanks.

Literary Forum

28 February 2025

Sahitya Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme in collaboration with J&K Academy of Arts, Culture and Languages Jammu, at writers Club Jammu on 28 February 2025. Sri Mohan Singh, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address, spoke in detail about the various schemes of Sahitya Akademi before audience. A large number of poets and literature lovers participated in the programme from various parts of Jammu. During the programme Sri Om



Sri Harvinder Kaur, Secretary JK Academy, Sri Om Goswami, Sri Om Vidhyarthi, Sri Mangal Das Dogra and Sri T. R. Magotra

Goswami, Sri T. R. Magotra “Sagar”, Sri Mangal Das Dogra and Sri Om Vidhyarthi recited their poetries.

Nari Chetna

8 March 2025, Mumbai



(L to R)- Ms. Urvashi Pandya, Ms. Sulabha Kore, Ms. Priya Vachhani, Ms. Padmaja Kundaji, Ms. Shefali Raj

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, organised a NARI CHETNA (Multilingual Poetry Reading), on Saturday, 08th March, 2025 on the occasion of International Women’s Day at Kalagurjari, Dashrathlal, Doshi Marg, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai in collaboration with Kalagurjari. Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Mumbai delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi and welcomed the poet participants to the dais. Urvashi Pandya, Eminent Gujarati writer, chaired the entire programme and welcomed the guests to the dais. Ms. Shefali Raj, Ms. Padmaja Kundaji, Ms Sulabha Kore and Ms Priya Vachhani participated and recited some of their poems and shared their views on the importance of female consciousness, women empowerment and their recognition and also the future of female gender in leading the society in every aspect. The entire event was largely appreciated by the audience and the guests and requested to organize such woman awareness programmes more often.



MUMBAI

Sahitya Manch (Marathi)

15 March 2025, Parbhani, Maharashtra

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, organised a Sahitya Manch, on Saturday, 15th March 2025 at Shri Shivaji College Cultural Hall No.2, Parbhani, Maharashtra in collaboration with Department of Marathi, Shri Shivaji College, Parbhani, Maharashtra. Shri Asaram Lomate, member of General Council, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also gave brief information of the Poets to the invitees and welcomed the participants to the dais, he also welcomed Shri B.U. Jadhav, Principal of Shri Shivaji College, who chaired the entire programme. On the occasion



(L to R)- Sri Santosh Naraynkar, Sri Mohan Kulkarni, Sri Keshav Khating, Sri B.U. Jadhav, Sri Asaram Lomte, Sri Milind Jadhav, Sri Ba. Ba. Kotambe, Sri Prahlad Bhope

of Ba. Ba. Kotambe & Milind Jadhav's read his Marathi stories. Poet Mohan Kulkarni, Keshav Khating and Santosh Naraynkar read selected Marathi poems. All the poems were cordially applauded by the audience and the large number of litterateurs. Finally, Prahlad Bhope, Head of the Department, Marathi, Shri Shivaji College, proposed vote of thanks to the authorities of Sahitya Akademi and also to the participants and the large number of litterateurs for their warm presence and support in the field of literature.

Konkani-Hindi Translation Workshop

21 - 23 March 2025, Goa

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, organised a Translation Workshop from 21.03.2025 to 23.03.2025 at Goa in collaboration with the Thomas Stephans Konkani Kendra and All India Konkani Parishad, Goa. Melvyn Rodrigues, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave the introductory speech and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also expressed that this historical work will be continued by the new generations. Five poems each of the 21 Sahitya Akademi Awards winners were translated into Hindi which will be published soon. Dr. Ramita Gurav and Dr. Asha Gehlot gave their insightful guidance during the workshop. Henry Menconda, Director of Thomas Stephans Konkani Centre, Pandurang Phaladesai, Administrator Fr. Joseph Silveira and other dignitaries were also



Inaugurating the programme by lighting a lamp

present. All the three day sessions were highly interactive and was applauded by the audience, and the litterateurs highly appreciated such activities of Sahitya Akademi.



Gramalok (Konkani)

23 March 2025, Goa



(L to R)-Sri Samiksha Velip, Sri SanjayTawadkar, Sri Devidas Gaonkar, Sri Devendra Tawadkar, Sri Purnananda Chari & Sri Ajit Painginkar

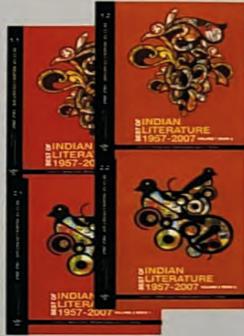
Principal, DPM’s Shree Mallikarjun College delivered the welcome address and also welcomed the Chief Guest Yashwant (Dillion) Desai, Sarpanch , Gaondongri Panchayat, Canacona. Dr. Purnananda Chari, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory remarks and informed about the various activities of Sahitya Akademi and also briefed about the event. The programme was chaired by the renowned author, journalist and folklore scholar Ajit Painginkar who welcomed the poet participants to the dias. The programme was graced with the presence of participating speakers Devendra Tawadkar, Devidas Gaonkar, Sanjay Tawadkar and Samiksha Velip. The participants shared their ideas and journey on literature and also read some of their individual poems which were highly appreciated by the large number of audience and the litterateurs present. Lastly, Premjit Velip proposed vote of thanks to the authorities of Sahitya Akademi and also to the participants and the large number of litterateurs for their warm presence and support in the field of literature.

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, organised Gramalok (Subject: Talgadee and Tribal Fugadee Folklore) in collaboration with Shree Mallikarjun and Shri Chetan Manju Desai College, Canacona, Goa and Gaondongri Panchayat, Canacona, Goa. At the outset, Sucheta Naik, Officiating

Best of Indian Literature

Edited by
Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
&
A.J. Thomas

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MUMBAI

National Seminar on The Akshar-Purushottama Darshan in Indian Philosophical Traditions and Its Relevance

23-24 March 2025, Ahmedabad and Sarangpur, Gujarat

Sahitya Akademi organised a two-day national seminar on “The Akshar-Purushottama Darshan in Indian Philosophical Traditions and Its Relevance” in collaboration with the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute, Akshardham, on 23-24 March 2025 at Ahmedabad and Sarangpur, Gujarat. The two-day event involved scholars from across India presenting research papers and participating in insightful discussions on the Akshar-Purushottama Darshan, exploring its philosophical depth and contemporary relevance.

The inaugural session was chaired by Swami Bhadreshdas, Head of the BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute. In his presidential address, he elaborated on the main theme of the seminar. At the beginning, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address said, “Akshar Purushottam Darshana is the simplest and profound philosophy, most suited to the present day and age”. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Gautami Patel, renowned Sanskrit scholar. Sri Harekrishna Satapathy, Convener of Sanskrit Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, while delivering the introductory remarks said that the ultimate aim of Akshar Purushottam Darshana is to bestow peace, joy and happiness to all. Sri Sagar Acharya, Principal of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, proposed the vote of thanks, at the end of the session.

The first session was chaired by Sri Gautam Pate. During the session, Sri G.S.R. Krishna Murty presented his paper on ‘Contribution of Indian Philosophical Literature in the Global Context’, Sri Shrinivas Varakhedi on ‘Representation of Indian Culture in Indian Philosophical Literature’, and Sri Murali Manohar Pathak on ‘Overview of Various Schools of Vedanta’. The session was followed by a Book Launch Ceremony Santvibhuti Pramukhswami Maharaj, celebrating the life and spiritual legacy of Pramukh Swami Maharaj and authored by Swami Bhadreshdas.

The second session was presided over by Sri Sukanta



Dignitaries on the dais

Kumar Senapati, who also presented his paper on ‘Global influence of Akshar-Purushottam Philosophy’. The other paper presentations during this session were made by Sri Narayan Pujar, who spoke on ‘Contribution of Dvaita Philosophy to Social Harmony’, Sri Ram Kishore Tripathi on ‘Solutions to Contemporary Issues in Upanishad-Swaminarayan Bhashya’, and Sri Lalitkumar Patel on ‘The Role of Pramukh Swami in the Spiritual and Social Upliftment of Gujarat’.

