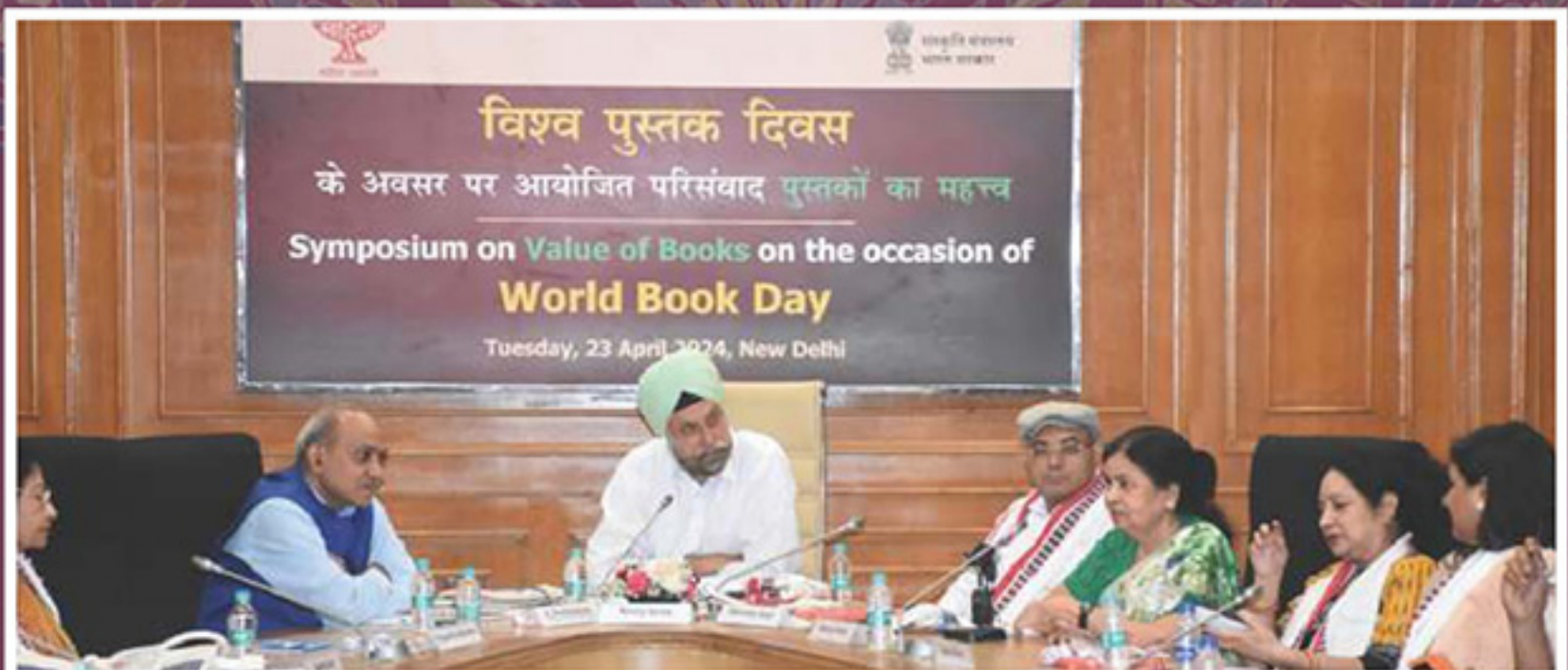




Sahitya Akademi

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April-June 2024



Secretary Speaks...

The first three months of every financial year, April, May and June, are the months of beginning, new opportunities, vitality and bonding. These are also the months in which Sahitya Akademi slowly starts organizing literary programmes under various schemes that culminates in the Festival of Letters in March. It is during the first months that Sahitya Akademi proposes and unveils new programmes in several languages, takes action on plans for grander programmes to come and also introduces new writers on its platforms.

Every year, two events are constants in April, the month of beginnings - celebration of birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr B. R. Ambedkar and the commemoration of World Book Day. In 2024 too, Sahitya Akademi organized Dalit Chetna on 14th April and a Symposium on the "Value of the Books" on 23rd April that was inaugurated by Sri Navtej Sarna eminent writer and diplomat, in which distinguished personalities from various walks of life participated. In April, Sahitya Akademi organized a novel event, "City, Time and Culture" in Prayagraj that focused on the creations of Amrit Rai and Vijaydev Narain Sahi.

In May, the month of vitality and buoyancy, Sahitya Akademi commemorated the 163rd birth anniversary of polymath extraordinaire, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and also hosted a special lecture by Mindaugas Kvietkauskas from Lithuania on "Multilingual and Multicultural City and Cultural/Historical Memories."

In June, the month of growth, bonding and fresh beginnings, Sahitya Akademi organized "Kissa-O-Kalam: The speaking Pen," the five-day annual workshop on creative writing for children on 3-7 June and on 21st June, all the offices of Sahitya Akademi celebrated International Yoga Day by organizing special lectures and performing Yoga Asanas.

Through these three months Sahitya Akademi organized its regular literary events in many languages across the country. I sincerely hope the patrons and well-wishers of Sahitya Akademi like this Newsletter and I seek their blessings for their continued support and patronage in the times to come too.

*-K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary*



NEW DELHI

Seminar on Writing Novels Based on Historical Megaheroes : Challenges and Crises

6 April 2024, Indore

Historical novels are voluminous and present heroes of the past. Earlier, there were many such heroes on whom it was written. People used to read but now that practice is getting fragmented. The writer must have the talent to engage readers. This was told by Mumbai's eminent writer Vishwas Patil. Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Shri Madhya Bharat Hindi Sahitya Samiti organized a seminar on 'Writing Novels Based on Historical Megaheroes : Challenges and Crises'.

The first session was presided over by Ajay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi and welcomed the participants. Introducing the topic, senior litterateur Govind Mishra said that discussion and reflection on this topic is very important in today's time. Prakash Mishra said that a composition with life values makes it sublime. It is necessary to include ancient and modernity in the novel. Noted novelist Bhagwandas Morwal



Participants of the seminar

said that such novels needed accurate facts along with fiction. Indore-based senior litterateur and historical novelist Sharad Pagare said that he got fame and respect only because of his historical novels. Writing a historical novel is not easy, it also requires studying the events, language, surroundings and other characters of that time. In this context, he gave examples of his novels 'Gulara Begum', 'Baigum Jainabadi' and 'Empress of Pataliputra'.

In the second session of the programme, poetry and story-readings of young writers were organized under the Sahitya Manch. In the session, under the chairmanship of senior litterateur Prakash Kant, young writers Oshin Sharma, Shilpi Jain, Amay Kant recited poetry and Tanishka, Anoop Dubey and Aditi Singh recited their short stories. Both the sessions were moderated by Urmila Shirish, member of the Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

Seminar on City, Time and Culture

13-14 April 2024, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Sahitya Akademi and G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Jhansi Prayagraj jointly organized a two-day seminar in Prayagraj on 'City, Time and Culture' (with special reference to Amritrai and Vijaydev Narayan Sahi) The seminar was held on 13-14 April 2024. The inaugural session was

presided over by President of Sahitya Akademi Madhav Kaushik and the opening remarks were given by Badri Narayan and Nandkishore Acharya. The special guest in the session was eminent writer and thinker Alok Rai. In his introductory remarks, the Director of GB Pant Social Science

Institute Badri Narayan said that every city and time has its own concept. The literary creativity of a city is very helpful in understanding the changing times and society. Any city is not just a physical land but a geographical area. It is not part of the story but is formed from stories and memories. He further

said that where social science fails, literature finds a way. *Raag Darbari* is an important text to understand Indian society. Famous Gandhian thinker and historian Nand Kishore Acharya said in his inaugural address that literature is also the autobiography of a country. It can be seen as an experienced reality. A poem reveals a long period of time. Vijaydev Narayan Sahi is one such poet. Amrit Rai teaches us how a writer can maintain his autonomy even while being associated with an ideology. Both these writers believed that bridging the gap between man and man is our literary work. Renowned writers who came as special guests were - Writer, thinker and Amrit Rai's son Alok Rai said that the person and his context should be evaluated and the current affairs should also be examined. My father Amrit Rai regretted that he was made the son of Premchand even though he had dedicated his entire life to literature. In his presidential address, Madhav Kaushik said that Allahabad was the city where writers associated with organizations like Pragatisheel and Parimal kept creating despite various ideological disagreements. This city was influenced by the literature of both the writers. The heartbeat can be understood. In the end, Archana Singh of the institute proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was on the topic 'Creation of time and history in the city' which was presided over by Nandkishore Acharya and Chittaranjan Mishra and Pranay Krishna read the articles. Chittaranjan Mishra said that Allahabad is a city of ideological openness. There have also been litterateurs in this city who had commented on Mahatma Gandhi. Writer Amrit Rai also commented



Badri Narayan speaking while Pranay Krishna, Madhav Kaushik and Nand Kishore Acharya look on

directly on Gandhi's Hindi not being good. Jawaharlal too could not escape his criticism. The topic of the second session of this day was 'Amrit Rai's house, city and literary people' which was chaired by Ajay Tiwari and Alok Rai, Akhilesh presented their papers. The last session of the day was on Amrit Rai's time and literary culture, In which Pradeep Bhargava, Ramshankar Singh expressed their views.

