



Translation Prize Presentation Ceremony

Twenty-Second Translation Prizes for 2012 were presented on 23 August 2013 in an elegant function held at Sri Pitti Thyagaraja Hall, G.N. Chetty Road, T. Nagar, Chennai. The Translation Prize presentation function was organized followed by Translators' Meet and Abhivyakti programme inviting writers from all over the country.



L-R: Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Akademi President, Ashokamitran, eminent Tamil fiction writer and Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi

Widely publicised literary event, the programme attracted writers, translators, scholars and lovers of literatures from all over Tamil Nadu. Inaugural function held in the evening on 23 August 2013, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered his welcome address. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, veteran Hindi poet and President of Sahitya Akademi presided over the award presentation function and presented the Translation Prizes to the awardees. Eminent Tamil fiction writer Ashokamitran was the chief guest; and Chandrashekhar Kambar, veteran Kannada writer and Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi delivered concluding speech and also proposed a vote of thanks.

In his welcome address, Dr. Sreenivasarao mentioned that translation is one of the pivotal activities of Sahitya Akademi. He expressed his

view over organizing the 'Translation Award Presentation' function in Chennai as Tamil language is one of the ancient languages whose literature has a hoary past. Sangam literature reflects the rich tradition and culture of the Tamils in the very first century. Bhakti literature founded by Alwars and Nayanmars in Tamil spread to the northern part of India creating a Bhakti tradition in the medieval period. The great Indian poet





Ashokamitran



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari



Chandrashekhhar Kambar



K. Sreenivasarao

Subramanian Bharati, who dreamt of a unified India and liberty for women was a Tamilian—one of the few visionaries produced in the modern era. He influenced Indian writers cutting across the boundaries. Dr. Rao welcomed the chief guest, the President of the Akademi Prof. Tiwari, the Vice-President Prof. Kambar, the members of General Council of Sahitya Akademi and literature lovers. Sahitya Akademi is bound to preserve, nurture and disseminate not only creative literature but also literature in translations as well, he informed.

The President of the Akademi gave away Translation Prizes to Pankaj Thakur (Assamese); Oinam Nilkantha Singha (Bengali); Swarna Prabha Chainary (Bodo); Shashi Pathania (Dogri); M.L. Thangappa (English); Shalini Chandrakant Topiwala (Gujarati); Ramji Tiwari (Hindi); K.K. Nair and Ashok Kumar (Kannada); Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmir); Gurunath Shivaji Kelekar (Konkani); Mahendra Narayan Ram (Maithili); Anand (P. Satchidanandan) (Malayalam); Elangbam Sonamani Singh (Manipuri); Sharda Sathe (Marathi); Gita Upadhyay (Nepali); Prasanta Kumar Mohanty (Odia); Satish Kumar Verma (Punjabi); Poora Sharma 'Pooran' (Rajasthani); Bhagirathi Nanda (Sanskrit); Ravindra Nath Murmu (Santali); Hiro Thakur (Sindhi); G. Nanjundan (Tamil); R.Venkateswara Rao (Telugu) and Ather Farouqui (Urdu).

After the presentation of the prizes, Prof. Tiwari delivered his presidential address. He expressed his great pleasure in organizing this important multi-lingual literary event and its Translation Prize presentation function in a historically rich and culturally vibrant city of Chennai. Tamil language is one of the foremost languages of our nation and also the world. Tamil people greatly revere their writers in general. When he first visited Tamil Nadu 40 years ago, he found the portraits of Tiruvalluvar kept in the buses and also one of his couplets along with them. Switching over to his experiences with languages, Prof. Tiwari said that he belonged to a village in Eastern U.P. where English was alien to him. He did not even know Hindi as people of his village speak a dialect of Hindi. Translation is the part and parcel for our communication in the multilingual society. Though translation is a tough job to do but it is most necessary in a multilingual country like ours. Prime importance is given to discuss the place of mother tongues and areas pertaining to translations in Sahitya Akademi. Prof. Tiwari remarked that, "Translation is a difficult exercise, more difficult than original writing. It is a herculean task to give justice to the original in translations". He cited examples of different



words to denote the meaning of 'house' in various rasas. He was skeptical about equivalent words representing the expression, to denote different taste according to the contexts, in the course of translating the text. He further added that the past century was the century of translation. A Russian author once mentioned, "We live in the time of translation that we are compelled to translate even our smiles." Though the statement perturbed Prof. Tiwari much, one has to accept the fact that translation is inevitable to share the facts or emotions with others. Translations of our literatures are taking a major stride. At this juncture we are bound to congratulate the award winning translators—the ambassador of cultures, he concluded.

The chief guest Ashokamitran in his address said that he was overwhelmed on hearing the citations of the prize winners while being read out. He could understand the amount of valuable contributions made to Indian languages and literatures by them. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in Tamil translation was the bestsellers in Tamil Nadu in 1940's and also the stories of Rabindranath Tagore. For the past 20-30 years, despite many awards for translations were given and the encouragement provided by the institutions like Sahitya Akademi and National Book Trust, he was not sure whether translations are reaching out to people at all. He hoped that such institutions would work hard to reach out to more readers even at the remote areas. This kind of efforts would encourage not only the original writers but also the translators as well.

Veteran Kannada writer and Vice-President of Akademi, Prof. Kambar, in his concluding speech said, "Linguistic pluralism is the peculiarity of the sub-content. Our language shares common history, common destiny and common future in spite of 'mutual unintelligibility'. The disastrous situation today is the use of English which is not ours. The use of English in our country is formidable; it would at some juncture swallow all our mother tongues." Our languages and literature emerged after the first millennium from Sanskrit in the north and Tamil in the south. The pioneers of early literature had the vision to retain from the predominant culture. Now at the time of globalization, 'the English is the only option for survival' is forced upon us. He appealed to the assembled writers, translators and scholars to inculcate love for mother tongues among our children and check the domination of English over our languages. He also proposed the vote of thanks.



Akademi President V.P. Tiwari presenting the award to M.L. Thangappa (English)



Chandrashekhar Kambar presenting the bouquet to Shashi Pathania (Dogri)



Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri) receiving the award



Swarna Prabha Chainary (Bodo) receiving the award



Vairamuthu inaugurating the Abhivyakti programme

Translators' Meet

In the 'Translators' Meet' held on 24 August, 2013 at Platinum Jubilees Auditorium, University of Madras, Marina Campus in Chennai, the translators who received the awards shared their experiences as translators. Most of the translators reflected, through their presentations, their pleasures and pains in undertaking the translation works and selection of words in the target languages. An absolute understanding of the words in connotation of the original languages is the most essential part and stupendous task for them to give the best of the translations in the target languages. They are after all translating not only the works but also cultures. The deep involvement and identification with the original works are the most essential aspects of the best translation. The 'Translators' Meet' was chaired by Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice-President of the Akademi.



*Anand, Malayalam awardee delivering his speech.
L-R: Chandrasekhar Kambar and K. Sreenivasarao*

Abhivyakti Programme

The 'Abhivyakti' programme held on 25 August 2013 at Platinum Jubilees Auditorium, University of Madras, Marina Campus in Chennai is a regular feature being organized by the Akademi, followed by the presentation of Translation Prizes. More than 50 writers representing 24 languages from all over the country have been invited to read out from their works. The programme was divided into five reading sessions including the inaugural session. There were two sessions devoted to reading of poetry, two for short stories, one session for the presentation of papers on the topic "Why do I write" by eminent writers.

In the welcome address by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, he called the 'Abhivyakti' programme a multicultural festival wherein the creative talents of this vast country of many languages converged in one place. It is an occasion of harvest of Indian literature in prose and poetry and fiction, he called.

Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu, Convenor, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered his introductory address. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari in his presidential address highlighted the fact that our mother tongues are in peril. He called every mother tongue in our country a national language. He referred to a few languages in North-East having no script but being spoken by handful of people. He gave clarion call to the writers in India to protect our mother tongues. The time has come that every Indian has to wake up, or else our grand children would not be able to read our writings. The literary programme by Sahitya Akademi would reinforce our love for mother



tongues. He further added that now the word has lost its significance and power enjoyed in the ancient times. When the script came the word lost its weight because in ancient time when someone would utter a word they would certainly mean it. Today we demand everything in writing. We lost faith in our words. The best literature will of course regain the power of words, the sound and rhythms, he concluded.

The programme was inaugurated by Vairamuthu, an eminent Tamil poet and film lyricist. In his inaugural address, he expressed his pleasure over Sahitya Akademi arranging the 'Translation Prize' presentation function, which was followed by a conglomeration of Indian writers reading in various Indian languages. He further



the message interrogating our democracy. The poem reads as 'A rain drop fell on a flower, the rain continued / A rain drop fell on a church, it continued raining; A rain drop fell on the sea, it continued raining / A rain drop fell on a pond, it continued raining /



L-R: Sreenivasarao, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Vairamuthu, Chandrasekhar Kambar and Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu

added that it is explicit that the Akademi does the job of bringing together different communities, different cultures, various experiences and values and integrate them. We could see different cultures and experiences that have been told differently in different Indian literatures conjoining in one river called 'human experience'.

Sahitya Akademi functions like a human heart. Just as the heart purifies the blood and passes it from head to foot of human body, Sahitya Akademi filters good literature from the mediocre ones from all the languages and present them to the people of India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

He quoted a poem "Rain" written by a rebellious poet in Telugu. The poem quite strongly imparted

A rain drop fell on my attire, it continued raining / A drop fell on the Legislative Assembly, the rain stopped'. When one goes through such literature, we forget the language in which it is written, we remember the writer. Language becomes secondary, the experience takes the forefront, Sri Vairamuthu said.

He also quoted Hindi poet Bharat Bhushan Agarwal. The poem that was read: as 'I returned back home from the office, I found my wife never cared to greet me / My children never welcomed me, my servant was just minding his work with no notice of me / I wondered did any of them notice him at all. Then it occurred to me that I have already lost my physical frame / I tried to turn on the switch of the radio. I found my hand was not there / I,



then, looked around. My eyes were not there / I tried to raise me up; I realized I have no legs / When I recollected where I left them all, it struck me that I have left my head in the office; my eyes have not come back from files / My ears have stuck with telephone'. Finally he felt the ideal way to live one's life is to shun the body. This was startling irony of the office going middle class people and their helplessness to compromise with the loses.

Literature either renews our experience of the past or present and infuses experience that we have not encountered. In the span of one's life, how many time literature would have given them life; what kind of literature benefited or patronized with a life one has not lived through, the language that has not been heard, the place one has never seen and an experience that one has not underwent.

Sri Vairamuthu further said, "Global warming and environment hazards is a serious threat to humanity today". My grandfather saw water in the river; my father saw water in the pond. I saw water in the well. My son sees water in the bottle. My grandson will see water in the form of tablet. May be a combination of solid hydrogen and oxygen.

The inaugural session concluded with the poetry reading by Angshuman Kar (Bengali), Susheel Begana (Dogri), Kamal Vora (Gujarati), Arun Kamal (Hindi), Prathibha Nandakumar (Kannada), Savithri Rajeevan (Malayalam), Arambam Ongbi Memchoubi (Manipuri), Salma



L-R: Amritham Surya, Nagathi Halli, Bahchandra Nemade, B. Murali, Nachhatar and Narendra

(Tamil), Devipriya (Telugu), Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Urdu) etc.

Vice-President of the Akademi, Chandrasekhar Kambar concluded the 'Abhivyakti' programme with his brief address. He said Indian languages remain isolated on seeking English to connect them. Despite we managed our freedom from Britishers, we have yet to set our freedom from English. He hoped that situation would change in the days to come.

On 25 August 2013 the 'Abhivyakti' programme continued with four sessions with two devoted for short story reading, another session for a presentation of writers on the topic "Why do I Write", and the last session was 'Poets' Meet' wherein thirteen poets from various Indian languages participated. In the first session of short story reading, Sa. Kandasamy chaired the session. In his introductory speech Sri Kandasamy briefed about the status of the mother



L-R: Ajay Swain, Sa Kandasamy, Ravindra Kalia, Amar Nath Jha and Paavannan



L-R: Arundhathi Subramaniam, Sharan Kumar Limbale, Sirpi Balasubramaniam, Siva Reddy, Mridula Garg and Bama

tongues in India exhorting the fellow writers to undertake the responsibility of promoting their respective languages to retain the original cultures which is a strong point for the existence of the sub-continent. The participants in this session included Ravindra Kalia (Hindi), Amar Nath Jha (Maithili), Ajay Swain (Odia), Paavannan (Tamil) and Volga (Telugu) who read out their stories or excerpts from their novels.

In the next session on “Why do I Write”, veteran Tamil poet and writer Sirpi Balasubramaniam chaired the session. While appreciating the Akademi to have such session in the programme which expounds the inner self of the individual writers on the theme why they choose to be a writer. Speaking about himself, his purpose of being a poet and writer is to somehow or other to perpetuate his purpose of living in the world and to be remembered by the posterity even after his existence. In this session most interesting presentations were made by well-known writers Arundhathi Subramaniam (English), Vinod Joshi (Gujarati), Mridula Garg (Hindi), S. Faustina ‘Bama’ (Tamil), K. Siva Reddy (Telugu) and Sharan Kumar Limbale (Marathi).