The third session was chaired by Sri Harekrishna Satapathy and a paper titled ‘Introduction to Akshar-Purushottam Philosophy’ was presented by Sri Swami Gnanananddas, ‘Philosophical Essence of Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s Vachanamritam’ by Sri Swami Gnantriptdas, and ‘Place of Akshar-Purushottam Philosophy in Indian Philosophical Tradition’ by Sri Swami Aksharananddas. During the valedictory ceremony, a special guest address was delivered by Padma Shri Gautambhai Patel. This was followed by a valedictory speech from Harekrishna Satapathy, who thoughtfully summarized the key insights and highlights of the entire event. Swami Bhadreshdas chaired the ceremony. Dr. N Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, while proposing the vote of thanks, expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the event. The event culminated at BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir, Sarangpur, with a ceremonial procession of the book Santvibhuti Pramukh Swami Maharaj.



BENGALURU

Loka: The Many Voices (Kannada)

2 January 2025, Talikote, Karnataka



Performance by Prof. B.R. Policepatil and troupe

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in association with S.S. Vidya Samsthe, Talikote, organised the ‘Loka: The Many Voices’ programme on 2 January 2025, in the S.S. Vidya Samsthe, Talikote, Vijayapura District, Karnataka.

Sri Channappa Angadi, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, welcomed all the dignitaries and the audience, and gave the introductory remarks. Speaking as a resource person, Prof. B R Policepatil, Kannada poet, dramatist, and Lavani Folklorist, stated that the Kannada language, heritage, and culture were nurtured by the folklore of Karnataka. Folklore was too diverse, which was embedded in a long tradition, he added. Because of the modern lifestyle, these traditional arts and heritage had been affected over a period of time. Of late, values and ethics had faded from society, which had led to further deterioration of the quality of the arts. By engaging in the art field, the community would become more lively. Hence, it was necessary to introduce folklore

arts like Lavani to the younger generation through awareness lectures and live performances.

The Chairman of S.S. Vidya Samsthe, Sri H.S. Patil, presided over the event and stated that Janapada (Folklore) was the main root of culture, which needed to be passed on to the younger generation. He gave assurance that S.S. Vidya Samsthe would create space and facilities to teach the interested students about Lavani heritage. The President of Taluk Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, Sri R L Koppad, and Director of J.S.G. foundation, Shrikanth Pattar, also expressed happiness about the initiatives of the Sahitya Akademi.

The troupe, led by Prof. B R Policepatil and the other members, namely Salim Hangandi, Rafiq Hangandi, Shrishail Haliyal, and Ravi Honagoud performed Lavani songs rendition in folk-ballad style. The faculty members and non-teaching staff, students of the institution and others in the audience relished and enjoyed the beauty of the rich Lavani art. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks

Southern and Western Poets' Meet (Multilingual)

3 January 2025, Vijayawada

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Vijayawada Book Festival Society, organised a Southern and Western Poets' Meet on 3 January 2025, at Indra Gandhi Municipal Stadium, Vijayawada.

Sri Vijayakumar (EMESCO), a member of Sahitya Akademi's General Council, presented the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. He also introduced the guests to the audience. Sri Papineni Shivashankar, eminent Telugu poet, writer, and Sahitya Akademi award winner, chaired the poets' meet. Sri R.P. Sisodia, writer and poet, Special Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh, graced the occasion. Poets from various languages, such as Ms Esha Dadawala (Gujarati), Sri Sumit Metri (Kannada), Sri Prakash Dattaram Naik (Konkani), Sri P.N. Gopikrishnan (Malayalam), Dr Swati Shinde Pawar (Marathi), Sri Harish Karamchandani (Sindhi), and Sri Sanmugam



Sri Sanmugam Vimal Kumar, Tamil Poet,
reciting his poems

Vima Kumar participated and recited their poems. The poets' meet concluded with a vote of thanks.

Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Indhu- choodan (K.K. Neelakantan) (Malayalam)

18 January 2025, Mavelikara, Kerala

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Onattukara Sahithi, Mavelikara, organised the Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Induchoodan (K.K. Neelakantan) on 18 January 2025, at A.R. Rajaraja Varma Smarakam, Mavelikara, Kerala.

The symposium began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial of the grammarian of Malayalam, A.R. Rajaraja

Varma. This was followed by a rendition of Kumaranasan's poem. Dr T.K. Santhosh Kumar, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address in the Inaugural Session. He welcomed the gathering and mentioned the cultural significance of the contributions of K.K. Neelakantan, known by his pen name Induchoodan, who was an English teacher and a birdwatcher. Sri Madhu



BENGALURU

Iravankara, President of Onattukara Sahithi, presided over the session. He especially appreciated the work of the Sahitya Akademi in introducing to the new generation the life of talented writers who shed light on the cultural life of Kerala by celebrating their birth centenaries.

The symposium was inaugurated by the prominent literary critic and environmentalist, Sri Asha Menon, who said that the life of birdwatcher Induchoodan was for the future environment of Kerala. He averred that Induchoodan's presence at the forefront of the Silent Valley movement gave a message that nature should be protected. He said that Induchoodan's book, *Birds of Kerala*, is an introduction to the Kerala's environment. He compared the message given to the world by Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, with Induchoodan's contributions. Literary critic Dr M. Krishnan Namboothiri delivered the keynote address. He said that Induchoodan was not only an ornithologist but also an oncologist. He embraced ecology as a whole beyond birdwatching. He explained that since he was an ornithologist and an ecologist, there was no harm in describing him as an ornithologist by combining the two terms. He also said that his book, *Birds of Kerala*, was unique because it was a fine example of the Malayalam language. Dr Sabu Kottukkal, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Mamman Varkey, the patron of Onattukara Sahithi, and Secretary Sri Suresh Varma graced the session and shared their views. Sri George Thazhakkara, the treasurer of Onattukara Sahithi proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr Sabu Kottukkal presided over the first session titled "Induchoodan - The Cultural Life of an Ornithologist". He explained how Induchoodan's birdwatching life evolved into a cultural life in Kerala. He said that birds were brothers to Induchoodan, who saw nature as his mother. Novelist Sri C. Rahim, who was also Induchoodan's biographer, presented the life of Induchoodan in detail, who was in tune with nature from a young age. Sri Rahim also said that Induchoodan's style, which he first identified and photographed, and drew in his backyard, amazed world-famous ornithologist Salim Ali.



Sri Asha Menon, Eminent Critic, delivering the inaugural address, and other dignitaries on the dais

In the second session titled "Induchoodan and the Birds in Kerala", storyteller Ms. K Rekha presided. Ms. Rekha explained how the cultural layers of the heart-to-heart relationship between humans and birds were reflected in Induchoodan's book, *Birds of Kerala*. Dr Munjinad Padmakumar's paper analysed the influence of Induchoodan's book *Birds of Kerala* on Malayalam literature and cinema. As a writer, Induchoodan's book influenced his childhood and adolescence. He also said that Malayalam literature could be divided into pre and post the *Birds of Kerala*. Sri Anoop Kallara commented that Induchoodan's astuteness and foresight were evident in the fact that in the book *Birds of Kerala*, along with the scientific names and gender information of the birds, the call of the birds chirp had been decoded.

Writer and journalist Sri V.K. Ravi Varma Thampuran delivered the valedictory address. He said that Induchoodan, although an English teacher, was an environmental scientist who was ahead of his time. He also said that Induchoodan had culturally connected the future generation to him through bird watching and environmental studies. Novelist and Vice-President of Onattukara Sahithi, Sri K. K. Sudhakaran presided over the valedictory session. Joint Secretary of Onattukara Sahithi, Sri Sasi Kumar Mavelikkara proposed a vote of thanks. Litterateurs and literarians from Mavelikara attended the programme.

Symposium on Telugu Drama and Feminism (Telugu)

26 January 2025, Edlapadu

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Vedika, Edlapadu, organised a Symposium on Telugu Drama and Feminism on 26 January 2025, at Vedika Karyalayam, Edlapadu, Palnadu District.

Sri Valluru Siva Prasad, a member of the Sahitya Akademi’s Telugu Advisory Board, delivered the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of the Sahitya Akademi. Mrs. Volga, an eminent Telugu writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner, delivered the keynote address. She said that plays quickly reach the common people more than other literary genres, and plays are bracketed as social and performing arts. She briefly discussed the feminist plays and their role in Telugu literature.

Sri Muttqavarapu Suresh Babu presided over the inaugural session. He shared his experience while staging plays in the region of Edlapadu. He thanked the Sahitya Akademi for collaborating with Vedika for the symposium. The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri J.V. Mohana Rao, General Secretary of Vedika.

