



MAY - JUNE 2016

# SAHITYA AKADEMI

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Literary Forum • Symposium • Seminar • Meet the Author • Face-to-Face • Kathasandhi •
- Nari Chetana • Through My Window • Asmita • International Yoga Day

# Secretary Speaks

Translation is the core of all of Sahitya Akademi's activities. It is through translation that we are able to carry the best of literature from one region / language to other regions and languages of the country. It would be no exaggeration to say that translational activity is the most important component of Akademi's programmes and publications. We organize throughout the year, in all the regions of the country and in all the recognized languages, the workshops to give exposure to aspiring translators to high class translational activity. During the months of May and June too we organized a number of translation workshops in different regions.

During the months of May and June, a number of language advisory board meetings took place to chalk out the plans for the coming months. Language advisory boards have played a very important role in the development and growth of the Akademi through constant advice, encouragement and active participation. Through the years they have been part and parcel of Sahitya Akademi's success stories.

As part of the Akademi's policy of remembering and honoring the literary doyens of the past, we organized a number of centenary seminars and symposia throughout the country. Also during these months we continued our outreach programme through which we strive to carry best of literature to various corners of the country and also give exposure to local writers / scholars / translators.

During the month of June, Sahitya Akademi announced the list of Bal Sahitya Puraskar and Yuva Puraskar winners. These Awards continue to inspire many a young writer and also writers of Children's literature. These Awards are indeed hallmark of excellence in young writing in India and we are proud to be part of the programme which promotes young writing and reward the best among them. Children are the backbone of all civilizations and they are the seeds for the future. So, it is imperative on all to expose children to good literature and inculcate good reading habits among them. We believe our Award for children's writing is inspiring more and more writers to take to that genre.

I take this opportunity to wish all our patrons and literary connoisseurs. Hope you all enjoy this edition of our Newsletter. I also wish all the readers and supporters of Sahitya Akademi a very happy Ramzan, Jamshed Navroz, Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami and Kharchi Puja.

*K. Sreenivasarao*  
Secretary



## YUVA PURASKAR 2017

For Yuva Puraskar 2017, Sahitya Akademi is inviting books from publishers and young Indian authors of the age of 35 and below in all the 24 languages recognized by the Akademi. The applicant author should be 35 or below on 1st January 2017. Last date of submission is 30th September 2016. The books should be submitted along with the attested copy of date of birth certificate. Further information about the submission can be obtained from

[http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/awards/yuva\\_puraskar.jsp](http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/awards/yuva_puraskar.jsp)

Sahitya Akademi introduced Yuva Puraskar in 2011 to encourage young writers writing in Indian languages and who are below the age of 35. Since then a total of 106 awards have been given to the best book by young Indian authors in the Indian languages recognized by the Akademi, viz., Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Santali, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. These awards are presented at a prestigious ceremony and comprise an amount of Rs. 50,000/-, a plaque and a citation.



## SANTALI WRITERS' MEET

May 1, 2016, Sahibganj

Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong Santali Writers' Meet at the Sahibganj College in Sahibganj on May 1, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Santali literature. Sri Ramjanm Mishra, Editor, Prativarta, inaugurated the meet and thanked the Akademi for organizing various events to promote Santali culture and literature. In his Presidential address, Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, observed that Santali writers used various scripts and deploy diverse dialects and this has resulted in disparity and confusion and appealed to Santal writers to use Ol Chiki script only to avoid the disparity and confusion. In the first session devoted to short story readings and chaired by Sri Shyam Besra, three noted scholars, Sri Laos Hansda, Sri Subal Kumar Murmu and Sri Sushil Hansdak, read out their stories. In the second session devoted to poetry recitation and chaired by Sri Biswanath Hansda, noted poets Siblal Marandi, Sibududu, Nazir Hembram and Joyen Hansda, recited their compositions.



Participants of the Santali Rachna Path

## RAJENDRA SINGH BEDI BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

May 7-8, 2016, Hyderabad

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Telangana State Urdu Akademi, organized a two-day Seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of eminent writer Sri Rajendra Singh Bedi in Hyderabad on May 7-8, 2016.



Inaugural session in progress

Prof. Abdussamad, the famous Urdu story writer chaired the opening session of the seminar on 7th May 2016. It was Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi who welcomed those participating in the seminar. The key note address was delivered by the famous Urdu story writer, Prof. Baig Ehsaas. He read quotations from the works of Rajendra Singh and then shed some light on various aspects of his life as well. Famous story writer in Urdu, Prof Ratan Singh in his opening session talked about his time with Prof. Bedi and the very familiar and close relationship they shared. While chairing this session, Prof. Abdussamad called Rajendra Singh Bedi as the role model for Urdu fantasy fiction. The director of Telangana Urdu State Academy, Prof. S. A. Shakoor, expressed his happiness over the organization of this event and suggested for more such events to be organized.. He also assured Sahitya Akademi that Telangana Urdu Academy would be keen about organizing events of such kind along with Sahitya Akademi in future. Famous Urdu writer Jilani Bano also participated in this session and expressed her views on the writings of Bedi. In the last session of the seminar, Chandrabhan Khyal, the convener of the Urdu Advisory Board, at Sahitya Akademi thanked those present. Prof. Shafey Kidwai chaired the first session of the second day of the seminar on 8th May 2016, and Tarique Chhatri, Maula Baksh, and Firoze Aalam presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Prof. Khalid Qadri and Nizam Siddique, Shamin Tarique and Rahman Abbas presented their papers. Prof Ashraf Shafi chaired the last session of the seminar and Faiyaz Rifayat, Habib Nisaar and Wasim Begum presented papers.



## NEPALI GHAZAL PATH

May 8, 2016, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Gorkha Jana Pusthakalaya, organized a ‘Nepali Ghazal Path’ on May 8, 2016 in Kurseong. The event was chaired by Dr Jas Yonjan, Member, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Noted poets, Norjang Syanden, Kamal Regmi, Nirdoshika Tamang and Sanjiv Chhetri, recited their own compositions while Ajanish Rai, Sujit Khawas, and Saurav Rai sang Nepali ghazals of other famous and eminent ghazal writers. Dr Jas Yonjan thanked the Akademi for organizing events of this type and promoting Nepali literature.

## SYMPOSIUM ON ‘INDIAN NEPALI GHAZAL’

May 8, 2016, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya, organized a symposium on Indian Nepali Ghazal at Kurseong on May 8, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Nepali literature. He informed the audience that the Akademi is planning to publish a collection of Indian Nepali Ghazals soon. Ms. Vidya Subba, who chaired the session, talked about nature and form of this particular art form and also expressed happiness that many young people taking to this art form. Sri Prakash Pradhan, Secretary, Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Dr. Jas Yonjan ‘Pyasi’, two noted scholars, Sri Basudev Pulami and Sri Shailendra Samadarshi, presented their papers, ‘A Short History of Ghazal with reference to Indian Nepali Ghazal’ and ‘Tradition and Development of Indian Nepali Ghazal’ respectively. The event was moderated by Mr. Vinod Rasayali, and the vote of thanks was delivered by the President of Gorkha Jana Pusthakalaya.

## KAVISANDHI

May 8, 2016, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Gorkha Jana Pusthakalaya, organized a ‘Kavisandhi’ programme featuring eminent poet Madan Kumar Ojha in Kurseong on May 8, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest poet to audience. Sri Madan Kumar Ojha thanked the Akademi for the opportunity and talked about his journey as a poet and influences on his poetry. He also recited two of his poems ‘AseemSakar’ and ‘Anuragi Vinod’ during the occasion.

## SYMPOSIUM

May 9, 2016, New Delhi

To commemorate the 155th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on ‘Tagore and Gandhi: Dilemmas, Dialogues’ at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on May 9, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the significance and relevance of discussing Tagore and Gandhi together, the two great influences on public consciousness and their respective pivotal roles in the national movement for independence. In her introductory remarks, Prof Malashri Lal, Convener, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, reflected on the similarities in the thought patterns of these two great men amongst the differences they had on many a practical issue. In his inaugural lecture, Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent Hindi scholar, dwelt on various aspects of Tagore and Gandhi’s relationship, the focal points being philosophical questions on a



Participants of the symposium



desirable society and a universal humanism. In the lecture titled ‘Tagore and Gandhi: Their Intellectual Conflict and Companionship’ Prof Choudhuri observed that Gandhi and Tagore could be termed as bridges to the future, with the caveat that though the twenty-first century could be called that of Gandhi, Tagore goes beyond time and cannot be limited to the ambit of a century.

In the first session that was chaired by Prof Bharati Ray, three well-known scholars, Prof Bashabi Fraser, Dr Reba Som and Dr Radha Chakravarty, presented their papers, ‘Tagore and Gandhi: A National Encounter,’ ‘Tagore and Gandhi Agreed to Disagree: A Civilized Dialogue’ and ‘Language and Identity: Reconsidering Tagore and Gandhi’ respectively.

In the second session chaired by Prof Alok Bhalla, eminent scholar Prof Malashri Lal presented a paper on ‘Tagore and Gandhi: Perspectives on Women.’ In her paper, Prof Malashri Lal brought out crucial aspects of their views about the role of women in individual and national capacities. Citing various vignettes from the personal lives of Tagore and Gandhi, Prof Malashri Lal interpreted the values behind their respective relations with their spouses Mrinalini and Kasturba, and their expectations and understandings thereof. She made a significant observation regarding Gandhi’s employment of ‘feminine’ symbols like a fistful of salt, charkha weaving and so on for the Satyagraha, with great success, as opposed to Tagore’s poetic validation and decoration of futuristic, empowered women who could only exist in literary texts. In the session Prof Bindu Puri presented a paper ‘The Tagore Gandhi Debate: On Creativity and Freedom’ while Professors Anita Sharma & Arttrana Nayak presented spoke about the ‘The influence of Tagore and Gandhi in China.’ Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## AVISHKAR

May 10, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akdemi organized ‘Avishkar’ programme featuring well-known classical singer and dancer Dr Nalini Joshi at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on May 10, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed

and introduced Dr Nalini Joshi to audience. She performed on various padas by Meera, Surdas, Kabirdas and Vidyapati. In some of the performances she was accompanied by Dr. Priyanka Joshi. She was accompanied by Ashik Kumar on the tabla and Subhash Kanti Das on the harmonium. At the end of the program, the Secretary of Akademi gave a vote of thanks and concluded the program.

## ASMITA

May 12, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized an Asmita programme in the Seminar Hall of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Literature, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, featuring well-known Kashmiri women poets on May 12, 2016. Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurda, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the poets to audience and spoke briefly about the platform and various initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote Kashmiri language and literature. Poets, Naseem Shefai, Farida Kaul, Rubiya Jaan, Mehfooza Jaan, Memoona Akhtar, and Shahida Shabnam recited their compositions.

## ASMITA

May 13, 2016, Banswara

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Bagar Kala Sahitya Sansthan, organized Asmita and Story-Reading programme in Banswara on May 13, 2016. In the First session story-reading was held. Sri Bharat Ola, Sri Bhogilal Patidar, Sri Arbind Ashiya and Sri Dinesh Panchal read their stories. Dr Mahipal Singh Rao chaired the session. In the Second session four women poets took part in Asmita Programme. Poets like Smt Veer Bala Bhavsar, Smt Neeta Choubisa, Smt Deepika Dixit and Smt Sakuntala Saruparia read their poems. Dr Harsha Vardhan Singh Rao, Member, Rajasthan Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session.



## LITERARY FORUM

May 13, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized a literary forum in the Academy premises in Srinagar on May 13, 2016.

Prof. Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the participants to audience. In the forum, noted poets Shafaque Sopori, Bashir Chirag, Bashir Ashraf, Faiyaz Tilgami, Shahnaaz Rashid and Nuruddin Hosh recited their compositions.

## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINAR

May 14-15, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organised a two-day Comparative Literature Seminar in the Kashmiri language on 14th-15th May 2016 in the Seminar Hall of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various cultural and literary traditions of Kashmir and their contributions to Indian literature. In his Presidential address, Prof Rahman Rahi, renowned scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about the richness and depth of Kashmiri literary traditions. Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, renowned Hindi scholar and writer, who was the Chief Guest at the event, presented a

detailed and comprehensive paper on Comparative Literature. In his introductory address, Prof Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the benefits of seminars and symposia on comparative literature, especially in a multilingual society like India. Prof Mazrooh Rashid chaired the first session in which three well-known scholars, Farooq Faiyaz, Ghulam Rasool Josh and Satish Vimal presented their papers on comparative literature in Kashmiri language and literature. Dr Aziz Hajini, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages while well-known scholars, Ghulam Nabi Khyal and Shaad Ramzan, presented their papers. Prof Ghulam Nabi Khyal chaired the third session in which three well-known scholars, Shafi Shauq, Bashir Bashir and Wali Mohammad Asir presented their papers. Prof Shaad Ramzan chaired the fourth session in which three well-known scholars, Farooq Nazqui, Omkar N Kaul and Abdur Sheedhlon presented their papers. Prof Mohammad Zaman Azurdah proposed a vote of thanks.

## CONFERENCE ON RAJASTHANI ORAL LITERATURE

May 14-15, 2016, Udaipur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Yugdhari, organized a two-day conference on Rajasthani Oral Literature at Udaipur on May 14-15, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr Arjun Deo Charan, Convener, Rajasthani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session and talked about the tradition in Rajasthan to preserve the oral literature in community basis and appealed to youngsters to follow the native traditions. In his inaugural address, Dr Dev Kothari, eminent Rajasthani scholar, highlighted the similarities in folk and oral traditions and the urgent need to preserve oral traditions throughout the country. In his keynote address, Dr Chandra Prakash Deval, eminent Rajasthani writer and scholar, narrated his own experience with oral cultures and stressed on the importance of conserving and archiving folk stories and literature by giving examples of the richness of oral literature of Bagdavati and Pabji.