In the third session Nagathi Halli Chandrashekhar (Kannada), B. Murali

(Malayalam), Nachhatar (Punjabi), Amirtham Surya (Tamil) and M. Narendra (Telugu) read out their stories. Balchandra Nemade, one of the major fiction writers in Marathi presided over the session. He appreciated the thematic diversity of the fiction writers who read out their stories in different Indian languages.

In the concluding session of ‘Poets’ Meet’, K. Satchidanandan, well-known Malayalam poet chaired the session. The poets who read out their poems include Anis Uz Zaman (Assamese), Bisweswar Basumatary (Bodo), Tamilselvi (Kannada), Aziz Hajini (Kashmiri), Madhav Borcar (Konkani), Bindya Subba (Nepali), Arjun

Dev Charan (Rajasthani), K. Ramakrishna Warriar (Sanskrit), Yashoda Murmu (Santali), Vasdev Mohi (Sindhi), Thamizhachi Thangapandiyar (Tamil) and M. Sampath Kumar (Telugu).

The four days programme came to an end making a deep impact on the writers community of India and particularly Tamil Nadu.



Aziz Hajini, poet in Kashmiri reading his poems



Fellowship Presentation Functions



Akademi Fellowships were presented to Satya Vrat Shastri, veteran Sanskrit writer and scholar; Raghuveer Chaudhary, well-known poet and writer in Gujarati and Arjan Hasid, eminent Sindhi poet in different functions organised in Delhi and Ahmedabad respectively.

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship is the highest honour conferred upon the writers for their total contribution to Indian literature. Honorary Fellowship is awarded to the writers abroad who contribute to the enrichment of Indian literature. The fellowship was established in 1968 and limited to 21 writers at any given time. So far 88 'immortals of literature' were honoured with the Fellowship.

Fellowship to Satya Vrat Shastri

Sahitya Akademi conferred its highest honour—the Fellowship—upon Prof. Satya Vrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit poet and critic. Though trained as a

grammarian steeped in the Paninian system, Prof. Shastri flowered into a highly talented poet. Poetry to him is a charming expression distinct from the

beaten track (vakrokti as Bhamaha puts it), enlivened by profundity of meaning and lucidity of expression.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his welcome address in Sanskrit enumerated Prof. Shastri's contribution to the corpus of contemporary Sanskrit literature. He mentioned in his address that Prof. Shastri has an array of creative writings that include three comprehensive Mahakavyas, four Khandakavyas, two sizable volumes of versified letters, a gadyakavyal diary, and a host of shorter works, refreshing and interesting in their own way. He further stated that Prof. Shastri is equally gifted as a translator who has rendered a number of conspicuous texts into Hindi, English and Sanskrit with admirable precision and authority.

Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, veteran Hindi poet and the President, Sahitya



L-R: Sreenivasarao, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Satya Vrat Shastri and Chandrashekhar Kambar



Akademi presented Prof. Shastri the Fellowship plaque and shawl amidst the cheers of the audience. Sahitya Akademi Vice-President, veteran Kannada poet, playwright and Jnanpith award winner Chandrashekhara Kambar was also present during the presentation of the Fellowship.

Prof. Tiwari in his Presidential address highlighted a vital point that any foreigner who desires to make a real study of India's deep rooted culture and tradition, he/she should inevitably possess the knowledge of Sanskrit.

Prof. Shastri, in his acceptance speech

while expressing his gratitude to the Akademi for conferring upon him the prestigious Fellowship, stated that the languages should never be tempered with simplification or experimentation in any form affecting the main characteristics of the language.

At the end of the Fellowship presentation, Prof. Kambar proposed the vote of thanks.

The Fellowship presentation programme was followed by a Samvad programme which was chaired by Radhavallabh Tripathi, Convenor, Sanskrit Advisory Board. Eminent writers



and scholar Satya Vrat Varma, Harekrishna Satpathy, Kamal Anand and S. Ranganath spoke on the life and works of Satya Vrat Shastri.

Fellowship to Raghuvver Chaudhary

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Fellowship on Raghuvver Chaudhary, distinguished Gujarati fiction writer, poet and critic, in Ahmedabad at Gujarati Sahitya Parishad on 20 July 2013. The Fellowship presentation ceremony was followed by a 'Samvad' programme. Eminent Gujarati literateurs, Chandrakant Topiwala, Ramesh Dave and Satish Vyas spoke, and Sitanshu Yashashchandra, Convenor, Gujarati Advisory Board, chaired the Samvad.

Raghuvver started writing poetry, and though it has remained his first love, it is his ability to weave powerful narratives in the genre of novel that brought him name and fame as a leading Gujarati literary figure. It is definitely the poetic element and the use of visual imagery which gave his narratives their unmatched evocative power. 'Raghuvver is a writer with deep sensitivity who believes in the co-existence of the spirituality and science, reality and emotions or thinking and sentiments. Raghuvver is a seeker of truth and truth is beauty to him. As

a human being and as a creative person, Raghuvver is truthful to his inner truth.

His faith in the functional aspect of human life has progressively strengthened from 'novel of ideas' to that of the ideas based upon real world. Raghuvver's short stories portray the uncertainty and complexity of human life and relations.

Among his plays, the collection of one-act plays were much appreciated and performed on the stage by well-known artists.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the literary gathering and the dignitaries. He informed that this year the Akademi has decided to confer its Fellowship on Dr. Satya Vrat



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presenting the fellowship plaque to Raghuvver Chaudhary



Shastri of Sanskrit and on Sri Raghuvver Chaudhary of Gujarati and Sri Arjan Hasid of Sindhi. Dr. Satya Vrat Shastri had already been conferred upon at a grand function held at Sahitya Akademi on 16 July in New Delhi.

After the speech, he requested Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi to confer the Akademi Fellowship to Dr. Chaudhary. Prof. Tiwari offered the plaque of Fellowship to Sri Chaudhary. Dr.

Srinivasarao read out the citation on the Fellow.

Prof. Tiwari in his presidential address reminisced his early meetings with Dr. Chaudhary and described how a writer reacts to his/her reality in various situations and expresses meditation in his work in any form he is comfortable with. Citing the very famous instance of Sartre, he said that a good writer's presence is kind of a parallel intellectual government.

Drishti Patel, daughter of Sri Chaudhary, read out the acceptance speech on Sri Chaudhary's behalf. In his acceptance delivery, he said that he is satisfied with his output as a writer. He also expressed his feelings as a farmer, too. In his address, he spoke about different phases of literature, right from the beginning of his writing career till today. He recited excerpts from his poem in Gujarati.

At the 'Samvad' programme, Sitanshu Yashchandra expressed his exceeding joy over the conferment of Fellowship upon Dr. Choudhury and presented a brief account of the merit of the works of the writer.

Chandrakant Topivala spoke of Dr. Chaudhary as a close friend and a significant litterateur in Gujarati, and emphasized on deep social concern reflected in Dr. Chaudhary's works.

Ramesh R.Dave spoke of Dr. Chaudhary's fictional works. He emphasized on the writer's faith in the importance of the day to day reality, and his human empathy. Satish Vyas who spoke of Dr. Chaudhary's plays, highlighted his active role in contributing fairly good plays in Gujarati. He highlighted Sri Chaudhary's contribution to drama and cited examples of few writers who were involved in such activities.

Fellowship to Arjan Hasid

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Fellowship on Sri Arjan Hasid, distinguished Sindhi fiction poet, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat on 20 July 2013.

Arjan Hasid started writing poetry in 1956 and continues to enthral the hearts and minds of readers with his soulful and mordant poetry. Authored seven collections of poetry, Sri Hasid writes in all forms of poetry but he is well-known for his songs and ghazals. A poet par excellence in Sindhi, he is noted for his ghazals. His ghazals do not explain, they simply come out as witness to the present age, moving through time and struggling with destiny. His ghazals present a vivid picture of life based on intimate knowledge. Some of his ghazals are soul stirring, for which he has won many accolades.

K. Sreenivasaro, Secretary, Sahitya

Akademi welcomed the gathering of Sindhi litterateurs and the dignitaries on the stage. He introduced Arjan Hasid,

the Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, to the audience as a poet whose poems have left an incredible impact in Sindhi



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Vasudev Mohi, Arjan Hasid, V.P. Tiwari and Prem Prakash



literature. He pointed out that Hasid has played a pivotal role in developing the traditional form of Sindhi ghazal. His poems are progressive which depict the present social scenario, he added. He also pointed out that it is after 40 years that the Fellowship is conferred on a Sindhi literateur. Sri Hasid was honoured with Fellowship by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi.

Prof. Tiwari in his presidential address proclaimed the importance of the Fellowship offered by Sahitya Akademi in different languages. He disparaged the fall of the mother tongues as today's generation is hardly be able to speak them. He further said, "A writer mirrors the society. He visualizes the things which are ignored by the society and places before the society through

his writings. Hasid's ghazals depict the revolt also and not only love. Sahitya Akademi is honoured in conferring the Fellowship on Sri Hasid".

Sri Hasid in his acceptance speech thanked Sahitya Akademi for conferring the honour on him.

Prem Prakash, Convenor, Sindhi Advisory Board described Sri Hasid as a simple and yet an effective and perfect poet. He is a simple "Ghazalkar" whose ghazals describe the agony of the Partition.

The Fellowship presentation ceremony was followed by a Samvad programme. Eminent Sindhi literateurs Vasdev Mohi, Namdev Tarachandani and Vimmi Sadarangani spoke, and Prem Prakash, Convenor, Sindhi Advisory Board chaired the programme. Vasdev Mohi in his speech traced the



journey of Hasid's ghazals and his sensibility.

Namdev Tarachandani evaluated Hasid as a very lively poet. He said that Hasid revolutionized the form of ghazal which later came to be known as 'Nai Kavita' in Sindhi. His poems are for peace and for social awakening also.

Vimmi Sadarangani spoke on short stories of Sri Hasid.

Birth Centenary Seminar Balraj Sahani



On the occasion of the birth centenary of veteran film actor and Punjabi writer Balraj Sahani, Sahitya Akademi and Punjabi Cultural Art and Welfare Association, Navi Mumbai organized two day seminar on his contribution to Indian Cinema and literature on 28 and 29 September 2013 at Navi Mumbai.

M.S. Sethy, veteran film director, chaired the inaugural session. In his presidential address, he said that Balraj Sahani played many challenging roles like those of a rickshaw-puller in *Do Beegha Zamin* and poor farmer in *Dharti ke Lal*. He not only played these characters but lived them in real life by pulling rickshaw on the roads of Kolkata and staying among farmers for many days. His last film *Garam Hawa* was directed by him.

Talking about the film, which is acclaimed as his best performance by film critics, he said that he played the role of an angst ridden but a stoic Muslim who refuses to go to Pakistan during partition. Well-known script and dialogue writer, Jawed Siddiqui inaugurated the seminar. He said that Balraj was an actor with the talent for stealing the show and capturing the maximum applause. Talking about his passion for stage, he said that money was never his priority as he staged many shows without taking any money from the organizers.

Seminar began with a welcome address by K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. In his welcome address he spoke briefly about the early life of Balraj when he left Rawalpindi to join Santiniketan as an English teacher, and then joined Mahatma Gandhi and later he went to London to join BBC, London's Hindi service.



Rawail Singh, Convenor, Punjabi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi in his introductory address talked about Sahni's contribution to Punjabi literature as well as Hindi Cinema. Well-known Punjabi poet, Surjit Patar in his key-note address said that on Tegore's suggestion he started writing in Punjabi and enriched Punjabi literature with more than 10 books. He also talked about his legendary Hindi film career with special mention to national award winning Punjabi film *Sathuj de Kande*.

The seminar was divided into three sessions. Jagbir Singh chaired the first session on "Balraj Sahni and Indian Cinema". Well-known Punjabi writer and film maker Amrik Gill discussed in detail Sahni's contribution to Indian cinema. Manmohan Singh spoke on the life and experiences of Balraj Sahni as mentioned in his autobiography *Meri Filmi Aatmakatha*. Anees Azmi, Secretary, Urdu Academy in his paper on "IPTA and Balraj Sahni" said that Balraj Sahni started his acting career with the plays of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA). And throughout his life he spared time for theatre.

Deepak Manmohan Singh chaired the second session on "Balraj Sahni and Punjabi Sahitya". In this session, Amarik



L-R: Rawail Singh, Surjit Patar, M.S. Sethyu, Jawed Siddqui and K. Sreenivasarao

Grewal spoke on Indo-Pak cultural relations with special reference to Balraj's *Mera Pakistani Safarnama*; and Jaspal Kaang presented a critical appraisal of Balraj's *Mera Roosi Safarnama* in context of Indo-Russian relations. She said that he had written the book after a tour of the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1969, and received 'Soviet-Land Nehru Award' for this book. Amarjeet Ghumman discussed in detail the poetry of Balraj with reference to the poems of *Wairor di maar* and Raminder Kaur talked about

his book *Yaadan da jharokha*. Deepak Manmohan Singh in his presidential address said that Balraj was a gifted writer who became a writer of repute in Punjabi literature.

