



SAHITYA AKADEMI

NEWSLETTER

September-December 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

- Bal Sahitya Puraskar
- Yuva Puraskar
- Translation Prize
- Bhasha Samman
- Seminar
- Symposia
- Book Discussion
- Kathasandhi
- Through My Window



Secretary Speaks.....

One of the major hallmarks of Sahitya Akademi is its Awards. We celebrate writing, we celebrate the writers in many ways and one of them is through the conferment of Awards on best of the best. Three of these Awards, Akademi's way of celebrating and honoring writers of different kinds, fall in India's festive season. Between September and December every year India witnesses many a festival featuring major religions of India. Sahitya Akademi conferred Translation Prize [for the best translations in 24 languages], Bal Sahitya Puraskar [Award for the best Children's writing] and Yuva Puraskar [Award for best young writers across the country] in the months of November and December 2017. Continuing with Akademi's policies of remembering and honoring past doyens, Sahitya Akademi organized a number of birth centenary seminars and symposia through all its offices, continued the meets bridging litterateurs of North-Eastern regions of the country with their counterparts in other regions, continued to connect cultural and linguistic traditions spread across vast country by organizing a number of multilingual meets bringing together best minds from various regions of the country and continued to enhance the focus on minor languages, dialects, tribal and oral traditions of India. We aspire and are determined to continue our work in all these directions and more.

One more year draws closer to the end and as we wind up the season and look forward to the freshness that January brings along, it is indeed a happy opportunity for us to share with our patrons and readers what we have achieved over the past 365 days: In 2017 we organized 625 literary events (One programme every 14 hours), we organized and participated in 171 book-exhibitions across India, published 576 books including reprints (that is publication of one title every 15 hours), conferred Fellowship (Akademi's highest honor) on Dr Namvar Singh, produced 9 documentaries on eminent Indian Writers and through all these endeavours we continued our literary service to the country and in the process thousands of writers across the country benefitted from our efforts.

For the first time in its history Akademi organized literary programme in Lakshadweep islands and organized a literary festival exclusively dedicated for North-Eastern literature. I take this opportunity to thank all our patrons and readers for their continue support and encouragement. Hope you all find our newsletters useful and enjoyable. I join everyone at the Akademi in wishing one and all a very happy, peaceful and successful 2018.

K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary



BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR PRESENTATION, 2017

November 14, 2017, Vijayawada



Bal Sahitya Puraskar Winners with Secretary, President, Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi and the Chief Guest

Sahitya Akademi organized its Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presentation Ceremony at Chukkapalli Pichaiah Auditorium, Vijayawada on November 14, 2017. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, guests, writers and the audience and said that this is the first event in the capital of Navyandhra Amaravathi which is organized by Sahitya Akademi. He expressed that it is in India where we find variety of children's literature and the young minds are the real asset to preserve the glorious, historic and literary tradition through their writings in the contemporary scenario.

Prof. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi while delivering the Presidential address, congratulated the award winners. He expressed that in the contemporary scenario, less number of literature being written by the children's writer. He further reminded the contributions made by eminent writers such as Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Amritlal Nagar, R.K. Narayanan, Satyajit Ray and many others for enriching the children's literature. He suggested that specific emphasis should be given to develop children's literature in the age of electronic as well as social media.

The honours of Bal Sahitya Purashkar were bestowed upon the awardees in 24 languages at the hands of the President, Sahitya Akademi, including Sri Horendranath Borthakur (Assamese), Sri Sasthipada Chattopadyay (Bangali), Late Smt. Renu Boro (Bodo), Smt. Sudesh Raj (Dogri), Ms. Paro Anand (English), Sri Harish Naik (Gujarathi), Sri Swayam Prakash (Hindi), Dr. N.S Lakshminarayana Bhatta (Kannada), Sri Showkat Ansari (Kasmiri), Sri Vincy Quadros (Konkini), Sri Amlendu Shekhar Pathak (Maithili), Sri S.R.Lal (Malayalam), Sri Warepam Jugindro Singh (Manipuri), Sri Lakshman Mahipati Kadu (Marathi), Ms. Shanti Chetri (Napali), Dr. Subhendra Mohan Srichandan Singh (Odia), Sri Satpal Bhikhi (Panjabi), Sri Pavan Palaria (Rajasthani), Dr. Rajkumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Ms. Joba Murmu (Santhali), Sri Roshan Lakshmichand Golani (Sindhi), Sri Velu Saravanan (Tamil), Sri Vasala Narasaiah (Telugu) and Sri Nazeer Fatehpuri (Urdu).

Chief Guest Mr. Sethu Madhavan, Eminent Malayalam Writer delivered his views on child literature. He told that "it is very difficult to write for children in the present society. Even I wrote several short stories and Novels in Malayalam but I am not able to write a single story for children. To write for children there should be patience, language and thought processing. I am not able to tell a story to my grandchildren. The winners of Bal Sahitya Puraskar writers they are doing good job to the society. I would like to congratulate all the recipient of Purskar." Prof. Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, while giving the concluding remarks said that "a writer of children's literature occupies a very different position. It is quite unique as well. Like folk tale, this literature when narrated overcomes the locality and gains universality." The award ceremony was followed by cultural performance (Lai-haraoba, Kabui Jagoi & Mao Jagoi) by renowned artists of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal.



WRITER'S MEET

November 15, 2017

The Writers meet was held on 15th November, 2017, the second day of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar Ceremony at Indian Medical Association Hall, Eluru Road, Governerpet, Opposite Swarna Palace, Vijayawada. The programme was chaired by Prof. Chandrashekhara Kamar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi. Recipients of Bal Sahitya Puraskar expressed their views and experiences during the Writers' Meet. Horendra Nath Borthakur, who writes in Assamese, said that "We must take up pen to ensure freedom from all sorts of tortures and exploitations of the children, to pave the way towards a liveable world for the children, to drive away the impediments on the way to make them the 'future artists' of the world. " Bengali writer Sasthipada Chattopadhyay said that "I got inclined and developed an urge for children literature / fictions within me which helped me to reach the milestone where I am standing today. My scripts were never being refused by any of the publishers and also used to get transformed to the manuscripts, which made me more confident. Dogri writer Sudhesh Raj told that I am writing since 1967 for children. In these days children are not getting enough love and affection from parents." She further expressed that in present times parents are busy with their work and not spending sufficient time with children. We have to tell the stories like Panchatantra and others to children. Showkat Ansari, Kashmiri writer, presented that "My works in my whole lifetime shows variations depending on the environment I lived. Initially I was interested to write poems on music and lot of them are recited in different schools as prayer in the morning." Konkani writer Sri Vincy Quadros enumerated that "Let us stand tall to protect and preserve our own and the neighbour's language amongst the people who speak, read, write, love and support so that we directly and indirectly protect, support and preserve the diversified Indian culture present within us because of our languages." He expressed his views that "Bhasha haim to des haim, des haim to hum haim (Country exist if language exist and if country exist we exist) Let us live and let others live." Maithili writer Sri Amlendu Shekhar Pathak told that "Maithili is a local language of Mithila. Seetha's mother tongue also Maithili. We are giving importance to the child literature also. This is a good sign to child literature in Nation." S.R. Lal, Malayalam writer said that *children love stories. They deserve good literature. Creative reading enriches their views and attitudes and makes*



Mr. Vasala Narasaiah, Sahitya Akademi Award-winner in Telugu, sharing his experiences

them good human beings. To motivate their imagination and creativity and to encourage innermost virtue, there should be beautiful books. Tamil writer, Sri Velu Saravanan said that "I am a child by heart who always keeps watching this grand huge world with surprise and wonder. Through the other phase of this mystical feeling, I receive wonderful experience every day." Sanskrit writer Mr. Rajkumar Misra told that children after coming from school they are busy with their home works and not spending time with grandparents. In villages, children are learning and playing but in urban they are not. Parents and teachers should encourage children in creative things.

Mr. Vasala Narasaiah who is from Telugu told that now a day's children are addicted to electronic gadgets and they are denying book reading and he told that we have to inculcate book reading in children and if they want watch TV we should give priority to show discovery and other children channels. Nazeer Fatehpuri said that "I love the innocence in children. An innocent child is like a flower, like a moon, like a mirror but when the same child grows into an adult the society and politics rob him of his innocence. The light of his heart dims, he loses the fragrance of his innocence while the grownups watch him helplessly. I am not against or detest the growing process of an infant in fact it's a natural process." The Writers' Meet concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



SEMINAR-CUM- READING SESSION ON “THE EVOLUTION OF CHILDREN’S LITERATURE”

November 15-16, 2017

On the second day of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presentation ceremony, Sahitya Akademi organized seminar-cum-reading on “The Evaluation of Children’s Literature” at Indian Medical Association Hall, Eluru Road, Governerpet, Opposite Swarna Palace, Vijayawada. Welcoming the dignitaries and participants of the Seminar, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that “Children’s Literature has always part and partial of every civilization on the earth.” He expressed that children’s literature is much more than knowledge and has been considered as a great tool for the enrichment of knowledge.

Prof. N. Gopi, (Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi), while giving his introductory remarks, emphasized that present day’s children’s writers should update their knowledge in terms of scientific and technological changes. He said children’s literature was culturally enriched and one must try all possible ways to inculcate the habit of reading among children.” Guest of Honour, Jonnalagadda Rajagopala Rao, Eminent Telugu Writer was not able to attend the programme due to unavoidable circumstances and his message was read by Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. President of the Sahitya Akademi. Prof. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, in his presidential address, said that children’s literature was developed in all the literary heritage of the world through Oral tradition. He emphasized that current smart phone addicted generation posed a major challenge to writers, especially children’s writers, as they demanded a different fare, making it mandatory for writers to keep pace with their chanting tasters. This session was ended by the concluding remarks by Prof. Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-president, Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural ceremony was followed by Poetry Reading Session, where Mr. P.Mohan (Telugu), Mr. M. Murugesh (Tamil), Anu Bramha (Bodo), Kaushalendra Panday (Hindi), Uday Kumar Sarma (Assamese), Aba Govind Mahajan (Marathi), Phool Chand Jha Praveen (Maithili) were recited poetry in their respective languages as well in English and Hindi translation. The session was chaired by Prof. N. Gopi. He appreciated the effort undertaken by the concerned poets in their respective languages. The session was ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. On November 16, 2017, the second day of the seminar, Mrs. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and participants and invited the chair and paper reads of the first session. The session was chaired by Mrs. M. Krishnakumari, renewed child writer in Telugu and Retd. Director All India Radio, Vijayawada. Mr. Tapan Bandhopadyay (Bengal), D.Ramakrishna (Sanskrit), Sri Datta Naik (Konkan), and Dr. Jodhachandra Sanasam, (Manipuri) expressed their views and experience in their writings. Mrs. M. Krishnakumari, while presenting the evolution of children’s literature in Telugu said

that “The journey of Telugu children literature from punditry to populism was not as smooth as a cakewalk.” Sri Tapan Bandyopadhyay said that these day’s writers and poets are now trying to create innovative writings so that youngsters are attracted to literature. Konkani writer Sri Datta Naik said that Children’s literature in Konkani has a long tradition starting from the folklore. Prof. Jodha Chandra Sanasam, Manipuri writer said that children’s literature should be designed to convey the values, attitudes and information necessary for children within their cultures. Sanskrit writer, D. Ramakrishna highlighted made by the Sanskrit writers for enriching the children literature. The second session was chaired by Mr. K. Sreekumar. Eminent scholars, like Sri Paidimarri Ramakrishna (Telugu), Aravind Chokkadi (Kannada), Shalu Kaur (Panjabi) presented their views on the evolution of Children’s Literature in the respective languages. Telugu scholar, Sri Paidimiri Ramakrishna presented valuable information related to evolution of children’s literature in Telugu. Kannada writer, Sri Aravinda Chokkadi said that “This is a challenging condition for the writers of the children literature. We should go for a new innovative approach to reach children.” Punjabi writer, Ms. Shalu Kaur discussed about the challenges faced by the children’s and the possible means to be adopted for the overall development of children. The Third Session focusing on Story Reading was chaired by Mini Srinivasan. Mr. M. Harikishan (Telugu), M. Kalaivasan (Tamil), Ishvar Parmar (Gujarathi) and Priyaesh Dixit (Hindi) presented beautiful stories related to children’s in their respective languages. The last session was chaired by K. Sivareddy, eminent poet in Telugu. Mr. Belagam Bheemeswararao (Telugu), H.S Baykod (Kannada), Sreedharan Unni (Malayalam), Hundraraj Balwani (Sindhi), Asad Raza (Urdu), Sandeep Sufi (Dogri), Bhupendra Adhikari (Nepali), Subodh Hansda (Santali), Sunamani Rout (Odia) were recited their poems in the respective languages followed by Hindi/English Translation.



L-R: Sri N. Gopi, Dr. Chandrasekhar Kambar,
Prof. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari and Dr. K.Sreenivasarao

YUVA PURASKAR PRESENTATION

December 22, 2017, Chandigarh



Yuva Puraskar-Winners with Secretary and President of Sahitya Akademi and the Chief Guest

Sahitya Akademi organized its Yuva Puraskar and Young Writers' Festival on 22-24 December 2017 at Randhawa Auditorium, Punjab Kala Bhawan, Chandigarh. The Award Presentation ceremony of Yuva Puraskar 2017 started with an invocation song. Dr. K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the young awardees, participants of festival, dignitaries and media. In his welcome address he spoke in detail about the inception of Yuva Puraskar which was started to encourage young talent in 24 languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi.

Addressing the writers and literature lovers, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi said that it is always great to see young writers participating in literary events and taking literature as profession. He said that every society needs people who can guide and attract masses to do something for the society and writers have been performing the duty really well for long. He suggested young poets to refrain from taking thoughts from others and write whatever they feel.

Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferred the award on 24 award winners while Dr. Surjeet Patar welcomed the awardees and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi read out the citations. The award casket containing an engraved copper plaque with cash prize of Rs.50,000/-. The Yuva Puraskar winners for the year 2017 are:

Pratim Baruah (Assamese), Shamik Ghosh (Bengali), Bijit Gwra Ramchiary (Bodo), Rajinder Ranjha (Dogri), Manu S. Pillai (English), Raam Mori (Gujarati), Taro Sindik (Hindi), Shanthi K. Appana (Kannada), Nighat Sahiba (Kashmiri), Amey Vishram Naik (Konkani), Chandan Kumar Jha (Maithili), Aswathy Sasikumar (Malayalam), Krishan Mohan Singha (Manipuri), Rahul Kosambhi (Marathi), Saran Muskan (Nepali), Suryasnata Tripathy (Odia), Harmanjeet Singh (Punjabi), Ummed Dhaniala (Rajasthani), Hemchandra Belwal (Sanskrit), Maina Tudu (Santali), Rekha Sachdev Pohani (Sindhi), Manushi (Tamil), Mercy Margeret (Telugu), Rasheed Ashraf Khan (Urdu) were given awards for their writings.

Dr. Surjeet Patar in his address said that literature is the mirror of the society and writers and literary people write whatever they feel without any hesitation. He suggested young writers to come out of their comfort zone and write for the society for the people who are unheard.

After the presentation ceremony, in a cultural performance by Kala Mandali, Delhi presented 'Vidyapati Basant'- A Kathak choreography based on the spring poems by great Maithili poet Vidyapati.



WRITERS' MEET

23 December 2017

Sahitya Akademi organized an Awardees meet featuring Yuva Puraskar 2017 winners at the Randhawa Auditorium, Punjab Art Council, Chandigarh on 23rd December 2017. The event was presided by Dr. Rawail Singh, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi. The award winners spoke about their experiences as writers. Some of the highlights of the event were:

Pratim Barua (Assamese) said that to indulge oneself in the practice of art in the present atmosphere of globalization, consumerism, cheating and duping, hankering after easy money, race for happiness-prosperity-opulence and politics of sabotage at opportune moment, and looming extreme crisis of degraded humanity and state of distress is in no way an easy task. Nighat Sahiba (Kashmiri) said that she believed that our environment has a power to break us or make us and she was crushed by her environment, torn into pieces and moulded into something new. Maina Tudu (Santali) said much community including Santals, doesn't support the higher education of their daughters and sisters. They are being got married on early adulthood. And so these early marriage ladies don't get the chance of exposure to literature, culture of their community and beyond. Mercy Margaret (Telugu) said we left behind while walking is our own life, our own language. So long as the words flow like a stream, we remain alive. Suryasnata Tripathy (Odia) said it is also important for people with the gift of words to realize that they are not merely the representatives of their own thoughts and feelings, rather they are the voices of all those who cannot speak loud enough to be heard.

Among other award winners were Shamik Ghosh (Bengali), Bijit Gwra Ramchiary (Bodo), Rajinder Ranjha (Dogri), Manu S. Pillai (English), Raam Mori (Gujarati), Taro Sindik (Hindi), Shanthi K. Appanna (Kannada), Amey Vishram Naik (Konkani), Chandan Kumar Jha (Maithili), Aswathy Sasikumar (Malayalam), Kh. Krishnamohan Singha (Manipuri), Rahul Kosambi (Marathi), Saran Muskan (Nepali), Harmanjeet Singh (Punjabi), Ummed Dhaniya (Rajasthani), Hemchandra Belwal (Sanskrit), Maina Tudu (Santali), Rekha Sachdev Pohani (Sindhi), Manushi (A Jaya Bharathi) (Tamil) and Rasheed Ashraf Khan (Urdu) who shared their experiences as writers with the audience.

AVISHKAR - ALL INDIA YOUNG WRITERS' FESTIVAL

December 23-24, 2017, Chandigarh

Sahitya Akademi organized 'All India Young Writers' Festival' on 23 December 2017 at Randhawa Auditorium, Punjab Art Council, Chandigarh with its Yuva Puraskar presentation

ceremony. At the outset, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the dignitaries and participants. The eminent Punjabi writer, Gulzar Singh Sandhu was the guest of honour. Dr. Rawail Singh, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi in his introductory address talked about the various programmes and schemes of Sahitya Akademi to encourage young writings in India.

Addressing the writers, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Preseident, Sahitya Akademi said that literature has the power to connect not only human but with the whole universe. He said that the writer must be that much sensitive that he feels the happening of society and then write about it. Gulzar Singh Sandhu said that it is the need of the hour to keep on promoting the tradition of brotherhood through writings. The young writers have bigger responsibility in today's world.

In this two-day festival writers from different regions and languages were invited to share their experience and present their works. In the inaugural session Kishore Manjit Bora (Assamese), Ajit Basumatary (Bodo), Monika Kumar (Hindi), Rameshor Singh (Manipuri), Ritupriya (Rajasthani), Jagdeep (Punjabi) and Adil Raza Mansoori (Urdu) read out their poems with their English/Hindi translation.

On 24 December 2017 the opening poetry session was chaired by Sri Adil Raza Mansoori and Promita Bhowmik (Bengali), Devender Thakur (Dogri), Sathyamangala Mahadeva (Kannada), Dattaraj Naik (Konkani) Rashmi Rupam (Maithili) and N. Sabarinathan (Tamil) recited their poems describing different aspects of society.

In the second session 'Why do I write' Rajeev Kumar (Hindi), Sreejith Perumthachan (Malayalam) and Gurpreet Singh Ratol (Punjabi) presented their papers. The writers shared their experiences on how and why they started writing and what changes they have witnessed in society in their short span of writing. The young writers shared their experiences about literature writing and how it is important to write about the different aspects of society. The writers stressed upon the need to highlight the happenings of current situation of society.

The third session was story reading session, it was chaired by eminent Punjabi writer Mr. Manmohan. In this session Samhita Arni (English), Pooja Tatsat (Gujarati), Manoj Pandey (Hindi), Dheeba Nazir (Kashmiri) and Agazbir (Punjabi) presented their stories in English and Hindi translation. The stories dramatically presented important happenings of their life.

The concluding session of poetry session was chaired by renowned poet Dr. Madhav Kaushik. Nitin Bharat Wagh (Marathi), Honok Thapa (Nepali), Pratiksha Jena (Odia), Kaushal Kishore Tiwari (Sanskrit) Ganesh Marandi (Santali), Jayesh Sharma (Sindhi) and Payala Murali Krishna (Telugu) recited their poems.

TRANSLATION PRIZE 2016 PRESENTATION

December 28, 2017, Agartala



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

Sahitya Akademi organized the annual **Translation Prize 2016** at Agartala, Tripura from 28-30 December 2017. Out of 24 Prize awardees selected from 22 languages under the Eighth Schedule and 2 official languages, a total of 18 winners attended the presentation ceremony, while the rest couldn't make it to the event due to various unforeseen circumstances. Dr. K. Srinivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, in his Welcome Address elucidated the genesis of Translation as a literary activity. The founders of Sahitya Akademi were aware of the socio-cultural reality of the country and kept Translation as its core mandate. Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi said that without translation, one can't imagine a global village. He pointed out that India's North East is a treasure trove of hundreds of languages and cultures, which have remained hidden from the mainland India due to lack of translation of written works from and proper documentation of oral traditions of the region.

The Presidential Address was followed by garlanding and awarding of mementoes to the Prize winning Translators. The Vice-President of the Akademi garlanded and offered bouquet to the awardees while the President offered a plaque and a cheque of Rs. 50,000/ as Prize money.

The Prize distribution ceremony was followed by an Address by the Chief Guest. Dr. Temsula Ao congratulated the winners, highlighting the difficulty of their achievements and for maintaining fidelity to the source language and transparent vision in the target language. The Concluding Remarks of the ceremony was delivered by the Vice-President, Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, who stressed the necessity of translation as an interface with regional cultures.



THE TRANSLATORS' MEET

December 29, 2017

The Translators' Meet program was held on 29 December 2017 at Syed Bhagat Singh Yuva Abas, Khejurbagan, Agartala to enable the Prize-winning translators share their creative experiences in an open forum. Acclaimed writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner Prof. Namdev Tarachandani presided over the session. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the gathering put forward the significance of the session in enriching the creative experiences of the Translators' themselves. The Meet started with Birhas Giri Basumatary who shared his experience of translating the last novel of Dr. Mamoni Roysom Goswami, *Thengphakhri Tohsildaror Tamor Torowal* from Assamese to Bodo. Krishan Sharma talked about his experiences of translation into Dogri and more specifically Nirmal Verma's novel *Kavya aur Kala Pani*. O.L.Nagabhushana Swamy elaborated on translation as exploration and expression and his experience of translating A.K.Ramanujan's *Collected Essays*. Meena Kakodkar talked about her experience of translating Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines* from English to Konkani. Rewati Mishra discussed her non-fictional Maithili translation *Mithilaak Lok Sahityak Bhoomika* in front of the august gathering. Anita Ningombam shared her experience of translating Jnanpith awardee Dr. Mamoni Roysom Goswami's autobiography *Adha Lekha Dastavej* into Manipuri. Milind Champanerker discussed about his experience of translating Saeed Mirza's English literary work *Ammi: Letter to a Democratic Mother* to *Lokshahivadi Ammis. Dirghapatra* into Marathi. The next to present his experiences of translation from Nepali from Urdu was Gyan Bahadur Chhetri. Mona Lisa Jena talked about translating Assamese literature into Odia, and more specifically Arun Sharma's Ashirbader *Rang*. Ravi Purohit from Rajasthan shared his experience of translating Punjabi poetry volume of Vir Singh into Rajasthani. Amarjit Kaunke talked about his love for translation and his experience of translating Pavan Karan's collection of poems into Punjabi. Rani Sadasiva Murty shared his experience of translating the original Telugu text of Dr. Rallabandi Kavitha Prasad, *Ontari Poola Butta* into Sanskrit. Ganesh Thakur Hansda talked about his experience of translating the historical Bengali novel *Bhognadihir Maathe* into Santhali as *Bhognadih reyah dahi re*. Mohan Gehani talked about his experience of translating Kapila Vatsayan's classic *Bharata's Natyashastra* into Sindhi. G. Poornachandran shared his experience of translating into Tamil language. Ashok Tankasala talked about his translating of Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus-An Alternative History* into Telugu. Haqqani Al-Qasmi was the last to share his experience of translating the Gujarati dalit novel *Angliyat* into Urdu. Prof. Namdev Tarachandani, chairing the session, offered his remarks on the presentations of the Prize winners. At the end Dr Rao proposed the vote of thanks.

ABHIVYAKTI

December 29-30, 2017

The **Abhivyakti** program was conducted on 29-30 December 2017 at Syed Bhagat Singh Yuva Abas, Khejurbagan, Agartala. Dr. K. Srinivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the gathering, elucidated on the significance of the title of the session, **Abhivyakti**. Translation is nothing but *abhivyakti*, an expression, articulation and release of creative energy, a re-creation. The Introductory Remarks were offered by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, who stressed on the importance of literature in contemporary times to connect people. He highlighted several social issues, like displacement and gender discrimination, which are seriously taken up by contemporary literature. Prof. Saroj Chaudhuri in his Inaugural address compared the **Abhivyakti** program to a confluence of Indian literature, a sacred occasion for discovering and knowing others, both their similarities and differences. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwary, in his Presidential Address, traced a lineage of ancient Translators in Indian culture since the days of Gautama Buddha. He mentioned the efforts of Rahul Sankrityayan in recovering and translating ancient manuscripts and pointed out that the modern day translators should also focus on translating ancient Indian heritage and bring them to limelight. This Inaugural Session was followed by a **Poetry Reading Session** of eminent poets from six different languages. The poets included Rajib Borah from Assamese, Akbar Ahmed from Bengali, Mohan Singh from Dogri, R.S.Bhaskar from Konkani, Pravasini Mahakund from Odia and P. Sreedhar Babu from Telugu who read out selected poems from their creative oeuvre. The **Poetry Reading Session** ended at 5.00 pm with Concluding Remarks by Dr. K. Srinivasarao.

The second day of **Abhivyakti**, 30th December 2017, was slated to have three sessions: Translation: Uniting the Culture; Short Story Reading; and Poets' Meet. The first session began at 10.00am, with Dr. K. Srinivasarao introducing the Chairperson of the session, Damodar Khadse, and other panel members, who included Mayuri Sharma Baruah from Assamese, Phulchand Manav from Hindi and S. Varadharaj from Tamil. Damodar Khadse introduced the topic for the session and invited writer and scholar of Assamese literature, Mayuri Sharma Baruah for her presentation on Translation of Children's Literature. Editor, writer, journalist Phulchand Manav from Punjab discussed the role of translation in the context of Punjabi literature and culture. S. Varadharaj, critic and scholar of Tamil literature pointed out that the libraries of Sahitya Akademi are symbolic of the plurality and diversity of Indianness. Chairing the session Damodar Khadse, emphasized that translation of culture, language, literature and compassion could be used as a weapon of integration and understanding, thereby strengthening the fabric of Indianness.

Second session of the day, was dedicated to Short Story Reading, chaired by Sridhar Balagar, Kannad fiction writer. Paipra Radhakrishnan (Malayalam), Sukhjit (Punjabi) and Prof. Namdev Tarachandani (Sindhi) read out their short stories titled



“Sacrifice of a son,” “Antara” and “Safaiwala Uncle” respectively. Sridhar Balagar said that, for him a short story is a travelling metaphor, while each dialect is a dialogue with the other. He also read his story “The Earth is a Dream” is based on displacement and the crisis of survival of rehabilitated tribals from the Aravalli range.

The post lunch session of **Poets’ Meet** was chaired by Dr. Chandrakanta Murasingh. The first poet Santosh Ray read out his selected Bengali poems and a few of their translations. His poems included *Bagh Berulo Bone*, *Flyover*, *Acting* and *There is no end of Writing*. Dr. Gobinda Chandra Majhi’s poems which he presented in Santhali and translation included *Rumi*, *The Cloud*, *Futility of Life*. Ajit Narzary’s read out Bodo poetry and their translation in Hindi included *Mrita*, *Bipatti*, *Beautiful Eyes*, *A Deep Jungle*. Bashir Aarif read out his Kashmiri poems both in the original and translation, which included *Goraksha*, *Dar Laagta Hain*, and a few other nazms. Shefali Debbarma read out her Kokborok poems and their English translation which included *Iokma*, *Hachukdi*, *Lamination*, *Sure I am a Woman*. Ashok Mehta read out his Maithili poems like *Sarat ki woh Sham*, *Rail*, *Chod dihe beti* etc. Sukhraj Diyali read out his beautiful Nepali poems like *Google ke sangsar ne Sunmaya*, *Manehe*, *Darjeeling*, *Road Again* etc. Ashutosh Dayal Mathur read out his Sanskrit poems and their translations in Hindi like *Prtyabartegrihamkatham* with lot of appreciation from the audience. The last poet of the session was Imam Azam who read out several shayaris, nazms and ghazals in Urdu with lot of appreciation from the audience. The chairperson of the session Dr. Chandrakanta Murasingh expressed his satisfaction at the great success of the reading session, while singling out poetry as an art form which only wants to offer, and not expect anything. He stressed the role of poetry reading sessions in enabling cross cultural understanding and integration and bridging.

BHASHA SAMMAN

September 14, 2017, Mangalore

Sahitya Akademi presented Bhasha Samman to Dr. Amruth Someshwara for his exemplary contribution to Tulu language and literature on 14 September 2017 at 2.00 p.m. in Mangalore. Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, presented the award to Dr. Amruth Someshwara. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kambar said there was a need to compile the works of Mr. Someshwara as volumes and publish them. He said some of the translated works of Mr. Someshwara from Tulu to Kannada and vice-versa were worth mentioning. Prof. K. Chinnappa Gowda talked about the importance of three volumes on Mr. Someshwara’s works on Yakshagana, Drama and Paddana and remarked that they are great contributions to literature. He further added that Dr Someshwara has used Tulu folklore as a source to reconstruct lives and world view of the Tuluvas in Tulunadu and also adopted stories of these folk epics of medieval period in writing Yakshagana Prasangas and Tulu plays. Mr. Someshwara has been a major force in the making of



Dr. Amruth Someshwara receiving Bhasha Samman

modern Yakshagana. He was able to write many Prasangas (scripts) of contemporary relevance but rooted in tradition, he said. Accepting the Samman, Dr. Someshwara thanked the Akademi for the honour and stated that he intends to contribute more to Tulu and Kannada languages. N. Vinay Flegde, Chancellor, Nitte University, M. Shantharam Shetty, its Pro-Chancellor, and S. Ramananda Shetty, its Vice-Chancellor, Smt. Narmada, Dr Someshwara’s wife and Dr Na. Damodar Shetty, member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi were among those present.

BHASHA SAMMAN PRESENTATION CEREMONY

October 4, 2017, Pune

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai organized a Bhasha Samman Presentation Ceremony in Pune at Manohar Mangal Karyalaya on Wednesday, 04 October 2017. The Bhasha Samman was ceremoniously presented to Prof. Madhukar Anant Mehendale for his seminal work in the domain of classical and medieval literature. At the outset Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi requested Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi to welcome Prof. Madhukar Anant Mehendale offering a bouquet of flowers. Prof. Tiwari welcomed Prof. Mehendale offering a flowers bouquet.

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, in his welcome address, said that languages are repositories of culture, and it is through a language that a given culture is expressed mainly, and thus a loss of language is a loss of life. So the languages need to be saved and nurtured, he said, India is blessed with a myriad of languages and they have histories of thousand of years. The literature in these languages has a number of forms, such as scriptures. Ancient and Medieval literature of India is a fountain of inspiration, and are inspiration for theists and atheists alike. This literature in whole encapsulates almost all the domains of culture and civilization. The literature of such significance must be preserved, translated into other languages, supported and



Prof. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi conferring Bhasha Samman on Prof. Madhukar

celebrated. The scholars who sacrifice their lives for such a noble work need to be encouraged. Sahitya Akademi instituted Bhasha Samman to be conferred upon writers, scholars, editors, collectors, performers or translators who have made seminal contribution to the propagation, modernization or enrichment of the languages concerned, he briefed. He informed that the Bhasha Samman is conferred upon Prof. Madhukar Anant Mehendale for his outstanding contribution the studies in Classical and Medieval literature. He heartily congratulated Prof. Mahendale on this occasion, and requested Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari to address the august gathering. Prof. Tiwari said that this is a very special occasion at which we are felicitating a genuine scholar. It has been a tradition of Sahitya Akademi to felicitate scholars who sacrifice their lives to serve languages. It is our duty to felicitate a scholar at right time, as it contributes to the excellence of human values, he stated. He said further that Prof. Mahendale has extraordinarily by brilliant insights in to to the Vedas, epics, Pali and Prakrit, historical linguistics and Avesta, and the scriptures of the Parsis. Prof. Tiwari said that we exist only because of languages, and that culture and literature always contributes to the growth of a society.

After this Prof. Tiwari presented the Bhasha Samman to Prof. Mehendale. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao read out to the audience the citation on Prof. Mehendale which said: "Madhukar Anant Mehendale was born on February, 14, 1918 at Harsud, Nimar Dist., Madhya Pradesh. He holds a Doctorate Degree from Deccan College Post – graduate and Research Intstitute, Pune. He is an erudite scholar of Vedas and Epics, Pali and Prakrit, Historical Linguistics and Avesta, the scripts of the Parsis.

He started his career as a Lecturer in 1944 and went on to become the Professor and reader. He was the editor, emilogue of the Mahabharata and joint-General Editor, Sanskrit Dictionary

project, Deccan College, pune. He was invited for special lectures in different university and was a visiting lecturer at Gottingen University, Germany and Senior Rockefeller foundation fellow, Yale university, USA. He has 12 books, over 100 research articles, 53 book reviews and three works of translation from Sanskrit to Marathi to his credit. Some of his important work are Historical grammar of Inscriptional Prakrit, Rgveda samhitarakara and Father Estelle, Questions and Answers in Vedic Literature. He has also edited cultural index of the Mahabharata. For his valuable contribution, he has several awards and honours – President's Certificate of honors, 1990, Honorary D. Litt deccan college, post graduate and research Institute, 2012, honorary Membership, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 2016, honorary Fellowship, Aasiate Society, Mumbai, 2017 Guru Gangeshvara National Veda – Vedanga Award and Prof. N.R. Phatak Memorial Award among others.

Sahitya Akademi is happy to confer its Bhasha Samman on Madhukar Anant Mehendale for his exemplary contributions to the classical and mediavalliterature". Prof. Mehendale recollected a couple of his experiences which he shared with the audience on this occasion.

SEMINAR

September 2-3, 2017, Saharsa

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Ramesh Jha Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Saharsa, organized a two-day Seminar on "Aadhunik Maithili sahityik shilpi" on September 2-3, 2017 in Saharsa. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. The convener of the advisory board of Maithili Dr. Veena Thakur said that in literature art is a creative process and artists are both inventor and creator of matter. Mithilanchal has been an abode of culture since long. In his keynote address Dr. Ramnaresh Singh explained the topic "Aadhunik Maithili sahityik shilpi" by dividing it into four parts. Chairing the first session Dr. Mahendra said that there have been a lot of genius writers who established themselves through the art of writing poems, plays etc. The principal of Ramesh Jha Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Renu Sing thanked the guests and the audiences. In the second session of the first day on "Aadhunik Mithila Sahitya Chamatkar: Harimohan Jha", Vikash Jha spoke on the grand literary world of Harimohan Jha. He explained how his comedies rooted out the social evils and also outlined the translation of his phenomenal work "Khattar Kaka ke Tarang". He said Harimohan Jha is the Brahma in the world of literature. After him Panchanan Mishra threw lights on the literary journey of Mahamahopadhyay. Dr. Keshkar Jha introduced the session on "Kavivar Sitaram Jha ke Kavya Sampada". In her presidential address Madhuri Jha said that, "Harimohan Jha was like a gust of wind who organized the Mithila community which was abused. His books are still read in almost every house." On the second day Taranand Sada chaired the session and Vishwanath Jha and Amlendu Shekhar read their papers. Vishwanath Jha described the personality and



works of Manmohan Jha. Highlighting his literary renderings he said that, "War, patriotism, sacrifice, farmer, love and affection plays a central role in his works." Amlendu Shekhar Pathak in his paper on Dr. Shubhadra Jha said that he worked for the prosperity of Maithili. He knew 14 Languages and was basically a linguist. Dr. Narendra Jha in his paper on "Manipadm lok katha ke malakar" said that Mithilanchal is blessed to have writers like Manipadam. He wrote in a lot of Languages. His seminal works includes "Naika Banjara" which won Sahitya Akademi awards, Kanthhar and Lorik Vijay. Taranand Sada also said that seminars and programs like this can strengthen the social and cultural heritage. In the third session chaired by KP Yadav, three noted scholars, Ashok, Krishna Mohan Thakur and Narayan presented their papers. Ashok talked about the works of Lalit. Krishna Mohan Thakur discussed the literary world of Rajkamal and focused especially on his pioneering work, "Lalka Pag".

BOOK DISCUSSION

September 2, 2017, Saharsa

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Ramesh Jha Mahila Mahavidyalaya, organized a Book Discussion programme on September 2, 2017 in Saharsa. The discussion took place on "Mithilak Lok katha sanchay," a publication of the Akademi and written by eminent writer Sri Yoganand Jha and focusing on the folktales of Mithila. Sri Naresh Mohan Jha said that Folk tales are based on oral traditions. In the answer to one of the questions of Ramchaitanya Dheeraj, Mohan Jha said that Mandan Mishra and Sankracharya have different notions on moksha or salvation. To attain salvation, we'll have to be a saint and if we become a saint how will the society function. This event on book discussion ended with the discussion of different dimensions of Folktales and its relevance in the present times.