The first session was chaired by Sri Ambati Murali Krishna. Sri Kandimalla Sambasiva Rao presented a paper on “Telugu Drama: Women’s Awareness”. He briefly spoke about the women’s awareness in the Telugu plays, namely Seetha Joshyam, Kshamaya Dharithri, Lady Panja, Shwetha Pathram, and others. Dr Nibhanupudi Subba Raju presented a paper on “Traditional Drama: Women’s Progress”. He said that women’s progress thoughts were more often expressed in the Telugu poetic plays. He analysed that women’s progress was exemplified by the role of Chandramathi in the Satya Harishchandra play. Dr Ch. Susheelamma presented



Ms Volga delivering the keynote address, and other dignitaries on the dais

a paper on “Reformation Movement Drama - Women’s Reflection” and highlighted the topic as reproduced in the plays of Kanya Shulkam, Chintamani, and Vara Vikrayamu.

Sri Pinnamaneni Mrithyunjaya Rao chaired the second session. Smt. P. Devi briefly spoke about the “Women’s Progress in the Modern Street Plays”. She said that the role of street plays was important in reinterpreting history, especially the significant role of women’s plays. Dr J. Kanaka Durga presented a paper on “Telugu Drama: Marital Life”. She briefly discussed the social, economic, and political contexts and gender inequality in the women’s plays. Dr Nalluri Rukmini presented her paper on “Telugu Drama – Male Domination and Women’s Economic Freedom”. She explained how male domination and women’s economic freedom are depicted in the women’s plays. The paper revealed the theme based on the role of Susheela in the Nija play. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks.

Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Thirunalloor Karunakaran (Malayalam)

27 January 2025, Kollam, Kerala



Dr Santhosh Kumar, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, delivering the welcome address, and other dignitaries on the dais

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Fathima Matha National College, Kollam, Kerala organised a Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Thirunalloor Karunakaran on 27 January 2025, at Bishop Jerom Hall, Fathima Matha National College, Kollam.

Dr T.K. Santhosh Kumar, a member of Sahitya Akademi's Malayalam Advisory Board, delivered the welcome address. He introduced to the audience the efforts being made to bring the activities of Sahitya Akademi to the academic community, including colleges and universities in Kerala. He highlighted the importance of Thirunalloor Karunakaran in Malayalam literature. Dr Cinthia Catherine Michael, Principal

of the college, presided over the inaugural session. He said that the college was proud to host the Sahitya Akademi event. Poet and critic Sri Kalpatta Narayanan presented the inaugural address. He said that Thirunalloor Karunakaran's poems transcend the political echoes. He added that Thirunalloor Karunakaran was a poet who assimilated the tradition of Indian poetry along with socio-political philosophies. Prominent literary critic Sri K. Prasannarajan delivered the keynote address. He said that Thirunalloor Karunakaran, was not only a poet who captured the hearts of Malayalis, but also a great teacher, a scholar with a deep knowledge of epics and myths, who will continue to inspire the Malayalam mind in the future. Dr Sabu Kottukkal, a member of Sahitya Akademi's



Malayalam Advisory Board, Fr. Abhilash Gregory, Manager of the college, Sri T.K. Vinodan, Thirunalloor Karunakaran's son, and Vice Principal and Head of the Malayalam Department, Dr M.R. Shelly, were felicitated during the programme. Dr Sabu Kottukkal, after giving an introduction to Thirunalloor Karunakaran's poetic and cultural stream, a brief analysis was made of how the Sahitya Akademi reached the masses, both academically and otherwise. The college Manager promised all possible cooperation for the further activities of the Sahitya Akademi. The head of the department said that the fact that students, teachers, and the general public, not only from the Malayalam department but also from other departments of studies, came to participate in the programme was a testament to the importance of the programme. Thirunalloor Karunakaran's son, Sri T.K. Vinodan said that this programme of the Sahitya Akademi was a national recognition of his father's birth centenary. Assistant Professor of Malayalam Dr Sudheesh Sam, proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr Sabu Kottukkal chaired the first session on "Cultural Streams of Thirunalloor Karunakaran's Poems". Poet, critic, and theatre director Dr L. Thomaskutty and poet Ms Sheeja Vakkom presented papers. Dr L. Thomaskutty said that Thirunalloor Karunakaran's poetic

world was shaped by the cultural nationalism of the Kollam district. Ms Sheeja Vakkom said that as a poet, Thirunalloor Karunakaran was able to emotionally influence people, including her.

The second session on "Thirunalloor Karunakaran: Poet, Translator, Writer" was chaired by poet Mrs. R. Srilatha Varma. Literary critic Sri K.B. Selvamony and teacher Dr Nithya P. Vishwam presented papers. Sri Selvamony said that the writer Thirunalloor considered the feelings and thoughts of ordinary people as important in his literary life. Dr Nithya P. Vishwam said that translations and prose writings were part of Thirunalloor Karunakaran's poetic personality.

Writer Sri V. T. Kureepuzha presided over the valedictory session. Prominent journalist and writer Sri Baiju Chandran delivered the valedictory address. Sri Baiju Chandran said that Thirunalloor Karunakaran was not just a poet of Kollam but a poet who had assimilated the entire Indian culture. He also stated that Thirunalloor Karunakaran's profound erudition in epics, mythologies, and the works of Kalidasa had inspired his poetic imagination. At the end of the session, teachers and students shared their views on the programme. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks.

Literary Forum: New Trends in Diaspora Literature (Malayalam)

27 January 2025, Devagiri, Kozhikode, Kerala

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in association with the Department of English, St. Joseph's College, Devagiri, Kozhikode, Kerala, organised a Literary Forum on New Trends in Diaspora Literature on 27 January 2025, in the college premises.

The programme drew an impressive audience comprising literature enthusiasts, students, and academicians. The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr Robin

Xavier, Assistant Professor of the English Department of the college. It was followed by an introductory speech by the Principal of the college, Prof. Bobby Jose, who expressed the significance of such literary fora in bridging cultural and literary gaps. The presidential address was delivered by renowned scholar and convener of the Sahitya Akademi's Malayalam Advisory Board, Sri K.P. Ramanunni, who highlighted how diasporic literature enriched the inclusive



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Sri K.P. Ramanunni, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, delivering his speech, and other dignitaries on the dais

nature of the Malayalam language. Emphasizing the theme of “lost identity,” Sri Ramanunni remarked, “Diasporic literature makes the inclusive Malayalam language richer”, stressing the significance of this genre in broadening cultural perspectives.

The literary forum featured three prominent diasporic writers, each shedding light on diverse aspects of the genre. Sri Manohar Thomas, a celebrated diasporic writer and actor, elaborated on the role of social media platforms in

providing a global stage for diasporic writers to share and publish their works, reaching a broader audience. Sri S. Anilal, another noted diasporic writer, explored the scope and evolving meaning of diasporic literature. He emphasised how globalisation and advancements in information and communication technology act as catalysts in shaping the experiences and narratives of the diaspora. Adding to the discourse, the famous diasporic novelist Ms Nirmala provided a historical perspective on the evolution of migration from the 1960s and 1970s to the present day. She discussed how technological advancements have transformed the landscape for diasporic writers, making publishing and networking significantly easier. Reflecting on her literary journey, Nirmala noted the challenges she faced during the early years of her career and expressed optimism about the future of diasporic literature in the digital era.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants posed thought-provoking questions about the challenges faced by diasporic writers, the prospects of diasporic literature, the role of Malayali organisations in promoting diasporic writings, and the unforgettable experiences in the authors’ writing journeys. The felicitation address was delivered by Dr FL Sunil, HOD of Malayalam Department of the college, Devagiri, followed by the vote of thanks proposed by Dr Raichal John, Assistant Professor of English Department of the college. Litterateurs and literarians from Devagiri, attended the programme.

Birth Centenary Seminar on the Life and Literature of Shantarasa (Kannada)

28 January 2025, Hampi

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Kannada Literature Studies, Kannada University, Hampi, had organised a Birth Centenary Seminar on the Life and Literature of Shantarasa held on 28 January 2025, at the Bhuvana Vijaya Auditorium of the University.

The programme began with the welcome address of Dr

Basavaraja Sadar, a member of the General Council, Sahitya Akademi. Outlines of the activities of the Sahitya Akademi, he explained the background and significance of the birth centenary symposia/seminars of the Sahitya Akademi. He also mentioned the birth centenary celebrations organised by the Sahitya Akademi recently. Shantarasa was a person of a peaceful nature, like a calm river and a rushing waterfall. He



L to R: Dr Venkatagiri Dalavai, Dr Vijay Poonacha Thambanda, Dr D.V. Paramashivamurthy, Prof. Rahamath Tarikere, and Dr Basavaraj Sadar

was the one who brought the Urdu Ghazal genre to Kannada without damaging its roots. The literary revolution that he brought to the Kalyana Karnataka region is remarkable. Dr Rahamath Tarikere, a famous Kannada writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner, inaugurated the Seminar. He said that Shantarasa could be seen as the link of Sharana literature theory, the link of Urdu Ghazals, and the cultural hub of Kalyana Karnataka. His writings had connected the lives of all sections of people, their joys and sorrows. Dr D.V. Paramashivamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of the University, who presided over the inaugural function, thanked the Sahitya Akademi, its members, and staff for organizing the seminar in collaboration with the University.