Inaugural session of the comparative literature seminar in progress



The first session was chaired by renowned story teller and satirist, Harman Chauhan. Papers were presented by, Dr. RajendraBarahath, an eminent Rajasthani Scholar and Om Nagar from Kota. Dr. RajendraBarahath's presentation was on the riddles in Rajasthani folk oral culture, where he recited and decoded several riddles in his presentation, and explored many riddles, proverbs and sayings as well. Om Nagar in his presentation discussed the expansive area of Hadoli oral literature that ranges from wedding songs, to myths of gods and goddesses, to the festival of teej, to the tales of Harishchandra, Rukmini, as well as folk games, and other such cultural artifacts. Concerns over the oblivion of the knowledge of these oral proverbs and thereby oral literature were also expressed in this session by the chair Harman Chauhan, who blamed the internet for causing this cultural vacuum. The second session was chaired by Bhanwar Singh Samor and the presenters in this session were-Rameshwar Godara and Rajendra Joshi from Bikaner.

Rameshwar Godara suggested that the northern Rajasthani oral culture is an eclectic mix of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan and Lord Goga is the folk deity of this area and the goddesses are Sheel, Jina. In his presentation he hinted at the diversity of these oral literatures in forms of proverbs, mythologies, and community songs sung by men. The second presenter, Rajendra Joshi was from Bikaner and he shed light on the 'Rawrari Rammado' cultural oral literature and its festive associations evoked around the time of Holi in towns around Bikaner. The presentation elucidated on the distinctiveness of this cultural activity with respect to the dresses worn, dances performed, and songs sung and their evocation of various rasas. The third session was chaired by Dr. Kundan Mali and Dr. Rajesh Kumar Vyas presented a paper. Dr. Kundan Mali stressed on the conservation and preservation projects to save Rajasthani oral culture. Dr. Rajesh Kumar Vyas also emphasized on laying special focus on oral and folk culture and literature and devising methods of conserving and making them available to the current generation. Dr. Devakarna Singh, the chair suggested that it is in fact from the treasure source of oral literature that higher literature is derived. The fourth session was chaired by Madhu Acharya commented on oral literature being an alive cultural artifact and like others advocated for efforts

and projects for its conservation and asked for them to be expedited. Madhav Nagar, the first presenter talked about the 'Gawri tradition' followed for a month and quarter as part of a worshipping tradition of Goddess Parvati in which painters, folk narrators, and musicians perform jointly to create a festive presentation. He insisted that such presentations accompanied with musical instruments were very pleasurable. The second presenter Dr. Suresh Ravdi, made a presentation on the unique tradition of the singing of folk songs of the Halkara tradition by people of various communities in Rajasthan. He explained how the performers of these folk songs in form of hero and heroine entertain and inspire the viewers through their banter, debate and repartee. He also expressed regret over the gradual effacement of the traditional Holi and dhund songs.

The fifth session was chaired by English professor G.L. Rathore, and the paper presenters for this session were, Dr. Jyoti Punj, famous literary figure from Bagad and the founder of Yugdhari and Om Prakash Bhatia. Dr. Rathore raised questions about the literariness of oral and verbal artefacts and suggested that they should not be confused with literature. Oral literature is a marker of civilized culture but unless it has a script or is printed it should not be confused with written literature and the oral verbal literature should be conserved in its own true nature. Dr. Jyoti Punj reminded that Vedic literature was oral in nature and had survived over the years through means of oral transfer from one generation to another. He showed how the oral traditions of Bagar survive in folk songs, folk theatre, folk proverbs, Panihari, fair songs, and songs of festivals including Holi and Diwali.

Dr Sohan Dan Charan chaired the valedictory session while Dr Bhagavati Kak Vyas delivered the valedictory address. Dr. Kak Vyas talked about the communal nature of Rajasthani oral culture. He also suggested that oral culture is the kernel for high literature and is still alive in rural spaces in form of proverbs, riddles and songs. He said that oral culture now only survives in wedding songs and cannot be transcribed and archived. He also expressed his displeasure with poetry seminars as phony attempts to make money and therefore proffered this seminar with praise for giving attention to oral cultures instead of marketable written literature.



## MULTILINGUAL SHORT STORY TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

May 19-21, 2016, Mount Abu

The Sahitya Akademi organized a Multilingual Short Story Translation Workshop at Mount Abu from 19 to 21 May, 2016. The programme was attended by translators and resource persons, numbering sixteen, from different regions of North India; they had rich experience of working in eight languages: Dogri, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit, in addition to the target language English. Of these, two translators were each from Dogri, Kashmiri, Punjabi, Hindi and Sanskrit, and one each from Rajasthani and Urdu. Prof. Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Dr. Arjun Dev Charan and Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal, all writers and scholars of eminence, were resource persons and conveners for the Kashmiri, Rajasthani and Urdu segments of the workshop respectively. Dr. Anand Prakash acted as the Director. Translators included Sri Suman K. Sharma (Dogri), Dr. Lalit K. Gupta (Dogri), Sri Ishaq Ahmad Wani (Kashmiri), Prof. Javaid Iqbal Bhat (Kashmiri), Prof. Hina Nandrajog (Punjabi), Dr. Madhuri Chawla (Punjabi), Prof. Kalpana Purohit (Rajasthani), prof. M. Asaduddin (Urdu), Dr. Purabi Panwar (Hindi), Dr. Sanjeev Kaushal (Hindi), Dr. Ranjit Behera (Sanskrit), and Dr. Chandra Bhushan Jha (Sanskrit).

Following stories were completed during the workshop:

1. “Kamlo” (Dogri), translated by Suman K. Sharma;
2. “Ravens” (Dogri), translated by Lalit Gupta;
3. “The Pound” (Kashmiri) translated by Ishaq Ahmad Wani;
4. “Then This Happened” (Kashmiri), translated by Javed Iqbal Bhat;
5. “Where The Sun Rises” (Punjabi), translated by Hina Nandrajog;
6. “Antara” (Punjabi), translated by Madhuri Chawla;
7. “Evidence” (Rajasthani), translated by Kalpana Purohit;
8. “Boxa” (Urdu), translated by M. Asaduddin;
9. “The Dishonest One” (Hindi) translated by Purabi Panwar;
10. “Breadwinner” (Hindi) translated by Sanjeev Kaushal;
11. “Religion Reflects Man’s Character” (Sanskrit) translated by Ranjit Behera;
12. “Machine” (Sanskrit) translated by Chandra Bhushan Jha.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 21, 2016, Keonjhar

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum on May 21, 2016 at Keonjhar. The event was organized on Raghunath Murmu’s birth anniversary, the founder of the Olchiki script and eminent Santali writer. The forum was chaired by Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi while noted Santali poets, Raghunath Mardi, Kanahi Hembram and Haldar Murmu recited their poetry. Sri Hansda evaluated the poetry recited and also spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Santali language and literature.



## DR NAGENDRA BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

May 24-25, 2016, Agra

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Central Hindi Institute, organized a two-day birth centenary seminar on Dr Nagendra on May 24-25, 2016 at the Central Hindi Institute premises in Agra.



Participants of the Dr Nagendra centenary seminar

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. He highlighted Akademi's commitment to celebrate distinguished litterateurs across the country and in all the languages and also spoke briefly about life and works of Nagendra. In his introductory address, Dr Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the remarkable literary career of Dr. Nagendra that ranged from being a novelist, to a poet, as a critic and scholar, and as an editor. In his inaugural address, Sri Kamal Kishore Goenka, Vice President, Central Hindi Teachers' Association, shared personal anecdotes and highlighted the influence of Dr Nagendra on the litterateurs of his era. In her keynote address, Nirmala Jain, a veteran literary critic divided

Dr. Nagendra's work and life in three neat distinctions: Dr. Nagendra as a critical reader, as a teacher and as an administrator. Giving an in depth analysis of his work and its trajectory, Nirmala Jain discussed few key aspects of his life such as his shift from English to Hindi after 15 years of work and after publishing 5 books in Hindi. In his Presidential address, Prof Indranath Chaudhuri highlighted Dr. Nagendra's notable contribution to Delhi University by introducing a new course called Composite Course, and contributed towards starting the field of Comparative studies in India. He noted that despite differences he was unanimously respected and he on his own part respected every difference of opinion. As an eminent scholar of both Indian and Western poetic traditions, he set the tone for studying them alongside one another. In the end of the inaugural session Nand Kishore Pandey, Director of Central Hindi Institute, thanked the Akademi for organizing the event at the Institute premises. The first session was chaired by Nand Kishore Pandey, and the first presenter was Suresh Ritupurna, who pointed out Dr. Nagendra's notable work for the radio and highlighted how he reconciled the world of literature and technology and gave precedence to the soulful enjoyment of literature over everything else. Jaisingh Neerad presented the next paper, titled, 'Poetry Reading and Contemporary Criticism', and expressed distaste for those who critically comment on Dr. Nagendra's poetry without understanding his work and discussed a few of his critics. Jyotish Joshi on the other hand praised him for his imaginative faculties and talked about his sound grasp of Indian traditional and cultural tropes. As the chair of the session, Nand Kishore Pandey expressed his dismay at the lack of courageous and yet sensitive scholars such as Nagendra who talked of older concepts with modern methods and presented old ideas in contemporary context. He remembered Dr. Nagendra as a reviver of Indian knowledge and epics. The topics of the sessions for the second day of the seminar were, 'Dr. Nagendra as a Critic', and 'Language and Translation'. The presenters for this session were Harish Kumar Sethi, Anant Mishra, Karunashankar Upadhyay, Puranchand Tandon and it was chaired by Hari Mohan. In the first session Harish Kumar Sethi talked of the chronological ideological journey of Dr. Nagendra as a critic and pointed out how his critical criteria for poetry was the theory of Rasa and how he established historical contextualization as an essential tool for textual analysis. He discussed how he gradually moved from poetry criticism to fiction criticism in his career. Anant Mishra stressed on the importance of revisiting Dr. Nagendra's work from the contemporary context and read his criticisms with his own critical tools. He praised Dr. Nagendra for his theory of Rasa and for establishing it as globally valid beyond the scope of its technicality. Karunashankar Upadhyay also stressed on the importance of Dr. Nagendra's work in combining the literary and analytical tools of India and west and introducing western theories of analysis and criticism to strengthen Indian analytical methodologies. Puranchand Tandon spoke in great detail of Dr. Nagendra's role as a translator and introducing western texts to India through his translations. He also lauded him for pioneering both translation work and comparative studies in Indian academics. The seminar was coordinated by Kumar Anumpam, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, alongside Anupam Shrivastava, Assistant Professor, Central Hindi Institute.



## LITERARY FORUM

May 25, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a multilingual short story reading at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on May 25, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the participants to audience. In the programme three noted fiction writers, Sridev (Maithili), Saifi Sironji (Urdu) and Kavita (Hindi), read out their short stories, ‘Badki Chhotki,’ ‘Saraswati Samman’ and ‘Yeh Darr Kyun Lagta Hai’ respectively. Sri Sridev also read out a Hindi translation of his work.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

May 27, 2016, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti of Kalimpong, organized a ‘Meet the Author’ event in Kalimpong, featuring eminent Nepali writer, Nar Bahadur Dahal on May 27, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker and also spoke briefly about Indian Nepali poetry. Sri Bahadur Dahal talked about his early life, his creative journey, challenges he faced, influences on his thinking and writing and also about the process of creative writing. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, delivered concluding remarks.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

May 25, 2016, Agra

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Central Hindi Institute, organized a ‘Meet the Author’ programme at the Institute premises in Agra on May 25, 2016, featuring eminent Hindi poet and scholar, Sri Leeladhar Jagoori. Sri Kamal Kishore Goenka, Vice President, Central Hindi Teachers’ Association, welcomed and introduced the guest poet to the audience. In his speech, Sri Leeladhar Jagoori thanked the Akademi for opportunity and stated that his poems are mainly concerned with the life, identity and safety of the common man. He further stated that he and his poetry will always rise against the forces that are out to destroy the common man, his identity and existence. Sri Leeladhar Jagoori also talked about his early life, influences on his writing and the creative process of writing poetry. On the occasion, he also enthralled the audience with the recitation of some of his poems. The recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award in 1997 for his poetry collection, ‘Anubhav ke Aakash mein Chand,’ Sri Leeladhar Jagoori has 14 collections

of poetry to his credit. Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.