SYMPOSIUM

September 4, 2017, Deoghar

Sahitya Akademi in association with Rama Devi Bajla Women's College, Deoghar organized a daylong symposium on "Folk Literature of East & North East Regions: Continuity, Divergences & Merger" on September 04 2017 at Rama Devi Bajla Women's College premises. The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. Manoranjan Prasad Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka by lighting the lamp and after it he delivered his inaugural address. Dr. Rita Roy, Coordinator and Member of English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered an introductory note on folk literature in brief. Prof. Sivasish Biswas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Head of the Dept. of English delivered his keynote address in which he elaborately discussed the shifting power equations in literature and lived experiences the rituals customs, life style, food habits of the people of north east region focusing mainly on Mizoram and

Nagaland dominated by people of Muslim and Christian religion. The first session of the symposium was chaired by Prof. Goutam Buddha Sural from Bankura University, West Bengal and two noted scholars, Dr. Chhandam Deb from J.K. College, Purulia, West Bengal presented his paper on "Semiotics & Symbiotics: Philosophical construct of Bangla Baul Songs" and Dr. Shravani Biswas from Tezpur University, Assam presented her paper on "Folklore and Modernity in Arunachal Pradesh: An Inequality interfaces." Dr. Deb elaborately discussed how semiotics and symbiotics are related to Baul songs, citing examples from some prominent and popular Baul songs. He also discussed how and in which atmosphere Baul theory was adopted and that continued. According to him Baul is not merely a group song but a song based on the belief and life philosophy. Dr. Shravani Biswas elaborately discussed on the society as organic society, industrial society world view of modern class of Arunachal Pradesh etc in her lecture. The second session of the symposium was chaired by Prof. Sivasish Biswas and three noted scholars presented their papers. Mr. Arnab Bhattacharya of Rabindra Bharati University presented his paper on "The Ethical Structures of the folk literature in Eastern and North Eastern India: Similarities and Divergences". He discussed a few folk tales of India and tales from outside India and explained how there were similarities and differences in those tales and the structure of those tales. Dr. Sandip Mondol from University of Calcutta presented his paper on "Body as Home and Land: Fertility Cult in the Baul songs". In his lecture he focused on our human body as home and discussed on bodily aspects of human nature in a metaphorical and literal way. The last speaker Prof. Goutam Buddha Sural presented his paper on "Voices from the Margin: Bhadu and Tusu Songs of Bankura and Purulia Districts of West Bengal" and explicitly explained symbolics of Bhadu and Tusu songs, their implications and significances how they are associated with the life style of the people especially of the peasant class. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, P.G. Department of English, Sido Kanhu Murmu University proposed a vote of thanks

ALL INDIA TRIBAL WOMEN WRITER'S MEET

September 7-8, 2017, Ranchi

In collaboration with the Jharkhandi Bhasha Sahitya Sanskriti Akhara, Ranchi Sahitya Akademi organized a Two-day All India Tribal Women Writer's Meet on the birth centenary of the first female tribal writer Elis Ekka. The program was divided into eight sessions. After inaugural session "Bhartiya Sahitya mein aadiwasi mahila lekhakon ka aavdaan", "Vachikta aur aadiwasi mahila srijan parampara", "Aadiwasi stree kavitaon mein indeginity", "Kavita Paath", "Aadiwasi mahila kathakaaron ki duniya" and "Samkaleen aadiwasi mahila lekhan aur iski chunautiyan" were the topics discussed by tribal writers from all over India.

OSD at Sahitya Akademi, Devendra Kumar Devesh in his welcome speech said that Sahitya Akademi has published Five



dozen books on Tribal languages and literatures. He also informed that in the concerned program 40 writers from 15 states were present including Northeast and South.

Vandana Tete from Jharkhandi Bhasha Sahitya Sanskriti Akhara talked about the life and works of Elis Ekka in the inaugural session. Introducing Jharkhandi Bhasha Sahitya Sanskriti Akhara she said that it is functioning since 2003. Elis Ekka was born in 1917. She knew Nagpuri, English and Hindi. She was the first woman to get the aboriginal fellowship in 1940s. She translated the Kahlil Gibran in 1959.

In her keynote speech eminent Tribal writer, playwright and critic Streemlet Dakhar threw light on the tribal writings, thoughts and history. Rose Kerketta in her inaugural speech explained the literary endeavours of Elis Ekka in detail. Thanking speech was given by one the members of Ekka's family Elis Poorti.

First session was focused on "Bhartiya Sahitya mein aadiwasi mahila lekhakon ka aavdaan". Alma Grace Barla, Jyoti Lakra, along with senior critic Dr. Damyanti Besra gave their valuable opinions. It was conducted by young activist and writer Deepa Minj.

Second session was on "Vachikta aur aadiwasi mahila srijan parampara", "Aadiwasi stree kavitaon mein indeginty". It was addressed by K Vasamalli from South, Milan Rani Jamatiya from Tripura and Kusum Madhuri Toppo from Chhatisgarh. The session was chaired by Vandana Tete. In her speech she addressed the question of the role of Orature. Vasamalli presented the life struggle of the women in Toda community by narrating her own experiences. Milan Rani Jamatiya said that women are the inventors of maxims. They have preserved the folktales and folksongs through generations.

Third session was concentrated on "Aadiwasi stree kavitaon mein indeginty". Krairi Mog Chaudhry from Tripura, S. Ratnamma from Karnataka and Ivy Emogen Hansda from Delhi gave presented their views on Tribal female poetry. Young critic Mary Hansda from Kolkata chaired the session.

Fourth session of the next day was "Kavita Path" Indumati Lamani from Karnataka, Sonal ranthawa from Gujarat, Saroj Kerketta, Sushma Asur, Pyari Tuti and Damyanti Sinku from Jharkhand, Kairi Mog Chaudhry from Tripura, Vishwasi Ekka from Chhatisgarh and Ujjwala Jyoti Tigga from Delhi read their poems in their mother tongues as well as in Hindi.

The fifth session was about "Aadiwasi mahila kathakaaron ki duniya". It was conducted by Jyoti Lakra. Savitri Baraik from Jharkhand and Joram Yaalaam Nabam gave their speech on the topic.

Sixth session was centered on "Samkaleen aadiwasi mahila lekhan aur iski chunautiyan" It was addressed by Sobha limbo from Klimpong and Heera Meena from Delhi and chaired by the Tribal writer Shanti Khalkho from Ranchi.

The End session was hoisted by senior Santali writer and ex VC of Sindo Kanhu Vishwadyalaya, Pramodini Hansda. The session was conducted by Shanti Saweyian and vote of thanks was given by Aswini Kumar Pankaj, editor of "Johar Disum khabar".

SYMPOSIUM

September 10, 2017, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi Delhi in collaboration with Jharkhand Mithila Manch organized a symposium on 10th September in the Chintan Auditorium at Ashok Nagar, Ranchi. It was inaugurated by the VC of Ranchi University Prof. Ramesh Kumar Pandey. In his speech he said that Literature plays an important role in solving the knots of life. OSD Devendra Kumar devesh welcomed the guests and discussed the efforts of the Akademi in upgrading Maithili. The session was chaired by the ex VC of Kameshwar Singh Darbhanga Vishwavidyalaya Prof. Chandrakant Shukla. Keynote speaker was Dr. Ashok Awichal. Vote of Thanks was given by Sri Santosh Jha, the secretary of Jharkhand Mithila Manch. The symposium was chaired by eminent Maithili writer Prof Vidyanath Jha 'Vidit'. Dr. Daman Kumar Jha read a paper on Samkaleen Maithili upanyas mein stree vimarsh", Sri Raushan Yadav presented on "Maithili upanyason mein samsamyik prashn" and Sri Siyaram Jha 'Saras' read on the topic "Samkaleen Maithili upanyas mein chitrit aaj ka samaj"

POETS MEET

September 10, 2017, Ranchi

Sahitya Akademi Delhi in collaboration with Jharkhand Mithila Manch organized a Maithili Poets' Meet on 10th September in the Chintan Auditorium at Ashok Nagar, Ranchi. The poets recited their poems, songs and gazals. It was conducted in two sessions. First sessions was chaired by Maithili singer Dr. Indrakant Jha. In this session Naresh Kumar Vikal, Lakshman Jha 'Sagar', Arvind Thakur, Sadre AlamGauhar, Ajit Azad and Preeta Jha read their poems. In the second session Second session was chaired by eminent poet and editor of 'Mithila Darshan' Sri Ramlochan Thakur. Manish Kumar Arvind, Chandramani Jha, Shiv Kumar Tillu, Dr. Krishna Mohan Jha, Mithilesh Kumar Jha, Surendra Nath Mishra and Swati Shakambhari read their poems. In the end Convener of the Maithili advisory Board Dr. Veena Thakur gave her vote of thanks.

RAJBHASHA WEEK

September 14-21, 2017, New Delhi

Eminent writer and linguist Sri Premlal Sharma was invited on the occasion of the inaugural of the Rajbhasha Week from 14th to 21st September at Sahitya Akademi, Delhi. Expressing his deep resentments towards Indian Languages in his speech he said that Indian languages are failing to give employment. He advocated the students suffering from the neglect of Indian Languages in Staff Selection Commission and Public Service Commission Exams. Prempal Ji believes that we can't just rely on Article 343. We need to bring Hindi and other Indian Languages ahead through united efforts. He also praised the role



L-R: Sri Devendra Kumar Devesh, Dr. K. Sreenivasrao, Sri Prempal Sharma, Chief Guest and Smt. Renu Mohan Bhan

of Akademi in upgrading the Indian Languages. Secretary Dr. Sreenivasrao welcomed Prempal Ji by gifting a book. He said that the argument of Mother tongue and official language is old. Government officials should use Hindi as much they can. According to the laws it's mandatory for every staff to work in Hindi.

The program was coordinated by the OSD Devendra Kumar Devesh. On the occasion of Hindi Day, 2017 he also informed about the appeal of Rashmi Verma Secretary of the Ministry of culture to conduct the works in Hindi. In the end Deputy Secretary, Renu Mohan Bhan thanked the chief guests and the members of the Akademi.

On 15 December 2017 students of the fourth class of Bal Bharti school, Noida visited the Sahitya Akademi Library and also participated in the workshop on Hindi language and literature. OSD Devendra Kr. Devesh and Hindi Editor Sri Kumar Anupam addressed the children. They informed the children about the development of Hindi and various writers in the Language and also answered the queries of the children. A film on the famous Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was also shown to the children.



Prof. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, releasing the new edition of Alok

Five competitions were organized during the Rajbhasha Week viz. Unicode typing, dictation, Extempore speech, translation, and Essay writing. Akademi staffs in large number participated in it. The judge for the extempore speech was Director of the Ministry of culture Sri Ved Prakash Gaur. In his speech he gave advice and said that it's easy to work in Hindi, we just need to start once.

On 20th September 2017 Hindi workshop was organized in which 30 staffs participated. Retired Deputy General Manager Dr. RP Joshi was present as a specialist. Air India was also invited. He informed us about the Official Language policy of the Government of India in simple words. He explained the terms, Government, Official language and policy and it's functioning in the government offices.

Concluding session was organized was organized on 21st September 2017. On the occasion President, Sahitya Akademi Prof. Vishwanath Tiwari and famous poetess of Dogri Smt. Padma Sachdeva were invited. There was special presence of Bangla poet Subodh Sarkar too in the event. Padma Sachdeva presented the cash prize to the winners. In the beginning of the event "Alok" a rajbhasha magazine by the Sahitya Akademi was launched by the secretary Dr. K Srinivasrao.

In the welcome speech Secretary said that one day country will have to accept Hindi as the National language. We must be eager to know Hindi. Each of our employees needs to be adept in Hindi. On the occasion Padm Sachdeva also said that we need to know our mother tough first and then we should learn Hindi. And then other languages based on our needs. President Prof. Tiwari also said that, "English flourished in India as a language of occupation. Now when it's our rule we should accept Hindi as our official language. I believe all mother tongues are national languages. We can learn and use Hindi by determination."

Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

RAJBHASHA MANCH

September 15, 2017, New Delhi

Dr. B. B Kumar, eminent Linguist, sociologist, thinker and the chairman of ICSSR launched the book titled, " Devnagiri lipi andolan ka itihās" by Ramnirajan Parimalendu on the occasion of Hindi Week (15-21 September, 2017) published by the Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Parimalendu introduced his books in the beginning of the session. He said that, "This book is an achievement of my life. I wrote this book after the hard work of 30-35 years." Underlining the importance of Devnagiri script he cited a sentence by Gandhi, 'Devnagiri script has the potential to be the national script'. He informed about adding only the data from the primary sources. In his brief speech he presented a lot of information regarding Devnagiri lipi Andolan. Chief guest Dr. B B Kumar said that he has a deep connction with Devnagiri Script. Being away from any script means being away from its rich literature. This is the reason Roman script is still



exits even after being unscientific. Devnagiri is one of the most scientific scripts. It is our heritage and till our country exists it will also flourish. He further said that Devnagiri script is related to Brahmi script. Ancient literatures of China and Japan are in Brahmi. There are a lot of inscriptions in Brahmi in South East Asia. In the end secretary Dr. Rao gave his vote of thanks and said that Devnagiri can be helpful in understanding the literature from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. The program was coordinated by the OSD Devendra Kumar Devesh.

SYMPOSIUM

September 19, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on “Interrelations between Nature and Literature” on September 19, 2017 at New Delhi. At the beginning of the programme, Smt. Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience. The key-note address was delivered Sudhanshu Chaturvedi, renowned Hindi-Malayalam-Sanskrit scholar. Vidyabindhu Singh, eminent folk-art specialist and scholar, delivered the presidential address, where he said that Indian folklore is incomplete without nature. He presented many examples from Awadhi which supported the relationship between nature and literature. The speakers were Puran Chand Tandon, Dipti Tripathi, Sadique and Ashok Kumar Jyoti. Puran Chand Tandon talked about the various aspects of nature in Hindi literature while Dipti Tripathi talked about Sanskrit literature, Sadique about Urdu and Ashok Kumar Jyoti spoke about the portrayal of nature in relation to societal concerns. Ramakant Shukla, eminent Sanskrit writer and scholar, was the chief guest of the programme and he spoke about the relation between nature and health. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.

SYMPOSIUM

September 21, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on ‘Contributions of Rahul Sankrityayan’ on September 21, 2017 in New Delhi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and talked about multi-faceted personality of Rahul Sankrityayan. Dr Purushottam Agrawal, eminent critic and writer was the chief guest of the programme and said that the complete works of Rahul Sankrityayan and his life journey is the discovery of a new India. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the presidential address, wherein he discussed a wide range of Rahul Sankrityayan’s language related concepts and attachment to folk languages. The papers were presented by Garima Srivastava, Avnijesh Awasthi and Raman Sinha. Prof. Garima Srivastava, critic, while speaking on the life of Rahul Sankrityayan said that his travels were scientific and linguistic journeys on which he wrote books. His travels are not only the geographical

trips of those places but the journeys of a society viewed from a new perspective. Dr. Avnijesh Awasthi talked about Rahul Sankrityayan’s language concepts and said that his most important work is his fight for the honor of his language. Prof. Raman Sinha explained in detail the work done by Rahul Sankrityayan in other languages. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.

GRAMALOK

September 23, 2017, Rah Solyute

Gramalok programme of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Rashtriya Mahila Kavya Manch, Rajouri was held on 23rd September 2017 at Village: Rah Solyute (Sundar Bani), District: Rajouri (J & K). Sri Thakur Kartar Singh, SDM, Sundar Bani was the Chief Guest and Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convenor, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presided over the function. Programme started with the introduction and aims of the Gramalok programme by Prof Mangotra and followed by poetry recitations by local Dogri poets Sri Om Prakash Bhajwalia, Sri Amarjeet Sharma, Sri K. K. Khaki, Sri Sunat Soodan and Sri Joginder Sharma. The other poets from Jammu also recited their poems which include Smt. Vijaya Thakur, Sri Sunil Sharma, Smt. Chanchal Bhasin, Smt. Bindya Tikku and Smt Nisha Kumari. The audience, which included the local residents of the village and the students of the school, enjoyed the poems very much. The highlight of the programme was a spontaneous participation of two young boys of the school, whose poetry had the literary spark and was greatly appreciated by all.

SEMINAR

September 26, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Seminar on “Hindi Navjagran and Shivpoojan Sahay” on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Shivpoojan Sahay at New Delhi on September 26, 2017. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and talked about the life and works of Shivpoojan Sahay in brief. The programme was chaired by Mangalmurthi, eminent writer, who said that to remember Shivpoojan Sahay is to remember all those important Hindi writers who brought about Hindi Navjagran. Achyutanand Mishra, former Vice-Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, was the chief guest of the seminar. He said that Shivpoojan Sahay was an undisputed writer of Hindi, who loved the language to the extent that he was willing to give up his life for it. The papers were presented by Rajiv Ranjan Giri, Kumud Sharma and Bharat Bhardwaj. Rajiv Ranjan Giri in his paper said that on the basis of Shivpoojan Sahay’s stories and essays on ‘Baal Vivah’ and ‘Vidwah Vivah’, we can say that he insists on looking at these two subjects on the basis of ‘Manushyata ka Takaja’. Kumud



Sharma talked about how Shivpoojan Sahay's journalism followed Gandhi's ideals. Bharat Bhardwaj said that he was the best editor of Hindi journalism. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.

BOOK DISCUSSION

September 26, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a discussion on two seminal Akademi publications, 'K. Ayyappa Paniker: Selected Essays' and 'Natabara Samantaray: A Reader' at the Akademi premises on September 26, 2017. Prof Malashri Lal, Convener, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the discussion and Prof K. Satchidanandan, eminent writer and scholar, Prof Sumanyu Satpathy and Prof Animesh Mohapatra were the discussants. Prof Malashri Lal the importance and relevance of anthologies and readers and presented a bird's eye view of two books under discussion. Prof K. Satchidanandan talked about the nature of Ayyappa Paniker's writings, the antinomies which selections presented and the place of Ayyappa Paniker in Indian criticism. Prof Sumanyu Satpathy and Prof Animesh Mohapatra, talked about the significance of Natabara Samantaray, how due recognition was not presented to him, the problems they faced in translating and editing the works from Odia to English. Dr S. Rajmohan proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM

September 30, 2017, Shillong

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Department of English, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, organized a daylong symposium on 'Translating Contemporary Indian Drama' at the University premises in Shillong on September 30, 2017. In the inaugural session, Prof Esther Syiem, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. In her introductory remarks, Prof Mala Renganathan of the department, talked about the translational practices across cultures in the sub-continent and also the efforts in that direction to translate drama. In his Presidential address, Sri Debasis Majumdar, eminent scholar, talked about translation of drama in the regional languages and stated that drama as a literary genre has not received the kind of attention it richly deserves. In his keynote address, Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, eminent Kannada playwright and scholar, stated that the symposium is first of its kind in India and entire theatre community should be thankful to Sahitya Akademi for organizing the event. He also talked about translation of drama across the globe and pointed out things which the contemporary translators can pick up. Dr S. Rajmohan, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session devoted to 'Translating Contemporary Drama into English' and

chaired by Sri Dilip Kumar Basu, four noted scholars, Dr Swarajbir, Dr Mangai, Dr Jyotirmoy Prodhani and Sri Chandradasan presented their papers. In the second session devoted to 'Translating Contemporary Drama among Indian languages' and chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, three noted scholars, Sri Chandrakant Patil, Sri D. Srinivas and Ms. Maithreyi Karnoor, presented their papers. In the Panel Discussion moderated by Dr Atamjit, seven scholars, Sri Chandrakant Patil, Prof Esther Syiem, Sri Y. Sadanand Singh, Sri Chandradasan, Ms. Maithreyi Karnoor, Prof Mala Renganathan and Dr Jyotirmoy Prodhani, discussed various aspects related to 'Translating and Publishing Contemporary Indian Drama: Challenges and Opportunities.' Talking from the chair, Dr Atamjit talked about many relevant issues of translation and pointed out that the politics of translation has been left out of the discussion of the previous sessions. He cited Gayatri Spivak as an important figure in the context of translation, who looks at translation as an erotic act and uses the term "critical intimacy" to describe the relationship between the translator and the text to be translated. Translations carried out with a lack of such intimacy can lead to many problems. However, the act of translation is a continuous process, as such; translations with all their problems should be accepted. Dr S. Rajmohan proposed a vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

October 12, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized literary forum featuring poetry recitations by two well-known poets, Ms. Usha Akella and Ms. Sangeeta Gupta at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on October 12, 2017. Prof Malashri Lal, Convener, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the Forum and introduced the poets to audience. Both the poets presented their poems in tandem. Ms. Usha Akella recited her poems, On turning fifty, The Rosary of Lattitudes, The Post Office of many countries, West, Hyderabad speaks tongues, Today's Poem, Turmeric Hue, Piano Keys, Footsteps, Rossebuurt and Peddling – covering a wide range of topics, while Ms. Sangeeta Gupta, presented poems from her poetry and ghazal collections corresponding to the themes of the poems presented by Ms. Usha Akella. Prof Malashrilal summed up the proceedings and proposed a vote of thanks. Many literary connoisseurs from Delhi and the surroundings graced the event.

LITERARY FORUM

October 16, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi, organized a literary forum to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the visit of Gurdev Rabindranath Tagore to Siam and 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Thailand. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary,



Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the chief guest Dr Satyavrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar, H.E. Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi, Ambassador, Royal Thai Embassy, who was the guest of honour, officials from Royal Thai Embassy and other dignitaries. Dr K. Sreenivasarao recalled the seminal visit of Tagore and mentioned that Prof Suniti Kumar Chatterjee who was part of delegation later became the President of Sahitya Akademi. In his speech, Mr. Chutintorn Gongsakdi talked about the relations between India and Thailand for centuries spanning cultural, religious, diplomatic, trade and literary relations. He presented a stamp memorabilia to the Secretary of Sahitya Akademi published as a mark of respect to Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion. Dr Satyavrat Shastri talked in detail about Gurudev's visit, about his own personal experience in Thailand and about how his translation of Thai Ramayana came about.

SYMPOSIUM

November 4, 2017, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a one-day symposium on the contribution of Women Dramatist in Indian Nepali Literature on 4 November 2017 at Kalimpong in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri Man Bahadur Pradhan, famous Nepali writer. Inaugural session was chaired by Shri. Gyan Sutar, President, Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti. At the outset, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD, Sahitya Akademi, welcoming the participants and gathering, briefly highlighted the activities of Sahitya Akademi. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory speech, gave an account about the contribution of women dramatisst in Indian Nepali literature. The symposium was divided into two sessions. First session was chaired by Sri Lakshaman Shrimal, eminent Nepali playwright. In this session, Sri Gyan Bahadur Kshetri presented his paper on Four monologues of Ms Lakshmi Meenu. Second paper was presented by Dr. Manika Mukhiya on Introspection of Sarita Pradhan's play. Sri Nand Handikham, famous Nepali playwright presided over the second session. In this session Dr Mamta Lama presented her paper on Indramanidarnlaal's play 'Krishna Krishna'.. Dr Meharbaan Subaa presented his paper on introspection of Radhika Raya's plays. Dr B. B. Sharma, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

KATHASANDHI

November 4, 2017, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi organized a Kathasandhi programme with Sri Edon Rongong, eminent Indian Nepali fiction writer on 4 November 2017 at Kalimpong in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong. Dr B. B. Sharma introduced Sri Rongong to the audience and invited him to read his short stories. He read out two of his stories, which contained

a lot of irony and humour elements. Audience too was much impressed with his style and content of the stories. Thereafter, followed a lively discussion in which the author interacted with the audience in the form of questions and answers. In the end, Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM

November 5, 2017, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a oneday symposium on Myths in Indian Nepali Literature on 5 November 2017 at Kurseong in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya. The symposium was inaugurated by Shri. Rudra Podyaal, President, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Gaantok. Shri Rabeen Kumar Pradhan, President, Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD, Sahitya Akademi spoke briefly about various activities of Sahitya Akademi. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory speech. He made an introduction about Myths in Indian Nepali literature. In his Presidential address Shri. Rabin Kumar Pradhaan thanked Akademi for giving an opportunity to organise such programmes. The first session of the symposium was presided over by Dr Jash Yojan 'Pyaasi', well known Nepali critic. Three scholars participated in this session. Dr Kavita Lama presented a paper on the Indian tradition of Myth. Dr Uday Thulung presented his paper on Myths in Indian Nepali Fiction, and the topic of last paper reader, Dr. Jaikumar Gurung's was Myths in Indian Nepali Poetry. Dr. Pyaasi delivered the presidential address. He gave his observation in the end that the presented papers were just research based documents. He stressed that there is a need for extensive study and discussion on this topic. The programme was conducted by Shri Vinod Rasaayali. The formal vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Prakash Pradhan, the General Secretary, Pustakalaya.

NARI CHETNA

November 5, 2017, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Nari Chetna programme on 5 November 2017 at Kurseong in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya. Mrs. Srijana Dilpali, Mrs Rita Thakur and Mrs Radha Rasayali read out their short stories in the programme, which was chaired by Dr Indramani Darnal, a senior woman writer. The short stories read out by them are 'Martinko christmas', 'Anshuko Vardan' and 'Abhayadan'. Mrs Darnal also read out one of her short stories. Delivering the presidential speech, she said that woman is very much more aware of and developed now. They are progressing, with achievements at par with males in every area according to their abilities. Commenting on the short stories read out earlier in the programme, she said that the stories project a detailed woman psyche, their sufferings and exploitations at various levels.

KAVISANDHI

November 5, 2017, Kurseong

Sahitya Akademi New Delhi organized a Kavisandhi programme with Sri Kevalchandra Lama, eminent Indian Nepali poet on 5 November 2017 at Kurseong in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakaalaya. Sri Lama had a solo poem recital in the programme. He recited his poems in an interesting and effective rhythmic way. He recited 'Ek palt feri' a romantic poem, and two other poems, on tea-plantation and some on different topics. His poems were enjoyed by each and every one in the audience, which they expressed with a big applause on them. Along with a many of the local writers and literary admirers of Kurseong such as Dr. Jiwan Namdung, Snehlata Rai, Geeta Chhetri, Vimal Rai, Satish Rasaayli, Tejmaan Braaili, Mahendra Shyangbo, Kalu Singh Ranpheli and many others from Darjeeling, Mirik, Siliguri, and Sikkim also attended the programme.

FESTIVAL OF INDIA IN ISRAEL

November 5-10, 2017, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

Sahitya Akademi sent a delegation of India writers to Israel to participate in the Festival of India in Israel to commemorate the 70th anniversary of India's independence and the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Israel. The delegation comprised Smt. Esther David, Prof. Jatindra Nayak, Smt. Sheela Rohekar, Sri Paul Zacharia, Prof. Margaret Zama and Dr. K. Sreenivasarao.

The members of the literary delegation were received on 5th November 2017 at the Tel Aviv airport by Mr. Meir Ouziel, Director, Hebrew Writers Association, which was the local host of the writers' delegation and an official from Indian Embassy. At a dinner held on 5 November, eminent Israeli writers interacted with Indian writers. The next day the members of the Indian delegation visited the house of Hayim Nahman Bialik, the national poet of Israel, who had played a key role in reviving Hebrew as a spoken and written language used for daily life in Israel. Here they had an opportunity of meeting A B Yehoshua, one of Israel's greatest living novelists. At a meeting held in the premises of Hebrew Writers Association, India's Ambassador to Israel, Mr. Pavan Kapoor warmly welcomed the delegates to



Indian writers' delegation (in Israel) with Meir, the Director of Hebrew Writers' Association, Israel

Israel and expressed his sincere hope that the bonds between Israel and India would be strengthened through a vigorous programme of translation of the literatures of the two countries which have so much in common. In their presentations, Indian writers focused on the close historical association of the Jews with India and how they were always treated with deep affection and respect by the host country. They also dwelt on the intimate contact between Indian writers and their Israeli counterparts and hoped that in future greater collaboration and enriching cultural exchange will bring the two countries even closer to each other. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi thanked the Israeli hosts and the officials of the Indian Embassy in Israel for bringing the writers of the two countries together. On the following day, Indian delegates went to Jerusalem, where they visited the Holocaust Museum. The way the museum has documented and presented the terrible tragedy that overtook the Jewish people during the Second World War left them deeply moved. Later during the day, they interacted with Israeli authors and Mr. Yaron Meir, Head of South-East Asia and Mr. Yossef Levi, Head of International Cultural Relations both from Ministry of Israeli Foreign Office at the Jerusalem Museum and explored the possibility of increased cultural contact between writers of the two countries. On the 8th of November, at the office of the Hebrew Writers Association, members of the Indian delegation were invited to talk about their own work and their current literary preoccupations. Israeli authors present at the meeting shared their experiences as writers with their Indian guests and reflected on the situation of the writer in a changing world. The event was coordinated by Ms. Hava Pinhas-Cohen, poet, editor and literature lecturer. In the evening of the same day, several eminent Israeli writers were invited to the office of the Hebrew Writers Association, where they spoke on their writings and gave readings from their books. On the fifth day of the visit, the members of the Indian delegation made a trip to the Dead Sea. In the evening they met a few Israeli scholars, writers and Dr. Anju Kumar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the dinner hosted by India's Ambassador to Israel. The office-bearers of the Hebrew Writers Association gave the Indian writers' delegation a warm farewell on 10th November in the morning at the hotel where they had been accommodated. The close interaction of Indian writers with writers in Israel during this five-day visit deepened their understanding of the rich and many-layered cultural world of the host country and laid the foundation for meaningful literary collaboration and cultural exchange in future.

POETS' MEET

November 9, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Embassy of Chile in India organised a Poets Meet on 9th November 2017 featuring Mr Raul Zurita, renowned Chilean poets and five distinguished poets of India. Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan welcomed the guest poets and audience and spoke briefly about the initiatives of Sahitya Akademi to promote poetry. She welcomed Mr. Zurita and the



Chilean ambassador H.E. Mr. Andres with bouquet and books. He read his verses from the much acclaimed *The Sea* in Spanish and Keki. N. Daruwalla, the celebrated internationally known Indian poet, read the translation in English. The recipient of numerous awards, Zurita, who had said, "If poetry ends, the dream is dead" applauded, appreciated as several Indian poets read from their outstanding works: Kedarnath Singh, K. Satchidanandan, Keki N Daruwalla, Anamika and Subodh Sarkar read their poems. His voice echoed through the auditorium as he read excerpts from *The Sea*. Mr. Andrés Barbé González, Chilean Ambassador to India addressed the august audience and introduced the poet as One of the outstanding living poets. Keki N Daruwalla read the poems Lorca very slowly... "Dawn will come as it always has, escorted with pearls/the earth-chalice/spiked with frost." He read *Guide* and a *Sonnet* too. He also read his well-known poem *Jerusalem*. His mentioning of *Jerusalem* 'You burn like an eternal candle' and 'You are eternity' were much appreciated. Through his poems, he called for peace too when there are flames in the sky. Kedarnath Singh, one of the most prominent poets in Hindi, began the reading session. His choice of the poem *Banaras* one the oldest city of the world was very appropriate. According to the poet, the city of Banaras is half awake half dead and that spring suddenly comes in the holy city. The poet moved through space and time and got the pulse of the city as the city stands on one feet and unaware of the other. Prof. K. Sachidanandan, who has 24 collections of poetry in Malayalam, and represented India in several International literary events, was the next poet who read *The Barbarians*. The poem depicts what is happening in the present society. On the Environment degradation, he read out *The Way to Heaven*. According to the poet heaven is nothing but a life we now live but still scared of living. *An Old Poet's Suicide Note* is a very sensitive poem where the poet says, "Call me when the world changes". Indeed, a very touching poem. Anamika, the well-known poet in Hindi, read out the poem *Selfie* translated by Malashri Lal much to the delight of the audience considering modern India's obsession with *Selfie*. She also read a very sensitive poem titled 'Rabia Fakir Kholi No.6. Her poem *Salt* translated by Sudeep Sen is very meaningful. She reads, "God's tears and man's sweat-that is salt that balances the earth." Subodh Sarkar, an eminent Bengali poet, the president of West Bengal Kobita Academi, read *Exile*, *Mothers of Manipur*, *After Mallika died* and *In my Bastard English*. *Mothers of Manipur* is a powerful poem in protest against the Assam Rifles or may be any assault or brutality by men. The poet gives shocking revelations through the medium of poetry." Apart from the fact that verses by Raul Zurita and Indian poets stirred the audience, also it broke the language barrier. All poets write in different languages but poetry transcend all barriers. It was indeed heartening to watch that in spite of Raul Zurita's ill health, he travelled and read his soul stirring verses to an august audience who were delighted by his very presence and his outstanding verses. Ms. Renu Mohan Bhan proposed a vote of thanks.

CENTENARY SEMINAR ON ISMAIL MEERUTHI

November 11, 2017, New Delhi



From Left: Sri Nandkishore Vikram, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, Sri Chandrabhan Khayal, Sri Hakkani Al Kasam and Dr. Hanif Tarin

On November 11, 2017, a one-day seminar was organized on 100th anniversary year of the Ismail Meerthi, a prominent Urdu poet of Urdu, Akademi Sabha, New Delhi, by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Presiding over the inaugural session of seminar, prominent commentator of Urdu, Prof. Prof. Prof. Gopi Chand Narang said that Ismail Meerthi is compiled by the founders of Urdu. Keeping the momentum of Ismail Maerathi in the eye, it would be surprising how Urdu poetry was started. He said that none of the children's books like Ismail Maerathi did not write and he became famous as the author of children while he has written countless details on other topics. Initially Akademi Secretary Dr. K. Srinivasavra welcomed the guests and scholars and presented short biography of Ismail Maerathi. He said that Ismail Mehrithi gave Urdu *Najm* a new veneer, new face and new concern. He also presented the passage of Ismael Meerthi's poem written on 'Cow'. Mr. Chandrabhan Khayal, convener of Akademi's Urdu Consultative Council presented the introduction of the guests and highlighted the poetry of Ismail Maerathi and poetry and personality.

While presenting the speech, Urdu's renowned commentator and scholar, Mr. Hakkani al-Qasmi highlighting various aspects of Ishariel Meerathi's poetry and various aspects of his personality, he said that he was a poet who completely forgot Urdu poetry, texture and New paths were laid out on the surface of the words, new experiments and new paths for the new breed were attacked in this ground.

The first session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. Shafay Qidawai did In this session, Nand Kishore Vikram, Faseen Azam and Riaz Ahmed presented their articles. Second and final session presided by Prof. Shezad Anjum did and Farku Arghli, Jameel Akhtar and Danish Elahabadi presented their articles. On this occasion, a large number of listener and researcher students were present.



SEMINAR

November 12-13, 2017, Patna

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Chetna Samiti, Patna organised a two-day long seminar on Upendra Nath Jha Vyas on 12-13 November, 2017 at the Vidyapati Bhawan in Patna to commemorate the birth centenary of Upendra Nath Jha Vyas, eminent Maithili writer. In the welcome speech Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi highlighted the recent activities of the Akademi. The seminar was inaugurated by Sri Govind Jha, noted writer and linguist. Delivering his inaugural speech, Sri Govind Jha said that Upendra Nath Jha's contribution to the field of Maithili literature is commendable. As a poet, prose writer, novelist, translator etc., he has enriched the Maithili Sahitya. Prof. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory speech. She spoke on the personality and works of Vyas. Devendra Jha presented his key-note speech. Extolling Vyas Ji as a great writer he expressed his remarks on the writings and translations by him. Shailendra Kumar Jha, famous Maithili writer and son of Upendra Jha Vyas was the guest of honour. He shared the anecdotes related to his father's personality. Chairing the inaugural session, Vishvanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi said, "I haven't read Vyas Ji directly but whatever I could read on him, I found him in the ranks of timeless personalities. He further said that the culture of Mithila is one of the ancient and prosperous one. He also gave a call to save the cultural Identity to the listeners. Vivekanand Jha, President Chetna Samiti, proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

First Session of the seminar was chaired by Dr Vasuki Nath Jha. Three papers were read in the session. Satyendra Kumar Jha talked about Vyas's novels. He said that his novel "Doo Patra" written in the form of apostles presents a comparative view of Indian and the western civilization. Another novel of his "Kumar" is also a milestone in the field of Maithili literature. Satyendra Jha also put a special focus on sociological aspects in Babhanak Beti, Vipra Das, Strotanjali, Rusal Jamay, Kumar and Doo Patra. Shiv Prasad Yadav explored the different aspects of the Maithili translation of the epic Mahabharat. He said that Vyas Ji not merely translated the Mahabharat in Maithili but also made it convenient for the readers in 18 parvas. Pankaj Parashar said, "In the time of globalisation people try to be more and more local. Vyas Ji said it very before. He seems very relevant on the threats of single identity. Dr. Vasukinath Jha said that criticism has been of many types. Maithili criticism is still lags behind. It's postmodernism now. Comparative study of Vyas Ji and Yatri Ji should come forward. Second session of the seminar was chaired by Veena Karna, while Muralidhar Jha and Ashok Avichal presented their papers on the topic 'Prose writing of Vyas ji' and 'Doo Patra: The milestone novel of Vyas ji' respectively in the session. Third session of the seminar was

chaired by Vivekanand Thakur, while Ajit Mishra, Manjar Suleman and Ajit Azad were presented their papers. Ajit Mishra focussed on the Translation of Vyas Ji. He reestablished the dignity of the Geeta by translating it to Maithili. He translated Omar Khayyam's Rubaiyat, Persian to Maithili and also three novels of Sharatchandra, which in itself proves his mastery in the art of translation. His translations seem to be the original writing. He was a seer. Manjar Suleman talked about the travel literature of Vyas ji. Referring the travelogue about America of Vyas ji, he said that its literary value is high. Ajit Azad talked about the children Literature of Vyas Ji. Vyas Ji's and Ramapati Ji's weekly children literature came into light in Mithila Mihir. We have Vyas Ji and Jeevkant's model for children literature. His book Akshar Parichay introduces letters, Maithili words and idioms. Vivekanand Jha said that Vyas Ji was a multidimensional and multifarious personality. He was a true Maithili who enriched the domain of Maithili with the translation of seminal works from other languages. Fourth and the last session of the seminar Premlata Prem chaired the session where Naresh Mohan Jha and Indira Jha read their papers. Prof Naresh Mohan Jha talked about the poetic language of Vyas Ji. Maithili was not a livelihood for Vyas ji but life. His epic poem Sanyasi is Sanskritised Maithili. Indira Jha spoke on the new experiments in two Maithili epic poems, Sanyasi and Patan. She said, his works are relevant even in the present times. Premlata Mishra Prem in her speech gave her opinions on the papers read during the session and also said that Vyas Ji was a very sophisticated.