The first session of the second day of the seminar was focused on 'Ideal Culture in the City' which was chaired by Chittaranjan Mishra and Anita Gopesh, Shriprakash Mishra and Anil Tripathi presented their papers. Anita

Gopesh recalled the idea culture of Allahabad city. Shriprakash Mishra discussed the role of magazines in the formation of the ideological form of Allahabad. Anil Tripathi, while discussing the Coffee House of Allahabad, said that it was in a way the third house of the Parliament. In the next two sessions, Vijay Dev Narayan Sahi's creative world and there was a discussion on social discourse in the literature of Vijaydev Narayan. Satyaketu Sankrit, Vinod Tiwari, Ashish Tripathi, Arvind Tripathi, Vivek Nirala expressed their views in this discussion chaired by senior poet Arun Kamalji.



Seminar in progress

Dalit Chetna

14 April 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Dalit Chetna programme on 14 April 2024 at New Delhi on the occasion of Babasaheb Ambedkar's birth anniversary. The programme was presided over by eminent Punjabi writer Balbir Madhopuri. Rajkumar, Rajat Rani Meenu, Rajni Disodia and Rajiv Riaz Pratapgarhi presented their works. Rajkumar presented an English excerpt from Babasaheb's autobiography and after that presented English translations of poems written on Baba Saheb by Marathi poet Namdev Dhasal. Rajat Rani Meenu presented a story titled "Kya Main Bata Doon". The story depicted the inhuman discrimination against the Dalit people by educated people even today. Rajni Disodia presented four of her poems titled -



Participants of the event

"Shambuk Atthaas Kar Raha Hai", "Eklavya", "Kahani Bahut Purani Hai" and "Peediyaan Sidiyaan Hoti Hain". The tone of all the poems was to present the awareness of the Dalits in new images. People appreciated the *ghazals* and *shers* of Rajiv Riyaz Pratapgarhi.

Balbir Madhopuri, who was presiding over the programme, read out an excerpt from his novel *Matti Bol Payi*. He thanked all the authors for presenting their excellent works and said that Dalit writing requires balanced thinking and not slogans.

Swachhata Pakhwada: Lecture on the Concept of Cleanliness in Literature

22 April 2024, New Delhi

As part of the Swachhata Pakhwada being celebrated in Sahitya Akademi, a lecture was delivered by eminent litterateur Ashok Luv on the topic "Concept of Cleanliness in Literature". At the outset, Ashok Luv was welcomed by Krishna Kimbahune, Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, by presenting him with an Angavastram and Sahitya Akademi publications.

Writer Ashok Luv, said that every writer has some responsibilities towards the society which he should



Lecture on the occasion of Swachhata Pakhwada



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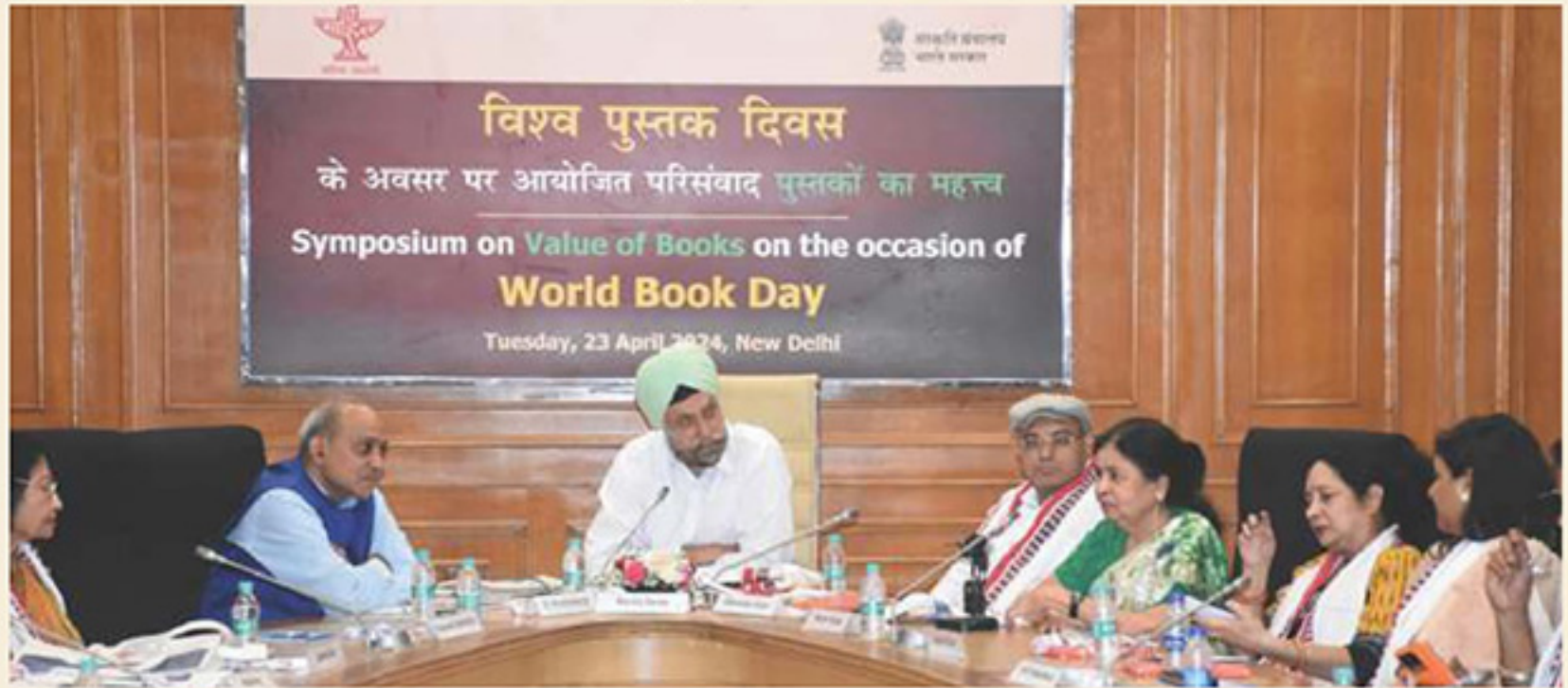
follow with full awareness. In this, his biggest responsibility is to maintain the cleanliness of the moral conduct of the society. Only due to the presentation of moral cleanliness, a work can be read by the whole family. Sahitya

Akademi is an institution that imparts such values. Portraying the cleanliness of character should be the main goal of the writer. He further said that the literature of only those writers is immortal who presented

the reality in such a way that every reader can read it without any hesitation. All the employees of the office took the cleanliness oath with the Secretary of Sahitya Akademi Dr. K. Srinivasarao.

Symposium on Value of Books

23 April 2024, New Delhi



Ms. Maitreyi Pushpa speaking on the occasion

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on the Value of Books on the occasion of the World Book Day on 23 April 2024. The programme was presided over by H.E. Navtej Sarna. Aditi Maheshwari, Dhananjay Singh, Ira Tak, Maitreyi Pushpa, Major Akhil Pratap, Molishree, Sanjay Shrotriya, Shalina Chaturvedi, Smita Sehgal, Sujata Shiven, Sumitra Guha and Suparna Dev shared their insights into the subject at the symposium.

At the outset, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed everyone by presenting Angavastram and Sahitya Akademi books. In his welcome address, he said that books were part of our lives and

they presented an option of a new world to us. Sahitya Akademi would continue to refine and improve its responsibility of publishing books. Publisher Aditi Maheshwari said that due to freedom of expression, the diversity of writing is highest in the country. Sharing her various experiences of world book fairs, she said that the intention to read literature in Indian languages has increased rapidly in foreign countries. Dhananjay Singh said that books changed our personality and they also cross the vast perimeter of time. The importance of books was indescribable and unlimited. Giving an example from the *Mandukya Upanishad*, he said that words were like

lamps and it was possible to understand Indian culture through them. He also talked about the role of books in India's freedom movement. Maitreyi Pushpa said that books were letters written to the society, which contained truths. Literature made a pauper a king and also fearless and brave. Major Akhil Pratap said that no other technology could give us the pleasure of touching books, hence their importance would never diminish. He also proposed Indian cinema to choose stories from various books. Kathak danseuse Shaleena Chaturvedi said that, telling a story meant Kathak. Praising Bharat Muni's *Natyashastra*, she said that all the efforts of our culture were



recorded in it. Poet Smita Sehgal said that books preserved our past. Referring to many immortal characters, she said that they prepared us to fight the uncertainty of the world. Translator Sujata Shiven said that books refine our language and changed our thoughts. Classical singer Sumitra Guha said that music is an extension of literature. We should hand over the legacy of books to the coming

generations. Indian Administrative Service officer Surpana Dev said that books taught us the art of living and with their help we could overcome many evils. Our civilization remains alive in books and it shows us the path of the future. Finally, the chair of the symposium, former diplomat and writer Navtej Sarna said that civilization and culture were made in the library. Therefore, we have to work

in a systematic manner to save books. Sahitya Akademi alone cannot bear this responsibility. Giving various suggestions for saving books, he said that we should celebrate bringing books to our homes as a festival, the deteriorating condition of the libraries should be taken care of and a library law should be framed for the country so that the libraries do not face any problem related to budget.