Sri Leeladhar Jaguri delivering lecture

## SEMINAR

May 27-28, 2016, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti of Kalimpong, organized a two-day seminar on the life and works of Parasmani Pradhan, eminent Nepali writer at Kalimpong on May 27-28, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives taken by Sahitya Akademi to promote Nepali literature. The seminar was inaugurated by a renowned Nepali critic and the dean of Sikkim University, Prof. Pratap Chandra. In his keynote address, Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about importance and relevance of the works of Sri Parasmani Pradhan. This session was chaired by Mr. Gyaan Suta from Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong. The first session was chaired by the famous and respectable Nepali author, Dr. Gokul Sinha. Several scholars presented papers in this seminar, in this session, the presenters were, Naveen Pongal (Parasmani Pradhan’s contribution to Nepali language) Mr. Parshuram Pongal (contribution of Parasmani Pradhan in grammatology and word formation in Nepali language), Mahesh Pradhan (Parasmani Pradhan as a moral literary), Bhuvan



A session in the seminar in progress. L-R. M. B. Pradhan, Meharman Subba, Divakar Pradhan, B. B. Sharma and Vinesh Pradhan

Khanal (The life and history of Parasmani Pradhan). The second session was chaired by Mr. B.M. Pradhan, in which Mehman Subba, Binesh Pradhan, and Divakar Pradhan, respectively presented papers on ‘Pradhan’s Writing in the Genre of Children’s Literature’, ‘Pradhan’s Prose and the Role of Chandrika and Bharti Magazines in Promoting it’, and ‘Parasmani Pradhan: The Assiduous Linguist’. The third session was chaired by Krishnaraj Ghatani and there were two paper presenters, Sanjay Bisht who presented on ‘Parasmani Pradhan as an Editor’ and Meghnath Chhetri presented on ‘Parasmani Pradhan as an Author of Textbooks’. The concluding session of the seminar was chaired by Kumar Chhetri, the concluding remarks were given by Nepali poet and critic, Jeevan Namdung. The vote of thanks and formal conclusion of the seminar was given by the chairman of Nepali Adhyayan Samiti, Mr. B.B. Sharma.

## ASMITA

May 28, 2016, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, organized an ‘Asmita’ programme featuring noted Nepali women writers at Kalimpong on May 28, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the participants to audience. The programme was inaugurated by Prof Sudha Gurud, Member, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, while five noted Nepali women poets, Beema Rai Tolcha, Madna Ojha, Kaushilya

Mukhiya, Savita Sankalp and Sheila Lama, recited their compositions. The poems reflected by and large changing societal structure and problems women faced. Sri B.B. Sharma proposed a vote of thanks.

## NEPALI-SANTALI TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

June 3-5, 2016, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a Nepali-Santali Short Story Translation Workshop in Ranchi on June 3-5, 2016. In this workshop at least 20 Nepali short stories, in the Hindi script were translated into Santali. The workshop was convened by the head of the Santali Language Advisory Committee, Mr. Gangadhar Hansda, while Mr. Shomnath Besra and Mr. Bhogla Saren were invited as specialists for the same. The project of translation was undertaken by 6 individuals: Mr. Chandramohan Kisku, Mangal Marmu, Salkhan Hasda, Ganesh Thakur Hansda, Shyam Charan Tundu, and Ravindra Murmu. While addressing and officially thanking the scholars involved in this project, officer on special duty, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh said that the purpose for organizing such workshops was to discover and promote competent translators. He also suggested that Santali scholars should organize small translation workshops at their own level, so that translators can get an opportunity to make their work visible and also improve on it through critical discussions.

## KAVISANDHI

June 5, 2016, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a Kavisandhi programme in Ranchi featuring well-known Santali poet Sri Aditto Mandali on June 5, 2016. Sri Mandali, who also writes poetry in Hindi, recited some of his compositions during the event reflecting by and large the cultural traditions of Santal communities. He also talked in brief about creative process of writing poetry and current status of Santal poetry. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.



## LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

June 5, 2016, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized “Loka: The Many Voices” on June 5, 2016 in Ranchi. In this programme, performers from Bokaro presented folk songs and dances on the Santali folk songs of Baha, Sohray, Lagne and Dong, under the direction of Ramesh Maradi. Before the performances, Ramesh Maradi also gave a brief introduction on the traditional history and significance of these folk songs and dances. Since Santali tradition of folk song and dance involve social participation, at the end of the performance, the audiences also joined the performers in their song and dance. The event was coordinated by Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and he also proposed a vote of thanks.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

June 5, 2016, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a “Meet the Author” event with the distinguished and famous Santali short story writer and playwright Badal Hembram, in Ranchi on June 5, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker to audience. Thanking Sahitya Akademi for the opportunity, Sri Hembram shed light on his creative journey and revealed that was orphaned as a little child and therefore grew up with a lot of hardship and struggle. He began his writing career as a poet, and his first poem was published in his college magazine. Following that, he contributed extensively in the genre of short story, play, and children’s literature. He talked of his concerns for society and suggested that it was probably lack of education and illiteracy which was responsible for the lack of social progress in rural societies. A brief interactive session followed the lecture and Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 5, 2016, Dehradun

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of English, Doon University, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Nature and Literature in North Indian Languages’ at the University premises in Dehradun on June 5, 2016. The event was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr V.K Jain. The welcome address by Ms Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary was followed by lighting the lamp. Dr. Jain gave an inaugural speech, followed by an introductory paper by Dr Richa Joshi Pandey, Assistant Professor of Department of English, Doon University, in which she spoke about the eternal dialogue between nature and Garhwali literature and folk songs. Starting her presentation with a few lines from a Garhwali folk song, Dr Pandey traced the interaction between Nature and literature, which has been made immortal by literary giants, like -- Kalidasa and Sumitranandan Pant.

The first session was chaired by Dr Jaywanti Dimri, who talked about the benevolence and malevolence of Nature and the first paper was presented by Prof. Basher Bashir on the elements of nature in Kashmiri poetry. Dr. Bashir is presently the Chairman of Markaz-I-Noor Centre for Shaikh-ul Aalam studies, University of Kashmir. His paper not only dealt with the beautiful existence in Kashmiri Literature, but also discussed matters of universal concern like global warming, which is causing Nature to deteriorate into a pitiable condition and that everyone should make a significant effort towards its safekeeping. Describing the valleys of Kashmir and the environment around him, he said that no artist can create something from nothing, and thus the importance of Nature. Dr Verma talked about the dialectical relationship between man and Nature, calling the marriage between literature and nature to be the celebration of Nature. He threw light on how Nature in literature journeys from being a symbol into a deliberation and ultimately a metaphor, the last one having been an integral part of Punjabi poetry since the times of Gurunanak Saheb. He quoted one of Guru Nanak Saheb’s famous Punjabi couplets which says that God exists everywhere in Nature, but it is difficult to assume that He is beyond presumption.



Dr Devika Narula was next to present her paper on the topic, “Leitmotifs from literature as represented in Dogri Literature.” She informed the audience of the origins of Dogri coming from Amir Khusrao, some folk songs, along with how Padma Sachdeva perpetuated it in oral and written literature. Dogri literature and poetry, as told by Dr Narula, are compositions that express loneliness, longing and suffering. She mentioned the usage of pathetic fallacy in folk songs to convey the various emotions and feelings. Her area of concern was the relativeness of human emotions to nature in its various complexities. The second session was chaired by Dr Arun Pant, Department of English, Tehri University, Uttarakhand. The first paper of the second session was presented by Dr Rita Chattopadhyay. Her paper was an extensive insight into the elements of Nature incorporated in Sanskrit literature, laying emphasis on Manusamhita, Brihatsamhita, Vrikshayurveda, Panchatantra, Arthashastra, and in the works of Kalidasa, particularly in Abhijanashakuntalam. Through a various pictorial references, she showed us how Nature has always been depicted as one with humans in Sanskrit literature. One of the paintings of the famous artist Ravi Verma showed Shakuntala lost in thoughts. Dr Chattopadhyay elucidated the portrayal of nature in Sanskrit poetry and the various laws that were in force for its safety, the evidence having been found from Manusamhita, Brihatsamhita and Arthashastra. She also talked about Kalidasa’s most famous work, Abhijanashakuntalam, which has its fourth act as its best part. Dr Chattopadhyay narrated to the audience how Shakuntala sought the consent of Nature when she left the sacred grove of her father for her beloved Dushyanta’s home. Dr Surjit Hosh Badsali was next to present his paper on Dogri poetry. Dr Badsali’s paper included abundant references from Dogri poetry, which he quoted fluently, in tandem with the topic of discussion. The poetic language of Dogri, having been infused with elements of nature and narrated in Dr Badsali’s proficient tongue was a pure bliss to the audience, echoing the beauty of the land and the people which associate themselves with it. Ms Pragya Malla proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Department of English and the University, for the co-operation and support of the prestigious Akademi.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 7, 2016, New Delhi

The Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme on “Literature for Social Change” on June 7, 2016, New Delhi. Dr. Tapan basu, who chaired the forum observe that all literature falls under the rubric of social transformation, as literature is a linguistic construct prevailing within the limits of society. Prof. Anil Aneja presented an autobiographical short story about being blind and yet learning to type, and how he gained the respect of society and found confidence in his own capabilities. Prof. Shraddha Adityavir Singh placed herself in the context of Indian women’s writing and cited Kamala Das, Eunice de Souza and Sujata Bhatt as her inspiration. For her “the personal is the political,” and that reflected in her poetry, which was about memory and loss, intergenerational notions about mothering and motherhood, parenting, gender fluidity and transmission of values from one generation to the other. Prof. Kuhu Chanana read a translated short-story from Pashto that she has worked on. The story tested the limits of empathy by bringing together a transgendered person in conversation with a man who earlier thought he was conversing with beautiful women while they were together in a train bogey. Prof. Kalyanee Rajan, apart from reading her poems about gender, self-reflexivity and relationship, also read two poems of the poet Adil Jussawala. Her poems reflected upon the conditions of modernity and gave an insight into the emerging changes in language and content. Prof. Brati Biswas read her translation of the Bangla poem “Asura” by Gautam Aali. Prof. Malashri Lal spoke about Indian writing which had developed a distinctive idiom and vocabulary to deal with realities that are intrinsic to the country’s social structures. With the prevailing multilingualism, translation activity had gained equal merit without being apologetic about it. Mrs. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.



Participants of the Literary Forum on Literature for Social Change



## DSPACE TRAINING PROGRAM

June 15-17, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi Library, New Delhi organized a two days training program on DSpace (Digital Library Software) for the staff members under its Library Forum in the Library premises and at the Conference Hall on 15th and 17th June 2016 respectively. In the opening session, Sri Sufian Ahmad, Librarian, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the dignitaries, participants, and spoke briefly about significance of the Digital Archiving. The session was undertaken by Sri Utsav Rai and Sri Kapil of Jivesna Tech Private Limited. Sri Utsav Rai gave an overview of the salient features of the DSpace open source institutional repository software and then the installation of the said software was pursued at the behest of the Librarian. The second session took place in the Conference Hall and Sri Vikrant Malik of Jivesna talked at length about the need of D-Space for long term preservation, storage and smooth access of the digital contents and through day long demonstrations, he dwell on the working of the various operational modules of this user friendly software. The programme ended with valedictory address by Sri Sufian Ahmed opined that the event was highly meaningful and enlightening and Sri Biswajit Sinha, Assistant Librarian, emphasized the need for archival storage of critical and creative literary heritages of nation and proposed the vote of thanks in the presence of Library fraternity.

## MEET THE AUTHOR

June 19, 2016, Ujjain

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a 'Meet the Author' programme with eminent Hindi writer Sri Chandrakant Devatale at the Department of Hindi, Vikram University in Ujjain on June 19, 2016.

In his speech Devtale expressed how being a poet was a risky business instead of something that provided solace and was more of an ethical obligation. He stressed on his provincial roots and talked of his poetic sentiments being with the adivasis. He blamed globalization and scientific pursuit for lack of empathy in contemporary times and advocated the formation of a social republic. He recited many poems from his collection to the audience of students and poetry enthusiasts. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari,

President, Sahitya Akademi, while commenting on his poetry said that he had found the element of the family and everyday life with empathetic treatment of the child, the woman and the family as the central thematic concerns in Devtale's poetry and now seeing him become a successful poet it had brought him immense pleasure that it were precisely these same qualities which were being critically appreciated and popularly accepted. On this occasion, Sahitya Akademi unveiled a poetry brochure dedicated to Chandrakanta Devtale's. There was also an exhibition on Hindi poetry from over the world and those on the life of and works by Devtale. Kumar Anupam, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi coordinated the event and also proposed the vote of thanks in the end.