WORKSHOP

November 14-16, 2017 Madhubani

Sahitya Akademi organized a three-day workshop on Maithili poetry writing on 14-16 November, 2017 in collaboration with Balbandhu, Maithili magazine at Madhubani, Bihar. Number of Students and young writers participated in it. In the inaugural session, Dr. Bina Thakur Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi said that this workshop will be helpful for the amateur writers to understand the nature of Maithili poetry. Devendra K. Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests and gave brief information about the workshops on translation and creative writing, conducted by the Akademi. Sri Ajit Azad, coordinator of the workshop gave the outline of the program and also wished the workshop to be successful in inducing enthusiasm for poetry in the young writers. Udaychandra Jha, Dr. Narayan, Dr. Daman Kumar Jha, Satish Sajan, Pranav Narmadeya, Anshuman Satyaketu were the experts in the workshop. Various aspects of poetry in Maithili and other languages were discussed. Distinguished poems were recited and the poems written by the participants were also discussed.



SYMPOSIUM

November 17, 2017, New Delhi

To commemorate the birth centenary of Jagdish Chandra Mathur, eminent Hindi writer Sahitya Akademi organised a one-day symposium in collaboration with Abhirang, Hindu College, in the Seminar Hall, Hindu College D.U. Dr Anju Srivastav, Principal, Hindu College delivered the welcome address. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi introduced the participants. Sri Daya Prakash Sinha was the chief guest on the occasion. He said that play is a two-dimensional genre. It's both the literature and the art. It's not unilateral but specific, which becomes literature when written down and an art when performed. Jagdish Chandra Mathur's work is seminal in the sense that not only it adds to the list of great literatures but also worked perfectly on stage. Delivering the keynote, Dr. Narendra Mohan said, "Jagdish Chandra Mathur was not only one of the greatest playwrights after Independence but also a great artist who wrote remarkable plays in Hindi. Mentioning the plot of "Konark" he said that his contribution to the stage is commendable. Sri Pratap Sehgal, Hindi writer and playwright, said that along with the dramatic traditions of India and Greek, Jagdish Chandra Mathur also drew upon folk traditions of India in his plays. Mentioning of Mathur's famous novel "Sharadiya", he said that songs and imagery in the work drew upon folk. He also mentioned his memoir "Dus Tasveerein". Mathur's son Lalit informed that he co-authored a book titled "Pracheen Bhasha Natak" with the principal of the Hindu College Dashrath Ojha, which is a worth attempt in the field. Sri Sharad Dutt noted writer and National film award winner shared his views. Narrating his successful career as an administrator of Aakashwani Dutt said that along with being a great writer, he was also a great human being. Dr. Pallav, Advisor of Abhirang delivered the vote of thanks at the end.

YUVA SAHITI

November 20, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a 'Yuva Sahiti' programme during 11th Delhi international Arts Festival (10-15 November 2017) on 20th November 2017 at Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi. It was a multilingual poetry readings programme. At the beginning of the programme, mementoes were presented to all the participants from Art Festival by Mrs Rashmi Shukla. Poem recital was started with a young Assamese poet, Mrs. Barnali Bargohai. After poem recital in Assamese, she recited the Hindi translation of her poems. There were several dimensions of women-life in her poems titled on 'Dahan', 'Naari', 'Agnikhel' and 'Narsis'. Young poet of Hindi Sri Shyaak Aalok recited his poems euphemism of resistance, 'Saadiya

Hasan' and 'Peace via Kashmir', which themes on need to speak and usefulness of ideology. In his ideology based poetry the universal scenario was reflected in totality. The third poet was young Urdu poet, Shri Surya Bali Suraj, whose poems struck cord with the audiences in the auditorium. His melodiously recited poems were enjoyed by audience very much. The programme was conducted by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD, Sahitya Akademi, who proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

BAL SAHITI

November 20, 2017 New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi New Delhi organised a programme Bal Sahiti in collaboration with Delhi Internal Arts Festival, New Delhi on 20th November in the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi..Held as part of 11th Delhi International Arts Festival(10-25 November 2017), it was focused on the contemporary children literature. Smt. Madhu Pant presided over the session. The participants include Balswaroop Rahi, Paro Anand, Ghamandi Lal Agrawal and Manjari Shukla. Manjari Shukla talked about children literature as a catalyst and Imagination to be an integral part of it. According to Paro Anand, her children literature includes more of reality fiction. Children's mind gets more affected by real events. Noted Children's writer Ghamandilal Agarwal said that children's literature must be according to the age. He gave his opinions on the aspects of it. Balswaroop Rahi shared his experiences with the audience and said that the Children's writers have to stealthily put his ideas in their work. Messages should be inserted so adeptly in children's writings that they don't come to know of it. There is a need of Children's writers in the present. Presiding the session, Madhu Pant, eminent Children's writers and former Director, Balbhawan said, "Children Literatures should be connected to the mind and there is a need to make constant efforts to make it amusing. The program was coordinated by Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

KATHASANDHI

November 25, 2017, Udhampur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration Meri Mitra Manali, Jammu & Kashmir organised a literary program on 25th November, 2017 at Shivalik College of Education, Udhampur. Sri Surjeet Hosh Badsali welcomed the guest and audience on behalf of Meri Mitra Mandali and Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. He introduced Prof. Shashi Pathania, wellknown Dogri fiction writer to the audience and invited her to read her short story. Prof. Pathania readout her new short story titled 'Ik Zindagi, Ik



Mukti'. The story is woven around the personal relationships. The narrative is skilfully built upon the psychological prospect, how the character develop a lot of expectations without knowing the other sides and when it does not get fulfilled, relationship turns sour. After her reading, she interacted with the audiences, which was a lively discussion as it was related to not only the character but also to her experience.

THROUGH MY WINDOW

November 25, 2017, Udhampur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organised a Through My Window programme on 25th November, 2017 at Shivalik College of Education, Udhampur in collaboration with Meri Mitra Mandali, Jammu Kashmir. Noted Dogri poet Sushil Begana spoke on the life and works of the famous poet Surinder Singh Manhas. Prof. Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced Sri Begana and invited him to the dias. Eliciting various poems on Manhas, Sri Begana outlined his importance in the field of Dogri literature. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of Thanks at the end.

SEMINAR

November 25-26, 2017, New Delhi

A two-day seminar on "Tribal and Dalit literature: contributions of the little magazines." was organised by Sahitya Akademi on 25-26 November 2017 at New Delhi in collaboration with Ramanika Foundation. On the occasion, famous Marathi writer Sharan Kumar Linbale said that "Little magazines have helped to take Dalit movements forward. Because of them our voice could reach the society and get identified." He further said that a single book of ours takes three to four years to get published and reach the hands of the readers but little magazines reach in some months and also we get reactions and reviews soon by the readers. Mentioning Marathi and Hindi progressive movements he said that this awareness towards this first developed there and reached to us later. Laxman Gaikwad, chief guest of the session commented that "Tribal and Dalit literature should be welcomed by heart as it is the witness of humanities and human rights." He also urged the writers to become fighters in the present scenario. In the inaugural session famous Hindi critic Manager Pandey said that with the union of the dalits, tribal, woman the voice will become more powerful and diverse. He further said that real socialist democracy will be possible only after the inclusion of the Dalit and tribal literature. For the Dalit literature to prosper we need to bring the endangered languages into the mainstream languages of India. Only then our traditions can be enriched. Hiraram Meena in his speech said that for the tribals and dalits to bring forth their words in the mainstream

they still need proper understanding of various movements and mutual understanding. Suraj Bartya, editor of "Yudhrat Aam Aadmi" as a keynote speaker gave a detailed information about the role of little magazines in the dalit and tribal movements. Vijya Saviyan spoke in detail about the languages of the North-east and Khasi culture. Director of the Ramanika Foundation, Ramanika Gupta thanked the Akademi for its contribution in organising the seminar. She informed everyone about the mutual translation of dalit and tribal literature in various Indian languages. Executive Officer, Ramanika Foundation Abhay Maurya gave the vote of thanks in the end. Anupam, editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests and outlined the motive of the seminar and informed about the list of initiatives taken by the Akademi for the preservation and conservation of the oral and the tribal literature. Second session was chaired by Sri Mahadev Toppo in which Vahru Sonwane, Shanta Naik and Neetisha Khalkho read out their papers. Every speaker held the unanimous view that tribal society is more aware and the preserver of the nature than the so called literate society. They also outlined the contribution of the regional and Hindi journals in the development of dalit and tribal literature. On 26th November, presiding over the concluding session, Hariram Meena commented "Dalit and tribal literature can ensure their identity only when when they will assert unanimously for themselves." Further he added that, still the dalits and the tribals haven't achieved an equal stature in the social and economic parlance. For this there is a need to bring changes in the social structure and this work has to be done by the dalits and the tribals themselves.

Delivering the concluding speech, Smt Ramanika Gupta said that her organisation wants to establish a communication with the dalits, tribals and women through their literatures and therefore there is a need to encourage the translations to and from their languages. She also opined that our so called society needs to change their mind sets towards them. In the session, analysing of dalit autobiographies, Abhay Maurya gave the scenario of dalit movements and enlisted some points for the eradication of their problems. Thanking the audience and the guests Dr. K Srinivas Rao, secretary, Sahitya Akademi informed that Sahitya Akademi is working on a lot of projects for the development of the dalit and tribal literature. In the first session that was chaired by Mahadev Toppo; Vikram Chaudhry and Vasvi Keedo gave detailed information about the achievements and the problems faced in the publication of little magazines. The session with its focus on Little magazines in Hindi and regional languages was chaired by Mohandas Naimisharanya in which Shyoraj Singh Bechain aur Surajpal Chauhan presented their papers. Reviewing the modern Dalit literature. Surajpal said that this is a time for its brainstorming. Shyoraj Singh said that documenting the ideological clash is important and this is possible only through little magazines. These documents will strengthen the movements ahead.



SYMPOSIUM

November 26, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi New Delhi organized a one day symposium on 'Echoes of Folk literature in Dogri Literature' on 26 November 2017 at K.L.Sehgal Hall, Jammu. The symposium, first of its kind, was inaugurated by veteran writer and scholar, Padmashri Prof. Ved Kumari Ghai. Prof. Ghai, speaking on the occasion stressed upon the importance of folklore and said that while folk literature in itself is a treasure house of knowledge and wisdom of a community, it forms a backdrop of the literature. She cited several examples from Dogri to emphasize her point and also expressed a need to further work for exploration of folk literature. Darshan Darshi, who presented the key note address, traced the evolution of Dogri literature from the rich Dogri folk tales and folk songs. He said that folk literature reflects the mindset and ethos of a community in addition to giving important information about unwritten history of the relevant times. Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory remarks said that folk literature, to which everybody is exposed in his childhood and formative years, influences the psyche and morality of all individuals. The creative writing of the writers, carry the imprints of deep rooted influences of folk literature, at time, even unknowingly by the authors themselves. Earlier, while welcoming the audience, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the importance of this symposium and said that the papers presented in the symposium and views expressed by the scholars will be published in the form of a book by the Akademi. In the paper reading session, which was chaired by eminent Dogri writer, Prof. Veena Gupta, three papers were presented on 'Echoes of folk literature in Dogri drama, poetry and short story by Abhishek Bharati, Dr. Bansi Lal and Sheetal Sharma respectively. In their papers, they present a very interesting and valuable information, which the audience comprising writers, young scholars and prominent citizens present largely appreciated.

KAVISANDHI

November 26, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Kavisandhi programme with noted Dogri poet Vijay Verma on 26 November 2017 at K.L.Sehgal Hall, Jammu. At the beginning Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced Sri Verma, the guest poet and invited him to recite his poems. Sri Verma gave a very engrossing account of his literary journey, a life dotted with a lot of anecdotes and exciting events. His love and dedication to Dogri language was evident from the poetry that he has recited on the occasion. The ghazals

and poems that he read out, were enjoyed immensely by the audience for the chaste Dogri and usage of idiomatic language. At the end, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

YOUNG WRITERS' FESTIVAL

November 29, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier institution of letters, in association with the Department of English, Central University of Jammu, organized a two-day Young Writers' Festival at the university premises on 29-30 November in Jammu. On 29 November 2017, in the inaugural session, Dr S. Rajmohan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the participants and audience and talked briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote young writers across India and in 24 languages recognized by the Akademi. In his introductory remarks, Prof Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, unveiled the theme of the Festival and talked about the enormous efforts of Sahitya Akademi to promote literature in all the Indian languages and how the Akademi provides ample opportunities for the writers of the country. In her keynote address, Prof Deepsheekha Kotwal, Dean, School of Languages, Central University of Jammu, stated that writing is essentially an art of storytelling, all writers have stories to tell and hence all writing has to go into soul and emerge out of soul for meaningful writing. She stressed on the need of readings and writings to be apolitical and solution-giving and talked about the significance of pen against the contemporary swords of violence, and to show the role of writers in healing such horrible scenarios of life through a synergetic approach. In his Presidential address Dr Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Northern Regional Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the significance of regional languages and stressed on the importance of mother-tongues in learning other languages and talked about the relationship between culture and language. Dr. Vandana Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of English, Central University of Jammu, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session devoted to short story reading and was chaired by Sri R.L. Shant, eminent scholar, writer and translator, four noted fiction writers, Ms. Radha Rani, Ms. R. Nisha, Sri Kamal Kishore Piplawa and Sri Salman Abdus Samad, read out a short story each in Dogri, Kashmiri, Rajasthani and Urdu respectively. A brief interactive session followed the readings. In the second devoted to discussion on 'Why Do I write?' and chaired by Prof Lalit Mangotra, three noted writers, Sri Raghavendra Madhu, Ms. Jyoti Chawla and Sri Rinku Koul, presented their perspectives on why do they write in English, Hindi and Dogri respectively. Sri Raghavendra Madhu highlighted the role of emotion, Ms Chawla on the impediments on attempts to writing and



overcoming them and Sri Koul talked about the essential nature of falling in love with language in the series of steps to writing. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Prof Champa Sharma, eminent Dogri poet, eight noted poets, Sri Babu Bhatti (Dogri), Ms. Akila Gopalakrishnan (English), Sri Pushpendra (Hindi), Sri Mohd. Imtiaz Naik (Kashmiri), Sri Gurpreet Borawal (Punjabi), Sri Om Nagar (Rajasthani), Sri Paramanand Jha (Sanskrit) and Sri Tariq Qamar (Urdu), recited their poems. In the fourth session of the Festival devoted to short story reading and chaired Sri Om Goswami, eminent writer and translator, two noted fiction writers, Ms. Preeti Shenoy (English) and Sri Kamal Deep Singh (Punjabi), read out their stories. Ms. Preeti Shenoy read out from *A Hundred Little Flames* while Sri Kamal Deep Singh read out a story set in rural setting. Sri Om Goswami summed up the session and presented analytical presentation of the stories read out. He also talked at length about the fiction scenario in the country, especially in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. In the fifth session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Pritpal Singh Betab, eminent writer and scholar, Ms. Keerti Thakur read out her Dogri ghazals with Hindi translation; Sri Farooq Shaheen read out his Kashmiri ghazals with Hindi translation; Ms. Sandeep Kaur read out her Punjabi poems; Sri Madan Gopal Ladha read out his Rajasthani poems along with Hindi translation and Sri Jitendar Parwaz read out his Urdu poems. Sri Pritpal Singh Betab summed up and presented evaluated each poem recited in the session. Dr Govind Singh, Head, Department of Hindi, Central University of Jammu, delivered concluding remarks summing up the entire Festival.

SYMPOSIUM

December 2, 2017, Rairangpur

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a one symposium on 'Santali One-act Plays' at Rairangpur (Odisha) on 2 December 2017. The symposium was inaugurated by Sri Bhogla Soren, distinguished Santali dramatist and Sahitya Akademi Award winner. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered introductory speech. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and spoke in brief on Sahitya Akademi's various programmes designed for the development and protection of the Santali language and literature. Shri Bhogla Soren in his inaugural address spoke on the history of Santali play and one-act play, which has recent origin as a genre. He also mentioned Guru Gomeke Pandit Raghunath Murmu's play 'Bidu Chandan' as one of the significant works of Santali Literature. Sri Jeetray Hansda, renowned Santali dramatist, playwright and stage performer delivered his keynote address on the occasion. He said as to necessity of one-act play in the present society. He defined one act play in literature and spoke at length as to the

language and characteristic of the play and one-act play. The session was chaired by Shri Kuber Kumar Mohanta, Principal, Rairangapur Autonomous College, Rairangapur. In his address, he thanked Sahitya Akademi for organizing such programme in this college. He expressed his satisfaction over the organization of such literary programmes in his college, as it is located at a few distance from Dandbose, the birth place of Guru Gomekye Pt. Raghunath Murmu, the creator of Olchicki script. The distinguished Santali playwright Shri Kherwal Soren was the guest of honour on the occasion. In his address he stressed on the literary values and standard of play and one-act play in Santali literature. He said that both good and evil of the society are expressed in the play and one-act play and both play and one-act play act as the guide to general spectators, who watch. He also said that the role of play and one-act play in the society cannot be denied as it is too one of the genre of literature like essay like other genre of literature one-act play too reflects good and evil of society. It also analysis various aspects of human life. Shri Sunil Kumar Jena, Lecturer in English, Rairangapur autonomous College, Rairangapur conveyed vote of thanks to the distinguished guests and audience.

The business session of the symposium was chaired by Sri Jamadar Kisku, renowned Santali playwright and Sahitya Akademi Award Winner. Three scholars presented their papers on various aspects of Santali one-act play. The paper of Sri Durga Prasad Hembram was based on the history of Santali play and one-act play. He said that after the play of Raghunath Murmu's 'Bidu Chandan' and Sadhi Ramchand Murmu's 'Sansar Phend' (Social Tricks) writing of one-act play in Santali literature begins. Saroj Kumar Soren's paper was based on the characteristics of Santali one-act plays. He too cited example from some of his plays and one-act plays. Raghunath Marandi presented his paper on 'Santali society' which is portrayed in present days' one-act plays. At the end Sri Jamadar Kisku said that repertoires in Santali society is leading towards end and in present days, it is play or one-act play can only be accepted as the medium of entertainment in Santali society.

KOSALI-SAMBALPURI LANGUAGE CONVENTION

December 2-3, 2017, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a two day long convention on Koshali-Sambalpur language in the Conference Hall of Pantha Nivas, Bhubaneswar on 2nd December 2017. The convention was chaired by Prof. Pattanayak. He said that Koshali is a language spoken by millions of people in the western part of Odisha and it is a culturally distinct area and has a repository of cultural diversities. He opined that 8th schedule of the Constitution should not take only 22 Indian languages, it



Inaugural Session of Kosali-Sambalpur Language Convention, in progress

should accept all the languages of the country, be it major or minor as the national languages of the nation. We must develop a multi-cultural and multi-lingual mind set to sustain our democratic social structure. Delivering the presidential address Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that it is the first convention on Koshali-Sambalpur language. Dr. Sitakant Mohapatra, well known writer and guest of honour said that there should be proper documentation of the literary writings in Koshali-Sambalpur. He also strongly advocated the cause to include this rich language in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution. Prof. Pritish Acharya, eminent historian, in his keynote address gave a brief account of the evolution and growth of Koshali language. He said that Koshali is being accepted as a modern Indian language to express modern sensibility. Sri Rao thanked all the dignitaries on behalf of the Sahitya Akademi. The first session of the convention was chaired by renowned critic Dr. Debendra Kumar Dash. He commented that division of language and dialect is an old colonial process, which has no relevance in today's philology. In the session Sri Sushil Kumar Bag, journalist, presented a paper on the Folklore in Koshali-Sambalpur. Dr. Subhendu Mund, poet and scholar presented his paper on the socio-economic reflection of western Odisha in the folklores of Koshali-Sambalpur. At the end Manjit Kaur Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks. On 3rd December, second session was chaired by Dr. Santosh Kumar Rath. Dr. Jyotsna Biswal Raut paper discussed the folk songs of western Odisha and their relation to Kosali in great detail, Dr. Pitamber Behera spoke about measuring lexical similarity between Kosali and Odia. Smt. Prabhat Nalini Deep recited her Kosali poems, followed by their Hindi translations. Third session was chaired by Dr. Jyotsna Biswal Raut. Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty's paper attempted to discuss a new path that leads to Kosali from Sambalpur. Dr. Debasis Jeth's presentation was a linguistic analysis of Kosali-Sambalpur. Manjit Keshari Nayak spoke on 'Regional Diversity in Classical Odia in the context of Kosali-Sambalpur. The last session of the programme was chaired by Prof. D.P. Pattanayak . Gangadhara Das discussed in details various types of Kosali

Dance and Music. Anant Kishore Jena critically analyzed the Kosali Dialect in the modern times. Abhaya Kumar Padhi talked about the contribution of Kosali in cultural evolution. Ramesh Mallik and Manindra Kumar Mehar also presented their papers in this session.

SEMINAR

December 3, 2017, Baripada

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with M. P.C (Autonomous) College, Baripada organized a one day seminar to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Sunaram Soren on 03 December 2017 at Conference Hall, M. P.C (Autonomous) College, Baripada. After one minute silence, which was observed as mark of respect to departed Sri Ramdhan Hembram, Member, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, who passed away on 30 November 2017 after his prolonged illness, the inaugural session of the seminar continued. Sri Thakur Das Soren, younger brother of Sunaram Soren, inaugurated the seminar. Sri Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the participants and audience and briefly mentioned about various literary activities of Sahitya Akademi. He also spoke about Sunaram Soren's literary contribution and his dedication to the development and enrichment of Santali language and literature. In his inaugural address Sri Thakur Das Soren said that Sunaram Soren has made an immense contribution towards the development of tribal people of Mayurbhanj, as well as of Odisha. The inaugural session was chaired by Sri Kritibas Sahu, Pricipal, M.P.C.College, Baripada. Sri Gangadhar Hansdah, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the keynote address and said that Sunaram Soren's endeavors towards the development of tribal people were not limited to the district of Mayurbhanj, but it was beyond that, it extended to the whole of Odisha. And he made very significant contributions especially for the district of Mayurbhanj—politically, socially and culturally. He often cited contemporary political scenario of Mayurbhanj, which witnessed various revolutions led by various other tribal communities of Mayurbhanj. Shri. Sangel Singh Soren, son of Sunaram Soren, was the guest of honour on the occasion. In his address, he spoke about the contributions of Sunaram Soren towards the development of Tribal people of Mayurbhanj as well as of Odisha. He said that though being a lawyer and highly qualified person, his father was always inclined to help the Tribal people, to resolve their common problems. C Sri Kritibas Sahu, spoke about Sunaram Soren's political and social activities in brief. Smt. Raimani Marandi, Associate Professor of History, M. P.C College, Baripada proposed a vote of thanks. First Session of the seminar was chaired by Sri Roochand Hansda, renowned Santali poet and writer and in this session three scholars, Sri Purna Charan Hembram, Sri Laxman Marandi and Sri Dasharathi Soren presented their papers. Sri



Chaitanya Prasad Majhi in his presidential address thanked Sahitya Akademi for organizing such a seminar. Shri Purna Ch. Hembram presented a short picture about the political history of Odisha as well as of Mayurbhanj. He said that Sunaram Soren had always fought for the cause of Tribal people throughout his life. Sri Hembram assisted creative writers and composers of Santali songs and poetries were emerged in Bihar and Bengal politically. Sunaram Soren has as well earned equal popularity in the adjacent regions of Bengal and Bihar. He also expressed his concern over the helplessness of his people in some of his poetries and songs. Sunaram Soren despite a political leader has thus established his literary carrier through such poetries and songs. Sri Laxman Marandi, well-known Santali poet and social reformer, presented his paper on the life and work of Sunaram Soren. He said that Sunaram Soren has achieved a great success in life politically and socially. He was even elected to the Odisha legislative Assembly and become minister in Odisha. As a result of his continuous efforts, a large number of residential school for Tribal children in Odisha were set up. He extended his support to popularising the Olchiki script. He was also a great social reformer, who had advised Tribal people to discard all social evils of society. Sri Dadsharathi Soren, a distinguished Santali poet, in his paper, presented information about his songs and mission. Sunaram composed songs and poem mainly for the purpose of educating his people. He saw his illiterate peoples were living in miserable condition due to lack of knowledge. Through his poems and songs, he advised common people to acquire knowledge through education and to discard all evils of society. Sri Roochand Hansda briefly focused on the political scenario of Mayurbhanj analysing Sunaram Soren's growth from common man to a politician. The second session of the seminar was chaired by, Sri Chaitanya Prasad Majhi, renowned Santali fiction writer and novelist. Three scholars, Sri Sobhanath Beshra, Sri Ramdas Murmu and Sri Budhram Marandi presented their papers. Sri Ramdas Murmu, journalist and Santali writer presented his paper on Sunaram Soren's involvement in tribal revolution of Mayurbhanj. Sri Shobhanath Beshra's paper focused on Sunaram Soren's influence in Bihar and Bengal in particular. Sunaram Soren's songs and poems reached Santali speaking regions of Bengal and Bihar and consequently, it inspired other intellectuals of Santal community living there. This led to the growth of many creative writers and composers of Santali songs and poems in Bihar and Bengal. Sri Budhram Marandi's paper was devoted to contribution of Sunaram Soren in OL Chiki Movement. Presenting his paper, Shri Marandi has said that, as Sunaram Soren was contemporary to Guru Gomkey Pt. Raghunath Murmu, creator of Santali script 'OL Chiki' and he wholeheartedly supported OL Chiki movement and made strenuous efforts for spread and propagation of OL Chiki in Santali speaking regions of India. He met the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj and urged for introduction of OL Chiki script in Santali speaking regions.

KATHASANDHI

December 3, 2017, Baripada

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with M. P.C (Autonomous) College, Baripada organized a 'Kathasandhi' with Shri Gobinda Chandra Manjhi, renowned Santali fiction writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner on 3 December 2017 at Conference Hall, M. P.C (Autonomous) College, Baripada. Sri Manjhi read out one of his short stories, entitled 'sipibil' (The Afternoon). The story narrates the story of Santal girl, who after her wedlock with an employed youth brings her most affectionate younger sister to her husband's house, a rented house and begins to live with him and later, she elopes with a youth living in the adjoining room to the rented house of her brother-in-law, who happens to be a friend of her brother-in-law. The story is appreciated by the audience. At the end, Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

SEMINAR

December 4-5, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, in collaboration with the J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized a two-day Seminar on Folklore at the K.L. Saigal Hall in Jammu on December 4-5, 2017. In the inaugural session, Dr S. Rajmohan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about Akademi's initiatives to preserve and promote folklore and folk literature. Dr Aziz Hajini, Secretary, J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, who was the Guest of Honour, thanked the Akademi and unveiled the theme of the Seminar. In his speech he stated that folklore in the reservoir of timeless wisdom and opined that onslaught on native traditions unleashed by the rampant and senseless globalizations has ensured that people pay very little attention and time to indigenous systems of knowledge. He hoped programmes of this type will create awareness among people. In his keynote address, Sri Mohan Singh, eminent Dogri poet and playwright, stated that folklore is the expression of earth and people. These expressions get captured and portrayed in folktales, folksongs and folk art forms. He said we should remember loss of folklore of a community is a loss of history and cultural roots. In his Presidential address, Dr Mohd Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Northern Regional Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that India is a treasure trove of practical wisdom contained in folk traditions and thanked Sahitya Akademi and J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for organizing the Seminar. He provided a number of examples to drive home the presence of folk



wisdom in our daily lives. In the first session devoted to 'The Role of Folksongs in Preserving Culture' and chaired by Prof Surya Prasad Dixit, two noted scholars, Dr Meenakshi Faith Paul and Dr Vidya Vindu Singh, presented their papers on the topic. Prof Surya Prasad Dixit stated that folksongs are not something which exist only in villages or tribal areas but they exist in our daily lives through birth and death rituals, marriage and other important social gatherings. He further added that folksongs keep alive sixteen samskaras, social rights and all aspects of social life. Dr Meenakshi stated that folksongs are part and parcel of all cultures of India irrespective of other marks of identity. Folksongs and folktales through performances carry culture from one generation to another and samskar comes from smriti and folksongs rendered through memory ensure continuance of samskar. Dr Meenakshi added that folksongs are not relics to be recalled but are lived experiences spread over centuries. Dr Vidya Vindu Singh stated that folksongs and Indian cultural traditions are wedded together and folksongs by nature are energetic and they spread dynamism according to each occasion. She added that folksongs are collective wisdom of a community and are transmitted from generation to generation not only within a community but across several communities. In the second session devoted to 'Folktales and Modern Adaptations' and chaired by Prof Lalit Mangotra, three noted scholars Dr Joginder Singh Kairon, Dr Gajadan Charan and Sri Rahman Abbas, presented their papers. In his speech, Prof Lalit Mangotra stated that folktales emerge from real life experiences and are not imaginative and they are not fixed or stationary but are rivers of continuity. They exist in the sub-consciousness of people and adaptations of folktales of yore are nothing but retelling them in the current setting. Dr Joginder Singh Kairon in his paper stated that folklore is eternal and never dies. He recalled how folktales narrated in ancient texts of the world including Bible are being retold over centuries and will be retold according to demands of each community and occasion. Dr Gajadan Charan in his paper stated that much of folk literature of Rajasthan remain unwritten, hidden from public view and yet is part of everyday life unlike folk literature and folktales of other communities. Adaptations of the latter are being done from written script to a great extent whereas in Rajasthani communities adaptations are done from oral traditions. He further added that folktales across the world unite people by highlighting positivity of existence compared to imagined and written stories which divide people. Sri Rahman Abbas posed a question in the light of papers presented through the day - Are stories different from folktales? He stated that folktales change constantly and are adapted constantly. They cannot have single author since they are carried collectively and each generation add something to the existing ones through real life experiences.

He further added that due to the points of origin and reach, Urdu is geographically scattered and all tales of those regions are Urdu folktales only since the language is a tool of communication and captures culture alive and all folktales of such captured cultural traditions are folktales of the language. In the third session devoted to 'Folksongs and Creation Myths' and chaired by Prof Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, two noted scholars, Khalid Hussain and Shaad presented their papers. In the fourth session devoted to 'Folklore as a Source of History and Storytelling' and chaired by Prof Haridutt Sharma, four noted scholars, Sri Dhian Singh, Prof Mahesh Sharma, Sri Jagdish Piyush and Sri Farooq Fayaz, presented their papers.

SEMINAR

December 6, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised a one-day seminar on 6 December 2017 at Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi to commemorate the birth centenary of Prabhakar Machave, eminent Hindi writer. Welcoming the guest Dr K. S. Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, informed that Prabhakar Machave was not an individual but an institution. He wrote in various genres and enriched the Indian Literature. Along with a renowned poet and fiction writer he was also an influential painter. In his introductory speech Dr Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi said that Machave Ji was a multi-dimensional personality. He was engaged with the teaching and learning of Hindi, Marathi and English. The chief guest of the event was Dr Ramdarash Mishra, famous Hindi poet and writer. He said that Machave Ji was an experimental writer. There was a beauty of roughness in his works. He presented new faces of the literature. Ms Chetna Kohli, daughter of Machave Ji was the guest of honour. She shared her views on her father's simple and sober way of living. She said that her father believed in accumulation and sharing of knowledge. Prof Indranath Chaudhry, Hindi critic, said that Machave was outspoken. Even after being a non-Hindi speaker, he was voraciously dedicated to Hindi. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Akademi also pointed out that Machave Ji wrote continuously. He never practiced disciple system. There should be an assessment of his work on his birth centenary. The first session, which had its focus on "Poetic personality of Prabhakar Machave" was chaired by Vishnu Khare, poet, translator and journalist. In this session, Sri Prayag Shukl and Prof Chandrakant Patil presented their papers. Prof. Patil talked about his Marathi and Hindi writings in detail and Sri Prayag Shukl posited that he had diversity in his writings. Vishnu Sri Khare said that speaking on Machave is both easy and difficult. Today, if Hindi is reaching every nook and corners of the world,



it is because of Machave Ji , who has a big role in it. He was a walking dictionary, a one man writing factory. The second session was focused on Prabhakar Machave as a prose writer. Sri Rajendra Upadhyay, Sri Aarsu and Sri Bharat Bharadwaj read out their papers in the session. Charing the session, Prof. Gangaprasad Vimal said that Machave Ji was a storehouse of knowledge and creativity. His creativity is imbued with Marathi culture. Sri Bharat Bharadwaj said that he was basically a poet although he wrote on a lot of subjects. But there has not been any evaluation of his work. There should a reassessment, both cultural and creative. He was a literary bridge of the north and the south. Srti Aarsu said that Machave Ji had a big hand in awakening his interest in translation. He repeatedly said that Hindi is the central point to know Indian Literature. His novels were realistic and psychological. He also informed that Prabhakar Machave is the first presenter of International novels in Indian Literature. Sri Anupam, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

SEMINAR

December 7-9, 2017, Wardha

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha organised a three-day seminar on “Cultural Sensibility and Creativity: Emerging Trends in Indian Literature” on 7-9 December 2017 at Wardha. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Ramji Tiwari, while Prof. G. Gopinath, former VC M.G. Antarrashtriya Vishwavidyalaya was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Girishwar Mishra, Vice Chancellor, M.G.A.H.V. At the beginning, Sri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the guests participants and audience, while Prof. Anand Vardhan Sharma, Pro-VC M.G.A.H.V welcomed on the behalf of University. Dr. Preeti Sagar, Dean, School of Literature, M.G.A.H.V proposed a vote of thanks in the end. The session was conducted by Dr. K. K. Singh. Chairing the session Prof. Girishwar Mishra said that Literature carves the culture and culture creates the literature. He commented that in today’s world, where languages and dialects are dying out, writers encounter with a lot of challenges. Prof. Ramji Tiwari in his inaugural address said that sensibility of a writer and a common man is different. Sensibility changes with the passage of time and to filter it and present in a creative way to the readers is the responsibility of a writer. He also opined that all languages have the same ideological problem. Prof. G. Gopinath in his speech said that literature has in essence the details of unity and diversity. Indian diasporic literature, the Dalit and the tribal literature have enriched our literature, whose contents now

covers general issues. Our society is facing a lot of challenges in the recent times and to cope with them, we must turn to our culture and Indian literature, which is the only option now. The second session on the third day was chaired by Prof. Devraj. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra, Dr. C. Kameshwari and Prof. Kripashankar Chaubey presented their papers in the session. Chairing the session Prof. Devraj said, “In today’s world matters of politics, economics and culture is decided by big invisible hands. Many writers have raised their voices against it. To safeguard the rights and the freedom of the common citizens, writers of the new generation will have to take upon themselves the task and carry it forward through a big movement which can save the languages.” Dr. Ramanuj Asthana conducted the session. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mishra presented his paper on “Emerging trends in Oriya literature”. He said that young generations are paying attention to the changes occurring in the society, which is in fact a new aspect adding new dimension to the Odia literature. Smt C. Kameshwari presented a paper on Telugu literature. She said that the Telugu literature is four thousand years old. She described Telugu literature as an advanced and experienced one. Prof. Kripashankar Chaubey presented his paper on ‘Trends of Saint poetry’. He said that there is a mutual understanding among Indian languages. The valedictory session on the third day was chaired by Prof. Girishwar Mishra, VC MGAV. He said that various literatures written in different languages is an identity of our academics, culture and creativity. To know India in complete sense Indian literature is a valuable asset. Dr. Har Mahendra Singh and Prof. Ramji Tiwari spoke on the development of Hindi and the role of Wardha in this regard. Dr. Ashok Nath Tripathi Assistant Prof. conducted the concluding session. In the end, a vote thanks was proposed by Prof. K.K Singh.

LITERARY FORUM

December 22, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized a Literary Forum programme on 22 December 2017 in Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi. Smt. Anshu Jauhari, an NRI writer from Canada recited her Hindi and English poems titled ‘Rootless’, ‘Udhar ki Raushani’, ‘Cheezon se Bhare Kamre mein’, ‘Tumhare Kamre ki Raushani se’, ‘Wamyam ke Buddha’ and some other poems on the occasion. Sri Suman Kumar, wellknown Hindi playwright and theatre artist read his new play, based on a myth. Both the writers influenced the audience not only through their writings but also through their style of presentation. The programme ended with a vibrant interaction. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSDP, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme and proposed the vote of thanks.