The last session was chaired by H.S. Gill. Satish Kumar Verma spoke on the literary and cinematic outlook of Balraj Sahni. Rashpinder Rashim presented her paper on "*Gair Jazbati Diary*" and Sunita Dhir presented on "Punjabi Theatre and Balraj Sahni."

Through My Window

Vishwanath Prasad Tripathi on Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi



Vishwanath Prasad Tripathi, well-known critic and novelist, expressed his views on his mentor Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, eminent Hindi writer under the programme series "Through My Window" held on 6 September 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. He spoke about Dwivedi's life in detail. Sri Dwivedi was not connected to any kind of 'vad', he informed the audience. Dr. Tripathy cited a few examples of some characters from his novels. His characters tried to relive the lost values. Dwivedi's deep love for poetry was also highlighted by him.

In the end, he answered the queries of the audience. A number of people attended the programme including Nityanad Tiwary, Biren Baranwal, Dinesh Kumar Shukla, Prayag Shukla and others.



A Reading Programme Ramanika Gupta

Well-Known Hindi poet Ramanika Gupta was invited by the Akademi to read out her poems at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 26 September 2013.

Brijendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the poet and audience. He briefly presented the contemporary scenario of Hindi poetry especially by women poets writing today and introduced the poet to the audience. Smt. Gupta was born in 1930 in Punjab. She writes in almost all genres viz. poetry, short stories, autobiography and translation. Smt. Gupta is working in Chota Nagpur among the tribes and dalits. She represents the cause of such oppressed communities and labour class people. Her writing deals with problems faced by the common people, women and adivasis at the grass root.



Smt. Gupta read out from her writings and enthralled the audience with her experience of writing and working with common people and adivasis.

Recipient of several awards and honours, for her contributions to literature and society, that include Mahatama Joti Phule award, Ambedkar award, M.P Dalit Sahitya Academy Award etc., she is well-known for more than two decades in the field of literature and social service.



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Chandrasekhar Kambar and H.S. Shivaprakash

Kavisandhi H.S Shivaprakash

A 'Kavisandhi' programme with H.S Shivaprakash, veteran poet and playwright in Kannada was organised on 23 September 2013 at Rabindra Bhawan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi formally introduced the poet to the audience. He is presently on Indian Government's assignment in Germany as Counsellor at the Indian Embassy and Director, Tagore Centre, Berlin.

The first poem he read was written in 1976 when he was 12 years old. The poem is a part of a legend of young Milerepa, a famous poet and yogi of Tibet who spent many years as a student of great Buddhist yogi Marpa Lotsawa. He returned back home to see his parents dead, sister gone mad and his house in shambles. He was endowed with some psychic power to revive and restore the past situation. The poem is a powerful depiction of the present and past life of Milerepa. The fallen house with moth eaten pillars is the present signs of his home. His memories of childhood and generations were buried beneath the anonymity of time. The young poet's positive energy and resolution are reflected in the poem when he says "Yes Milerapa, being back the olden days. Why should I make my parents be

victims of the rotating wheels".

The second poem, he read, was a prose poem. The poet started writing the prose poems under the influence of French poets. The prose poem entitled "Festival of Kites" is not only the poet's reminiscence of kite flying in his boyhood days. It is also a scathing attack on the elders using their children on their will as wanton boys to make them cut the weaker threads of the kites flown by their peers.

The next poem was a symbolic poem warning his son to be careful while he was treading on the road full of melting tar, glass pieces and clumsy building materials and broken bangles. He also read out a few more of his recent poems written in the meter of Kannada and Marathi folk poetry.

Sahitya Akademi's Vice-President, veteran poet and playwright in Kannada, Chandrasekhar Kambar who was present in the programme said that while they both write in Kannada, Shivaprakash entered the world of Kannada poetry after sometime when Kannada poetry was lost in universalism in accordance with the Euro-centric trend. He tried to reinvent the energies of invoking the rich folk and bhakti tradition of Kannada literature.



A Poetry Evening Margaret Mascarenhas

An evening of English poetry was held on 19 August 2013 in the Sahitya Akademi auditorium, where Margaret Mascarenhas read out from her collections of poems *Triage Casualties of Love and Sex*. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced the poet to the audience.

Margaret Mascarenhas is a multi-lingual writer, consulting editor and independent curator from Indo-American origin with a background in comparative literature at UC Berkeley. She received her training in Indian Art from art historian Dr. Saryu Doshi with whom she worked as an assistant editor for several years at Marg, and subsequently as a consulting editor. She is the author of the diasporic novel *Skin* (Penguin India 2001). Her second novel *The Disappearance of Irene Dos Santos* (Hachette USA 2009) is set in Venezuela where she grew up. She is currently the Founder and Director of the Blue Shores Prison Art-Project at the Central Jail, Aguada in Goa where she teaches a four year curriculum of poetry performance art and visual art. She explores the relationships of image movement and text and the ways in which they function independently and interrelatedly in the creative process to express and/or elicit emotion. She has been writing poetry and sketching for over 20 years. *Triage-Casualties of Love and Sex* (Harper Collins India 2013), is her first published collection of poetry. Chairing the session was K. Satchidanandan who spoke elaborately on her poetry before she began her reading. The programme was followed by a lively interactive session with audience.

Writers' Delegation to Thailand

Indian writers' delegation visited Thailand under Cultural Exchange Programme from 7 to 15 July 2013. The delegation consisted of Indian writers that included Harekrishna Satapathy, eminent Sanskrit scholar and poet; Arjun Deo Charan, eminent Rajasthani playwright; Rita Shukla, eminent Hindi fiction writers and Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi as the Coordinator of the team.

The delegation met writers in Thailand and exchanged views. They also participated in some literary programmes organized by the Thailand Writers' Associations and the Government of Thailand.

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Writers' Delegation from Croatia



L-R: Srecko Horvat, Sreenivasarao, K. Satchidanandan and Nikola Petkovic

Three member writers' delegation visited India under the aegis of Cultural Exchange Programme by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Government of Croatia. The team of delegation consisted of Caciovic, President of PEN Croatia and professor of philosophy at Zagreb University; Nikola Petkovic, writer, literary critic, translator, screen-writer and scholar, teaching at the University of Rijeka and Srecko Horvat, philosopher and writer visited Sahitya Akademi on 17 September 2013.

A literary meet of Croatian writers with Indian writers was arranged in the evening on 17 September 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi while welcoming the writers' delegation called that cultural exchange among the countries through literature and other arts is the culmination of human mind and a great endeavour of maturity among nations.

K. Sachidanandan, eminent Malayalam poet, critic and scholar who introduced the guest writers said the writers were the finest intellectuals from

Croatia who produced extremely significant works, much relevant to our time.

The first writer, Ms. Caciovic read out a poem. The poem was about her friend in Czechoslovakia who died of cancer. A heart rendering verses, the poem concluded with the lines: Sing with me.

You are used to elsewhere,
No Spanish in your lips,
Thinking of you,
Thinking of time to melt us.

Mr. Nikola Petkovic read out an essay. It is a kind of mediation on the great French poet Mallarmé and it is about the metaphor of books dealing with the idea of reading and writing.

Mr. Srecko Horvat spoke about his book, *What does not Europe Want*. He called India a most developing country like China. He dealt with the economic and political crises in Europe. Croatia with six million populations recently joined the European Union. There has been a great unemployment problem and financial crisis in Europe. He quoted some instances. His sister, a German teacher, who travelled to Kathmandu

seeking a job there and then went to Africa. At last she found a job in India in Surat, Gujarat. His book mostly dealt with the crisis in Europe in the economic and political context, he said.

In the interaction, at the end, many points came up and discussed like the current political situations, writers' associations, the idea of Indian literature in the minds of Croatian people or emergence of any new Pan-Slavic ideologies in literature.

On the scenarios of the contemporary Croatian writing, the guest writers said that their literature is traditional and realistic inspired by new media. Repetitive expressions hardly find a place in their contemporary writings. There are several wonderful poets in their languages, which make their languages new with imaginative innovations. There are only a few translations of Indian literature available in their languages. Mostly, Indian studies are being done through English translation by the Croations. Cultural Exchange ended with a positive note to bring out more books in translations, in Croatian and Indian languages.



Symposium on Shahryar



“Shahryar is an epitome of excellence in Urdu poetry and his creations would serve as a guide to the young poets and wield influence for generations to come”,

remarked Zameer Uddin Shah, Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), while delivering the inaugural address at the Symposium on ‘Shahryar’s Life and Works’ organized on 26 August 2013 by Sahitya Akademi, Delhi at the Arts Faculty, AMU.

Gen. Shah said that Shahryar was an alumnus of this University and served as a teacher for more than two decades. He not only achieved distinction of being a Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi Award winner but also brought laurels by penning popular songs for Indian cinema. He acknowledged the fact that Shahryar dedicated all his life to promote Urdu language.

Chandra Bhan Khayal, Convenor of Urdu Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory speech said

that his association with Shahryar spanned over four decades and his work will keep resounding his greatness for the ages. He said that besides being a poet of eminence, Shahryar was also a great human being.

Delivering the presidential address, Shafey Kidwai, Chairman, Department of Mass Communication, AMU said that Shahryar had expertise in expressing his feelings with great precision. Shahryar succeeded in portraying common human sentiments and that is why his poetry strikes a chord with the masses, he added.

Khursheed Ahmad, former Chairman of Department of Urdu elaborated on the various attributes of Shahryar’s poetry. He said that Shahryar and Akhta-rul Iman took Urdu Nazm to new heights. According to him, Shahryar was a friendly person and always held friendship on top. Abul Kalam Qasmi said that Shahryar’s poetry is endowed with creative potential.

Mushtaq Sadaf, Programme Officer of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi conducted the programme. Ghazanfar,

Prem Kumar, Seema Sagheer and Sarwarul Hoda presented their papers in the first session. The second session was presided over by Aqeel Ahmad Siddiqui, and Ajay Bisariya, A.R. Fatihi and Mirza Shafeeq Hussuain Shafaq highlighted various aspects of Shahryar’s creative world and amenable traits of his personality.

The day-long symposium came to a close with a poetry reading session, in the memory of Shaharyar, presided over by Chandra Bhan Khayal and Saeeduz Zafar Chughtai. Well-known poets Jamuna Prasad Rahi, Mehtab Haider Naqvi, Raeesuddin Raees and Rashid Anwar Rashid recited their poems.

Kavisandhi Madan Mohan Soren

Sahitya Akademi organised a ‘Kavisandhi’ programme with eminent Santali poet Madan Mohan Soren on 1 September 2013 at Chakulia. N.C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed him and gave a brief introduction. He recited his poems, titled “Gadabali”, “Situng”, “Jaapud” and “Dularia”. His poem depicted the pain and sorrow of Santali society. There was an appeal for brotherhood in his poems. Poems were much appreciated by the audience.



L-R: Chandra Bhan Khayal, Zameer Uddin Shah, Abul Kalam Qasmi, Khursheed Ahmad



Symposium Miraji: Literature and Thought

Santali Rachnapath

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Santali Rachnapath' programme at Asha Auditorium, J.C. High School, Ghatshila, Jharkhand on 31 August 2013. Programme was inaugurated by Sobhanath Beshra, well-known Santali writer, while the chief guest was the first Akademi award-winner in Santali language, Jadumani Besra. Inaugural session was chaired by Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi. Fagu Soren was invited as the guest of honour of the occasion.

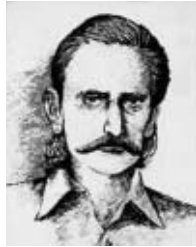
Inaugurating the programme, Sobhanath Beshra said that our society should encourage Santali literature. Jadumani Besra and other speakers also expressed their views. N. C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering and Fudan Chandra Soren proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.

First and third sessions of the programme were dedicated for poetry reading, while short stories were read in the second session. Benudhar Tudu, Bapuram Besra and Khelaram Murmu and Saridharam Hansda read out their poems in the first session, which was presided over by Saridharam Hansda.

Niranjan Hansda chaired the second session. T. C. Baskey, Dijapada Hansda, Baliswar Soren and Sirip Chandra Soren read out their short stories.

Third session was presided over by Sailajananda Hansda. Vijay Kumar Murmu, Sunil Baran Murmu, Harinath Murmu, Bishnu Kumar Murmu, Lakhan Besra and Siba Sankar Soren recited their poems in this session.

The presented poems and stories dealt with the day to day tribal problems.



On 9 September 2013, Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium at its Kolkata office auditorium on the renowned Urdu poet Meeraji. It was attended by a host of Urdu poets and literary stalwarts. The seminar began with the welcome address by Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi.