In the first session, Dr Amaresh Nugadoni presented his paper on “Shantarasa: Person and Personality”. He said that writing came to Shantarasa by birth, and literature was like that. He gave priority to literature as much as he gave to organization. He was the first to apply literary genres to music. He had a unique personality that attracted people of all generations. Dr Bhagyajyoti Hiremath presented a paper on “Poetry and Ghazals of Shantarasa”. She explained by mentioning the characteristics of Shantarasa’s poems like ‘Bayalu Seemeya Bisliu’ and ‘Manasagalli’. She also explained his couplets and Ghazals. Dr C.S. Bheemaraya presented a paper on “Novels and Short Stories of Shantarasa”. He spoke about Shantarasa’s ‘Badesabu Purana’, ‘Naayi and Pinchani’, and other stories. He opined that Shantarasa’s novel ‘Sanna

Goudasani’ was a milestone in Kannada novels. He said that it contained a wonderful portrayal of the life of the rural people of Kalyana Karnataka.

In the second session, Dr Venkatagiri Dalavai presented his paper on “Plays and Essays of Shantarasa”. He said that there were plays and essays to reveal the philosophical basis of Shantarasa. He explained by referring to ‘Nanju Norevalu’, ‘Mareyada Maramma’, and other plays and essay collections such as ‘Bahuroopa’ and ‘Uliva Mara’. Dr K. Ravindranath presented a paper on “Research and Textual Criticism of Shantarasa”. He spoke about his research works ‘Edadore Nadina Anubhavi Kavigalu’ and ‘Bellari Zilleya Shivsharanaru’, and the issues Sangavibhu Virachita “Muru Sataka” and Kallur

Linganna Odiya Virachita “Baramasa”. He expressed his opinion that Shantarasa was a first-class researcher and editor. He said that Shantarasa provided good information to today’s researchers and editors. Dr Prabhu Khanapure presented a paper on “Translations and Edited Works of Shantarasa”. He said that Shantarasa studied in Urdu medium, hence, he was fluent in translating from Urdu into Kannada and also translated from Hindi into Kannada. He translated the Urdu novel ‘Umraao Jaan Adaa’ into Kannada for the Sahitya Akademi. Inspired by the Ghazals in this novel, he wrote Ghazals in Kannada. He briefly explained about his edited works like ‘Musuku Tere’, ‘Kalyanadeepa’, ‘Benna Hindina Belaku’.

At the valedictory function held in the evening, well-known Kannada writer and Shantarasa’s daughter, Smt. Bharathi Mohan Koti, delivered the valedictory speech. Recalling her association with her father, she said he had the desire and ambition to bring Kalyana Karnataka to the forefront not only in literature but also in all other aspects. “He saw a mother in me by calling me ‘Amma’. My father’s life and writings were one”, she said. The Registrar of the University, Dr Vijay Poonachcha Tambanda presided over the function. Shantarasa’s daughter, Shantarasa’s son, Sri Sri Basava Prabhu and Smt. Bharathi were felicitated at the function. Dr Venkatagiri Dalavai proposed a vote of thanks. Students, faculty members, and non-teaching staff of the university participated in the day-long programme.

Symposium on Gazals in Kannada (Kannada)

29 January 2025, Raichur, Karnataka



Dr Basavaraj Sabarad delivering the inaugural address
L to R: Dr Yariswamy M., Dr Suyamindra Kulkarni, and
Dr Chidananda Sali

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Raichur University, Raichur, organised the Symposium on Gazals in Kannada held on 29 January 2025, at the Raichur University Auditorium, Raichur.

Dr Chidananda Sali, a member of Sahitya Akademi's Kannada Advisory Board, welcomed the dignitaries and presented his keynote address. He explained that in the southern region of India, there had been a lot of work done on the genre of Gazal, particularly in Karnataka. That too, Raichur had been noted as the motherland for this genre, as legendary Kannada writers namely Shantarasa, Muktayakka, and Jambanna Amarachinta who hailed from Raichur and specialised in the Gazal writing. In his inaugural address, Dr Basavaraja Sabarad explained the historical, political, and cultural reasons for the growth of Kannada Gazal in Kalyana Karnataka region, especially in Raichur district. Prof. M. Yariswamy, Registrar (Evaluation), Raichur University, said that Gazals had maintained their fame

through the ages because of their popularity in Hindi cinema due to their lyrical value. Acting Vice-Chancellor of the Raichur University, Dr Suyamindra Kulkarni, opined that Gazals can reach a greater height clubbed with music.

In the first session, Sri Bode Riyaz Ahmed presented a paper on "Relation between Kannada and other Language Gazals". He explained in detail the reason for its popularity. Dr Korenal, in his speech on "Social Criticism in Kannada Gazals", opined that decades ago Gazal had crossed the barrier of the traditional theme of love and carried many themes apart from it.

In the second session, Smt. Rashmi S, in her speech on "Depiction of Women in Kannada Gazals," said that women had been portrayed almost in a stereotype. Dr Anand Rugvedi spoke on "Gazal and Other Poetry Forms of Kannada" and said that there was an interesting symmetry in the metres of Urdu Gazal and Kannada Gazal. Dr Vikram Visaji spoke on "Kannada Culture in Gazals".

Dr K. Venkatesh, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Sciences, chaired the valedictory session. Sri Siddharama Hirematha, renowned Gazal writer, in his valedictory address, said that presently, the Gazal genre was making a big impact in Kannada. Undoubtedly, it was the time of introspection for all Gazal writers who go by only with its metre and must convey literary values in it for the readers. Students and research scholars actively participated in the interaction with resource persons. Faculty members of different departments were present. Dr K. Venkatesh, in his presidential remarks, requested students to develop the habit of reading literature and participating actively in the interactive sessions. Visualizing oneself through the inner self was possible in Gazals.

An Evening with a Critic – Sri Yetukuri Prasad (Telugu)

1 February 2025, Hyderabad



Sri Yetukuri Prasad, eminent Telugu critic and delivering his speech

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised an Evening with a Critic – Sri Yetukuri Prasad, Eminent Telugu Critic, Poet and Researcher on 1 February 2025 in collaboration with The Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana, in the Conference Hall of Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, Telangana.

Prof. S.V. Satyanarayana, Member of the General Council and Telugu Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and introduced the guest speaker. Sri Yetukuri Prasad shared his creative experiences as a critic, poet, and researcher, and interacted with the audience. He said that searching for innovations in all genres of literature had been an inspiration to him, as well for the writers, for the past eight decades. He opined that art and literature would build a new society. The event concluded with a vote of thanks. Litterateurs and literarians from Hyderabad attended the programme.

Gramalok : Contribution of Bagalakote District to Modern Kannada Literature (Kannada)

2 February 2025, Bagalakote District, Karnataka

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised a Gramalok programme on the “Contribution of Bagalakote District to Modern Kannada Literature” on 2 February 2025, in association with The Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, Rabakavi-Banahatti at Sri Neelakanteshwar Community Hall, Rampur, Rabakavi-Banahatti Taluk, Bagalakote District, Karnataka.

Sri Channappa Angadi, Member, Kannada Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome and introductory address. He briefly spoke about the activities of the Sahitya Akademi. Dr Vijayakumar S. Katagihallimath, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered a lecture on Prose Literature of Bagalakote district. He praised the contribution of veteran litterateurs of Bagalakote who

worked with dedication for the development of literature. Writers like S/Sri Fa. Gu. Halakatti, Sa. Ja. Nagalotimath, Tammannappa Chikkodi, and other stalwarts gave a decisive shape to prose literature. There could about 6000 small and big writers in the district. “There is a need for us to enlighten the youth regarding the actual history. The way in which senior writers refined society through their writings should become a model for the upcoming writers”, he emphasised. Prof. G. S. Vadaganvi spoke about the poetry contribution of Bagalakote district to modern literature. He expressed his happiness about the contribution of local poets in all stages of modern Kannada literature, like Navodaya, Navya and Dalit-Bandaya, etc.

