



साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

28 January - 2 February 2019



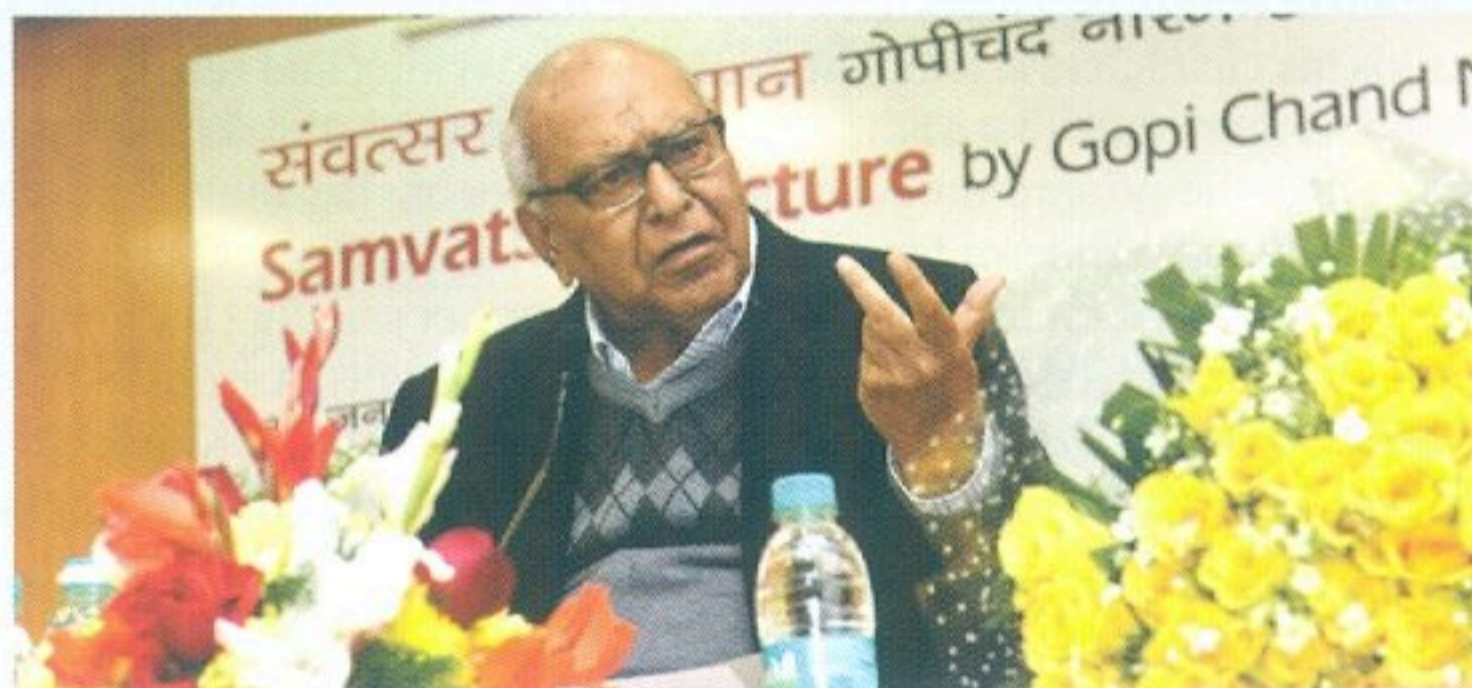
भाषाएँ अनेक • देश एक

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Thursday, 31 January, 2019

SAMVATSAR LECTURE

As part of its annual Festival of Letters, Sahitya Akademi organized a programme in which Samvatsar Lecture is delivered by a well-known writer/scholar. Under the series, Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu critic and writer delivered this year's Samvatsar Lecture on *Faiz Ahmed Faiz : Thought Structure, Evolutionary Love and Aesthetic Sensibility*. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the speaker and Dr. Chandrashekhara Kambar felicitated Prof. Narang with a flower bouquet.



PURVOTTARI – NORTH-EAST AND NORTHERN WRITERS' MEET



Today's Events

Face-to-Face

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m

Yava Sahiti : The Harvest (Young Writers' Meet)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.30 a.m

Gayan-Bayan, Mati Akhora & Ram Bijoy Khonda Drisya

by Sri Sri Uttar kamalabari Satra,
Sankardev Kristi Sangha, Assam
Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 6.00 p.m.