Shafey Kidwai, in his keynote address, focused on the bohemian life style of Meeraji and said about the distinctive characteristics of his writings. Referring to some of his celebrated works such as *Samundar ka bulawa* or *Nagari Nagari Phira Musafir* he stated that Meeraji is considered to be one of the pioneers of symbolism in Urdu poetry who introduced free verse, run-on-lines and blank verse rejecting the conventional form. Inspired deeply by French poetry, Meeraji had acknowledged his debt to Baudelaire. He also translated a lot of foreign works into Urdu.

After a strong and informative presentation by Dr. Kidwai, the guest of honour Khalil Mamoon expressed

his opinion that much research was done on this powerful poet. He judged Meeraji as a 'total poet' assimilating 'Indianism' completely. He informed the audience about the presence and impact of surrealism in Meeraji's poetry along with its lyrical appeal. In his presidential address, Chandra Bhan Khayal said, "Meeraji was an extraordinary poet who led an extraordinary life." Though Meeraji died at a premature age of 37, his contribution to Urdu poetry is significant and relevant even today".

The first session was presided over by Nizzam Siddhiki which included presentations by Asim Shahnawaz Shivli and Shamin Anwar. Sri Shibli compared Meeraji with another celebrated Urdu poet Mir while Sri Anwar attracted the audience's attention on the impact of theories of Dadaism, Cubism and Imperialism in Meeraji's poetry.

The post-lunch session was presided over by F.S Ejaz accompanied by three speakers on stage. Abuzar Hashmi, Ashfakh Ahmad Arfi and Ajay Malwi read their papers, highlighting Meeraji's psyche, even referring to a possibility of the presence of split personality in him. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.



L-R: Khalil Mamoon, Chandra Bhan Khayal and Shafey Kidwai



Young Writers' Meet

From North-East and Eastern India

North-East and Eastern young writers' meet, 'Purbottari' organized by Sahitya Akademi, Delhi was inaugurated by Pratibha Ray, eminent Odia writer and Jnanpith Awardee at hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar. Thirty eight young writers from North-East and Eastern India joined to share and showcase their creative endeavour in the literary event.

In her inaugural speech, Pratibha Ray described the vastness of literature. She said, "Language is regional, but when language turns into literature, it becomes universal. A literature is beyond language, region, religion and gender". Pointing at Sahitya Akademi, she told that it is a democratic body, where every writer can put his/her creativity. Convenor of Sahitya Akademi, Odia Advisory Board, Gourahari Das in his introductory speech gave a beautiful picture of the North-East and Eastern parts of India. Discussing the uniqueness and commonness of the river Bramhaputra, he said that nature has always been an unfailing and inexhaustible source of inspiration to

the writers. Describing literature as a parallel document to history of civilization, he said that young writers today face a lot of questions. Communal disharmony, anger, frustration, fanaticism and fundamentalism are causing a lot of restlessness in the society. He hoped, "At this crucial moment, the test of a writer lies not just in giving a portrait of the situation, but in lighting a candle of hope". Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, K Sreenivasrao delivered the welcome address. He told that Sahitya Akademi is the only institution to undertake literary programmes in 24 Indian languages. He welcomed everybody to celebrate the joy of literature.

Bengali poet Saubhik De Sarkar, Bodo poet Rujab Muchahary, Manipuri poet Haobam Nalini, Nepali poet Kamal Regmi, North-East poet Pankaj Banik and Odia poet Gayatibata Panda and Sitansu Lenka recited their poems both in their regional languages and English translations. Noted columnist Hara Prasad Dash's poetry collection, *Shiva in*



One of the sessions in the Writers' Meet



Manhattan was released during this occasion.

The first session devoted to short story reading was chaired by Karabi Deka Hazarika, convenor of Assam Sahitya Akademi. While Assamese writer Monika Deves read out her story “The Igloo”, Bengali writer, Binod Ghosal presented a great short and crispy story about the impact of ‘SMS’ on youth of today. Also Bodo writer, Sansumai Khugri Basumatari presented his story “Katha Gire Samsane” and Odia writer Srustishree Naik presented a heart touching short story, “Mohini”. Akademi’s programme Officer Mihir Sahoo delivered the vote of thanks.

The second session of poetry reading was presided over by Hara Parasad Dash. He emphasized, if somebody wants to understand a poem, then s/he must listen to the style of recitation first. Language is the second thing to understand poetry. Bengali poet Mitul Dutta, Bodo poet Shanti Basumatary, Manipuri poet A Kritimala Singh, Nepali poet Rajendra Pasha, Odia poet Saroj Bal and North-East poets Suranjana Kundu Chaudhuri and Crystal Cornelious D Marak recited their poems.

Many interesting stories and melodious poems reflecting the life style of North-East and Eastern parts of India was felt in this literary festival. The second day of the occasion started with the third session on short story reading. It was chaired by Paramita Satpathy. Smt Satpathy said that stories enjoy greatest freedom of expression. She also emphasized that it is not necessary for a writer to draw the conclusion every time. Stories can be open ended too. Assamese writer Pranjit Bora, Bengali writer Sadique Hossain, Bodo writer Diganta Lawary, Manipuri writer Ranjita Konthoujam and Odia writer

Play Reading by Prabhakar Shotriya

Katha Sandhi programme with Prabhakar Shotriya an eminent Hindi writer, critic, playwright and former editor of *Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya* was organized on 27 July 2013. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guest and audience. Secretary expressed his happiness over reviving the play-reading programme series by the Akademi.



The epic-drama he read out before the audience was enacted in various parts of India and has been translated into various languages. There was an interactive session after his reading. Prof. Shotriya who published more than 50 books is also a fine essayist and scholar who taught Hindi in the University level.

Sujit Kumar Panda read out their stories.

Bikram Keshari Das presided over the fourth session, ‘Why do I write’. Prof. Das told that there is an unborn story within a writer waiting to be born. That is why a writer writes. He also added that a writer is not just an individual, s/he is a complex personality of many impulses. He also compared writers with instruments who can only reflect the rhythm of society. Assamese writer Arindam Borkataki, Bengali writer Soma Bandopadhyay, English writer Rajat Chaudhury, Manipuri writer Naorem Ahanjao Meitei and Odia writer Debasish Samantarary shared their experience of writing. Answering interesting questions, many writers emphasized upon the inspiration of nature for their writing, others reiterated that writing is the only thing that they can do.

The last session on poetry reading

was chaired by Subodh Sarkar. He emphasized that writers should identify themselves as Indians. He also felt sorry about the regional and linguistical boundaries in literature. Bengali poet Souradip Adak, Bodo poet Dhirju Jyoti Basumatary, Manipuri poet Sunolata Yengkhom, Nepali poet Manoj Bogati, North-East poet Requoma Rq Laloo and Odia poets Deepsha Rath and Akhila Naik recited their poems. Mihir Sahoo proposed the vote of thanks.





Festival of Kabir

A two day programme of 'Kabir Utsav' was organized by Sahitya Akademi on 3 and 4 August 2013 in collaboration with Manviya Mulya Anusheelan Kendra, Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi.

Purshottam Aagarwal, well-known critic in his key-note address expressed, "To call Kabir a voice of edge is a result to view Indian literature from a perspective of colonialism. Kabir's voice is a poetry from heart of a sensitive human being". Further he explained that 'bhakti' poets including Kabir set a different social value.

Delivering the introductory address, Convenor of Hindi Advisory Board, Surya Prasad Dixit said that Kabir and Tulsī portrayed the life and also the interests of common man. The session was presided over by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi.

The first session focused on "Kabir in Loka" was presided over by Surya Prasad Dixit. In this session, Neerja Madhav, Gautam Chatterjee and Prakash Uday presented their papers. In the evening a 'Poets' Meet' was organised. Gyanendrapati, eminent Hindi poet chaired the Meet. Goshthi Ashtbhuja Shukla, Aashish Tripathi, Vashishtha Anup, Om Nischal, Daanish, Janardan Prasad Pandey, Arunabh Saurabh and Paramjeet Singh recited their poems.

The subject of the second session of the next



Purushottam Agarwal and Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari

day was "Kabir in Scholarly World". Awdesh Prasad presided over the session and Ajay Verma, Rajender Prasad Pandey and Rakesh Kumar Mittal presented their papers. Common idea emerged among the paper readers that there is a need to understand the poetics of Kabir in the light of Indian poetry otherwise he would simply be understood as a 'Bhakti Kavi'. In the third session Balram Pandey, Arunesh Neeran and Uday Pratap Singh presented their papers. The session "Kabir in Behddi Maidan" was presided over by Ramvachan Rai .

The programme concluded with the presentation of songs by Bharu Singh Chauhan at Pandit Onkarnath Thakur Auditorium, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.



L-R: Paramveer Singh, Gyanendrapati, Ashtabhuja Shukla and Brajendra Tripathi



A 'Literary Forum' was organized on 18 September 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi wherein two young poets of Italian origin were invited to read out their poems before selected audience. The first poet Zingonia Zingone, though born in Italy, was brought up in Costa Rica in Central America where Spanish is the spoken language. She grew up with three languages Italian, English and Spanish. She started writing poetry in English in her childhood and then moved to Italian and then switched over to Spanish. Her real heart beat is in Spanish. She is writing in Spanish for last 15 years. She calls Spanish is the mother tongue of her poetry. She is a well-known translator of these three languages. Zingonia read out five of her poems in English translations and two in original Spanish. Her poem entitled "Roots" conveyed a message that regardless of roots, we all belong to one tree. The second poem was about consequences of our action that

invokes humility as it is an endless value.

The next poet Annelisa Addolorato is a well-known Italian and Spanish poet and writer who published two of her

poems in original, Italian and H.S. Shivaprakash, Kannada poet and playwright read out the English translation. She read out the poems, "Snows and Sands," "A Frozen Shadow," "Sediments of the Antics," "Flying Daggers," etc.

The poets had a discussion with the audience after the reading session. The poets expressed that they did not subscribe to any ideological influence as they always worked on their intuition. They are the mixture of cultures by virtue of their birth and brought up. They were also exposed to French, English, American

Literary Forum Italian and Spanish Writers



Zingonia Zingone and Annelisa Addolorato

collections of poetry both in Italian and Spanish. She was inspired by Octavia Paz, Clara James and other Latin American writers. Her works have been translated into many European languages. The poet read out a few of her short

literatures and also literatures of Asia. According to Zingonia, "poetry speaks about wounds, through those wounds we get us to light". She saw her books as the books of hope. The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

Meet the Author

Aacharya Reva Prasad Dwivedi



Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized 'Meet the Author' programme on Aacharya Reva Prasad Dwivedi, a Sanskrit writer and scholar at Senate Hall, Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi.

In his detailed speech Prof. Dwivedi refuted those beliefs that are prevalent in literature for years with regard to rasa in poetry. Prof. Dwivedi also established that literatures written in different languages cannot be considered literature differently as literature is one, he said.



Symposium on Children's Literature



Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Punjabi Sath, Mohali organized a symposium on 'Children's Literature in Punjabi' on 11 August 2013 at Shivalik School, Mohali, Punjab.

Inaugurating the symposium, Rawail Singh, Convenor, Punjabi Advisory Board discussed in detail the present scenario of children's literature in Punjabi. He emphasized that one who is writing for children should be aware of child psychology and in the present era of information technology and electronic media, he/she should be more careful while writing for children. He said that though there are number of writers writing for children in Punjabi, our celebrated writers never tried this genre.

Earlier welcoming the audience, Manjeet Bhatia, Publication Assistant, Sahitya Akademi elaborated the efforts made by Sahitya Akademi in promoting children literature in 24 Indian languages.

Delivering the keynote address, eminent scholar Manmohan said, "Children literatuers are more respected in Western countries than in India". He also said, "He does not have to write to educate the children but to make them a good and responsible citizen".

Eminent children's literature writers Manmohan Singh Dau and Darshan Singh Asht, both Sahitya Akademi children's literature award winners, and Sarbjeet Bedi shared their experience and spoke on different aspects of children's literature in Punjabi.

A number of scholars, who attended the programme, took part in the discussion on papers. Symposium was chaired by Deepak Manmohan Singh and Jaspal Kang. Amarjit Ghumman proposed a vote of thanks.



L-R: Manmohan, Rawail Singh, Manmohan Singh Dau and others



Vanita, Subash Shamaji and Suman Kiran

Nari Chetna

Nari Chetna programme with three women writers was held at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 6 August 2013.

Subash Shamaji short story writer in English, Suman, poet, fiction writer and critic in Hindi and Vanita poet, critic and translator in Punjabi participated in the programme and read out from their works before the audience.

Subhash Shamaji is a talented fiction writer having a brilliant career. Soon after her IAS, she served more than a decade in the tribal areas of southern Odisha where she endeavoured for a social change by empowering women and also addressing complex issues concerning left wing extremism. She has a collection of short stories entitled *Fly on the Wall*.

The next poet, who read out her poems, was Suman Kiran, a well-known young writer in Hindi and a brilliant translator. Many of her contributions have been published in various literary journals. A post-graduate from JNU and an MBA from Western Australia, Suman is doing her D.Litt from Mahatma Gandhi Katri Vidyapeet.

