



SAHITYA AKADEMI

NEWSLETTER

March-April 2018



Secretary Speaks...

Every genesis is a significant event in its own right, and every event of significance calls for celebration. Hence, the Akademi's 64th Foundation Day was celebrated with unique splendour and pageantry, recalling the mandate of the founding fathers to promote and foster every Indian language, thus bringing the nation together, shunning any discord. Since its inception, the National Academy of Letters has been a land of master storytellers, glorious poets and enlightened scholars. The Foundation Day celebration was also an opportunity to remember and express gratitude to them for their immense contributions. Dr Karan Singh graced the occasion in Delhi and eloquently apprised us of the four pillars of learning, while, in Bengaluru, Dr H. S. Venkatesha Murthy mesmerized the audience with his orations on the Kannada classic 'Male Degula'.

The Akademi, also, for the first time, organized a Northeast and Southern Women Writers' Meet, which was a confluence of the nation's two extreme tides within the stream of literature. It was a rare sight, one of its kind, where nuances of literature and strands of culture, as perceived from the women's angle, were divulged, eventually proving that behind all shades of differences, the spirit of womanhood is one. It is also my pleasure to inform you that on the occasion of International Women's Day, a symposium in Delhi and a Nari Chetna programme in Bangalore were organized to bring forward the challenges women in India face, and all the glass ceilings they had to break to stand where they stand today.

The Akademi's dream to converge the languages of Nagaland with those of the rest of the nation was also realized as it succeeded in organizing a national level Writers' Meet, for the first time in Kohima, with an assemblage of writers from across the country conversing and sharing each other's literature, transcending all language barriers. We also saw the Northeast and Southern Writers' Meet; the Swachhata Pakhwada Mission, a fortnightly affair with acute focus on the glaring issues and corrective practices of Swachhata; presentation of Honorary Fellowship to Dr Kim Yang-shik; and birth-centenary seminars of renowned Indian scholars in many parts of India, among many more.

All-in-all, the Akademi can state with satisfaction and pride that it is maintaining its mission of spreading literature and the love for it to every nook and corner of the country through its wide range of programmes and kaleidoscopic initiatives.

– Dr K. Sreenivasarao

ALL-INDIA WRITERS' MEET

24-25 March 2018, Kohima, Nagaland

In collaboration with Nagaland University, a two-day All-India Writers' Meet was organized on 24-25 March 2018 at Kohima, Nagaland. For the first time the Akademi organized a national-level programme at Nagaland. The very objective of this mega event was a challenge to bring reputed writers from various languages and from different parts of the country to Nagaland and usher in a new environment for the Naga writers. This was an opportunity to bring together different languages of the country with the languages of Nagaland.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the delegates, encouraged the native writers to bring out the beautiful Naga cultural and literary traditions so as to make them known to others.

Dr D. Kuolie, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, asserted that the idea of organizing this event was a constructive endeavour, an attempt to bring the writers of the country together.

Professor Temsula Ao, eminent English writer, delivered the keynote address and observed that the Nagas have a rich oral tradition, but modern generation has lost many knowledgeable story-tellers and folk-singers, which she considered as the greatest casualties of progress and development of the society. She encouraged and appreciated the younger generation to create a new tradition where the soul of oral tradition resonates with new vigour.



Prof. Temsula Ao delivering the keynote address



Dr Madhav Kaushik speaking during the event

Professor Ramesh C. Gupta, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Nagaland University, gave a brief historical account on the institutionalization of Sahitya Akademi and highlighted the aspiration of the pioneers. Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, stood by the ideology that the diverse cultures and languages, either tangible or intangible, are the treasures that made India a great country.

The inaugural session was followed by poetry readings by Sri Diganta Saikia (Assamese), Sri T. Senka Ao (Ao), Ms Barnali Baglary (Bodo), Sri Gianeshwar (Dogri), Ms Nini Lungalang (English – Northeast), Sri G. Vasanthakumaran (Tamil) and Sri Jayant Parmar (Urdu). The first session was devoted to *Writing: Passion or Profession* which was chaired by Sri Paul Zacharia and the speakers were Sri Bijoy Sankar Barman (Assamese), Dr Bindu Bhatt (Gujarati), Ms Geetanjali Shree (Hindi) and Dr Jetho Lalwani (Sindhi). They all shared a similar opinion that writing is more of a passion than profession.

The second day of the programme began with a panel discussion on *Poetry & Fiction: A Comparison*, which was chaired by Ms Geetanjali Shree. The speakers in the session were Sri Prabal Kumar Basu (Bengali), Sri Narahalli Balasubramanya (Kannada) and Sri M. Priyobrata Singh (Manipuri). Every speaker had given an analysis of both the genre of literary art, and how both are important and form an integral part of our literary tradition.

The last session of the programme was a poetry reading session. It was chaired by Dr Madhav Kaushik, eminent Hindi poet, and Sri Paresh Kamat (Konkani), Sri I. Robindro Singh (Manipuri), Sri Madhab Bhattarai (Nepali), Ms Avinuo Kire (Angami Naga), Sri Aditya Kumar Mandi (Santali), Ms Chaithanya Pingali (Telugu) and Ms Monalisa Changkija (English) recited their poems.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, in his summing-up speech, thanked all the participants, Nagaland University and the literary fraternity for the success of the All-India Writers' Meet at Kohima.





SYMPOSIUM ON THE CHALLENGES TO WOMEN'S FREEDOM TODAY & POETS' MEET ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

08 March 2018, New Delhi

On the occasion of International Women's Day, a Symposium was organized on *The Challenges to Women's Freedom Today & Poets' Meet*. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the participants, dignitaries, media personalities and audience. He said, 'There is a saying down south from where I hail that "without Shakti there is no Shiva". That religious saying can be applied to almost all of human existence. It is women who bind families, are the carriers of culture, and no nation can claim to be progressive if women are not prospering in that country.' Focussing on the importance of Women's Day, he further added that women are the backbone not only of families but also of the countries. He also touched on the huge impact of Indian women writers in enriching literature in India. He informed about the Akademi's literary programmes in all the 24 Indian languages, including Nari Chetna, Asmita, Women Writers' Meet and Women Poets' Meet, exclusively featuring women writers in India. The inaugural address was delivered by eminent Hindi writer Dr Nasera Sharma, who emphasized on the contribution of women during the ancient period. She stressed that men and women, as the ultimate creations, are two separate identities, and one cannot exist without the other. Both should maintain their own identities. She expressed her view that though, undoubtedly, the status of women has much improved and progressed in the last couple of years, yet there still are multifaceted challenges faced by women. Mutual understanding, peaceful co-existence and developing humanitarian values can pave the path for the greater good. Presenting the keynote address, noted Kannada writer and scholar, Prof. Krishna Manavalli highlighted the global perspectives of women's freedom and said that International Women's Day

is relevant for the entire world; the idea of women's freedom should be beyond class, creed and religion. She emphasized on the plurality of Indian literature that includes many languages, cultures and traditions. She further highlighted that women's liberation should be addressed on a global level; not only should the challenges of elite women and those who can voice their opinions against their male counterparts be of concern, but also the plight of marginalized class of women, whose voices even their sisters placed in the higher rungs of the societal ladder cannot hear, should not be treated as peripheral, but central in our discourses. As far as the contribution of the women writer is concerned, she believes that Indian writers have presented the diverse geo-cultural spaces focussing on global themes. Eminent writers—Varsha Adalja, Arupa Patangia Kalita (Assamese), Samragnee Bandopadhyay (Bengali), Kumud Sharma (Hindi), K.R. Meera, Hema Naik (Konkani), Gayatribala Panda (Odia), Pratibha (Punjabi) and Sindhu Mishra (Sindhi)—were invited to present their views during the programme. International Women's Day was followed by The Poets' Meet and eminent poets—Mamta Kalia, Dhirjy Jyoti Basumatary (Bodo), Usha Kiran 'Kiran' (Dogri), Nitu (English), Rukhsana Jabeen (Kashmiri), Rani Jha (Maithili), Linthoi Ningthoujam (Manipuri), Sumati Lande (Marathi), Subhadra Bomzon (Nepali), Sharda Krishna (Rajasthani), Rita Trivedi (Sanskrit), Sumitra Soren (Santali), Sakthi Jothi (Tamil), Mandarapu Hymavathi (Telugu) and Shahnaz Nabi (Urdu)—were invited to recite poems in their respective languages. Mrs Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed the vote of thanks.

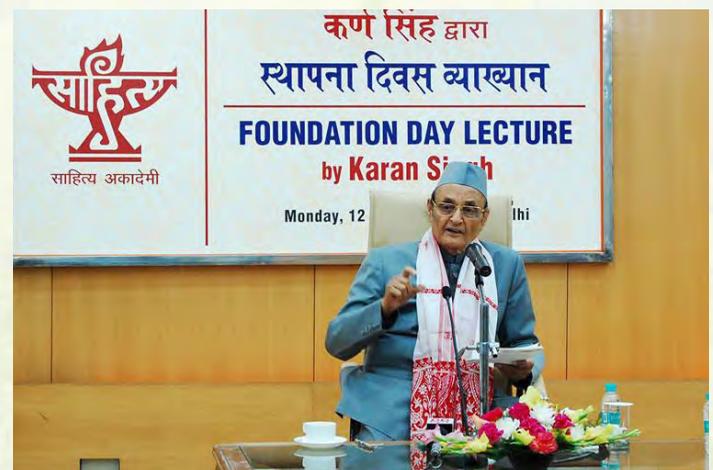
FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

12 March 2018, New Delhi

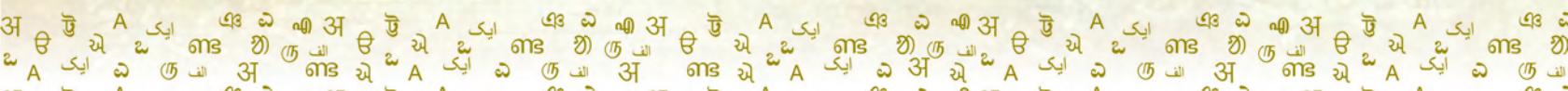
The Akademi's 64th Foundation Day was celebrated on 12 March 2018 in Delhi and a Foundation Day Lecture, 6th in the series, was organized. Dr Karan Singh, eminent writer and



Dr Nasera Sharma delivering the Inaugural Address



Dr Karan Singh delivering the lecture



scholar, delivered the lecture on *The Four Pillars of Learning*. Welcoming the distinguished guest, Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that the series was inaugurated by Professor Kapila Vatsyayan, followed by Hon'ble Justice Sri M. N. Venkatachaliah, Professor S. L. Bhyrappa, Dr Shashi Tharoor and Dr Sitakant Mahapatra. He also talked about the evolution and growth of the Akademi over six and a half decades. He said that Sahitya Akademi is the home for writers, and because of their continuous and strong support, the Akademi is on the way of progression.