LITERARY FORUM

September 4, 2017, Tirupati

Sahitya Akademi, R.O., Bengaluru and Sahiti Sravanti, Renigunta had jointly conducted Literary Forum on “Agrarian Novels in Telugu Literature” at Sri Venkateswara University’s Arts Block Auditorium, Tirupati on 04 September 2017. Two hundred spectators were participated in this programme. Telugu literature students, scholars, lectures, writers, farmers and cultural artist were participated. The program started at 10 ‘o’ clock and closed by 2 o’clock, Sahiti Sravanti, Tirupati, Convener O. Venkataramana gave introduction to this literary forum programme and invited guests and participants. Telugu Literary critic, writer, Prof. Medipalli Ravi Kumar presided over the meeting. He spoke that most of the Agrarian Novels were written by the Rayalaseema writers. Farmers’ happiness is the nation’s strength. Prof. Savaraiah, Principal of S.V.U. Arts College was the Chief Guest and he gave most valuable information about downfall in agriculture economy since two decades. Globalization destroyed the agricultural, hence more farmers started committing suicide. Prof. N. Munirathanamma presented Lankipalli Kannaiah Naidu’s novel “PACHAGA NOORELLU”. She admired and explained family relationship at village and how drought affects the family but farmer didn’t leave his land. That’s the relationship between farmer and land.

Prof. S. Rajeswari presented Sannapa Ready Venkatarami Ready’s novel “OKKA VAANA CHALU”. She categorically described the characteristic economic situation, village culture, farmers’ migration to city leaving their land due to heavy drought. Farmers become labourers. They will return to village soon after the rain comes. Farmers’ humanity, affection towards crops was affected by the corporate capitalists’ selfishness. Prof. R Rajeswaramma presented Sunkoji Devendra Chari’s “VAANA NEELA NEERU”. She described novel in all aspects. Chittoor district farmers depend on borewells and Spending lakhs of rupees to dig for the water. But water not found and the farmer commits suicide. His wife confidently enters into agriculture. She struggles against the hardships. Even though debts raise manifold, she continues cultivation confidently. Sri Pillaa Kumara Swami presented Palamaneru Balaji’s “NEELA NAVINDI”. He explained that Government prestigiously introduces novel way of Israel’s farming at Kuppam. Company takes lands from farmers and it promises the farmers an amount of Rs.30000 per acre after crop is reaped. But only Rs.5000 was being paid. Land fertility has been destroyed. Farmers migrate to Bengaluru. Prajanatya Mandali artists Jaganana, Venu, Suhasini Palani Subbu sang Rythula Patalu (Farmer Songs) of Sunkoji Devendra Chari, Lankipalli Kannaiah Naidu. Sri Madhurantakam Narendra, Shanmugam and many others attended the programme. Sri Adi Seshiah, Research Scholar proposed vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

September 7, 2017, Kundapur

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in association with Dept. of Kannada, Bhandarkars’ Arts and Science College, Kundapura had organised the Literary Forum: Sahitya Sobagu on Thursday, 7th September, 2017 between 9.30a.m. & 1.30 p.m. at the Radha Bai auditorium of Bhandarkars’ Arts and Science College, Kundapura. Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, member Kannada Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi was the convener of the programme. Mr. Surendra Adiga, President of Udupi District Sahitya Parishath, presided over this function. The Principal of the college Dr. N. P. Narayana Shetty welcomed the resource persons and the audience. By lighting the lamp Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, inaugurated the function. In his inaugural speech, he remembered how the Sahitya Akademi, National Academy of Letters was founded by our Late Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in the year 1954 soon after independence. This shows Nehru’s fore-sightedness. India, containing several languages and culture needed such an Academy! By citing the lines of S.R. Ekkundi - Dr. Mavinakuli said “We need to light the lamp, not to give light to the World but to understand ourselves beneath that tiny light The Resource Person Belagodu Ramesh Bhat spoke on ancient poet laureate Pampa. In his speech he said Nadoja Pampa had been considered by Kannadigas as the very first Kannada poet, who has written two great classics - Aadipurana in 940 and Vikramarjuna Vijaya in 943 A.D. He lived approximately between 900 and 950 A.D. In Aadipurana - real war does not take up. Only Bharata and Bahubalai fight each other but soldiers won’t die. This is an important message to the modern world - where lakhs of innocent soldiers and civilians die in wars. He remembered his high school teacher Mr. Raghurama Aithal who effectively taught him the writings of Pampa. The second resource person Sri G. Rajashekhar a renowned Kannada critic and activist, spoke on the poet Gopalakrishna Adiga. The poet Adiga was born on February 18, 1918. This year all over Karnataka, his Birth Centenary celebrations are going on. In his scholarly speech Sri G. Rajashekhar said Gopalakrishna Adiga is considered as the pioneer of modernist literature in Kannada. Another great poet of that era P. Lankesh rightly called Adiga a major poet who opened the eyes of a whole generation. By citing examples from Adiga’s poems, G. Rajashekhar upheld the aptness of the statement of P. Lankesh. The third resource person Dr. Varadaraja Chandragiri spoke on S.R. Ekkundi. In his speech Dr. Varadaraja said Subbanna Ranganatha Ekkundi was a high school teacher in Banki Kodla village of Uttara Kannada district. He was a great scholar in Madhva Philosophy and Marxism. He was also a great lover of nature. He is famous for his Kathana Kavanasa namely narrative poems. His long poems on Shabari and Bahubali are very popular. Mr. Surendra Adiga passed presidential remarks. He appreciated the efforts of Sahitya Akademi in taking literature to the students of the colleges. At the end, Dr. Rekha Bannadi, Head of the Department of Kannada, Bhandarkar’s College, proposed vote of thanks. Totally, it had been a very fruitful programme.



M.K. INDIRA BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

September 9, 2017, Tirthahalli

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in association with Tunga College, Thirthahalli had organised a one-day Birth Centenary Seminar on Life and Literary Works of M.K. Indira on Saturday 09 September 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at the Seminar Hall of Tunga College, Thirthahalli. The seminar started at 10.00 a.m. in the morning with the invocation. The inaugural session was attended by Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar (Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi), Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli (Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi), Sri Kimmane Ratnakara, (Member of Legislative Assembly and Formerly Higher Education Minister, Govt. of Karnataka) and Sri S.R. Vijayashankar (Eminent, Kannada Critic) and Dr. B. Ganapathi, (Principal, Tunga College, Thirthalli). The programme was inaugurated by Dr. S.R. Vijayashankar in the absentia of Dr. Sabiha Bhoomigowda, Vice-Chancellor, Akkamahadevi Mahila University, Bijapur. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary in his welcome address stressed more about the autonomy entrusted to Sahitya Akademi by the former Prime Minister of India late Sri Jawaharlal Nehru, who never interfered with the activities of Sahitya Akademi by the virtue of his Prime Ministership and but actively engaged with the Sahitya Akademi as its first President as a writer of excellence. He also highlighted the non-interference of politicians in the day-to-day affairs of the Sahitya Akademi as it is an institution for writers and academicians for promotion of language, literature and culture of India. He also said that the Akademi from the past several years has been putting vigorous effort to take literature to nooks and corners of the nation. Thirthahalli has been an appropriate place to hold the Birth Centenary of M.K. Indira as she was born and brought up in Thirthahalli taluk and later excelled as a phenomenal women writer in Kannada literary world.



(L-R) Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, Sri Kimmane Ratnakara, Dr. B. Ganapathi, Sri S.R. Vijaya shankar (Speaking).

Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli delivered the introductory address. He opined that M.K. Indira born as a scholar and never acquired the scholarship through any sort of education or training. In her novels and writings she depicted the real plights of women. Her purity of thoughts and open mindedness made her very important during her time as she was neither had appeasers nor the institutional support for her writings. Thus she could write more liberally. She was a nonconformist writer and dealt the issues in a rebellious manner in her writings as her own community was rather maltreated by the upper castes. Dr. S. R. Vijayashankar in his inaugural speech highlighted that M.K. Indira wrote her novels at the time when new ideas set off to pervade the very social fabric of our society profusely. Her writings gave a whip to social injustices. She was a staunch humanist. She wrote whatever she experienced. The aesthetic portrayal becomes a narration in her novels. She wrote to free the shackles that were disturbing women's mind. She has portrayed the bad beliefs and blind rituals that were existing in the names of religion and tradition in our society. He pointed out that women's empowerment was ably conveyed through her novel Phaniyamma etc. He said that she contributed to Kannada literature alike Anupama Niranjana, Triveni and other women Kannada writers etc.

Sri. Kimmane Ratnakara was the Chief Guest of the occasion and he also chaired the session as Dr. S.G. Siddaramaiah, Chairman, Kannada Development Authority could not attend the seminar. In his speech he re-established that a good number of classics were written during M.K. Indira's time. Whatever writing that holds a solid narration and theme will live forever. Literature is basis of changes in the world. Also, he expressed happiness over the Akademi's venture in organising the Birth Centenary of M.K. Indira at Thirthahalli. The first session started at 11.30 a.m. Dr. S.R. Vijayashankar chaired the session. Dr. Geeta Vasantha spoke about the Award winning novels of M.K. Indira. Smt. P. Chandrika spoke on Cine scripts (Novels) of M.K. Indira. Second Session started at 1.30 p.m. Smt. L.C. Sumitra chaired the session. Dr. H.T. Krishnamurthy presented a paper on Short Stories of M.K. Indira. And a paper on M.K. Indira – A creative response was read by Smt. Sabitha Bannadi. The Valedictory Session was chaired by Dr. B. Ganapathi, Principal of Tunga College. Dr. Savitha Nagabushana delivered the valedictory address. She spoke more about women's empowerment and liberation. She informed the audience about the way M.K. Indira could tackle the multiple issues of women in her writings in a silent rebellious manner and become successful in keeping aside the menace of social inequalities, victimisation and violence on women folk prevalent in the society during M.K.Indira's times.

Dr. K. Anjanappa, HOD, Dept. of Kannada proposed vote of thanks.



LITERARY FORUM

September 10, 2017, Kadapa

A Literary Forum on Historical Epics in Telugu Literature has been organised jointly by Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore and Dr. Bhutapury Subrahmanya Sarma Memorial Trust, Kadapa on 10 September 2017 at the Seminar Hall of C.P. Brown Research Centre for Languages, Kadapa. First Session started at 10-00 a.m. Dr. Bhutapury Sivarama Surendra Sarma, Seminar Director and Secretary of Dr. Bhutapury Subrahmanya Sarma Memorial Trust welcomed the gathering and invited the distinguished speakers onto the dais. While thanking the Sahitya Akademi for extending support to organize the literary forum, he remembered the literary contributions of Sahitya Akademi which not only presents awards for writers for their outstanding contribution in the field of literature of different Indian languages, promotes literature by providing support for various literary programmes under different programme plans. Dr. Mudivedu Prabhakara Rao, T.T.D. Publications Consultant, presided over the seminar. In his presidential remarks he said 'history is a reality and writing an epic is an imagination so that it is a tough job for any writer to write an historical epic blending with reality and imagination. He made elaborate presentation on different historical epics generated from different corners of Telugu land. Sri Amudala Murali, a renowned Avadhani presented his paper on "Palanaati Viira Charitra" of Srinatha Mahakavi. He said that Srinatha Mahakavi gave his Dwipada Metre the status of Epic for his Palanaati Veera Charitra which is popular among the folklore. Sri Yelamarthi Madhusudana, a poet and music teacher presented a paper on "Naagarjuna Saagaramu" of Dr. C.Narayana Reddy. He said it is a beautiful and romantic poetry of Narayana Reddy's imagination with historical background which ends with tragedy note as a result of contradiction between love and religion. The second session started at 02.00 pm. Dr. B. Gopala Krishna Sastry, Research Assistant, C.P.Brown Research Centre for Languages presented his paper on "Sri Krishna Bhaaratam" of Dr. Bhutapury Subrahmanya Sarma. While talking about the poetry of Subrahmanya Sarma he said Subrahmanya Sarma made Sree Krishnadevaraya as the hero of his work. Subrahmanya Sarma tried to maintain the historical values though he added creative touch in bringing out his work. Dr. Mudivedu Prabhakara Rao presented his paper on "Srimadashooka Charitra" of Sri Kalluri Venkata Narayana Rao Prabhakar Rao. He said the poet wrote this work keeping in mind the psychological state of the King Ashoka after the devastation effect of Kalinga War and his transformation towards the development of Bouddha Philosophy. Sri Katta Narasimhulu, T.T.D.Publications Consultant presented his paper on "Malliiswari" of Pala Venkata Subbaiah. Narasimhulu said that this work portrayed the simple and ordinary life of a lady who lived during the period of Sri Krishnadevaraya. In this work, the poet tried to expose the heroine in a manner how she elevated as a seasoned artist and the story ended in

tragedy. The entire programme was attended by scores of literary people, research scholars and post graduate students and concluded at 5 PM with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Bhutapury Sivaram Surendra Sarma.

GRAMALOK

September 14, 2017, Mallayyanapura

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in association with Sirigannada Pustaka Marata Malige (Sirigannada Bookshop), Chamarajnagar, Karnataka had conducted Gramalok: Kathe Kelu Magu – Kathe Helu Magu (Children's Literature in Kannada) programme on 14 September 2017, 10.30 a.m. at Adarsha Vidyalaya, Mallayyanapura, Chamarajnagar Dt. Karnataka. Dr. Hombayya, Kannada writer and UGC fellowship awardee and invitee said that Kannada Literature has very much contributed to the world Literature through its Vachana, Haridasa literature and etc... In the literary process, Kannada Literature has taken new dimensions by its children's literature. Three athma's of the Kannada children Literature are Panjemangesha Roy, Hoysala and G.P. Rajarathnam. Kannada folk literature is oriented by fairy-tales, which rouse children's wisdom. Dr. H.S.Venkateshmurthy, Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar winner writes children's literature and contributed a lot to development of children's writings in Kannada. Dr. Kupnalli M.Byrappa, Kannada lecturer, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, P.G. Centre, Suvarnagangothri, Chamarajanagar, said that children's Literature was invented or created by imitating nature our living atmosphere. Children's poetry must have rhymes with correct meaning and attractions. But it should be very simple and must not use very intellectual words and thoughts. Children must write their own experiences and that practice develops them as a seasoned writer. Young writer Ms. Madhumala Nagavalli told folktales to the school children. And another young writer Ms. Sunitha S.Ramasamudra also told many stories selected from Kannada fictions and folklore literature and she explained the human values in them. Valedictory speech delivered by K.C. Chandru, Baagali. This program organized by Govindaraju, Sirigannada Pusthaka Marata Malige, Chamarajanagara, N. Gurulingaiah, District Project Sub-Officer, Sarvashikshan Abhiyan, Chamarajanagara, R.Lingaraju, Headmaster, Adarsha Vidyalaya, Mallayyanapura, V.Vishalakshi, Kannada Teacher, Adarsha Vidyalaya, Mallayyanapura, Krishna Kumara, B.R.C, Chamarajanagara, Shivakumara, Co-teacher, Adarsha Vidyalaya, Mallayyanapura, more than 100 students and Teachers of the Adarsha Vidyalaya were participated.

LITERARY FORUM

September 15, 2017, Nandyal

Sahitya Akademi, R.O., Bangalore and the Department of Telugu Studies of Sri Rama Krishna Degree & PG College, Nandyal had jointly organised a Literary Forum on Experiments



in Telugu Free verse. It was conducted on 15-09-2017 in Prof. T Subbi Reddy Memorial Hall, Nandyal. Delegates from different Schools, Colleges, University (nearly 250 people) attended the Inauguration function, which was chaired by Prof. Rachapelem Chandrasekhar Reddy, member of Sahitya Akademi's Telugu Advisory Board and the recipient of Sahitya Akademi award. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. G. Rama Krishna Reddy Chairman of Rama Krishna Educational Institutions, Prof. G. Chandra Sekhar Rao attended inauguration function as invited guest. In his presidential address Prof Rachapalem Chandrasekhar Reddy illustrated different forms of free verse in Telugu literature. Changing society, changing thinking led to different experiments in Telugu Free Verse. Suitable Examples are Mini Kavitha, Hykoo, Nanilu, Rakkalu, Long poems etc., Prof Rachapelem explained the genesis and growth of these experiments in the Telugu free verse. Inaugurating the forum, Dr G. Rama Krishna Reddy said the role of literature in moulding the society. Whether in English, Hindi, Telugu or any literature undergoes changes poetry to free verse and to different forms of free verse all the experiments of aiming and recalling the readers and the common man. Because the purpose of literature is to make the common man a literate and to understand exchanges. Dr. Ramakrishna thanked for the opportunity to organize and conduct the programme. Speaking of the Occasion Prof G. Chandra Rao, Director of Sri Rama Krishna PG College emphasized the need of brevity in Nanilu, Hykoo etc. President of Surana Sarswatha Sangam Dr. G. Sahadevudu was invited and he recited some of his short poems. He said literature in any form will act as solution to many social problems, diseases and the literature act as a medicine to some ailments in society. Scholars from different institutions presented their papers on this occasion. Mr. G. Venakata Krishna presented his Mini Kavitha. Dr. M. Hari Krisan dealt with Hykoo poems. A paper on Naanilu was sent by Rajeswaramma. It was presented by M. Venkateswarlu a scholar of Dept. A Srinivasa Reddy presented paper wrote by Dr. K. Anand Rao on Rekkalu, Prof R Chandra Sekhar Reddy gave detail analysis of long poems. All the experiments in Telugu free verse explained by the paper readers was witnessed by the staff and students of Sri Rama Krishna Degree & PG College in general and the students of Telugu literature in particular Exposure to this programme made the Telugu students to gain a high level of literary consciousness.

LITERARY FORUM

September 16, 2017, Kurnool

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore and The Department of Telugu, Osmania College, (A), Kurnool, jointly organized a Literary Forum on 16-09-2017 on the topic "The Contribution of Muslim Writers for the Development of Telugu Literature" at Conference Hall (Room No.81), Osmania College, Kurnool at

10.00 a.m. The noted writers as well as speakers of Rayalaseema presented research papers on the The Contribution of Muslim Writers for the Development of Telugu Literature as listed below. Dr. V.R. Rasani, Associate Professor of Telugu S.V Arts College, Tirupati spoke on the works of S. Sikindar Basha. Dr. G.V. Sai Prasad, well-known Poet and Critic and Coordinator, Telugu Bhasha Mitramandali spoke on the works of S.B. Rahamathulla (Sasisri). Sri S.Md Inayatullah, well-known writer and journalist spoke on the works of Shaik Dawood. Dr. S. Shamiullah, Assistant Professor of Telugu, S.S.S Govt. Degree College, Bukkapatnam spoke on the works of Vempalli Abdul Khadar. Dr. Shaik Ibrahim, Lecturer in Telugu, A.P.I.I.T, Kadapa spoke on the works of Shaik Hussain (Satyagni). The literary forum was presided over by Mr. Md. Nematullah, Principal, Osmania College, Kurnool. Mrs. Azra Javed, Secretary & Correspondent, Osmania Group of Institutions, Kurnool was the chief guest, Dr. Mandi Anwar Hussain Convener, welcomed the gathering. Sri. Chandra Sekhar Kalkura, President, A.P. Grandhalayam Sangham, President, Gadi Charla Foundation, Mr. D.S. Azeez, well-known writer, Dr. S Mahaboob Basha, Associate Professor of English, Dr. A. Hanumathappa, Associate Professor, Rayalaseema University, Kurnool, Mr. Chandra Sekhar Garu, Writer, Mr. Rafiq Ahmed, Hindi Pandit, Smt. Sujatha, Smt. Aruna Kumari, Smt. Sunitha, Lecturers, Mr. Zaheer Ahmed, Mr. Kengara Mohan and Mr. Yousuf Khan, Journalist, Sri. Patel, well-known writer were among the noted dignitaries who attend the Literary Forum. About 200 students consisting of M.A Telugu, and Advanced Telugu(U.G) students and also students from other colleges participated in the function. The Management of the Osmania College, grandly felicitated all the participants. The programme concluded with Dr. T.Suryanarayana Reddy, Assistant Professor of Telugu proposing a vote of thanks.

HINDI DIVAS CELEBRATION

September 18, 2017, Bengaluru

The Hindi Week was started on 18th December, 2017, in South Regional Office of Sahitya Academy. On this occasion, various competitions were organized for the staff working in the Regional Office. As a special guest, Mr. Om Prakash Sah, in-charge of Hindi section of Syndicate Bank Corporate Office, was invited, under whose supervision competition was organized. Finally, a formal program was organized in which the results of the competitions were announced and prizes were distributed to the winners. During the program, the Regional Secretary of the Regional Office, Shri S.P. Mahalingeshwar was also present. He congratulated all the participants and in his statement, emphasized on increasing the use of Hindi in daily work. Special guest Shri Om Prakash Sah told the importance of the official language and its propaganda and explained the efforts of the government related to Prasar and urged everyone to cooperate with it. The program concludes with thanks to the Regional Secretary.



SEMINAR

September 20-21, 2017, Guntur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in collaboration with J.K.C. College, Guntur organized a two day Seminar on Goutama Buddha — Reflections on Telugu Literature and Culture on 20 and 21 September 2017 at J.K.C. College auditorium, Ring Road, Guntur.

In the inaugural session Sri S.P. Mahalingeswar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and participants of the programme. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener of Sahitya Akademi's Telugu Advisory Board presided over the function and delivered introductory address. Sri Mandali Buddha Prasad, Deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly was the Chief Guest of the function. He said, Buddha was the first champion of Colloquial Language Movement in India. Dr. Papineni Sivasankar, member of Telugu Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi and Sahitya Akademi Awardee 2016 had delivered the keynote address. He said that Goutama Buddha was the first historical figure in India. His was not religion but Dharma. The Ashtanga Marga of Buddha is very much relevant to this day and is necessary for the development modern man's personality. The first session was chaired by Sri Kurra Jitendra Babu who spoke on the contribution of Buddhist thinkers to Indian philosophy. Sri Borra Govardhan and Rayadurgam Vijayalakshmi submitted papers on the historical places of Buddhism in Andhra and the influence of Buddha on Telugu literature. Dr. Rachapalem Chandrasekhara Reddy presided over the second session and spoke on Buddha in Jashua literature. Smt. Y. Prasanthi read her paper on 'The Philosophical Terminology of Buddhism' and Sri M. Ravikrishna presented paper on 'Raja Vasireddy Venkatadrinaidu and Amaravati'. Sri Emani Sivanagireddy read his paper on "Glory of Amaravati in History" and explained the historical importance of Amaravati as the Buddhist Kshetra in his power point presentation. At 4.00 p.m. in the evening, in the Kavisandhi programme Sri Bandla Madhava rao recited his poems. On the second day – 21 September 2017, the third session was chaired by Dr. Vavilala Subbarao, who highlighted the poetry and philosophy of Acharya Nagarajuna. Prof. Challapalli Swaruparani and Sri G.V. Subrahmanyam presented papers on 'Buddha-Ambedkar' and 'Human Mind and Buddha' respectively.

Dr. Y. Mallikarjunarao presided over the fourth session and talked about the Buddhist themes in 'Karunasri' Jandhyala Papayya Sastri's writings. Dr. Nallapaneni Vijayalakshmi, Dr. Vaddepalli Srinivas presented papers on 'Amaravathi Kathalu' and 'Gathasaptasati' respectively. The fifth session was chaired by Dr. Vijay Koganti, who cited various writings in English, which were influenced by Buddhism. Dr. Pingali Venkata

Krishnarao, Dr. Nutakki Satish and Sri Liyakhat Ali Bodhi presented papers on 'Soundaranandamu', 'Buddha to Modern Society' and 'Telugu People to Buddhism' respectively. Prof. Kolakaluri Enoch was the Chief Guest of the valedictory session. He explained the reason behind the great journey from Siddhartha to Buddha. Sri Penugonda Lakshminarayana, in his retrospection, showcased the best paper presentations of the seminar. Dr. Papineni Sivasankar chaired the session and concluded in his remarks the two days' seminar as a great success.

KAVISANDHI

September 20, 2017, Guntur

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in collaboration J.K.C. College, Guntur had organised Kavisandhi at 4 pm on 20 September 2017 at the auditorium of J.K.C. College, Ring Road, Guntur. Eminent Telugu poet, Sri Bandla Madhava Rao had participated in the "Kavisandhi". It is a rare honour for a poet to perform. He recited his poems very graciously, interacted and received rousing acknowledgement from the audience.

LITERARY FORUM

September 22, 2017, Kurnool

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore jointly with K.V.R Government College for Women Autonomous, Kurnool had organised the Literary Forum: Navala Rachayitrulu Abhyudaya Dhrukpadham 22 September 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Auditorium, KVR Govt. College for Women (Autonomous), Kurnool.

The college which is interested not only educating the students but also in creating a highly effective and conducive environment on many academic issues had one more feather to its rich academic legacy. The literary forum on "Navala Rachayitrulu Abhyudaya Dhrukpadham" provided an apt platform to all the teaching professionals, writers, readers to share the knowledge on the writings, style, poetic value and social awareness aspects of various eminent women writers of Rayalseema. The five women writers are: 1. Olga, 2. Malladi Subbamma, 3. Manam Padmaja, 4. Acharya C. Anadaramam, and 5. Muppalla Ranganayakamma. Eminent writer Sri J.S.R.K. Sharma was the guest of honour in the literary forum. The Literary forum was presided over by Dr. S. Abdhul Khadar, Principal K.V.R Government College for Women Autonomous Kurnool. He welcomed and addressed the gathering by emphasizing the magnificence of Telugu literature. The programme convener Dr. V. Vindhya Vasini Devi, Asst. Professor, K.V.R Government College for Women (Autonomous), Kurnool addressed the audience about the main purpose and objectives of literary forum. The session was headed by Dr. V. Sreedevi,



Reader and Head of the Department of Telugu of KVRGCW (A), Kurnool.

Dr. P. Vijayakumar, Asst. professor and head, Dept. of Telugu, SJGC, Kurnool spoke and discussed on the writings of famous writer Olga. He emphasized feministic approach of the writer in her various novels like Sahaja, Swechha etc. Dr. N.B. Loka Raju, Asst. professor, Govt. Degree College, Kurnool addressed the audience about the writings of Malladi Subbamma. He spoke how her novels reflect the problems of women and the ways in which they can empower themselves by overcoming the adversities. Dr. M. Famida Begum, Asst. professor in Telugu, KVR Govt. College for women (A), Kurnool spoke on Manam Padmaja's novels in which she analyses the ways of developing the society. Dr. Bolugadde Anil Kumar, Lecturer, Narayana IAS Academy, Hyderabad addressed the audience on Acharya Anandaramam's novels like Mamatha Kovala, Toofanu, Indra Simhasannam, Sarada, Sampengapodalu etc. and how her writings influenced the society. Dr. N.K. Maddileti, well known writer of Kurnool District spoke about social aspects of famous writer Smt. Muppalla Ranganayakamma. She wrote many novels like Bali Peettam, Peka Medalu, Sweet Home, Kulina Godalu, Janaki Vimukti on various women issues and how to overcome these challenges. The literary forum has provided an opportunity to the teachers, research scholars and subject experts, and writers to share their experiences. More than 300 students actively participated in the forum. The literary forum was successful in bringing out social awareness aspects in the writings of all these famous Telugu women writers. It enriched the academician and students on the social developmental value of writings

SYMPOSIUM

September 23, 2017, Udupi

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore in collaboration with Rashtrakavi Govinda Pai Research Centre, Manipal University and M.G.M. College, Udupi, had organised one day Symposium on Media and Literature on 23 September 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at Nutana Ravindra Mantapa, M.G.M. College, Udupi.

The inaugural session started at 10.00 a.m. with an invocation. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore delivered the welcome address. He brought to the notice of the audience and the media personnel the literary endeavours of Sahitya Akademi right from the year of its inception to till date. He spoke about the precedence of the presentation of various Sahitya Akademi awards namely Main Award, Yuva Puraskar, Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Translation Prize, Bhasha Samman etc., The narrated the incidents led to introduction of Bhasha Samman award for promoting unrecognised Indian languages and dialects and about the first Bhasha Samman presented to Tulu language, which is popular in Dakshina Kannada. Also, he welcomed the participants and

guests, audience, students, media personnel for attending to the programme. Sri Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address. In his speech, he highlighted the positive and negative aspects of the media's influence on the common man. He stressed that both the literature and media must stick to faithful interpretation of the incidents. Sri S. Diwakar, Veteran Kannada writer and translator inaugurated the symposium. In his inaugural address he brought to the light that the social media has been over burdening the people with too many and misleading information. He said that the social and mainstream media's are responsible for the decline of reading habits among the people. Hence, reading population has always been a minor community for that matter. Literature portrays in an imaginary perspective the internal feelings of the human beings combined with the real incidents to certain extent. However, the media, particularly the television is moving away from the reality and towards fantasy. It is only showcasing the brighter sections of the society. The real India and its impoverishment is not being touched upon by its programmes. The media and literary world should help people to develop interest towards literacy and reading habits. It must project poets like Pampa, Bendre and Kuvempu and other writers for the extensive reading of their writings. He also stressed the need rational analysis of the false and exaggerating programmes. Dr. H. Vinod Bhat, Vice-Chancellor of the Manipal University had chaired the Inaugural Session. He consistently pointed out the influence of literature on media and vice-versa. How he was inspired by the Doordarshan programmes during 1980's that serialised the best literatures of India. He also stated that the media during those days had maintained the best quality in its accomplishments. The role of new media in bringing revolutions and making the literature available to the mass. Dr. K. Kusuma Kamath, Principal, M.G.M. College, Udupi had participated as the Guest of Honour. Prof. Varadesh Hiregange,



(L-R) Sri Vardesh Hiregange, Dr. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli, Sri S. Diwakar, Dr. Vinod Bhatt, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Smt. Kusuma Kamath.



Co-ordinator, RGPSK, Manipal University and Head, Dept. of Mass Communication and Journalism proposed vote of thanks. The First Session began at 11.30 a.m. Dr. S.B. Jogur presented a paper on *Literature and Newspaper*. Dr. T.C. Poornima presented a paper on *Literature and Doordarshan (Television)* and Smt. Bhagyajyothi Hiremath presented a paper on *Literature and New Media*. The paper reading session was followed with an interesting interaction by the paper readers, audience and students. The Valedictory Session was held at 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon. Sri A. Eshwarayya, veteran journalist from Udupi had chaired the session. Dr. B.A. Vivek Rai, veteran Kannada scholar and former Vice-Chancellor, Kannada University, Hampi had delivered the valedictory address. He called for the students to learn more languages apart from his/her own mother tongue, which will enable them to develop different cognitive skills and reasoning ability. He told that though he studied science in his boyhood days but later he developed interest in literature and folk studies as he could learn literature throughout due to the instructions and influence of his father who was a journalist. Hence, he could able to link himself with the literature and media. He also stated that he started to write and upload his own writings or literature for the social media and blogs after his retirement as he was media savvy. Later he kept himself away from these blogs and social media as he found them insincere. Sri A. Eshwarayya, veteran journalist averred about his experience as the media personnel, the past and present scenario of literature and media. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Varadesh Hiregange, Co-ordinator, RGPSK, Manipal University.

LITERARY FORUM

September 26, 2017, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, R.O. Bangalore had organised a Literary Forum on Environment and Literature : Inter-relation as part of the Swachhta Pakhwada (Sachhta Abhiyan) on 26 September 2017 at 5.00 p.m. Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi had chaired the programme. Dr. Nagesh Hegde, Kannada science fiction writer and veteran journalist, Dr. Vakkalanka Venkataraman, veteran biologist and Telugu science fiction writer, Sri Bobby Mathew, environmentalist and Dr. Mythili Rao, Dean of humanities, Jain University and Hindi writer had participated in the programme. They spoke on the inter-relationship between environment and literature and also the cleanliness in multifarious angles according to their own expertise in their respective fields. Also the present scenario of environment and issues concerned with it are ably dealt by the experts. The programme was well covered by the media.

GRAMALOK

October 3, 2017, Kalasapur

Sri Y.S.V. Datta, MLA, Karnataka delivered a talk on 'Kumaravyasa Bharata and politics'. The legendary writer used idioms and phrases easily understood by people: Y.S.V. Datta informed that Kumaravyasa initiated a new literary tradition in Kannada by using the language that could be easily comprehended by the common people in his celebrated work Kumaravyasa Bharata. Those who are wanted to be a politician, they should read poet Kumaravyasa Bharata. Y.S.V. Datta, MLA, has said. Mr. Datta was delivering a talk on the programme "Gramaloka" Literature of Mahakavi Kumaravyasa was organised by Sahitya Akademi in association with Ajjampura G. Suri Pratistana and Govt. Junior College, Kalasapura. Chikkamagalur tq, Chikkamagalur Dist on 03rd October 2017. Kumaravyasa was a visionary poet who has visualised 21st century polity in 14 century itself. The influence of Sanskrit was high on the writings of earlier Kannada poets Pampa and Ranna. With the objective to reach the common people, Kumaravyasa opted to tread a different path. Kumaravyasa Bharata also known as Karnata Bharata Kathamanjari and Gadugina Bharata was rich with the idioms and phrases spoken by the common people. It was a trend among the poets during Kumaravyasa's period to express their gratitude to the king who offered patronage to them or for the deity they worshipped. Kumaravyasa was a democrat in the real sense as he had boldly declared that he had written Gadugina Bharata for the common people, he said. Kumaravyasa Bharata taught us that discipline, transparency and good humanity through the character of Karna. Kumaravyasa resorted to a similar experiment, he said. Referring to the incident of Draupadi's Swayamvara in Kumaravyasa Bharata, he said when Karna was insulted on the basis of caste, Duryodhana came to his rescue and immediately crowned him the king of Anga province. Kumaravyasa advocated the empowerment of the oppressed communities in his works, he said. Kumaravyasa Bharata should not be read as a mere religious text. The work was a political satire and was relevant for the present times. Kumaravyasa had clearly expressed his views against the rulers who indulged in abuse of power. In the conversation between Dharmaraya and Narada in the work, the need to protect the interests of the agriculture sector for the progress of the nation was emphasized, he said. Sri Suri srinivas president of Ajjampura G. Suri Pratistana said that Literature is life, students should know about the writings of Kumaravyasa; which reflect the light on everyone's life. The writers like Dr. Sudharshan talk on Kumaravyasa's Prosody in poetry, Dr. Manjula Hullahally talk on Humorous Episodes, Smt. S. N Chandrakala talk on Mahabharath story line in Kumaravyasa Bharata, young poet Ajjampura S. Shruthi introduce the poet Kumaravyasa to the Gathering. Principal Sri



H.M Nagarajrao presides the programme. Sri Belavadi Ravindra, Sri Sigehadlu Harish, Sri Dinesh were present. Ajjampura S.Shruithi host the programme, Sri Shantkumar Welcome and Ms. Kavitha, lecturer Thank all the Gathering.

LITERARY FORUM

October 4, 2017, Malapuram

Dr. Haskerali EC, Coordinator of the seminar delivered welcome speech and gave a brief introduction about the literary forum, college Principal Dr.Musthafa Farook presided over the function. Renowned writer and member of Malayalam advisory board, Sahitya Akademi Sri.KP Ramanunni inaugurated the literary forum. In his inaugural speech Ramanunni pointed out that authors of this period are in danger. In order to survive, it is the situation to stop writings. College manager Prof. NV Abdurahiman felicitated and Dr. Jabir Amani said the vote of thanks. First technical session of the Literary forum started at 10.45. Dr. M C Abdul Nazar was the moderator of the session. Eminent women writer and Vice president of Kerala Sahitya Akademi Dr. Kadeeja Mumthaz, famous short story writer P.K. Parakkadavu, writer Shihabudheen Poithumkadavu and K P Ramanunni are the presenters of the session. The moderator gave a short and nice introduction about the theme of Life versus writings. Each presenters displayed short presentation within the theme limit. In every session audience got a chance to interact with the writers. Dr.Kadeeja Mumthaz described her life experience and writings. She is a medical practitioner, specialized on gynecology. In the famous novel 'Barra' discussing the darkened or veiled area related to medical field of female world. While she was working in the Middle East, she had faced many rare situation and she written in that experience in that novel. K P Ramanunni shared his experience, while he wrote novel 'Daivathinte Pusthakam'. Some religious fundamentalist tried to threaten and black mailed him. Religious fanatic peoples are willingly makes some problems and they want to make communal riots in this land. Ramanunni declined that I would never become a tool of these people. He fight against these force. P.K. Parakkadavu discussed the current scenario of the society. Fascist forces have continuously threatened the writers. He asked that what message is giving recent killings of the writers in all over the India. He appealed that secular communities must join together to resist these force. Shihabudheen Poithumkkadavu analysed the literary as well as political situation and its depth. In his view that readers are very intelligent in their thought process and react in right manner. He believed that readers give reply in exact and appropriate time for the unnatural cultures of communal forces. Audience are very vibrant and they shared their views. They are critically approached each talk and healthy discussion took place. Finally moderator concluded the session, his findings that writers are exclusively using their

capability to protect secular values through their writings and works. There may be lot of taboos in front of their writing world. But, they are strongly opposing all the obstacles with courageous mind. In short this literary forum: Life versus writings throw some positive sparks to the students as well as the society.