## SHIVAMANGAL SINGH SUMAN CENTENARY SEMINAR

June 20, 2016, Ujjain

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Vikram University, organized a daylong seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Sri Shivamangal Singh on June 20, 2016 at Shalaka Dhirga Auditorium in Ujjain. In the inaugural session, Sri Dhananjay Verma, in his introductory address, stated that Sri Shivamangal Singh Suman was the poet of humanity who broke away from older traditions and was perceived as radical. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that Shivamangal Singh was the 'Akash Guru' who wrote about nature in his works and was not only an observer of culture but also its creator. Sri Arun Kumar Singh, grandson of Sri Shivamangal Singh Suman narrated many interesting anecdotes. The first session of the seminar was called, 'A Bird of the Skies' and focused on the life and works of Suman and was chaired by Kumar Bhattacharya in which Saroj Kumar, Shailendra Kumar Sharma, and Mukesh Varma presented papers. Bhattacharya began the session by pointing out that Suman was an inspiration to several generations of scholars and readers alike. Saroj Kumar recited her poem written on Suman and commented that Suman was a comprehensive reader and the range of his poetry was expansive. Shailendra Kumar Sharma noted the character of Suman as evoking sublimity and that



Inaugural session of the Shivamangal Singh Suman Centenary Seminar in progress

few persons in the world could hope to gain such popularity and significance within their own lifetime, but Suman was one such rare and illustrious gem. He also appreciated his simplicity amidst complex literary debates surrounding him. Finally Mukesh Varma in his presentation said that research and work on Suman lacked detailed engagement and had a multifaceted range and pointed out his resistance to feudalism and capitalism. The second session discussed the cultural aspects of Dr. Suman's poetry. Ramesh Dave chaired the session and Niranjana Kshetriya and Pramod Trivedi, and Shobhana Tiwari presented papers. All the papers talked about the cultural influences in the works of Dr. Suman and agreed that he drew inspiration from several notable and significant writers. The session shed light on Suman's familiarity with his own milieu, his cultural immersion in it, and of being a fiery yet rhythmic poet who took the reader from ignorance to knowledge. The third session discussed Dr. Suman's poetry as a specimen of oral poetry. Mohan Gupta chaired this session and Harimohan Buddholiya and Shyamsundar Dubey presented papers. Mohan Gupta commented on the oral nature of Indian poetry and Dubey pointed out how oral form was still popular among the masses. They identified folk sensibility in Dr. Suman's poetry and shed a light on how he brought it to prominence through his work and finally Dubey read from his memoirs. Many writers including, Harish Pradhan, Gopal Sharma, Rakesh Dhand, Urmi Sharma, Shiv Chaurasia, Pilkendra Arora, Arun Varma, Sriram Dave, Niranjana Kshetriya, Jafar Mahmood, Rafiq Nagori graced the occasion with their attendance and participation. The seminar was coordinated by Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor, Sahitya Akademi and the vote of thanks was proposed by Premlata Chutail.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY CELEBRATIONS

June 21, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Yoga Workshop by expert Alka Tyagi on the occasion of the Second International Day of Yoga. The event was held in the soothing ambience of the auditorium with white sheets spread on the ground for sadhaks. It was emphasized that the essence of Yoga is balance - between work and life and that the four aspects of a person – physical, mental, emotional, spiritual need to be aligned well in order to lead a healthy and harmonious life. It was further noted that we, as Delhites live in the most polluted city, therefore, it is important to adopt yogic practices in order to detoxify the self. The stress of a desk job which includes long sittings at one go causes a number of health issues ranging from stiffness, back problems, diabetes, high blood pressure and the like. It was followed by a series of demonstrations - yogic kriyas meant to alleviate conditions like cervical, stiffness of joints etc. It was followed by a session on Pranayam or Yogic deep breathing. Pranayam such as Nadi Shodhan increase calmness, include clarity of thought, boost creativity and increase concentration. The Pranayam session was followed by an interactive session where many employees put forth their health issues - like acidity, central obesity, shoulder and back pain. The expert demonstrated asanas, Dhanurasana, Padahasthasana for obesity, Shalabhasana for back pain etc. The event ended with chanting of Mantras from the Upanishads and the message that Yoga is the most holistic, integrated way of aligning the body, breath and mind. It was followed by light juice refreshment for all.

## KASHMIRI-PUNJABI TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

June 24-26, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi organized three-day Kashmiri-Punjabi poetry Translation Workshop at Srinagar from June 24 to June 26 June 2016 at Srinagar. 'Anthology of Modern Indian Poetry in Kashmiri: 1950-2010' compiled and edited by Dr. Aziz Hajini was taken up for translation during the workshop. Prof. Aziz Hajini was the resource person for Kashmiri language as well



Participants of Punjabi Kashmiri Translation Workshop

as the compiler of the original book in Kashmiri. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the resource person for Punjabi language. During the workshop, all the poems in the anthology were translated into Punjabi. Five translators – Sri Ajeet Singh Mastana, Sri Ichhupal Singh, Sri Kanwal Kashmiri, Sri Harmohan Harji and Ms. Surinder Neer took part in the workshop. Smt. Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the resource persons and participants. The Kashmiri text was sent to the translators well in advance. They had come with their Punjabi translations. The translations done by the translators were discussed in detail line by line and given final shape. On the last day of the workshop, Dr. Rawail Singh and Dr. Aziz Hajini evaluated the translation finalized during the workshop. All the translators shared their experience and challenges. Dr. Rawail Singh discussed the value of organizing such workshops.

## SYMPOSIUM ON PUNJABI-KASHMIRI SHORT STORY

June 27, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on ‘Punjabi-Kashmiri Short Story’ at Government Degree College, Tral in Srinagar. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and guests. Ms. Surinder Neer, Member Advisory Board conducted the programme. In the programme two papers were presented on Contemporary Punjabi Short Story by Sri Baljit Singh Raina and Contemporary Kashmiri Short Story by Sri Shafqat Altaf. After the paper readings, two short stories were read. Punjabi short story was read by R.S. Rajan and Kashmiri short story was read by Sri Majeed Mazazi. A

lively question answer session followed. The principal of Government Degree College, Tral, Srinagar, and Prof. Mushtaq Ali Mir thanked Sahitya Akademi for organizing literary programme in the remote place like Tral. Smt. Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, proposed vote of thanks.

### *Sahitya Akademi also organized the following programmes*

The Akademi organized a Mulakat programme in Delhi by inviting young Hindi writers on May 11, 2016

The Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme in Delhi on June 4, 2016

The Akademi organized a Nari Chetna programme in Delhi by inviting noted women writers from different Indian languages on June 13, 2016

The Akademi in collaboration with Department of Modern Indian Languages, Gauhati University, Gauhati organized a Through my Window programme where Ms. Bibi Devi Borbaruah, noted Assamese writer spoke on the life and works of Dr. Lakhya Hira Das, eminent Assamese writer on June 18, 2016

The Akademi in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha organized a Bodo Writers’ Festival at K.C. College, BTAD, Assam on June 19-20, 2016

The Akademi organized a Kavisandhi programme in Delhi with Sri Dnyaneshwar Mulay, noted Marathi and Hindi Poet on June 28, 2016

The Akademi in association with Department of Malayalam, C.H.M.K.M. Governemnt College, Koduvally, Kerala organized a Literary Forum programme at Koduvally, Kerala on June 28, 2016

The Akademi in collaboration with Asom Sahitya Sabha organised a Mulakat programme by inviting young Assamese writers at Guwahati, Assam on June 29, 2016

The Akademi in association with K.V.R. Government College for Women, Kurnool organized a Literary Forum programme at Kurnool on June 30, 2016

The Akademi organized an Asmita programme in Delhi by inviting noted women writers on June 30, 2016



## SEMINAR ON KRISHNA WARRIER AND INDIAN POETRY

May 13, 2016, Trissur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with N.V. Krishna Warriar Memorial Trust, Calicut, organized a daylong seminar on N.V. Krishna Warriar and Indian Poetry to commemorate his birth centenary at Kerala Sahitya Akademi Auditorium in Trissur on May 13, 2016.



C. Radhakrishnan delivering the inaugural address

In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants and audiences and talked briefly about Sri Krishna Warriar's contribution to Indian literature through his Malayalam poetry and his pioneering English translations. He also spoke on the multifaceted life of Sri Krishna Warriar. In his inaugural address, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about his long association with Sri Warriar. In his Presidential address, Sri K.V. Ramakrishnan talked about the wide range of works by Sri Warriar and highlighted his journalistic ethics. Shri Chandrakant Patil briefly touched upon the works of the stalwarts who changed the face of Marathi poetry. Shri Manu Chakravarthy discarded the chronological framework and expounded the inter-relations of centuries of Kannada poetry. Leeladhar Mandloi spoke at length about the lasting influence of "Taar Saptak" and Muktibodh on Hindi poetry. In the afternoon session chaired by Shri S.K. Vasanthan,

Shri Aatmaaraaman spoke about the several unique responses of Malayalam poets (and in particular that of NV) to the various socio-political challenges. The seminar concluded with three papers devoted to NV's contributions. Shri Sunil P. Elayidom spoke about the political undercurrents of NV's poetry, Shri N. Ajayakumar outlined the role of NV as a critic and Shri P. Pavitran traced NV's pioneering role in the dissemination of knowledge literature in Malayalam. In short, the seminar was the most appropriate tribute to the multi-faceted literary persona of NV. The final session titled "Aadaan Pradaan", was chaired by Shri M. Thomas Mathew. Shri P.V. Krishnan Nair spoke on the theory and process of translation. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks. Prof Aravindakshan also presented his views on translation from Hindi into Malayalam and vice-versa.

## SEMINAR ON U.R. ANANTHAMURTHY: LIFE AND VISION

May 19, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a daylong seminar on U.R. Ananthamurthy: Life and Vision at Krishnaraja Parishanmandira in Bengaluru on May 19, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, read out the welcome address of the Secretary of Sahitya Akdemi and spoke briefly about Prof Ananthamurthy's contribution to Indian literature. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked at length about varied contributions of Prof Ananthamurthy and observed that a daylong seminar would not be sufficient to present multifaceted personality and career of Prof Ananthamurthy in a proper perspective. In his inaugural address, Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent Hindi writer, talked about Prof Ananthamurthy's creative vision, intuitive analytical ability and administrative astuteness and elaborated with few anecdotes. He also highlighted Prof Ananthamurthy's conviction in democratic values,



how he practiced those values in both his private and professional life, his commitment to linguistic, cultural and political pluralism and his belief in openness to dialogue. In his keynote address, Dr C.N. Ramachandran spoke about the characteristics of Ananthamurthy's rationalism and also highlighted inherent binary characteristics. He stated that Ananthamurthy called himself a critical insider and later became a post-colonial critic and thereafter found himself a representative of Third World.

In the first session that was chaired by Dr T.P. Ashoka, three noted scholars, Dr U.H. Ganesh, Dr K. Satyanarayana and Sri Krishna Masadi, delivered presentations pertaining to Instrumentality of Indian Values in Ananthamurthy, Creative process of Ananthamurthy's writings and Ananthamurthy as the most misunderstood writer. In the second session that was chaired by Dr Giraddi Govindaraj and devoted to Influence of Ananthamurthy's literature on regional languages, four noted scholars, Prof Susheela Punitha, Dr A.K. Ramakrishnan, Prof P. Raja and Smt. Sujatha Patwari presented their papers on the topic. In the valedictory session that was chaired by Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Dr G.H. Naik, eminent Kannada writer, delivered the valedictory address and recalled his long association with Ananthamurthy over sixty years and credited Ananthamurthy for developing Samvadha Sanskruthi in literary circles. Dr Balasubramanya talked about all pervading influence of Prof Ananthamurthy and highlighted Ananthamurthy's contribution to modern Kannada literature. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.

## FACE TO FACE

May 28, 2016, Thiruvananthapuram

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a 'Face to Face' programme featuring eminent Malayalam litterateurs on May 28, 2016 at the YMCA auditorium in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr Kayamkulam Yoonus, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, welcomed the participants and audience and

spoke briefly about the programme. In the programme Prof G.N. Panikkar, veteran novelist with more than sixty titles to his credit, shared his experiences as a creative writer. Dr M.R. Thampan, Director, State Institute of Languages, Kerala, congratulated the Akademi for organizing programmes of this nature and he hoped these initiatives will attract more people towards serious literature. Sri C. Rahim, Chairman, Kesari Memorial Trust, Sri S. Ananthu, Secretary, Uni-Y and poet S. Sasidharan Nair also spoke on the occasion. Sri Shaji James, Secretary, YMCA proposed vote of thanks.

## LITERARY FORUM

June 4, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a literary forum on O.N.V. Kurup's writings at the Akademi auditorium in Bengaluru on June 4, 2016. During the event a book 'Ee Puratana Kinnara' was released and a documentary film on O.N.V. Kurup was released. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about O.N.V. Kurup's life and teachings. In his Presidential address Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the significance and relevance of the literary events which Sahitya Akademi organizes throughout the year and across the country and also highlighted seminal contributions of O.N.V. Kurup to literature apart from reminiscing about his association with O.N.V. Kurup. In the event, Dr Ashok Kumar, well-known translator talked about the nature of O.N.V. Kurup's poems while Dr Na Damodara Shetty talked about his experience of translating 'Ee Puratana Kinnara' and Sri S.S. Diwakar, noted Kannada writer spoke about the translation. After the release, a documentary film on O.N.V. Kurup produced by Sahitya Akademi was screened. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.



## NORTH-EAST AND SOUTHERN LITERARY FESTIVAL

June 11-12, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a two-day North-East and Southern Literary Festival at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bengaluru on June 11-12, 2016.



Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar inaugurating the North-East and Southern Literary Festival

In the inaugural session Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the nature and scope of meets of this type and Akademi's purpose in organizing them. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the festival while Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the inaugural session. In his introductory speech Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the need of meets and festivals of this type to overcome ignorance of our own traditions. At the end of the inaugural session, six noted poets, Kushal Dutta (Assamese), Pranab Jyoti Narjary (Bodo), M.N. Vyasa Rao (Kannada), Girija Pothevara (Malayalam), Kanmani Rasa (Tamil) and Kotla Venkateswara Reddy (Telugu) recited their poems. In the first session that was devoted to short story reading and chaired by Kaligananatha Gudaduru, three well-known short story writers, Sri Nabin Malla Boro (Bodo), Ms. Geetali Bora (Assamese) and Ms. Indu Menon (Malayalam) presented their

short stories. In the second session that was a poets' meet and chaired by Prof N. Gopi, six noted poets, Ms. K. Joymathi Devi (Manipuri), Sri Roshan Rai Aditya (Nepali), Ms. Vinaya Okkund (Kannada), Sri Madhavan Purachery (Malayalam), Ms. T. Parameswari (Tamil) and Sri Ethakota Subba Rao (Telugu), recited their poems. In the third session devoted to short story reading and chaired by H. Benubala Devi (Manipuri), three noted short story writers, Sri Sanjiv Chetri (Nepali), Sri Paavannan (Tamil) and Sri Chintakindi Srinivasa Rao (Telugu) presented their short stories. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, proposed a vote of thanks.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY CELEBRATION

June 21, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organised International Yoga Day Celebration on June 21, 2016 at its office premises. Sri N. Dass, Yoga Guru from Bangalore was invited to speak and perform Yoga asanas during the programme. Sri Dass broadly spoke on the physical and mental health benefits of yoga. Apart from yoga, he stressed that one must have to maintain dietary food habits and avoid overeating to maintain good health. He taught how to perform yoga poses and performed Vajrasana, Trikonasana, Balasana, Paschimottanasana, Tadasana, Sukhasana, Ardha Matsyendrasana, Virasana, Utkatasana, Garudasana, Dandasana etc., which may help us to avoid obesity, headache, backache, gastritis, diabetes and other ailments. Sri Dass said that Hastha Mudras (Hand Postures) in addition to yoga will keep up our stamina and will help us in doing good meditation. He also performed Pranayama yoga to teach us about the control of our breath, which adds vital energy and cleanses Nadi in our body. He also showed two pranayama poses that regulates our body temperature to maintain either heat or cold in our body. He also told that Balasana will especially help us to control our psychological feelings like unhappiness and happiness. Finally he showed the way of performing Shavasana to retain our body and soul in peace.