Badami, during Chalukya Dynasty, was the birthplace



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Sri M.K. Megadi, President, Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, Rabakavi-Banahatti delivering his speech. (L to R): Smt. Sumangala Meti, Sri G.S. Vadagavi, Sri D.A. Bagalkote, Dr Vijayakumar Katagihallimath, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, and Sri Channappa Angadi, Member, Kannada Advisory Board

of a poetry form, ‘Thripadi’. The Thripadi (three-line short compositions) of Badami Chalukyas tenure is like a Gayatri Mantra. Dr Sumangala Meti talked about Vachana literature, revealing the essence of Sharana Movement. According to her, Vachana writings were still revered and would continue.

The event was presided over by Dr D. A. Bagalkote, with Chief Guest Sri M.K. Megadi, President, Sahitya Kannada Parishattu, Rabakavi-Banahatti. Sri Shrishail Burli proposed a vote of thanks. Litterateurs and literarians from Rampur attended the programme.

South Indian Short Story Writers’ Meet (Multilingual)

3 February 2025, Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu



Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivering the welcome address, and other dignitaries on the dais

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Tamil Perayam, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Tamil Nadu, organised a South Indian Short Story Writers’ Meet on 3 February 2025, at the SRM Institute. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. Dr R. Thamocharan (Aravendan), Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, delivered the introductory address. Sri S. Ramakrishnan, eminent Tamil writer, delivered the keynote address. Dr T.R. Paarivendar, Founder and Chancellor,

of the institute, delivered the presidential address. Dr R. Arunachalam, Campus Administrator of the institute, proposed a vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Sri Peddinti Ashok Kumar. Short stories were read by Dr Rajashekhar Halemane (Kannada), Sri V. Shinilal (Malayalam), and Ms. S. Thenmozhi (Tamil) respectively.

The second session was chaired by Dr Rajashekhar Halemane. Short stories were read by Ms. Jissa Jose (Malayalam), Sri S.

Ramakrishnan (Tamil), and Ms. Aparna Thota (Telugu) respectively.

The third session was chaired by Sri V. Shinilal. Short stories were read by Ms. Anupama Prasad (Kannada), and Sri Peddinti Ashok Kumar (Telugu), respectively.

The writers' meet concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr B. Jaiganesh, Secretary, Tamil Perayam. Litterateurs and literarians from Kattankulathur attended the programme.

Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Sebastian Kappen (Malayalam)

4 February 2025, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Dr Mar Coorilose Geevarghese delivering the valedictory speech, and other dignitaries on the dais

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Loyola Extension Services, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Thiruvananthapuram, organised a Symposium on the Birth Centenary of Sebastian Kappen on 4 February 2025, at Suttar Hall, Loyola College of Social Sciences, Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

The inaugural session began with an invocation.

Dr T.K. Santhosh Kumar, Member of Sahitya Akademi's Malayalam Advisory Board, delivered the welcome address. He highlighted the importance of celebrating the Birth Centenary of Father Sebastian Kappen. Also, he delivered an introductory speech about Sebastian Kappen's contributions to the Malayalam language, culture, and intellectual world. He introduced to the audience the efforts



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being made to bring the activities of Sahitya Akademi to the academic community, including colleges and universities in Kerala. Sri Sunny Thomas S.J., Manager of the Loyola College, delivered the presidential address. He highlighted the relevance of Sahitya Akademi's celebration of the Birth Centenary of Sebastian Kappen at Loyola College. He recalled the intellectual brilliance and cultural engagements that Father Sebastian Kappen displayed when he was a Jesuit priest. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr Jancy James, Former Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kerala and Member of the Sahitya Akademi's English Advisory Board. Dr Jancy James said that Sebastian Kappen tried to heal society with love. She also said that Kappen's transformation from faith to revolution was to create a society based on brotherhood. Eminent critic Dr P.P. Raveendran, who delivered the keynote address, said that Sebastian Kappen's life was to build a new society by combining Christian philosophy and Marxist ideology. He said that it was Sebastian Kappen who laid the foundation for cultural studies in Kerala. Further, he mentioned that not being able to meet and talk to Father Kappen personally was a great loss to him. Sri Sabu P. Thomas, Principal of Loyola College, said that Father Sebastian Kappen's Renaissance thoughts were still relevant. Sri Sunny Jose reminded that Father Sebastian Kappen had demonstrated originality in his dress, worship, and way of thinking. Loyola Extension Services Director Fr. Renjith George proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr Binoy Jacob presided over the first session on the "Cultural Streams of Sebastian Kappen's Philosophy". He said that Father Sebastian Kappen, who tried to study the changes that had taken place internationally in the field of philosophy, travelled in

search of the depths of Indian culture. Dr Sebastian Vattamattom recorded in his paper that the deep knowledge Father Kappen had in Indian philosophies, Vedas, Upanishads, Bible, and Marxist ideology inspired him to shape a world of ideas that would make Kerala life dynamic since the seventies. Dr Kusumam Joseph explained in her paper that Father Kappen presented a philosophy that stood for freedom in all areas, such as gender issues, family relations, morality, faith, and women's freedom.

The second session, on the topic of "Sebastian Kappen and Counter-culture," was chaired by Dr Muse Mary George. She said that human brotherhood, love, and freedom were at the core of Father Sebastian Kappen's thoughts and that was why he was able to attract the common people. She explained that Father Kappen's thought process on women's freedom was to subvert the inhuman thoughts that were rooted in society. The currents of counter-culture in Father Kappen's philosophy were analyzed concerning life in the era of artificial intelligence by Sri V.J. James in his paper. The relevance of Father Kappen's counter-culture thoughts in the context of the political and cultural changes taking place globally today was analyzed by Sri Saji Abraham in his paper.

Sri Biju George presided over the valedictory session. Dr Mar Coorlose Geevarghese delivered the valedictory speech. He said that Father Sebastian Kappen was a philosopher with fundamental thinking. Father Sebastian Kappen's thoughts renovated both Christian theology and Marxist thought. He said that if the personal is political and prophecy is the rejection of evil, then Father Kappen was a great denier. The Symposium concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr Nisha Jolly Nelson, Head of the Sociology Department of Loyola College.



Symposium on “Negotiating, Language, Space and Identities: Texts and Contexts in Translation”

6 February 2025, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Department of English, St. Josephs College of Arts and Commerce, Bengaluru, organised a one-day symposium on “Negotiating Language, Space, and Identities: Texts and Contexts in Translation” on February 6, 2025, in Loyola Hall, St. Josephs College of Arts and Commerce, Bengaluru. The programme was inaugurated by Ms. Nikita Chung, followed by the lighting of the lamp. It was followed by the Welcome Address by Sri Chandrashekara Raju, the Programme Assistant, Sahitya Akademi. The Presidential Address was given by the Principal, Dr Charles Lasrado SJ. Father Charles warmly welcomed the collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi and delved into the importance of such collaborations in his speech. He addressed the symposium by giving his insights on the transformative power of language and the value that language and its study hold in SJCC. Sri Vinay Kambipura, the HOD of English delivered the Introduction and set the context for the symposium.

During the first session of the day, the Keynote Address by Dr B N Sumithra Bai, eminent writer and retired Sanskrit teacher. In her address, Dr. Sumithra Bai talked about the history of translation in India. She talked about the histories of Sanskrit and Prakrit, Kannada and various other Indian languages.

She concluded by talking about how languages are communicative tools for not just thoughts but also to translate the unique knowledge between different cultures, identities and groups of people. After a brief tea break, the first session started with Malayalam-Kannada-English Translations. Mr. Sudhakaran Ramanthali and Dr. Rekha Dutta were the panellists for this session. Dr. Rekha Dutta discussed translation theories with an emphasis on context, presenting a literature review of key texts that challenge our understanding of translation and raise important questions. Mr. Ramanthali followed, asserting that no single perfect translation theory exists; instead, success depends on practical and creative approaches. He shared his experiences translating works from Kannada to Malayalam, highlighting the challenges and illustrating them with humorous and meaningful examples.

The second session continued with Academic Translations, beginning with Ms. Nagamani Shivara, who spoke about the importance of accuracy in translating Kannada literature. Ms. Nivedita B. Rudresh followed, sharing her expertise in translating academic texts to and from Kannada. Dr. Vasudev Murthy then discussed his extensive experience in Kannada academic translations, highlighting their significance.

