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### **PRESS RELEASE**

Sahitya Akademi is deeply saddened and shocked by the sudden demise of one of the distinguished writers of modern Indian literature as well as the Fellow of the Akademi, Sri Sankha Ghosh on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at his residence in Kolkata. He was infected with Covid -19 and his passing away is an irreparable loss for the entire literary fraternity across India.

Sri Sankha Ghosh was born on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1932 at Chandpur, Tripura (now in Bangladesh). He is an institution by himself in Bengali literature spanning nearly last five decades. He taught at various colleges at Kolkata and retired from the Jadavpur University in 1992. His growing reputation as teacher got him invited from University of Iowa (USA) for the International Creative Writing programme followed by Professor at Delhi University, Fellow at Viswa Bharati, Santiniketan, Poet in Residence at IIAS, Shimla, Emeritus Fellow of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

He has more than 30 published books to his credit as a poet as well as a critic, which includes *Adim Latagulmamay*, *Babarar Pararthana*, *Dhum Legeche Hrtkamale*, *Gandharva Kavitaguccha*, *Chander Bhitare Aeto Andhakar* among others. As a critic, he towered over the contemporary Bengali literary scene and even his children writings had won the hearts of growing kids. His writings have been translated into different Indian as well as foreign languages and widely appreciated.

He is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honours including Padma Bhushan by the Government of India, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, its highest honour, Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize, Jnanpith Award, Sarawati Samman, Rabindra Puraskar among others.

He was a close friend of Sahitya Akademi for more than half a century and he inspired many young people to look up to serious literature. With his passing away, an era has come to an end.

I join everyone in Sahitya Akademi in praying for his soul to rest at peace.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)