National Seminar

Gandhi in Indian Literature
Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, 11.00 a.m.

Sahitya Akademi organized "Purvottari," North-East and Northern Writers' Meet on Wednesday, 30th January 2019 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. Eminent poets representing different languages participated in the programme. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the delegates and the audience and stated that "the regions of North-East India assume great importance. The sheer number of languages and dialects and the literature, especially tribal and oral, make the region highly vibrant and exciting. The more the litterateurs from the North-East interact with writers from other regions, languages and traditions, they will get exposed to other traditions and gain firsthand knowledge about newer crafts and techniques, he said. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, eminent Hindi poet, former President and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi said that different languages have been created by human beings, and have their limitations in terms of particular regions. Prof. Chandrashekhara Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi in his presidential address said that the North and North-eastern interface is underpinned by an encompassing idea of the connections between the two regions, and at the same time celebrates the plurality and differences that characterize these regions. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Borah, well-known Assamese writer, said that we are living in an era which faces critical and drastic situations worldwide in which writers have a prominent role to play.

The first session, 'Story Reading' was chaired by Prof. Malashri Lal. Sri Gobind

Basumatary, Ms. Shinie Antony and Ms. Manisha Kulshreshtha, read their stories. Prof. Malashri Lal emphasized the plurality of Indian traditions expressed through story-telling traditions. In the second session of *Purvottari*, eminent English writer, Sukrita Paul Kumar, the moderator, said that the topic of the session *My Creation, My World* in itself is intriguing. She said that *My World* deals with 'my-ness,' while on the other hand Sahitya is 'sa' 'hit' which means that ultimately we have to connect with everyone. The first panelist, Adaram Basumatary (Bodo), spoke about his childhood activities and the present-day scenario of the society around him. He said that he tried to present the reality of his surroundings, the happiness and woes of the people through his drama and stories but also emphasized the importance of travelling into the imaginary world for literary creation. Krishna Mohan Jha (Hindi), the second discussant, started by speaking about his early days when he had started reading poetry. He was in the 6th standard when his interest in poetry grew. He used to read poems in English and get them translated in Hindi by his brother to understand its meaning. He was happy about the fact that in spite of residing in a backward village in Mithila, its scenic views, flowing crops, fishes in the pond and the serene moonlight inspired him to write poetry. The third participant, Sangeeta Mall (English), said that for her the perfect world can exist within the pages of fiction. She calls her world 'Beyond Pink.' She writes about the middle class woman who doesn't exist in fiction, though in reality you meet her every day. Rajendra Joshi (Rajasthani), the fourth panelist, said that he learns from his surroundings and builds his characters around them. He began writing and reading while starting his journey as a social worker. The responsibility of an author is more than that of the common man towards the society making it important for the author to be an activist. The third and final session of the programme was devoted to Poetry Reading. The session was chaired by the eminent Hindi poet, Arun Kamal, who applauded the Akademi for giving an opportunity to more than 15 eminent poets from the North-East and Northern parts of India to recite poems in their mother language. He further said that this proves that poetry is the mother language of humanity. The participants Archana Puzari (Assamese), Khokan Saha (Bengali), Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Khajur Singh (Dogri), Nitu (English), Vandana Yadav (Hindi), Fayaz Tilgami (Kashmiri), Jiten Narah (Mising), Kenebo Rajkumar (Manipuri), T.B. Subba (Nepali), Mohan Tyagi (Punjabi), Alok Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Rampada Kisku (Santali) and Monika Singh (Urdu) recited their poems.

TRANSLATION: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS



Sahitya Akademi organized a Panel Discussion on "Translation: Challenges and Solutions" at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 30 January 2019. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), coordinated the programme. In the inaugural session Dr. K.S. Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address, in which he welcomed Smt. Asha Devi, eminent Kannada scholar and translator, Mr. Santhan Ayathurai, eminent Sri Lankan Writer and recipient of Premchand Fellowship for the year 2017, Prof. Chandrasekhar Kambar, President, and Sri Madhav Kaushik, the Vice-President of the Akademi, the panelists and the audience. Dr. Rao in his welcome address said that India has always been a multilingual society with a large number of languages and translational activity has always been a constant process in an Indian literary milieu.