The concluding presentation was a poetry recitation by Vanita, eminent Punjabi poet. Vanita has about 40 publications to her credit and contributed many articles in leading literary journals. Receptient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi Prize for translation, Bhasha Bharati Samman etc., Dr. Vanita is teaching Punjabi at Delhi University.



Asmita Santali Writers

Sahitya Akademi organised an 'Asmita' programme with Santali women writers on 1 September 2013 at Chakulia. The programme was chaired by Shobha Hansda. N. C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty (Programme), Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and audience. Shakuntala Tudu, Supriya Hansda, Rukmini Tutu and Swapna Hembram recited their poems at the programme.

Shakuntala Tudu recited her poem, "Baha Parayani" in which she inspired women for their contribution to the society. Supriya Hansda expressed the desire of a woman in her poem that she wants freedom for a caged bird.

Rukmini Tutu appealed youth, in her poem, to come forward for the development of their language. Swapna Hembram recited her poem, "Dharanj Juge". In her poem she also stressed on the development of the language. Shobha Hansda expressed happiness over the presentations after summing up the readings.



A 'Literary Forum' programme of poetry reading by A.J. Thomas, well-known Indian English poet, fiction writer, veteran translator and former editor of *Indian Literature*, Sahitya Akademi's literary journal in English was organised on 29 August 2013. Starting his literary journey as an Indian English writer and occasionally in Malayalam at the late twenties, Dr. Thomas regularly publishes poetry, fiction, translations, book reviews and features on literary and cultural matters in journals, magazines and websites in India and abroad.

Introductory speech was delivered by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. He introduced Dr. Thomas as a creative writer par excellence who grew strong in his translations of various genres of Malayalam literature into English. He described him as a poet and translator of dexterity and genuineness.

Before reading his poems, Dr. Thomas expressed his gratitude for the warmth that Sahitya Akademi bestows upon him whenever he is back in India and said that the poems he would read out were his recent compositions not yet published.

Most of the poems he read out were deep reflections of the past with a sense of 'capped emotions.' The first

poem "Being" reflected his feeling of separation from his own world and a sense of loneliness he underwent in an alien land. The lines "Smugly detached from the ballasting past," well-expressed his sudden displacement and the line "The mirage smile of the future" reflected the futility of the compulsion of his displacement. He read about 16 poems and among them were a few short poems. His poem "Dhanushkodi" is a realistic portrayal of the ravages of the island destroyed by a cyclone in 1964. The poem "Nagalkot-Sarangkot: Nepal, August 12" is a penportrait of the places in the divine land of Nepal. "Great Land Sea" and "Desert Storm" recaptured scenes of Libya, as pictures with stray eucalyptus of the desert shrubs of lesser plants with irresolute stunted trees etc. The poet quite often compared shrubs to the thriving human spirit. Readers could hear the whisper, murmur, mumble, shriek and mischief of the whirl wind of the deserts from his poetry.

The poem "Empire of Solitude," evoked an unbound empathy for the lone poet who was half the world away from home and who did not have cell-phone to call even on the Christmas Day. Genuine expression and the amazing imageries of the poet enthralled the audience.

In an interactive session, the questions ranging from what made him to pen poetry, his reaction over the revolutions and his deviation as an Indian English poet from Malayalam literary tradition were discussed at length.

Literary Forum A.J. Thomas



Asmita Santali Women Writers

An 'Asmita' programme was organised by Sahitya Akademi at Town Hall, Rairangpur, West Bengal on 28 September 2013 with young Santali writers. The programme was presided over by Joba Murmu, well-known Santali women writer, while the guest of honour of the occasion was Gangadhar Hansda, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. N. C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty (Programme), Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests.

Joba Murmu, in her presidential speech while emphasising the role of women said, "Though the contribution of women writers is less than male writers yet their effort is equivalent to that of the male writers in the field of Santali literature. A woman distributes love, will-power and sanctity to make the society advanced and throws light on the path of wisdom".

As the first participants, Sarika Soren read out a short story "Parsi" which presented a real picture of a Santali family. In this story she tried to portray a picture of a son and his wife who were highly educated in English medium schools, but they fail to learn their own mother tongue. As a result his parents were disheartened at the behaviour and attitude of his son and his wife. Later on, the son and his wife realised their mistakes and learn 'Ol Chiki' which helped them to bind intimate relationship with the community.

Jaleswari Hansdah, read out her poem "Santali Pathua" in which she emphasised on the importance of education. Her second poem "Bairy" presented a harsh picture of society in which envy and jealousy destroy our society. "Bhandan", her next poem, reflected the traditional system of the society.

Singa Murmu, another young poet gave a picture of the differences of a boy and a girl in the society through her poem "Kuli Hapan". Her next poem, "Sashan Cheta" gave a beautiful picture of a new-born bird who waited for her mother to return to the nest



An array of Santali poet participants

to give her food and safety. Sili Hansdah presented her poem "Sawauta Chitar Alem" based on the condition of the society in the past and the present. The poems "Seday Yus" and "Aam Banam" were also related to Santali culture.

Sarada Marandi read out "Haudi Parua Arsong" and showed how 'handia' is destroying our society. The poem "Abra" presented a nice picture about how a destructive boy is punished for his wicked action. The poem "Chekate Ing Nawa Harate" also based on the education and literature of the Santali people.

Gangadhar Hansda presented his views on the poems and short story presented in the programme.

Through my Window

Amarnath Jha spoke on Harimohan Jha

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Through My Window' programme with Amarnath Jha in collaboration with Antarrashtriya Maithili Parishad on 29 September 2013 at Chimanlal Bhalotia Auditorium, Jamshedpur.

Amarnath Jha, noted Maithili writer spoke on the renowned Maithili writer Harimohan Jha. He expressed his views on the works of Harimohan Jha, specially on his famous book *Khattar Kaka*. This book contains satire on Hindu orthodox religion and culture. Each satire deals with an ancient text like the *Mahabharata*, the *Ramayana*, puranas etc. It is a dialogue between the writer and a fictional character Khattar Kaka. He also talked about Harimohan's life and influence of him on contemporary Maithili writers and society.



L-R: Ashok Avichal, R.K. Chaudhary, Bina Thakur, Jay Kumar, Girijanana Jha 'Arddhanarishwar' and Dilip Jha

Symposium Children's Literature in Maithili

Sahitya Akademi organised a one-day symposium on 'Children's Literature in Maithili' in collaboration with Antarrashtriya Maithili Parishad on 29 September 2013 at Chimanlal Bhalotia Auditorium, Jamshedpur.

Symposium was inaugurated by S.N. Thaku, Chairman, ASEA, Jamshedpur. The inaugural session was chaired by Brajkishore Mishra, while keynote address was given by Bhagwan Chaudhary. Bina Thakur, Convenor, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave her introductory speech. At the beginning N.C. Mahesh, OSDP, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience.

First session was chaired by Vivekanand Thakur. Ravindra Kumar Chaudhary, Shivkumar 'Tillu' and Panchanan Mishra presented their papers in this session on the topics "State and Direction of Children Literature in Maithili", "Origin and Development of Children Literature in Maithili" and "Language and Craft of Children Literature" respectively. Ajay Kumar Ray also presented his views in this session.

Second session was chaired by Shanti Suman, veteran Maithili poet. Aruna Jha, Siyaram Jha 'Saras' and Shyamal Suman presented their papers in the session on the topics "Khissa, Fakhara and Paheli in Maithili Children Literature", "Maithili Rhymes, structure, state and possibilities" and "Language and Future of children's literature in Maithili". Sudhir Chandra Mishra also presented his views in this session.

Valedictory session was chaired by Girijanand Jha 'Arddhanarishwar'. Ashok Kumar Jha 'Avichal' delivered his speech as an observer of the symposium. Chief guest of this session was Jay Kumar and the guest of honour was Dilip Jha. R. K. Chaudhary compered this session. Bina Thakur, on behalf of Sahitya Akademi and Amlsh Jha, on behalf of Antarrashtriya Maithili Parishad, proposed the vote of thanks at the end.

Kavisandhi Jadumani Besra

A 'Kavisandhi' programme was organised at Town Hall, Rairangpur, West Bengal on 28 September 2013 with eminent Santali poet Jadumani



Besra. N. C. Mahesh, OSDP, Sahitya Akademi welcomed him and gave a brief introduction.

First Sahitya Akademi award-winner in Santali language, Jadumani Besra read out his eight poems which were highly acclaimed by the audience. His first poem, "Okarem Taker Kanaho Jaduram" described Jaduram as an engineer who suffered and helped the people who were directly affected due to industrialization. Jaduram rendering justice to the people was glorified in the poem.

The poem "Bechara Bikram" portrays a life of a tribal daily wager who is misunderstood by the CRPF Jawans as a terrorist and shot him dead. "Indunj Udauh Kana" implies the dreams of a small boy who tried to fly like a bird in his childhood and in his later life he became educated and tried to develop his language, culture and tradition.

His next poem "Potab Lagid Jay ga Banuh" presents the misery of a book-lover who constantly buys lots of books, despite his wife throws them out and he again keeps them in his bookshelf. "Bagahi Bir Mahal", "Midlang Parsi Renah Morow" and "Njur Samam" also portrayed the sensibility and vision of the poet.



Asmita Kashmiri Women Writers



Sahitya Akademi organized a programme 'Asmita' in Kashmiri at Kashmir Women's College of Education, Noorbagh, Sopore on 28 September 2013.

Six Kashmiri Women poets participated in the programme, Naseem Shafai, Firdous Rana, Rafiqā Majeed, Shama Sahiba, Sumera Hameed and Nighat Sahiba recited their latest poems.

The Convenor, Zaman Azurdah introduced the programme highlighting the activities of Sahitya Akademi

in the country with special reference to the programmes held for promotion of Kashmiri literature in Jammu and Kashmir. Shahnaz Rashid conducted the programme and Naseem Shafai, Sahitya Akademi award-winner presided over. The audience comprising of about 200 members, mostly ladies, appreciated the programme and presented there tribute to the poets. The prominent figures among audience were Atiqa Bano, Chairperson Majlis Nisa, Shahida Shabnum, Mustafa, the Principal of the college, Zameer Ansari, Parveez Ahmad Wani, Ranjoor Tigami, Nisar Azam and others.



Nighat Sahiba reciting her poems
L-R: Naseem Shafai, Zaman Azurdah and Atiqa Bano



A section of audience

Meet the Author K.B. Nepali

The program was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong on 15 Septembr 2013 at Babu Manisingh Gurung Auditorium, Garikhana, Shillong to felicitate the renowned poet, fiction writer and editor, K.B. Nepali. Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board presented a bouquet and a shawl to K.B. Nepali on behalf of Sahitya Akademi. In addition to this Sri Nepali was also felicitated by various organizations from the locality.

K.B. Nepali, in response to the honour received from Sahitya Akademi, various organizations and individuals of Meghalaya and Assam expressed his hearty gratitude and described how from a cowherd boy he rose to the present position when the apex body of Indian Literature gave him this recognition. While recalling his days of childhood, Nepali became emotional when he described how he was mentally and physically tortured by his step-mother. He was compelled to leave school and became a cowherd boy. His tender heart was totally broken and he used to write the word *abhaga* (unfortunate) after his name. Later, he realized that man is the matter of his own fate and abandoned the pseudo name *abhaga*. Sri Nepali read out a paper in which he elaborately described his creative activities.





Literary Forum Kashmiri Poets

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Literary Forum' programme at Saif-ud-din Memorial Conference Hall, S P College, Srinagar on 29 August 2013.

Five prominent poets of the valley recited their latest poems before 150 lovers of literature. Bashir Arif, Abdul Ahad Farhad, Zareef Ahmad Zareef,

Majrooh Rashid and Inayat Gul were the poets who recited their poems. The Convenor, Kashmiri Advisory Board welcomed the poets and the audience, and Abdul Ahad Farhad presided over. Majrooh Rashid, Member, Advisory Board presented the vote of thanks. Prominent among the audience were

Mohd. Yaseen, Sidique, Ayoub Sabir, Shahnaz Rashid, Jawhar Kashmiri, Nazir Azad and other faculty members and scholars of the college. The audience appreciated the poets and made them to repeat a few poems and some selected couplets.



L-R: Zaman Azurdah, Majrooh Rashid, Abdul Ahad Farhad, Bashir Arif, Zareef Ahmad Zareef and Inayat Gul

Kavisandhi Madan Mohan Soren

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Kavisandhi' programme with eminent Santali poet Madan Mohan Soren on 1 September 2013 at Chakulia. He recited his poems, "Gadabali", "Situng", "Jaapud" and "Dularia". His poem depicted the pain and sorrow of Santali society. Recited poems offered some philosophical aspects and there was an appeal for brotherhood. The poems were much appreciated by the audience.

Kathasandhi Ramdhan Hembram

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Kathasandhi' programme with eminent Santali fiction writer Ramdhan Hembram on 1 September 2013 at Chakulia. He presented his two short stories "Andha Patyav" and "Dharanj". In these stories he discussed the issue of superstitious belief and the use of intoxicants in Santal society. Before the presentation of short stories, he also appealed to the people of Santal society to abandon all types of bad habits.