The third session delved into the intricacies of Tamil-Kannada-English translations. Mr. S. Narayanan, an accomplished translator and retired professor, explored the elusive nature of translation and the challenges of preserving text fidelity. He emphasized the importance of clearly defining the parameters of translation and cautioned against relying solely on a single approach. Instead, he advocated for the use of diverse strategies in the ‘transcreation’ of the translated text. Mr. K. Nallatambi emphasised the importance of preserving the original text’s essence and intent while ensuring the translation resonates in the target language. He also noted the need for more translations of non-literary and technical subjects, like autism and cancer, to enhance the language’s expressive capacity. The session concluded with a Q&A segment themed on the politics of translation. The symposium concluded with a Valedictory address by Prof. K.S. Madhusudhana, who thanked the speakers and panellists for their insightful presentations. He highlighted the vital role of translation in multilingual India, where translation is an everyday part of life. Professor N. Manu Chakravarthy then provided concluding remarks, focusing on the politics of translation, the significance of multiple languages, and the challenges of achieving linguistic equivalence.

Literary Forum – Srujana Sangama (Kannada)

9 February 2025, Sirsi, Karnataka

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in association with Nayana Foundation, Sirsi, organised a Literary Forum – Srujana Sangama on 9 February 2025, at Nayana Sabhangana, Ganesh Nethralaya, Sirsi, Karnataka.

In his welcome and Introductory address, Dr. Basavaraj Sadar, Member, General Council and Kannada Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, briefed on the Sahitya Akademi’s activities across the country and said that as a part of its ‘Literary Forum’ programmes, the ‘Srujana Sangama’ was arranged in Sirsi. He also explained the direct impact of presenting original literary writings to listeners through such programmes. Dr K.V. Shivaram, Eye specialist, in his inaugural address, spoke about the inner and outer visions of human beings, which were equally important for the betterment of mankind and society. Literature was an important medium in providing visions to human beings to behave properly in society.

Dr Shridhar Balagar, presented his story, ‘Akala’, which means untimely.

The short story ‘Akala’ is an untimely transformation of the stage of life in the relationship of couples, resulting in absurdity. Ms. Sindhu Hegde recited five of her poems. Important among them was ‘Nirgaman’, that was on an individual who departed from the world without uttering a word. In contrast, her poem ‘Gandhi’, reflected on the



L to R: Smt. Tara Hegde, Smt. Sindhu Hegde, Dr Shridhar Balagar, Dr Dharanendra Kurkuri, Dr K.V. Shivaram, Dr Basavaraj Sadar, General Council Member, and Sri Venkatesh Machakanur.

elusiveness of Gandhi. Furthermore, her poem ‘Nagu’(Laughter) sheds light on how people often use sarcastic remarks when they laugh, revealing the complexity of human emotions. The essay presented by Sri Venkatesh Machakanur deals with various aspects of Windows in a lighter vein. The essay starts with a small theft that occurred in a writer’s house through a window and goes on narrating the development of windows of houses, temples, and places through the ages, their different designs and structures. The house without windows under the Taliban regime of Afghanistan, the window tax that was prevalent in some of the European countries till the last century, and the beautiful window designs in Jaipur Hawa Mahal, etc., are dealt with very artistically. Finally, the essay throws light on the computer windows of today’s world. Dr Dharanendra Kurkuri presented his poems. His poems mainly highlighted the problems of Indian farmers. As India is an agriculture-based country, farmers and Dalits are always exploited by the upper classes. The poet says that one or the other day there will be a revolution against this exploitation. The poet is very optimistic in this matter. Ms. Tara Hegde compered the programme, and, Sri D. S. Naik presented a vote of thanks.



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Symposium on New Trends in Malayalam Poetry (Malayalam)

16 February 2025, Malappuram, Kerala

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Edasseri Kalapadasahala, Ponani organised a Symposium on New Trends in Malayalam Poetry on 16 February 2025, at Edasseri Sahitya Mandiram, Ponani, Malappuram District, Kerala.

In the inaugural session, Sri T.S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Programme Assistant, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, delivered the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. The introductory address was delivered by Sri Viju Nayarangadi, an eminent Malayalam writer. Dr Anil Vallathol, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the session. The programme was inaugurated by Prof Sushama L, Vice Chancellor, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Tirur. In her inaugural address, she mentioned the changing society in a globalized era and how it lead to a change in poetic style, themes, and approach.

The first session was chaired by Dr C.J. George, who also presented a paper on “S. Joseph and K.R. Tony: Two Aesthetic Worlds”. He elaborated on how both poets’ aesthetics are different and how they provide the readers with entirely different perspectives and experiences. He remarked that S. Joseph is a poet who always finds a world of satisfaction. Dr Anu Pappachan presented a paper on “Feminine Poetic Vigor in Anitha Thampi’s Poetry”. She spoke on the art of writing poetry as a different entity from poetry itself. She also explained the recurring theme of



Dr Prof Sushama L. delivering the inaugural address, and other dignitaries on the dais

water in Anitha Thampi’s poetry. Dr Arya Viswanath presented a paper on “The Moonlit Poetic World of P. P. Ramachandran”. She mentioned his unique ways of experimentation with words, in which he uses a single word to create multiple meanings. As examples, she pointed to words like Maruti, Thaadi (Beard, give, etc., according to the situation), etc. She also observed the advent of neo-colonialism as a theme in his poems, which resulted in poems that lament the loss of our roots and ethnicity.

In the second session, five papers were presented. The first paper was presented by Sri E Jayakrishnan, who also chaired the session. The title of his paper was “Small is Beautiful: Veerankutty’s Poetry”. He presented Veerankutty as one of the brilliant

poets in the field of contemporary Malayalam poetry. Veerankutty's poems touch many thematic fields, he remarked. He also mentioned how love becomes a signature theme in Veerankutty's poetry. He also said that his poems should be read as pictures, paintings, which were beautiful because of their indistinct nature and how they became vivid while looking closer. Dr Neethu C. Subramanian spoke on the topic "Mapping the inner Currents of New Poetry". It was a study based on Anwar Ali's poems. She suggested that 'mobility' was one of the specialties of his poems. The presence of 'memory' and 'forgetfulness' was also mentioned. Dr Nithya P Viswam presented the next paper entitled "Glaring Post-modern Paradigm Shifts in Rafeeq Ahamed's Poetry". She stated that his poems could not be classified into any specific groups. She also posited that he particularly presented ordinary things extraordinarily. This was followed by another paper, titled "P. Raman's Poetry: A Dynamic

Search for Body and Spirit", which was presented by Dr Swapna C. Kombath. She reiterated his statement, "Understanding and not understanding poetry is equally important". She explored the theme of nostalgia in P Raman's poetry. She also elaborated on his usage of 'mother' as a prominent image throughout his poems. Dr M. C. Abdul Nazar presented his paper on "Nature and Loving Nature in V. M. Girija's Poetry". He spoke about women's poetry in Malayalam. He observed that women poets, including V. M. Girija, portrayed the life of women as incomplete. He put forth a question: "Can women attain a complete language?". He finds V. M. Girija's poems different because there is an effort to change these traditional views about women in her poems. "Even though her earlier poems were similar to other writers' poems, we can see a tendency to break away from this traditional notion", said Dr M. C. Abdul Nazar. The symposium concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Athira, Edasseri Kalapadashala.

Literary Forum on the occasion of International Mother Language Day (Multilingual)

21 February 2025, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised a Literary Forum on the occasion of International Mother Language Day (Multilingual programme) on 21 February 2025, at its office premises in Bengaluru.

Sri L. Suresh Kumar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. Sri Ajay Kumar Singh (Hindi), Ms. Rema Prasanna Pisharody (Malayalam), Sri Paavannan (Tamil), and Sri Kasturi



L to R: Sri Paavannan (Tamil), Mrs Rema Prasanna Pisharody (Malayalam), Dr Basavaraj Kalgudi, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Dr Ajay Kumar Singh (Hindi), and Sri Kasturi Naga Murali Sankar (Telugu)

BENGALURU

Naga Murali Sankar (Telugu) participated and presented their views in their respective languages. Sri Ajay Kumar Singh said that one should have pride and respect for their mother tongue while also respecting other languages without a second thought. Ms. Rema Prasanna Pisharody said that one could connect emotionally through the mother language, and she recited her poem in Malayalam and its translation in English. Sri Paavannan urged everyone to learn and educate their children in their mother-tongue. He expressed his concern about the extinction of several mother-tongues.