Gramalok

4 May 2024, Madarihaat, Alipur Dooars, West Bengal

Sahitya Akademi and Kitap Singh Rai Smriti Pustakalaya organized a Gramalok programme on 04 May 2024 at Garo Busty, Birpara, Dooars, West Bengal.

The Gramalok programme was held at 10.00 a.m.

Smt. Amrita Rana, a member of the Nepali Advisory Board and Coordinator of the programme, delivered the Welcome Address. She spoke briefly about the aim and objective of Gramalok programmes. The participants who presented their poems in this programme were – Smt. Sukhdevi Limbu, Ms. Divya Thapa, Sri Dilip Kumar Sharma, Sri Harku Tamang and Ms. Rakchha Chhetri.

Literary Forum on Rabindranath Tagore: Nature, Ecology and Environment

7 May 2024, Delhi

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum on “Rabindranath Tagore: Nature, Ecology and Environment”. The Forum was presided over by Prof. Malashri Lal, eminent English writer, and Convener, English Advisory Board. Sri Prayag Shukla (Hindi), Prof. Ajay Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit) and Prof. Shahzad Anjum (Urdu) shared their insights into the subject.

Welcoming all the participants, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, said that Rabindranath Tagore had a huge impact on the cultural landscape of the 20th century.



Literary Forum in progress

His poems, which were very close to nature, gave him worldwide recognition. Sri Prayag Shukla, noted writer, poet, translator, and art critic, said that Rabindranath Tagore

analyzed the entire supreme power in the name of Nature. Tagore highlighted many forms of nature not only in his poems but also in his novels, plays, paintings, etc. Shukla pointed



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out that today we were feeling uncomfortable with Nature ravaged. Prof. Ajay Kumar Mishra said that Rabindranath Tagore presented Romanticism in the Indian context and portrays the multidimensional relationship of nature with humans. There is a need to understand his invaluable contribution to nature in a comprehensive manner. Prof. Shahzad

Anjum, noted Urdu writer, translator and critic, while sharing his views on the experiences he had during the Urdu translation of 13 books of Rabindranath Tagore at Jamia Millia Islamia, said that Tagore wrote while living with Nature and its impact brought clarity to his writings which can readily be felt. Finally, speaking as the Chair, Prof. Malashri Lal said that

Rabindranath Tagore's perspectives towards Nature were very relevant even today. He not only wrote on Nature but also implemented it in his life. Citing instances of Shantiniketan and Sriniketan, Malashri Lal said that he had conceived all this only to bring the students closer to Nature. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Deputy Secretary, conducted the Forum.

Yuva Sahiti

16 May 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised a multilingual poetry reading programme under its Yuva Sahiti series which was presided over by eminent Kashmiri writer R.K. Bhatt and poems were presented by Pratiti Bhattacharya (English), Adnan Kafeel Darvesh (Hindi) and Shahrukh Abir (Urdu). Pratiti Bhattacharya was the first to present her poems in English and Hindi. Her first poem was about her experiences in Delhi and presented relationships of all shades with Delhi. She also presented other short poems which had different perspectives on life. Adnan Kafeel Darvesh presented his Hindi poems titled 'Pita Ke Joote', 'Sabse Zaroori Baat', 'Mulk', 'Neeli Bayaaz', 'Iltiza', 'Main Milunga Tumse' and 'Kuch Der Mein'. In all his poems, the details of the surrounding environment were observed with a keen eye and presented in many metaphors. His poems contained concerns about the present as well as the future. Shahrukh Abir presented some of his Urdu *ghazals* and poems. The words of one *ghazal* were "Mujhko qiston me kuch bhi nahi gwara karna". The titles of his poems were 'Humrang' and



Sri R.K. Bhatt speaking on the occasion

'Main aur Betaal'. In these poems, he not only defined the fading shine of Nature but also expressed everyone's responsibility to protect it.

Finally, the Chair, R.K. Bhatt congratulated all the youth for their good writings and said that the writings of all these writers have both hope and enthusiasm which are very important for writing. He advised the new generation not to get trapped in the web technology and said that it was important for them to keep their creativity alive. At the programme, a two-minute silence was observed to pay tribute to the famous Hindi and Marathi writer Malti Joshi. The programme was conducted by the Deputy Secretary of the Akademi, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh.

Literary Forum: Lecture by Mr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas on Multilingual and Multicultural City and Cultural/Historical Memories

21 May 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum on 21 May 2024 at its Third Floor Auditorium, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi in which Mr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas, Dean, Faculty of Philology, Vilnius University and former Minister of Culture of Lithuania who was on a visit to India. He was

presented a packet of books and angvastram by the Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, Dr K. Sreenivasarao. He also felicitated H.E. Ms. Daina Mickeviciene, Ambassador of Lithuania to India who accompanied Mr. Kvietkauskas and graced the occasion with her august presence.



At the outset, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his brief welcome speech said that the aim, the end, the goal of all human aspirations may be unity or oneness but the nature of life on earth, human societies and cosmos itself was based on multiplicity. Discussing the topic of this Forum, he said Vilnius had always been multicultural. The city had not only been part of the history of Lithuania but also many histories of other societies. For that matter, Lithuania too had been part of many cultures as it was in the interjection of several societies. He went on to add that Vilnius is the perfect example of how multiculturalism leads to vibrant communities in Europe.

Mr. Kvietkauskas while delivering his lecture on Multilingual and Multicultural City and Cultural/Historical Memories touched upon various cultures, particularly Lithuanian followed by Latin, Polish, German, Roman and Jewish cultures which connect different literatures and cultures. While explaining in detail about the four major Lithuanian writers, he said that the literary groups run by



Literary Forum in progress

them created a multilingual and multi-cultural environment in Vilnius. He discussed the topic of his lecture through a powerpoint presentation. The programme ended with a question answer session. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao thanked the audience for attending this programme and making it a big success. Several eminent writers, scholars and literary lovers were present on the occasion.

Kavisandhi with Pratibha Satpathy

22 May 2024, New Delhi

“My poems seem to be drops of tears expressed in words” -
Pratibha Satpathy

On 22 May 2024; at New Delhi, Eminent Odia poet Pratibha Satpathy shared her poems and experiences into creative writing at Sahitya Akademi’s prestigious platform - Kavisandhi. At the outset, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Pratibha Satapathy by presenting her an Angavastram and a book published by Sahitya Akademi. Many important Hindi/Odia writers and translators – Leeladhar Mandloi, Suresh Rituparna, Divik Ramesh, Girishwar Mishra, Lakshmi Kannan, Sumanyu Satpathy, etc., were present at the programme. The programme was conducted and a vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. Pratibha Satpathy said “I have a long relationship with poetry and I have earned it because of my love for nature in my childhood. Later on, I always refined my poetic journey by reading many senior writers and poets such as Sarala Das. My poetry reflects my true experiences, joys and sorrows and the distorted truths of society. It seems as if my poems are drops of tears expressed in words. My



Smt. Pratibha Satpathy reciting her poems

poems symbolize constant change. Like every poet, for me too poetry is an endless endeavour. It is an act of penance without expecting any benefit. Through my poems I feel connected to the earth.” She read some of her poems in the original Odia and then presented some translated poems in Hindi and English. The titles of some English poems were – ‘Just Like Earth’ and ‘No Words in Particular,’ etc. In the next segment of the programme, Hindi translations of her poems were read by Leeladhar Mandloi, Rajendra Prasad Mishra and Paramita Satpathy and English translations by Yashodhara Mishra, V Bhuma and others.



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Gramalok

26 May 2024, Boondi, Rajasthan

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Hadirani Sahitya And Sanskriti Manch, Roteda, District Boondi, Rajasthan, organized a Gramalok programme with Rajasthani writers on 26 May 2024 at Panchayat Bhavan, Roteda, Boondi,

Rajasthan. Member of Rajasthani Adivosry Board Sri Chandlal Chakwala co-ordinated the programme. Sri Chakwala introduced the participants to the audience and highlighted the different activities of Sahitya Akademi. Smt. Devki Darpan, Sri Chaumal Prajapati, Sri Mukesh Sharma, Sri Satya Prakash Gautam and Sri Komal Sharma participated in the programme and presented their writings.