## LITERARY FORUM

June 22, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, organized a literary forum featuring interaction with eminent Odia writer, poet and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Ramakant Rath at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru on June 22, 2016. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the guest participant and introduced him to the audience. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the programme and in his Presidential address, Dr Kambar talked about the greatness of Ramakant Rath, the poet. He highlighted uniqueness of his magnus opus and observed that he has written an epic poetry on a single women character 'Sri Radha' which deals with multiple themes like love, friendship, divinity and etc. that entangle Radha and Krishna.

Dr RamakantRath recited his Odia poems in English translations The Soldier in Exile, When I Sit Down to Eat, I Offer You Food and Water, Arithmetic, My Own Condolence Meeting, Kisses, Grammar, December and other poems. Dr. Chandrashekar Kambar recited selected Kannada translations of Sri Ramakant Rath's Odia poems from his collection Sri Radha published by Sahitya Akademi. Dr Ramakant Rath, during his interaction with the audience, stated that it is true that I have written quite a good number of poems but I couldn't write the one I truly dreamt off or desired. A poet cannot claim that he has written better but there are still ample opportunities for him/her to write even better. Hence, either the inadequacy of language or poet's own inadequacy makes him imperfect always. Thus a sense of discontentment hauls him ever to write new things. Also, the landscape, nature, environment, people, experience and a host of other external factors are the major influence for a poet to write apart from his own involvement. After the programme, a documentary film on Dr Ramakant Rath produced by Sahitya Akademi and directed by Dasmati Chattar was screened. Sri S.P.Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.

## SEMINAR ON ASPECTS OF KANNADA POETICS

June 25-26, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy, organized a two-day seminar on 'Aspects of Kannada Poetics' at the Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy auditorium in Bengaluru on June 25-26, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly talked about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote study into poetics in each recognized language. In his introductory address, Prof K.S. Madhusudana, eminent Kannada scholar, thanked the Akademi for organizing seminar of this importance and hoped such seminars will take place in other regions and languages too and observed that Kannada literature has contributed greatly towards the poetics of the Shishta Sahitya, but great deal of studies is yet to be done in the field of the invisible work done in folk literature. In his keynote address, Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the confusion caused by the colonial influence all over especially in the study of poetics. He observed that we are yet to come out of this confusion and stated that we should put local poetic elements and parameters above that of the Western ones. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, emphasized on experiencing the rasa in



Inaugural Session of the Seminar in progress



its original form than analyzing it in dry words. The experience of RASA is the ultimate goal of literature and Stories are the best way to understand, wonder and enhance one's own experience. Sri K.V.R. Tagore, Chairman, Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy also participated in the session while Dr H. Shashikala of Bengaluru University compered the session.

In the first session that was chaired by Dr B.N. Sumitra Bai, two eminent scholars, Dr Shriram Bhat and Prof O.L. Nagabushana Swamy, presented papers on 'Sanskrit Poetics' and 'Greek and Latin Poetics' respectively. Dr. B. N. Sumitra Bai speaking from the chair said that although Kannada literature had opened up itself to the colonial influences and reaped its benefits, it was important for us to project ourselves then. Now, we are trying to come out of the colonial influence. From time immemorial, poets have retained their identity in spite of all the influences they were forced to come across. She also commented on poetic truth. She said there is poetic justice, but nothing as poetic truth. In the second session that was chaired by Dr P.V. Narayana, Prof H. Shashikala presented a paper on 'Facets of Prakrit poetics' while the paper of Dr S. Carlos on 'Features of Dravidian Poetics' was read out. In the third session that was chaired by Dr Basavaraj Kalgudi, two noted scholars, Prof O.L. Nagabushana Swamy and Prof Keshava Sharama, presented papers on 'Features and Uniqueness of Kannada Poetics' and 'The Influence of Western poetics on Kannada Poetics' respectively. Dr Giraddi Govindraj, eminent writer and critic chaired the valedictory session while Dr. R. Sesha Sastry, a well-known Kannada and Telugu scholar, delivered the valedictory address. Sri. AnandSabhapati, trustee of the SuchitraFilm and Cultural Academy, proposed a vote of thanks.

## KAVI SAMAYA

June 26, 2016, Siddapur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Prayoga Svayam Seva Sansthe, organized a 'Kavi Samaya' programme at Siddapur on June 26, 2016. Sri Shridhar Balagar, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi,

inaugurated the programme and spoke briefly about poetic sensibility and thanked the Prayoga Svayam Seva Sansthe for agreeing to host the programme. Sri Gangadhar Kolkagi, noted fiction writer chaired the event and thanked Sahitya Akademi for organizing literary programmes in rural areas also and this, he hoped will create interest among youth on serious literature. Noted poets, Subray Mattihalli, Kavyashri Naik, K B Veeralingan Goud and Tammanna Beegar, recited their compositions and also shared their experience of writing poetry. A brief interactive session followed the recitations.

## INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY

June 21, 2016, Chennai

To observe the International Yoga Day, the sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, organized a lec-dem by Sri M. Goutam Chand, Founder Director, Shreyas Yoga Kendram.

Sri Goutam, talked about what yoga is, what are the benefits of yoga, what are asanas, the place of asanas within the system of yoga, the impact of yoga on human life and atmosphere and also what is meditation in a lecture of about thirty minutes duration.

He then demonstrated surya namaskara, padmasana, chakrasana, veeraasana, vajrasana, siddhasana and various stretching exercises. Staff of the Chennai office also participated in several asana procedures and stretching exercises.

Finally, Sri Goutam demonstrated several meditation techniques and the staff participated in the procedures for few minutes. Sri Goutam thanked the Akademi for the opportunity, wished the staff a healthy and successful life and hoped everyone at the office practice these asanas every day and lead a stress-free life.



## MULAKAT

May 9, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Iramodam Meeyamgi Apunba Khorjei Lup, organized a ‘Mulakat’ programme on May 9, 2016 at Imphal. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the platform Mulakat. In his presidential address, Sri Kesho Singh Ireugba, President, IMAKHOL, thanked the Akademi and talked briefly about the budding writers of Manipur. In his introductory speech, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Manipuri literature and appealed to the writers’ community in Manipur to utilize the opportunities provided by Sahitya Akademi and work for the development of literature in Manipur. In the programme, Nirmala Rajkumari and Y. Nandini recited their compositions; Wahengbam Romen Meetei read out a short story while Kh. Sunita read out excerpts from her novel. A brief interactive session followed the presentations.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 10, 2016, Matai, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Malema Ayeekol, Khabaml Lamkhi, organized a literary forum on Myth in Manipuri Culture and Literature at Matai in Imphal on May 10, 2016. Short Stories Readings also took place in the programme in addition to presentations. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about Manipuri literature and the richness of oral traditions in the region. In his introductory speech, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked at length about the origin of myths and observed that while certain myths can be explained logically but even the explained myths cannot be proved to exist. He also stated that much ancestral worship is linked to belief systems and



Literary Forum on Myth in Manipuri Culture and Literature in progress

many such beliefs act as springboards to myths. Prof N. Khagendra Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Manipur University, who was the chief guest, talked about the relationship between man and myth and also vanishing values, traditions and myths from the mechanical modern world. He stated that literature is all the more important tool to connect with Nature and Love in the modern age bereft of all emotions which has no place for stories and myths. In the first session, Mrs W. Angela Devi presented a paper on Lord Thangjing in Manipuri Culture and Literature, Dr Makhonmani Mongsaba presented a paper on Lord Koubru in Manipuri Culture and Literature and A. Nongpokningthou Meitei presented a paper on Lord Marjing in Manipuri Culture and Literature. In the second session, three noted fiction writers, T. Gulamjat Singh, Mani Tayenjam and Th. Joy Singh read their stories ‘Aroiba Oinangairambani’, ‘Nupi’ and ‘Haidokhidraba Awaba’ respectively.

## LITERARY FORUM

May 11, 2016, Churachandpur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a literary forum on the Contribution of Oral Literature of Tribes to the Development of the Contemporary Literature of the Hmar, Paite, Tangkhul and Tadou Kuki at Churachandpur in Imphal on May 11, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the role of indigenous literature and their influence of contemporary tribal literature. Sri H. Kamkhenthang, Director, NECOL, introduced



the speakers to audience and also unveiled the theme of the event. In his inaugural address, Prof H. Bheari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the rich heritage of Manipuri Oral literature and the Akademi's various initiatives to promote oral and tribal literature across the country. Sri Pannir Selvan, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, NECOL, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Immanuel Varte, three noted scholars, Khaimang Chongloi, S.G. Kipgen and Rouivel, talked about contemporary tribal literature, the challenges and the foundations laid by oral traditions of the past. In the second session, Chinkhokam Hangsing, President of Paite Literature, reported that a good deal of Oral Literature pervading the traditional ways, practices, beliefs and in all other aspect of Paite existence. He mentioned that the Oral Literature contributed the first batches of printed literature after conversion of the people into Christianity. Thangsoihmang, a Hmar scholar, emphatically stated that writing literature of Hmar could not have deep-rooted literature without oral literature. The folklore elements of all the tribes are interconnected to one another. He said that the importance of oral Literature of the tribes are the foundation of tribal literature H. H. Mata from the chair critically assessed the papers and expressed that folk element could be used in different shapes and style to form a good component of writing literature which requires constructive effort.

## SYMPOSIUM ON CHILIKA AND KONARK

May 21, 2016, Puri

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a daylong symposium on Chilika and Konark at the Gopabandhu Ayurvedic College Auditorium in Puri on May 21, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the literature on Chilika and Konark. In his inaugural address, Sri Harihar Mishra, eminent poet, talked about how the two places are not only monuments or



Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the participants and audience

landmarks but also creators of identity through a number of poems, plays and stories surrounding them through centuries. In his Presidential address, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, observed that Chilika is the best creation of nature while Konark is a marvel of Odia artisanship. In his keynote address, Dr Bhagaban Jaysingh discussed the aesthetics of art and drew a comparison between Roman and Indian sculpture and architecture while Sri Madhusudan Das, who was the Guest of Honor, talked about the overall impact of the places on literature. Sri Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session chaired by Adhyapak Biswaranjan, a noted scholar, Pabitrāmohan Das, presented a comprehensive study of both Chilika and Konark. In the second session chaired by Sri Sankar Parida, young poets Ajay Pradhan, Dillip Swain, Sucheta Mishra, Surendra Panigrahi, Sushama Mishra and Shyamaprakash Senapati recited the classic poems of Odia literature pertaining to the landmarks were recited. Sri Amaresh Patnaik chaired the valedictory session and highlighted different perspectives of the landmarks by different writers and poets. In his valedictory address, Dr Sangram Jena while Chilika is the symbol of wonder of nature Konark is that of human creativity. These two have been transformed from 'places' to 'presence' in the lives of common people of Odisha through legends and literature. Sri Banoj Tripathy, Member, Odia Advisory Board, proposed a vote of thanks.



## SEMINAR ON 'MUTINY AND ODISIA LITERATURE'

May 22- 23, 2016, Khurda



Inaugural session of the Seminar on Mutiny and Odia Literature

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi, to commemorate 200th anniversary of Paika rebellion and in collaboration with the Barunei O Khurda Garh Vikash Parishad, organized a two-day seminar on 'Mutiny and Odia Literature' at Khurda on May 22-23, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasaro, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the rebellion and the literature surrounding it. The inaugural address was delivered by Sri Bibhuti Pattnaik. Sri Dolagobinda Pradhan was the Guest of Honor. Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. Eminent historian, Dr Nibedita Mohanty delivered the keynote address. Sri Dilip Srichandan, Chairman, Barunei O Khurda Garh Vikash Parishad chaired the session while Sri Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Debashis Panigrahi, two noted scholars, Pritish Acharya and Laxminarayan Raysingh, presented their papers on the topics regarding the Rebellion against the Oppressive British Rule and its mark on various literary works, while Sri Bhagyalipi Malla of Odisha State Archives delivered an audio-visual presentation of Paika Rebellion. In the second session that was chaired by Sri Bijayanand Singh, three scholars, Ashok Patnaik, Debendra Kumar Dash and writer Banshidhar Rout presented their papers capturing different perspectives of Rebellion

of Khurda. Das Mohapatra and Satyabadi Baliarsingh presented papers in the third session while writers Babaji Charan Patnaik and Gopal Krushna Das presented their papers in the fourth session. All the four experts touched some unconsidered aspects of Paika Rebellion, and the socio-cultural scenario of that time. These two sessions were chaired by Eminent Educationist Smt. Aadarmani Baral and Sri Bheemasen Pradhan respectively. Valedictory address was delivered by Atul Chandra Pradhan with Narayan Rao on the chair. Dilip Srichandan and Dr. Gopal Chandra Barman described about the objectives of organising the seminar on 'Mutiny and Odia Literature.' Sri Banoj Tripathy an Odia Board member proposed the vote of thanks.