Dr Karan Singh, in his lecture, said that Learning to Know, Learning to Do, Learning to Be and Learning to Live Together are the four strong pillars of the society. He observed that he chose the topic since all literature is learning. On Learning to Know he said that unless we ask questions, we would not learn. On Learning to Do, he stated that education without the capacity to do something is meaningless. Efficient and clear learning is necessary to obtain skills, and one should do things with such obtained skills, dedication and enthusiasm to complete meaningful learning. On Learning to Be, he said that human life should not be a meaningless journey, it is an exciting gift and a unique opportunity. On Learning to Live Together, he specified that realization of full potential at the individual and social level is possible only with the emergence and establishment of the value-based system. He urged people to raise their consciousness to a higher level, move towards Learning to Be and identify themselves. He concluded his speech by stating that the earth had nurtured us and we should not destroy it, but nurture it back.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session between Dr Karan Singh and the gathered audience.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao concluded the session and thanked Dr Karan Singh for such a stimulating lecture.



L-R: Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Dr Kim Yang-shik, Dr Madhav Kaushik

to each other and added that she is the Cultural Ambassador of not only South Korea but of India too. He highlighted the universality of Dr Kim's works and her concern for humanity and human values, which is spread across her vast body of works. In her acceptance speech, Dr Kim Yang-shik thanked the Akademi for the honour and talked about her early life, how she became a writer, her works, influences on her writing and the literary scenario in her country. She further recounted the huge influence of Rabindranath Tagore not only on Korean writers' community but also on the general population. She also elaborated on how Tagore's works opened the road for literary exchanges between the countries, especially in terms of strong philosophical schools and mystical traditions. In his felicitation speech Dr Divik Ramesh highlighted Dr Kim Yang-shik's passion for India, Indian culture and literary traditions, vastness of her oeuvre, her place in Korean consciousness, her unique abilities as a poet and translator, and her selfless services as a cultural ambassador. He concluded his speech by stating that Dr Kim Yang-shik is one of the very few writers who assimilated the spiritual pathos of Indian tradition and she was successful in embedding that into the Korean sensibility.

PRESENTATION OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIP TO DR KIM YANG-SHIK

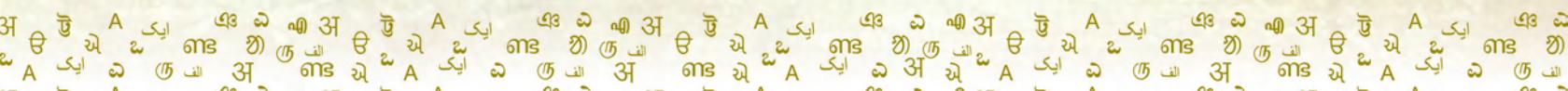
14 March 2018, New Delhi

Honorary Fellowship was conferred on distinguished Korean indologist, poet and translator, Dr Kim Yang-shik at a glittering ceremony in New Delhi on 14 March, 2018. Honorary Fellowship is the highest honor conferred by the Akademi on international literary persons of outstanding merit who are not nationals of India. Welcoming Dr Kim, dignitaries and scholars, Dr K. Sreenivasarao highlighted the ancient and rich cultural relationships between India and Korea and also the literary exchanges between the two countries over several centuries. He stated that the Akademi feels honoured to confer Honorary Fellowship on Dr Kim Yang-shik. He then read out the citation, and Dr Madhav Kaushik conferred the Fellowship on Dr Kim Yang-shik. In his Presidential address, Dr Madhav Kaushik stated that Dr Kim's devoted and dedicated efforts have brought the cultural and literary traditions of both the countries very close

ALL-INDIA POETRY FESTIVAL

21 March 2018, New Delhi

An All-India Poetry Festival on the occasion of World Poetry Day was organized on 21 March 2018 at New Delhi. A one-minute silence was observed to pay homage to Sri Kedarnath Singh, Fellow of the Akademi, at the beginning of the programme. Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed all the participants and said that World Poetry Day was started by UNESCO to bring forth the language diversity of the world, and Sahitya Akademi is also engaged in this effort. Sri Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Odia scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the Inaugural Address and said that poetry gives us the ability to understand life better. It also helps us to understand our destiny. He also recited some of his poems. Dr Nabaneeta Dev Sen, eminent Bengali writer and scholar, who was the Guest of Honour, talked about the impact





Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi delivering his Presidential Address



Participants of the Seminar with the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of Sahitya Akademi

poetry makes on the poets and the audience. She shared several anecdotes, recited her own poetry and talked about the role poetry played in her life. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the bonding or unifying nature of poetry. He stated that in a multilingual society like India, with a large number of languages and cultural traditions, poetry played and still plays a huge role in uniting them transcending all barriers. Dr Madhav Kaushik, in his concluding remarks, stated that the poet prepares a parallel world through his poems, in which everything desired is desired to improve the world. The next session was chaired by Sri S. G. Siddaramaiah, in which Sri Dayananda Burgohain, Sri Raj Rao, Sri Vishnu Chandra Sharma, Sri Bal Krishna Sanyasi, Sri K. Jayakumar, Sri Meethesh Nirmohi and Sri Nikhleswar recited their poems. In the other two sessions, under the chairmanship of Sri Prabodh Parikh and Dr Pratibha Satpathy, Sri U. G. Brahma, Sri Prakash Premi, Sri Ganga Prasad Vimal, Sri Malvyn Rodrigues, Sri Man Prasad Subba, Sri Manmohan, Sri Udaychandra Jha Vinod, Sri Raj Kumar Bhubonsana, Sri Prabha Ganorkar, Sri Rani Sadashiva Murthy, Ms Damyanti Besra, Ms Vimmi Sadarangani and Ms Andal Priyadarshini recited their poems.

SEMINAR ON TRIBAL AND ORAL LITERATURE: PRESENT SCENARIO

22-23 March 2018, New Delhi

A two-day national Seminar on *Tribal and Oral Literature: Present Scenario* was organized on 22–23 March 2018 in New Delhi. In the Inaugural Session Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the gathering and said that the literature that is available for thousands of years has been a major source of moral and environmental education among the tribals for centuries. Sri Haldhar Nag, eminent Odia poet and writer inaugurated the Inaugural session. He talked about his writing journey while remembering the struggling period of childhood. He recited some of his poems and folk songs. During his Presidential Address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar stated his disagreement with the way

the tribals are being presented in the field of modern education and research — no concrete work is being done for their basic development. He stressed that they need to be involved in the main stream. While delivering the Concluding Remarks, Dr Madhav Kaushik said that the literature of every language is the literature of the entire Indian civilization and culture, and it has the smell of the country's soil.

The first session devoted to *Tribal Literature: The Struggle for Creation, Uprootedness and Deprivation*, was chaired by Sri Mahendra Kumar Mishra, and Sri Kiran Kumar Kavathekar, Sri Hari Ram Meena, Sri Sumanaspati Reddy and Sri Sushant Kumar Mishra presented their papers. In his Address, Sri Mishra said that the three main identities of tribals are land, language and life, which have been completely destroyed by modern society. At the end of the first day, a programme *Loka: The Many Voices* was organized in which folk songs and folk dances were presented. Sri Haripal Singh presented a paper on this subject.

The second session on *Tribal Literature and Globalization* was chaired by Ms Caroline R. Marak. Sri Suksing Lepcha, Ms Shantha Naik and Sri Suraj Badtiya presented their papers.

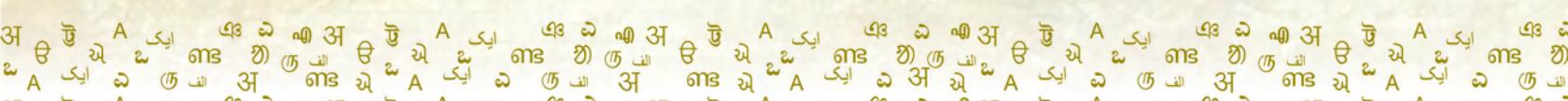
In the third session devoted to *Oral Literature: The Creative Traditions of Myths*, chaired by Sri Vasant Nirgune, Sri Somdatta Mandal, Ms Ramona M. Sangma and Ms Jayamati Kashyap presented their papers.

In the fourth session on *Oral Literature: Efforts of Documentation and Preservation*, chaired by Sri Bhagwan Das Patel, papers were presented by Sri D. Jayakrishnan R. and Ms Neetisha Xaixo.

NATIONAL SEMINAR-CUM-WORKSHOP

27–28 March 2018, Haryana

In collaboration with AMITY University, Haryana, a National Seminar-Cum-Workshop on *Revitalization of Heritage Languages and Culture with Special Reference to the NER* was organized on 27–28 March 2018 at AMITY University campus, Haryana. The scholars who presented papers in the Seminar were Prof.





Participants pose for a group photo



Distinguished critics and scholars attending the Symposium

K. V. Subbarao, Dr Meiraba Takhellambam, Prof. Madhumita Borbora, Prof. Sabaree Mitra, Dr Tariq Khan, Dr Sriparna Das, Dr Varoon Bakshi, Dr Sujoy Sarkar, Mr Ladly Mukhopadhyay, Ms Swati Chakraborty, Dr Esha Jainti, Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh, Dr Kakoli Dey, Dr Rajarshi Singh, Dr Sunil Kr Mishra and Sri Lepcha. The chairs of the session comprised of Prof. Shailendra Kr Singh, Dr H. K. Jha, Prof. Rajeev Mishra, Prof. Kiran Devendra and Prof. Esha Jainti. Dr Suvro Parui from Amity School of Languages delivered the vote of thanks. Prof. P. B. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University Haryana, and Prof. Sanjay K. Jha, Director, ASLA, Amity University Haryana, were also part of the Seminar.

It was chaired by Ms G. Lakshmi Narasiyah, and Ms Hemlata Mahishwar, Sri Sarabjit Singh and Sri K. Anil presented their papers. The second session was devoted to *Ambedkar's Vision and Emergence of Dalit Literature*. Ms Urmila Pawar chaired the session, and Sri Moolchand Gautam, Ms Chhaya Koregaonkar and Karmshel Bharati presented their papers.

SYMPOSIUM ON VOICE FROM THE MARGINS: INDIAN DALIT LITERATURE

14 April 2018, New Delhi

On the occasion of 127th birth anniversary of Dr B. R. Ambedkar, a Symposium was organized on 14 April 2018. In the Inaugural Session, Sri Laxman Gaikwad, eminent Marathi writer, stated that harmony is the need of every society. If the Dalits have no right over forest, earth and water, then there is no meaning of liberty for them. Sri Subhash Gatade, eminent scholar, was the Chief Guest of the programme. He said that there is a need to give importance to the philosophies of Dr Ambedkar. He requested all writers and critics to vividly present his various works before the masses for their appreciation and knowledge. In his Keynote Address, Dr Bajrang Bihari Tiwari, distinguished critic, said that Dalit Sahitya has not cared for the craft, but *Kathya* is more important for it. Dr Madhav Kaushik in his Presidential Address stated that Dalit discussion is a completely swadeshi discussion. He stated that the opinion of society has changed in the last few years, but it still has to change a lot; only then we can establish an ideal society. In the beginning of the programme, Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed all and explained the efforts taken by the Akademi for encouraging Dalit Sahitya. The topic of the first session of the Symposium was *Countering Hegemony: Dalit Perspectives*.

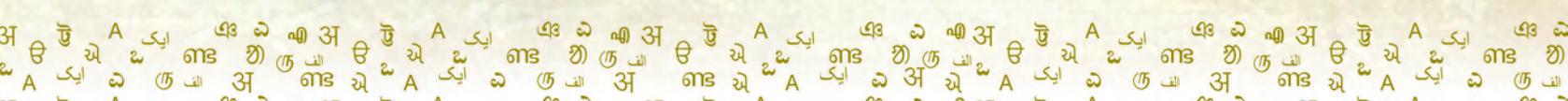
SYMPOSIUM ON BOOKS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

23 April 2018, New Delhi

On the occasion of the World Book Day, Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on *Books that Changed My Life* in its auditorium in which eight eminent personalities from different fields shared their experiences related to books. Dr K. Sreenivasarao felicitated all the speakers with ang-vastram and packets of books at the beginning of the programme. In his welcome speech, he said that books are the best friends of man and teach them to understand life and how to live it.