Gramalok

30 June 2024 at Budhadeet, Kota, Rajasthan

A Gramalok in Rajasthani was organised by Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Mayad Bhasha Sahitya

Sirjan Manch, Budhadit, on 30 June 2024 at Budhadeet, District Kota, Rajasthan. Sri Chandlal Chakwala, member, Rajasthani Advisory Board co-ordinated the programme. Participants were R.C. Aditya, Ramswaroop Rawat, Mukut Bihari Meena, Mahaveer Prasad Malav and Parmanand Goswami.

Through My Window

31 May 2024, Supaul, Bihar

Through My Window was held on 31 May 2024 at Indian Red Cross Society Hospital complex, Supaul, Bihar in collaboration with Sankalp Lok, Supaul, at which distinguished Maithili poet and critic Dr. Mahendra delivered his brief speech on life and works of eminent Maithili writer Mayanand Mishra. Member of Maithili Advisory Board

Sri Subhash Chandra Yadav welcomed the guest on behalf of Sahitya Akademi and briefed about the activities of Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Mahendra, in his speech, told that Mayanand Mishra took the Maithili literature to a new height. He is an eminent writer of Maithili literature. His personality and works had been giving directions to Maithili literature today also. He gave new dimensions to every sphere of his work field. He was the superstar of Maithili stage. He started an agitation of Abhivyajanavad in Maithili literature through the magazine *Abhiyangane*, edited and published by him.

Kissa-O-Kalam: The Speaking Pen

(An annual workshop for children)

Theme: Desire, Dream, Discover: Imagination and Creative Writing

3-7 June 2024, New Delhi

Kissa-O-Kalam: The Speaking Pen, an annual workshop for children on creative writing in Hindi and English, is a first initiative of its kind by Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters, New Delhi. Launched in May 2017, the Akademi concluded its fifth successful edition in June 2024. This annual workshop adds a new dimension to the list of exciting and inspiring literary endeavours offered by the Akademi. This workshop for children is a step towards encouraging our younger generations of our languages and literatures even as it exposes them over five days to working closely with language in a manner that helps them dip into and expand their imagination and felicity for creative expressions. Each 5-day workshop is meticulously planned with a special focus to help children enjoy reading and

writing, and to use the languages creatively as a first step towards creative writing.

In June 2024, the workshop was offered, as is done every year, during the school's summer vacations to make it possible for a large number of students to apply and register for it. This fifth edition of the workshop took place from 3-7 June 2024 (Monday to Friday) in the forenoon, from 10.00 am till 1.00 pm daily. This year too, the 5-day workshop was held in the spacious auditorium of the Akademi in New Delhi. The USP of Kissa-O-Kalam is to design the sessions of each day in a manner to get the children who participate to interact as a team as well as individuals, and to create something completely new, on their own, on the last day.

June 2024 saw 50 children in the age groups of 9 to 16



Participants of the workshop with Secretary, President and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, and Sri Ramesh Pokhriyal

years participate in the Kissa-O-Kalam workshop. The workshop promotes the idea of inviting applications along with a short write-up submitted by the students at the time of the initial registration. An interaction of the registered students is then held with the facilitators in order to make a final selection of 50 students for the 5-day feature. This year too, saw students from several schools from across New Delhi-NCR region come for the interaction. What encouraged the facilitators greatly was the final inclusion of a student from Kolkata in the workshop who made the journey to New Delhi particularly for this workshop. Sahitya Akademi must also be applauded for encouraging five students from economically weaker sections to participate in the workshop gratis. This facilitation will go a long way in creating a compassionate environment for children of all sections of society in the area of writing and literature. This fifth edition of Kissa-O-Kalam was conducted under the title "Desire, Dream, Discover: Imagination and Creative Writing". Each day the children were mentored in a focussed manner to be able to explore different styles of writing in different genres. Several writing activities were conducted daily to help the children understand various literary methods to write in more creative styles. Among others, the children particularly enjoyed and responded with great energy to the sessions on metaphors and similes, on activities of 'Show, Don't Tell', story building as a group-

chain process, and story building and writing through visual prompts. The workshop facilitated continuous ideating, writing, reading of each individual piece created by the students and peer and facilitator critiques of these ideas/pieces in order for the participating children to understand too the ways in which they could self-critique and self-edit their work. On the fifth and final day, the participating children read from stories they had created over the five days, completely on their own, wherein they had also incorporated several of the ideas discussed during the previous sessions of the workshop. All pieces of writing by the children have been submitted to the Akademi.

As always, a special interaction with a noted writer in the field of children's writing was also held. This year, the special invitee was the widely published and awarded writer, Mamta Nainy.

On the final day of the workshop the parents/guardians of the participating children joined them in the auditorium. Each child was given a Certificate of Participation by the Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao.

Sri Ramesh Pokhriyal, Former Union Minister, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, along with President and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Madhav Kaushik and Prof. Kumud Sharma respectively, joined the children for a group photo.

Through My Window

7 June 2024, Jammu

Writers Club, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and languages, Jammu was packed with writers and literary connoisseurs to attend Sahitya Akademi's programme, Through My Window. This programme was with eminent Dogri writer Gian Singh who spoke extensively on the life and works of another prominent Dogri poet Mohan Lal Sapolia. The programme was chaired by Mohan Singh, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Gian Singh spoke at length about the great poet Mohan Lal Sapolia's writing, language, typical style and was nostalgic remembering his company. Mohan Lal Sapolia's life had its share of ups and downs but he stuck to his commitment towards Dogri, Dogra Culture as journalist and poet. While presiding the function, Mohan Singh,



Sri Mohan Lal Sapolia speaking on the occasion

Convener, appreciated the efforts and pains taken by Gian Singh presenting the multifaceted personality of Mohan Lal Sapolia.

Asmita

7 June 2024, Delhi



[L-R] Vijaya Thakur, Nirmal Vikram, Usha Kiran Kiran, Mohan Singh, Sushma Rani Rajput and Sarita Khajuria

Sahitya Akademi organized an Asmita programme on 7 June, 2024 at 4 p.m. at Writers Club (K.L. Sehgal Hall), Jammu where Dogri poets read their poetry. Prominent Dogri poets who participated in this programme were Sarita Khajuria, Sushma Rani Rajput, Nirmal Vikram Jain, Vijaya Thakur and Usha Kiran. The poets recited their poetry in different forms expressing their

concerns of present day social, political, environmental and universal subjects. These presentations certainly depicted a good rise in level of poetry particularly from women writers. Chairing the programme Mohan Singh, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, expressed satisfaction and appreciated the poetry that was presented.

Literary Forum: Personal Histories and Social Change

10 June 2024, Delhi



[L-R] Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Prof. Malashri Lal, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Ms. Achala Bansal and Dr Nishat Zaidi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum, titled 'Personal Histories and Social Change' on 10 June 2024. The Forum was presided over by Prof. Malashri Lal, and Achala Bansal, Lakshmi Puri and Nishat Zaidi shared their insights into the subject. At the outset, in his welcome address, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that all were part of history and hence were also agents of social change. He further said that the foundation for social change can be laid not only through slogans but also on the basis of knowledge. Achala Bansal, based on a novel revolving around the small town Bulandshaher, said that sometimes it was difficult to say directly what role our writings had in social

change. But many of the immediate problems used in writing created a background for social change later on. Lakshmi Puri said, with the help of the novel written on her parents that its background was the beginning of the 20th century when the whole country was yearning for Independence. At that time, everyone was feeling the changes necessary for Independence around them. She said that many aspects of women's education and casteism came to the fore in her novel. This kind of written history is often not a part of the textbooks but somewhere or the other, it is social history. Nishat Zaidi shared her experience after translating the writings of a woman from South India with everyone and told that in this

book, the social changes in the life of a woman can be seen. Despite studying while her children were around and the household routine, change could be seen here too. In her presidential address, Prof. Malashri Lal said that in today's time, the truth of social events is being seen more clearly in autobiography, biography and other literary genres, which is a good sign for the study of social change. She also said that with this kind of writing, the thin line between history and social change getting blurred could be seen. Literature has always been the key to change and will always remain so. The Forum was conducted by Dr N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



Symposium on Trends in Dogri Free Verse Poetry from 1980 to 2020

10 June 2024, Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Dogri Department of Jammu University, organized a Symposium in Dogri on 10 June, 2024 in Gian Chand Memorial Seminar Hall, Urdu Department, Jammu University at 11:00 a.m. The Symposium was on Trends in Dogri Free Verse Poetry from 1980 to 2020. The programme was scheduled in three sessions and was divided into inaugural, and two sessions with two papers covering two decades and post-lunch session with two papers covering next two decades.