LITERARY FORUM

October 4, 2017, Kozhikode

Sahitya Akademi, R.O, Bangalore and the Department of Malayalam, Farook College, Calicut in association had organized literary forum on "syncretic culture in the poetry of T. Ubaid on 6th Oct 2017 at Farook College. It was conducted to commemorate T. Ubaid's 110th birth anniversary. The programme was formally inaugurated by the renowned Malayalam writer Mr. Shihabudheen Poythumkadavu. Though T. Ubaid was one of the members of Kerala Sahitya Academy and made his indelible mark in the field of poetry and oratory he was specialised, Shihabudheen opined. He had unfortunately not been brought into the limelight of the Malayalam literature. Being a talented writer both in Malayalam and Kannada languages he accentuated the theme on kerala culture .T. Ubaid had truly dreamt of the conception of Kerala and its culture even long before the inception of the Kerala state in 1956. The poem "Viadavangal" could be traced out to be the best example for this. Dr. K. M Nseer, Head , Department of Malayalam presided over the function. Dr.Mohammed Ali, coordinator, IQAC, Farook College and Dr. Lakshmin Praddep, head, department of journalism spoke on the occasion. T Mansoorali, Co-ordinator, Literary Forum welcomed the gathering. Ms. Shameena Sharin, Secretary, Malayalam Association proposed the vote of thanks. Dr. Ummer Tharammal, Head, Department of Malayalam, University of Calicut presented a paper on "poetry life of T Ubaid" in the second technical session. T Ubaid, according to Tharammal , is a poet who could amalgamate diversities and he made everything possible to uplift the Malayalam language and literature . Ms Sheena A.G chaired the session. After the tea break Mr. Faisal Eletil, popular Malayalam Mappila song critic, spoke on " songs and poetry of T Ubaid." In this session which paved the way for a lot of discussion and diatribes Mr. Eletil opined that T. Ubaid who created plenty rhythmic Malayalam lyrics had also proven his skill in singing the songs. Ms Jasmine chaired the session.The session in the afternoon at 2 'o'clock was managed by Mr P A Rasheed, Syndicate Member, University of Calicut. He said that T Ubaid is a comet aroused from the orbit of multi languages. He went on saying that poet Ubaid was able to make Malayalam language more democratic while exploring through the Arabi-Malayalam version. Later on Mr. Mohammed Shareef, writer and orator also spoke in the same session focusing the topic on " nation and national integrity in the works of T Ubaid."



LITERARY FORUM

October 20, 2017, Thiruvananthapuram

Sahitya Akademi and St. Xavier's College Thumba jointly organised a Literary Forum on 'Evolution of Malayalam Story Telling' on 20th October 2017. Dr. George Onakkoor, an eminent writer in Malayalam inaugurated the forum at 9.30 am. The focus of his inaugural speech was centred on the slogan of Kendra Sahitya Akademy, 'Indian literature is one though which is written in many languages'. The College Principal Dr.(Fr.) V.Y. Dasappan S.J. presided over the meeting. Dr.T.K. Santhoshkumar, the Head of the Department of Malayalam and Mass Communication delivered the welcome. The College Manager Adv.(Fr.) Pious Vachaparambil S.J. did the felicitation speech. The inaugural session concluded with the 'vote of thanks', which is delivered by Reshma Krishnan, the Secretary of Malayala Samajam. After the inaugural session, there were two seminar sessions. Session 1 has started at 10 am, which is chaired by Mrs. Lisba Yesudas, the Assistant Professor at the Department. The session was focused upon the historical studies on Malayalam novels. Dr. George Onakkoor presented the first paper on 'Malayalam Novel up to the period of Thakazhi'. He explained the history of Malayalam novels with more details and concrete examples. Though Malayalam novel has originated from the language revolution, it reflects the human conditions, he noted. According to him Malayalam novelists from Chanthu Menon to Thakazhi Sivasankarapillai were resisting different forms of power in the society through their works. There was a fifteen minutes discussion after his presentation. The students responded well to the paper through actively participating discussions around the topic and contributing with their creative interventions; especially questions about the craft of C.V. Raman Pillai. In the second paper of the first session, Dr. P.K. Rajasekharan, an eminent literary critic has done a presentation on 'Malayalam Novel M.T. Onwards'. This was scheduled at 11.30 am. He was emphatically explaining the relation between the socio-political situations of India and the history of Malayalam Novel. He emphasised that novel remains an index of social change. In a further point, he reiterated that an excessive influence of technology is the challenge today's writers. Student participants raised questions about the postmodern situations of Malayalam novel. Session 2 started at 1.30 pm. The session was chaired by Mrs. Renuka O., the Assistant Professor at the Department. 'Malayalam Story up to the period of Madhavikkutty' was the theme for Dr. M. Rajeevkumar's paper. While presenting the evolution of Malayalam Story, he made a critical comment on the modernistic characteristics in the writings of Madhavikkutty. The second paper was presented by Mr.V.V. Kumar, a writer in Malayalam on 'Malayalam Story and Modernism'. He drew the attention of the participants to the modernistic features of Malayalam Novel and the circumstances

that have led to the modernism in Malayalam. In the third paper, Mr. S. R. Lal, a story writer touched upon the topic of 'Malayalam Story and Postmodernism'. He explained postmodernism using his own life experiences and literary writings. Students were actively participated in the discussions followed by these presentations. They brought an atmosphere of creative dialogues on modernism and postmodernism sensibilities. The whole seminar sessions were ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Sudheesh Sam, Guest Lecturer at the Department. The Literary Forum was attended about hundred students. A noteworthy feature is that girls' participation was much higher; more than 70% of the participants were girls. The seminar sessions have definitely given to the students and other participants a detailed and clear picture of the evolution of Malayalam Novel and short stories.

MEET THE AUTHOR

October 27, 2017, Mangalore

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised a Meet the Author programme in association with S.V.P.Kannada Adhyayana Samsthe, Mangalagangothri, Mangalore University on Dr. Na.Mogasale, Eminent fiction writer in Kannada on 27th October 2017. Sri S.P.Mahalingshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the writer and guests and detailed the activities of Akademi in general and importance of Meet the Author programme in particular. Also introduced the author Dr. Na. Mogasale to the audience. Dr. Narayana Bhatta, Mogasale popularly known as Na.Mogasale in Kannada is professionally a doctor of medicine and an important writer equally with his poetry, fiction (novels, short stories) since 1965 and an able organiser of literary events and awards at Kantavara, a tiny village in Karkala Taluk of Mangaluru District. People call him "Bhagiratha" of literature in that rural area. The author started his speech with all the troubles he encountered since childhood to educate himself and how those experiences became tales for future generation. In the last five decades, he wrote plenty of literature stories, novels, play on medicine all the results of his experience with village and common folk. He imbibed knowledge from books and developed literary culture through his books and making others to write and contribute by writing books for general readers. He is practically became a universal man without case and creed and humanity is foremost among his writings he concluded. He also thanked Sahitya Akademi for the honour bestowed to him. Kannada Advisory Board members, Dr. Na.Damodara Shetty, Prof. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli and Prof.Somanna and Prof. Dhananjaya Kumble actively participated in question answer session followed the speech of the authors, Media persons, students, teachers and writers from Mangaluru and Udupi District made programme a grand success.



SYMPOSIUM

October 29, 2017, Guntur

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Gunturu Zilla Rachayithala Sangha (Guntur District Writers Association) organised a one day Symposium on Contemporary Telugu Poetry in Globalisation Scenario on 29th October 2017. The venue was Zilla Parishath Meeting Hall, Guntur. While welcoming the dignitaries and guests of the Symposium, Sri S.P.Mahalingeswar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, mentioned that Sahitya Akademi since its inception is striving hard to enrich the Indian literature and presently in 24 languages programmes and publications have been successfully being done. This time, Sahitya Akademi has chosen globalisation as its theme for this Guntur symposium being a contemporary issue he concluded. Dr. N.Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, said that globalisation has been creating inequalities all over the world though the world was fast becoming a global village due to technical growth, which was a part of it. However, the onslaught of our culture, society and lifestyles was an essential point to discuss at length he added. He landed the joint effort of Sahitya Akademi and Association of Guntur writers for making an elaborate discussion over globalisation and its impacts on Telugu poetry which is very relevant. Sri Somepalli Venkata Subbaiah, President of GDWA, said that their association was conducting a number of such programmes in the whole district, which deserved to be mentioned in the annals of Indian history of literature and his willingness to compile the presentations in a book form at the earliest. Chief guest of the occasion, Sri Bommidala Sri Krishna Murthy, an industrialist and a patron of Telugu literature, urged the writers Associations to conduct literary programmes now and then to evaluate the impact of globalisation on our lives as it would affect the social values and human relations and Indian ethoes. He profusely thanked Sahitya Akademi for conducting various important programmes for Telugu literature in Andhra and Telangana states. Sri Penugonda Lakshmi Narayana, the keynote speaker, who is National Secretary of Indian Progressive Writers Association and Telugu critic in his address called globalisation was a ploy to prevent common responses on a common cause. He in detail gave instances of merits and demerits of globalisation. In the first session, which was chaired by Sri Kondreddy Venkateswara Reddy, two papers were presented by Sri B.Lalithanand, who presented his views on decaying human relations onslaught of globalisation and Sri V.Nagarajya Lakshmi vividly put forth the pros and cons of weekend family setup as appeared in recent Telugu poetry quoting N.Gopi, Papineni, Bhavani Devi's poems. Kondreddy Venkateswara Reddy thrown light on agricultural disasters on the behest of Telugu literature are by products of globalisation. The second session chaired by poet C.Bhavani Devi, who spoke at a length the changes in language in recent

Telugu poetry giving instances of English and foreign words in Telugu poetry she listed the impact of globalisation. Putla Hemalatha deeply gone through internet literature which is a by product of globalisation and also influenced by technical advance. Chalapaka Prakash presented paper on "Minimal Forms, Naneelu and Creation of New Readership", and also paved way for a new generation of poets in thousands writing in this Naneelu form. The Valedictory session was chaired by Dr. N.Gopi, who thanked all participants and asked the collaborator to document the proceedings Akademi award winning poet Papineni Shivashankar delivered valedictory address, where he cautioned the writers to aware of all the impacts of globalisation and create the literature with commitment to the society. It followed by Kathasandhi programme featuring Smt. Vadrevu Veeralakshmi Devi, she read her recent short story on tribal world of which she acquainted for several years. Dr. N.Gopi, Papineni and other writers interacted with her. Sri S.P.Mahalingeswar at the outset welcomed the story writer and introduced her to the audience. And at the end thanked the author and all other important writers of Guntur and audience for their cooperation.

GRAMALOK

October 29, 2017, Mundur

The Sahitya Akademi and the Yuvaprabhatha vayanasaala , Mundur conducted one day programme on Gramalok Bal sahitya (Children's Literatur) on Sunday 29th October 2017 at Govt LP School, Mundur, Palakkad District of Kerala State. The programme was notable for its unique presentation of the theme and enthusiastic response of children. The children's literature programme was inaugurated by Kerala State Library Council, Palakkad District secretary Mr. M.Kassim. He said that a lot of books written for the children are made available in rural libraries and school libraries . He advised the children to make use of these libraries to develop reading habit and it will help to increase creativity in writing. Mr S. Selvarajan, President of the yuvaprabhath vayanasaala presided over the function.Prominent Children's writer and sub Editor of "Urekha" , a leading children's magazine , Mr. M Krishnadas explained about creativity in short story writing through different examples. He read some participating children's own stories brought in the session and encouraged their talents. Children actively participated in the discussion after his speech on the subject Mr Krishnadas replied to their doubts suggested some books to read essentially in childhood.

Noted writer and educationalist Mr.P.M.Narayanan spoke on the topic contemporary poetry. He also read some poem brought in the session by the participants and evaluated. He encouraged the young poets and advised to observe life and nature and find new images in poems. He suggested some books to read in



younger age . Reading of Adhyalma Ramayana written by thunchath Ramanujan ezhuthachchan will help to acquire linguistic talent., he said. Famous play writer and Children's drama director Mr. B.S.Sreekandan spoke about Children's theatre - an insight. He gave some situations to the participating children for expression of feeling and they did it well. Children's play are emerged from some good ideas to expose to others including scientific thoughts, morality, humanity etc. He explained about the modern styles in children's play to express ideas effectively. 60 students studying in Upper primary, High school and Plus 1 classes have participated in the programme. Children enjoyed the programme very much and requested to organize the programme like this every year. The programme helped the participants to select books to read, study and practice in creative writings. In valedictory session, Advocate and Educationalist Rajesh Panagad , chief guest , delivered a notable speech. He thanked Sahitya akademi for promoting the library organization to conduct programme which will help children to make interest in literature and arts. The welcome address was given by P. Chnadrsekharan, Secretary Yuvaprabhath vyanasala and Vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Y.Sindhu, Convenor , Women's wing. Guardians of children and library workers also visited to witness the programme. The programme was successful in all aspects. The programme started at 10.am and ended at 4.30 pm. The Participants were given limon juice , biscuits and lunch. All participants were also given certificates

SYMPOSIUM

November 2, 2017, Malappuram

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Department of Malayalam, University of Calicut, organised a one day Symposium on "Sub cultures of Writings: Art and Thought of O.V.Vijayan" at the university premises in Malappuram on 2 November 2017. In the inaugural session, Shri K.P. Radhakrishnan, Programme Officer, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri K.P. Ramanunni, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the inaugural address. Dr Ummer Tharammel, Head, Department of Malayalam Studies, University of Calicut, presided over the session. Shri Madambu Kunjukuttan, eminent novelist, delivered the keynote address. Ms. Mythi Vyshnavas proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Dr. L.Thomaskutty. Sri K.K.Baburaj presented the paper titled 'Upadeseyathakalude Rashtreeya Samsarika Sangharshangal'. The second paper was by Dr. Shamshad Hussain on 'Ezhuthile Jaivavum Sthryannavum'. The second session of the symposium was chaired by Dr. R.V.M.Divakaran. The paper readers of the session were Sri C.B.Sudhakaran, who focussed on 'Utharakalathe Rashtreeya Samskarika Samvadangal,' and E.P.Rajagopalan, who

concentrated on 'Khasakinte Nadakavishkaram: Vimarsana Vyavaharam and Shri Sreevalsan Meethale Illathu. The second paper was a critique on the adaptation of O.V.Vijayan's Khasakkinte Ithihasam as a theatrical performance. Shri Illathu's paper was titled 'Vijayante Cartoon: Kala, Kalam, Kalapam'. There was also, as earlier, a spirited discussion on all the three papers presented. Sri Aafis proposed a vote of thanks.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS LECTURE

November 3-4, 2017, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a vigilance awareness lecture by Sri A.C. Rajasekhara, eminent journalist and Karnataka state Rajyotsava awardee, on 3 November 2017 at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru. Dr. Karigowda Beechanahalli, Professor, eminent Kannada writer and former Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi was also present during the programme. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, welcomed the guests. Sri A.C. Rajasekhara spoke on the various facets of the prevalent corruption in India. He said that no system that could completely wipe it out in the world and its rampant nature, where from politicians to high government officials are involved in.

SYMPOSIUM

November 7, 2017, Aluva

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Department of Malayalam, Union Christian College, Aluva organised a one day symposium on Kuttippuzha Krishnapillai at the college premises on 7 November 2017. Inaugurating the Symposium, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi recalled his association with Krishnapillai and stated that it is because of him that he became a novelist. Dr. Sunil P. Ilayidam in his speech on Kuttippuzha talked about the ideology of Krishnapillai, his philosophical and political views, rapidly decaying societal values and the role of Krishnapillai in social reengineering. The first session was chaired by Captain K.S Narayan and in this session Ms. Sonia presented her paper. In the next session Sri M.S Paul presented his paper titled 'Kuttippuzhayude Vimarshanangal: Oru Vayana.' He focussed on the limitations and shortcomings of the writer's role as a critic. In the third session Dr. V.P. Markose presented a paper 'Kuttippuzhayilae Yukthivadhi'. The valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Muse Mary George, Head, Malayalam Department. Rev. Fr. Thomas John, Sri. Ponoose and Dr. Shimi Paul Babyall thanked the participants, Akademi and the audience.



SYMPOSIUM

November 12, 2017, Honnavara

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru in collaboration with Chintana, Uttara Kannada, organized a one day symposium on Literary Contribution of V G Bhat, a well-known Kannada poet, in Honnavara on 12 November 2017. Sri S P Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome speech. Sri Vittal Bhandari Convener of Chintana presented introductory remarks. Inaugurating the symposium Dr. M G Hegde, eminent critic, stated the fact that because V G Bhat's vehement attack on the followers of romanticism, he was marginalized by a host of modern Kannada poets and critic. The non-conformist poet remained independent until last remarkably un-yielded to the prevailing tradition when others had been swift in its wave and that itself enabled him react with wit and irony. He further suggested that there is a need to relook at his poetry for understanding his peculiar uniqueness. In the first session, Sri Chintamani Kodlekere presented his paper on Tradition of Kannada Poetry and V G Bhat. Next speaker, Sri Ranganath Kantanakunte made his speech on Bases of Protest in V G Bhat's Poetry. In the second session Dr. Geetha Vasant presented his discourse on V G Bhat's Maralibanda Kavite. Sri M D Vakkunda presented his paper on V G Bhat's prose. Thereafter, Dr. Shridhar Balagar, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, who delivered the valedictory address, remarked that V G Bhat was sincerely committed to his experience in his poetic expression and the poet was no longer a social reformer or an ideal hero but a common man in his poetry. In the realistic vision his poems followed the path of Anubhavi tradition where liberation is attained through involvement without attachment in life. Bhat's poetry could be viewed as criticism of tradition of Kannada poetry. Dr. Rajappa Dalavayi, noted critic, presided over the session. Sri Shripad Bhat and Madhavi Bhandari recited selected poems of the poet. Sri Kiran Bhat presented a vote of thanks.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

November 14-20, 2017, Mangaluru

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru, organised the National Book Week programmes and Book Exhibition in association with Dept. of Kannada, St. Aloysius College, from 14 to 20 November 2017 at Mangaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr. B.A. Vivek Rai, an eminent Kannada writer and former Vice Chancellor of Kannada University and Karnataka Open University, in his inaugural address, stated the world is moving fast, with changes taking place in every field. The rapid advance

of science and technology has contributed to a great extent to it. Book publishing enterprise in the world goes on as earlier but the space has been reduced. Dr. Na. Damodara Shetty, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, talked about declining reading habits in the world. Rev. Fr. Praveen Martis, Principal, St. Aloysius College, congratulated and thanked the Akademi. Dr. Saraswathi Kumari K., Head, Dept. of Kannada, St. Aloysius College, proposed a vote of thanks. A Poets' Meet was organised on 15th by Dr. Saraswathi, Head, Dept of Kannada, St. Aloysius College. Dr. Vasanth Kumar Perla, well known chaired the function. The other participants were Mohammed Baddura, Keshava Dharani, Katyayani Kunjibett Ramachandra Pai, Dhananjaya Kumble, Jyothi Mahadev. On 16th, plays were read out and enacted by eminent writers viz. Sri Chinna Kasaragodu, Sri Shashiraj Kavoor and Smt. Sarojini Shetty. On 17th story reading programme was chaired by Dr. Vishvanatha Badhikana, writer, short stories were read out by Prof. Jayaprakash Mavinakuli (Chair), Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sri Manohar Prasad and Ms. Snehalatha Diwakar. On 18th Kavi Makkalu (Children's Poetry Recitation) was held in which many renowned poets participated viz. Sannidhi Rai, Rajeshwari Shetty, Pradhyumna Murthy, Aradhana Bhat, Ananya and Arjun Shenoy. On 19th a discussion on Book Culture was held. Dr. Saraswathi spoke about book culture in the context of Kannada literary trends and folklore. Dr. Viswanatha Badhikana spoke about book culture in the face of digitalisation and the technology onslaught. On 20th a valedictory session was organised. Rev. Fr. Praveen Martis chaired the session. Sri Erya Lakshminarayana, eminent writer, delivered the valedictory address. He appreciated Akademi for its creative zeal and contribution to Indian literature as a whole.

LITERARY FORUM

November 15, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Kannada Department, Mumbai University organised a literary forum 'Sahitya Samvada' on 15th November 2017, at J.P. Naik Bhavan, Kalina Campus, Mumbai. Dr. G.N. Upadhya, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and the Professor and the Head of Kannada Department, Mumbai University gave the introductory speech. He initiated the discussion with a general comment on medieval Kannada literature, a topic chosen for the occasion, by saying that it is very diverse and complex. Poets of this period experimented with lot of local prosodies. Dr. Krishna Murthy Hanur, well-known writer and poet, was the main speaker of the day. He said that medieval literature was aimed at the common man. This is because most of the leading poets of that time like Shiva Sharana's, Harihara, Raghavanka and later Kumara Vyasa condemned monarchy. Their hearts lay with the common man.



Dr. Hanur said that Kumara Vyasa in particular very beautifully depicted several problems of common man in his writings and has substantiated them.

SYMPOSIUM

November 27, 2017, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Department of Telugu, Bangalore University, organised a oneday Symposium on Telugu-Kannada Shaiva Sahityam: Societal Perspective on 27 November 2017 at Seminar Hall, Canara Bank School of Management Studies, Central College Campus in Bengaluru. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr. K. Ashya Jyothi, Chairperson, Dept. of Telugu, Bangalore University, in her introductory address gave an insightful account of the historical background and societal perspective of the 11th and 12th century Shaiva sahyam. Prof. K. Enoch delivering the keynote address observed that the forte of the Shaiva literature was that it gave special prominence to ordinary public or writers and brought them to the mainstream. Palikuriki Somanatha, Mallikarjuna Panditharadhya, Nanni Chuda and many other writers were influenced by Basavanna's vachanas in Kannada.. Shaiva sahyam sprung up as a revolt to Vaishnava sahyam. It envisaged that all castes and creed are equal and opposed idol worship. The first session was chaired by Dr. K. Madhu Jyoti and she also presented paper on Basava Puranam and Bhakti Tatvam in Telugu. Dr. D. Venkateswara Rao read his paper on Veera Shaiva Sahityam and Palkuriki Somanathuni Krushi. Dr. Samata Deshmane presented paper on Basavannana Vachanagalalli Samanathe. Prof. M.M. Vinodini read a paper on Akkamahadevi Vachanalu – Adhunika Streevada Drukptham.

The second session was chaired by Dr M. Ramanatham Naidu who himself contributed a paper on Shaiva Sahityam – Bhakti Tatvam. Smt. Vadde Hemalatha, thereafter, read a paper on Shivasaraneyara Sahitya – Arthikabhivruddhi. Dr. P.R. Harinath presented his paper on Shaivakavula Rachana Vaichitri. After the session a book Oora Baavi of Prof Enoch and translated into English by P. Jayalakshmi was released.

SYMPOSIUM

November 29, 2017, Kozhikode

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with N.V. Samaraka Trust, Kottakkal and Department of Malayalam, Malabar Chrstin College, Kozhikkode, organised a one day symposium on Literary Criticism of M.P.Sankunni Nair at Malabar Chriistin College Auditorium, on 29 November, 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P.Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants

and audience. Sri C.Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the symposium. Shri K.V. Ramakrishnan delivered his introductory speech. The symposium was chaired by Dr. Godwin Samraj D.P., Principal, Malabar Christian College, Kozhikkode. Dr. M.R.Raghava Warriar, noted writer, delivered the keynote address. Dr. M.Rajasree proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Dr. Srijith and paper readers of the session were Sri Chathanath Achyuthanunni, who presented his views on 'Rasa Concept in M.P.Sankunni Nair' and Dr. C.Rajendran on 'Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Approaches of M.P.Sankunni Nair'. The second session chaired by Sri Biju Joseph. The first paper discusant, Sri P.V.Raman Kutty delivered his lecture on 'M.P.Sankunni Nair: Life and Letters'. It was followed by a paper presentation by Smt. K.K Geethakumari titled the 'Influence of Indology on M.P.Sankunni Nair'. The third session of the symposium was chaired by Sri V.S.Prasun. Sri N. Ajaya Kumar presented a paper on 'M.P.Sankunni Nair's Criticism of Contemporary Malayalam Poetry.' The second paper presenter of the session was Sri M. Srinathan, who spoke on 'M.P.Sankunni Nair's Views on Malayalam and Prakruth'. The valedictory session was chaired by Sri Anup Antony. Mrs. Meera Juliat C. welcomed the gathering. Sri K.P.Mohanan, Secretary, Kerala Sahitya Akademi, delivered the valedictory Address. Sri Rajesh Babu proposed a vote of thanks.

NORTHEAST AND SOUTHERN WRITERS MEET

December 7-8, 2017, Cochin

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Kochi International Book Festival Committee, organised a two-day North East and Southern Writers Meet on 7 and 8th December 2017 in Kochi. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. In his inaugural address Prof M. Thomas Mathew, eminent Malayalam writer talked about creative process and cultural components in a writer's life. In his Presidential address, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the linguistic diversity of the country the need for such programmes. In the poetry recitation programme followed with the inaugural session, the poets Sri Mihir Mousum Roy (Assamese), Sri Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Smt P. Chandrika (Kannada), Sri Prabha Varma (Malayalam), Smt. Loitam Inaobi Devi (Manipuri), Smt. Sheela Tamang (Nepali), Dr. Nellai S. Muthu (Tamil), Sri Adigopula Venkataratnam (Telugu) and Dr. Bina Hangkim (Bina Subba) (Nepali) recited their poems. Sri Prabha Varma, Malayalam poet said that the recitation of poetry in their native language helps in acquainting the diverse people with the resonance of different languages, which will speak to them surpassing the fences of



language itself. Sri S.P.Mahalingeswar, Regional Secretary of Sahitya Akademi proposed vote of thanks. The First Session devoted to 'Poetry: New Challenges' and chaired by Prof. M. Leelavathy had three noted scholars Sri S.R. Vijayashankar (Kannada), Dr. H. Behari Singh (Manipuri) and Smt. Swatee Sripada (Telugu) presenting their papers.

The second session devoted to Poets Meet and chaired by Dr. H. Behari Singh had seven noted poets, Dr. Pranjal Sarma (Assamese), Sri S.K. Basumatary (Bodo), Sri Jayaprakash Mavinakuli (Kannada), Sri Kureepuzha Sreekumar (Malayalam), Sri Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh (Manipuri), Mrs. Zara (Zabinath) and Sri Juluru Gowrishnakar (Telugu) reciting their poems. The Third Session was devoted to short story reading in which Sri Devkanta Ramchiary (Bodo) and Sri Keeranur Jahir Raja (Tamil) read their short stories. The fourth session was English Poets Meet and it was chaired by eminent Indian English writer Prof. E.V.Ramakrishnan. Young English poets namely Ms. Rohini Kejriwal, Mr. Shalm M. Hussain, Ms. Saima Afreen, Ms. Lakshmi Priya and Ms. Anuradha Nalapat recited their poems.

SYMPOSIUM

December 14, 2017 Edappal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Vallathol Vidyapeetam, organized a daylong symposium on Writings of T. N. Gopinathan Nair on December 14, 2017 at Edappal. Sri K. P. Radhakrishnan, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri C. L. Jose, eminent Malayalam writer, in his inaugural address talked about Gopinathan's radio plays and other works and highlighted nuances in his works. In his introductory remarks, Sri Anil Vallathol, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about Gopinathan's life and works. Eminent critic, Sri Chathanath Achuthanunni chaired the session. The book 'Dasapushpam', written by T.N.Gopinathan Nair was released by C.L.Jose. The book 'T.N.Gopinathan Nair', a biographical sketch of the eminent writer, authored by Sri Anil Vallathol, was also released in the function. The Keynote Address was delivered by Sri Aliyar. Analyzing the various plays of T.N.Gopinathan Nair, he unveiled the melodramatic and humorous elements of his plays. P.Ivy, Principal, Vallathol Vidyapeetam, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session chaired by T.V. Soolapani, two noted scholars Sri N. Radhakrishnan Nair and Aliyar presented their papers on plays of Gopinathan. In the second session chaired by Sri P.V. Narayanan, three noted scholars, Sri K. Sreekumar, Sri Alankode Leelakrishnan and Ms. Divya MR, presented papers focusing on Gopinathan and Malayalam Theatre, Poems of Gopinathan and Prose structure of T.N. Gopinathan Nair, respectively. Ms. Suraja proposed a vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

December 28, 2017, Kondotti

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Mahakavi Moyinkutty Vaidya Mappila Kala Academy organized a literary forum on December 28, 2017 at Kondotti. The forum was inaugurated by Sri S. Venkitachalam, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Venkitachalam talked about the greatness and relevance of Moyinkutty Vaidyar. Dr Shamshad Husain who chaired the session explained the relevance of the title as the works of Moyinkutty Vaidyar which stands at the heart of Mappila literature and of his works, Husunul Jamal Badarul Muneer stands out as an incomparable work of artistic quality. Razak Payambrot, Secretary of the Mappila Kala Academy, delivered introductory remarks on Moyinkutty Vaidyar and his works. Four papers on the poem Husunul Jamal Badarul Muneer written by Moyinkutty Vaidyar in 1872 were presented in the business session. Dr. V Hikmathulla introduced a philosophic reading of the poem explaining the recurrent Sufi imagery in the metaphors and narratives of the text. Dr. Lissy Mathew attempted a feminist reading that Vaidyar established a counter ideological move against the mainstream literary tradition of that period that by introducing a heroine whose qualities strikingly conflicts and contradicts with the mainstream image of women, both in literary and social realms. Dr. P T Noufal attempted a linguistic analysis of the poem explaining how the selection of the diction makes a political move against derogation of the Mappila language.

LITERARY FORUM

December 28, 2017, Anantapur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with Anantapur District Writers Association, organised Literary Forum on 25 Years of Globalisation and Rayalaseema Literature on 28 December 2017 at Sri Balaji Telugu Pandita Shikshana Kalasala, Anantapur. Dr. Uddandam Chandrashekar, District President of Anantapur District Writers Association, Sri Gutta Hari Sarvothama Naidu, Chief Secretary of Anantapur District Writers Association were present during the inaugural programme. Well-known Telugu poet Sri T. Rajaram presided over the programme. Sri Y.V. Venkateshulu spoke on "Katha – Prapanchikarana" (Story – Globalization), noted Telugu critic Sri Lakshmana Chakaravathi spoke on the topic "Prapanchikarana – Vimarsha" (Globalisation – Criticism), Sri Bandi Narayana Swamy, noted Telugu writer spoke on the topic "Navala – Prapanchikarana" (Novel – Globalisation) and Sri A. Chandrashekar spoke on 'Prapanchikarana' (Globalisation).



LITERARY FORUM

September 11, 2017, Ettayapuram

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Don Bosco College of Arts & Science, Keezheerall, conducted a literary forum on Mahakavi Bharathi, on 11 September 2017 at the college premises. Dr. S. Jayanthi, Head, Department of Tamil, delivered welcome address. Dr. A. Amala Jaya Rayan, Principal of the college, delivered inaugural address. Father Marshal Lincoln, Secretary of the college, unveiled the portrait of the great poet Bharathi. Dr. R. Kamarasu, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. He mentioned that Ettayapuram was the birth place of the great Tamil poet Bharathi, who changed the course of Tamil poetry by his fiery lyrics for freedom struggle and also many other eternal poetic pieces of great value. He quoted a few poems of Bharathi and exhorted the students to become patriotic, independent and remarkable citizens of a brave new India. Sri Ilasai Manian presented a paper on Bharathi's universal outlook. Dr. G. Maithili presented a paper on Bharathi's feminist outlook and noted that equality of women was dear to the heart of Bharathi, equal to the love of his motherland. She also said that Bharathi's poems on women liberation are innovative, rebellious and went against the current male chauvinistic society. Sri P. Kailasasmorthy delivered a speech interspersed with songs and musical interpretations. Prof. S. Deivarathina proposed vote of thanks.

HINDI DIVAS CELEBRATION

September 18, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai celebrated 'Hindi Divas' on 18 September 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. He encouraged the staff to improve their efficiency in Hindi and to enjoy the literary nuances of Hindi as well. Dr. P.K. Balasubramanian, renowned Hindi scholar, narrated the efforts of Mahatma Gandhiji, Devdas Gandhiji, Rajaji and other freedom fighters who strived to create a cultural and linguistic unity all over India. Earlier, an essay writing competition was conducted for the general staff and a dictation competition was conducted for MTS staff. Dr. Balasubramanian appreciated the essays written by the prize winning participants and also the interest shown by the entire staff towards Hindi language and literature.

SWACHHTA PAKHWADA

September 18, 2017, Chennai

The staff members of the sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai took Swachhta pledge with much fervor, on 18 September 2017 at the office premises. The Swachhta pledge was read out and taken by all the staff members. Thereafter, Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai,

spoke about the concept 'Swachhta Hi Seva'. Everyone should start the cleanliness campaign just from his/her home and his/her office desk and a collective effort of citizens would result in a clean environment and a better India. He also observed that by improving the physical health of the citizens, the social and economic health of the nation as a whole would also be developed.

LITERARY FORUM

September 19, 2017, Maduranthakam

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Sri Malolan College of Arts & Science, Madurantagam, organized a literary forum on 'Indian Epics' on 19 September 2017 at the college premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr. Rama. Gurunathan delivered his presidential speech quoting various stalwarts who adorned the epic scene of India. Sri Aaraavamuthan, Principal of the College offered his felicitations mentioning that the Kamba Ramayana and the Alwars' hymns are embodiment of human values which will guide the younger generation for a nobler way of life. Sri N. Avadaiyappan presented a thoughtful speech on the values of Kamban's Ramayana epic. Dr. Amulsofia mentioned that Manimegalai recounts the story of the heroine Manimegalai, the daughter of Kovalan and Madhavi. The heroine becomes a Buddhist monk and starts a movement for feeding the poor by a sacred vessel known as 'Akshyapatra' which gives food unendingly. She defies the king, the queen and the ruling government but follows the teachings of Lord Buddha in a very strong manner. Sri P.K. Prabhakaran mentioned that Silappathikaram is the most popular epic story enjoyed by the Tamil masses for around 20 centuries, among the five great epics of Tamil. Since the golden anklets of the heroine caused the major turning points in the epic leading to the murder of her husband at first and then the death of the king and the queen and the burning of the capital in the second phase, the epic is called by its name, literally story of the anklet. Sri Balaraman quoted a number of instances in ancient literature on celestial objects which are believed to coordinate, control and even confuse the thoughts and actions of human beings. He quoted verses from ancient epics especially from Perumkathai to prove that eclipses, comets, full moon, new moon and patterns of the stars as recorded by the authors. An intense discussion on the values of the epics in the modern context followed the talks. The young scholars expressed their questions and different interpretations based on epics. The paper readers responded to them in a detailed manner.

SWACHHTA PAKHWADA LECTURES

September 20 & 25, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, as a part of observance of 'Swachhta Pakhwada' from 16 September 2017 to 2 October 2017, arranged for guest lectures by Sri T.



Radhakrishnan, I.P.S. (Retd.) and Ms. Vaigaiselvi, Former Deputy Director, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, on 20 September 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, exhorted everyone to contribute their mite to create a clean India and a green India which would get all of us a great India in future. Ms. Vaigaiselvi, a technical expert in environmental science and also an accomplished poetess dealing with social issues, felt that the flora and fauna of nature should be nurtured and protected for the benefit of the future generations. She advocated perfect cleanliness in urban sanitation and waste management to avoid infectious diseases and pollution. Sri Radhakrishnan delivered a powerful lecture on the role of nature and its interpretations in literature. He also quoted a number of Sangam poems, medieval religious hymns on Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu, minor epics of 17th and 18th centuries and modern poetries of Bharathi and Bharathidasan. He quoted songs from Bharathi's Kuyilpattu (Cuckoo's Song) and Bharathidasan's Azhagin Sirippu (Smile of Beauty). He praised the efforts of the leaders of the nation for maintaining and developing a clean environment, emulating the steps of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhiji. The programme was well attended by local scholars and literary enthusiasts.

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, as a part of observance of 'Swachhta Pakhwada' from 16 September 2017 to 2 October 2017, arranged for guest lecture by Dr. Vaidyalingam on 25 September 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Dr. Rama Gurunathan presided over the programme. He mentioned that nature is seen as a background for human interaction in Tamil literature, while the English literary scene is quite different. Nature is appreciated for its pristine beauty without any reference to human actions. Wordsworth was enthralled by the daffodil flowers. Keats fell for the sonorous music of the nightingale and the beauty of the oceans, mountains, waterfalls, rivers, the flora and fauna are picturized just for entertainment. Whereas in Tamil literature, each and every scene of nature is a background for human emotions and actions like love, union, separation, suffering in silence etc. Prof. Rama Gurunathan presented cash prizes to the staff members who participated and won in the competitions for the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' content. He congratulated the staff members for the beautiful presentation of their views and the keen interest shown by them for ameliorating the nation by planning a clean India and a green India. Dr. Vaidyalingam, veteran scholar and renowned musician, explained the bonding between nature and literature. He quoted a number of poems from the religious hymns of the 6th and 7th centuries in which the role of nature, the clean and serene waterfalls and rivers, gardens and parks and the playful birds and animals are picturized by Appar, Sundarar, Gnanasambandar and Manickavasagar. He also quoted verses from Silappathikaaram, the great Tamil epic

in which the nature is portrayed by Ilango Adigal beautifully in the hilly region, forest area, fertile lands, seashores and also the hot, arid lands. Many important litterateurs, poets and professors eagerly attended the programme and enjoyed the proceedings.