In fact, books are our true guides. The speakers on this occasion included Dr Desh Deepak, eminent physician, Sri Jatin Das, eminent painter & sculptor; Sri Manohar Batham, former Additional Director General, BSF; Sri Rajendra Dhorapkar, eminent cartoonist; Sri Rajendra Nath, eminent theatre artist, Sri Sayeed Ansari, eminent news anchor, Ms Sonal Mansingh, eminent classical dancer and Ms Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Most of the speakers began with the books and magazines they had read and also discussed the books which inspired them in their early childhood. Such books included the Mahabharata, Mahatma Gandhi's Autobiography, Stories of Premchand and the like.

First of all, Dr Desh Deepak said that the first book which influenced him was based on Russian folk tales. Sri Jatin Das shared a couple of anecdotes how he and his poet friends like Sri Dilip Chitre, Sri Nissim Ezekiel and Sri Arun Kolatkar used to read and recite poems in their houses or places of small gatherings.





Eminent theatre artist Sri Rajendranath sharing his views

Sri Manohar Batham, while narrating his experience, said that if he could take the name of one book that immensely inspired him, it would be Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* which always guided him to deal with difficult situations. Sri Rajendra Dhorapkar said that there is a long list of books that he had read, but discussed a recent book that inspired him, which was David Shepherd's biography.

Sri Sayeed Ansari, while sharing his experience, said that reading of books never goes waste and the knowledge and experience we gain from them always prove useful. Sri Rajendra Nath referred to many books and said that books do influence us, but we realize their influence only after a long time.

Ms Sujata Prasad recalled her early days and said that reading of books was a part of her daily routine. While referring to several Indian and foreign writers, she said that among Hindi authors, Premchand, Muktibodh and Nirmal Verma impressed her a lot.

Ms Sonal Mansingh said that she was greatly impressed by the Mahabharata, and its effect could be seen on her dance presentations. She also shared her interesting experience how a good book had saved her from some possible ugly situation. She also acknowledged the influence of saint poet Kabir, Mira, Jaidev, etc. and said that books are her friends. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, conducted the programme.

CONCEPT OF CLEANLINESS IN ANCIENT TEXTS

24 April 2018, New Delhi

As part of the ongoing Swachhata Pakhwada, Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on *Concept of Cleanliness in Ancient Texts* in its Auditorium in Delhi. Eminent scholars—Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, Sri Kapil Kapoor, Sri Balbir Singh Seechewal, Ms Farida Khanam, Sri Veer Sagar Jain, Sri Vijay Kumar and Sri Niranjan Dev Bhardwaj—representing different faiths, talked about the concept of cleanliness in ancient texts.

While welcoming the invited speakers and the audience, Dr

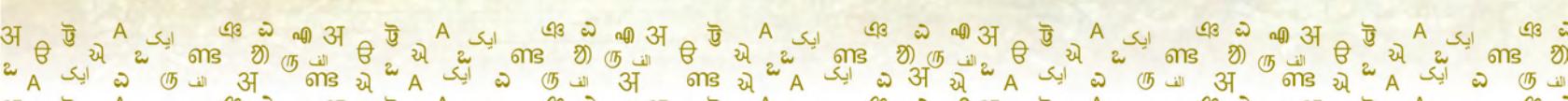


L-R: Sri Anupam Tiwari, Sri Veer Sagar Jain, Sri Balbir Singh Seechewal, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Prof Kapil Kapoor, Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma

K. Sreenivasarao said that cleanliness, holiness and purity are attained gradually, one by one. Cleanliness is an important part of life—it is the first necessity of a civilized person. We should be pure and transparent in all aspects of our life.

Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma, in his inaugural speech, said that cleanliness is a subject of paramount importance. It is a matter of great concern before today's world. He said that Stephen Hawking, the famous scientist who passed away recently, expressed serious concern over the ever-increasing pollution in the world and feared that the whole mankind would extinct in the coming hundred years. This is a man-made disaster. We have defaced the relations between man and nature. He elaborately talked about man's cleanliness in conduct, wish to do good to others, respect for values and harmony with nature. Sri Balbir Singh Seechewal, who is known for drive towards cleanliness of rivers, said that cleanliness is a subject not limited to a place, a state or a country, but encompasses the whole world. He further said that what we have read in ancient texts about cleanliness is not being practised in today's life. Ms Fareeda Khanam talked about cleanliness with references to the Prophet's sayings. She said that God is pure and loves purity in one's deeds and heart. She said that there are many references of practising cleanliness in the Holy Quran. She stressed the need of clean water and its preservation.

Sri Veer Sagar Jain, who is an expert in Jain literature, said that great importance is given to non-violence in Jain religion. They believe that the earth, water, air and trees are also living creatures and whosoever harms them would be committing a sin. Sri Vijay Kumar, an expert in Buddha and Jain literature, presented a written paper on 'Pracheen Baudhh Granthon Mein Swachhata'. Prof. Kapil Kapoor, while delivering his Presidential address, expressed his concern and said that the ever-expanding urbanization is constantly contributing to increasing pollution and a dirty environment. Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, conducted the programme.





LITERARY FORUM: NARI CHETNA

08 March 2018, Bengaluru

A Literary Forum: Nari Chetna was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day on 8 March 2018 at Conference Hall, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

Dr M. R. Kamala (Kannada poet and writer), Smt. Kala G. K. (Malayalam writer), Smt. Anbuselvi (Tamil writer) and Dr Diwakarla Rajeshwari (Telugu writer) participated in the programme. Dr K. Sharifa, veteran Kannada writer, chaired the programme.

Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and the audience. He broadly spoke on the importance of International Women's Day and also about the role of Sahitya Akademi in the development of women's literature and education in Indian languages. The Akademi has been conducting a good number of programmes for women, and has thus formulated the programme series like Asmita, Nari Chetna, etc., wherein women writers can present all genres of writings.

Dr M. R. Kamala recited the Kannada poems *Republic Nursing Home's Labour Ward*, *Ajjipeeliga* and *Bariya Belakina Maathu*.

Smt. Kala G. K. spoke on gender equality, violence on women and children, women's safety issues and alarming rise in the cases of violence on women. She also spoke about Malayalam women writers like K. Saraswathi Amma, Lalithambika Antharjanam, Balamani Amma, Kamala Das and others who enriched Malayalam literature. She read an excerpt from her Malayalam short story for children *Balapadan*.

Smt. Anbuselvi recited *Pennyum Portruvum* and other Tamil poems.

Dr Diwakarla Rajeshwari recited *Selfie*, *Gali Rekhalu Utti*, *Sweet Home* and other Telugu poems composed by her.

Dr K. Sharifa in the chair remembered Amba Bai, the medieval poet of Bhakti cult. It was noted that foreign direct investments in India brought in more violence on women. Women's movement

has a history of 200 years, yet no benefit yielded from the five year plans. She recited *Avala Charitre*, *Baadige Taaythana*, *Namma Nammolagina Thabballigalu* and other Kannada poems composed by her.

Screening of Sahitya Akademi's documentary film on veteran Bengali writer Mahasweta Devi directed by Sandip Ray was also done during the occasion.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

12 March 2018, Bengaluru

A Literary Forum was organized on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day on 12 March 2018 at Conference Hall, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

Dr H. S. Venkatesha Murthy, eminent Kannada writer and poet, and Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar awardee, was invited to speak on the occasion. He spoke on the Kannada poetry classic *Male Degula* (The Hill Temple) written by late Dr Pu. Ti. Narasimhachar, Sahitya Akademi's Fellow and eminent Kannada poet.

Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar welcomed the guests and spoke about the historical background of establishing Sahitya Akademi on 12 March 1954. He spoke about Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Lecture, which started in 2012.

Dr H. S. Venkatesha Murthy in his lecture spoke about his association with Sahitya Akademi and late Dr Pu. Ti. Narasimhachar. He said that Dr Pu. Ti. Na's Kannada classic *Male Degula* contains 51 poems. The language used by Dr Pu. Ti. Na in this poetry collection is very close to Sanskrit. At the same time, it is interspersed with some archaic Kannada words. Through his poetry, Dr Pu. Ti. Na attempted to bring in rare and archaic Sanskrit words in use. Dr Pu. Ti. Na was a prominent poet of Navodaya movement in Kannada literature. He wrote poetry in reverence of temples at Melukote, a small hamlet in Mysore, and was a visionary writer who was not caste and gender



Distinguished poets and litterateurs during the programme



Dr H. S. Venkatesha Murthy speaking on Male Degula



biased. He was a staunch follower of Advaita philosophy of Ramanujacharya. His mind was ever filled with rationalistic and spiritual ideas, said Dr Venkatesha Murthy.

The programme was followed by a screening of Sahitya Akademi's documentary film on Dr Pu. Ti. Narasimhachar, directed by Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks to the participants and the audience proposed by Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar.

NORTHEAST AND SOUTHERN WOMEN WRITERS' MEET

16-17 March 2018, Bengaluru

It was not just a literary meet, but a confluence of women writers, from the Northeast and southern India, organized on 16 and 17 March 2018 in the Senate Hall of Central College, Bengaluru. Altogether there were about 45 writers, speaking ten different languages, to showcase their literary and cultural nuances, regional characteristics and above all, to acquaint themselves with their fellow writers and their writings.

The meet began with Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the gathering. He said that the Akademi promotes all literatures of India, including tribal and folk literatures, and this meet was a unique one as the women writers of two extreme regions had assembled for the first time to mutually exchange their literary creations.

Dr Siddalingaiah in his introductory remarks said that every school student is aware of the names of Shakespeare and Wordsworth, but has not heard of the significant writers of Telugu or Tamil or of any other Indian language. This problem has to be overcome through such programmes where the mutual exchange of ideas is possible.

Dr Kamala Hampana, eminent Kannada writer and researcher, who inaugurated the meet, said that India is a vast country,

both geographically and linguistically, and that one cannot be a polyglot. She referred to Kannada literature where women's cause has always assumed a higher proportion and mentioned the name of the great poet Kuvempu who championed the cause of women. She added that there are certain things that can be written only by women and in order to discuss such issues, a meet of this nature is conducive.

Smt. Anita Nair, eminent English writer, in her keynote address said that in the literatures of women, cow, river and mind are referred to again and again. Man and religion are also highlighted. Smt. Nair referred to some of the women poets who have been the source of inspiration to many writers even to this day.

Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar in his presidential address said that feminism is not confined only to women, a man can be a feminist too. He further said that woman is the centre of his literature. The central character in his novels is generally the mother. She alone has the strength to bring the entire community together.

The inaugural session was followed by a multilingual poetry recitation. Nine poets read out their poems along with their English translations. The poets were Nilima Thakuria Haque (Assamese), Anjali Basumatary (Bodo), H. L. Pushpa (Kannada), Vijayalakshmi (Malayalam), Konjenbam Sarita Sinha (Manipuri), Riju Devi (Nepali), Manjula Devi (Tamil), Sujatha Patwari (Telugu) and Revathi Poovaiah (Kodava). The poems recited by these poets reflected the aspirations of women and the urge to fight for their rights in the male-dominated society. In the vote of thanks Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar stated that it was a noteworthy confluence of writers of different languages, but the underlying sensibility was one, and that was Indian.