## KATHASANDHI

May 26, 2016, Dibrugarh

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Centre for Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication (CSJMC) of Dibrugarh University, organised a 'Kathasandhi' with eminent Assamese writer and the editor of the leading Assamese daily Niyamiya Barta Dr. Phanindra Kumar Dev Choudhury on May 26, 2016. Prof Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University inaugurated the programme. Dr Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the importance of events like Kathasandhi and highlighted some seminal works of Dr Dev Choudhury. Dr Choudhury thanked the Akademi for opportunity and sharing his thoughts he said, "I love the atmosphere around river-banks. Since childhood I used to spend a lot of time on the bank of the river which was just near my home. I was always curious about rivers - like from where the water had been flowing or how dead bodies of people that were found on the river banks made me gloomy. My father once tried to jump in the river when we were undergoing financial crisis because of these sorts of elements I felt attached with the river. I used to sit there and ponder about life and that lead to the beginning of my passion for writing." He further added when he was asked on how influential his work has been on the society, "I don't think my work can change the society. I did not want to be a writer, I just loved writing and I wrote to erase my sadness."



## LITERARY FORUM

May 26, 2016, Noonmati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi organized a lecture by Dr Nagen Saikia, eminent Assamese writer at Assam Jatiya Bidyalay in Noonmati on May 26, 2016. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the guest speaker and audience. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya



Sri Nagen Saikia speaking on the occasion

Akademi, introduced the guest speaker to the audience. Nagen Saikia delivered his speech by drawing a difference between modern and contemporary writing in Assamese literature. He mentioned the 'Ramdhenu' era as well as 'Past Ramdhenu' era. He talked about how literature has taken new directions and forms over the time. He referred to many noted writers of Assam. Writers like Saurav Kr. Chaliha, Mohim Bora, Monika Devi, Anamika Bora, Arun Sarma, Prasanta Rajguru, Debabrata Das, Manoj Goswami, Poets like Nilim Kumar and Critics like Sanjib Paul Deka were highlighted by Dr.

Saikia for their new style, spirit and forms in Assamese literature. He mentioned how the complexities of the present day life channelize the talents of these writers into newer forms of expression. But Dr. Saikia was more than eager to repeat that the writers should keep in mind that they live in a time frame. Dr. Saikia mentioned that the changes of languages are also an indicator of the new era of Assamese literature. He said that the new generation writers should try to live in the time frame and try to grasp the universal human mind. A brief interactive session followed the lecture.

## WORKSHOP ON BHAKTI TRADITIONS IN INDIA

May 26-27, 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Sahapedia, organized a two-day Workshop on Bhakti Traditions in India at Guwahati on May 26-27, 2016.

In the Inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about Bhakti, Bhakti traditions in India and also about Bhakti literature of the saints chosen for the Workshop. Delivering the introductory address, Dr Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Director, Sahapedia, talked about the social dimensions of bhakti traditions across the country, usage of mother tongue by the saints instead of priestly language and also role played by Bhakti traditions in enabling individuals to overcome man-made differences. In the first session focusing on Shankaradeva and chaired by Dr Nagen Saikia, a well-known scholar Prof Birendra Nath Dutta presented a paper highlighting varied contributions of Shankaradeva for the development of culture and propagation of Bhakti in the region and how his influence spread across many states and unified divided traditions and people in the region. Prof Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, responding to the paper, highlighted certain unique tools deployed by Shankaradeva, the purpose of devotion in Shankaradeva's philosophy and the social changes that took place during the movement in the region. In the second session focusing on Lal Ded, Dr Jawaharlal Bhat presented a paper detailing Lalla's journey in truth and also how Lal Ded put 'human' in the center of the journey. Dr Ghulam Nabi Khayal who chaired the session and Dr R.K. Bhat argued that Lal Ded was much more than a Bhakti poet or a Mystic but more of a spiritual leader who spoke out against priestly exploitation and inequality. In the third session focusing on Akka Mahadevi and chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, noted scholar Asha Devi presented a paper while B.N. Sumitra Bai discussed the paper. Asha Devi observed that whereas for male poets Bhakti might take the form of surrender,



women had to attain an identity before they could renounce it. Poetry is one space that makes this possible, as it does the envisioning of alternative social institutions. Prof Shivaprakash, speaking from the Chair, observed that Akka Mahadevi had not been given her due by upper-caste canon-makers. He raised many questions on our use of the term ‘Bhakti’, arguing the term never figures in many traditions today identified with it, that it cannot be seen as a movement, lacked any concept of revolution, and did not represent a philosophy. Whereas the shramanas invoked ‘jina’ (victory), bhakti represents surrender (citing vacanas rejecting shramana practices). Like earlier speakers, he described Bhakti as its own end (not moksha), but contrasted Akka’s verse with Andal’s wish for plenitude. In the fourth session focusing on Tulsidas, G.C. Tripathi chaired while two well-known scholars Dr Surya Prasad Dixit and Dr Hari Mohan Budholia spoke. Dr Dixit spoke about varied contributions of Tulsidas and dwelt on the humanization of the divine in the Ramcharitmanas, and cited verses rejecting caste distinctions and criticizing corrupt Brahmins. Dr Bhalachandra Nemade chaired the fifth session focusing on Tukaram in which Dilip Dondge was the main speaker while Pushpa Bhave was the discussant. Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade who described orality as an ‘event’ whose engagement of the audience is immediate and argued that the Varkari movement survived through decentralization, and the adoption of an ‘affordable style’, in that pilgrims were sustained by the hospitality of villagers. Dr Dilip Dondge observed that that whereas the preceding mahanubhava movement could not sustain a following because of its focus on dialectical reasoning, the Varkaris offered a holistic view of life that married religion to ethics, and where pilgrimage became a ‘mobile university’. Mentioning the influence of Kashmiri Shaivism, he described how dance transforms the body is to union with Brahman. In his Valedictory Address, ‘The Dynamics of Bhakti’, Professor M.D. Muthukumaraswamy proposed that the etymological connection with ‘bhaj’ (‘to distribute’) suggest bhakti is bound up with ideas of belonging and participation. He articulated the nuances of individuation—the emergence of a poet persona able to speak ‘to the inner self, god and society’, though in many cases this is a voice associated with a liminal space. The state of possession— often described in poetry and sought to be achieved in folk performing arts – fuses in Vaishnava poetry with the idea of incarnation, and in Saiva poetry, with Siva’s miraculous play. He dwelt on the mutuality between devotee and a God whose grace is ever-present, and the enfolded relations between devotees, their guru, God, and wider society. Dr Mihiri Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks.

## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

May 28, 2016, Dibrugarh

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Centre for the Study of Performing Arts, Dibrugarh University, organized a ‘People and Books’ programme with Pulak Banerjee at Dibrugarh University, on May 28, 2016. In her welcome address Karabi Deka Hazarika, convenor, Assamese Advisory Board, explained the significance of the “People and Book” initiative of the Sahitya Akademi through which an intimate interaction is organised between the general public and eminent personalities from different walks of life. Dr. Pranjit Bora introduced the legendary singer Pulak Banerjee to the audience calling it an occasion of great delight and fortune for everyone present. Shri Banerjee, a legend and doyen of Assamese music, charmed the audience with a delightful speech. Discussing how literature has enriched his life, he acknowledged the soothing role of different literary works such as books and magazines, in bringing calm and joy into his life spent with music. Stating that books are the sincerest of friends and panacea of loneliness, he acknowledged the wonderful and myriad of feelings books can invoke in people in different stages of life, often inspiring them towards achieving the desired goals.



## ALL INDIA YOUNG WRITERS' FESTIVAL

May 28-29, 2016, Agartala

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, Government of Tripura, organized All India Young Writers' festival at Saheed Bhagat Singh Yuva Awas auditorium in Agartala on May 28-29, 2016. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. Sri Brajagopal Roy, eminent writer delivered introductory address. Santanu Dev Burman, Director, Dept. of Culture, Govt. of Tripura was the Guest of Honour of the inaugural session. Victor Rajkumar, Pankaj Banik, Sopna Baglary, Asiya Zahoor, Archana Bhaishare, Chidananda Sali, Kh. Krishna Mohan Singha, Surya Bali read out their works in this session. Vote of thanks in the inaugural session was delivered by Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Kanjalochan Pathak, Gopichand Dhangar, Umedh Dhaniala, Manasa Yendluri read out their stories in the second session of the festival while the session was chaired by Debasis Panigrahi. The second session was chaired by Chandrakanta Murasingh while Sandeep Sufi, Shabir Magami, Lipika Debbarma, Usha Kiran 'Satyadarshi', Gorak Sirsat, Jnanee Debasish Mishra, Hemchandra Belwal, Sanat Hansda, J. Yesudass 'Poorna' read out their poetry. The third session of the festival was chaired by Yatindra Mishra while Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Raam Mori, Aryambika, G. Bijoy kumar Sharma read out their papers. Kishore Monjit Bora, Detsung Swargiary, Prasanta Sarkar, Kusum Kanti Chakma, C. Deepu Singh, Pongfuru Mog Choudhury, Pavitra Lama, Chandan Kumar Jha, shalu Kaur, Rekha Pohani read out their poetry in the fourth session of the festival and the session was chaired by Kalyan Gupta.

## AVISHKAR

May 30, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized 'Avishkar' programme featuring Sri Swapan Gupta and Tapati Gupta at the Akademi premises in Kolkata on May 30, 2016. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed and introduced the participants. Professor Tapati Gupta narrated the significance of the title. She said lyric emanates from lyre, a musical instrument with the help of which the ancient poets used to sing songs or recite poems. Tagore's song is an ideal blending of lyric and poetry which carries the aesthetics of meaningful messages. Lyric expresses one's intense and personal feelings. She attributed the Tagore song itself is universal and a singer should also have the responsibility to make it universal through his presentation style. The first song of Tagore sang by Swapan Gupta— 'Pratham Yuger Uday digangane / Pratham Diner Usha Neme Elo Jaaba.....' next he sang 'Tume Je Cheya Achho Akash Bhore.....'. Professor Tapati Gupta elaborated the songs and alluded the first canto of Milton's Paradise Lost. She further stated that religion helps in the manifestation of the soul. The creation is contented when the creator and created one are solely intermingled with each other. The significance of light and darkness is noticed in many of Tagore's songs, she narrated. Tapati Gupta interpreted Tagore songs presented from the different series of songs such as 'Prem', 'Puja', and 'Prakriti' by Swapan Gupta. She continued, song under 'Puja' series may be regarded as Love-devotion song. Rain and depression merges together demonstrate pure poetic tradition. For Tagore the beloved and the divine were often interchangeable and as a consequence his love songs and devotional songs often tend to overlap. His songs are not couched in any mythological background and therefore easy to comprehend written in simple articulate Bengali, songs with a clear diction which makes the word audible.



## KATHASANDHI

May 31, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organised a Kathasandhi programme with eminent fiction writer Bani Basu on May 31, 2016 in Kolkata. Sri Gopal Ch. Baman welcomed Smt Basu and introduced her to the audience. Bani Basu narrating the writing career she observed that her literary career began with writing short stories as she was more comfortable in that genre and at that point of time she did not have an inclination to attempt to write novel. She narrated the incidents which inspired her to write a novel and how she got established as a novelist. Her major works include Swet Patharer Thala (The Marble Salver), Ekushe Paa (twenty on step), Maitreya Jatak (published as the Birth of the Maitreya by Stree), Gandharvi, Pancham Purush (The Fifth Generation) and Astam Garbha (The Eighth Pregnancy). Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed the vote of thanks.

## KAVISANDHI

June 13, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kavisandhi programme with eminent Bengali poet Mridul Dasgupta on June 13, 2016 in Kolkata. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed and introduced Sri Dasgupta. Sri Dasgupta in an unassuming deliberation refrained himself from narrating about his poetic career, rather began reading poetry from his many famous collections of poems. His reminiscences of his boyhood days when he was attracted to write poetry and mesmerized in the realm of poetic diction till his young age. In his poetry he tried to capture the social milieu, the aspiration of people and the failure of the political leader to fulfil that. He humbly said that his contribution to the society as a poet is meagre, though his contemporary writers marked an indelible impression in the Bengali poetry. He recited poetry from his collection of poems entitled Jalpai kather Esraj which spans for a decade from 1968 to 1978. He recited quite a number of poems from his published and unpublished works. He mentioned

that he compiles cluster of poems which are written for a decade and then publish them. In the current series he has already started compiling poems being written since sometimes back and will be published after the completion of ten years. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered concluding remarks.

## PEOPLE AND BOOKS

June 17, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a 'People and Books' programme with an eminent artist Ramananda Bandyopadhyay on June 17, 2016 in Kolkata. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed Sri Bandyopadhyay and introduced him to the audience.