Sri Kasturi Naga Murali Sankar opined that nurturing and promoting the mother-tongue was the duty of all citizens and also the responsibility of the government. Dr Basavaraj Kalgudi, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, presided over the event. He briefly spoke about the relationship between Kannada and other languages, as well as the importance of the mother-tongue in the present scenario. He appreciated the presentations of the guest speakers. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sri T.S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Programme Assistant, Sahitya Akademi.

Literary Forum on Panje Mangesharaya – 150 (Kannada)

22 February 2025, Ballari, Karnataka



Dr Chidananda Sali, Member, Kannada Advisory Board delivering the welcome and introductory remarks.

L to R: Dr. Nagaraj Basarakodu, Dr. Shivalingappa Handihalu, Dr. R. Tarini Shubhadayini, Dr. Nishti Rudrappa, and Dr Prajna Mattihalli

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Zilla Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, Ballari organised a Literary Forum on Panje Mangesharaya – 150 on 22 February 2025, at Kannada Bhavan, Ballari, Karnataka.

Dr Chidananda Sali, Member of Sahitya Akademi's Kannada Advisory Board, delivered the welcome and introductory address. He also gave a detailed information on Sahitya Akademi's literary activities and programmes across the country. Dr Prajna Matihalli presented a paper on "The Life and Literature of Panje Mangesharaya". Dr Tarini Shubhadayini presented a paper on "Contributions of Panje Mangesharaya to Modern Kannada Literature", and Dr Shivalingappa Handihalu presented a paper on "The Philosophy of Panje Mangesharaya's Children's Literature". Sri Nishti Rudrappa, President, Zilla Kannada Sahitya Parishattu, presided over the programme. Dr Parasappa Bandrakalli, President of the Kannada Sangha, and Dr Dastageersab Dinni, Kannada Professor and writer, graced the occasion as chief guests.



BENGALURU

Seminar on Golden Era of M.T. Vasudevan Nair: Transformations in Indian Fiction (Malayalam)

1 March 2025, Tirur, Kerala

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, in collaboration with Thunchan Memorial Trust, had organised a National Seminar on the Golden Era of M. T. Vasudevan Nair: Transformations in Indian Fiction on Saturday, 1 March 2025, at Thunchan Parambu, Tirur, Malappuram District, Kerala.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. He stated that M.T. Vasudevan Nair excelled in all areas of Malayalam literature. MT shifted the focus of his writings to his thoughts and the tribulations of the day. M.T. Vasudevan Nair was a multifaceted personality and an exceptional human being.

Sri K. P. Ramanunni, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, who presided over the meeting, stated that MT was respected by his predecessors, contemporaries, and successors for his firm stance and impartial views on social issues. Sri N. S. Madhavan, an eminent Malayalam writer, inaugurated the seminar and stated that M.T. Vasudevan Nair pioneered the mainstream literature. He also discussed in detail the writers who introduced modernism into Indian literature. In his keynote address, Sri Subhash Chandran, eminent Malayalam writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner, discussed the impact of MT on modern writers. He concluded that all modern writers' novels, including his own, followed the path that MT had outlined in his novel. When a novel tells the story of Desam, relationships, and history, it will remain in the reader's mind.

The first session's theme was "Evolution of Narrative Craft: Cross-Linguistic Perspectives". Dr Khadeeja Mumthaz, a member of the Malayalam Advisory Board, who presided over the session, explained how MT's narrations moved from village to town and back. Dr C. Mrunalini, an eminent Telugu



Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivering welcome address. L to R: Sri K. P. Ramanunni, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sri N. S. Madhavan, Eminent Malayalam Writer, Sri Subhash Chandran, Eminent Malayalam Writer, and Sri G. K. Rammohan.

writer and Convener of Sahitya Akademi's Telugu Advisory Board, explained the transformation of narration in Telugu literature, citing writers such as Gopichand, Sreedevi, and Indira. Sri Vasudhendra, a well-known Kannada writer, discussed Dalit writings, writers whose mother tongue was not Telugu but who made significant contributions to Telugu writing.

The second session's theme was "Six Decades of Malayalam Fiction: Trends, Transformations, and Trajectories". Sri. K.P. Mohanan, eminent Malayalam writer who chaired the session, had detailed the changes in narration that occurred between S. Harish's recent novel Meesha and Malayalam's first novel Indulekha. He concluded that the language of a novel must vary according to the subject. Sri E.V. Ramakrishnan's talk focused on the language differences of various authors. Sri N. Sukumaran, a Tamil writer, provided a comprehensive outlook of the books translated from Malayalam to Tamil and Tamil to Malayalam. Sri G.K. Ram Mohan proposed a vote of thanks.



BENGALURU

Literary Forum on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day

12 March 2025, Bengaluru



L to R: Dr H.S.M. Prakash, Sri L Sri L. Suresh Kumar, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Bengaluru, and Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Eminent Kannada Critic.

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised a Literary Forum on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day on Wednesday, 12 March 2025, at its office premises.

Sri L. Suresh Kumar, Officer-in-Charge, delivered the welcome address and introduced the guest speakers. He briefly spoke about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, eminent Kannada critic and writer, participated and delivered a lecture on "The Kannada Intellectual Tradition". He said that the establishment of the Sahitya Akademi is a significant milestone in the history of Indian literature, also a significant contribution to Indian literature. The highest level of poise without any emotion could be called the state of intellect, he opined. He said tolerance is the greatest virtue of a human being. Kannada intellectual tradition found that tolerance is the basis of all. Literature has gained importance everywhere without limitations. He said the literature has a healing property. It keeps both the body and mind healthy. The programme was witnessed by the literary lovers and litterateurs of Bengaluru, and was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri T.S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Programme Assistant.



Staff members of the Regional Office, Bengaluru

Condolence Meeting

17 March 2025, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru, conducted a condolence meeting on Monday, 17 March 2025, at its office premises, to mourn the sad demise of Ramakant Rath, an eminent Odia poet, writer, and Sahitya Akademi's Fellow. Sri L. Suresh Kumar, Officer-in-charge, spoke about Ramakant Rath's writings in Odia and his literary contributions to Indian literature. The staff of the Regional Office, Bengaluru, also joined him in observing a minute's silence to pay homage to the departed soul.



CHENNAI

Symposium on P. K. Muthusamy

8 January 2025, Salem



Participants during the programme

Gunasekaran, President, Makkal Sinthanai Peravai, Erode, stated that we all should forever be grateful to P. K. Muthusamy who not only wrote immortal songs and poems but also used the language deftly to ensure that even school students can relate to them. In the first session, P. Parameswarn chaired and

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil, Periyar University, Salem, organised a daylong Symposium at the University premises on 8 January 2025. In the inaugural session, Prof T. Periasamy, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and unveiled the theme of the symposium. In his Presidential address, Prof R. Jagannathan, Vice Chancellor, Periyar University, observed that this symposium and such programmes would go a long way in identifying and honouring the creators of literary works of our land. He pointed several important poems and songs of Muthusamy and highlighted the famous song, “Mannukku Maram Paaramaa, Marathukku Ilai Paaramaa? Ilai Marathukku Paaramaa? [Is the tree a burden to the soil, or is the leaf a burden to the tree? Is the leaf a burden to the tree?].” In his Keynote address, Sri T. Stalin

presented a paper on “P. K. Muthusamy and Film Songs.” In the session, three noted scholars, G. Ganesan, A. Kumaravelu and K. Periasamy, presented papers on “P. K. Muthusamy and Periyar,” “P. K. Muthusamy’s contribution to drama” and “Social Thoughts in P. K. Muthusamy’s novels” respectively. In the second session, Arasu Parameswarn chaired and presented a paper on “Sitrilyakkiya thoughts in P. K. Muthusamy’s Works.” In the session, two noted scholars, Ela Vincent and Naanaarkaadan presented papers on “P. K. Muthusamy and Arignar Anna” and “Experiences while making the documentary on P. K. Muthusamy” respectively. In the valedictory session, P. Viswanatha Murthy, Registrar, Periyar University chaired and Arasu Parameswaran delivered a valedictory address provided detailed analysis of the life and works of P. K. Muthusamy and also shared interesting anecdotes.