The first session devoted to paper presentation was on 'Women's Poetry: Present Indian Context', with Dr Prameela Madhav in the chair. Smt. Maini Mahanta (Assamese), Dr Pramila Madhav (Kannada), Smt. Wahengbam Kumari Chanu (Manipuri) and Prof. K. Suneetha Rani (Telugu) presented their papers.

The second session was a multilingual poet's meet with Dr Vasundhara Bhupathi, eminent Kannada writer, in the chair. Smt. Tulika Chetia Yein (Assamese), Smt. Rashmi Choudhuri (Bodo), Smt. Sarita Mohan Verma (Malayalam), Ms Ningthoujam Somola Devi (Manipuri), Smt. Binashree Kharel (Nepali), Ms. Kanimozhi G. (Tamil) and Ms. Himaja (Telugu) read out their poems. Dr Vasundhara Bhoopathi in her presidential address said that all these poems had one thing in common, that was humanism. She read out a poem on Buddha in Kannada.

The third session held on 17 March, 2018, devoted to short story reading, was chaired by Smt. Manikuntala Bhattacharya. Writers Smt. Jwishiri Boro (Bodo), Smt. Nemichandra (Kannada), Smt. S. Sitara (Malayalam), Smt. Niru Sarma Parajuli (Nepali), Smt. Kalai Selvi (Tamil), and Smt. P. Satyavathi (Telugu) read out their short stories.

The fourth session was a multilingual poet's meet, with Smt.



Writers from the Northeast and south India in the programme



Savithri Rajeevan (Malayalam) in the chair. Writers Smt. Anupama Basumatary (Assamese), Ms. Dhanshri Swargiary (Bodo), Dr. Anasuya Kamble (Kannada), Ms. Biral Singh (Manipuri), Ms. Kutti Revathi (Tamil), Smt. Renuka Ayola (Telugu) and Smt. Mallika Shetty (Tulu) read out their poems.

Dr Siddalingaiah felt that every poem was like an oracle and reflected the plurality of Indian culture.

Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar thanked all the participating writers, the President, Secretary and other staff of the Akademi, for their unstinted support in making the Women Writers' Meet a grand success. The programme was well-attended by the media, local writers and literary lovers.

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

16 March 2018, Bengaluru

A Loka: The Many Voices – Presentation of Women Folk



Dr Appagere Thimmaraju and his troupe presenting folk songs

Songs in Kannada was conducted by Dr Appagere Thimmaraju and Troupe on 16 March 2018 at Senate Hall, Central College, Campus, Dr B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru.

Dr Appagere Thimmaraju and his troupe presented a good number of folk songs in Kannada based on women and their rural life. The audience was mesmerized by the scintillating voice of Thimmaraju and the women co-singers. Inspired by his presentation, women writers from the Northeast, too, presented folk songs combined with dance. The programme was a grand success.

NORTHEAST AND SOUTHERN WRITERS' MEET

30–31 March 2018, Visakhapatnam

In the city of Visakhapatnam, the writers' community and the lovers of literature were excited to witness the Northeast and Southern Writers' Meet, a prestigious sangam of writers of a vibrant part of India, organized on 30 and 31 March 2018 at

Visakhapatnam Public Library Hall, Dwaraka Nagar. Dr Meegada Ramalinga Swami, eminent scholar and recipient of many Nandi Awards, began the proceedings with two padya poems in praise of India and unity in diversity. Sri K. Siva Reddy, Convener of Sahitya Akademi's Telugu Advisory Board, presented a Sahitya Akademi publication as a memento to the artist who gave the proceedings an auspicious beginning.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao in his welcome address underlined the importance of assimilating the Northeastern writers and poets in the cultural mainstream, and stressed that this process of exchange (Adan-Pradan), which is the core philosophy of Sahitya Akademi and Indian Literature, is well-preserved and carried forward with each confluence of authors from the length and breadth of the country. He introduced Dr Kalipatnam Rama Rao, the nonagenarian writer whose inspirational presence had enriched the Telugu short story and gave it a sense of history. He welcomed a senior writer from Assam, Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora, who presided over the programme and Prof. P. Adeswara Rao, Guest of Honor, whose Hindi translations of Telugu works



Confluence of the Northeastern and Southern currents of Literature at Coastal City Visakhapatnam

are commendable. Forty-five writers and scholars from the Northeast and south India assembled for the two-day meet. Sri K. Siva Reddy gave the introductory address. He emphasized the importance of pluralistic culture which, in the two-day programme, the poets and short story writers would demonstrate.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao later shared with the gathering that Travel Grants and other youth-oriented promotional programmes are in the agenda of Sahitya Akademi, and advised young literary minds to make use of the resources and schemes of Sahitya Akademi.

Dr Kalipatnam Rama Rao, in his inaugural address, remarked that the very aim of writing is sharing of ideas and, to do this, mankind in the beginning depended on expressional skills, and it was mainly oratory. He lamented that today the welfare of the common people is not much thought about; current trends of apathy are to be altered so that the problems of the marginalized sections of society, which comprise majority of the population, are addressed in prose, songs and all other art forms.

Dr Lakshmi Nandan Bora presided over the session dealing with



Indian Writing in English, and said that Indian writers have a natural talent to write in different languages. Speaking about the richness of south Indian or Dravidian languages, he stated that epics were first translated into these languages and was later attempted in Northeastern languages, such as Assamese. Dr Bora stated that Assamese short story has well-showcased its range of emotions and genres and its poetry is also rich with glory of the region, of the tribes and plains folks.

The Guest of Honour Prof. P. Adeshwara Rao shared his translations of Aluri Bairagi's works, *The Broken Mirror* and *Voices from the Empty Well*, into English, and *Prema Kavithalu* into Telugu. He said that translation from Telugu into the national language needs to be extensively done in Khadi Boli or mainland common vernacular, selecting one prominent regional accent nearer to the original, so that the translated works are read in the target language communities with interest and passion.

The inaugural session was followed by a multilingual poetry reading session, chaired by Sri K. Siva Reddy, and poetry recitations were rendered by Bipul Jyothi Saikia (Assamese), Rituraj Basumatary (Bodo), B. R. Lakshmana Rao (Kannada), V. Madhusudan Nair (Malayalam), Thoudam Netrajit Singh (Manipuri), Abir Khaling (Nepali), Azhagirya Periyvan (Tamil), Aslam Hassan (Urdu) and K. Sanjeeva Rao (Telugu).

The first session started with paper presentations on *My World My Writing*. Chaired by Prof. S. M. Iqbal, in this session Sri Arindam Barkataky (Assamese), Sri G. Bijoykumar Shamra (Manipuri), Sri Su. Venugopal (Tamil) and Sri Rama Teertha (Telugu) presented their papers and shared their perspectives on literature and the world order. The second session of the first day was a poetry session chaired by Sri L. R. Swami, noted Telugu writer and Akademi Award winning translator. Jiban Narah (Assamese), Uthirsar Khungar Basumatary (Bodo), C. Ravunny (Malayalam), Lenin Khumancha (Manipuri), Subhash Sotang (Nepali), B. Meenakshi Sundaram (Tamil), Perugu Ramakrishna and Siriki Swaminaidu (Telugu) recited their poems.

On the second day, Sri Vasireddi Naveen chaired the third session on Short Story Reading. Smt. Bonti Senchowa (Assamese), S. Diwakar (Kannada), Payipra Radhakrishnan (Malayalam), Heisam Budichandra Singh (Manipuri), Harish Moktan (Nepali),

Subrabharathi Manian (Tamil), Chintakindi Srinivasa Rao (Telugu) read out English translations of their stories.

The fourth and last session of the meet was on poetry reading and chaired by Prof. Siddalingaiah. The diversity of Indian culture and creative expanse came forth in the midst of vivid imagery and colors of expression from the regaling voices of poets like Kushal Dutta (Assamese), Sopna Baglaru (Bodo), H. N. Arathi (Kannada), L. R. Swami and R. Sreelatha Varma (Malayalam), Imojet Ningonbam (Manipuri), Jogendra Darnal (Nepali), Thenmozhi Das (Tamil) and Balasudhakar Mouli (Telugu).

LITERARY FORUM: WORLD BOOK DAY

23 April 2018, Bengaluru

In collaboration with Karnataka Publishers Association, Bengaluru, a Literary Forum was organized on the occasion of World Book Day on 23 April at Conference Hall, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

Sri Abhinava Ravikumar, Secretary, Karnataka Publishers Association, Bengaluru, compered the programme and Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar welcomed the guests.

Sri Sanjay Adiga, IBH Prakashana, Bengaluru, and Sri Srinivas, Bharathi Prakashana, Mysore, were felicitated during the programme. They expressed their gratitude for encouraging the publishers and booksellers of Karnataka. Dr Siddalingaiah, eminent Kannada poet and Convener, Sahitya Akademi's Kannada Advisory Board, inaugurated the programme. He spoke on the book *Himalayada Mahatmara Sannidhi* by Shaymasundar Rao. He emphasized that the publishers should get subsidized paper, which will promote the publishing industry in India. Dr Vasundhara Bhupathi, Chairman, Kannada Pustaka Pradhikara, Bengaluru, who presided over the programme, informed that books are very important for a good and healthy life.

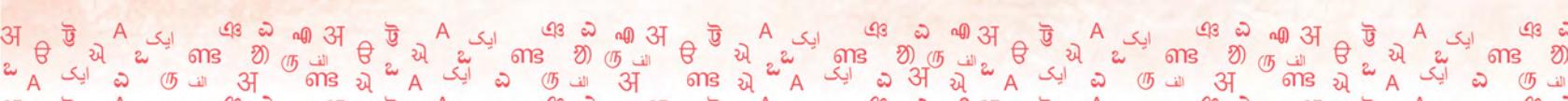
Sri Ramesh Udupa, Navakarnataka Prakashana, Bengaluru, proposed the vote of thanks.