In the inaugural session, welcome address and introductory remarks were made by Mohan Singh, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Keynote address was delivered by eminent writer Parkash Premi.

Chief Guest was Sucheta Pathania, HoD, Dogri Department, Jammu University. Prominent writer,

Darshan Darshi presided the session. All the luminaries put forward their best in giving different glimpses and shades regarding trends in Dogri Free Verse poetry. Sushma Sharma, Professor in Dogri Department, Jammu University thanked the participants, audience and the media.

After the inaugural session, the first session was chaired by eminent writer Inderjeet Kesar, and two prominent writers presented their papers on Dogri Free Verse Poetry from 1980 to 1990. Shiv Dev Sushil presented paper about trends from 1990 to 2000. Paper writers put in good efforts to present the trends in a very elaborated way. Chairing the session, Inderjeet Kesar lauded the work of paper writers.

The second session again comprised of two papers about the trends in Dogri Free Verse poetry. Ashok Khajuria presented trends

from 2000 to 2010. Khajur Singh Thakur presented the trends from 2010 to 2020. Both the writers presented wholesome trends available. Prominent Dogri writer Dhyhan Singh chaired the session. He appreciated their work immensely. He also shed light on different aspects of the subject and magnificent work being done in Dogri literature. He thanked scholars and audience.

Summing up the successful symposium on the subject Mohan Singh, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, extended his greetings to all writers and scholars and all involved for making this programme a success. He thanked, on behalf of Sahitya Akademi, all members of Dogri faculty, scholars, eminent writers, students and audience as well as the media for participating enthusiastically in this unique programme.



Sucheta Pathania, Sushma Sharma, Darshan Darshi, Mohan Singh and Prakash Premi at the symposium



Literary Forum on Late Abdul Rahman Azad and Asmita Programme

11 June 2024, Pulwama

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum to commemorate the 28th death anniversary of the renowned Kashmiri poet, author and journalist, Abdul Rahman Azad along with an Asmita programme on 11 June 2024. The event took place at Azad Manzil in Koil, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, which is also the birthplace of the late poet Azad. The inaugural session of the programme was presided over by Gulam Nabi Aatish, eminent Kashmiri poet, writer and translator. He shared his long association and camaraderie with the late A.R. Azad and highlighted the pivotal role he played in shaping modern Kashmiri literature. A monograph on A.R. Azad written by Gulam Nabi Aatish published by Sahitya Akademi was also released during the event. Mohd. Amin Bhat, Member, Kashmiri Advisory Board, delivered introductory remarks and welcomed all. Shad Ramzan, Convener of the Kashmiri Advisory Board, in his welcome address, provided a detailed account of the various literary dimensions of Azad's works and encouraged the new generation writers to explore them further. During the event, three papers focusing different aspects of Azad's personality and his contributions to literature and journalism were presented by Farooq Fayaz, Muneer Azad and Gulam Mohd. Dilshad. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks proposed by Nazir Azad, a noted poet, author, translator, and critic.

The second programme Asmita began at 2:00 pm featuring poetry recitation by eminent Kashmiri women poets - Ruhi Jan, Taj un Nisa, and Fatima Ji. Hamidah Shah Akhter, noted Kashmiri poet and writer, while presiding over the programme emphasized the need for active participation of women writers in literary activities. Shakeel Azad, an eminent playwright and poet, proposed a vote of thanks. Both the programmes were conducted by Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Member, Kashmiri Advisory Board.



Shad Ramzan, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, speaking during the programme



Eminent Kashmiri women poets reciting their poems during Asmita programme



NEW DELHI

Literary Forum: Hindi Short Story Reading Programme

12 June 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Hindi Short Story reading programme under Literary Forum series. The programme was presided over by Roop Singh Chandel. Jaiprakash Kardam, Pragma and Shahadat read out their stories. Young story writer Shahadat read out his story 'Aakhri Station'. The story focused on the humanity lost amidst riots and the deteriorating ethics in politics. The title of Pragma's story was 'Bura Aadmi'. Through this story, she presented the darkness arising in anyone's inner mind in a symbolic form. How the hero of the story keeps himself balanced while protecting a young girl, was well depicted in the story. Jaiprakash Kardam presented his story titled 'No Bar', in which the youth imagine a society beyond caste, but prevented by their parents.

Noted storyteller Roop Singh Chandel, who was presiding over the programme, commented on the stories read and said that the society had not changed completely and the new generation would have to move forward with more courage and work for the uniformity of the society. Roop Singh Chandel read his story 'Betu' in which there was not only depiction of a grandfather's love for his new born



Literary Forum in progress

grandson but also the problems faced by the new generation due to him. Many important writers and journalists including Mohandas Naimishray, Balram Agarwal, Subhash Nirav, Hariyash Rai, Harisuman Bisht, Vaidyanath Jha, Kamlesh Jain, Rajendra Prasad Mishra, etc., and a large number of young writers and literature lovers were present at the programme.

Asmita

19 June 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized an Asmita programme on 19 June 2024 in New Delhi. Noted storyteller Chandrakanta presided over the programme. Sumati Saxena Lal, Sunita and Vandana Gupta presented their stories. First of all, Sunita read the story 'Labour Chowk', in which unemployment of educated people to farmers was depicted. The beauty of folk reality and folk language was a special aspect of the story. Vandana Gupta presented her story 'Rashtrapati Bhavan Ke Kankar'. The story focused on the problems arising from land acquisition. Sumati Saxena Lal presented her story 'Rinbaddh', which had the background of the duties of children towards their parents.

Chandrakanta, who was presiding over the programme, presented her story 'Awaaz' written on terrorism in Kashmir. In her presidential address, she said that when many critics, after half-baked evaluation, issue



Participants of the event

fatwas by confining a writer to a particular category, then it is not in accordance with decorum. Writing cannot be put into any particular mould. It arises from one's own environment and experiences. The programme was conducted by the Deputy Secretary of the Akademi, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh.

Literary Forum on Hindi Literature and Buddhist Philosophy

20 June 2024, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a lecture by the distinguished writer and thinker Mohandas Naimishray under its 'Literary Forum' series. The topic of the lecture was "Hindi Literature and Buddhist Philosophy". Mohandas Naimishray gave a detailed description of the literature written by Hindi writers and Dalit writers who were influenced by Buddhist philosophy. He said that Buddhism was the oldest global religion. It was only after the influence of Buddhism that the basic tone of Dalit literature became rebellious. He referred to Theri women as the first writers and referred to their sagas and said that it was the first voice against oppression. He mentioned Sarahapa, Kabir, Ravidas, Lalladyada of Kashmir etc., and in modern times he mentioned Bhadant Anand Kaushlyayan, Rahul Sankrityayan, Jainendra Kumar, Ramvriksh Benipuri, Udayshankar



Literary Forum in progress

Bhatt, Rangeya Raghav, etc., and among Dalit writers he referred to Chandrika Prasad Jigyasu, Ramswaroop Verma, Jaiprakash Kardam, Lakshminarayan Sudhakar, Prabodhnarayan Baudh, Sheel Bodhi, Mukesh Manas, etc. Finally, while

answering the questions of the audience, he said that this subject was very vast in itself and there were many possibilities of working on it in detail. The programme was conducted by the Deputy Secretary of the Akademi, Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh.

Gramalok Programme

23 June 2024, Almora

A Gramalok programme was organized in Bakswad village of Laggada block in which various litterateurs from the district headquarters participated. The programme was coordinated by Dev Singh Pokharia, a well-known litterateur of Kumaoni and member of the Hindi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. He said that Sahitya Akademi has started organizing programmes like Gramalok to promote literary activities at the village level. This is the first event of its kind in the region. This will increase interest in literature among the local people and talent will get a chance to come forward.

The programme started with the welcome of the guests. Block chief Lamgada Vikram Singh Bagadwal was the chief guest of the programme. He said that in the era of communication, such activities will show a new path to the youth, while people will also be introduced to the latest literature. Litterateurs Tribhuvan Giri Maharaj, Hayat Singh Rawat, theatre person and senior journalists Naveen Bisht, Vipin Joshi, Komal Shankar Joshi and SSJ Singh were present on the occasion. Lalit Chandra Joshi of the University recited his compositions. The programme was presided over by Tribhuvan Giri Maharaj. Vipin Joshi conducted the program.



Symposium on Urdu Tanj O Mazah and Musharia (On Comedy and Satire)

26 June 2024, Bhopal



[L-R] Chandrabhan Khayal, Salam Khokhar, Shaikh Nizami, Zafar Sahbai, Parveen Kaif and Khursheed Fenku

Sahitya Akademi organized a one-day Symposium on Urdu Tanj O Mazah and Musharia based on comedy and satire on 26 June 2024 at Hindi Bhavan, Bhopal, in collaboration with Srijan Kamna Welfare Society and Shahre Ghazal Cultural Society.