Smt. Asha Devi began her keynote address quoting a Bhakta Poet: "God give me the talent and strength to translate your words into silence and to communicate it to everyone." She said that challenges specific to the art of translation has many dimensions to it. Prof. Chandrasekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address, said that he felt proud to be part of the Indian literary tradition which encompasses a huge corpus of works both in Indian languages and English. He said that the British gave us English; no doubt the reading of English literature has brought about many changes in forms, modes and sensibilities in Indian English writing as well as in writing in various Indian languages.

Premchand Fellowship for Sri Lankan writer, Mr. Santhan Ayathurai.

After the presidential address Prof. Chandrasekhar Kambar conferred the Premchand Fellowship 2017 on Mr. Santhan Ayathurai, eminent Sri Lankan writer. Dr. K.S. Rao read out the citation of the Fellowship.

Sri Santhan Ayathurai in his acceptance speech said he was overwhelmed by receiving the prestigious Fellowship awarded in the name of a literary genius, Munshi Premchand. He said Premchand championed himself as a writer of the people. He wrote about the ordinary people. He was one of the pioneers of realism not only in the Indian literature but also in the world literature as well. Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, congratulated Sri Santhan Ayathurai, for being the recipient of Premchand





Fellowship for the year 2017. About the just concluded inaugural session, Sri Kaushik further said that if translation would not have been there in the world, human civilization could not be at this stage. Translators are the selfless, sincere servants of language and literature.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion started with a welcome note by the moderator Sri Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Hindi author and Odia translator. He welcomed the discussants by referring to them as Pind Brahmans. Smt. Mini Krishnan, Consultant Editor-Translations, OUP, and columnist suggested that collaboration is important between authors, translators, reviewers and publishers. She also said that in a rush to provide the new and global which has everything, we are missing out on fiction of older writers. Sri Yuma Vasuki, Tamil poet, fiction writer and translator and the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize, said that the struggles of the translator, ensuring no damage to the soul of the original work and offering it in the language of being translated are truly overwhelming. Sri Alok Gupta, an eminent writer and translator in Hindi and Gujarati, said that a translation should be reviewed by another translator or by an institution for the literary merit of the work. Cultural and lyrical translations pose challenges as the translator's vocabulary lacks the details.

Sri Subhash Neerav, Hindi poet, fiction writer, editor and translator from Punjabi to Hindi and vice versa, said he found that only the very well known writers were getting translated. So he took it as a challenge and discovered the lesser known but wonderful writers in Punjabi and introduced them to the world through his translation. Sri Prakash Bhatambekar, Marathi writer and translator, said that in the modern scenario where the digital world has posed a threat to all the regional languages it has also affected the translations. The second big challenge is of readers: Students, youth and teachers no one has the time to read out of syllabus material. Sri O.P. Jha, well-known translator both in English and in Hindi, said that the translator should visualize the images while translating. The cultural distance, the linguistic distances, geographical distances and technological advancement affect the translation. Sri Gauri Shankar Raina, playwright, theatre director, T.V. producer and translator, said that translation from Kashmiri to Hindi and English faces a lot of challenges as the translation of many Kashmiri words is not available in other languages. There are only a few translators from Kashmiri to Hindi. Sri Puranchand Tandon, critic, editor and translator, said that for literary translations there is no training, workshops, discussion or debate. Sahitya Akademi and other institutions will have to find some ways to correct this. Sri Alok Gupta, an eminent writer and translator in Hindi and Gujarati, spoke about translation from Gujarati to Hindi and vice versa. He said that the shortcomings of the translations were visible only to a person who himself is a translator. Sri Janaki Prasad, well-known critic, fiction writer, editor and translator, said that only translation can save the literary and cultural diversity of secular India. As a citizen of this secular country if he could contribute a single drop in the form of translation in this vast ocean, it will be his privilege. Secretary Sahitya Akademi, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao proposed a vote of thanks, saying that shortage of good translations is mainly because of the shortage of good translators. He informed that sixty percent of Sahitya Akademi's award-winning books are yet to be translated. He urged good translators to come forward and join the mission.