Participants pose for the group photo



Participants in the programme



NARI CHETNA

08 March 2018, Kolkata



L-R: Ms Suchitra De, Ms Manabi Bandyopadhyay, Ms Jaya Mitra, Ms Poulami Sengupta

A Nari Chetna programme was organized on the occasion of International Women's Day with two women and three trans-women writers. Ms Jaya Mitra, an eminent Bengali fiction writer and Sahitya Akademi translation award winner chaired the programme. At the outset Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, welcoming the invited writers and poets, focused on the significance of the celebration of the International Women's Day and informed that the theme of this year's International Women's Day was Press for Progress. Dr Manabi Bandyopadhyay, first trans-woman in India to head an educational institution as the Principal of Krishnanagar Women College, narrated her experience during the period of her gender transformation. Ms Poulami Sengupta, Executive Editor of Bengali magazine of ABP group and eminent Bengali poet, said that being a woman, she was never the victim of any prejudices, either in her social life or in her professional life. Her creative work is not gender specific, except for some recent ones. She read out some of her poems. Ms Suchitra De, another trans-woman writer, narrated her painful and humiliating experience during her transition period of becoming a woman. During that period of struggle, she had the support of only two women—Ms Manabi Bandyopadhyay and Ms Priya Acharya, a renowned singer. Ms Rani Majumder, shared the bitter social and personal experience during her gender transformation. She described how she overcame the humiliation and gathered energy to fight back, devoting herself more into creative work. She read out a few of her fictional creations. Ms Jaya Mitra, from the chair, congratulated the women for their courage and determination.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

12 March 2018, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi celebrated its Foundation Day on 12 March 2018 at its Kolkata office auditorium. Sri Samik Bandyopadhyay, an eminent critic of Indian art, theatre and film was invited to deliver a lecture on the topic Literature Published. Goutam Paul

welcomed Sri Samik Bandyopadhyay and introduced him to the gathering. He briefly narrated the historical background of Akademi's Kolkata office, and the major activities of the Akademi



Sri Samik Bandyopadhyay during Akademi's Foundation Day Lecture

as a whole. Sri Bandyopadhyay articulated on his experience as a learned editor. He spoke of his days at Oxford University Press as an Editor and emphasized on the importance of editing a book. Focusing on the topic Literature Published, he pointed out that where an author furnishes his creative work, the work of an editor starts. He observed that the crisis of civilization which began in the beginning of the 20th century has deepened with the passage of time. The tremendous progress of science and technology since the middle of the 19th century has transformed the society into a violent and ugly place. During that period, some powerful writers, like Tagore, could foresee a world war. He quoted from Tagore's *Naibedya* which was written in 1902, twelve years before World War I. He further said that literature is expressed with the articulation of words and a complete art form is expressed both with words and painting. Between the two World Wars, Tagore's foundation of Visva-Bharati was an attempt to teach by retreating to the roots of civilization and focusing on humanity and sensitivity. He said that various forms of expression of art are words, music, picture, painting, and dance, and they, all combined, can resist the crisis of civilization. Tagore himself has tried to achieve this throughout his life. He combined all art forms together to express feelings to reach the truth of life. In this context he referred to the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca. In his poetry collection entitled *The Poet in New York*, he related words with photographs for finest expression of his feelings. For him, literature is published in totality, synchronizing words with other art forms, thus adding meaning to words.

At the end Subodh Sarkar, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, appreciated Sri Bandyopadhyay's thought-provoking lecture and proposed the vote of thanks.

MULTILINGUAL POETS' MEET

15-16 March 2018, Aizawl, Mizoram

In collaboration with Mizo Academy of Letters, a two-day Multilingual Poets' Meet was organized at the Conference Hall



of Government. Hrangbana College, Aizawl, Mizoram on 15–16 March 2018. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, in his welcome address, extended greetings to the participants of the programme. The introductory speech was delivered by Dr Darchuailova Renthlei, General Council member, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Lalzuia Colney, Chief Guest of the Meet, in his speech expressed his pleasure to attend the programme. He spoke on the importance of Mizo language and the need to preserve Mizo literature.

Sri Laltingliana Khiangte, President Mizo Academy of Letters, delivered the keynote address in which he mentioned the purpose of the programme and encouraged the poets by saying that a poet is, without doubt, a gem of a person. He chaired the inaugural session of the programme. Sri Lalthangmawia, Senior Advisor, Mizo Academy of Letters, proposed the vote of thanks.

In the first session Sri Sanju Vala (Gujarati), Sri Prakash Nayak (Konkani), Sri Lalmingmawia Ralte (Mizoram), Sri Ravinder Ravi (Kashmiri), Ms Purnima Suresh (Kannada) and Sri Dinesh Kumar Chaube (Hindi) recited their poems. Ms Sharmila Ray, from the chair recited her poems in English. The second session was chaired by Sri Hrushikesh Malik. Sri Madhavan Puracherry (Malayalam), Sri Bharat Daundkar (Marathi), Ms Vennila (Tamil), Sri Tanmoy Chakraborty, (Bengali), Sri C. Chhuanvawra (Mizo), Sri Zaithangpuii Vuangtu (English) and Sri Ganesh Thakur Hansda (Santali) recited their poems.

On the second day and third session of the Multi-Lingual Poets' Meet, Sri Joy Singh Tokbi (Karbi), Sri Jayanta Kaman (Mising), Sri Mubin Rabha (Rabha), Sri Jayanta Parmar (Urdu) and Sri Balam Shukla (Sanskrit) recited their poems, and Sri Srinivasa Acharya, representing Telugu, chaired the session. The fourth session of the Poets' Meet was chaired by Sri Naba Sapkota, an eminent Nepali poet and scholar. Sri Manoj Chalowa (Sindhi), Sri Bijoy Shankar Barman (Assamese), Sri Thansanga Chawngthu (Mizo), Sri Goyary (Bodo) and Ms Zaithangpuii Vuangtu (Mizo) recited their poems.

The valedictory session of the Meet was chaired by Sri Laltingliana Khiangte who chanted Hlado, a special poem of Mizoram. Sri P. C. Lalrinpuia, Executive Council Member, Mizo

Academy of Letters, proposed the vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON BIATE AND THEIR LANGUAGE

17 March 2018, Aizawl, Mizoram

In collaboration with Mizo Academy of Letters, a Seminar was organized on *Biate and their Language* on 17 March 2018 at the Conference Hall of Government Hrangbana College, Chanmari, Aizawl, Mizoram. Welcoming the participants, guests and other dignitaries to the dias, Mihir Kumar Sahoo highlighted the works and projects that Sahitya Akademi has done regarding the oral as well as written literature for 24 recognized official languages. In his key note address Dr Darchuailova Renthlei said that Biate was the first settlement among the Zo Clans, and migrated from Mizoram to different places of India, especially in Meghalaya and Assam. The total estimated language spoken by Biate till today were only around ten thousands to fifteen thousand. Sri David L. Thangliana, Director, Information & Public Relations, Government of Mizoram invited as the Chief Guest dwelt on Biate and their brief history that Biate were the first dweller of Mizoram and, scattered all over north east India and now resided mostly in Halflong, Assam. Laltingliana Khiangte from the chair dwelt on the importance of Biate and their language.

Sri Thansanga Chawngthu presented his paper in the first session of the Seminar entitled *The Origin of Biate Clan and their Local Administration*. The session was chaired by Sri Zoramdinthara.

Sri B. Laltingliana presented his paper entitled *Biate Clan, Religion & Custom* in the second session of the Seminar followed by Rualkhuma Colney's paper entitled *Biate Language viz-a-viz Mizo Language*. His paper reflected the relationship between Biate language and Mizo language. The second session was chaired by Sri C. Hhuanvawra, Vice President, Mizo Academy of Letters.

The Seminar ended with a lively interaction among the audience and the participants.

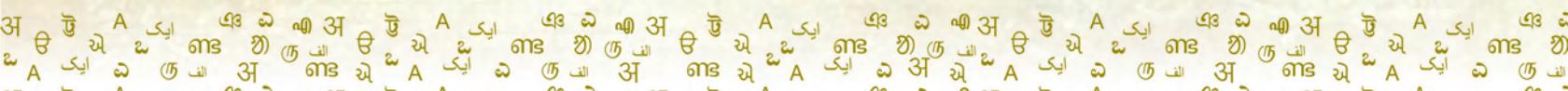
Sri Zoramdinthara, Jt. Secretary, Mizo Academy of Letters proposed the vote of thanks.



Sri Laltingliana Khiangte delivering the keynote address at the Meet



Participants of the seminar



KATHASANDHI: GOBINDA BASUMATARY

17 March 2018, Kokrajhar, Assam

In collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy, a Kathasandhi programme with Sri Gobinda Basumatary, an eminent fiction writer, was organized at Kokrajhar, Assam on 17 March 2018. Sri Gobinda Basumatary is a prolific Bodo writer and translator. He has received many prestigious awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize in 2017. He has translated Manik Bandyopadhyay's Putul Nacher Itikatha and Padma Nadir Majhi, published by the Akademi. Sri Goutam Paul elaborated on the Akademi's various programmes and said that Kathasandhi is a programme for fiction writers where excerpts from a novel being written or recent short stories are read and discussed. Sri Gobinda Basumatary read out stories from his recently published collection of short stories and narrated the different stages of his creative pursuit. At the end of his speech was a lively interactive session.

YOUTH BODO WRITERS' FESTIVAL

18 March 2018, Kokrajhar, Assam

In collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy, a Youth Bodo Writers' Festival was organized at Bodofa Cultural Complex, BTAD, Assam on 18 March 2018. Sri Goutam Paul articulated that the objective of this festival is to encourage the young writers to improve their standard of writing. Sri Rajen Basumatary, President of the Bodo Writers' Academy, introduced the invited guests and participants. Sri Rajani Barjowary, Chief Editor of The Bodoland inaugurated the Festival. Sri Janil Kumar Brahma, Sahitya Akademi awardee, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He mentioned the influence of other languages in the upliftment of Bodo literature. Sri Ranen Muchhary, General Secretary of Bodo Writers' Academy, delivered the keynote address. Sri Rajen Boro, President of Cultural Bodo Samaj, spoke on the occasion. Sri Banzil Manjit Basumatary presided over the inaugural session. Sri Umesh Brahma, Secretary, Bodo Writers' Academy, proposed the vote of thanks.

The first session of the Youth Bodo Writers' Festival was presided over by Sri Amrit Kherkatary, a faculty member of the Department of Bodo, Gauhati University, Assam. The following 30 young poets participated and read out their recently composed poems: Abir Basumatary, Ajoy Basumatary, Anila Basumatary, Bonjar Gwra Brahma, Bibeka Suma Basumatary, Binindra Basumatary, Dharista Basumatary, Dipen Boro, Dwijiri Uzir, Fami Sona Boro, Fujima Boro, Hadung Gwra Mwsahary, Jingkhiri Boro, Khodom Basumatary, Liri Basumatary, Niku Dwimary, Maidang Sona Brahma, Thoraina Ramchiary, Mainu Basumatary, Mokunda Swargiary, Phulen Boro, Purnima Hazoary, Haren Brahma, Rongjalu Baglary, Rizia Islary, Rumi Baglary, Rakheb Basumatary, Swrji Basumatary, Tripti Basumatary and Upoma Rani Dwimary.



Sri Rajen Basumatary delivering the Introductory Address of the festival

The topic of the second session was *Bodo Folklore and Fiction Writing* and the session was chaired by Sri Banjit Manzil Basumatary. Sri Biswajit Brahma, Ms Laishree Mohilary, Ms Mamata Swargiary, Ms Binika Boro, Sri Daneswar Boro, Sri Firoz Basumatary, Sri Mitu Boro, Sri Promod Narzary, Ms Ranju Swargiary, Ms Rani Boro and Sri Ukhrang Gwra Narzary dwelt on the topic.

The valedictory speech was delivered by Sri Ajit Boro with Sri Chimpson Narzary in the chair.

ALL-INDIA MULTILINGUAL POETS' MEET

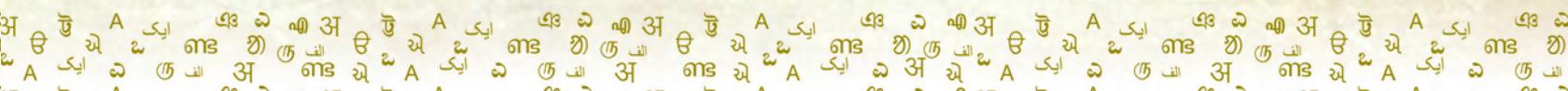
19 March 2018, Kokrajhar, Assam

In collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy, a one-day All-India Multilingual Poets' Meet was organized on 19 March 2018 at Kokrajhar, Assam.