Symposium

Maithili Journals and Its Literature

Sahitya Akademi organised a one-day Symposium on 'The Contribution of Maithili Journals in the Development of Maithili Language and Literature' on 22 September 2013 at Akademi Auditorium, Regional Office, Kolkata. Symposium was inaugurated by Bhogendra Jha, while keynote address was given by Devendra Jha. N. C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty (Programme), Sahitya Akademi welcomed the invited guests and the gathering. Beena Thakur, Convenor, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave the introductory speech.

The first session was chaired by Rajnandan Lal Das, the editor of Maithili journal *Karnamirra* and also a renowned Maithili writer. Tarakant Jha, Ramlochan Thakur and Anmol Jha presented their papers in this session on the topics "Origin of Maithili papers and magazines", "Appearance of earlier Maithili papers and magazines" and "The contribution of Maithili papers and magazines in the development of literature in pre-Independence period" respectively.

The second session was presided



L-R: Ramlochan Thakur, Prina Thakur, Anmol Jha, Raj Nandan Lal Das, Tarakant Jha

over by Virendra Mallick, eminent Maithili scholar. Navin Chaudhary, Ashok Jha and Mithilish Jha presented their papers on the topics "The contribution of Maithili papers and magazines in the freedom movement", "The contribution of Maithili papers and magazines in the development of literature after independence" and "State and direction of Maithili papers and magazines in the current scenario" respectively.

Valadictory session was chaired by Kishorikant Jha, while valedictory address was given by Gunanath Jha. Mahendra Hazari, as the observer of the symposium, said that very important and fruitful discussions were made. Gunanath Jha expressed his views on the role of paper and magazines, which is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy.

Meet the Author Damayanti Beshra

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Meet the Author' programme with eminent Santali woman writer Damayanti Beshra on 1 September 2013 at Chakulia. She is one of the most prominent Santali writers who is also a poet of considerable repute. Her writings not only inspire but also touch the hearts of both the young and the old.

Damayanti Beshra narrated her literary journey in detail. She told about her inspiration for writing poetry. Her first anthology *Jivi Jharna*, published in 1994, is the first ever anthology written and published by a female Santali writer. Damayanti Beshra was also the first convenor for the Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, after the recognition of Santali language by the Akademi. She won Sahitya Akademi Award in 2011 for her extraordinary anthology *Say Sebed*. In her speech she appealed women to come forward in every field of life and to struggle.





Meet the Author Bhogla Soren

A 'Meet the Author' programme was organised at Town Hall, Rairangpur, West Bengal on 28 September 2013 with eminent Santali writer Bhogla Soren. N. C. Mahesh, OSDP, Sahitya Akademi welcomed him and gave a brief introduction. Bhogla Soren is a well-known Santali dramatist and fiction writer. Six of his plays are published and staged throughout India.



The well known Santali dramatist Bhogla Soren spoke about his early life and literary journey. He said that after graduation, he met Pandit Raghunath Murmu and was inspired by him to serve his language and society. Afterward he wrote many drama and one act plays, which were broadly staged and got admiration of audience. Professionally an Engineer, Bhogla Soren had received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 2011. He has also written short stories and novels in Santali.

Literary Forum Kaluri Hanumant Rao



L-R: Kaluri Hanumant Rao, Kavalam Narayan Panikkar and K. Sreenivasarao

In a 'Literary Forum' series by the Akademi, famous poet Kaluri Hanumant Rao was invited to recite poems and also to discuss the critical editions of the *Ramayana*. The programme was held at Sahitya Akademi's Rabindra Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi on 20 August 2013. K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the guests and introduced the writer to the audience. The programme was presided over by well-known theatre person Kavalam Narayan Panikkar. Radhavallabh Tripathi read out the Hindi translations of Kaluri Hanumant Rao.

Translation Workshop Bengali-Dogri

A five-day Bengali-Dogri Short Story Translation Workshop was held by Sahitya Akademi at Patnitop, Jammu from 16 September to 20 September 2013. In this workshop, thirty four Bengali short stories from *Bangla Galpa Sankalan* edited by Sunil Gangopadhyay were translated into Dogri, 15 Dogri translators participated, namely: Vijaya Thakur, Chanchal Bhasin, Suneela Sharma, Nirmal Vikram, Krishna Prem, Narinder Bhasin, Chhatrarpal, Preetam Katoch, Yogesh Sharma, Shiv Dev Susheel, Darshan Darshi, Vijay Verma, Raj Rahi, Surjit Hosh and Sudhir Singh.

Prof. Veena Gupta and Prof. Shashi Pathania acted as Dogri resource persons and Amar Mudi was the Bangla expert. Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convenor of Dogri Advisory Board was the Director of the workshop.

Geetanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary of the Akademi welcomed the participants in the inaugural function on 16 September and stressed the importance of translation workshops in promoting inter-language literary interactions and bringing Indian literature on a common platform.

Prof. Mangotra, giving a brief introduction of earlier literary works of Bangla translated into Dogri and their impact on the growth of Dogri literature, highlighted the literary merit of the short stories selected for translation in the workshop. He hoped that this workshop will result into a very fruitful venture for enriching Dogri literature. He also outlined the working schedule of the workshop.



The participants and resource persons of the workshop



Yuva Sahiti

Keeping in view to encourage the young writers, a new programme series called 'Yuva Sahitya' had been added to Sahitya Akademi's other literary programme series. A programme under this series was organized by the Akademi on 25 July 2013 inviting three young writers Jatinder Parvez (Urdu), Gursharan (Punjabi) and Kumar Anupam (Hindi).

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced the concept of the new literary series and briefed Akademi's focus towards its promotion of young writers and their contributions.

Jatinder Parwaaz a well-known Urdu poet was the first poet who read out his recent poems. An excellent ghazal writer, Sri Pravez has published a few poetry collections and presented his ghazals in many mushairas, Akashwani and Doordarshan. Recipient of several awards that include Saraswati Ashirwad Award, Shresht Ghazalkaar Samman, Himachal Pardesh Chief Minister Award, Parwaaz also holds responsibilities in Urdu literary bodies.

Gursewak Lambi the next poet in Punjabi sang his ghazals and nazms to enthral the audience. He has already published an anthology of poetry and participated in



L-R: Jatinder Parvez, B.K. Tripathi, Kumar Anupam and Gursharan

a few Kavi Darbars. Recipient of Government of Punjab Puraskar, Sri Gurshar is presently teaching in Punjab University, Patiala.

The last poet who presented his poems was Kumar Anupam, a well-known Hindi poet. He has already published a collection of poetry which was well received. He is the recipient of prestigious Bharat Bhushan Agarwal Award.

At the end of the presentation, there was a lively interactive session between the young poets and the audience.



Translation Workshop Dimasa-English

North-East centre for Oral Literature, Agartala, Sahitya Akademi organized a three-day Dimasa-English translation workshop from 27 to 29 July 2013.

The workshop was inaugurated by Brajagopal Roy, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi. Saroj Chowdhury, eminent scholar and critic chaired the inaugural session. Jitendrajit Sinha was the Workshop Director and two resource persons were Sunil Kr. Barman, Secretary, Dimasa Sahitya Sabha, Cachhar, and Sudipta Khersa, Compiler and Editor.

Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay welcomed the participants and gave a report about previous four workshops conducted by Sahitya Akademi, NECOL Centre.

Brajagopal Roy inaugurated the workshop. Sunil Kr. Barman in his speech told the audience about how he got involved in popularizing Dimasa language and literature

and discussed in short the history of Dimasa language and literature. Rajkumar Jitendrajit Sinha spoke of his experience as a translator between Kokborok and Dimasa from the historical point of view.

Sudipta Khersa talked about the preparation of the manuscript. In his address, Prof. Saroj Chowdhury referred to his intensive travels through North-East India as his inner-self urging to delve deep into tribal literatures and languages of North-East India.

The participants of the workshop were Ashes Gupta, Bhaskar Roy Barman, Sayan Choudhury, Biswajit Gupta, Somenath Banik and Parthasarathy Gupta. The participants are well established writers and translators in their own rights.

After three days of hectic schedule with translation assignments, the translators sat with the resource persons and finalized the manuscript of the translated texts.



Akademi's Participation Seoul International Book Fair 2013

Sahitya Akademi participated in the Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) from 19 to 23 June 2013 where India was the Guest of Honour Country.

The delegation comprised of Leeladhar Jogoori, eminent Hindi writer; Dhruva Jyoti Borah, eminent Assamese writer; M. Priyobrata Singh Manipuri writer and Basavaraj Kalgudi, Kannada writer and K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi as the coordinator.

The SIBF 2013 was held at COEX Mall in Seoul (South Korea). Sahitya Akademi exhibited its books in the India Pavilion. The exhibition was coordinated by Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The Akademi displayed some about 100 titles mainly fiction, poetry, Tagore volumes and the major writings in English.

The SIBF was inaugurated on the 19 June 2013 by the President of South Korea, Ms Park Genu-hye. She also inaugurated the India Pavilion along with Jitin Prasada, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Government of India. A Sethumadhavan, Chairman; Vishnu Prakash, Ambassador of India to South Korea; Veena Ish, Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India; M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT; K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi were present during the inauguration.



L-R: Sethumadhavan, Jatin Prasada, K. Sreenivasarao and M.A. Sikandar

Sahitya Akademi organized two literary programmes during the Book Fair. On 20 June, the second day of the inauguration, all the four writers from India participated in the 'Readings' programme. Basavaraj Kalgudi read his poems in English translation and also one poem in his mother tongue Kannada followed by Leeladhar Jagoori who read his poem in Hindi, and subsequently the English translation. M. Priyobrata Singh also read his poems followed by Dhruva Jyoti Borah who read excerpts from his novel. All the readings were interpreted in Korean for the benefit of local audience.

Sahitya Akademi also participated in the Indo-Korean Digital Publishing Forum on 20 June 2013. There were three experts from the Korean Digital

Publishing House who gave a detailed report on the Digital publishing in south Korea which was quite informative.

On 21 June 2013, Sahitya Akademi organized another literary Symposium on 'My World, My Writings'. All the four writers spoke about their journey of writing and also the influences that shaped their writing career.

Indo-Korean publishers' round table meeting was arranged on 21 June 2013, with focus on children's literature. Sahitya Akademi also participated. The exhibition came to an end on 23 June 2013 after five days of literary activities.





Through My Window C.M. Adhikari spoke on D. T. Jimba

A 'Through My Window' programme with C. M. Adhikari was organised by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong on 15 September 2013 at Babu Manisingh Gurung Auditorium, Garikhana, Shillong.

D.T. Jimba was felicitated under this programme. He was felicitated with a bouquet and a shawl by D.N. Joshi. He was also felicitated by various organizations and distinguished persons. Soon after the felicitation, C.M. Adhikari in his speech threw focus on the contribution of D.T. Jimba. Sri Adhikari stated that Sri Jimba was born at Nagari Farm in 1928, Darjeeling and spent his childhood as well as school days in the hilly village of Darjeeling. Besides writing several text books on the subjects of geography and social studies, Jimba's devotion to Buddhism and its literature is noteworthy.

D.T. Jimba, in his speech expressed his deep gratitude to Sahitya Akademi for giving recognition for what he could do in his life. He also thanked all those who felicitated him. "This kind of honour at an old age works as tonic", he said.

Nepali Poets' Meet

A 'Nepali Poets' Meet' was organised by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong on 15 September 2013 at Babu Manisingh Gurung Auditorium, Garikhana, Shillong.

The programme was presided over by Nar Bahadur Rai and Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board graced the session as Chief Guest. Ten poets recited their poems. Bhakta Sing Thakuri recited his poem "Shillong Pahadma" (In the hills of Shillong), while Ram Bahadur Shah recited two poems, titled "Prakitima" (Nature) and "Apurna anubhav" (Incomplete Experience). Sitaram Paudel's poem is "Vetan" (Salary), Jeevan Rana's two poems, titled "Nisabda" (Silence) and "Gopinarayanprati" (To Gopinarayan) were recited. Anamika Rai recited her two poems, while Karna Thami recited five small poems. Manju Lama recited

her three poems and Hem Joshi recited four poems. Dilu Subedi recited his poem titled "Aajako Hastinapur" (Hastinapur of today) and Geeta Limbu recited her two poems, "Prerana" (Inspiration) and "Chahna" (The Wish).

Dambar Chhetri, Bishnu Shastri, Purna Kumar Sarma, Chandramoni Upadhyaya, Sagar Sapkota, K.B. Nepali, Ram Bahadur Thapa. Suk Bahadur Thapa and Mina Thapa Jimba also recited their poems on this occasion.