Chandrabhan Khayal, Convener, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the inaugural session. In his inaugural address, Santosh Choubey, renowned poet, litterateur and director of Vishwa Rang, said that after Independence satire has been establishing independently in both the languages and its possibilities have increased, but its purpose should be complete.

Janaki Prasad Sharma, famous scholar, while giving a seminal statement on the subject, expressed that comedy and satire originated from the tradition of sitting together and talking, but today this tradition is ending and seriousness is spreading in the society. He stressed that in the time of globalization, there was a need to save humour and satire written in regional dialects.

Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi welcomed the writers and thinkers and shed light on the tradition, history, practice and importance of Urdu comedy and satire. Bilkis Jahan, Member of the Akademi's Urdu Advisory Board, expressed gratitude to the guests.

Chairing the first session of the symposium, Mohammad Noman Khan shed light on the Urdu humorous satires and literature written in Bhopal. Mohammad Ahsan, SM Shakeel, Zafar Mahmood, Saifi Sironji and Javed Alam presented their papers on Urdu humorous satire.

After the Symposium a Mushaira based on comedy and satire was held which was presided over by noted poet, Zafar Sehbai. Sheikh Nizami, Salam Khokhar Parveen Kaif, and Khurshid Fenku recited their poetry. The symposium and Mushaira were conducted by Badr Wasti.

Literary Forum on Late Syed Yaqoob Dilkash and Kavisandhi with Bashir Aarif

27 June 2024, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi organized a Literary Forum on renowned Kashmiri playwright and fiction writer, Syed Yaqoob Dilkash on 27 June 2024 at 11 a.m. at Standard Public School, Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Mir Munawar Ahmed, Head, Standard Public School, welcomed the guests. Shad Ramzan, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, in his inaugural address highlighted the role of Sahitya Akademi and said that different programmes would be organized by the Akademi, especially in the remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. Mohammad Amin Bhat, Akademi's Kashmiri Advisory Board Member, in his keynote speech, commented on the plays written by Syed Yaqoob Dilkash. The programme was presided over by renowned poet and General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi, Manshoor Banihali. Noted dramatist, Fayyaz Dilbar spoke in detail about Dilkash's fiction. Rahim Rahbar and Mushtaq Mehdi, both famous fiction writers, presented their short stories.

Kavisandhi, the second programme, which was held at 2:00 p.m witnessed poetry recitation by Bashir Arif, the eminent Kashmiri poet. The poetry recitation was followed by a question-answer session on various aspects of the poet's life and literary works. Shad Ramzan shed light on the life and literary achievements of Bashir Arif. The session was presided over by Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, eminent Kashmiri and Urdu writer, poet and educationist. The programmes were moderated by Gulzar Ahmed Rather, Kashmiri Advisory Board Member. Majeed Majazi proposed a vote of thanks. Among the other important personalities who participated



[L-R] Gulzar Ahmad, Shad Ramzan, M. Z. Azurdah, Manshoor Banuhali and Hasrat Gadda

in the event were famous writers and poets, Shamshad Karalawari, Imdad Saqi, Shakeelur Rehman, G.R Hasrat Gadda, and others.



[L-R] Gulzar Ahmad, M. Amin Bhat, M.Z. Azurdah and Bashir Aarif

Gramalok

30 June 2024, Purnia, Bihar

A Gramalok in Maithili was organised at Sukhsena village, Purnia, Bihar in collaboration with Sukhsena Sahitya Parishad on 30 June 2024. Chairman of Sukhsena Sahitya Parishad Sri Nirpesh Chand Jha co-ordinated the programme. In the beginning, Nirpesh Chand Jha welcomed the participants and briefed about different activities of Sahitya Akademi. Maithili writers Lalit Rang, Kamal Kishore Viyogi, Atul Mallick Anjan, Smt. Namita Jha and Daman participated in the programme and presented their poems and stories.



KOLKATA

Kathasandhi with Manohar Mouli Biswas

10 May 2024, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a Kathasandhi programme with noted Bengali writer Shri Manohar Mouli Biswas on 10 May 2024 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, 4 D.L. Khan Road, Kolkata. Welcome address was delivered by Shri Kshetrabasi Naik, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. He introduced Shri Manohar Mouli Biswas to the audience and highlighted the importance of organizing such programmes with noted writers as a means to broadening the connection between the writers and the readership. Shri Manohar Mouli Biswas read his short story titled "Chandipurer Lal Kankra" (The Red Crabs of Chandipur). Besides, he spoke about his life and his long preoccupation in the cause of the dalit and downtrodden masses. He traced the origin of the caste system in India and its effects on the life of common people. He



Sri Manohar Mouli Biswas speaking on the occasion

presented important anecdotes in this regard. The programme concluded with a brief interactive session.

Gramalok with Bodo Writers

26 May 2024, Daodhara (Koklabari), Baksa, Assam

Sahitya Akademi organized a Gramalok programme on 26 May 2024 at Daodhara (Koklabari), Baksa, Assam. Eminent Bodo writer Gobinda Narzary presided over the programme. The welcome address was delivered by Jwishri Boro, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Gabarsing Basumatary read his short story titled "Jinahari" (rape), a tragic story of a girl who faced many troubles after one incident, Prabin Basumatary also read his short story entitled "Radai" (agreement). The story was based on teenagers who had married early. Aske Basumatary recited six poems including romantic, *shayari* and



[L-R] Rangina Brahma, Aske Basumatary, Gobinda Narzary, Jwishri Boro, Gobarsing Basumatary, Prabin Basumatary and Mahima Basumatary

sonnets. Rangina Brahma recited five poems based on Nature and humanism. Mahima Basumatary also

recited five poems based on feminism and humanism. A vote of thanks was proposed by Suresh Brahma.



KOLKATA

Mog Poets' Meet

26 May 2024, Banamalipur, Agartala, Tripura

Sahitya Akademi's North-East Centre for Oral Literature organized a Mog Poets' Meet on 26 May 2024 at Nazrul Kalakshetra, Banamalipur, Agartala, Tripura. At the Meet, welcome address was delivered by Nirmal Das, Director of NECOL, Sahitya Akademi, with eminent Mog poet Krairi Mog Choudhury in the chair. Gautom Mog Choudhury, Nangthui Mog, Chaila Mog and Thaianggya Mog recited their poems and later interacted with the audience.



[L-R] U Sa Jen Mog, Nirmal Das, Krairi Mog Choudhury and Bikash Roy Debbarma

Book Discussion Programme on the Bengali Translation of *Kanta O Anyanya Galpa*

29 May 2024, Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a Book Discussion programme on *Kanta O Anyanya Galpa*, Bengali translation of Sahitya Akademi Award winning collection of Odia short stories by Gourahari Das at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata. Welcome address was delivered by Kshetrabasi Naik, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. He introduced the speaker to the audience. As the speaker, the Bengali translator of the book Krishna Bhattacharya focused on her translation techniques as well as the problems she faced while translating. She spoke in detail about the distinguished characteristics of the short stories and how they enriched the tradition of Indian short stories. After a short interactive session, a vote of thanks was proposed by



Krishna Bhattacharya speaking on the occasion

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KOLKATA

Book Discussion Programme on the Bengali Translation of Punjabi and Dogri Books *Ay Re, Sonar Pakhi* and *Kumari Harinir Chokh*

29 May 2024, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a Book Discussion Programme on Punjabi and Dogri Literature at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata. At the programme three books were selected for discussion which were Ved Rahi's collection of Dogri short stories titled *Ay Re*, Om Goswami's collection of Dogri short stories titled *Sonar Pakhi* and Mohan Bhandari's collection of Punjabi short stories titled *Kumari Harinir Chokh*. Welcome address was delivered by Kshetrabasi Naik, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. He introduced the speaker to the audience. As the speaker, the Bengali translator of the books Shyamal Bhattacharya narrated the experience of translating these books and expressed the emotions of several characters of the stories. He also spoke on the general linguistic problems which the translators usually have to face while translating from Punjabi and Dogri into Bengali. After a short



Sri Shyamal Bhattacharya speaking on the occasion

interactive session, a vote of thanks was proposed by Kshetrabasi Naik.

Gramalok with Bengali writers

11 June 2024, Paschim Balivara, Gram-Panchayat: Jetia, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Bankim-Bhavan Gaveshana Kendra, organized a Gramalok programme with local Bengali writers on 11 June 2024 at Balivara Bhuban Sangha Natyamancha, Paschim Balivara, P.O.: Nabanagar Gram-Panchayat: Jetia, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Welcome address was delivered by Shri Subhendu Kundu, Administrative Officer, Bankim-Bhavan Gaveshana Kendra. The programme was chaired by Professor Ratan Kumar Nandi, Director, Bankim-Bhavan Gaveshana Kendra. He informed the audience the purpose



Sri Ratan Kumar Nandi speaking



KOLKATA

and significance of this Gramalok programme. Local poets, Shri Ujjwal Kumar Goswami, Ms Bina Chowdhury and Ms Purnima Das Mitra recited some of their poems. Shri Tirthankar Chanda spoke on the trends as well as the history of theatre

in rural and urban areas of Bengal. He focused on the issues of the Partition, refugee problem and rural life as depicted in the Bengali plays. Dr Bandhan Sengupta spoke on the portrayal of rural life and communal harmony in the songs of Kavi Nazrul

Islam. Shri Milan Kumar Ghosh spoke on the importance of tree plantation and preservation of water for the betterment of environment. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Gautam Sarkar, Curator, Bankim-Bhavan Gaveshana Kendra.