In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul welcomed the scholars, poets and the gathering. Sri Rajen Basumatary, President of Bodo Writers' Academy, elaborated on the activities of the Bodo Writers' Academy for the upliftment of the Bodo language and literature. Sri Mangal Singh Hazowary, an eminent Bodo writer and first Akademi Award winner in Bodo language, inaugurated the meet and said that modern literature has taken its shape from folk literature. Sri Suresh Rituparna, an eminent Hindi poet and Director of K. K. Birla Foundation, in his keynote address said that poetry gives solace to the distress mind in the modern-day civilization.

Sri Rajendra Nath Boro, President, Dulari Boro Samaj, delivered his speech as the Guest of Honour. He said that the Poets' Meet will encourage the Bodo writers to pursue their creative urge to deliver world-class poetry. Sri Mohan Singh, an eminent Dogri poet and exponent of Indian art and culture, appreciated the Bodo community for their determination to achieve their unique identity. Sri Ranen Ch. Muchahary, General Secretary of Bodo Writers' Academy proposed the vote of thanks.

In the first session, Sri Kushal Dutta (Assamese), Ms Sebanti Ghosh (Bengali), Sri Dhiru Jyoti Basumatary and Sri Surath





Sri Mohan Singh speaking in the Inaugural Session

Narzary (Bodo), Ms Ch. Subadini Devi (Manipuri) and Sri Suresh Rituparna read out their poetry, with Smt. Aparna Mohanty, an eminent Odia poet and Akademi award winner, in the chair.

In the second session Ms Santi Basumatary and Ms Anju Narzary (Bodo), Sri Phul Chandra Jha (Maithili) and Sri Mohan Singh (Dogri) recited their poems, with Sri Manshoor Balihali, an eminent Kashmiri poet, critic and historian, in the chair.

In the third poetry reading session, Sri O. P. Suresh (Malayalam), Sri Uday Thulung (Nepali), Sri Madan Mohan Soren (Santali), Smt. Veena Shiringi (Sindhi) and Sri Nesamithran (Tamil) recited their poems, with Sri Azim Kohli, an eminent Urdu poet, in the chair.

In the valedictory session, Sri Dinanath Basumatary, an eminent Bodo scholar, delivered his speech focusing on Bodo poetry today and how it sustains and gets enriched with the borrowing of words from other languages. Sri Hemanta Kumar Barua, Vice-Chancellor of Bodoland University, invited as the Chief Guest in the session, shared his views about poetry and referred to Jibanananda Das as the most outstanding modern Bengali poet. Sri Narayan Das, an eminent Sanskrit scholar and Head, Sanskrit Department of Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur, Kolkata, evaluated the speeches and poetry which were presented in the one-day Meet.

Sri Goutam Paul proposed the vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON BODO FOLK SONG AND DANCE, AND MULAKAT

20 March 2018, Bikali, Dhupdhara, Assam

In collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha, a Symposium on Bodo Folk Song and Dance was organized at Bikali College, Dhupdhara, Assam, on 20 March 2018. Sri Harchan Basumatary, a renowned social worker of the locality, lighted the lamps with devotional song sung by a group of girls of Bikali College. Smt. Malina Devi Rabha, Principal, Bikali College, delivered the inaugural speech of the programme. She was happy that this was the first time a programme of this kind was held in Bikali

College. She dwelt on the rich Bodo culture and stressed on the development of Bodo folk song and dance.

Sri Prasanta Boro, General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, in his keynote address dwelt on the objectives of the programme. 'Dwikongkhuli' and 'Goalparia' words mentioned in his key address, actually speak about the beginning of Bodo folk song and dance. He extended his heartfelt thanks to the resource persons, intellectual and participants attending the Symposium.

Sri Goutam Paul welcomed the invited participants and gathering. Sri Kaniska Hazowary, a radio artist and renowned Bodo writer, read out his paper in which he advocated the necessity of thorough research for preservation and documentation of Bodo folk song and dance.

Smt. Tinamani Daimary, a dancer, argued that Bagurumba dance should not be misused with artificial make-up. She also explained some other dance forms in her paper.

Sri Ajay Boro read out a Bodo story. He said the Bodos inhabited the southern part of Brahmaputra during the period of undivided Goalpara district, Assam.

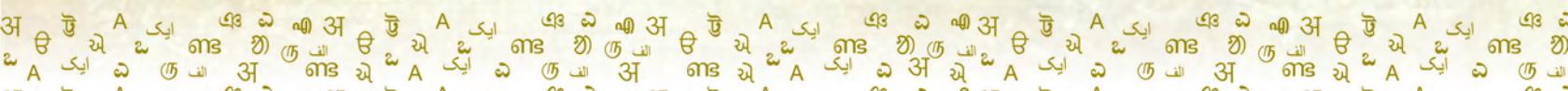
Smt. Champabati Khaklary deliberated on Bodo folk songs.

In the Mulakat programme five young Bodo writers were invited to read out the literary pieces, with Smt. Rupali Swargiary, Assistant Academic Officer of Board of Secondary Education Assam, Guwahati, in the chair. In this session Bimala Hazoary and Ripen Boro read out their short stories while Mainashri Basumatary, Detsung Swargiary and Ujjala Patgiri read out poems composed by them. The programme inspired new writers, students' community and created pleasures and interest among participants and members who attended the session which evoked a lively interactive session.

The session came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Kameswar Boro, Secretary of Bodo Sahitya Sabha.



Sri Kameswar Boro and Sri Taren Boro on the dias



SYMPOSIUM ON MUTUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN MAITHILI AND BENGALI

23 April 2018, Kolkata

A Symposium on *Mutual Relations Between Maithili and Bengali* was organized in the Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata on 23 March 2018. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahu welcomed the gathering and stressed upon the mutual bond between Maithili and Bengali. The inaugural session of the Symposium was chaired by Sri Rajnandan Lal Das, distinguished Maithili writer and Editor of *Karnamrit*. He stated instances of the friendship between Bengal and Mithila in medieval and modern period. He also said that Bengali scholars, historians and writers contributed a lot to protect and revive the Maithili language, script and its ancient literature.

The introductory speech was given by Prof. Prem Mohan Mishra, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He said that there is a glorious history of the mutual understanding between Mithila and Bengal since ancient period. Sri Tarakant Jha, former Editor, *Mithila Samad*, referred to many facts and events from ancient to modern period showing the brotherhood between the two languages.



Prem Mohan Mishra and Rajnandan Lal Das

The business session of the Symposium was chaired by Dr Mahendra Hazari, while Sri Ramlochan Thakur, Sri Naveen Chaudhary and Sri Chandan Kumar Jha presented their papers on *Maithili and Bengali Script: Mutual Relations, Maithili and Bengali: Linguistic inter-relations* and *Brajbuli Literature of Bengal and Maithili*, respectively.

Sri Gautam Paul proposed the vote of thanks.

CELEBRATION OF SWACHHTA PAKHWADA

25 April 2018, Kolkata

As part of the Swachhta Pakhwada, the eastern regional office, Kolkata, on 25 April 2018, read the oath and then cleaned the office premises. After the cleanliness drive, the staff participated in a quiz competition, which was followed by a lecture session at the auditorium with Prof. Roychowdhury deliberating on the

present environmental situation of India through a power-point presentation. Prof. Roychowdhury focused on the importance of maintaining the balance of ground water and the environmental hazards that might arise from misuse of ground water. He showed the percentage of ground water in different parts of the world, and how it is decreasing and being contaminated every day. He also spoke on the rising levels of arsenic and fluoride in different parts of Southeast Asia. After the presentation, a brief interactive session followed which was subsequently followed by the vote of thanks by Sri Goutam Paul.

SYMPOSIUM ON ODISIA LYRICS

29 April 2018, Cuttack

In collaboration with Oriya Geetikabi Samaj, a Symposium on *Odia Lyrics* was organized on 29 April 2018 at Satabdi Bhawan, Cuttack, with Sri Amaresh Pattnaik, eminent poet and General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, as the chair of the inaugural session. The opening song was sung by Nisithprava Padhi. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo delivered the welcome address. Dr Bijayananda Singh, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory speech emphasized upon the importance of lyric poetry. Dr Kirtan Narayan Padhi, an eminent scholar of lyric poetry, delivered the keynote address. Dr Padhi briefly described the origin and development of lyric poetry. He laid emphasis on the grammar of lyric poetry. The Chief Guest, Dr Debasish Panigrahi, IPS, delivered his speech and stated that composing lyric poetry is not as easy as it seems. Sri Amaresh Pattnaik stated that it is not proper to compartmentalize lyric



L-R: Sri Manoj Pattnaik, Dr Kirtan Narayan Padhi, Sri Amaresh Pattnaik, Dr Debasish Panigrahi, Dr Bijayananda Singh, Dr Mihir Kr Sahoo

poetry; songs and lyrics enrich literature. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Manoj Pattnaik, Secretary, Oriya Geetikabi Samaj.

In the first session lyricist Sri Gour Pattnaik stated that for composing lyric poetry one must have good knowledge of the subtleties and nuances of music. He read his paper on lyric poetry and briefly narrated the birth and growth of Odia lyric poetry. Dr Gobind Chandra Chand read his paper on contemporary lyric poets. He briefly narrated the lyric poems composed by lyric



poets. In her presidential remarks, Dr Malabika Ray said that the best lyric poetry touches the human heart and gets etched in human memory for ever.

The second and the last session began with eminent lyricist Sri Gaurahari Dalayi in the chair. Smt Minakshi Devi began her discussion on lyric poetry by referring to the great lyricist Binodini Devi. She spoke on the ancient lyric poetry and referred to *Amarkosh*. Dr Sricharan Mohanty spoke on Sabuja Geeti Kabita and its influence on contemporary lyricists. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Smt. Sandhya Mitra.

MULAKAT WITH ODISIA WRITERS

29 April 2018, Cuttack

A Mulakat programme with Odia writers was organized on 29 April 2018 in Satabdi Bhawan, Cuttack. The programme was presided over by Dr Bijayananda Singh, Convener, Odia Advisory Board. At the outset, Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo explained to the audience the purpose of the Mulakat programme. He said that it is primarily intended to inspire the fledgling writers to write short stories, poems, plays and other creative writings. He also extended a warm welcome to six young writers who came from different parts of Odisha to participate in the Mulakat programme. Sri Anil Kumar Dash, the young poet from Jharsuguda, read out two of his poems, and both the poems were highly impressive. Poet Sri Ashok Puhan, who came from Anandpur, Keonjhar, read three of his poems. Ms Manini Mishra, from Barpali, Sambalpur, read three of her poems. Sri Matrudatta Mohanty from Kendrapada read his short story *Ahyarani*. Sri Rabinarayan Dash from Jagatsinghpur read a story titled *Bhala Bapa Kahaku Kahanti*. Sri Subhrajit Roy from Bhubaneswar read two of his poems *Bhata* and *Phylin*.

In his presidential address, Dr Bijayananda Singh praised all the writers and poets for the keen interest they had exhibited during the programme. He hoped that many such programmes would be organized by Sahitya Akademi to inspire young writers of Odisha. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Sri Tarun Kumar Sahu, Member, Odia Advisory Board.