WRITERS' MEET

The Sahitya Akademi Award-winners participated in a Writers' Meet in which they shared their literary experiences. Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, presided over the function. Sri Sananta Tanty, Award-winner in Assamese, said, "For me poetry is an art. The way an artist highlights the contemporary world in his painting, with the help of colour, imagination and thought process. I too attempt to enrich my poetry with words, emotions, imagination and my very own thought process." Sri Sanjib Chattopadhyay, Award-winner in Bengali, said that Aldous Huxley categorised his type of novel as 'Hagiography'. Sri Rituraj Basumatary, Award-winner in Bodo, said that his short stories focussed on new contemporary thoughts which are necessary to lead a happy and contented life. Sri Inderjit Kesar, Award-winner in Dogri, said that the awarded novel discusses the current issues—foeticide, widow marriage, conservative thinking and supports women empowerment to fight against the evils in the society and move forward. Sri Sharifa Kasimbhai Vijaliwala, Award-winner in Gujarati, said, "At present, the number of those who reject the harmony and sympathy of symbiotic culture is increasing... Smt. Chitra Mudgal, Award-winner in Hindi, talked about the pain and sufferings of a transgender. Sri K.G. Nagarajappa, Award-winner in Kannada, referring to his awarded book, said that this collection is primarily on religious movements. Sri Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, Award-winner in Kashmiri, said his stories showcased the current state of life of the people of Kashmir. Sri Paresh Narendra Kamat, award-winner in Konkani, said that he expressed his feelings in poetry—experiences of his traits which belong to his innermost self. Smt. Bina Thakur, Award-winner in Maithili, said that her *Parineeta* is a document of contemporary society, culture and human values in which there are broad and gross depictions of early lifestyles. Sri S. Ramesan Nair, Award-winner in Malayalam, discussed how his village, its roads, its inhabitants and surroundings, motivated him to write the award-winning poetry book. Sri Budhichandra Heisnamba, Award-winner in Manipuri said that literature reflects the ins and outs of a society.





As there is the soul in the human body, there is literature in a society. Sri Ma. Su. Patil, Award-winner in Marathi, said, "The writings of the present generation of poets can hardly be called poetry. In most of their compositions horizontal lines are written vertically. Sri Loknath Upadhyay, Award-winner in Nepali, referring to his short-story collection *Kin Royo Upma*, said that he has tried to highlight the bitter truth of reality. The Odia Awardee was not present. Sri Mohanjit, Award-winner in Punjabi, said that poetry is a state where everything is transparent. While writing poetry, a time comes when the poet merges with his work and the words simply flow. Sri Rajesh Kumar Vyas, Award-winner in Rajasthani, said that writing is an inevitable part of his life. When he is not writing there is emptiness which surrounds him. Sri Ramakant Shukla, Award-winner in Sanskrit, said that the poet tries to write and create literature in one's mother tongue, the language of his study and the language he is comfortable with. Sri Shyam Besra, Award-winner in Santali, in his speech appealed to the young generations to understand the Santal Parganas' magnificent history and the rich traditions of its society. They should assimilate them in their life and be active in creating a new, happy state. Sri Khiman U. Mulani, Award-winner in Sindhi, said that he felt that poetry was the language of the beauty of the soul. Sri S. Ramakrishnan, Award-winner in Tamil, said that memories are troublesome, that is why he transforms his memories into stories, so that they will be preserved forever. Prof. Kolakaluri Enoch, Award-winner in Telugu said, "In my writing, I fought against exploitation of dalits, women, backward classes, minorities, tribes, the poor and the humiliated. I write in genres like poetry, short story, novel, play, literary criticism, research-writing and translation. Sri Rahman Abbas, Award-winner in Urdu, said, "I have continued seeing and writing what I have to see and what I have to write. The journey is continuing and this has helped me to question about myself, the role of a writer, and the aesthetics of writing fiction without making it a tool of propaganda."



Programmes of Festival of Letters

1 February 2019

NATIONAL SEMINAR : GANDHI IN INDIAN LITERATURE
(10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.)
Sahitya Akademi Auditorium

PANEL DISCUSSION : MEDIA AND LITERATURE
(11.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.)
Rabindra Bhavan Lawns

PANEL DISCUSSION :
Present Scenario of Playwriting
(2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.) **Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**

INDO FUSION MUSIC
by Sunita Bhuyan and Troupe
(6.00 p.m.) **Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**

2 February 2019

NATIONAL SEMINAR : GANDHI IN INDIAN LITERATURE
(10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.) **Sahitya Akademi Auditorium**

SPIN-A-TALE : PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN
(10.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.) **Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**

PANEL DISCUSSION : PUBLISHING IN INDIA
(11.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.) **Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**

TRANSGENDER POETS' MEET
(2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.) **Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**



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