Yuva Sahiti with Bodo Young Writers

17 June 2024, Udalguri, Assam

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Thunlai Bathwn, Rowta, organized a Yuva Sahiti programme with Bodo young writers on 17 June 2024 at BICC Auditorium, Rowta, Udalguri, Assam. Welcome address was delivered by Ms Sadhana Brahma, Bodo Advisory Board Member, Sahitya Akademi. The programme was inaugurated by eminent Bodo writer Dr Devakanta Ramchiary. He focused on the importance of society in generating themes of literature. The programme was chaired by eminent Bodo writer Shri Gopinath Brahma. Shri Amor Khungur Boro and Ms Rangjali Basumatary read out short stories. Shri Lukash Boro, Shri Niku Daimary and Shri Samil Daimary recited their poems. A vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Hemanta Swargiary, President, Thunlai Bathwn, Rowta.



Ms. Sadhana Brahma delivering welcome address

Kathasandhi with Rita Boro

17 June 2024, Udalguri, Assam

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Thunlai Bathwn, Rowta, organized a Kathasandhi programme with eminent Bodo writer Professor Rita Boro on 17 June 2024 at BICC Auditorium, Rowta, Udalguri, Assam. Professor Boro reflected on the journey of her literary career. She informed the audience that many of her songs, poems, short stories and novels were focused on the crises of the Bodo society during the time of Bodoland movement. She also referred to her major novels and the inspiration working behind their genesis. She focused on the style she used in her writings. After her speech, a brief interactive session took place.



Rita Boro speaking on the occasion



Mulakat with Odia Writers

21 June 2024, Bhubaneswar



[L-R] Pabitra Mohan Kar, Sasanka Priyasakha, Gourahari Das, Supriya Panda, Truptiranjan Das and Manisha Biswal

Sahitya Akademi organized a Mulakat programme with young Odia writers on 21 June 2024 at Rotary Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The programme was chaired by Dr Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He opined that young writers should concentrate on writings with more emotions. At the

programme, poems were recited by Ms Manisha Biswal and Sri Truptiranjan Das while Sri Sasanka Priyasakha and Ms Supriya Panda read short stories. Sri Pabitra Mohan Kar, Member of Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

Pravasi Manch with Satya Pattanaik

21 June 2024, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organized a Pravasi Manch programme with the noted author and publisher Sri Satya Pattanaik on 21 June 2024 at Rotary Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Dr Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered welcome address and introduced the speaker to the audience. He also chaired the session. In his speech, Sri Satya Pattanaik focused on his journey in the field of literature along with the experiences he gathered in America. He also informed the audience of his responsibility as a publisher in America. He suggested many things for development of Odia literature. He also informed about various international awards. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Pabitra Mohan Kar, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.



Sri Satya Pattanaik speaking

Mulakat with Young Bengali Writers

29 June 2024, Kolkata



[L-R] Raka Dasgupta, Sayam Bandyopadhyay, Gourab Chakraborty, Bibhas Roy Chowdhury, Shamik Ghosh and Samragnee Bandyopadhyay

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with New Alipore College, Kolkata, organized a Mulakat programme of poems and short-story readings by young Bengali writers on 29 June 2024 at New Alipore College, Kolkata. Dr Jaydeep Sarangi, Principal, New Alipore College, inaugurated the programme through his motivational speech where he stressed upon the importance of Sahitya Akademi's contribution in giving opportunity to young authors and promote regional languages, literature and culture in post-Independence India. Sri Kshetrabasi Naik, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region focused on the importance of exploring the minds of the emerging authors in India as their work of art contained the aroma of the soil. Sri Bibhas Roy Chowdhury chaired the poetry and short-story reading session and also encouraged young authors and the college students to come up with their creative works in future. Five young Bengali writers – Smt Raka Dasgupta, Smt Samragnee Bandyopadhyay, Sri Shamik Ghosh, Shi Gourab Chakraborty and Sri Sayam Bandyopadhyay participated in the programme. While Sri Shamik Ghosh read a part of his novel entitled *Apadartha*, Sri Sayam Bandyopadhyay read a short story entitled "Samindrer Kahini". Smt Raka Dasgupta, Smt Samragnee Bandyopadhyay, and Sri Gourab Chakraborty

recited several of their poems. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Dhrubajyoti Banerjee, Associate Professor, New Alipore College. He also conducted the programme.

SHABDKOSH

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MUMBAI

Swachhata Pakhwada

18-25 April 2024, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, observed Swachhata Pakhwada from 18–25 April 2024. On 18 April 2024, the staff at the Regional Office, took the oath on Swachhata Mission. On 19 April 2024 plastic waste was collected from the office premises, on 23 April 2024 the office premises was cleaned and on 25 April 2024, the surrounding area was cleared by the staff members.



Oath taking on the occasion of Swachhata Pakhwada

Literary Forum

18 May 2024, Mumbai

A Literary Forum was organized by the Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, in collaboration with Lekhni Institute and Kalagurjari, on 18 May 2024. The programme was organized in the auditorium of Kalagurjari, Vile Parle, Mumbai, at which eminent Gujarati short story writers read their works. The programme was presided over by Bhagyesh Jha, Convener of Gujarati Advisory Board. At the outset, Dr. Om Prakash Nagar, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Mumbai, delivered welcome address and briefed about the activities of the Akademi.

The programme commenced with Sandeep Bhatia reading a short story named 'A boat full of flowers'. The story highlights the feelings of a boot polishing boy. The different colours and fragrances of flowers and the subtlety of word ornamentation created a beautiful world. Dilip Rawal



[L–R] Bhagyesh Jha, Sandeep Bhatia, Dilip Raval, Meenakshi Vakharia and Dimple Sonigra

presented two short stories 'The Happy Man' and 'Karkasar'. Meenakshi Vakharia presented her first short story 'Vakaro' and her second 'Zarelo Sadlo' while Dimple Sonigra read short stories titled

'Vikalp' and 'Naamkaran'. Writer and programme coordinator Preeti Jariwala read her short story 'Hinchko'. Hemangbhai Jangla, President, Kalagurjari, proposed a vote of thanks.



Gramalok

18 May 2024, Kerala

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a Gramalok programme, in collaboration with Konkani Writers' and Artists' Association, on May 18, 2024 at White House, Bela, Kasargod, Kerala. The programme was chaired by Spani Bela, renowned television personality. Melvyn Rodrigues, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, delivered welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. The programme was graced by Raju Ukkinadka (Raju John D'Souza), Ravi Kumar Crasta, Vanitha Vani Crasta, Raju Kidoor (Raju Stiven



Participants presenting their works

Crasta B.). The participants shared their ideas on environment, culture and literature and also recited some of

their poems. Vincent Pinto, Member, Kavita Trust, proposed a vote of thanks.

Through My Window

18 May 2024, Pune

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a programme, Through My Window, in collaboration with Sindhi Adabi Sabha, Pune, on May 18, 2024, at Holy Mission, Amrutvela Mandir, Pune. Govardhan Sharma 'Ghayal, an eminent Sindhi writer, was invited to speak on the life and works of eminent Sindhi poet, Tara Mirchandani. Govardhan Sharma addressed the writer as a quiet but a powerful Sindhi voice whose first short story was "Swarg Jo Sair – A Journey To Heaven", also he mentioned about her book *Hath Yogi* that won the Sahitya Akademi Award in the year 1993. The audience



Govardhan Sharma Ghayal speaking on life and works of Tara Mirchandani

and the litterateurs applauded the views of Govardhan Sharma on Tara

Mirchandani and her journey in the world of literature.



MUMBAI

Kavisandhi

24 May 2024, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a Kavisandhi, on 24 May 2024, at its auditorium in Mumbai. Eminent Marathi poet, Ashok Naigaonkar, was invited to the programme. Dr Om Prakash Nagar, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Mumbai, delivered welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also introduced the poet to the invitees. Ashok Naigaonkar shared his journey into creative writing, and recited some of his renowned poems such as "Daridrya", "Bhopal Chikitsa", "Abhiman", "Tilak", "Afwā", "Maay", "Paris Paryatan", "Athens", "Vinda", "Mi Lagna Kela Nahi" and "Ujwi



Ashok Naigaonkar speaking

Dawi". The poems were applauded by the large number of litterateurs. Sri Vishwas Patil, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi,

presented the concluding remarks and expressed his gratitude to the Akademi and welcomed the initiative of the Akademi.