L-R: Sri Anil Kumar Dash, Sri Subhrajit Roy, Ms Manini Mishra, Dr Bijayananda Singh, Dr Mihir Kr Sahoo, Sri Ashok Puhan, Sri Rabinarayan Dash, Sri Matrudatta Mohanty

THROUGH MY WINDOW: APARNA MOHANTY SPOKE ON ARCHANA NAYAK

30 April 2018, Bhubaneswar

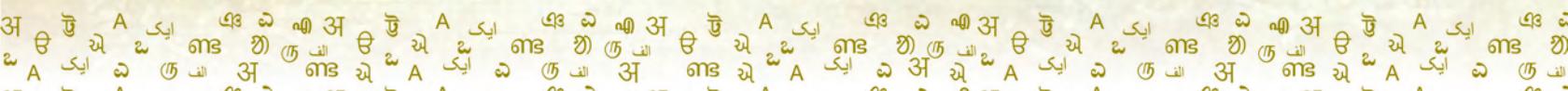
A Through My Window programme was organized in the Conference Hall of State Archives in Bhubaneswar. Dr Aparna Mohanty, an Akademi award-winning poet, presented her views on the writings of the eminent versatile Odia writer Dr Archana Nayak. She critically reviewed the philosophy and message of the entire creative literary works of Dr Nayak. As it is commonly said that the life of women is difficult to understand, so is the works of Dr Nayak. Both determination and softness are the hallmarks of her works, as well as the underlying message of the liberation of women. She is a novelist, story writer, dramatist, orator, poet, marvelous teacher, philosopher and a brilliant soul. She symbolises the women writing in modern Odia literature. The urge for liberation, equality of women in a patriarchal socio-cultural system, and the quest beyond the existing world are philosophical markers of her creative works. Born in a natural environment surrounded by hills, lakes and a rustic ambience, she developed a tranquil sense that was reflected in her great works.

Dr Nayak's work on the Buddhist lady monks who sacrificed their comfort and home in search of knowledge, liberation, moksha and nirvana gained much acclaim. These great women, however, were identified with the cause of degeneration. Dr Nayak questioned such a scenario in her work. Her question in the novel was whether only women are responsible for the degeneration. The commitment and sacrifice of women for society is more than men. She has rediscovered these Buddhist lady monks through her creativity and commitment. Queen Shyambati is the recreation of Dr Nayak who has tried to bring her out of the patriarchal understanding of women.

The biography of Mohapatra Nilamani Sahu by Dr Nayak is also one of her commendable works. Another work of immense significance was on a comparative study of Aurobindo and Nietzsche. With sixteen story books, two novels, five dramas, sixteen biographies and essays, along with research works, she is one of the tallest figures in the history of Odia literature.



L-R: Dr Aparna Mohanty, Dr Archana Nayak, Sri Bijayananda Singh





LOKA : THE MANY VOICES

4 March 2018, Vypin-Cochin



Sri K.V. Bhaskarani giving presentation of traditional Fugddo, Sri Payyanur Ramesh Pai, second from right, looks on

In collaboration with Kudumbi Seva Sanghom, Loka: the Many Voices programme was organized on 4 March 2018 at Vypin-Cochin. Sri E. L. Anil Kumar, Secretary, Kudumbi Seva Sanghom, welcomed the gathering. Sri K. V. Bhaskaran, Member, All India Konkani Parishad, gave a presentation on the traditional Fugdi folk dance form and the related songs. He explained that Fugdi is a Konkani folk dance traditionally performed by the members of the Konkani speaking Kudumbi community. The striking similarities between the performances of this art form in Goa and Kerala reminds one of the cultural heritage shared by the communities in the Pre-Portuguese Era. However, due to lack of adequate patronage and the traditional artists taking up various occupations for livelihood, it is slowly vanishing. The Fugdi was performed by 18 dancers, 2 lead singers and a resource person. The migration of the Konkani community from Goa was reflected in the dance form although many of the songs practiced have been native of Kerala. The group performed Fugdi to the tunes of the traditional Konkani folk songs at the Mallikarjuna Temple Auditorium, Vypin.

Sri Payyanur Ramesh Pai, Member, General Council of Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

NARI CHETNA

08 March 2018, Mumbai

An evening of poetry reading by Marathi poets was organized in the Akademi's Nari Chetna programme on 8 March 2018 at its auditorium in Mumbai. The programme was held to celebrate the International Women's Day. At the outset, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed everyone. Smt. Jayashree Joshi recited her free poems - *Walu*, *Kshitij*, *Swapna*, *Tujha Shabda Yeta*, *Laat Ubechi*, *Anjor*, etc. Ms Chhaya Koregaonkar sang some of her love poems, such as *Maitrin*, *Virus*, *Paaus* and *Kitida Nizavalas*, using the Marathi folklore very effectively. The third poet, Ms

Priya Jamkar, recited her poems like *Jungle*, *Deh-Un*, *Gongat*, *Shunya Bhavatal*, *Kagad*, *Tala*, *Apriya* and *Tu Aalas ki*. These poems were quite moving and depicted the urban culture. Smt.



Smt. Sujata Mahajan reciting her poems with Ms Priya Jamkar, Jayashree Joshi and Chhaya Koregaonkar on the dias

Sujata Mahajan recited *Bai Ga Nako Randus Majhyasathi*, *Madhyatracha Aarsa*, *Ratri Padato Ujed*, *Vadal*, *Tee Shareer Rupaat Kathokath*, *Solavya Varshi Vaat* and *Kay Farak Padato*. Her poems portrayed the psyche of distressed women.

The programme was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience comprising of poets, scholars, litterateurs and the media. Sri Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks.

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

12 March 2018, Mumbai

To celebrate its Foundation Day, a Literary Forum was organized on 12 March 2018 at the Akademi's auditorium in Mumbai. Sri Ramdas Bhatkal, noted Marathi writer, thinker and publisher was invited to speak on 'Reading Culture Today'. At the outset, Sri Krishna Kimbahune welcomed the guest speaker on the dais and informed about various activities initiated by Sahitya Akademi. Sri Bhatkal in his speech proclaimed, 'the importance of reading in a nation's development cannot be overlooked. Cultivating a reading culture is important for any individual and to the



Ramdas Bhatkal delivering his speech



development of a nation.' He was worried that the declining interest in reading among the youth today is a cause for alarm and a challenge to all. It is a necessity to sustain a reading culture, the lack of which could lead to illiteracy. A country cannot dream of meaningful development if its citizens cannot read, and the decline in reading culture can adversely affect the socioeconomic culture of the society. He also stated that the electronic media is a harmful tool and too much dependence on it must be avoided. He was of the opinion that a published book must be reviewed authentically and thoroughly so that it develops an interest in readers.

The programme was attended in a great number by litterateurs and media. Sri Krishna Kimbahune proposed the vote of thanks.

NORTHEAST AND WESTERN WRITERS' MEET

29-30 March 2018, Mumbai

A two-day Northeast and Western Writers' Meet was organized on 29-30 March 2018 in Mumbai. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao paid homage to Sri Bansi Khubchandani, a renowned Sindhi writer who passed away in the morning of the same day. He mentioned that the Akademi, by holding such meets, brings the literature of different regions on a single platform. He then introduced the eminent guest writers of the inaugural session. The introductory remarks were given by Sri Rangnath Pathare, an eminent Marathi writer and Convener, Marathi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. He emphasized that such meets are the medium to exchange thoughts. Dr Dhruva Jyoti Borah, an eminent Assamese writer and novelist, presided the inaugural session. He said that the history of a community's literature has usually been inseparable from the history of the language in which the literature is produced. He appealed to the scholars and audience to take necessary steps in restoring the reputation of the regional languages. Sri Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks to sum up the session.

The inaugural session was followed by poetry recitation. The session was chaired by Sri Satish Badwe, an eminent Marathi Critic. Jnan Pujari (Assamese), Dhiraj Basumatary (Bodo),

Surendra Kadia (Gujarati), Balkrishna Mallya (Konkani), N. Kirankumar Singh (Manipuri), Veerdhaval Parab (Marathi), M. Pathik (Nepali) and Nari Lachhwani (Sindhi) recited their poems.

The second session, dedicated to the topic *Traditions of Poetry*, was chaired by Sri Bhushan Bhawe, Convener of Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Papers were presented by Sri Pikumoni Dutta (Assamese), Sri Adaram Basumatary (Bodo), Ajaysinh Chauhan (Gujarati) and Rajay Pawar (Konkani).

The third and last session of the day, dedicated to poetry recitations, was chaired by Dr Vimmi Sadarangani, an eminent Sindhi litterateur. Sri Siddharth Shankar Kalita (Assamese), Sri Gopinath Bramha (Bodo), Sri Bhavesh Bhatt (Gujarati) and Sri Sanjeev Verenkar (Konkani) presented their poems.

The fourth session on story reading which commenced on the second day of the meet was chaired by Dr Dhruva Jyoti Borah. Sri Manoj Kumar Goswami (Assamese), Sri Gobindo Basumatary (Bodo), Sri Mohan Parmar (Gujarati) and Sri Prakash Parienkar (Konkani) read out their stories.

Sri Rangnath Pathare chaired the fifth session of the meet dedicated to the topic *Traditions of Poetry* in which the scholars from Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali and Sindhi language presented their papers. Sri Salam Tomba Singh (Manipuri), Sri Satish Badwe (Marathi), Sri Pempa Tamang (Nepali) and Dr Vimmi Sadarangani (Sindhi) presented their papers on the above topic.

Short stories were read out in the sixth session of the meet which was chaired by Dr N. Kirankumar Singh, and Smt. Bimabati Thiyam Ongbi (Manipuri), Sri Shamsher Ali (Nepali) and Sri Balaji Sutar (Marathi) presented their short stories in Hindi/English translations.

The seventh and last session of the meet, dedicated to the poetry recitations, was chaired by Smt. Neeraja, a renowned Marathi litterateur. Ms Sallam Chanu (Manipuri), Sri Vijay Chormare (Marathi), Sri Youraj Sunadass (Nepali) and Ms Geeta Bindrani (Sindhi) recited their poems.

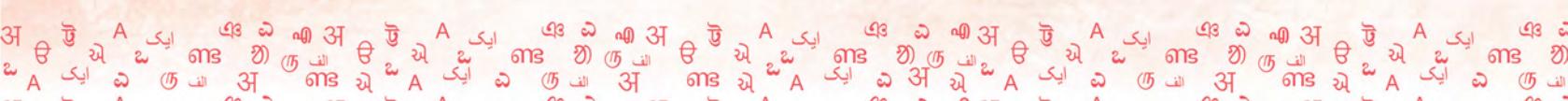
LITERARY FORUM: SINDHI POETS' MEET

10 April 2018, Thane, Maharashtra

A Literary Forum was organized on 10 April 2018 in Thane, Maharashtra. The Forum was held in collaboration with Sindhi Kavi Sabha. Sri Hari Choithani chaired the Forum, and Sri M. T. Gangwani, Sri Bhagchand Verhani "Bhagal", Sri Parasram Tikmani "Parsal", Sri Harbhagwan Bhatia "Rahabar", Sri Hardas Pahuja "Das", Sri Jeevan Wadhawani, Sri Rochal Nagwani, Sri Chaur Keswani "Laal", Ms Indira Hirdayani, Ms Neha Chawala, Sri Thakurdas Lohana "Lahari" recited their poems at the Meet. Sri Satram Makhija "Dilbar" of Sindhi Kavi Sabha conducted the programme.