BOOK DISCUSSION

September 21, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai conducted a Book Discussion programme on 21 September 2017 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was 'Thaninayaga Adigalaarin Thamizhiyal Pangalippu', a compendium of seminar papers compiled by Dr. R. Kamarasu. Prof. M. Muthuvel was invited for the discussion. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Prof. Muthuvel praised the phenomenal efforts of Fr. X.S. Thaninayagam who was reverently called as Thaninayaga Adigalaar by the grateful Tamil scholars all over the world. His contribution to Tamil language is unique, path-breaking and highly beneficial to both the diaspora and also the higher research. He congratulated Sahitya Akademi for organizing a seminar on the contribution of Thaninayaga Adigalar and also bringing out a unique collection comprising nineteen erudite essays on the Adigalar's spectacular life and works. Prof. Muthuvel said that Adigalar worked in the spheres of Tamil diaspora and established International Association for Tamil Research (IATR). The IATR convened the international Tamil conferences and the first conference was held in Kaula Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, since Thaninayaga Adigal was serving the University of Malaya as Professor of Tamil at that time. Prof. Muthuvel also quoted from the book that Thaninayaga Adigalar travelled to not only Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore but crossed over ten thousand miles in Atlantic Sea and visited Martinique, Guadeloupe and Guyana, the islands in West Indies where the Tamil language, culture and diaspora were spread. Adigalar did extensive research in Tholkappiyam, Thirukkural and Sangam literature. Though an ardent Christian priest, he studied all the religious literature in Tamil consisting of Saivism, Vaishnavism, Buddhism and Jainism. He also published essays on religion and Tamil culture and humanist ideals. Prof. Durai Seenichamy, Sri Pa. Veeramani, Sri Nellai Su. Muthu, Sri Sa. Kandasamy, Prof. N. Velusamy and Dr. Rama Gurunathan participated in the discussion on the anthology which throws new light on Tamil research, diaspora and also the vibrant Tamil culture.

SYMPOSIUM

September 26, 2017, Coimbatore

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore, conducted a symposium on 'Modern Literary Creations of the Kongu Region' on 26 September 2017 at the college premises.



Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session.

He mentioned that Kongu region had played an important role in modern literary creations of Tamil and the stalwarts are giving inspiration to the younger generation to continue the vibrant tradition. Sri C.R. Raveendran, veteran novelist and short story writer, presented an elaborate picture of the literary creations of the Kongu region. He said that the language, culture, literary exposure journalist coverage and the entire pyramid of social hegemony underwent a rebellion with the outspoken conversational dialect of Periyar E. Ve. Ra. of Erode and changed the patterns of speech and writing, journalism and literature, to the entire globe. Erode Tamilanban, K.C.S. Arunachalam, Puviyarasu, Agniputhiran, Sakthikanal, Sirpi Balasubramanian, Tamil Naadan, Ku. Ganesan and many poets from Vaanampadi movement took up the Kongu poetry to the loving hearts of western region and even beyond. Sister Ruby Alangara Mary, Secretary of the college, delivered a very interesting and thought-provoking speech on the role of Tamil fiction and poetry which liberated the youngsters of the region from superstitions, old patterns, and drudgery and led them to a modern, productive and fruitful way of life. Sister Arulseeli, Head, Department of Tamil, Nirmala College, proposed vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Chennimalai Dandapani, an eminent and lovable poet of the current generation. He quoted the poems of Erode Tamilanban like Vanakkam Valluva and portrayed his poetic genius both in traditional verse and also in free verse. Smt. Nagarathinam quoted the conversations of human characters in Shanmugasundaram's novels and Suryakanthan's stories which present the women of the Kongu region as independent, powerful, hardworking and excelled their men counterparts in most spheres. Sri Suryakanthan, renowned short story writer presented a paper on the sons and daughters of the soil who pervaded his short stories with their troubles, quarrels and humanistic ideals as full-blooded characters. The red soil of the far western area of the Kongu region predominate the fight and coexistence of people and their soil. Sri Chandrakumar presented a paper on the subaltern people of Kongu region who were subjugated by the dominating groups and suffered endlessly in spite of the agricultural growth and industrial development. Sri Murugavel made an incisive analysis on the descriptions of early Kongu fiction and poetry and the left out chapters of suffering, internal strife, group domination, inferiority of women, psychological vacuum and emotional outburst. Sri Palanisamy delivered the valedictory address with a methodological analysis of Kongu literary creations in the post modernistic context. Sri Stalin, former director, All India Radio, Chennai, Sri Velayudam, noted litterateur and publisher, veteran scholars from Bharatiyar University and many other stalwarts eagerly participated in the symposium.

SEMINAR

October 4-5, 2017, Puducherry

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Tamil Sangam, Puducherry, organized a seminar on Tamil Poetics & Prosody on October 4-5, 2017 at Tamil Sangam, Puducherry. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. R. Sambath, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, delivered introductory remarks. Sri V. Muthu, Chairman, Tamil Sangam, Puducherry, delivered inaugural address. Sri Mu. Balasubramanian offered felicitations. Sri Porko delivered keynote address. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, proposed vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Sri Kothandaraman. In this session, Sri Gnanasundaram and Prof. Y. Manikandan presented their papers. Sri Carlos chaired the second session. Sri Ka. Jawahar, Dr. D. Jayalalitha and Sri T. Rajarethinam participated and presented their papers. The seminar continued for the second day and the third session was chaired by Sri G. Vijayavenugopal. In this session, Sri N. Manoharan, Ms. A. Mohana and Sri R. Kandasamy presented their papers. The fourth session was chaired by Ms. Indra Manuel. Sri Pa. Ilamaran, Sri Thirugnanasambandam and Sri R. Jayaraman presented their papers in the session. The fifth and the last session of the seminar was chaired by Sri D. Ravikumar. Dr. Ka. Panjangan and Dr. R. Kamarasu presented their papers. The valedictory address was given by Dr. M.L. Thangappa and Sri Pa. Thirunavukkarasu proposed vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM

October 11, 2017, Erode

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode, organized a symposium on 'Pure Tamil Movement & Pure Tamil Literature' on 11 October 2017 at the college premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Dr. R. Sambath, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Sri Ku. Thirumaran delivered keynote address. Dr. G. Udayakumar, Principal of the college and Prof. Pa. Kamalakannan, Head of Department of Tamil, offered warm felicitations. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Dr. Ku. Ganesan who also presented a paper on 'Pure Tamil Movement and Paavendhar Bharathidasan'. Sri Na. Mu. Thamizhmani and Ms. P. Tamil Pavai presented their papers on 'Contribution of Pure Tamil Movement' and 'Pure Tamil Poetry' respectively. The proceedings of the first session were moderated by Ms. S. Saraswathi.

The second session was chaired by Sri Ra. Venugopala Samy, who also presented a paper on 'Pure Tamil Movement and Maraimalai Adigal'. In this session, Sri Pa. Thirunavukkarasu



presented a paper on 'Pure Tamil Movement & Children's Literature'. This session was moderated by Sri K.N. Panneerselvam. Sri Mani Ko. Panneerselvam delivered valedictory address.

LITERARY FORUM

October 23, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Tamil Studies, University of Madras, Chennai, organized a literary forum on M. Gopalakrishna Iyer on 23 October 2017 at Platinum Jubilee Auditorium, Marina Campus, University of Madras, Chennai. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Prof. Y. Manikandan, Head, Department of Tamil Studies, delivered introductory remarks. Sri V. Ramasubramanian, Hon'ble Justice, Andhra – Telengana High Court, delivered special address. Sri D. Gnanasundaram presented a paper on 'Ma. Ko's "Filial Duty" – A Review' and Sri V.V. Subramanian presented a paper on 'Ma. Ko.: A Path-breaking Essayist in Tamil'.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS LECTURE

November 3, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, organized a lecture of vigilance awareness by Sri Prabhakara Babu, Deputy Zonal Manager (Rtd.), Bank of India, on November 3, 2017 at its office premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Sri Prabhakara Babu explained the significance of vigilance awareness and advised the staff to follow constitutional practices not allowing any deviations in all official and personal dealings. A brief interactive session followed his lecture.

LITERARY FORUM

November 11, 2017, Karaikkudi

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Sri Saraswathi Sangam, Puduvayal, Karaikkudi, organized a literary forum on 'So. Murugappa' on November 11, 2017 at Sri Saraswathi Vidyasalai Girls' Higher Secondary School, Puduvayal, Karaikkudi. Dr. C. Sethupathi, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the literary forum. Prof. M. Palaniyappan welcomed the gathering. Sri Rama. Ramanathan, President, Sri Saraswathi Sangam, offered glowing felicitations. He mentioned that So. Murugappa was an important social reformer and was called as

Raja Ram Mohan Roy of Chettinad. Through his journals, he promoted the writings of Bharathi, Bharathidasan, Desiga Vinayagam Pillai and Namakkal Kavignar. Sri Pazha Muthappan mentioned that So. Murugappa initiated the trend to publish standardized version of Kamban's Ramayana. Prof. N. Valli informed that Murugappa advocated widow remarriage, anti-dowry movement and resisted child marriage practices. Prof. Karu. Muthiah informed that Murugappa published four magazines to promote literature and social reformation. Sri Palani Raguladhasan mentioned that Murugappa encouraged Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai, Thiru.Vi.Ka and Bharathi to write immortal literary pieces. A large number of literary stalwarts, writers, teachers and students from Puduvayal participated in the programme.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

November 14-20, 2017, Thanjavur

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, to commemorate National Book Week organized a weeklong book exhibition, literary programmes and documentary screenings from November 14 – 20, 2017 at the Tamil University, Thanjavur. In the inaugural function held on November 14, 2017, Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the participants and audience. Veteran Tamil writer Uthamacholan inaugurated the book exhibition on 14 November 2017. He congratulated Sahitya Akademi for publishing great masterpieces of Indian literature and introducing the writers of various languages to the Tamil reading public. Dr. S. Muthukumar, Registrar, Tamil University, Thanjavur, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. R. Kamarasu, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, delivered introductory address. Sri T. Sivakumar, Librarian, Tamil University, proposed vote of thanks. Documentary films on eminent writers such as D. Jayakanthan, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, Neela Padmanaban, Vaikkom Muhammad Basheer and Kuvempu were screened during the Book Week. A large number of students and writers attended the screening. A Nari Chetna programme was conducted on November 20, 2017 at the Senate Hall, Tamil University. Ms. Kalai Selvi, noted short story writer spoke about Mahasweta Devi and various Indian fiction writers. Ms. Lakshmi described how she read books of literature in libraries, enriched her knowledge and also produced literary works on the struggling working class. Ms. Manushi recited three poems on the viewpoints of youth and society. Ms. Revathi pointed out the various difficulties faced by weaker sections of the society. Research scholars, readers, writers and a number of people from all walks of life from Thanjavur and also nearby towns attended the book exhibition and purchased books with keen interest.



SYMPOSIUM

November 18, 2017, Trichy

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with St. Joseph's College, Trichy, organized a symposium on Thiruloga Seetharam in commemoration of his birth centenary, on November 18, 2017 at the college premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Dr. R. Kamarasu, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, mentioned that Thiruloga Seetharam spent his valuable years of literary output at Trichy as a journalist, speaker and writer. Dr. C. Sethupathi introduced the writer and his admiration for the great poet Subramaniya Bharathi. Sri Gnanalaya B. Krishnamoorthi delivered the keynote address. Sri Subramaniya Seetharam, son of Thiruloga Seetharam mentioned that St. Joseph's College was a suitable location to remember the scholar as he educated his three sons in St. Joseph's College itself. Prof. F. Selvakumaran, Associate Professor, Department of Tamil, St. Joseph's College, proposed vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Dr. Sirpi Balasubramaniam. Sri N. Viswanathan presented a paper on the life and works of Thiruloga Seetharam. The second session was chaired by Sri Ravi Subramaniam who made a film on Thiruloga Seetharam. Prof. I. Susai spoke on the translations of Thiruloga Seetharam, especially Siddhartha, Telugu one act plays and Ilakkiya Padagu. Sri T.N. Ramachandran delivered valedictory address under the presidentship of F. Andrew S.J., Principal, St. Joseph's College. Prof. S. Kennedy, Department of Tamil of the College proposed vote of thanks. A large number of research scholars from Bharathidasan University, Arignar Anna Government Arts & Science College, Karaikkal, National College, Trichy and other institutions enthusiastically participated in the programme.

BOOK DISCUSSION

November 22, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai conducted a 'Book Discussion' programme on 22 November 2017 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was 'Na. Subbu Reddiyarin Panmugam', symposium papers compiled and edited by Dr. R. Kamarasu. Sri N. Avadaiyappan, Former Director of Libraries, Government of Tamil Nadu, was invited to speak about the book. Sri Avadaiyappan made an incisive analysis of the book. He mentioned that the compilation presents the versatile genius of the veteran scholar Subbu Reddiyar. Subbu Reddiyar wrote 135 books and covered the Tamil literary horizon extensively and intensively. The topics in the compilation are the religious hymns on Lord Krishna, various literary genres, educational psychology, social and rational outlook, Tholkappiyam as a grammar treatise and a literary masterpiece and his deep love for Vallalar's Arutpa. Sri Vaiyavan, Dr. Rama Gurunathan, Prof. Subbu Ramalingam, poet Prabhakara Babu

and a host of important writers, scholars eagerly participated in the programme which was a resounding success. The visiting scholars and readers were given opportunities to voice their ideas in a brief manner.

SYMPOSIUM

November 24, 2017, Villuppuram

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Theivanai Ammal College for Women, Villuppuram, organized a daylong symposium on 'Subaltern Writings in Modern Tamil Literature' on November 24, 2017 at the college premises. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. He mentioned about the emerging trends in Dalit literature, feminist literature and oral traditions of tribal and marginalized sections. Sri Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, mentioned that ethical outlook demands that all the subaltern groups should have equal opportunities to express themselves. Apart from prose and poetry, films and social media are providing valuable opportunities to the subaltern groups to reshape their identities. Sri Imayam, veteran writer, spoke vehemently that the standards of literature should be changed to favour the weaker sections. He also mentioned that realism should be the cornerstone of writings. Sri E. Swamikannu, Chairman and Sri S. Senthil Kumar, Secretary of the College offered warm felicitations. Dr. R. Sambath, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, mentioned that Sahitya Akademi is encouraging writers from all sections to have their staunch presence in modern literary scene. Sri B. Veeramani, poet and scholar, presented a paper on subaltern writings and essays. In his paper he mentioned that the various shades of truth occupy the subaltern writings more than pure imagination. Sri N. Jeeva presented a paper on the role of women writers, their struggle for creating a new identity and the genre of drama which provides space for dialogue and body



Sri A.S. Ilangovan delivering welcome address



language. Sri M. Karunanithi presented a paper on subaltern fiction. He observed that short stories and novels from oppressed sections portray the human struggles for self-respect in an effective manner. The society need not be portrayed as a pyramid of higher and lower sections but as a level playing field for each group presenting their own life in different variety and colourful syndromes. The valedictory session was chaired by the Deputy Registrar, Theivanai Ammal College for Women. Prof. A. Thirunagalingam, Dean, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language & Literature, Pondicherry University, delivered the valedictory address. Prof M. Mangaiyarkarasi, Head, Department of Tamil of the College proposed vote of thanks. The programme was well covered by the local print and electronic media.

LITERARY FORUM

November 30, 2017, Trichy

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Nehru Memorial College, Puthanampatti, Trichy, organized a literary forum on 'Modern Tamil Poetry' on November 30, 2017 at the college premises. Prof. R. Pon. Periyasami, Principal of the College delivered welcome address. Dr. R. Kamarasu, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the programme. Sri P. Balasubramaniam, Correspondent of the College offered warm felicitations. Sri K. Kaliyamoorthy presented a paper on modern Tamil poetry. Sri Yavanika Sriram presented a paper on postmodern poetry and Sri Aathiraman presented a paper on the poetic rhythm. Prof. Soma Rajendran, Head, Department of Tamil of the College proposed vote of thanks.

WORKSHOP

December 5-6, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai, organized a two-day workshop for young writers on December 5-6, 2017 at the university premises. Around 30 young writers from the length and breadth of Tamil Nadu participated in the workshop. Dr. R. Kamarasu, veteran writer and scholar, along with Prof. Bharathi Balan, coordinated the workshop. Sri A.S.Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, explained the theories of poetic justice and poetic license and advised the writers to take up cardinal truths and change them with their artistic ability into valuable literary pieces. Dr. Bharathi Balan noted that most of the young writers were from rural and suburban background and the resource persons were veterans of the short story genre. Dr. M. Bhaskaran, Vice-Chancellor, TNOU, mentioned that the workshop will mould the short story writers to become successful fictionists by excelling in their art and craft. Dr. V. Iraiyanbu, I.A.S., delivered the special address. He mentioned that perseverance is necessary for the young writers to shine in their career and life as well. He quoted the sonnet of Ozymandias by Shelley. He also said that the workshop will lead

the young writers to know how to write but will not compel them by insisting them what to write. Dr. R. Kamarasu praised the efforts of Sahitya Akademi and said that the workshop will encourage realism in writing and develop humanitarian consciousness. Prof. Vijayan, Registrar, TNOU, quoted Jayakanthan regarding the aim of fiction. Sahitya Akademi Award winner Sa. Kandasamy, veteran writer S. Ramakrishnan, short story expert and media personality Sri Maalan, journalist and editorial expert Sri Venkatesh and noted scholar Prof. K. Nachimuthu delivered lectures, interacted with the young writers and shaped their talent by intensive teaching and coaching. Many young writers such as Veerapandiyan, Adhiraman, Jayaprakash, Kannikovil Raja, Manushi, Gunasundari, Maria Leema, C.R. Manjula, Tamizhmathi, Giritha, Anitha Paramasivam actively participated in the workshop and shared their experiences in writing and publishing short stories. Prof. Vaiyapuri proposed vote of thanks. The workshop was extensively covered by News 18 TV channel and Doordarshan. The Hindu (Tamil), Dinamani, Theekkathir and other Tamil newspapers gave wide prominence and published articles appreciating the efforts of Sahitya Akademi and TNOU towards the nuances of enlightenment and entertainment through literature.

BOOK DISCUSSION

December 21, 2017, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a 'Book Discussion' programme on December 21, 2017 at its office premises. The book chosen for discussion was 'Thamizhaga Yappu Marabu Paavalargalin Paathoguppu', an anthology of 20th century traditional poems of Tamil Nadu, compiled by Dr. R. Sambath. Sri A.S.Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, delivered welcome address. Prof. S.M. Sangavai, Head of the Department of Tamil, DRBCCC Hindu College, Chennai, delivered a comprehensive lecture on the anthology. She mentioned that the the Tamil poetry was regulated from the days of the ancient grammar treatise 'Tholkappiyam' regarding the content, genre, style and expression. The anthology consists of 114 poems by poets from 20th and 21st centuries. All of them followed the traditional poetic form of 'Aasiriyappa' and allowed new innovation of 'Kalippa' and 'Vanjippa' as well, thus excelling in rhyme and rhythm. Prof. Sangavai said that the compiler of the anthology had included great poets like Desiga Vinayagam Pillai, Namakkal Kavignar, Jeevanandam, Ka. Mu. Sheriff, Mudiyanarasu, Suratha, Pattukottai and the young poets who follow in their footsteps. Those poets advocated women empowerment, widow remarriages, education of women, removal of superstitions and self-trust as the way to a brave new world. She praised that the poems are rhythmic musical pieces which are pleasing to the ears and enjoyable to the mind. The anthology preserves in a nutshell the best ideals of the best poets and will be an important reference work regarding Tamil poetry in traditional form. Prof. Sangavai also responded to the queries of the readers, poets and young litterateurs regarding the anthology in a suitable manner. Sri A.S. Ilangovan proposed vote of thanks.



SYMPOSIUM

September 2, 2017, Imphal

SahityaAkademi in collaboration with Manipur University of Culture, Palace Compound, Imphal organized a one day Symposium on “The Reflections of Manipuri culture on Contemporary Manipuri literature” on 2 September 2017 at Government Dance College Hall, Palace Compound, Imphal. Goutam Pal, officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Kolkata in his welcoming the invited participants and gathering said that Manipur represents the mosaics of rich culture and tradition. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave the introductory speech of the symposium. He mentioned the cultural relevance of our society to various non-material and material forms. He further highlighted the incorporation of our rich dance form Raas Lila being incorporated from our ancient Lai-Haraoba festival. Longjam Joychandra Singh, Registrar of Manipur University of Culture talked briefly on various impulses of Manipuri culture on our contemporary Manipuri literature.

The first session of the symposium was chaired by Longjam Joychandra and three speakers namely W. Angela Devi, Dr. P. James, Dr. Th. Ruhichand from various department of Manipur university of culture presented papers pertinent to the theme of the symposium. W. Angela presented paper on “Folktales and Contemporary Manipuri Literature” where she highlighted the reflections of our rich culture in folktales, theatre, plays and various contemporary art forms of Manipur. The second speaker and presenter P. James highlighted the components of Manipuri literature in Manipuri nata-sankirtana. The first session ended with speaker, P. Ruhichand who highlighted on the rituals of Tangkhul-Nurabi, a part of Lai-Haraoba and its findings in today’s contemporary Manipuri literature. The second session of the symposium was chaired by K. Radhakumar, IAS and three scholars namely A. Rishikesh, Surekha Longjam and Th. Bimola Devi, belonging to the department of thang-ta and culture studies presented Papers. A. Rishikesh attributed on the reflections of Cultures in thang-ta: a performing art form of Manipur. The second speaker Surekha Longjam stressed on the importance of Manipuri tribal language and contemporary Manipuri literature. The last paper reader Th. Bimola reflected and discussed on Manipuri culture and contemporary Manipuri Literature where she highlighted on the works of first Sahitya Akademi awardee and novelist Pacha Meitei on his book Imphalamasungmagi Eshing Nungsitkifibam. Th.Ruhichand, faculty member of Manipur University of Culture, proposed the vote of thanks.

MEET THE AUTHOR

September 2, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi organized a Meet the Author programme with the eminent Manipuri playwright Naorem Kalimohon Singh at Dave Literature Centre, Imphal, Manipur on 2 September 2017. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata

welcomed the guest-writer and audience, spoke briefly about the playwright and provided a brief introduction to his works. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced the guest writer and spoke briefly about the life and works of Naorem Kalimohon Singh. N. Kalimohon Singh talked about his struggles to get education from primary to college. After passing sixth standard from M. E. School at Kakching, he went to Imphal for further study. He passed Matriculation examination in 1950 and appeared for the final examination of intermediate arts. At first he joined as village level worker and did six months training at Jorhat and also posted at Yairipok. He worked as an Assistant Project Officer (Agriculture) in SFDA and DRDA at Imphal. He was a Councillor of Manipuri Kala Akademi, Member of Manipuri language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Member of All India Radio, Imphal. President of District Sports Association etc. For his achievements, he may be termed as one of the most versatile social workers of Kakching. He remarked that his writing of plays was inspired by the plays of G. C. Tongbra, an eminent playwright of Manipur. Till now he has written eighteen plays and all of them were performed in the stages by different units including Manipur Dramatic Union, Rupmahal, Kha-Manipur Dramatic Union etc. His play ‘Apang Khunjao’ is the most attractive and prominent one. He also directed some plays and the first one ‘Apang Khunjao’ which was his masterpiece, performed by the Kha-Manipur Dramatic Union. He also wrote two books on essays, two books on poetry and one translation work. He received many prestigious awards namely Writers’ Award in 2001 by Writers’ Association, Kakching, Theatre Centre Award, Lalit Ningshing Khudol, Lifetime Achievement Award by Writers’ Association, Kakching Sahitya Bhuson by Manipur Sahitya Parishad, Imphal etc. he is also a social worker. A brief interactive session followed the lecture.

LITERARY FORUM

September 3, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Manipur Literary Society organized a Literary Forum on Life and Works of Hijam Guno at Manipur Hindi Parishad Hall on 3 September 2017. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahtiya Akademi, Kolkata in his welcome address highlighted the audience about the rich literary and cultural heritage of Manipur. He also dwelt on the life and contribution of Hijam Guno in the realms of Manipuri literature. Besides, he made a brief introduction on the life of the renowned author who had background on law. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory speech stressed that Guno is such a great literary personality that it would not be enough to know and understand all about this author just by the presentations and papers of the four presenters. There are many more yet to explore from many sources. Hijam Guno who is considered as one of the forerunners in novels and short story writers, is also a poetic genius. Worth mentioning is his poem, Tonnu Laijing



Lembi, which is recommended in the syllabus of the Manipur University. He lambasted the controversies and disunity that arise among the literary organizations in the state. In his speech, he was against the geocentricism, which emphasizes on individual whims. However, he wished to ensure the literary people in Manipur to be united and work together for a better and bright future by leaving all negative-ism in our mind. Kh. Inaobi Singh presented his paper on the biography and work of the author. He articulated his speech on the life, works and achievement of the author. Some of his works were Laman, Khudol, Phijang Marumda, Hiyang Atrhouba. He also laid stress on the author's philanthropic nature and his love of unity among the different communities living in the state. Besides, the presenter also recalled the author's love and care for the animals and birds. K. Bijalata Devi presented her paper on the topic 'The critical assessment of Hijam Guno's novel'. She reminded of the author Guno as one of the renowned novelists in the world of Manipuri Literature in the post war era. She gave her critical assessment on the author's style and theme based on traditional taste in most of his writings. She also said of the author's craftiness in developing remarkable plots and the sudden turns of the ending of his novels and short stories. She said that such a flow and style could provide a different taste to the readers. His novel Bir Tikendrajit is a fine example. It was developed on the experimental basis of the new trend to attract the readers' attention. Bijalata summed up her paper on the author's philanthropic nature and his dream of one Manipur amidst diversities in the state. S. Sanaton presented his paper on the topic 'Hijam Guno's Tonnu Laijing Lembi'. In his paper he mentioned about author's innate literary heritage that had been manifested from his young age when in 14 years old at eight standard, he began to work for literature with the association of the literary circle, the literary heavy weights like Nilbir Shastri, Elangbam Sonamani etc. Naorem Rojika Devi presented her paper on the topic 'A critical assessment of Hijam Guno's short Stories'. She analyzed critically and technically the three stories Phijangi Marumda, Langjin Mangkraba Kishi and Kadhangi Samburu. She discussed the themes and the development of those works under varied themes: such as sentimental and emotional related, compelled by sorrows and miseries of poverty, the erroneous policies of the government and its impact on the people.

LITERARY FORUM

September 3, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with N. G. Mani College, Imphal organized a literary forum on Science and Literature on 3 September 2017 at Manipur Hindi Parishad Hall, Old Assembly Road, Imphal. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the audience and the participants of the programme. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board delivered the introductory speech of the literary forum. The programme was chaired by Khuraijam Nimaicharan Singh,

President G. B. NG. Mani College. The speakers who dwelt on the various aspects of topic were N. Nandakumar Sharma former Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University and Professor of Physics, Jodhachandra Sanasam, a Physician by profession and an Akademi-award winner, N. Rajmuhon Singh, a Professor of Chemistry of Manipur University and Nabakumar Nongmeikapam, a fiction writer. W. Jiban Kumar Singh, Principal, NG. Mani College proposed the vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

September 4, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Dance and Music, Manipur University organized a literary forum on Contribution of Lai Haraoba in Contemporary Manipuri Literature on 4 September 2017 at Dave Literature Centre, D. M. College, Campus, Imphal. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience and talked briefly about the origin and importance of Lai Haraoba in Manipuri Culture. Besides, he mentioned some important and significant gods and goddesses associated with Lai Haraoba in Manipuri Society. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory speech of the literary forum. He talked briefly about the contribution of the religious and ritualistic songs of Lai Haraoba in the contemporary Manipuri Literature. Singh also gave many illustration during his introductory speech. Khumanthem Prakash Singh, eminent Manipuri writer chaired the forum. Noted scholar A. Radhamani Devi presented a paper entitled 'Manipuri Sahitya Amasung Lai Haraobaga Mari Leinaba Jagoida Mityeng Ama' (Relationship between Manipuri Literature and Lai Haraoba through the perspective of dance). Kh. Khori Devi read a paper on 'Lai Haraobana Anouba Matangi Manipuri Sahityada Piba Khudol' (Contribution of Lai Haraoba in the contemporary Manipuri literature). Kh. Prakash Singh from the chair gave his relevant comments on the papers presented by the scholars. He talked briefly about the importance of Lai Haraoba in Manipuri Society as it gives the peculiar identity of the Manipuris.

GOPAL CHHOTRAY BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

September 17, 2017, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on Gopal Chhotray on 17 September 2017 at Bhubaneswar. It's not a good sign that we don't know much about Gopal Chhotray in Bengal and to bridge the gap we need to undertake a project to translate his entire major plays into other Indian languages from Odia, said Manoj Mitra, the veteran Bengali playwright and theatre legend. Inaugurating the birth centenary celebration of renowned Odia playwright, fiction writer, poet, Padmashree awardees and a legendary cultural icon Gopal Chhotray's birth centenary seminar Mitra paid his rich tribute to Chhotray. While



talking on Indian theatre he emphasized more on translation and it is only through translation we can take the genius of Gopal Chhotray to the larger Indian audience, said Mitra. The birth centenary seminar was being organized by Sahitya Akademi in the Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Bhubaneswar on 17th September 2017. In the inaugural session secretary of Sahitya Akademi K. Sreenivasrao welcomed the guests and Gaurahari Das, the convener of Odia advisory board introduced the basic theme of the seminar to the audience. Das said that Gopal Chhotray was a legend whose plays are equally appreciated by the masses and the classes. Sumanu Satpathy, very eminent scholar and critic outlined the varieties and vitalities of Gopal Chhotray's play works in his erudite key note address. He also said that every play of Gopal Chhotray begins with an extraordinary thematic throw and that force the audience to go deeper into the subsequent scenes to come. He was one of the mass icons of our time who was capable to understand the pulses of his time and the world, Satpathy told. Veteran theatre personality Ananta Mohapatra presided over the inaugural session and in his presidential address Mahapatra described Gopal Chhotray as the biggest iconoclast of his time. Supplementing Manoj Mitra's proposal of translation, Mohapatra told that as neighbor Bengalis and Odias must translate each other with great frequency. Goutam Paul, the officer-in-charge of Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata proposed the official vote of thanks.

The first academic session of the seminar was quite vibrant and the speakers in the panel spoke out multi faceted talents of Chhotray with great details and clarity. The session was begun with the display of a documentary film on Chhotray's life and work. Talking about Gopal Chhotray's life as a writer and cultural activist, Biyotprajna Tripathy, fiction writer and film maker presented panoramic snap shots of the maestro's life. She said that the family and the world co existed in one single point and that point was the artist within the veteran. She very carefully presented three vital aspects of Gopal Chhotray's literature; political world view, sense of humor and involvement with the people. Following Ms. Tripathy veteran film maker, actor and political figure Prashanta Nanda spoke about his

personal intimacy with the great playwright. Exact pick of words for a dialogue makes most of his plays and films super hits, said Nanda. Scholar and the former head of the Odia department of Utkal University Sanghamitra Mishra presented her paper on the thematic varieties and multi folded styles of Chhotray's play. Presiding on the session veteran playwright and film personality Bijay Mishra spoke about his friendship with the legend and also he reminded the audience that there will be no second Gopal Chhotray in any part of the world. The post lunch session was focused on other genres of Chhotray's writing. Playwright and scholar Bijay Kumar Satpathy spoke about the autobiography of Chhotray. Prof. Satpathy said that "Bharasa", "parakalama" and "Shankha Sindura" are three major plays for which he shall be remembered for ever. Talking on the political humor and satire in Chhotray's play veteran journalist Prashanta Patnaik spoke that Chhotray was a classic blend of intellectual intensity and general sensibilities. Presenting the concluding remarks on the seminar renowned poet, fiction writer and celebrity lyricist, also the son of Gopal Chhotray, Shri Devdas Chhotray presented an outstanding personal narrative on his father's life and literature. His speech was intensely personal blended with an objective analysis. The concluding session was being chaired by Prafulla Kumar Mohanty. In his presidential address Mohanty analyzed the unique dramatic language of Chhotray. Vote of thanks was proposed by Banoj Tripathy. The seminar was a fully crowded one, a galaxy of writers, theater personalities and film folks attended it. Former president of Sahitya Akademi Ramakant Rath, fictionist Bibhuti Patnaik, Dhira Biswal, Adhyapak Biswaranjan, Rajendra Kishore Panda and many more writers were present in the event.

SEMINAR

September 18-19, 2017, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with KIIT, Bhubaneswar organized a two day seminar on Sense of Displacement in Eastern Indian Literature on 18 and 19 September 2017 in KIIT's convention Hall. It was an occasion to analyze the disturbing trend of displacement in Indian literature. At the outset Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the invited guests-participants from various parts of Eastern Region and the gathering. He said, large scale displacement happens due to rapid industrialization and urbanization. Every displaced person carries a memory of his/her older place which has been submerged or ruined with the land where he used to live. Sitakant Mohapatra, celebrity Indian poet and Jnanpith laureate in his inaugural speech gave a personal account of displacement when he was working as collector in various tribal districts of Odisha. Leaving one's own land is not a mere geographical displacement; rather it goes with a process of displacing culture, heritage, life style and livelihood, said Mohapatra. This disturbing sense of human displacement inspires writers to deal with the theme in novels, poetry, dramas etc. He cited great Odia novels like Kahnucharan's "TamasaTeere", Hrushikesh Panda's "Sunaput Ra Loke" and



L-R Sumanu Satpathy, Dr. K. Sreenivasrao, Manoj Mitra, Ananta Mahapatra, Gourhari Das



Dasrathi Nanda's "Indravatira Ra Kahani" as fine examples of Odia Literature based on the theme of displacement. He also highlighted displacement in the north eastern region of India and its complex socio-cultural impact on our literary life. Renowned scholar and critic Jitendra Narayan Patnaik delivering key note address highlighted the metaphorical transformation of Literature based on the theme of displacement. Psychological displacement in the arena of idea can be identified with the movement of colonialism to post colonialism. Patnaik focused mostly on the psychological sense of displacement in Literature which contains both outer displacement, basically political, and also the inner; the spiritual. He established his theory of displacement through the novels of Gopinath Mohanty's "Rahura Chhaya", Gaurahari Das's "Kete Rangara Jibana", Binapani Mohanty's "Kunti Kuntala Shakuntala" etc. He also dealt with the idea of Diasporas synchronizing with the idea of displacement. Gaurahari Das, renowned fiction writer and convener of Odia advisory board in his presidential address said that displacement is the second most important issue in Literature after life and death. He spoke about the country less and landless people of Rohingyas and their endless agony in our time. Agony, anxiety and anger of displacement dominate our literary time, said Das. In the first academic session Semanti Ghosh, scholar and editor from Bengal sets the motion of the discourse by putting the questions of intra territorial displacement. Presenting the first paper Assamese scholar Bhaskarjyoti Sarma spoke on the theme of diasporas in Assamese Literature. He brought out the issue of migration from the writings of Bhaben Saikia and other contemporary Assamese writers. Binon Chandra Boro, another scholar from Assam presented his paper on the sense of displacement in Bodo literature. Boro as one of the earlier settlers in the land of Assam had a long history of displacement and migration within the limited geographical territory. He also spoke a bit about language displacement when Bodo had a severe battle with mainstream languages like Bengali and Assamese. Renowned Manipuri scholar H. Behari Singh presented his paper on the sense of displacement in Manipuri poetry. He detailed out the disturbing social fabrics of Manipur and their reflections in Manipuri poems. The second academic session was chaired by Pratap Chandra Pradhan, Presenting the first paper Maithili scholar Amalendu Sekhar Pathak spoke about the sense of displacement in Maithili literature. As he said from the pre independent era the sense of displacement was very much there in Maithili. The linguistic displacement was a major issue in Maithili. Panchanan Mishra, spoke about the two kinds of displacement; A. the Self imposed displacement B. Forced displacement. As he described displacement doesn't refer to mere geographical migration, it's a migration of one culture to the other. He cited examples of VS Naipaul and Ashis Gupta to authenticate his theory of displacement. In displacement narrative we see the history, memory, time and space being the sufferer. He evaluated the history of literature with special reference to displacement and presented a brief account the ideological flow in Odia creative writings. Final paper was presented by Somai Kisku on Santhali literature. Kisku said that tribals are the

biggest victim of displacement and they suffered since time immemorial. In the third session renowned Assamese scholar Mandakini Baruah chaired the session and Jayita Sengupta from Bengal, Nabakumar Nongmeikapam from Manipur and Phanidhar Basumatary from Assam presented their papers. Initiating the session Jayita Sengupta spoke about the sense of displacement in the novels and poetry of Bengal. She said that modernization immensely contribute to the ever growing agony of humanity which comes through large scale displacement and forceful migration. Quoting from various literary texts of Bengal Jayita elaborated her literary views. Manipuri scholar Nabakumar Nongmeikapam said that Manipuri writers go through deep anxieties as they walk through a patch of violent landscape full of bloodstains, cry and screams. It's a constant process of displacement and that is freely expressed in Manipuri poems and fiction. Phanidhar Basumatary presenting his paper spoke about the evolution and the growth of Bodo literature and located the sense of displacement therein. In her concluding remarks chairperson Mandakini Baruah presented a short account of sense of displacement in Assamese literature through the writings of renowned social activist and freedom fighter Chandraprava Haikiani. People affected by any big industrial or development project are not strong enough to stop it, but still they fight for it. That fighting spirit is basic human component of our literature, said Ramachandra Behera, the iconic fiction writer in Odia and one of the Sahitya Akademi awardees. Delivering his concluding address in the two-days seminar on "Sense of displacement in Eastern Indian Literature" Behera further said that any literature can't remain isolated today and neglect the global scenario of inhuman displacement. The question of Syrian refugees in Europe or the ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas in Myanmar, can very much affect and move the psyche of an Odia or Bengali or a Manipuri writer. Shri Behera talked about Satabhaya, the submerging coastal villages of Odisha which have been naturally swallowed by the Bay of Bengal, and with that geo-cultural existence of a small pocket of humanity are also perishing. With his erudite speech the two days seminar draws down the curtain. Concluding session was chaired by renowned Odia critic and commentator Shri Abhiram Biswal. In the session Ajit Mishra, Maithili scholar from Bihar spoke on the sense of displacement in Maithili literature. He elaborated on the literary works on displacement in Maithili. Chintamani Sharma, Nepali scholar from Assam outlined a broader linguistic variety of North East regions and he said that Nepali is a part of that varieties. Displacement has many forms and size. Nepalis are a group of people who are perennially displaced. Taking examples from Indra Bahadur Rai and Nil Bahadur Chetri he elaborated his theory. Gobinda Chandra Majhi presented his paper on the sense of displacement in Santhali literature. Majhi said that tribal sentiment and their world view are the biggest victims of displacement. In his presidential address Abhiram Biswal said literature can be an alternative history and can also make an alternative political narrative for the society. He spoke in detail about the representation and references of displacement in Odia fiction and poetry. Pitabas Routray, Member, Odia Advisory Board delivered the vote of thanks.