Prem Pradhan, chief guest of the poets' meet, appreciated poets and advised them to devote time in the creation of the finest poetry which may compel the reader to ponder over. Poets have the power to eradicate all the evil elements and thus make the world and human life worthy of living. N. B. Rai, Seceraty, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, thanked all for their co-operation and the poetic evening,



Anamika Rai reciting her poems.
L-R: Karna Thami, Prema Pradhan, N.B. Rai



Kavi-Anuvadak Nepali-Hindi

Under the 'Kavi-Anuvadak' literary series programme Man Prasad Subba, eminent Nepali poet was invited to present his poems followed by the Hindi translation by Beena Kshatriya.

Introducing the poet and translator to audience, the Deputy Secretary of the Akademi, Brijendra Tripathi said "Sri Subba has developed a new idiom in Nepali poetry which provides new horizon in the context of narrative poetry."

Sahitya Akademi Award-winner, Sri Subba started writing from his childhood days sitting in the lap of nature. His early poems were on nature and the later poems dealt with various issues of Nepali community.

Some of the titles of his poetry read out were "Hippocrate khushiyan," "Falendu ka ped" "Shahar-ek hotel ki balcony se", "Mere itihās ki battein," "Main kab kuchh ban paounga," etc.



Manprasad Subba and Bina Kshatriya

Mulakat with Dogri Writers

'Mulakat' programme in Dogri was organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi at K.L. Sehgal Hall, Jammu on 31 August 2013. Young and upcoming Dogri writers shared their literary works with the audience. This programme was designed to encourage young writers and to provide them a platform to showcase their talents. Rajeshwar 'Raju' and Sunita Bhadwal read out their short stories whereas Deepak Arsi and Joginder Kumar recited their poems.

Senior writers, critics, scholars and prominent citizens were present in the programme. There is freshness in the creations of these young writers which augers well for the future of Dogri.

Earlier Santanu Gangopadhyay, Assistant Editor of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi introduced 'Mulakat'

programme, while welcoming the audience, Lalit Mangotra, Convenor of Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi introduced the participants of the

programme and also threw light on the importance of the book released, which included translations of highly acclaimed works of other Indian languages.



L-R: Sunita Badwal, Rajeswar Raju, Santanu Gangopadhyay, Lalit Magotra, Deepak Assi and Joginder Kumar



Meet the Author Sureshwar Jha

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Meet the Author' programme with eminent Maithili writer Sureshwar Jha on 22 September 2013 at Akademi Auditorium, Regional Office, Kolkata. N. C. Mahesh, OSDP, Sahitya Akademi welcomed him and gave a brief introduction of the author. Sureshwar Jha is an eminent Maithili writer, editor and translator. Except poetry, he has written in almost all genres of Maithili literature such as short story, essay, memoir, travelogue and translation.

Sureshwar Jha spoke in details about his literary journey. He also remembered his student life and his deep relation with politics. He also shared his memoirs from his political and literary career. He also read out from his works.

Play Reading Daya Prakash Sinha



A 'Play Reading' programme was organised by the Akademi on 13 September 2013 at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi in which Daya Prakash Sinha, eminent fiction writer and playwright in Hindi presented excerpts from his new play *Samrat Ashok*.

Sri Sinha enriched the Indian stage as a playwright, director and actor. Honoured with Sangeet Natak Akademi award, he has undertaken research work too. Sinha's plays preserve the literary and artistic value of the Indian literature.



Heeralal Nagar, Narendra Nagdev, Mahesh Darpan

Story Reading Programme

A 'Literary Forum' programme was organised by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 30 July 2013. The eminent writers were invited to present their stories.

Narender Nagdave, a reputed writer and artist presented his two stories "Beemar Aadmi Ka Ikrarnama" and "Roshanlal ka Ration Card". The stories mainly dealt with identity crisis of the people and were widely appreciated by audience for its theme and narrative style. An architect by profession, Sri Nagdave has so far published three novels and seven story collections.

Mahesh Darpan read out two of his stories "Haque" and "Desh ke Bajat se pare". The first story was about loneliness of a father in the course of making career. The second story depicts the struggle being meted out by women in course of their daily needs. Hiralal Nagar presented a touching presentation of his story.

Brajendra Tripathi conducted the programme.

Sahitya Manch Programme

In this programme, three famous poets Dinesh Kushwaha, Varun Tiwary and Leena Malhotra Rao presented their poetry. Leena Malhotra Rao presented her poems titled "Adalat", "Meri yatra ka jaruri saman", "Madhumeh", "Chand par nirvasan", "Do hansti ladkiyan". The poems reflected sensitive views on the position of women in the society.

Poet Varun Kumar Tiwary from Kosi zone (Bihar) presented his poems reflecting different gesticulations of his region. Dinesh Kushwaha read his poems "Isi kaya mein moksh", "Ladkiyan aur sona" and "Pita ki chita jalate huye".

Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme



Staff of the Akademi with the chief guest Prabhakar Shotriya

Hindi Week 17-23 September 2013

Sahitya Akademi organized 'Hindi Week' from 17 to 23 September 2013 in Akademi's auditorium. Guest Editor of *Samkaleen Bhartiya Sabitya*, Ranjit Saha was the chief guest of the programme. Hindi writer Mridula Garg said in her speech that languages were born out of necessity. Learning new languages enriches us. Language provides confidence, compassion and also to develop love among human society. Ranjit Saha and Brajendra Tripathi also spoke on the occasion.

K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary of the Akademi expressed the need to celebrate 'Hindi Week' since Hindi connects the entire nation as a popular language of communication.

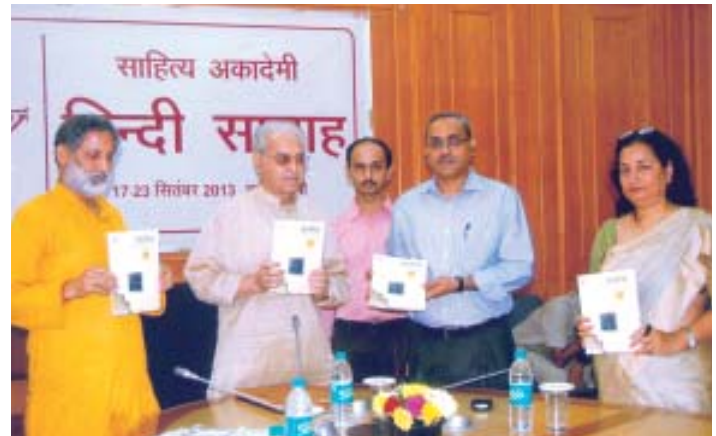
At the end of the programme, Shanta Grover gave a vote of thanks. A number of competitions were held during the week among the staff to prove their efficiency in the use of Hindi language.

In the valedictory function, after observing the 'Hindi Week' programme, held on 23 September 2013 in the Sahitya Akademi auditorium, New Delhi, famous Hindi critic and playwright Prof. Prabhakar Shotriya was invited as the chief guest for the occasion. A new issue of Akademi's Rajbhasha journal *Aalok* was released. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary and Prof. Shotriya gave away prizes to the winners of various competitions. In his valedictory speech, Prof. Shotriya said that the language spoken by the common man is growing. We should include Hindi in our day to day life which would ultimately enrich the language itself.

In the end of the programme, Geetanjali Chatterjee proposed a vote of thanks.



Mridula Garg with the Akademi officials



Aalok being released



Library Forum

Meet the Author

Nida Fazli

Urdu Poet



Sahitya Akademi organized its 'Meet the Author' programme on 30 September 2013 at Ram Manohar Lohiya auditorium of I.T.M University, Gwalior. One of the significant Urdu poets, Padmashri Nida Fazli was invited to speak on his experiences as a writer.

Nida Fazli, on this occasion, talked about his life and his poetic journey. "My life is poetry and poetry is my life," he expressed. He shared his pain on the Partition of the country when his father, mother and all family members migrated to Pakistan but he decided to stay in India and faced all kinds of problems.

There was time when 'word' was given importance but in today's society 'word' comes last in the line. The meanings have been taken away from words. The place where 'word' gets respect, the heaven kisses the ground with love at that place. Nida Fazli also recited his ghazals and poems.



Sufian Ahmad, Shashank Pratap Singh and others

Sahitya Akademi Library organized user awareness cum training programme on 15 July 2013 for the library users at New Delhi. A large number of library users and other library and information professionals attended this programme. The librarian, Sufian Ahmad, welcomed the delegates. Shashank Pratap Singh, the Territory Head, Sage Publications gave the presentation about the usage of online journals of Sage. The programme concluded with the question answer session and finally the Librarian proposing the vote of thanks.

Yuva Sahiti Maithili Poets

'Yuva Sahiti' programme was organised with three young Maithili poets at Sahitya Akademi's conference room, Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi on 27 August 2013. Young maithili poets Avinash, Raman Kumar Singh and Arunabh Saurabh recited their poems on the occasion.



L-R: N.C. Mahesh, Arunabh Saurabh, Raman Kumar Singh and Avinash



Children's Literature in Dogri

Literary Forum

It was indeed a splendid opportunity for Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi to organise a special 'Children's Literature Programme' at JRC Home for Handicapped, Udheywala, Jammu. It was a wonderful experience for over 80 children of Jammu to sit face to face with prominent Dogri writers and poets and enjoy elegant stories and enlightening poetry composed by them in their mother tongue for children.

Shashi Pathania, former Head of Dogri, P.G. Department, University of Jammu enthralled the children belonging to various schools of the locality with her bewitching stories and folktales. Dr. Pathania, a Sahitya Akademi Awardee, said that Dogri language has greatest living oral narrative tradition to fulfill and feed the needs of every young and growing child. She narrated two stories specially written for the children and retold two interesting Dogri folk tales.

Vijay Sharma, Dogri lyricist and poet, who has two children poetry books to his credit and known for his witty and humourous style, recited a few poems on good manners, human values, festivals, environment and seasons. His poems entitled "Jeebh," "Waqt," "Barsaant" and "Tali-Talai" fascinated and enlightened the children.

Earlier Lalit Mangotra, Convenor, Advisory Board for Dogri in Sahitya Akademi said, "This is the first ever such programme in Dogri organized by the Akademi to imbibe literary taste and love for mother tongue in the formative minds of children. Dogri has sprawling and rich oral tradition of folk literature for children. The children should also supplement their literary aptitude by reading and listening Dogri stories and poems". Thanking the Akademi for arranging such programme, he also said that three writers of Dogri had already bagged this award for their valuable contribution to children's literature.

Chhatrapal, well-known prose writer and Secretary JRC Home, conducted the programme and presented vote of thanks. Many renowned Dogri writers, poets and artists along with children were present on this occasion.



Rahul Soni



Vivek Narayan



Sharmishtha Mohanty

In a literary programme held at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi on 7th August 2013 three eminent English writers Vivek Narayan, Sharmishtha Mohanty and Rahul Soni were invited to present their writings. Geetanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed audience and K. Satchidanandan introduced the poets and gave his views after their presentations.

Vivek Narayan is an innovative poet, ever experimental without being abstruse. Everybody recognized him when his first work *Universal Beat* was published. He came out with his second work *Life and Times of Mr. S. Mr. S*, the central character, is the fragile identity of the poet himself, who uses many names. He speaks in diverse verses. Poet employs different kinds of poetic and linguistic registers and he invokes various contexts of life and literature in this work. His poetry, particularly, is playful and serious. He reinvents himself. He thinks the Indian English tradition is minor but he took pride as it is part of his tradition. His language gives a musical effect that creates a rare kind of aesthetic experience. While we read, his work, we experience the elements of performance present in his style of writing.

Ms. Mohanty is a fiction writer different from other fiction writers. Mostly novelists are concerned with narrative and a story. Mohanty's novels are half mundane, half earthly, half metaphysical and half travelogue. She deals with landscapes outer and inner, the process itself is the journey not in the destination. The use of prose is extremely creative but often lyrical. There is a painter and musician in her which are evident in every part of her works. The piece she read out was from her latest publication.

Rahul Soni is a writer and mainly a translator. He is known for the translation of Srikant Varma's poetry. He captures informal tone and the quaint irony in his series of poems. Srikant Varma initiates new kind of poetics through his works and directness. The programme is ended with a lively interaction between the poets and audience.



Kavi-Anuvadak



L-R: Dnyanendra Pati and Praful Shiledar

Dnyanendra Pati, Hindi Poet with Praful Shiledar Marathi Translator

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai organized a 'Kavi-Anuvadak' programme with Dnyanendra Pati, Sahitya Akademi Award winning Hindi poet and Praful Shiledar, noted Marathi poet and translator on 28 September 2013 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Dadar (East), Mumbai. Sri Pati's collection of poems *Sanshayatma* won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2007, and Sri Shiledar translated the collection into Marathi for Sahitya Akademi.

Referring to the distinguished Hindi poets such as Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh and Chandrakant Devtale, Sri Pati spoke of the tradition of harmony between Hindi and Marathi. Sri Shiledar said that Pati's poetry included vocabulary from "tatsam," "tadbhav," and colloquial speech as well, so it became very difficult to translate into another language. Sri Pati recited his poems "Mumbai ka Samudra," "Manavbam," "Uttar Paramatma," "We Hi," "Thailand aur Kanchanjungha," "Television ko Dekho," "Dur Hote Gaye Mitra ke Liye," "Bitiya ka Naam" and "Machis ki Babat," and Sri Shiledar rendered into Marathi of these poems. The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Krishna Kimbahune.