Kavisandhi

26 May 2024, Mangalore

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a Kavisandhi, on 26 May 2024, in collaboration with Kavita Trust and Konkani Language & Cultural Foundation at World Konkani Centre, Shaktinagar, Mangalore. Eminent Konkani Poet, Neelba Khandekar, was invited at the programme. Melvyn Rodrigues, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, delivered welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also gave brief introduction of the poet. Neelba Khandekar was welcomed on the dais, where he spoke of his journey into creative writing, and recited some of his renowned poems.



Neelba Khandekar

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Literary Forum

31 May 2024, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a Literary Forum, on 31 May, 2024 at its auditorium, Mumbai. Eminent Marathi poets—Rajiv Joshi, Kiran Yele and Minakshi Patil were invited as the poet-participants at the programme. Dr Om Prakash Nagar, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Mumbai, delivered welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also gave brief introduction of the poets to the audience. The poets shared their experience in poetry writing, and recited some of their renowned poems. Rajiv Joshi recited his famous poems such as "Haribhauchi Goshta", "Angat Pangat", "Chithhya", "Dhumilcha Sudama Pande", followed by Kiran Yele who's poems whose "Pan



Rajiv Joshi reciting his poems while Kiran Yele, Meenakshi Patil and Vishwas Patil look on

Ek At Aahe", "Hi Kadachit Kavichya Najaretil Gaflat Asu Shakte", "Pustake Samjutdar Aani Hatti Astaat", "Baichya Kavita Nantarchya Kahi Kavita", and lastly Minakshi Patil read out her poems "Labha", "Atmahatya",

"Dirgha Kavitetil Kahi Tukade", "Pravas", "Mi Aahe". The poems were enjoyed by the audience. Sri Vishwas Patil, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, chaired the programme and presented the concluding remarks.

Through My Window

8 Jun 2024, Panaji, Goa

Through My Window programme was organized by the Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, in collaboration with All India Konkani Parishad on 8 June 2024. The programme was organized at the Directorate of Art and culture, Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji-Goa, at which eminent Konkani author Aravind Bhatikar spoke of the life and works of the eminent Konkani poet Nagesh Karmali. He narrated Nagesh Karmali who stands as a statement of revolt, always stood against inequality, social injustice and ignorance. He left a remarkable impression and foundation for the younger generation. Arvind Bhatikar talked about literary journey, hurdles and the achievements of Nagesh Karmali and his enormous contribution to the Konkani literature and society.



Aravind Bhatikar speaking on life and works of Nagesh Karmali



MUMBAI

Literary Forum

23 June 2024, Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a Literary Forum, on 23 June 2024 at Pujya Mata Dadanbai Mandir Nij Satsang Bhawan, Ahmedabad in collaboration with Hayaati Charitable Trust. Eminent Sindhi poets and writers Manohar Nihalani, Meena Shahdadpuri, Naresh Gurnani, Divya Vidhani and Namdev Ladla were invited. At the outset, Manoj Chawla, Member of the Sindhi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also gave brief introduction of the poets. They read some of their renowned stories and poems. Manohar Nihalani and Meena



Manoj Chawla compering the poetry session

Shahdabpuri read their stories. Divya Vidhani presented her free verses and muktaks, while Naresh Gurnani presented his poems and songs and

Namdev Ladla presented his recently penned ghazals. Dr. Jairam Devnani, trustee of Hayaati Charitable Trust, proposed a vote of thanks.

Literary Forum

23 June 2024, Surat

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, in collaboration with Swajan and Sanskar Bharati Manch, Surat, organized a Literary Forum at Sanskar Bharati Auditorium, Sanskar Bharati Vidyalaya, Palanpur Patiya, Surat, on 23 June 2024. Esha Dadawala, Member, Gujarati Advisory Board, welcomed the gathering and briefed about the various activities of Sahitya Akademi.

Yamini Vyas and Vaibhav Desai presented their short stories, while Gaurang Thakur and Harshvi Patel recited some of their poems. The programme was presided over by Dr Bhagyesh Jha, Convener, Gujarati Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. Ajita Italiya of Swajan Sanstha proposed a vote of thanks.



[L-R] Vaibhav Desai, Yamini Vyas, Gaurang Thakar and Bhagyesh Jha



Yuva Sahiti

28 June, 2024, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai, organized a programme Yuva Sahiti on 28 June, 2024, at its own auditorium in Mumbai. The young Marathi writers and poets Priyanka Patil, Vishaka Vishwanath, Vrushali Vinayak, Namdev Koli were participants of the programme. Dr Om Prakash Nagar, Officer-in-Charge, Regional Office, Mumbai, delivered welcome address and informed about the activities of the Akademi. He also gave brief introduction of the writers and the poets.

Priyanka Patil started the event with her short story named "Dalbir", followed by Vishakha Vishwanath with her poems "Bhuk", "Cinema", "Naukri.com", "Kadachit",



[L-R] Priyanka Patil, Om Nagar, Vrushali Vinayak, Vishakha Vishwanath and Namdev Koli

"Samvedanshilita". Vrushali Vinayak presented her poems "Vedna", "Nivad", "Baipanachya Khuna", "Saglyach Kavita Sarvanna Dakhvaychya Nastat". And finally, Namdev Koli presented his poems

"Shetmajuranchya Pori", "Sarkari Dawakhana", "Panyacha Dharma", "Samudra Na Pahilela Manus" and "Saline".

Om Prakash Nagar proposed a vote of thanks.

Gramalok

30 June, 2024, Karnataka

Sahitya Akademi, RO, Mumbai, in collaboration with Manglurchim Motiyam, a Mangalore based cultural organization organized a Gramalok programme at TVS Showroom building, Belthangady, Karnataka on 30 June 2024. Melvyn Rodrigues, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, welcomed the gathering. He briefed about the various activities of Sahitya Akademi. Fr. Walter D'Mello, Principal Priest of Beltangady Dharmakshetra, inaugurated the programme. H.M. Pernal, Member, Konkani Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, presided over the event. Poets, Robert D'Souza, Flavia



[L-R] Apoline D'Souza, Robert D'Souza, Vidya Natak, Flavia Albuquerque, Thelma Madtha and Henry Mendonca

Albuquerque Puttur, Thelma Madtha recited their poems, while Vidya Nayak presented Konkani nursery rhymes. Apoline D'Souza and team sang Konkani Jogula songs; Konkani songs were rendered by

Ronald Lobo, Ronald D'Souza and Arvin D'Souza. Sthani Bela moderated the programme, while Allons Mendonsa of the Manglurchim Motiyam proposed a vote of thanks.



CHENNAI

Observance of Swachhata Pakhwada

16-30 April 2024, Chennai

As part of observance of Swachhata Pakhwada fortnight, the staff of the sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai assembled and took Swachhata pledge on 18 April 2024 at the office premises. Sri T.S. Chandrashekhara Raju, Office in Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, administered Swachhata pledge to the staff to be involved throughout the fortnight in planning, discussing, implementing and monitoring Swachhata activities. On 22 April 2024, the staff members collected plastic waste accumulated at the office and godown premises. On 23 April 2024, the collected plastic waste was segregated and disposed off. On 30 April 2024, the staff was involved in cleaning the office premises and removed unnecessary accumulations, cleaned their work spaces, equipment, storage racks, bookshelves and walls. All the staff spruced the office.



Swachhata activity in progress

Observance of International Yoga Day

21 June 2024, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi in Chennai celebrated International Yoga Day at the office premises on 21 June 2024. Ms. Hema Sriram, renowned Yoga Master addressed the staff and explained the importance of Yogasanas, Pranayama and general exercises for the health of the individuals and when the society is full of such individuals with healthy bodies and creative minds, the productivity of the entire society is enhanced. So, Yoga is for the wellness of both the individuals and nations. Ms. Hema Sriram demonstrated a few asanas that would be useful to everyone in daily life. The staff members responded and practiced all the Aasanas.



Yoga practice session in progress



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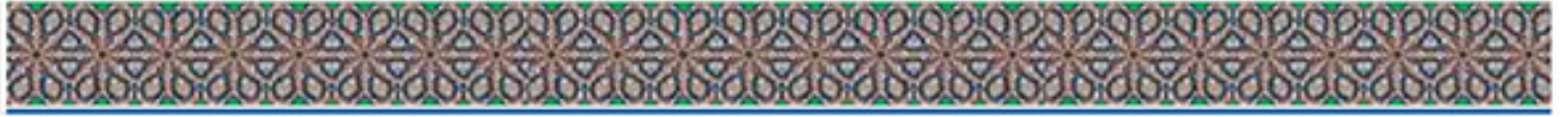
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