HINDI DIVAS

September 20, 2017, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata organized the Hindi Divas on 20 September 2017 at its office premises. Ved Raman, Associate Professor, Department of Hindi, Presidency University spoke on 'Rabindranath and Hindi' and Itu Singh, Associate Professor of Hindi, Khidirpur College, highlighted the importance of 'Hindi in today's time'. At the beginning of the program, the Goutam Pal spoke on the importance of the day and requested the staff members to do the official works in Hindi as much as possible. The Kolkata office organised a series of competitions among the staff members in the run-up of Hindi Week Celebration. In the 'Shruthikalan' competition the first and second prize was received by Hiralal Mahato and Badal Sutrathar respectively. The first and second prize for the essay writing competition was received by Samarpita Goswami and Anupam Saha respectively and in translation the first and second prize was received by Anupam Saha and Samarpita Goswami respectively.

SYMPOSIUM

September 20, 2017, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on Maharshi Debendranath Tagore on 20 September 2017 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata. In the symposium, the welcome address was delivered by Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region and it was inaugurated by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, eminent scholar. In the welcome address Sri Paul presented a brief sketch of Maharshi before the audience. Debendranath Tagore (15 May 1817 – 19 January 1905) was a Hindu philosopher and religious reformer, active in the Brahma Samaj ("Society of Brahman," also translated as "Society of God"), which aimed to reform the Hindu religion and way of life. He was one of the founders in 1848 of the Brahma religion, which today is synonymous with Brahmoism. A Bengali, he was born in Shilaidaha. His father was the industrialist Dwarkanath Tagore. Debendranath was a deeply religious man. His movement, the Brahma Samaj, was formed in 1843 by merging his Tattwabodhini Sabha with the Brahma Sabha, ten years after the death of Raja Rammohun Roy, founder of the Brahma Sabha. The Brahma Sabha had fallen away from its original aims and practices as stated in its Trust Deed of Brahma Sabha. However, Tagore aimed to revive the importance of this deed. The Keynote Address was delivered by eminent scholar Sri Swapan Basu with Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in the chair. The keynote speaker, inaugurator and the Chairperson further enlightened the audience of the significance of the life and activity of Maharshi. Debendranath Tagore was born to the Tagore family in Jorasanko, popularly known as Jorasanko Thakur Bari in North-western

Kolkata, which was later converted into a campus of the Rabindra Bharati University. The Tagore family, with over three hundred years of history, has been one of the leading families of Calcutta, and is regarded as a key influence during the Bengal Renaissance. The family has produced several persons who have contributed substantially in the fields of business, social and religious reformation, literature, art and music. Debendranath Tagore founded the 'Tattwabodhini Sabha' to facilitate discussions on different philosophies and later integrated the Brahma Sabha with it. He also introduced the different forms of Brahma worship which were later used by the community. As the influence of Brahmoism spread throughout India under his leadership, he established himself as a person of particular spiritual accomplishment and came to be known as 'Maharshi'. He also got involved in active politics and was selected as the Secretary of the British Indian Association. While serving at the post, he made relentless efforts to terminate the chowkidari tax for the poor villagers and also demanded political independence for India from the British parliament.

In the first academic session, papers were presented by Sri Aniruddha Rakshit and Ramanuj Mukhopadhyay with Goutam Neogi in the chair. The focus of the session was on the religion and philosophy as practised by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore. Along with the awakening of the soul and the influence of Raja Rammohun Roy began asserting himself. In October 1839, he along with his friends started the Tattwaranjini Sabha which was later renamed to Tattwabodhini Sabha. Its object was the dissemination of the knowledge of the Upanishads and promotion of religious enquiry. In two years there were 500 members and also attracted rich and influential men of Bengal. Pt. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was for sometime the secretary of this Sabha. It was the largest and most influential cultural organisation of Bengal and it lasted till 1854. It also had a printing press and Debendranath started publishing the Tattwabodhini Patrika. This Patrika became the principal organ of the Samaj for propagating its views. It taught men to think seriously and speak earnestly. It inaugurated the era of earnest journalism in Bengal. It was published in five different languages from five different centres - in Bengali from Calcutta, in Tamil and English from Madras and in Hindi and Urdu from Bareilly. Debendranath framed a covenant for the adoption of the Church and to introduce a regular form of Church service, including thanks giving, praise and prayer. Having framed this covenant 20 of his young associates joined him on December 21, 1843 (7th Paush, 1765 B.E.). This led the step for converting Brahma Samaj into a spiritual fraternity. In the year 1845 there was controversy with the Christians regarding the conversion of Umesh Chandra Sarkar and his wife. Debendranath used the Patrika to condemn such practices and the Christians attacked the Brahma theology claiming it to be solely dependent on the Vedas. This led to Debendranath questioning the Vedic infallibility and he wanted



to keep the religion on the old lines of the Hindu scriptures. Accordingly he made a compilation of the selected passages from the Upanishads inculcating the Truths of monotheism.

In the second academic session, Sri Debasis Roy presented songs of Maharshi with lecture demonstration on the creations of Debendranath Tagore in the field of music and literature with Sri Amitava Khastagir in the chair. In 1843, Debendranath started the Tattwabodhini Patrika as mouthpiece of the Tattwabodhini Sabha. In the same year, he revived the Brahma Sabha, fallen in vigour and following since the death of Ram Mohan Roy in 1833. The Brahma Sabha was formally absorbed into the Tattwabodhini Sabha and renamed as Calcutta Brahma Samaj. The day Pous 7 of the Bengali calendar is commemorated as the foundation day of the Samaj. The Patrika became the organ of the Samaj and continued publication till 1883.

In 1848, Debendranath codified the Adi Dharma Doctrine as Brahma Dharma Beej (Seed of the Brahma Dharma). In 1850, he published a book titled Brahma Dharma enshrining the fundamental principles. These principles emphasise monotheism, rationality and reject scriptural infallibility, the necessity of mediation between man and God, caste distinctions and idolatry.

Among the books written by Debendranath Tagore in Bengali, mention may be of Bangla Bhashay Sanskrita Vyakaran (1838), Brahmodya (1st & 2nd parts, 1849), Atmatattva vidya (1852), Brahmodya Mat O Biswas (1860), Paschim Pradesher Durbhiksha Upashame Sahajya Sangraharthe Brahma Samajer Baktrita (1861), Brahmodya Byakhyan, Part I (1861), Kalikata Brahmosamajer Baktrita (1862), Brahma Bibaha Pranali (1864), Brahma Samajer Panchabingshati Batsarer Parikshita Britanta (1864), Brahmodya Anusthan-Paddhati (1865), Bhowanipur Brahmavidyalayer Upadesh (1865–66), Brahmodya Byakhyan, Part II (1866), Masik Brahma Samajer Upadesh (A collection of eighteen lectures delivered during 1860–67), Brahmodya Byakhyan, Epilogue (1885), Gyan O Dharma Unnati (1893), Paralok O Mukti (1895), Atyojivani (1898) and Patravali (A collection of letters written during 1850–87). He has written a book in English as well. It is Vedantic Doctrines Vindicated (1845). His Autobiography has been translated from the original Bengali work, Atmajivani, by Satyendranath Tagore in 1914.

LITERARY FORUM (SWACHHATA PAKHWADA)

September 21, 2017, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organised the oath-taking ceremony to observe the Swachhta Mission of the country

The staff members of Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office participated in an oath-taking session on the occasion of Swachhata Pakhwada on 18 September 2017 at 11.00 am at its office premises. In the run-up of a fortnight long program on the

Swachha Bharat Abhiyan from 16 September to 2 October 2017, the Regional Office, Kolkata stressed on creating awareness of cleanliness and arranged Essay and Debate competition among the Staff-members on the topic. Besides these, the office also organised a Literary Forum program on the topic Environment and Literature on 21 September 2017. In the forum, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, delivered the welcome address. He introduced the speakers to the audience and spoke on the deep relationship between the environment and literature. It not only influences the setting of the plots but also fixes the structures of the minds of the characters. Further, there are so many literary texts where the nature itself is the protagonist. In the forum, Abul Bashar, Sumita Chakrabarti and Arunendu Banerjee spoke on different aspects and dimension of the theme of the forum. Prominent Bengali writers such as Manik Bandyopadhyay, Advaita Mallabharman and Samaresh Basu, influenced by Marxist political underpinnings and aided by new literary forms, depicted lives of marginal people, such as boatmen and fishermen of the riverine delta of Bengal alongside factory workers, who were earlier excluded as subjects in Bengali novels. They viewed these subaltern social classes as agents of their own social and economic transformations within the structural constraints of late colonial society. For the purpose of this paper, three rivercentric novels of the above mentioned three authors (Bandyopadhyay's A Boatman of Padma; Mallabharman's A River Called Titash and Basu's Ganga) are selected to explore this interaction. All three novels narrate the story of an/the exploited and marginalized riverine population of fishermen and boatmen. Nature appeared in many other forms in writings of other Bengali writers throughout. Environmental issues like river erosion and deforestation may be hot topics today, but Tagore had been conscious about the exploitation of environment even a century ago. What Tagore said on environmental crisis, modern technology and rural thinking in his lecture in 1922 on agricultural matters in honour of Leonard Elmhurst (Director, Sriniketan) comprises an important document even for today. Tagore believed that it was impossible to achieve overall development without rural development. He wrote poems, plays, short stories and also a separate group of lyrics in the form of poems for songs under the name of "Prakriti Parjaay" (here, prakriti means nature and parjaay means genre), emphasising the need to protect nature as well as our Mother Earth. Tagore not only wrote extensively on man's relationship with the environment but implemented it too by building Santiniketan. It is surrounded by greenery on all sides. He created an example for the whole world in terms of the relationship between nature and humans. Tagore repeatedly compared life with a river's flow. He expressed his desire to discover the essence of human living in the character of a flowing river. So he placed Calcutta's "Brick among brick, man and insect amidst/ There's no affection, no love" by the side of rural Bengal's profile, and often thought of coordinating the two. At the end of the program Prize money for First, Second and Third positions for both Essay and Debate competitions were distributed.



SEMINAR

September 23-24, 2017, Karbi Anglong

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Karbi Lammet Amai (KLA) organized a two day seminar with Poets' Meet at Farmers Growth Centre, Diphu in the district of Karbi Anglong, Assam on 23 and 24 September 2017. In the inaugural session Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcoming the participants and the gathering said the Karbis were the branch of Tibeto-Barman race highly concentrated in present Karbi Anglong district and also residing in other parts of Northeast. The first literature works was started by British missionaries by writing books and later gone to translation works as well. The tribe has its rich oral traditions which are passed on to from one generation to the next generation by word of mouth. In the oral literature of the Karbis there are the narrations of myth, mist, incantation, lullaby, fantasies and songs of mourning. He also mentioned of Bonglong Terang, the first Karbi litterateur to collect the oral literature that were written later compiled in his books. Padmashree Rongbong Terang, former President of Assam Sahitya Sabha inaugurated the seminar. He said that one should not think that Sahitya Akademi is neglecting the Karbis. But due recognition was given in 2005 to Karbi language conferring Bhasha Sanman award to Bidorsing Kro. Premananda Muchahary, Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the keynote address. He said people from other places will not come to write stories and poems, but writers should come up from within the community in promoting their own literature. This is a wrong notion that Karbi language including languages of other tribes will wither away, he added. Promoting one's literature does not depend on others. There should be writers and poets from the community, Muchahary said. The Executive Member (EM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) Rupsing Teron attending as chief guest during the inaugural function said Karbis is one of the hill tribes in Karbi Anglong, Assam and they have their folklore, oral literature, which is one of the distinct features of the tribe. Teron said: "Karbhis have a very rich oral traditions. Folk songs and stories are passed down from one generation to the next orally. The Karbi Ramayana- Sabin alun is sung non-stop for two days and night." He said the Karbis can also speak more than two languages apart from their mother tongue. He stressed on including in the VIII schedule of the Constitution for recognition of Karbi language by government of India. He said Karbi language will made MIL upto college level. KAAC will also have its own act for provincialisation of schools in the district from primary upto college level. After the inaugural functions two technical sessions were taken place. The first session was

chaired by Anil Boro, an eminent Bodo poet and folklorist. Dhananjay Narzary and Khoyasing Hanse presented their papers on the topic Linguistic background and Oral literature of the Karbis. In the second session chaired by Fr. John Timung, persons like Dharamsing Teron, Khonsing Teron, Lunse Timung Suren Kramsa and Sikari Tisso brought out topics for discussion. On the second day of September 24, the third session started. Theso Kropi was in the chair. Persons like Hangmiji Hanse, Kabin Teronpi, Udai Bhanu Pandey and many others presented their papers for discussion. In the fourth session poets from different ethnic tribes and languages read out their poems in original followed by English/Hindi translation. At the end of poets' meet a valedictory function was organised to conclude the seminar. At the end Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi expressed his gratitude to the local collaborator and evaluated the presentations that were read out in the two days programmes. Many papers are highly scholastic and should be documented and published after proper revision and editing for the benefit of Karbi and Oral literature of India, he remarked.

SYMPOSIUM

25 September 2017, Langhin

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Karbi Anglong District Bodo Sahitya Sabha organized a Symposium on "Modern Trends in Bodo Short Story and Drama" at Langhin College, Assam on 25 September 2017. The programme was successfully conducted with intellectuals and eminent writers of the Bodo community.

In the inaugural session, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address and he mentioned that now-a-days the trends of Bodo modern short story and drama has developed and modernized by some popular Bodo writers such as Bijoy Baglary, Gobinda Basumatary, Urbida Uzir, Indra Moloti Daimary, Surath Narzary, Komol Kr. Brahma and Mongalsing Hazoary. The introductory speech was given by Premananda Mwchahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He emphasized the importance of criticism of literature on our own language. He said that each and every individual of the Bodo people should give importance to the literature to preserve his language and culture. The session was chaired by Santiram Basumatary, President, Karbi Anglong District Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The session was inaugurated by Dalsing Basumatary, Principal, in-charge Langhin College. "Literature is the creative art and it should be preserved. Before written form of Bodo Literature most of the Bodo people did not know the Bodo Language. But now it's in good position. Bodo language is adopted in 8th scheduled of Indian Constitution in 2003. First session was chaired by Aurobinda Uzir, Sahitya Akademi Awardee and popular Bodo poet. Longkeswar Hainary



read out his paper on the topic, “a short analysis on Bodo Short Story”. Bodo short story had started at Alongbar Muga (Alongbar era). Bodo short story has been developed by different writers through their creative thinking. The first Bodo short story “Abari” was written by Isan Mwchahary which is the character of a young girl i.e. Abari means the name of a girl who was expert in crafts, art and culture. He was a villager of a remote area but civilized in Bodo society. Another Bodo short story writer Prosenjit Basumatary wrote “Bobi Sikla (a dump girl). It was also based on the theme of Bodo society. Modern short story is not based on character rather writer has to create his/her atmosphere, he said. Promotesh Basumatary, Assistant professor of Diphu Govt. College also read out the paper on the topic, “Dwngse Lama (a road)” short story book written by Rituraj Basumatary. He said that the style of the short story is different and it begins impassionately but ends with suspense. In this short story book, there are 23 short stories. Most of the theme of the short story is based on modern thoughts of the revolutionary people. He compares the thoughts of human being with horse riding because, people wants to run very fast. Stories are the thoughts of unity of the society, he commented. Rituraj Basumatary participated read out his paper on “The style of Bodo Short Story”. In Bodo short story, most of the theme is related to Bodo social system and their customs. The expressions of the writers are in their own style. Individual feelings come out in their literature i.e. in short story. The modern trend of Bodo short story has changed to symbolical and Aurobindo Uzir’s short story “Okhapwrni No (home at moon)” is completely symbolic and express modern thoughts of the people. His most of the style is not based on character. In the short story “Angni Mwjang Mwnnaini Dairy” the romantic feeling was created. Within a short period of time Bodo short story has developed to maturity. Bodo writers mostly use modern trend or style. Stream of consciousness has been seen in the Bodo short story and the techniques of writing are depending on the mood of the writer. The second session of the symposium was chaired by Bisweswar Basumatary, former Vice President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha and he stressed on the importance of drama and how drama had influenced by the Greece and Japan country. Ajit Basumatary presented his paper on the topic “Trend of Bodo Drama.” He said that the Drama has been created in relation to the religion of the human society. Bodo Drama is also started with the influence of Bathow religion as the dance of “Kherai” which is main celebration of Bodo community. There was “Oja Pali” dance in Bodo society. “Bodo Jatra Gan” was first performed in Bengal and it was first written by Umesh Mwchahary. Bodo Jatra Gan was performed in the religious festival as well as in the open theatre. “Rani Laimuti” is the first Bodo Drama written by Satish Ch. Basumatary. Likewise, many Bodo dramas were written by dererent writers such as Komol Kr. Brahma, Monoronjon Lahary, Bimal Brahma, Anil Basumatary. At Karbi

Anglong District also in 1950 “Baser” drama has been shown by Dalsing Basumatary and many more dramas were performed at dererent places under Karbi Anglong, he said. Mogesh Narza Boro read out his paper on Bodo Drama. The trend of Bodo Drama has been developed and took the character of modernism. Basically Bodo Dramas are focused on Bodo tradition and culture as well as the heroism of Bodo people like Swmdwn Jwhlwao and Sikna Jwhlwao who were legendary heroes of the Bodo community, he said. Khagen Goyary, Secretary of Karbi Anglong District Bodo Sahitya Sabha proposed the vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM AND POETS’ MEET

October 22, 2017, Kakching

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Sahitya Seva Samiti, Manipur, Kakching organized a literary forum on Cinema and Literature and Poets’ Meet on 22 October 2017 at Kakching, Manipur.

Inaugural Session : Yengkhom Dhananjoy Singh, President of Sahitya Seva Samiti, Manipur, H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, inaugurated the event lighting the candle. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata while welcoming the gathering stressed on the value of literature, specially on writing poetry for purification of the society. He pointed out on the origin of Manipuri Cinema and moving picture that started in the early part of post independence of Manipur. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory remarks focused on the relationship between cinema and literature. He tried to link the moving picture with literature and its influential impacts on the society and development of literature. He said that cinema and literature has, more or less the same value to the society. Yengkhom Dhananjoy Singh, President, Sahitya Seva Samiti, Manipur in his inaugural speech pointed out that literary products are giving a guiding spirit to the common people. He further stressed that moving picture is also within the core of literature and there is inseparable relationship between the two. Rather, cinema is one of the best medias for spreading the good and valuable messages of the literature to the society. Makhonmani Mongsaba, Producer of Manipuri Cinema and Director of Thoudang Amasung Khorirolda Piriba Ithil, in his speech on “The Role of Producer, Director in Cinema and their influence on Literature”, stressed on what is a fine film script and who should write about a standard film script which can be compared to the other films’ which are mainly commercial films of the mainland India. He pointed out the first Manipuri Film, that is Matamgi Manipur, written by Arambam Somorandra, was visualised from his Tirtha



Jatra with modification. According to him, the lyrical songs in films can be regarded among the best pieces of literature. Narendra Ningomba, pointed out that film and literature are two sides of a coin. Both of them are product of society. They are necessary to keep society lively. While Shamjetshabam Mangoljao spoke on cinema and visual literature, Yambem Tombi Devi presented her paper on “Film Music and Film Song”. I.S.Kangjam, while speaking from the chair, remarked that all art forms are originated from text, that is the literature in printed form or oral literature. Yengkhom Nilachandra Singh Secretary, Sahitya Seva Samiti, Manipur: Kakching, proposed the vote of thanks. The Inaugural Session was followed by the Poets’ Meet, chaired by Moirangthem Rajendra Singh and eleven other poets recited two poems each from their own composition

N. KHELCHANDRA SINGH BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR
October 23-24, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi and Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy, Imphal organized a two day birth centenary seminar on N. Khelchandra Singh at Imphal on 23-24 October 2017. In the inaugural session, while welcoming the scholar-participants and august gathering, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, elaborated on the significance of organizing this birth centenary seminar and ascribed Khelchandra Singh as an Indian writer, lexicographer and historian, an exponent of martial art, a fellow of both Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi, which is a rare recognition for any Indian writer or cultural icon. H. Behari Singh, Convener of Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in his introductory remark clarified the doubt of Khelchandra’s date of birth which records a difference of about three years when compared with academic and horoscopic findings. L. Jaychandra Singh, former Convener of Manipuri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi delivering the key-note

address informed that he as the Convener of Manipuri Advisory Board was instrumental in recommending Khelchandra’s name as a Fellow of the Akademi in 1999. He quoted from the citation of the Fellowship “Pandit N. Khelchandra Singh on whom the Sahitya Akademi is conferring its highest honour of Fellowship today is one of the living authorities on Ancient Manipuri Literature and Culture, whose contributions have elevated Indian Literature to a rare pinnacle.”

H. Tombi Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of Manipur University in his inaugural address said that Pandit Khelchandra is the embodiment of multifaceted personality, he was a great scholar, a pious vaisnava, versed in astrology, an exponent of Manipuri martial art, an authority on old Manipuri script and literature and a social reformer. When died on 31 January 2011, India lost one of her great scholars, he remarked. L. Upendra Sarma, Director of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Akademi, from the chair said that Khelchandra’s activities during his life span of more than 90 years touched on the entire spectrum of Manipuri culture and society and he elevated it with his unique vision and perception.

In the first session papers were presented by N. Ahanjao Meitei, N. Joykumar Singh and L. Ashokkumar Singh with R. K. Jhalajit Singh in the chair. They dwelt on the rich contribution of Khelchandra to Manipuri language. Khelchandra wrote in Meitei and English and is known to have published more than thirty books. Manipuri to Manipuri and English Dictionary, published in 1964, is reported to be the first modern general dictionary in Meitei language. Another book he wrote is Manipuri Language Status and Importance which was published in 1975. In the second session, M. Kriti Singh, S. Imoba Singh and S. Robindra Singh presented their paper with Aribam Chitreswor Sharma in the chair. They dwelt on the contribution of Khelchandra as a historian. He transliterated Uttarakhand Ramayana and “Asvanaedha Parva” of Mahabharata from old Meitei to Modern Meitei. In the third session, Rajen Toijamba, Th. Ibohanbi Singh, W. Homendro Singh, T. Tampha Devi presented papers with Kh. Prakash Singh in the chair. The paper readers dwelt on Khelchandra’s contribution as lexicographer and his contribution on two chapters of the book Dictionary of National Bibliography and the biographies of Pandit Raj Atobapu Sarma and Thangal General. In the fourth and last session of the seminar P. Gunindro Singh chaired the session while G. Biseshwor Sharma and K. Santibala Devi presented paper on Khelchandra as a charismatic figure in the scenario of Manipuri literature, culture and as an exponent of martial art. At the end of the sessions, L. Upendra Sarma, Director of JNMDA, Imphal proposed the vote of thanks.



L-R: Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, H. Behari Singh, L. Upendra Sarma, H. Tombi Singh, L. Jaychandra Singh



EASTERN REGIONAL WRITERS' MEET

October 24-25, 2017, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi, in association with Ashangba Communication, Imphal organised a two-days Eastern Regional Writers' Meet at Lamyamba Sanglen, Palace Compound, Imphal, Manipur on 24-25 October 2017. Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcoming the participants and gathering said that this type of Writers' Meet are so designed as to heighten literary awareness among the common readers to provide a platform of dialogue for writers of various languages to create opportunities for academics to discuss the issue of literature and aesthetics to encourage critics to reassess their canons, methodologies and tools of analysis. Gangadhar Hansdah, Convener Eastern Regional Board, Sahitya Akademi, briefed in his introductory speech the object of organising such a Meet. He emphasised the importance of bringing together writers of eight different languages to a common platform for experiencing and sharing the taste and values of their respective works. Such a meet will enhance the spirit of bridging the mental gap in several people of eastern India. Inaugurating the Writers' Meet, the renowned playwright and theatre Director Padmashri Shri Ratan Thiyam, an eminent Manipuri poet as well, invited the attention of all the writers and lovers of literature towards improving the quality of their works to match the ever changing global standards. He remarked that current readership of books was much less specially in Manipur compared to his time four decades back. Longjam Joychandra Singh, Registrar, Manipur University of Culture, delivering the keynote address cited the contribution of eminent writers like Shankaracharya, Rabindranath Tagore and also mentioned that there is no other means than developing a mutual taste in literature. Literature is the pure language of the heart of mankind which sounds that Indian Literature is one though written in many languages. While giving the presidential address, H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, deliberated that through this Writers' meet the spirit of oneness and one India could be built up. He further stated that, literature is the medium through which national integration of vast India would be sustained. A.C. Netrajit, Co-ordinator of Ashangba Communication, proposed the vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Shri K Radhakumar Singh, an eminent Manipuri poet. In the session, Assamese writer Santanu Kaushik read out his short story which was followed by yet another short story reading by Bengali writer Tamal Bandhopadhyay and Odia short story read out by Vijaya Mishra. The reading session concluded with poetry recital by Bodo poet Deva Kanta Ramchiary. The session was wrapped up by K. Radhakumar Singh, a Manipuri poet by giving his notes on the presentation and finally reading his own short story. On the second day, the second session was chaired by Subhendu Mund, an eminent Odia fiction writer and poet. In this session, Maithili writer Ramnaresh Singh read his short story. Kalusingh Ranapaheli, Nepali writer read his poems. Badal Hembram's

short story in Nepali followed the poems. Subhendu Mund completed the session by reading some of his beautiful poems. The third session was chaired by Gangadhar Hansdah, Convener, Eastern Regional Board. Assamese poet Reeta Baruah started the session by reading her Assamese poems. She was followed by a short story reading by Nalini Bera, an eminent Bengali fiction writer. Another short story reading by Shyam Darihare, a Maithili writer was appreciated by the audience. Nepali poems of Rajendra Dhakal followed the reading. Finally, Gangadhar Hansdah evaluated the presentations from the chair. The fourth and last session of the Meet was presided over by H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He read the English translation of his Manipuri poem. Bodo poet and translator Uthrisar Basumatary started the session by reading his Bodo poems which was followed by recitation by Anandini Devi of some of her selected poems. Madan Mohan Soren read out a few Santali poems. H. Behari Singh concluded the session by giving his observation of the session and emphasised again the oneness of India and integration through literature. Goutam Paul wrapped up the two Day Eastern Regional Writers' Meet by giving brief accounts of discussion of various sessions highlighting the salient features of the Meet.

DOGRI & KASHMIRI – MANIPURI TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

October 27-29, 2017, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi organized a three-days translation workshop for translating short stories of Dogri and Kashmiri into Manipuri on 27-29 October 2017 at Kashmir. The workshop was attended by Kh Kunjo Singh, Yumanam Nandini, N. Oliga Chanu Devi, Waikhom Chingkheinganba, H. Behari Singh, Mohd. Zaman Azurdah and Lalit Magotra.

LITERARY FORUM

November 3, 2017, Silchar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Department of Bengali, Gurucharan College, Silchar, organized a Literary Forum on Exploring the Modern Bengali Short Story on Friday, 3 November 2017 at college premises. In the Inaugural Session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer In Charge, Sahitya Akademi Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience. Roma Bhattacharjee, Dean of the School of Languages in her introductory address said that Bengali writers of Barak Valley are mostly neglected, but they should not be disheartened and must keep on creating quality literature. Ashes Bhattacharjee, Vice Principal, G. C. College, shared his views on the occasion. Bibhas Deb, Principal, G. C. College, delivered the presidential address. Anamika Chakraborty, Head, Department of Bengali, G. C. College, proposed the Vote of thanks. The Literary Forum included a session which was chaired by



Biswatosh Choudhury. Amalendu Bhattacharjee, an eminent scholar, presented a paper entitled 'Bengali Short Stories of South Assam: Pre-independence Period'. Debasish Bhattacharjee read out a paper entitled 'A Critical Study on Post-independence Bengali Short Story'. Rahul Chakrabarty presented a paper on 'Dialogue of the Inner Self: Bengali Short Stories of Rabindranath Tagore and his Contemporaries'. Sumita Ghosh read out a paper on 'A Critical Study on Modern Bengali Short Story in Barak Valley'.

SYMPOSIUM

November 3, 2017, Silchar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Department of Manipuri, Gurucharan College, Silchar, organized a Symposium on Travelogue in Manipuri Literature on Friday, 3 November 2017 at the college premises. In the Inaugural Session, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address and highlighted the foundational moments of the genre of travelogue in Manipuri literature. Amalendu Bhattacharya, an eminent Bengali scholar, shared his views on travelogue in his address as the Chief Guest of the session. Bibhas Deb, Principal, G. C. College, delivered the presidential address. K. Nayan Chand Singh, Head, Department of Manipur, G. C. College, proposed the Vote of thanks. K. Nayan Chand Singh chaired the first session. Mehdi Hasan Chowdhury, N. Nangalei Singha, and O. Usharani Singha read out their papers in the first session. The second session was chaired by H. Behari Singh. In this session, Kh. Manisana Singha, S. Merina Singha and Sandhya Rani Singha read out their papers.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS LECTURE

November 3, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, organised Vigilance Awareness lecture on 3 November 2017 by Hemanta Kumar Mohanty, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer (Traffic), South Eastern Railways at Akademi premises in Kolkata. He dwelt on 'My Vision – Corruption Free India'. While addressing the staff members of Kolkata, Hemanta Kumar Mohanty said that the purpose of observing Vigilance Awareness Week is to educate the public at large to resist corruption related practices and also to educate them how to expose the disease of corruption. He said that it acts like a mass movement of involving people in saying no to corruption. Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week every year is to encourage all to collectively participate in the camp for prevention of and fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of the threat posed by corruption.

SYMPOSIUM

November 4, 2017, Kabuganj

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Department of Manipuri, Janata College, Kabuganj, organised a Symposium on "Manipuri Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics" on 4 November 2017 at the college premises. In the Inaugural session, Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address and highlighted the need for conducting such a symposium which highlights the rich literature, culture and oral tradition of Manipuri. Prof. M. Babaton Singha, who was the Chief Guest, shared his views on Manipuri oral poetry and its importance in the Modern Manipuri literature. Subhas Chandra Nath, Principal (in-charge) of Janata College, delivered the Presidential address while Usha Rani Sharma, Head, department of Manipuri department, proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by H. Behari Singh in which three noted scholars N. Bidyasagar Singh, L. Nipamacha Singh and H. Anita Singha presented their papers on "Impact of Oral Poetry on Contemporary Manipuri Poetry", "Social Contents in Manipuri Oral Poetry" and "Oral Poetry in Khamba Thoibi" respectively. The second session was chaired by M. Babaton Singha in which three noted scholars Usha Rani Sharma, Ch. Manikumar Singha and O. Loyangamba Singha presented their papers on "Different styles and verses in Manipuri Oral Poetry", "Existence of ballad in Manipuri Oral Poetry" and "Religious oral poetry and Manipuri Literature" respectively.

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

November 4, 2017, Purulia

The regional offices of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Srijan Utsav, organised a Loka: The Many Voices programme on 4 November 2017 at Purulia, West Bengal, where the participants of Mizoram were invited to perform the Mizo tribal dance and the famous bamboo dance. H. Laldinmawia, Asst. Professor, Department of Mizo, Pachhunga University College, delivered lecture and demonstrated the presentation. Enid H. Lalrammuani, Zothapuii, R. Lalhriatpuii, Vanlalruati, Baby Lalruatsangi, Lalrotluanga, Remala Thlamuanpui, Lalruatsanga, C. Lalbiakfela, H. Lalthazuala, Klanan Lal Ramchullova from Mizoram participated in the programme.

SEMINAR

November 5, 2017, Chirang

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Bodo Department Teachers' Association, Basugaon College, organised a seminar on "Post Modern Trends in Bodo Literature" on 5 November 2017 at the college premises.



In the inaugural session, Sri Premananda Muchhary welcomed the participants and audience and briefly talked about the theme of the seminar. Sri Tulan Muchhary, President, Bodo Department Teachers' Association chaired the session. Dr Anil Boro, eminent Bodo writer, was the Chief Guest and he talked about the importance of the seminar on Post-Modernist Trend in Bodo Literature. Bhupen Narzaree, was the Guest of Honour while keynote address was delivered by Anjali Daimari. Ranen Ch. Muchahary, Principal, Basugaon College, proposed the vote of thanks. The first session of the seminar was chaired by Anil Boro in which four noted scholars, Adaram Basumatary, Nareswar Narzary, Sunil Phukan Basumatary and Rita Boro presented their papers, "Post Modern writings and the poems of Anil Boro," "In Search of a Plot of Post Modern by Sunil Phukan Basumatary," "Post Modernism in Anju's Poem" and "Reading Post Modernism in the Poems of Praneswar Boro Narzi" respectively. In the second session chaired by Nareswar Narzary, five noted scholars, Indira Boro, Nijwm Narzary, Mallika Basumatary, Pramatesh Basumatary and Ranen Ch. Mochahary presented their papers, "Post Modernism in Bodo Playwrights," "Angni Anjalina Mwsaohakhri," "Post Modern writings with reference to the Poems of Dhirjujyoti," "Bodo Marriage songs and Fusli Haba" and "Reading Post Modernism in a few Bodo Novels" respectively.

SEMINAR

November 6-7, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a birth centenary seminar on Samar Sen, an eminent poet and journalist on 6-7 November 2017 in Kolkata. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Swapan Chakravorty with Professor Amiya Dev in the chair. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay focused on the significance of background of Samar Sen along with the issues which determined the lay-out of the seminar, Swapan Chakravarty, former Director General of National Library, Kolkata and eminent scholar shared his personal experience with Samar Sen. He stressed on the difference which the life of a political activist adds to a writer's mode of thinking and subsequent creation. The first two sessions mainly focused on the poetry of Samar Sen. The speakers of the first session were Debabrata Panda and Joya Mitra with Sourin Bhattacharya in the chair. Debabrata Panda spoke on life and associations of Samar Sen. Jaya Mitra also focused on the turbulent political and ideological background of life of Samar Sen as a writer. In the second session, Himabanta Bandyopadhyay and Sutapa Sengupta spoke on post modernism of the poetry of Samar Sen

with Sabyasachi Deb in the chair. The speakers spoke on the distinctive qualities of Samar Sen's poems. The speakers of the third session were Asish Kumar Lahiri and Tarun Ganguli with Timir Basu in the chair. This session focused on the life and activities of Samar Sen as an Editor. The speakers of the session had worked with Samar Sen and they shared their experience with the audience. In the fourth session papers were presented by Kaushik Guha, Arun Som and Pulak Chanda with Kaushik Guha in the chair. While Arun Som and Kaushik Guha dwelt extensively on the works of translations done by Samar Sen, Pulak Chand focussed on the nature of influences which worked on the mind and personality of Samar Sen. He focused mainly on the personality of Samar Sen's mother whose dynamic character built the outline of Samar Sen's mental set-up. Kaushik Guha and Arun Som compared the Bengali translations of Samar Sen with the Russian originals. They also discussed about the problematic of translation. In the fifth session, papers were presented by Anil Acharya and Ratan Khasnabis with Dipendu Chakraborty in the chair. Both the speakers spoke on the life of Samar Sen as an Editor. They discussed on the problems of an Editor and how Samar Sen faced them. Dipendu Chakravorty shared his personal experience with the audience regarding the life and activities of Samar Sen.

LITERARY FORUM

November 11, 2017, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with All Assam Publishers and Book Sellers Association, organized a literary forum with the poet, fiction writers and playwrights from West Bengal and Assam. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Bani Basu, an eminent fiction writer, Binayak Bandyopadhyay, an eminent Bengali poet, and Manoj Mitra, an eminent playwright, actor and director, participated from West Bengal and from Assam Laxminandan Bora, an eminent fiction writer, Santana Bardoloi, an actor and critic and Baharul Islam, a playwright and actor, participated in the programme. Bani Basu narrated her experience of writing and read out one of her short stories. Binayak bandyopadhyay read out a few of his poems and articulated on the modern trends in Bengali poetry. Manoj Mitra, focusing on Bengali drama, said that main theme of Assamese theatre does not much differ with that of Bengali theatre. Now-a-days, discreet people in large numbers witness theatre and react sensibly, which boost up quality production, he commented. Laxminandan Bora discoursed on the modern Assamese fiction writing. Santana Bordoloi articulated on Assamese cinema with reference to Hindi commercial films and Baharul Islam made critical comment on Assamese theatre.