Sri Bandyopadhyay while narrating the influence of books on his life said that book is an integral part of his life and one cannot think of living without book. In his childhood days Tagore's Sahaj Path and Barna Parichaya books carved a deep impression in his life, more particularly the illustration of Nandalal Bose of the book. At his young age he used to spoil walls of his ancestral house by drawing lines, but he had never been rebuked for this mischief, rather his parents encouraged him to develop his artistic acumen. He was the direct disciple of Nandalal Bose when he admitted to Santiniketan. There he got acquainted with the works of famous artists like Ramkinkar Baij, Binod Behari and many other artists of eminence. The education system of Kala Bhavan helped him grow to the stature of a leading artist of the country, he observed. While reading a book, his artist mind spontaneously portrayed a picture which finds its expression on the canvas. Binod Behari, Ramkinkar Baij and Nandalal Basu he pays his gratitude to these three teachers who helped him learning art. He described book as all time companion from early morning to turn in to bed. The habit of reading should be developed by the parents for their children, he commented. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convenor, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, provided concluding remarks.



## THROUGH MY WINDOW

June 17, 2016, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized ‘Through My Window’ programme with Jayanti Rath, eminent story writer who spoke about Banaj Devi at Bhubaneswar on June 17, 2016. Sri Pitabas Routray, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker. Jayanti Rath hailed Banaj Devi as the most outstanding sensible woman writer of modern Odia literature. Later in the programme, Banaj Devi delivered a brief speech and gave all credit to her parents and family for her achievements. She said that no matter what is discussed in civil society or media a woman’s endurance is both different and difficult in our society. Inquisitiveness for life and nature has always influenced her writing. Banaj Devi said that a line of a prayer, a word or a character of a fiction can influence our life. Literature is inspiration, she said. Life and literature are supplementary to each other. Though critics are of the opinion that women characters are given importance in her writings but she believes in humanism, she said. Sri Banaj Tripathy, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## SEMINAR ON ORAL POETRY: PERFORMANCE AND AESTHETICS

June 18, 2016, Kokrajhar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a seminar on ‘Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics’ at Kokrajhar UN Academy, on June 18, 2016. The inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by eminent Bodo litterateur and Sahitya Akademi Award Winning writer Janil Kr. Brahma. The Regional Secretary of Sahitya Akademi Gopal Ch. Barman delivered the welcome address. Renowned Bodo poet Brajendra Kr. Brahma inaugurated the seminar and attended the session as Chief Guest.



Participants of the Seminar on Oral Poetry, Performance and Aesthetics

He delivered his speech on the importance of the preservation and exploration of Bodo Oral Poetry. The key note address was delivered by Anil Boro. In his speech he has spoken about various aspects of Bodo oral poetry. Though the written Bodo literature is still in infant age but they are very rich in oral folk narratives, he said. At the end of the session Krishna Gopal Basumatary, Director, UN Academy proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Janil Kumar Brahma. In the session, three noted scholars Adaram Basumatary, Nareswar Narzary and Sansuma Khungur Boro presented papers on ‘Bodo Ballads: Oral Singing and Aesthetics,’ ‘Bodo Ritual Songs’ and ‘Bodo Folk Songs in Radio Performance’ respectively. The second session was chaired by Anil Boro. In the session four noted scholars, Indira Boro, Tulon Muchahary, Rahendra Brahma and Rwirub Brahma, presented papers ‘Rhymes and Game Songs: Performance and Aesthetics,’ ‘Oral Written Continuum: Gibi Bithai and Other Oral derived prose,’ ‘Bodo oral songs and performances in new media’ and ‘Bodo marriage songs and Fusli Haba songs’ respectively. Subung Basumatary chaired the third session. In the session Bhupen Bora, Detsung Swargiary and Rajib Bordoloi presented papers ‘Rabha Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics,’ ‘Mising Oinitom: Performance and Aesthetics’ and ‘Tiwa Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics’ respectively.



## KATHASANDHI

June 18, 2016, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kathasandhi programme with well-known fiction writer Rabi Swain. Dr Gourharidas, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker and audience. Sri Banoj Tripathi, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the speaker to all. Swain narrated his creative journey and his association with human struggle. He said that he was not an ivory tower writer. Inspiration comes naturally from the society, he added. Explaining some of the points critics note about his stories Swain said that he had never planned to be a writer or pursue such a career. He said that sometimes the facts are stranger than fiction. Later Swain read his three stories - 'Durghatana', 'Globe' and 'Sabuja jharana'. Ms. Aparna Mohanty, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## KAVISANDHI

June 19, 2016, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Kavisandhi programme with Dillip Das at State Archives Conference Hall in Bhubaneswar on June 19, 2016. Sri Bijayanand Singh, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced Mr Das. In his speech Das told that it is the writers who can bring change in society. Pen is always mightier than sword, he said. Das, pointing at the fellow writers, told that they should have a clear knowledge of the territory of the land to which they belong. Without sufficient knowledge of one's motherland, one can't be a good writer or a legislator. Sri Das recited some of his poems like 'Masjid na Dwarakamayi', 'Hatibarire Barsa', 'Goutamanka Hasa', 'Train', 'Aluara Barsa', 'Banglara Baul' and 'Saber Saberi'. Dr Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Odia literature. Sri Pitabas Routray, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## LITERARARY FORUM

June 19, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Ashangba Communication, organized a literary forum on Cinema and Literature at Dev Literature Center in Imphal on June 19, 2016. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the relationship between cinema and literature. In the forum three well-known scholars, Sri R.K. Bidur, Sri Meghachandra Kongbam and Dr Makhonmani Momgshaba spoke. R.K. Bidur spoke on Trend of Manipuri Cinema; Meghachandra Kongbam spoke on Cinema and Manipuri Literature and Dr Makhonmani Momgshaba spoke on Documentary Film and Manipuri Literature. Their presentations are all with appreciable depths. Professor H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his speech of inauguration said there is ample scope of organizing project and programmes under the sponsorship of the Sahitya Akademi. L. Upendro Sharma, Advisor, Ashangba Communication and Director, JNMDA, Imphal, in his presidential speech said that Manipuri cinema has reached this stage through persistent efforts of talented people and this tradition should continue. A.C. Netrajit, Member, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 20, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Huieyen Lanpao, organized a symposium on the 'Role of newspapers on the development of Manipuri literature' in Imphal on June 20, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly on the topic of the symposium. In his introductory address, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that early Manipuri papers played a big role by publishing many literary articles. He also highlighted that at present also the newspapers are taking a major role in promoting



literary writing in Manipur. In his Presidential address, Sri Potsangbam Dhanakumar Singh, I.P.S., talked at the length about how advancement of literature can be a considered marker for the advanced civilization and the role of newspapers in that propagation. In the first and second session chaired by Sri B.B. Sharma, six noted scholars, A. Ibomcha Sharma, Professor Jodha Chandra Sanasam, L. Saratchandra Sharma, Dr K. Shantibala Devi, Soibamcha Indrakumar and Th. Anjulika Samom presented their papers. Laishram Dhabalo proposed the vote of thanks.

## SEMINAR

June 21, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Naharol Sahitya Preme Samiti, organized a daylong seminar on Kalachand Singh Shastri's Works in Imphal on June 21, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the life and works of Sri Shastri and highlighted how study of his works will enrich litterateurs in Manipur. In his inaugural address, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that Kalachand Shastri was a multifaceted personality who made commendable and invaluable contribution towards development of Manipuri language, culture as a scholar of Sanskrit. He also said that he was a grammarian and wrote a text book on grammar called Manipuri Byakaran Koumudi; he wrote Basu Deva Mahakavya, Ashamba Manipuri Sahityagee Itihas and so on in Manipuri. In his Presidential speech, Prof P. Nabachandra Singh, talked about the relevance of Sri Shastri's works to the present society. H. Binodkumar Sharma, General Secretary, Naharol Sahitya Preme Samiti, proposed vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Kh. Prakash Singh, three noted scholars, Amusana Sharma Shastri, Elangam Dinamani and I.S. Kangjam, presented papers 'Reminiscences of Kalachand Shastri,' 'Kalachand Shastri as a Translator' and 'Kalachand Shastri's

Language and Literary Criticism' respectively. In the second session that was chaired again by Prakash Singh, three noted scholars, P. Nabachandra Singh, Nongthomba Premchand Singh and Lanchemba Meetei, presented papers 'Kalachand Shastri's Works,' 'Kalachand Shastri as a playwright and artist' and 'Kalachand, the writer' respectively.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 26, 2016, Jorhat

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Assamese Science Writers' Association, organized a symposium on Assamese Science Literature on June 26 2016 at Jorhat Science Centre and Planetarium Conference Hall in Jorhat. In the inaugural session, Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. The symposium was inaugurated by Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, while the keynote address was delivered by Dinesh Chandra Goswami and Aditi Bezbaruah chaired the session. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dharendra Kumar Gogoi. Khiradhar Baruah and Neelima Saikia were the two participants in the first session of the symposium who read out their papers on science literature. The session was chaired by Promud Chandra Tamuly. In the second session Ramesh Ch. Goswami, Amiya Rajbanshi and Abhijit Sarma Baruah read out their papers while the session was chaired by Mukunda Rajbanshi.

## KAVISANDHI

June 28, 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Cotton College NABIN, organized a Kavisandhi programme featuring noted Assamese poet Sameer Tanti at the college premises on June 28, 2016. Prof Manju Devi Pegu, President, Cotton College, welcomed the guest poet and audience. Sri Anis Uz Zaman, President, Sodou Asom Kavi



Sammilan, inaugurated the programme and talked about the philosophy of Sameer Tanti and also highlighted folk elements found in his poems. Sri Sameer Tanti recited some of his compositions. He also talked about his journey as a poet, the events, circumstances, people and writings that influenced his poems. He also singled out Nature as the biggest inspiration in his life. A brief interactive session followed the recitation and lecture.

## TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

June 29-30, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a two-day Translation Workshop for Bengali-Assamese and Bengali-Nepali Dictionary at the Akademi premises in Kolkata on June 29-30, 2016. In the beginning Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Regional Office, Kolkata welcomed the participants, Editors and urged them to complete the long pending work of translation of two dictionaries under the Akademi's Bilingual dictionary project. Nagen Saikia and Mukul Hazarika of Bengali-Assamese dictionary Editorial Board sat together with the Chief Editor, Prof. Ashok Mukhopadhyay and elaborately discussed about the pending work of the Bengali-Assamese dictionary manuscript. Satyen Chaudhury, another member of the editorial board who could not be present in the workshop however submitted the missing parts of the manuscript for its incorporation. The manuscript was thoroughly checked and verified by the editors and the complete manuscript was handed over to Mukul Hazarika for typesetting in Assam as advised by Nagen Saikia. He told that he will recommend the name of a proof reader later on. Krishna Pradhan, Sri Mukti Prasad Upadhyay and Sri Sudhin Ghosh of Bengali-Nepali dictionary Editorial Board sat together with the Chief Editor, Prof. Ashok Mukhopadhyay. The Chief Editor, advised that, the entries of the manuscript available at ROK is to be compared and verified with the original word list prepared by him as it was found that some of the entries were missing and they were not uniformly

done by the editors. Each member of the Editorial Board made entries in a different way. The editor and associate editors will send the incomplete parts within next month which is to be again checked and verified by Prof. Ashoke Mukhopadhyay. As per his suggestion, the complete manuscript will then be copy-edited by a competent person. The Editorial Board suggested the name of Dr. Jas Yonzon 'Pyasi', Yonle Dhim, Dhoulhill Road, P.O. Kurseong (Darjeeling), Ph: 9832366694/9002498020 for checking and copy-editing which was accepted by the Chief Editor. Then the complete manuscript may be sent to Siliguri for typesetting and proof-reading under the supervision of Editorial Board members staying there. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer and Samarпита Goswami, Publication Assistant of Sahitya Akademi were also present to co-ordinate the two-days workshop.

## SYMPOSIUM

June 30, 2016, Udalguri

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Department of Bodo, Udalguri College, organized a daylong symposium on Bihuram Boro and His Literary Creations on June 30, 2016 at the college premises. The inaugural session was chaired by Sh Robinson Narzary an Associate Professor of Udalguri College. Dr Rajendra Kumar Basumatary, HOD of Bodo Department (Udalguri College) as well as a member of the Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address. After the welcome address the symposium was inaugurated by Dr Anil Kumar Boro, Senior Faculty of the Dept of Folklore, Gauhati University. In his inaugural speech Dr Boro has spoken about Bihuram Boro's contribution in the field of literature. He said that Bihuram Boro had been a pioneer in the field of journalism and got involved in active journalism by publishing Bonjar. He further said that Bihuram Boro has several prose pieces to his credit and that his religious texts have greatly helped in propagating the philosophies of Bathou religion. The inaugural speech was followed by the keynote address delivered by Nabin Malla Boro who said



about his personal experiences with Bihuram Boro. He spoke about Bihuram Boro's invaluable contribution to the Bodo society as a whole and called him an organisation in himself. He briefly dealt on the role played by Bihuram Boro as a member of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha and about his patriotic journalism and his role in the Roman Script Movement. He asserted that the untiring efforts of Bihuram Boro had gone a long way in improving the image of the Bodo people in the eyes of the those people who earlier believed the Bodos to be brutes or uncivilized people. After his speech Dr Nareswar Narzary concluded the session by delivering vote of thanks. The first session started right after the inaugural session got over and was chaired by Dr Anil Kumar. Adaram Basumatary, an Associate Professor of Janata College was the first person to read out his paper in this session. His paper entitled "Gibi Bithai Konthaimani Jwhwlao" (Hero of the Epic Gibi Bithai) dealt on the character of Sibrai as an epic hero. Adaram's presentation was followed by that of Chittaranjan Mushahary, an Assistant Professor of Barama College. His paper entitled "Bihuram Boroni Gibi Bithaiyao Nujanai Ashar mwnbani swmwndwi sungdo saorainai" is a brief discussion on the social customs mentioned in Bihuram Boro's Gibi Bithai. This was followed by the presentation of Niran Brahma, an Assistant Professor of Udalguri College who read out a paper on an Assamese poem "Hukh Bisari Bisari" written by Bihuram Boro himself. In this poem Bihuram Boro focussed on the fact how human beings get degraded in his pursuit of happiness. The session concluded with the presentation of Maneswar Goyari who read out a paper entitled "Critical Analysis on Bathoumoni Gudi". The second session was chaired by Nabin Malla Boro. He read out a paper on Asharba and its significance and that was followed by Pranabjyoti Narzary's (Pandu College) presentation. Mr Narzary discussed about the role of Bihuram Boro's literature as well as his untiring concerted efforts in boosting the image of the Bodo people in the eyes of those people who look down at the Bodo people. Thereafter, Rita Boro from Tangla College presented

a paper on "Gibi Bithai arw beni santhou" which deals with the philosophy of Gibi Bithai. Rajendra Kumar Basumatary of Udalguri College was the last person to read out in this session. His paper "Maothi Bihuram Boro" focuses on Bihuram Boro as a social worker. After this the session was concluded with the speech of the chairperson.