Symposium on Anthathi Arasu Ariyaputhiranar

25 January 2025, Puducherry



Sri P. Boopathy, Sri Neithal Nadan, Ms Poonkodi Parankusam, Sri Sundararajan, Sri Uru. Asokan

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Muthu Ratthina Arangam Higher Secondary School, Puducherry organised a daylong symposium on Anthathi Arasu Ariyaputhiranar, 25 January 2025 at the school premises. In the inaugural session, Sri P. Boopathy, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr R. M. Murugaiyan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory remarks and unveiled the theme of the symposium. In his Presidential address, Sir Rathina Janardhanan, Correspondent of the school talked about the variegated contributions of Anthathi Arasu Ariyaputhiranar to the enrichment of Tamil literature and culture. In the first session devoted to the works of Anthathi Arasu Ariyaputhiranar, Sri R. S. Kuzhanthaivelan chaired

and presented a paper on “Saraswathi Kaiyarunilai Anthathi.” In the session, three noted scholars, Poonkodi Parankusam, Neithal Naadan and Uru Asokan presented papers on “Tamil Thaa Anthathi,” “Parthasarathy Anthathi” and “Agathiyar Anthathi” respectively. In the second session of the symposium devoted to Literary Personality of Ariyaputhiranar, Sri K. Tamizhmallan chaired and presented a paper on “Thirst on Tamil.” In the session, three noted scholars, Siva Ilango, R. Kovalan and P. Boopathy presented papers on “Friendship with Paavendhar Bharathidasan,” “Spiritual Thoughts” and “Figurative Style” respectively. Sri J. Sundararajan, Principal of the school, proposed a vote of thanks.



CHENNAI

Literary Forum on “Malayalam Novels translated after 2000”

5 February 2025, Marthandam



Dr. Sahayadhas, Vishnukumaran, principal Sheela christy, Dr. Sajan hod Tamil department, kumara selva Tamil writer and Dr. Nadasa sebastian

Marthandam, organised a Literary Forum on “Malayalam Novels translated after 2000” at the college premises on 5 February 2025. In the forum, Dr A. Sajan, Head of Tamil Department welcomed the participants and audience. Prof R. Sheela Christy, Principal of the college chaired the forum. Sri A. J. S. Pravin, Correspondent of the college, was the Guest of Honour. In his keynote address, Dr T. Vishnukumar, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Malayalam novels and translated after 2000. Three noted scholars, Kumaraselva, Nadasha Sebastian and D. Sahayadas, talked about “Nilam Poothu Malamtha Naal - Malayalam novel based on the Thina Concept of Tamil,” New ideologies expressed in Malayalam novels” and “Theory oriented Malayalam novels translated into Tamil” respectively.

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil, Nesamony Memorial Christian College,

Literary Forum on “Contemporary Literary Scenario”

7 February 2025, Mettupalayam

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Dept. of Tamil, Government Arts and Science College, Mettupalayam, organised a Literary Forum on “Contemporary Literary Scenario” at the college premises on 7 February 2025. In the forum, Dr M. Senthilkumar, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and unveiled the theme of the forum. Prof R. Srignanapriya, Principal of the college, chaired the forum and spoke about the antiquity, importance and relevance of Tamil literary creations. Three noted scholars, M. Anandhan, A. Kareem and Ka. Su. Velayuthan talked about “Contemporary Poems and Me,” “Short Story: The



Sri Ka.Su. Velayuthan, Sri M. Anandhan, Sri K. Kareem and Sri M. Senthilkumar

Genre and the Stories” and “The Proverbial Elephant: The Novel” respectively. Sri N. Ravikumar of the college proposed a vote of thanks in the end.

Nari Chetna on the occasion of International Women's Day

7 March 2025, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Government Arts and Science College, Perumbakkam, Chennai organised a Nari Chetna programme at the college premises on the eve of International Women's Day on 7 March 2025. In the programme, Dr R. Thangavel, Head of Tamil Department of the college welcomed the participants and audience, Prof A. Uma Maheshwari, Principal of the college chaired the programme and talked about the importance of feminist expressions in Tamil and Indian cultural landscape. Three well-known scholars, Ms. N. Sulochana, Prof Mubeen Sadhika and Ms. Manushi, talked about "What More Grandeur Does a Woman Need?" "Feminist Thoughts in English Literature" and "Woman, The Great Persona" respectively. Dr R. Morris Joy of the college proposed a vote of thanks in the end.



(L-R) Ms. N Sulochana, Prof. A. Uma Maheshwari, Prof. Mubeen Sadhika, Ms. Manushi

Nari Chetna on "The Contribution of Women in Modern Literature"

7 March 2025, Chennai



(L-R) Sri S. Kannadasan, Sri S. Murugesan, Ms. Brinda Srinivasan, Ms. G. Kalvikkarasi and Ms. J. Deepa

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil, Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavai Kannan Chetty Hindu College in Pattabiram, Chennai, organised a Nari Chetna programme on "The Contribution of Women to Modern Literature" at the college premises on the eve of International Women's Day on 7 March 2025. In the programme, Dr S. Murugesan, Head of the Tamil department of the college, welcomed the participants and audience and unveiled the theme of the event. Prof G. Kalvikkarasi, Princiipal of the college chaired the event and talked about the seminal contribution of women litterateurs from the Sangam period to modern times to the enrichment of Tamil culture. Sri N. Rajendra Naidu, the Director of the college offered felicitations. Two well-known scholars, Ms. J. Deepa and Ms. Brindha Srinivasan, talked about "Trends in Women's Short Stories Written Over a Century" and "Women's Poetry and the Inner World" respectively. Dr S. Ramesh of the department proposed a vote of thanks in the end.



CHENNAI

Foundation Day Lecture

12 March 2025, Chennai



Sri Nellai Jayantha speaking on the occasion

To commemorate the Foundation Day of Sahitya Akademi, the sub-regional office of the Akademi organised a Foundation Lecture by the well-known Tamil poet, Sri Nellai Jayantha at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Chennai on 12 March 2025. In his lecture, Sri Jayanta delivered the lecture on “The Work of Literary Organizations.” Sri Jayanta talked about the nature of literature and how literary creations in any language express the culture of the community or region in the most optimal way and hence literature is considered as the best

expression of culture. Any literary organization, at the small town or a city or state or national or international levels, should preserve and promote the literary creations in the languages in which it engages and works on. He further added that literary organizations should work without any bias when it comes to dissemination of the works of authors whatever their standing be though it is easier said than done. For, often literary institutions are called for to take a stand or judge a literary work and it may not be possible to satisfy all the creators and publications and this often leads to acrimony among the literary community. Responsibilities

increase manifold in the case of national and international level literary organizations since they are the custodians of letters in all the languages recognized by them and he singularly pointed out the excellent work carried out by Sahitya Akademi in 24 languages recognized by it and for more than seven decades and it is not an easy job. He concluded his lecture by hoping there will be more literary organizations like Sahitya Akademi in the country so that literature in all the languages of the country, whether written or oral, will flourish.

Symposium on “Gnanakoothan’s Poetry”

18 March 2025, Chennai



LR Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, speaks (L-R) Prof A. Ekambaram, Dr Carlos (Tamilavan), Sri Maalan, Dr M. Vanitha

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil Literature, University of Madras, organised a daylong Symposium on “Gnanakoothan’s Poetry” at the University premises in Chennai on 18 March 2025. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke in detail about

the standout qualities of Gnanakoothan’s poetry, his place in modern Tamil literature, how he revolutionized new poetry in Tamil and the cross-cultural presence of Gnanakoothan’s poetry. In her introductory remarks, Dr M. Vanitha, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted how Gnanakoothan carved a special place for himself in the Tamil literary landscape and how his poetry differed

from all the doyens of modern Tamil poetry. Prof A. Ekambaram, Head, Department of Tamil Literature, chaired the inaugural session and talked about the distinctive features of Gnanakoothan’s poems and his social awareness. In his Keynote address, Dr Carlos (Tamilavan), eminent Tamil critic, talked about how Gnanakoothan learned and employed his modern language from classical literature but differed in a substantial way from the established poetic traditions of Tamil Nadu. In the first session, Sri Maalan chaired the session and presented a paper on “Gnanakoothan’s Twenty Years of Pencil Drawings.” In the session, two eminent scholars, R. Sivakumar and R. Rajagopalan, presented papers on “Gnanakoothan and Little Magazines” and “Gnanakoothan and Modern Tamil Poetry” respectively. Sri N. Sivasubramanian chaired the session and presented a paper on “Tradition and Change in Gnanakoothan’s Poems.” In the session, two eminent scholars, Azhagiyasingar and S. Shanmugam, presented papers on “Gnanakoothan’s unpublished Poems” and “My Poetic Tradition and Gnanakoothan’s Poetic Tradition” respectively. Dr T. Rahul Gandhi of the department proposed a vote of thanks in the end.



PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

Januray 2025

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Pamulaparthi Venkata Narasimha Rao (Telugu-MIL)
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