Sri Pikumoni Dutta presenting his paper, Sri Ajasinh Chauhan, Sri Bhushan Bhawe, Sri Rajay Pawar & Sri Adaram Basumatary look on



NARI CHETNA ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

08 March 2018, Chennai

A Nari Chetna programme was organized to commemorate International Women's Day on 8 March 2018 at DRBCCC Hindu College, Pattabiram. Sri A. S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the gathering. Smt. V. Lakshmi, Principal, DRBCCC Hindu College, chaired the programme. She observed that women possess many great qualities, like patience, empathy, confidence and intelligence, which not only add more dignity to their personality, but also result in their empowerment. Dr Vaigai Selvi mentioned that while negative changes could be as hard to adapt to as the positive ones, women should avoid taking drastic decisions when they are unable to comprehend any solution. Smt. R. Prema felt that women should never give up their beliefs, values and interests. Ms Mubeen Sadhika recited a few of her poems on gender equality. Smt. Supala Pandiyarajan said that women should survive challenges and emerge successful in their day-to-day endeavours. Prof. S. M. Sangavai, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil, proposed the vote of thanks.



L-R: Dr. Prema on the mike with Sri A.S. Ilangovan and Ms Mubeen Sadhika

FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

12 March 2018, Chennai

A literary forum was organized on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day on March 12, 2018 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore, Chennai. Sri A. S. Ilangovan delivered the welcome address. The theme of the Foundation Day Lecture was 'Development of Indian Literature'. Dr Erode Tamilanban, who had won the Sahitya Akademi Award, also graced the occasion. Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize recipient Smt. Gowri Kirubanandan extended her heartfelt gratitude to Sahitya Akademi for constantly encouraging writers, over the past sixty years. She mentioned that translation should always aim at uniting mutual understanding without fragmenting the originality of various linguistic and literary traditions of the country. Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner Sri Kuzha. Kathiresan talked about the craft, technique and nuances of writing children's stories to attract

younger readers. Dr Rama Gurunathan felicitated the Award winners and a brief interactive session followed their lectures.



L-R: Smt. Gowri Kirubanandan, Sri Erode Tamilanban and Sri Kuzha. Kathiresan

BOOK DISCUSSION

15 March 2018, Chennai

A Book Discussion was organized on 15 March 2018 at the Chennai office premises. The book chosen for discussion was *Panmuga Nokkil Ayothidasa Pandithar*, a collection of symposium papers edited by Dr R. Sambath. Sri V. Prabhakaran was invited to speak about the chosen book. He said that Ayothidasar was born Kathavarayan on 20 May 1845.

A practitioner of Siddha medicine, he had great respect for his teacher V. Ayothidasa Pandithar, and that made him change his name as 'Ayothidasa Pandithar'. He started a weekly magazine called *Oru Paisa Thamizhan* in which his rational explanations, educational perspective and revolutionary ideas were published. Sri Prabhakaran emphasized that it was absolutely necessary to study Ayothidasar's philosophy and works as that will help us overcome new types of inequality brought about by the globalization and technological advances. He also appreciated Dr Sambath for providing a detailed introduction and insightful analysis on the inspiring life of Ayothidasa Pandithar and how he overcame insurmountable odds, uplifted the oppressed masses, spread Buddhism in Tamil Nadu and toiled for the lowest all through his life.

POETS' MEET ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD POETRY DAY

21 March 2018, Chennai

A literary forum was organized on the occasion of World Poetry Day on 21 March 2018 at the Chennai office premises. Sri A. S. Ilangovan welcomed the speakers and the audience. Sri Mu. Metha, eminent Tamil poet, and Sri M. Bhoopathi, Sahitya Akademi Award winner, briefly spoke about the works of Nissim Ezekiel, Dom Moraes and A. K. Ramanujan. Sri Kavimugil recited a few poems which dealt with social problems, sufferings



and emotional outbursts. Dr Rama Gurunathan, former General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, Sri N. Avadayappan, former Director of Libraries, Sri Stalin, former Director, All India Radio, Sri B. Veeramani and other local litterateurs attended the programme.

LITERARY FORUM: WORLD BOOK DAY

23 April 2018, Chennai

A Literary Forum was organized on the occasion of World Book Day on April 23, 2018. Sri Maalan, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme and delivered the welcome address. He mentioned that the day is recognized as 'World Book and Copyright Day' to commemorate the birth and death anniversaries of the English poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. Dr K. Chellappan said that the purpose of celebrating 'World Book Day' is to inculcate good reading habits. Sri 'Sandhya' Natarajan appreciated the efforts of Sahitya Akademi and explained the challenges in bringing out error-free books. Sri R. Venkatesh, media expert, opined that publishing authentic content draws readers into the world the writer wants to show them.

BOOK DISCUSSION

26 April 2018, Chennai

A Book Discussion was organized on 26 April 2018 at the Chennai office premises. The book chosen for discussion was *Pinai Kaidhi*, Sahitya Akademi's Award-winning novel in Hindi written by Sri

Kashinath Singh and translated into Tamil by Sri M. Gnanam. Dr P. K. Balasubramaniam, veteran Hindi scholar, was invited to speak about the chosen book. Sri T. S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Programme Assistant, delivered the welcome address. Dr P. K. Balasubramaniam said that the novel explores a relationship story set in the modern context. The story is an unmatched narrative of a contemporary middle class man, Raghunath, whose progeny drift apart in pursuit of their own lifestyles and interests. The crucial fact that the relations we create over our lifetimes are more trustworthy and worth living for than our blood relations, is highlighted in this novel.

CONCEPT OF CLEANLINESS IN LITERATURE

27 April 2018, Chennai

As part of observance of Swachhta Pakhwada from 16-30 April 2018, a lecture was organized on the *Concept of Cleanliness in Literature* by Smt. G. Meenakshi, Editor, *Mangayar Malar*, on 27 April, 2018. Sri T. S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Programme Assistant, delivered the welcome address. In her brief lecture, Smt. Meenakshi quoted and explained a few poems from the Classical Tamil poetic work *Natrinaidai* and couplets from *Tirukkural* that contain rules of etiquette governing sleep, cleanliness, man's life—both public and private, polite behavior and shedding evil habits, ignorance of which can never make a man successful in life. She also responded to the queries of the audience. The programme was well-attended by many local litterateurs. Cash prizes were distributed to the office staff who participated and won in the competitions during the 'Swachhta Pakhwada'.

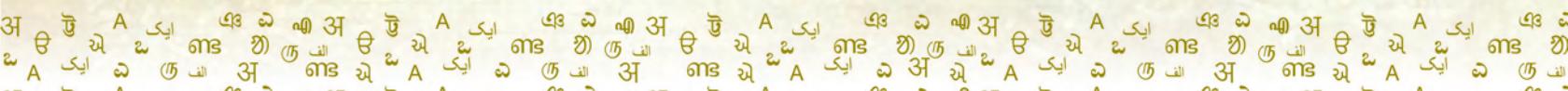
TRIBUTE TO DR KEDARNATH SINGH

March 2018



Sahitya Akademi head office in New Delhi, regional offices in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai, and sub-regional office in Chennai deeply mourned the sudden passing away of Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished poet, scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi. Dr Kedarnath Singh's polyvocal, dialogic poems showcased vital reverberations of racial memory, charged mythic consciousness and deep sensory perceptions. His works, poems and criticism are not mere theoretical adventures of a dreamer but betray silent, mysterious and magical presence of everyday realities. The search of the possibility of significant and strong use of language gave a different identity to the poetry of Dr Kedarnath Singh. Dignity and protection of humanity were the major expressions of his creativity.

Dr Kedarnath Singh was born in 1934 at Chakia, District Balia, Uttar Pradesh. He took his early education in his village and from High School to MA he studied at Varanasi. He began composing poetry in the '50s and continued till his last poetry collection *Shrishi par Pichra*. He taught at Uday Pratap College Varanasi, Saint Endures College Gorakhpur, Udit Narayan College Padrauna and Gorakhpur University, and later joined Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1976. *Abhi Bilkul*, *Abhi Zameen Pak Rahi Hai*, *Yahan Se Dekho*, *Akal Mein Saras*, *Bagh*, *Uttar Kabir aur Anya Kavitayen*, *Tolstoy aur Cycle* and *Shrishi Par Pahra* are his major collections of poems. *Kalpna aur Chhayavad* and *Adhunik Hindi Kavita Mein Bimb Vidhan* are his important critical books. He also edited some magazines. Dr Kedarnath Singh was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1989 for his poetry collection *Akal Mein Saras*. He was also felicitated with the highest honour of Sahitya Akademi Fellowship in 2010. Some other awards and honours that he received are Kumarn Ashan Award, Soviet Land Nehru Award, Vyas Samman, Jnanpith Award, Joshuwa Award, Maithilisharan Gupta Award, Bharat Bharti Award and Dinkar Award. In losing him, the literary community of the country has lost a lovely human being, a gentle genius who straddled many a path like a colossus. The legacy he leaves behind is bound to inspire many a generation to come, but the void created by his departure will be difficult to fill.





PUBLICATIONS

ASSAMESE

Daipayan Hrader Parat
By Subodh Sarkar
Tr.: M. Kamaluddin Ahmed
Pp.70, ₹130
ISBN: 978-93-87567-43-6

Rabindranath Tagore
By Sisirkumar Ghosh
Tr.: Pallavi Deka Buzarboruah
Pp.142, ₹50
ISBN: 978-93-87567-46-7

BENGALI

Yogesh Chandra Ray Vidyanidhi
by Aurobindo Chatterjee
Pp.136, ₹50
ISBN: 978-81-260-4894-6

BODO

Padma Daimani Dingari
By Manik Bandyopadhyay
Tr: Govinda Basumarary
Pp.160, ₹170
ISBN: 978-93-87567-29-0

ENGLISH

Madhavram Wahengba
By Th. Ibohanbi Singh
Pp.68, ₹50
ISBN: 978-81-260-4738-3

Women and their Worlds: Literatures from Eastern India
Com. & Ed: Sinjini Bandyopadhyay
Pp.156, ₹200
ISBN: 978-93-87567-49-8

Krauncha Pakshigalu and Other Stories
by Vaidehi, Tr.: Susheela Punitha,
Pp. 116, ₹120/-,
ISBN: 978-93-87567-75-7

Purdah and Polygamy
By Iqbalunnisa Hussain
Ed. with an Introduction by Nishat Zaidi
Pp. 296, ₹ 220
ISBN: 978-93-86771-86-5

Gratitude for Living:
By Sitakant Mahapatra
Pp. 22, ₹ 25
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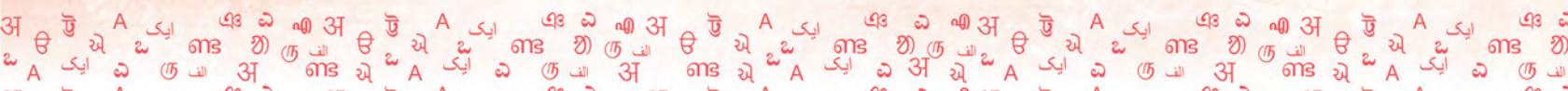
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