SYMPOSIUM

November 12, 2017, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Manipur State Kala Akademi, organized a symposium on 'Present Trends in Manipuri Literature' on 12 November 2017 at Kangla Hall, Imphal. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Symposium was inaugurated by eminent Manipuri writer Sri Khumanthem Prakash Singh and K. Radhakumar Singh, IAS, chaired the session. Prof H Behari Singh delivered the introductory remarks. The participants and audience observed a minute's silence to mourn the departure of Ms. S. Bhanumati Devi, eminent Manipuri poet. A book, 'Come Out Sandrembi We Will Make a Grandiose Home for You' was released during the session. In the first session chaired by Elangbam Dinamani Singh, three noted scholars, R.J. Meetei, K. Shantibala and H. Roybala, presented papers focusing on current trends in Manipuri poetry, short stories and novels respectively. In the second session chaired by L. Joychandra, three noted scholars, Kunjo Singh, Rajen Toijam and H. Subasini Devi, presented their papers focusing on translation scenario, current trends and travelogue writing in contemporary Manipuri literature.

LOKA: THE MANY VOICES

November 12, 2017, Sivasagar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Khoj, organised Loka: The Many Voices programme at Sivasagar Book Festival on 12 November 2017. A young researcher of folk culture, Chandrakamal Chetia explained 'Sonowal Kachari Bohuwa Dance,' and Chandrakamal Chetia, also delivered a lecture on 'Sonowal Kachari Bohuwa Dance' which was followed by the demonstration of that dance form by Manoj Sonowal and his troupe. Chandrakamal Chetia narrated the significance of the dance in his speech.

MEET THE AUTHOR

November 12, 2017, Sivasagar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Khoj, a leading social organisation of Sivasagar, organised "Meet the Author" programme with Imran Shah at Sivasagar Book Festival on 12 November 2017. Dr Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker. Nabani Hazarikatalked about the works of Imran Shah. The guest speaker, Imran Shah thanked the Akademi for the opportunity, talked about his early life, influences on his works, the process of creative writing, different ways of writing, the place and relevance of imagination and his works. A brief interactive session followed the speech.

NATIONAL BOOK WEEK

November 14-20, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a National Book Week on 14-20 November 2017 in Kolkata. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. The Book Week was formally inaugurated by Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He said that Sahitya Akademi is one of the largest publishers in the world and no other publisher publishes books in 24 recognised languages as well as in many unscheduled languages of India in English translation. So the Akademi is playing a major role since its inception in building nation through production of books per excellence.

BOOK RELEASE

November 16, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Jadavpur University and Netaji institute for Asian studies organized a release function of 'Lallan Shah Fakir ke Geet' published by the Akademi at the university premises on 16 November 2017. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Bratya Basu, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal, formally released the book. Prof Muchkund Dubey, translator of the work talked about his experience of translating the work, the obstacles he encountered, how the work enriched his knowledge and how he lived the geet during the period of translation. Professor Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University congratulated Professor Dubey for accomplishing such a difficult task of translating incomparable composition of Lalan's song into Hindi to contribute to popularisation of these songs in all parts of India. Subhasis Biswas, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Arts, Jadavpur University said Lalan's poetry is invaluable treasure of the Bengali literary tradition. Samantak Das, Head and Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University proposed the vote of thanks.

BISWA BANGLA SAHITYA UTSAV

November 24-25, 2017, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Biswa Bangla Sahitya Utsav committee, organised the Biswa Bangla Sahitya Utsav on 24-25 November 2017 at Rabindra Okakura Bhavan, in Kolkata. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri Shirsendu Mukhopadhyay inaugurated the programme and talked about the relevance of poetry in 21st century. Sri Shyamal Kanti Das, General Secretary, Biswa Bangla Sahitya Utsav, delivered



introductory remarks and unveiled the theme of the Ustav. In the session, Janab Fazlur Rahaman Khan Farukh was felicitated and Sri chhanda Chatterjee proposed a vote of thanks. A number of Indian and Bangladeshi poets participated in the event.

Seven noted poets, Aheibam Rabindrakumar Singha, S. Uttamkumar Singh, Hirendra Chingakhram, Khoisnam (O) Biral, N. Ananta Singha, Mayengbam Pradyot and Khoisnam Mangol recited their compositions.

SEMINAR

December 14-15, 2017, Shillong

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with St. Edmund's College, Shillong, organized a two-day seminar on 175 Years of Khasi Written Literature at the college premises on 14-15 December 2017. Sri Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri Henry Lamin, Pro Vice-Chancellor of North Eastern Hill University, inaugurated the seminar and talked briefly about Khasi literature. In his introductory address, Sri Barnes L Mawrie, eminent scholar, talked about the superiority of written literature over oral literature with respect to Khasi literature. In his keynote address, Sri Sylvanus Lamare, eminent scholar, delivered a speech 'Revisiting the History of Khasi Literature... opting for a Brighter Future.' Prof Esther Syiem, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the session. Sri Monotosh Chakravarty proposed a vote of thanks. Sri Solony Bareh, Sri M. Kharryngki presented their papers in the first session of the seminar with Desmond L. Kharmawphlang was in the chair. Sri David Diengdoh, Sri Rosa M. Mawlong, Sri Trocylin Chyne were the speakers of the second session. Sri B. M. Wolflang, Sri Ibadondor Synrem, and Sri W. Thabah presented their papers in the third session with Alvareen Dkhar was in the chair. Sri K. W. Nongrum, Smt Irene M. Nongbet, Smt Streamlet Dkhar were the speakers of the fourth session which was chaired by Kampher Phawa. The last session was chaired by Sri Chosterfield Khongwir and Bakhiamon Rynjah, Smt Jean S. Dkhar and Lucy Malngiang presented their papers.

LITERARY FORUM

December 30, 2017, Khowai

The regional office of Sahtiya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Gournagar Youth Club, Khowai organized a literary forum on Khongjam Parba and Manipuri Literature and Poets' Meet at Swapnapuri Guest House, Khowai, on 30 December 2017. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory remarks talked briefly about the importance of Khongjam Parba and its impact on Manipuri literature. Sri Soraijam Uttamkumar who was the chief guest, talked briefly about the trends of Manipuri literature in Manipur as well as in Tripura. Ningombam Bira, an eminent Khongjam Parba singer in Tripura sang one of the episodes of Khongjam war. N. Pradip Datta chaired the inaugural session. N. Rajkishore Datta proposed the vote of thanks. The Poets' Meet was chaired by Prof H. Behari Singh.

SEMINAR

December 31, 2017, Agartala

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Athouba Marup organized a seminar on Thokchom Sonamani Singh on 31 December 2017 at Agartala Press Club. Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed the participants and audience. In his inaugural speech H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi mentioned about the important role of Thokchom Sonamani Singh in the development of Manipuri language and literature. Sri L. Biramangal, in his Presidential address, talked about Thokchom Sonamani's relation with Manipuris of Tripura. In the first session, Sri A. C. Netrajit, Sri Khoisnam (O) Birola, Sri Y. Prabin Singha and Smt Takhellambam Leina presented their papers on 'Life and Works of Thokchom Sonamani Singh', 'Thokchom Sonamani Singh as an Active Worker in Manipuri Language and Literature', 'Thokchom Sonamani Singh as an Educationist' and 'Role of Thokchom Sonamani Singh for the Development of Manipuri Language and Literature' respectively. Sri H. Behari Singh from the chair gave his observation on the papers and also proposed to publish these seminar papers for the benefit of public. Sri Y. Probin proposed the vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

December 31, 2017, Agartala

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with MARUP, organized a literary forum on 100 Years of Manipuri Literature in Tripura on 31 December 2017 at Agartala Press Club. Sri Gautam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the chief guest and talked about development of Manipuri literature in Tripura. Sri Swaraijam Uttamkumar and Smt K. Sarita presented their papers on 'The problem of Meitei (Manipuri) plays in Tripura from 1970-2017' and 'Love and nature in Manipuri poetry in Tripura' respectively. H. Behari Singh pointed out that these two papers could not give the total picture of 100 years of Manipuri literature in Tripura, these papers dealt with Manipuri plays and poetry. He further said that there are other genres of Manipuri literature in Tripura namely short stories, travelogue, novels, essays etc. Sri R. K. Tarunjit Singh from the local organizer proposed the vote of thanks.



SYMPOSIUM

September 10, 2017, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi RO, Mumbai and Rangkaram Theatre jointly organized a Symposium on Contemporary Literature of Women Writers in Sindhi (Ahmedabad) on 10 September 2017 at Swami Leela Shah Seva Trust, Kuber Nagar, Ahmedabad. At the outset, Sri Jagdish Shahdadpuri of Rang Karam Theatre welcomed the audience and guest writers and requested DrPrem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi to deliver key note address. He derived the remarkable contribution made by Sindhi women writers for the development and enrichment of Sindhi literature and language. Writings by women in Sindhi depict the sensibilities and social values of the society. They have made their presence felt in the Sindhi literary world.

The first session of the symposium was chaired by Ms Sunita Mohanani and views were shared on "Literature of Ahmedabad based Sindhi women writers" by Ms Roshni Rohra, Ms Deepa Wadhvani, Ms Dhanlaxmi Vatnani and Ms Pushpa Sagar. The literature written in different genres by women writers was discussed in this session. The said session also involved presentation of the essay on "My favourite Sindhi Book" in which MsMeena Shahdadpuri shared her views on Pahinji Galha Mein, a book by Ms Jaya Jadwani while Ms Heena Agnani reviewed the writings of Popati Hiranandani. Ms Daya Lalchandani, the third essayist of the session updated on the book Kadahi-Kadahi by Rashmi Ramani while Ms Asha Jagesha shared her critical remarks on various genres of literature by women. In the second session, all the participating women writers presented their different forms of writings. The session was chaired by Dr Prem Prakash. The symposium was well attended by literature lovers, scholars and comprehensively covered by the media.

MEET THE AUTHOR

September 10, 2017, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai organized a Meet the Author programme with Sri Jetho Lalwani, eminent Sindhi litterateur, in collaboration with Rang Karam Theatre on Sunday, 10 September 2017 in Ahmedabad. While heartily thanking Sahitya Akademi for inviting him to speak at a Meet the Author programme, Sri Lalwani shared with the audience that Jetho Lalwani he began his career as a librarian, the job that offered him opportunity to read innumerable books of his interests which later would culture his creative expression, and critical insights. He said that there seems to be a unification in him of creative force and passion for administrative responsibilities which was proved from time and again during his successful tenures of the significant positions he held. He observed that his high profiled administrative jobs and creative writing were complementary to each other. He informed that the positions he held include Assistant Registrar, Sindhi-Hindi Sahitya Academy, Gujrat State; Secretary, Sindhi Sahitya Academy, New Delhi; Director, National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language, New Delhi; Divisional

Warden, Civil Defence, Sardarnagar Division. Besides these, he continued that he was also instrumental in active functioning of Akhil Bharatiya Sindhi Boli Ain Sahitya Sabha, Jaipur, and Akhil Bharatiya Sindhi Boli Prachar Sabha, Ulhasnagar. He said further that he keeps on attempting to explore into human life as a creative writer employing several intellectual and emotional dimensions, and it was the creative force in him that made him accept yet more difficult a challenge - writing for children, which he said was very dear to him. After his talk, Sri Lalwani interacted with the audience.

LITERARY FORUM

September 13, 2017, Bhuj

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, in collaboration with Krantiguru Shyamji Krishna Verma Kachch University, organized the Literary Forum to commemorate the Gujarati litterateur the late Ramsinh Kanjibhai Rathod, on 13 September 2017 at the University in Bhuj. The Forum began with the litterateurs and dignitaries on the dais namely Sri Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board, Sri Sanjay Thakar, Sri Haresh Dholakia, Professor and Head, Dept of Gujarati, Kachch University, Sri Kirti Khatri, Dr D.M. Makani (Registrar, Kachchh University) and Dr Darshana Dholakia who were present for discussion on contribution of the late Ramsinh Kanjibhai Rathod to Gujarati literature. After a brief introductory note delivered by Sri Sitanshu Yashaschandra, the first speaker, Sri Haresh Dholakia, elaborated the contribution of late Ramsinhji with regard to his achievements academically and the book-titled Kachchh Sanskruti Darshan for which he had received many awards. The book was published in 1997. Hareshbhai made audience aware about the nature of Sri Ramsinhji and stated that he had remained always busy in his research on Kachchhi culture, self-disciplined, determined and kept himself aloof from the general crowd sharing his views on culture with scholars with a no talk about self. Sri Sanjay Thakar discussed in greater detail about the museum founded by Ramsinhji with minute details about the collections existing there for his efforts taken by him and such collections speak a lot about Kachchh. He began for all such collections from 1932 onward. He was conferred Sahitya Akademi award in 1960. The museum was opened on 2.9.1992 for public. Sri Kirti Khatri who was the last speaker, discussed about his relation with Ramsinhji with literary aspect, and requested all the invitees of the programme to extend co-operation in maintaining the museum by next generation which will be a real tribute to him. Finally, Dr Darshana Dholakia proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM

September 16, 2017, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with the Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, organized a symposium on Manishankar Ratnaji Bhatt 'Kant' at the Parishad on 16 September 2017 in Ahmedabad on



the occasion of the Birth Centenary year of 'Kant'. In the inaugural session, Ms Usha Upadhyaya of Parishad said that though 'Kant' studied more literature of the West, his writing was more influenced by Sanskrit. In that context, President of the Parishad, Chandrakant Topiwala commented that Khandkavya was a result of research of 'Kant' and was never written before and after him and he welcomed the said programme on the said topic. Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Convener of Gujarati Advisory Board, said that his poetry both bit and small has a crucial role in Gujarati literature. 'Kant' had a different style which distinguished him from other poets such as Umashankar Joshi and Nhanalal. His character 'Sahadeva' is also different from one in the Mahabharata. On event of the Centenary year, it is an attempt to identify his literature with re-start. Chandrakant Topiwala emphasized the poet's text with reference to context with correspondence with Balvantraai Thakore and Bhuguraj Anjaria and added that his poetry has two divisions – East and North Khandkavya Besides his poetry has – Chakravakmithun, Abhignyan, Vasantvijay, Devyani. After inaugural session, Prafulla Rawal of Parishad said that in century divided in two, his span of life was for 56 years. During his readings as passion (or hobby) he was inspired by books of Swedenborg, which lead him to go for Christianity as a religion by his own choice. The other scholar participants – Rajesh Pandya, Jaydev Shukla, Vijay Pandya, Shirish Panchal elaborated Khandkavya of Kant and discussed with examples with varied aspects covering his contribution to Gujarati Literature. In the second session, Satish Vyas, Ramesh Shah, Mansukh Salla, Nivya Patel discussed the specific plays and examined the influence of Greek plays. The symposium was concluded with major points discussed by each of the participants by Yogesh Joshi and ended with vote of thanks by Prafulla Rawal.

SYMPOSIUM

September 28, 2017, Panaji

Sahitya Akademi and the Department of Konkani, Goa University jointly organized a symposium on Evaluation of Humorous Literature in Konkani at the University in Panaji, Goa on Thursday, 28 September 2017. Sri Varun Sahani, Vice Chancellor, Goa University inaugurated the symposium. Sri Ulhas Pai Raikar, noted Konkani critic, delivered keynote address. Dr Tanaji Halarnkar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, made introductory remarks. First session - The non-humorous in the humorous literature in Konkani - was chaired by Sri Pundalik Naik, eminent Konkani poet and playwright. Sri Gajanan Jog on "A.N. Mhambro's Humorous Literature", and Sri Sakharam Borkar on "K.M. Sukhtankar's Humorous Literature" presented their papers. Second session - Contribution of humour to Konkani literature - was chaired by Sri K.M. Sukhtankar, and Ms Zilu Gaonkar on "Humour in Konkani Folk Literature", and Ms Guadalup Dias on "Humour in Konkani Literary Classics" presented their papers. Sri Pundalik Naik chaired the last session - The non-humorous in the humorous plays in Konkani, and Ms

Rajashri Sail on "Contemporary Humorous Plays in Konkani", and Ms Cojma Fernandes on "Contemporary Tiatr Literature" presented their papers. Finally, Sri Prakash Paryenkar, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM

September 28, 2017, Kalamb

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Dnyandev Mohekar College, Kalamb, organized a symposium on Marathi Novel Today on 28.9.2017 At the College, Kalamb. At the outset, Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the audience and guest writers. He said that the two sessions of the symposium were decided after considering the facts like Marathi novel today is affluent in subject matters and narrative techniques, our writers' cultured world view and genuine experimental spirit, their ability to creatively amalgamate their reality and imagination, deep understanding of society, and artistic assimilation of history, tradition and the current times. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr Ashok Mohekar, Principal of the Dnyandev Mohekar College. The keynote address was delivered by Dr Eknath Pagar, eminent Marathi critic. He highlighted that the novel as a genre was originated from the wants of the middle class, and that the current reality is highly challenging for the novelists to depict. He also stated that an able novelist invariably investigates into culture, and attempts to make an order out of the chaotic reality. Dr Ashok Chausalkar, eminent Marathi writer and critic, chaired the inaugural session. Citing instances of a few contemporary novels, he said it would be very interesting to see as to how our novelists depict our tumultuous times. The first session of the symposium - "Marathi Novel Today : Source and Impact" - was chaired by Dr Randhir Shinde, and papers were presented by Dr Keshav Deshmukh, Sri Raja Holkunde and Sri Prashant Dhande. They emphasized that the sources of Marathi novel can be derived from the environment, and the main chore of contemporary writer is to balance the creative novel writing with the changing environment where nothing is static. The second session was chaired by Dr Rajshekhar Shinde and subject in discussion was "The literary culture in Marathi novel Today". Dr. Dattatray Gholap, Dr Mahesh Kharat and Sri Balaji Sutar shared their views in this session. They observed that the present day literary culture is adversely affected by the vastness of globalization and industrialization and this has resulted in diminishing agro-culture and human values. The symposium was well attended by literature lovers, scholars and comprehensively covered by media. Sri Kedar Kalawane of the college proposed a vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM

October 6, 2017, Bhopal

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Sindhi Academy, Madhya Pradesh Sanskriti Parishad, Bhopal, organized a Literary



Forum on 6 October 2017 at 3.00 pm. At the outset, Sri Rajendra Premchandani, President, Sindhi Academy welcomed the participating poets and invitees at the programme. Sri Nari Lachhwani, renowned Sindhi ghazal writer, recited some of his ghazals while Ms Shobha Lekhwani, Sri Nandkumar Sanmukhani and Sri Dev Arjwani recited their poems. The programme was well attended by poetry lovers and the media.

MEET THE AUTHOR

October 6, 2017, Bhopal

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, in collaboration with the Sindhi Sahitya Academy, Madhya Pradesh Sanskriti Parishad, organized a Meet the Author programme with Sri Mohan Gehani, renowned Sindhi poet, writer, and critic on Friday, 06 October 2017 in Bhopal at the Academy. Sri Mohan Gehani thanked Sahitya Akademi for inviting him to speak at such a prestigious platform. Sri Gehani shared that he had studied in Karachi (now in Pakistan) up to IV standard in Sindhi medium. After partition of the country his family moved to Gujarat. He took his further studies up to VIII standard in Gujarati medium at Surat, and from VIII to XI standard, till 1955, he studied again in Sindhi medium in Bombay (now Mumbai) and thereafter till post graduation his medium of instruction and interaction has remained English and he writes in Sindhi and English. He said that his first poem was published in school magazine Jyot, and his first short story, as full fledged writer, was published in progressive literary journal - Naeen Duniya in 1955, when he had just entered college. Further he said that Kirat Babani, a noted Sindhi writer, was his teacher at that time. When Gehani wrote his first short story he took it to Kirat Babani who invited him to read out the short story on Saturday evening in a meeting where many writers met. That was session of Sindhi Sahit Mandal and thus he became an active member of the Sahit Mandal very soon. At that time progressive writers brought out a literary magazine - Naeen Duniya - and his first short story was published in it, and he was considered as an established writer and part of the movement that strove to fight for inclusion of Sindhi Language in the eighth Schedule of Constitution, and the movement eventually was to develop into the movement of Sindhyat, a movement to retain and reinforce Sindhi identity, he remembered. He was a part of the team of then emerging writers such as A.J. Uttam, Sundri Uttamchandani, Moti Prakash, Kala Prakash, Arjan Shaad, Krishin Rahi and others, he was younger to them though. He shared that he was in Dubai for nearly 25 years, and there he continued his literary as well as association with cultural activities. He was the back bone of "Aseen Sindhi" and "Sadaaen Gadh Sindhi" organizations to organize cultural programmes. In Dubai, a trio of Ram Buxani, Nari Sawlani and Gehani himself emerged to be in fore front of organizing cultural events for Sindhi community. As a cultural activist and for his contribution to Sindhi literature he was awarded the Saeen G M Sayed Memorial Award by the World Sindhi Congress in London. He said that when he found that the prose in Sindhi

to be very verbose, and ideas and emotions could not be aptly conveyed and much was getting lost, he opted for the genre of poetry to distill an idea or emotion and convey that experience in minimum words possible. He has five poetry collections to his credit. Poems selected from his collections have been translated into English and published in a volume Brittle Ice....After his spontaneous talk, Gehani answered queries posed by the audience.

GUJARATI AND CHHATISGARHI SAHITYA GOSHTI

October 8, 2017, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the West Zone Cultural Center, Udaipur organized a Gujarati and Chattisgarhi Sahitya Goshthi in Ahmedabad on Sunday, 8 October 2017 at Kavi Dalpatram Memorial, Kavi Dalpatram Chowk, Relief Road. The Goshthi was part of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotstav organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India under its Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme. Prof. Chandrakant Topiwala, distinguished Gujarati critic and poet who wrote the monograph on the poet Dalpatram for Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the Goshthi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, welcomed the guest-writers and audience. Sri Topiwala, in his inaugural address, briefly spoke of Dalpatram's life and works saying that Dalpatram wrote in Gujarati as well as in Brij dialect of Hindi. He came in contact with an English officer called Forbes who engaged him for working for the development of Gujarati literature, they became friends, and through Forbes Dalpatram got acquainted with European literature. Dalpatram substantially contributed to the Gujarati prose in its initial stages, but he has a permanent place in Gujarati as a poet loved and respected by intellectuals and illiterates alike, and many poets who succeeded him were inspired by him, he pointed out. Dalpatram had mastery over expression, and was a bridge between medieval and modern era; utmost simplicity of diction and style is the most noteworthy feature of Dalpatram's poetry, he added. Dr Kesharilal Verma, Member, General Council, and noted litterateur in Hindi and Chhattisgarhi, was the chief guest at the event. He brilliantly spoke of Chhattisgarhi culture in general and literature in particular. Rich Chhattisgarhi culture is manifested by its tribal population which has its own distinctive languages, arts and lifestyle, he said. He cited the world famous Chhattisgarhi artists such as the late Habib Tanvir and Tijjanbai. Music, dance, and colours are an integral part of the Chhattisgarhi culture, he informed. Poetry in Chhattisgarhi is marked with simplicity of diction and haunting rhythm, he pointed out. Sri Raghuvir Chaudhary, Jnanapeeth award winning renowned Gujarati fiction writer, chaired the inaugural segment of the Goshthi. Eminent Chhattisgarhi fiction writers - Sri Pardesiram Verma and Sri



Ramnath Sahu, and noted Gujarati writers - Sri Mahendrasingh Parmar and Sri Dharmabhai Shrimali read out their short stories in the first session. The second session was meant for poetry recitations. Famous Chhattisgarhi poets and lyricists - Sri Mir Ali Mir and Sri Sushil 'Bhole' recited their poems, and noted Gujarati poets - Sri Dalpat Padhiyar and Sri Pravin Pandya recited their poems in this session. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, proposed a vote of thanks. Sahitya Akademi held its books exhibition on all the three days of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav.

SYMPOSIUM

October 11, 2017, Buldhana

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, in collaboration with Model Degree College, Buldhana organized a Symposium on Influence of the Bhakti Sampradaya on Marathi Literature on Wednesday, 11 October 2017 at the College at Buldhana, Maharashtra. Sri Vasant Abaji Dahake, distinguished Marathi Litterateur, inaugurated the symposium, and Sri Sadanand Deshmukh, renowned Marathi fiction writer, delivered keynote address. All our saint – poets strategically opted for writing in Marathi instead of writing in Sanskrit and that is why the readership obviously swerved to excellent literature and spiritualism as well, observed Dahake. Influence of the Bhakti – Sampradaya on Marathi literature is intrinsic as well as extrinsic, Dahake said further. The tradition of the saints is alive until the date only because of the two fold influences, he observed Sri Sadanand Deshmukh said that literature and spiritual yearning were restricted to a few social strata in the times of the Vedas, and our saints had rebelled against such restrictions, and began to write in colloquial Marathi in order to connect themselves with the common people. The saint – poet emphatically drew an analogy between the mundane and the spiritual so as to be understood precisely by folks. The Bhakti and the Mahanubhava Sapmprayas very democratically opened the gateways to read, write, discuss literature, and also to nurture spiritual inclination, stated Deshmukh. Sri Satish Badave, noted Marathi Critic, chaired the first session, and Sri Ravindra Ingle Chawrekar presented his paper - Sri Chawrekar's paper discussed social influences of the Bhakti Sampradaya, stating that people belonging to lower social strata felt enough confident to express themselves creatively, and in this way the language had begun to get enriched. Sri Manoj Tayade chaired the second session, and Sri Vidyasagar Patangankar presented his paper. Sri Patangankar professed that the Bhakti Sampradaya created and oriented the concept of literature. The fundamental inspiration of literature is to narrate experiences in the spiritual yearning, bliss, and the principal of Bhakti, observed Patangankar. Sri Govind Gayki, Principal, Model Degree College, proposed vote of thanks.

SEMINAR

October 13-14, 2017, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi and Gujarati Sahitya Parishad jointly organized a two day seminar on Yug ka Sahityashastra (Poetics Era-wise) at the Parishad in Ahmedabad on 13-14 October 2017. Sri Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board, and Prof. Chandrakant Topiwala, eminent Gujarati poet and critic, in their introductory remarks said that discussing poetics of Gujarati literature era-wise would certainly be helpful to understand tradition of Gujarati literature and criticism. In the first session, Sri Abhay Doshi's paper focused Gujarati literature and criticism in Narsimhkal, and Sri Hasu Yagnik discussed the period from Narsimh to Dayaram. Second session included three papers - on Modern age, Ms Urvi Tewar on Sudharakyug, and on Pandityug. Papers in the third session were focused on the Gandhian era, Ms Sejal Shah presented her paper on Gandhian era and modern age. Sri Paresh Nayak on Adhunikata-Aadiyug, and Ms Usha Upadhyay on Anuadhunikata presented thier papers in the last session. Sri Hemant Dave made concluding remarks. Sri Prafull Rawal, Secretary, Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, proposed a vote of thanks.

YOUNG SINDHI WRITERS' MEET

November 5-6, 2017, Adipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Sindhology, organized a two-day Young Sindhi Writers' Meet at the Ishwari Jeevat Baxani Hall, Indian Institute of Sindhology, Adipur on 5-6 November 2017. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the participants and audience. Shri Lakshmi Khilani well known Sindhi writer, inaugurated the Meet. Dr. Hundraj Balwani, Member, Sindhi Advisory Board, delivered the keynote address. Sri Satish Rohra, well known Sindhi writer, was the chief guest at the Meet. Dr. Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, chaired the inaugural session. Sri Sahib Bijani proposed the vote of thanks.

Ms. Champa Chetanani chaired that first session that was devoted to short story reading. Ms. Sangeeta Khilwani narrated her short story "Ishtihar". Ms Komal dayalani read her story "Khaunf", Ms. Geeta Goklani read "Sone Jo Pinjro". Sri Manoj Chawla shared his views on Arjan Hasid's story "Mat Ji Murque" and Sri Jayesh Sharma spoke on Kailash Shadab's "Akela Yun". Sri Jayesh Sharma chaired the second session. Ms Sunita Mohinani narrated her short story-"Charitrahin". Ms Roshni Rohra read her story "Nirbhay", Ms Nisha Chawala narrated the story "Nai Soch". Also, Ms. Sangeeta Khilwani shared her views on Sri Laxman Dubey's, "Ghar Sikki Rahyowa", and Ms Komal Chandanani gave her comments on Hari Himrtani's "Rat Jo Bo Paher". Sri Mukesh Tilokani chaired the third session. In this session Ms. Nayana Rawlani narrated her short story- "Pahenjo Waqt", and Sri Mahesh Khilawani narrated his one act play- "Natak Mein Natak". Further, Ms. Geeta Goklani, Ms. Komal



Dayalani and Ms. Sunita Mohinani shared their views on their favourite books in Sindhi- Hari Himthani's "Yaad," Jaya Jadwani's "Barf Ja Phool" and Guno Samtani's "Abhiman" respectively. Fourth session was chaired by Ms. Komal Chandani. Sri Manoj Chawala, Ms. Bharati Sadarangani, Sri Mukesh Tilokani recited their poems in this session, and Ms. Harsha Mulchandani, Ms. Seema Bhambhani, Sri Rajesh Mulchandani shared their views on their favourite books in the languages other than Sindhi. Ms. Geeta Goklani chaired the fifth session, Sri Jayesh Sharma, Ms Bhavisha Sadarangani, Ms Harsha Mulchandani recited poems from their composition. Sri Mukesh Tilokani, Ms Roshni Rohra, Ms Nisha Chawala spoke on their favourite books in the languages other than Sindhi. Ms Komal Dayalani chaired the last session. Ms Seema Bhabhani, Sri Rajesh Mulchandani, Ms Komal Chandani recited their poems, and Ms Nayana Rawlani, Sri Mahesh Khiwani and Ms Champa Chetnani talked about favourite literary pieces in languages other than Sindhi.

THROUGH MY WINDOW

November 6, 2017, Adipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Sindhology, organized "Through My Window" programme on November 6, 2017 at Ishwari Jeevat Baxani Hall, Indian Institute of Sindhology, Adipur. Ms Seema Gurnani, well known Sindhi litterateur spoke on the life and works of Sri Lakshmi Khilani, renowned prolific Sindhi writer. She described Khilani as a pioneer of Sindhi literature. He was a founder member of the Indian Institute of Sindhology, one of the biggest Sindhi literary institutions in India. His plays are not only famous in India but also abroad. She further described him as one of the most versatile writer, who contributed greatly in the genres like novel, short stories, plays, poems, travelogues etc. She recalled that while working Kolkata he organised "Akhil Bharat Sindhi Natak Mahotsav" along with Prof. Mangharam Malkani which was a unique event in Sindhi literature. He used to keep his unflinching contacts with many other important Sindhi personalities of his time, which eventually resulted in the publication of the famous magazine in Sindhi, Rachna. She also informed that; he was the recipient of Sindhi Sahitya Academy award in the year 1996 for his story collection titled, "Gufa Je Hun Paar" [On the other side of cave]. In 1998 he received Sahitya Akademi award for his translation titled "Asamay". Gujarat Sahitya Academy adorned him with Sahityakar Gaurav Puraskar in 2008.

SEMINAR

November 25-26, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a two-day national seminar on Tribal Literature of India: Nature and Traditions at the Akademi premises in Mumbai on 25-26



Dr. Kapil Tiwari, delivering Inaugral Address, L-R: Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Dr. K.Sreenivasarao and Pramod Munghate

November 2017. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr Kapil Tiwari, scholar in Indian folklore and tribal literature, in his inaugural address proclaimed that the tribal literature is diminishing gradually by losing its script and thus losing its identity and added that this is the big challenge faced by one and all. The key-note address was delivered by Dr Pramod Munghate and talked about various challenges of tribal communities.

The first session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. H.C. Borlingaiah, noted scholar from Karnataka. The paper readers in this session were scholars from the North-East India such as Ujjal Paogam, Sukhvilas Barma and Bishweswar Basumatary. Ujjal Paogam dealt with mainly the tribal traditions of Assam. He observed that the tribals of Assam, particularly of the Brahmaputra valley, have historically contributed towards the growth of the Assamese language and literature. A large number of the tribals seem to have identified themselves with the Assamese and have even given up their mother-tongue/dialect. Sukhvilas Barma, in his paper, was concerned with the tribal culture of West Bengal. The tribal literature generally consists of lore, tales, rhymes, riddles, lyrics, ballads etc. And in the case their tales, it is usually a narration of some myth, legend or tales on animals, trees, fairies etc. The Santali language tops the list among the tribal languages and dialects. The third paper reader, Bishweswar Basumatary, focussed on the Bodo literature. Their folklore has the historical validity and importance. The second session was chaired by Dr Kesharilal Verma. Dr Vinayak Tumram, Member, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presented his paper on Adivasi movement in Maharashtra, a brief account but definitely throw a valuable light on Adivasi's cultural life. According to him, Adivasis are the king of forests. They have been uprooted in course of time during post colonial period by design or accident and in the displacement process



they have come in contact with a dominant civil culture, where primarily subjected to experience the interplay of both. However, he declared that Adivasis have now adopted their own religion and culture. There is a need to rewrite the basics of Adivasi culture and literature. Adivasi has preserved the Sindhu culture and traditions but still it lacks its own literary platform. Ashok Kumar, noted scholar from Jharkhand, claimed that tribal tradition is a trajectory path. The third session was chaired by Vinayak Tumramand and it focussed on poetry genre of tribal literature. The participants in this session included Narendra Debarma (Kokborok), Streamlet Dkhar (Khasi), Ushakiran Aatram (Gondi), Pushpa Gavit (Bhilli), Veera Rathod (Gormati) and Vasant Kanake (Kolami) who all recited their poems in a traditional tribal form and also in Hindi/English translations. The fourth session on the second day of the seminar was chaired by Chandrakant Murasingh and the discussants such as Dr Suresh Salvi and Dr Mahendra Mishra presented their papers in this session. Dr Selvi provided an insight into Adivasi culture in Rajasthan region, where the Garasia tribe has been practicing live-in-relation culture for thousands of years. Dr Mahendra Mishra's showed that they are tethered to their land, which hardly allows them to migrate elsewhere. They believe that the space is static while time changes the space with its season. Dr Mahendra Mishra chaired the fifth session in which Kesharilal Verma, Shakti Sivaramkrishna and A. Chellaperumal presented their papers.. Verma highlighted the Gonds of Bastar region. These Gonds take pride in being the largest tribal group. Tribal culture of Chhattisgarh, presented a unique and distinctive tribal heritage and culture across the world. The dialects of these tribes varies inter- groups as do their traditions, eating habits and costumes. Several Bastar tribes are still living amidst deep forests. They interestingly, prefer to live in cocoon fashion, staying away from outsiders watch so that they could shield their own unique culture.. These Bastar Tribes are known for their passion for dance, music and colorful festivals. Sivaramkrishna's paper addressed legal issues relating to 'Scheduled tribes enacted by government of India so far. A. Chellaperumal, a scholar from south India looked at the tribes of Nilgir, especially Badaga tribes. The sixth session was chaired by Sakti Sivaramakrihna., which focused on 'Tribal narratives of Karnataka'. Shri H.C, Borligaiah presented his paper in this session. There are epical compositions done by unknown tribal author in Kannada, which is unique and distinguishes it from other epics, where narrative does not indulge in ornamentation but depicts only the world as it is. They are the accounts of their essential life events and activities such as hunting, food gathering, animal rearing.. Epics are narrated in various styles such as champu shaili, regale shaili, Tripadi shaili and yelega shilis etc. The intonation, stanzas, rhythm all alter according to the narrative situations. In the seventh and last session of the seminar, poems were recited by Sri Hira Moy (Chakma), Sri Santosh Picha (Pawra) and Sri Ramgopal Bhilawekar (Korku) in their respective languages, followed by their Hindi/ English translations.

SYMPOSIUM

November 28, 2017, Adipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a symposium on Contemporary literature of Sindhi Women Writers in Gandhidham and Adipur, in collaboration with Tolani College of Arts and Science, Adipur at the college premises on 28 November 2017. Dr Sushil Dharmani, Principal, Tolani College, inaugurated the symposium. Acknowledging the significant role that women play in our life and society, and speaking of progress of women writers, Dr Sushil Dharmani said that though the society itself is perceived as male dominated one, given in the situation, it is women who keep literature mirror clean. Dr Vimmi Sadarangani, noted Sindhi litterateur and Assistant Professor at the Tolani college in her key-note address noted that there no denying Women Sindhi Writers have progressed significantly and cited works from the literature written by women writers of Adipur and Gandhidham. The first session was chaired by Ms Jiya Shahani, young Sindhi writer. Ms Ritu Bhatia and Ms Pushpa Bhambhani who had participated in the session outlined the various contributions made by women Sindhi writers of Adipur and Gandhidham in different genres. Ms Ritu Bhatia, noted Sindhi litterateur, chaired the second session in which Ms Simran Abichandani, Ms Payal Meghani, Ms Manju Mirwani, Ms Hiru Israni, Ms Jiya Shahani and Ms Komal Chandnani shared their views and opinions on their favourite Sindhi books. In the third session, all the participating women writers read out from their works. Dr Vimmi Sadarangani proposed a vote of thanks.

GRAMALOK

December 10, 2017, Goa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Sahitya-Manthan, organized a Gramaalok programme in Dhond Mandap, Tarsattari village, Goa on 10 December 2017. Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, presided over the session. After briefing the audience about the concept and objectives of the programme, Sri Mahadev Satugaonkar also recited his poems. Ms Avita Gaonkar narrated one of her short stories. Sri Rama Vazarkar recited a folk song and Sri Apa Kerkar narrated a folktale in her language.

LITERARY FORUM

December 17, 2017, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized a Literary Forum in collaboration with Saraswat Mahjila Samaj, and Gaondevi Mitra Mandal, on December 17, 2017 in Mumbai. Dr Sadhana Kamat, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, chaired the forum. Ms. Vrinda Talgeri, Sri Vinod Talgeri, Ms. Divya Vinekar and Sri Harish Chandavar narrated some excerpts from the novel Ek Vingad Vat written by Ms. Chandrama Bijur.



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