## NORTH-EAST AND WESTERN WRITERS' MEET

May 18-19, 2016, Mumbai



Sri Dhruva Jyoti Bora delivering the inaugural address. Seated besides the speaker are Dr K. Sreenivasarao and Dr Bhalchandra Nemade

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a two-day North-East and Western Writers' Meet on May 18-19, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Mumbai. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, extended his gratitude towards the writers of North-East for attending the meet. Sahitya Akademi by holding such meets brings the literature of different regions on a single platform. It gives the glimpse of mankind and helps in adjusting the self in the society. The North-East region is a land of bio-diversity, a very rich folklore and a heaven to scenic beauties. Literature of North East region is basically a celebration of rural culture. He introduced the eminent guest writers of inaugural session to the audience.

Dhruba Jyoti Bora, an eminent Assamese writer and novelist inaugurated the meet. Though a medical doctor by profession, he is a litterateur by heart. He said that India is a country of many voices, but also worried its enduring existence. The bigger threat to the survival of Assamese language is the inclination of young generation towards the English language. He proclaimed that migration in Assam is caused on larger scale due to the fact that elite is giving up in the region. The Indian government is also not serious to develop the regional language. He appealed the scholar audience to take the steps in restoring the reputation of the regional languages. Bhalchandra Nemade, a Dnyanpeeth Award Winning eminent Marathi presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address he shared his experience of traveling Gujarat where he found the mark of a great person at every 30 miles. He said that North-East has maintained its own identity which is encouraging and Western part of India has embarrassed the Western culture which is a discouraging sign. He research fully commented that the Karbi Ramayana of North East is more ancient than the Valmiki Ramayana. He also narrated that British rule created castism to imbalance the unity in the country. While defining Assam as a diversified region, he said that the region has more than 200 spoken languages and the foreign countries even failed to maintain a single language. He stressed that there should be a test to maintain the dignity of language in human rights exams. The modernization and industrialization has destroyed the diversity. He emphasized that the tradition rather than modernism can keep the country united. Modernism should not develop on the cost of tradition. He described English as an international language only in India. He also said that the words and phrases used in Indian language are austro-asiatic and similar words are found in different languages. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, R.O. Mumbai of Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks to sum up the session. The first session dedicated to Poetry recitation was chaired by Balwant Jani, an eminent Gujarati Scholar and member, Gujarati Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. He described the meet to be a Kumbh Parva where the writers from different region unite together. The poet participant Dhruva Kumar Talukdar of Assamese rendered Khuskoda Malum Koda, Ghadi and Okhambi the poems in his mother tongue and The Words in English. Devkanta Ramcheri, a Bodo Poet, sang a Bodo folksong followed by poems like At a time in spring, Dream at the bank of Bull Sea in English and Musafir in Hindi. Salaam Shantibala Devi a poet from Manipur recited the poems, Where Should we go mother and the bettered freedom both in English. Another poet from North-East region Jogen Darnal (Nepali) recited Mero Kanchanjunga in Nepali and its Hindi translation and Gaon Ki Gawah in Hindi. Arun Babani, a Sindhi poet, recited the poems like Kavita Kab Tak Utpann Hogi Shayar, Maptol Ke Rishte, Rah Ka Diya in Sindhi and its Hindi translation. Rajesh Pandya, a Gujarati poet, recited Hawaman a poem relating environment to politics, in Gujarati and Hindi translation,



Everything for Everyone a poem in English and also some small poems. A Konkani poet, R.Ramnath, recited Eka Niragasacho Maran Khel, Fator (stone), Kaalchakra (wheel of fortune) in Konkani and its English translation. Keshav Deshmukh, a Marathi poet, recited Darara in Marathi and its Hindi translation, Magana, Avghad, Umbrache Phool and Sugandh Jhalaya Naapas, the poems in Marathi and Kisaan a poem in Hindi. The second session was chaired by Tanaji Halarnkar, Convener of Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The session was having a very unique subject namely “My favorite litterateur in language other than the mother tongue” in which Qutubuddin Ahmedad, an Assamese writer, presented his paper on Urdu poet Ghalib. Tulon Machahary, a Bodo writer, spoke on Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a legendary literary figure in Assam. Ajay Sarvaiya, a young Gujarati scholar, presented his paper on Nirmal Verma, a Hindi Writer, Novelist and one of the pioneers of “Nayi Kahani”. Halarnkar, in his scholarly remarks said that a language cannot be treated as a barrier as books are translated in different languages. Literature depicts the culture of people and is a visa to unknown land. By reading the books in other languages, a writer knows trends and innovation of the source language and also develops the comparative knowledge of different languages. He also said that while evaluating the favorite writer, a critic should highlight his negative points and act as a mirror to the writer. The third session dedicated to short story reading, on second day of the meet was chaired by Marathi Scholar and translator, Chhaya Mahajan. She emphasized that “What happened next is the recursion of the story”. Story should possess characterization, narration and dialogue. The story tellers of the session were Vidyasagar Narzary from Bodo, who presented his short story titled “No Vacancy”. Bipin Patel, a Gujarati Writer, presented “Sangeet Shikshak”, a story on land acquisition. Another writer from Konkani, Ajay Buwa, presented his short story “SMS”, a very urban story of an old age man who sends SMS to his dead wife. Madhav Borcar, an eminent Konkani writer, chaired the fourth session dedicated to the subject “My favorite litterateur in language other than the mother tongue”. Leithongbi Devi, a Manipuri writer, present her paper on Khushwant Singh, an eminent Punjabi Novelist, Politician and critic. Shobha Naik, an eminent Marathi Critic and translator, presented her views on Kannada writer H. Nagaveni. Jay Cactus, a Nepali writer, spoke on Nirad Chaudhary, an Indian-English writer and man of letters. Govardhan Sharma, a senior Sindhi and Hindi writer, presented his views on his favourite Hindi poet Hari Narayan Vyas. The fifth and the last session on Story Telling, was chaired by Prem Prakash, an Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The writers from different languages like Ravindra Pandhare of Marathi rendered “Dangara”, a short story based on an old age bull and how his life is compared to an old age farmer. Harish Maktan Allarey of Nepali language, presented his short story “Allow me a Second Wife”, a very urban setting of a working class man who is transferred frequently. Bansi Khubchandani, a Sindhi writer, rendered his short story “Dhuan” in Hindi, a story of a Sindhi man who is disregarding particular community on the back drop of his displacement from his homeland Sindh. Prem Prakash, the chair of the session, scrutinized the readings remarked that the story telling should have artistic values. There should be authenticity in the events and characters of a story. The story should be fresh, full of emotions and touching. Krishna Kimbahune gave the valedictory address at the end of meet.

## COLLOQUIUM ON SINDHI POETRY

June 25-26, 2016, Ahmedabad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a two-day colloquium on Sindhi Poetry, on June 25-26, 2016 at Govardhan Smruti Khand, Gujarat Sahitya Parishad in Ahmedabad. At the outset, Hundraj Balwani, Member, Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and guest writers from different parts of country who participated in the colloquium. He gave the brief about various activities of Sahitya Akademi. Arjan Chawla, also a member of Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, formerly inaugurated the colloquium and said that literature reflects the picture of impulse and feelings in life. Prem Prakash, Convener of Sindhi Advisory Board while briefing the colloquium appealed the guest writers to discuss



the development of Ghazal and Poetry in last five years in Sindhi literature. In the context he expressed the guest writers to present their compositions in the course. Arjan Hasid, an eminent Sindhi poet, in his presidential address reiterated the difference between a ghazal and poetry. He said that poetry was developed after the ghazal and we have to search a poetic form in between these two genres. The first session was chaired by Mohan Himthani, a well-known Sindhi poet. Khiman Mulani presented a paper on 'Senses in Sindhi Poetry: Ghazal'. The other participants of the session viz. Vasdev Mohi, Arjan Chawla, Laxman Dubey also rendered their poems. The second session dedicated to 'Contemporary Sindhi Ghazal: Today' was chaired and compared by Vasdev Mohi, a well known Sindhi scholar and critic. Mohi expressed his concerns on the contemporary ghazals. Khiman Mulani, Laxman Dubey and Arjan Chawla participated and expressed their thoughts on the issue. Laxman Dubey affirmed that Sindhi literature lacks the serious shayars. He presented some ghazals in the process. Arjan Chawla expressed that ghazal is a heart beat; the voice of joy can be heard in it. Khiman Mulani said that there is a transition between care and quality. Vasdev Mohi believed that more and more listeners are following ghazals in the last ten years. The presentation and its artistic language have become more meaningful. Rashmi Ramani chaired the third session and Mohan Himthani presented his paper on 'Senses in Sindhi Poetry: Poetry'. He first questioned 'what are senses?' and its definition. He gave examples of some Sindhi Poets, and their sensible poetry. Vinod Assudani in his paper 'Creativity in Sindhi Language: Ghazal' gave his views on the empowerment in Sindhi Ghazal and how old references and facsimiles and changing into modern references. While explaining his view, gave instances of modern Ghazals with its simpler form. The paper presentation was followed the poetry recitation by Naresh Udhani and Vinod Assudani. The forth session which commenced on Sunday, 26 June 2016, was chaired by Dholan Rahi, a Senior Sindhi Poet and Vimmi Sadarangani presented her paper on 'Creativity in Sindhi Language : Poetry (last five years)'. Prem Prakash, Verho Rafique, Namdev Tarachandani, Meena Shahdadpuri and Harish Karamchandani recited some of their poems. The sixth session was chaired by Laxman Dubey, an eminent Sindhi Poet. Arjan Chawla presented his paper on 'Satire in Sindhi Poetry : Ghazal (last five years)' while the poetry recitation was done by Srichand Keswani, Rashmi Ramani, Vimmi Sadarangani, Kamla Goklani and Arjan Hasid from their works. The sixth session dedicated to the discussion on the topic 'Contemporary Sindhi Poetry: Today' was chaired by Namdev Tarachandani and Vinod Assudani, Vimmi Sadarangani and Mohan Himthani participated in the discussion. Arjan Chawla chaired the seventh and last session of the colloquium. Kamla Goklani presented her views on 'Satire in Sindhi Poetry: Poetry (in last five years)' while Bhagwan Nirdosh, Mohan Himthani, Srichand Dubey and Dholan Rahi recited their poems. Prem Prakash summed up the colloquium with his remarks on the subject.



(LtoR) Namdev Tarachandani, M.Shahdadpuri, Vimmi Sadarangani, Dholan Rahi, Verho Rafiq & Harish Karamchandani

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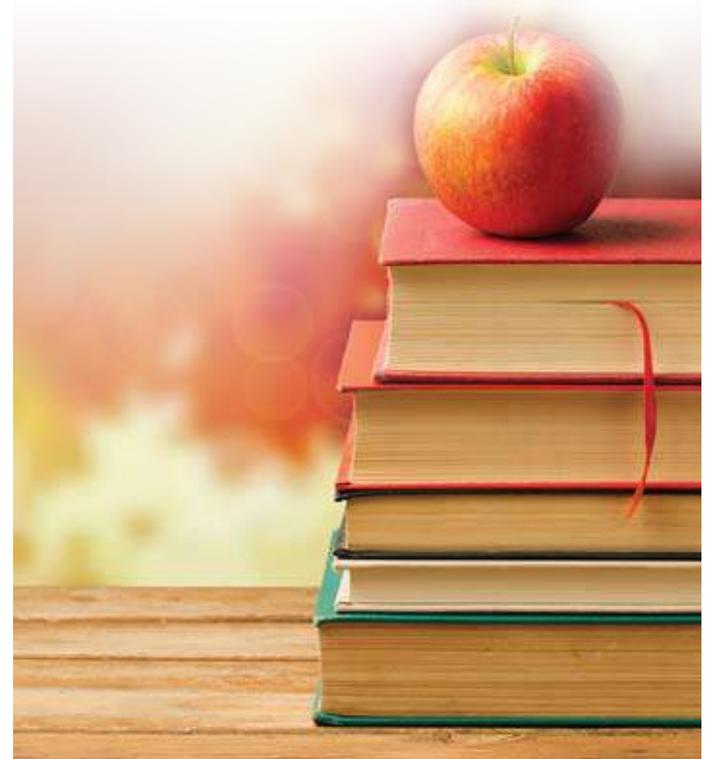
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