Meet the Author with Hema Naik

A 'Meet the Author' programme with Hema Naik, noted fiction writer in Konkani, in collaboration with *Raknno Konkani Weekly* was organized on 31 August 2013 by Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai at Bishop's House Auditorium, Mangalore.

Krishna Kimbahune, Programme Officer, welcomed the audience and the guest-writer. K. Gokuldas Prabhu, Member, Konkani Advisory Board and the Governing Council presented a brief account of Hema Naik's fiction and her association with number of social movements. It was Hema Naik who introduced feminism to Konkani fiction, he said. He observed that Naik's fiction attacked the feudal patriarchy and male chauvinism.

Being born in a big feudal family in a patriarchal society, she experienced humiliation of women and male domination right from her childhood, she said in her presentation. The ill-treatment meted out to girls and women evoked in her the spirit to fight for the rights of women and spurred her to become financially independent and also express her thoughts creatively, she added. The fact that women in Goa, post-Portuguese rule, were still oppressed after Independence made her contribute to social movements, and she became part of many student movements, she informed. It was the typically fierce culture of the movements that entirely changed her perspective to think of the society she was living in. The movements she participated triggered in her the eager quest for identity as an independent woman and expanded her consciousness, she observed. Her reformist endeavour made her firm to go against shallow social customs and go for inter-caste marriage without following a single ritual, she said. Her literature honestly reflected the way she grew up, she stated, and the response that she received from her readers meant to her more than any award, she concluded.

After her speech she interacted with the audience and expressed her concern for the vulnerable condition of women. Fr. Francis Roderigues, the Editor of *Raknno Konkani Weekly* proposed a vote of thanks.



Kavisandhi Nabaneeta Dev Sen

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme on 24 September 2013 in Mumbai with Ms. Nabaneeta Dev Sen, one of the most versatile Bengali women writers today. Smt. Sen presented her Bengali works in English translation before elite audience. Her spontaneity, unique style of expression and vast and varied experience of life were evident from her poems. Besides being a poet. Smt. Sen displayed her erudition in comparative literature. Nabaneeta Dev Sen writes poems, short stories, novels, features and essays in Bengali.



Literary Forum *Prateechi*

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai organized 'Prateechi – A Literary Forum of West Indian Languages' in Mumbai at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Dadar (East) on September 2013.

Vasant Patankar, noted Marathi poet and critic, inaugurated the Forum. Krishna Kimbahune, Officer-in-Charge, welcomed the audience and participants. He informed that the title of the

programme 'Prateechi' was the product of the Western Regional Board, and meant 'the West.' The platform of the programme offers a new dimension to creative writers, translators, and the readers, he added. Sri Patankar in his inaugural address observed that the literary composition of every language was distinctive and diverse, and sound speculation of different languages gave different feel. Sitanshu Yashashchandra,

distinguished Gujarati poet and Convenor of the Akademi's Gujarati and Western Regional Board also delivered his presidential address.

The speech by the chair was followed by poetry recitations. All the poet, short story and essay writer participants read out from their selected works written in their original languages and also in Hindi/ English translations. Udayan Thakkar, Gujarati poet; Yusuf Shaikh,

Meet the Author *Anuradha Patil*

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai organized a 'Meet the Author' programme with Anuradha Patil, distinguished Marathi poet on 29 September 2013 in Mumbai at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Dadar(East). In her graphic presentation, Smt. Patil explored looking into at herself from others' point of view. As she was born and brought up in a village, its environment and cultural ethos had deeply influenced her. It was because of this influence, her poetry readily accepted helplessness and sorrow of human life, she said. She further stated that faceless women and the ones who were not even aware of their own existence appeared in her poems like shadows, and she was very much aware that she was one of them. This feeling kept her tied with her roots. It was from here that she treaded a different path from that of the



poets of her generation and of the next one, she concluded. Earlier she presented her poems. After her speech, she sportily interacted with the audience.



Panna Trivedi, Prem Prakash, Edwin JF DSouza, Jaya Jadwani and Bhimrao Waghchoure in the short story reading session

Konkani poet; Prabha Ganorkar, Marathi poet and Laxman Dube, Sindhi poet recited their poems.

First session was meant for short story readings, and was chaired by Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board. Panna Trivedi, Gujarati fiction writer, Edwin JF DSouza, renowned Konkani writer, Bhimrao Waghchoure, noted Marathi writer and Jaya Jadwani, noted Sindhi writer, read out their stories.

Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, chaired the second session that was meant for essay

reading. He opined that as far as the genre of essay was concerned, there should be a novel thought and its presentation should be effective. He emphasized that prose was more important than poetry in the development of any language. Kishor Vyas, noted Gujarati essayist, read out a humorous essay. Mukesh Thali, Konkani essayist, critic and translator read out his essay and Vinod Assudani, noted Sindhi writer and critic also read out his essay. Abhijeet Deshpande, noted Marathi critic, and essayist also read out his essay in English.

Vasant Patankar chaired the third session. The session included poetry recitations. Sri Patankar preferred to recite a couple of his poems instead of sharing his observations as chair of the session. He recited the poems 'Roots' and 'Time'. Rajesh Pandya, noted Gujarati poet, Sanjeev Verenkar, noted Konkani poet, Nand Jhaveri, noted Sindhi poet, and Ram Dotonde, noted Marathi poet recited their poems.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks.

Cultural Exchange Programme

Croatian Writers Delegation with Western Indian Writers

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai organized a 'Cultural Exchange' programme with three writer-delegations from Croatia consisting of Ms. Nadezda Cacinovia, Mr. Srecko Horvat and Mr. Nikola Petkovic in Mumbai on 20 September 2013. The members of the delegation from Croatia presented the literary scenario of the contemporary literature of their country. The writers from the city of Mumbai representing the Western Indian languages met the delegation and interacted with them.



The croatian writers' delegation



The participating Sindhi playwrights with Prem Prakash at the centre

Literary Forum Sindhi Playwrights

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai in collaboration with Rang Karam Theatre organized 'Literary Forum' on September 2013 in Ahmedabad at Conference Hall, M G School, Kuber Nagar. Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board chaired the Forum. The Forum included readings of four one-acts plays by the noted Sindhi playwrights – Jagdish

Shahadadpuri, Hundaraj Balwani, Jetho Lalwani and Verho Rafique.

Shahadadpuri's one-act play *Sukhji Golba* dealt with complexities in a middle class family; Balwani's Kachro satirically displayed a social problem; Lalwani's Jihad centered on terrorism; and Rafique's one-act sympathetically dealt with the loneliness of an old man.

People and Books

Amrit Bodani, Renowned Psychiatrist



Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Mumbai in collaboration with Rang Karam Theatre organized 'People and Books' with Amrit Bodani, renowned Psychiatrist, on 1 September 2013 in Ahmedabad at Conference Hall, M G School, Kuber Nagar. Dr Bodani spoke of the eminent Sindhi writer Harish Waswani

and his literary work specifically of his book titled *0-000*. His scholarly speech revealed in-depth relationship between literary creation and Psychiatry as science.

Hindi Week



Gyanendra Pati

Sahitya Akademi's Regional Office, Mumbai organised 'Hindi Saptah' from 14 to 20 September. During this week several competitions like essay-writing, translation, creative writing and dictation were organised. The staff of regional office actively participated in all the competitions. Eminent Hindi poet Gyanendra Pati was the chief guest. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Mumbai, welcomed the chief guest and all the staff-members. He introduced Sri Pati to the audience. In his precise speech, Gyanendra Pati focused on the usage of the languages. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions by the chief guest.

Literary Forum

Four Marathi Poets

In a book exhibition organised by Regional Office, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai from 27 to 31 July 2013 at Maheshwari Bhavan, Shegaon, a 'Literary Forum' was held on 27 July 2013. The noted Marathi poets Ramesh Ingle Utradkar, Manoj Pathak, Dinkar Dabhade, Sadanand Singare and Devidas Kalaskar participated in the forum. Ravindra Ingle Chavrekar, Member, Marathi Advisory Board chaired the Forum.

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Autobiography, Travelogue, Criticism and Essays



Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day national Seminar on ‘Autobiography, Travelogue, Criticism and Essays’ in collaboration with Sambalpur University in Biju Pattnaik Auditorium at Jyoti Vihar, Sambalpur, Odisha on 31 August and 1 September 2013.

The inaugural session was chaired by Gopal Krushna Rath, eminent Odia poet and member, General Council of the Akademi while B.C. Barik, Vice-Chancellor of Sambalpur University inaugurated the seminar. Dr. Barik, in his inaugural address, expected the seminar to be very useful for the students, teachers, scholars and social activists. Gaurahari Das, eminent fiction writer and Convenor of the Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address while Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Regional Centre, Kolkata welcomed the guests and participants. The chief guest Rajendra Kishore

Panda, a celebrated Odia poet and scholar, shared his thought about the plight of literature in this age of technological revolution and entertainment industry. He emphasized upon the growth and development of human studies that would govern the qualitative and quantitative energy of our literature. Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Member, Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi presented the keynote address in the session while M.K. Meher from the Department of Odia, Sambalpur University proposed a vote of thanks.

First session was on the ‘Odia Travel Literature’ chaired by Bhupen Mohapatra who is a famous travel writer in contemporary Odia literature. Anasuya Mohapatra, Gouranga Charan Das, Manoranjan Pradhan and Prasanna Kumar Swain presented their papers on the themes, “History of Travel Literature in World,” “Art Value in Odia Travel Literature” and “Matters and Analysis of



L-R: Krushna Chandra Pradhan, Gopal Krushna Rath, Rajendra Kishore Panda, B.C. Barik, Mihir Kumar Sahoo and Gourahari Das



Odia Travelogues” respectively. Affirming that travelogues leave multi dimensional impression on the socio-cultural scenario, the speakers said that delicacies of travelogues are vividly exposed to have a distinct idea on the place or country the writer travels. On the other hand, travelogues provide adequate detail of the places, people and places where the writer, as a hero of the work, accepts the traveled-land as an imaginary home-land. There seems contradiction between the real and the fictive in the narrative of the travel literature, the participants opined.

‘Autobiography’ was the theme of the second session chaired by Jatindra Kumar Nayak, Member of the Odia Advisory Board and papers were presented by Aparna Mohanty, Bijayananda Singh, Dwarikanath Nayak, Sangram Jena and Udayanath Sahu. The topics were varied and provoking such as: “Post-Independence Odia Autobiographies,” “Autobiography as a Literary Genre,” “Literary significance in Autobiographies,” “Odia Autobiography: a Brief History,” and “Creative Aspects of Autobiography in Odia.”

Autobiography was represented as a sincere portrayal of events, career, characters, places, scenes and experiences of the writer’s life. It was observed that in Odia literature more than 200 autobiographical works have already been published. Incidents from life and lasting impression of history of an individual portrayed in the autobiography bring forceful espousal of a person’s works, mission and commitment which not only delight but also inspire and evokes readers’ sentiment. This becomes a brilliant record of the writer concerned including his views on individuals he meets, memories he nurtures. At the same time, the writer provides vibrant ideas on trials and tribulations, interruptions and recoveries, friends and foes, well and woes of those which

render the meaningful attributes of a truthful confession. With its origin in the European tradition, Odia autobiographies for some times have shown powerful blend of history and social analysis. Personal egos, irrespective of value and prejudice in presentation, however, make this genre weak and ineffective, concluded the speakers.

The next session was focused on the theme of criticism. The session was chaired by Kumad Ranjan Panigrahi. A.K. Dash, Debiprasanna Pattnaik, Kailash Pattnaik, Santosh K. Rath and Shyam Bhoi read out their papers in this session. The topics of the session were “Pre–Nineteenth Century Odia Criticism Literature,” “Trends and Tidings in Odia Criticism Literature,” “An Analytical Study of Major Odia Criticism,” “Odia Criticism Literature 1921-1950” and “A Critical View on Fiction Criticism in Odia After 1950.” As literature is the analysis of man and life, criticism is the study of that analysis and it is an instrument of interpretation. While the criticism was, at the primary level, audio-centric, later on it became very healthy and specified during the publication of *Utkal Deepika*, a pioneer Odia magazine. In criticism, the critic analyses first, and then follows his interpretation and view.

The creative sources are identified through analysis while significant implications, keeping the socio-cultural and religious backdrop in mind, pushing more for extensive deliberation on the concerned work. Appreciating the contribution of Prachee Samiti, functional under the aegis of renowned scholar Prof. Arta Ballabha Mohanty, in the twenties for illustrious attempts on Odia criticism, the speakers emphasized on the multi-disciplinary aspects of criticism. Likewise, Odia fictions have showcased number of critical studies after seventies, underlining deeper understanding of characters, environment, mythology and



history. Even elements like social realism, feminism, psycho-analysis and cultural renaissance have been seriously weighed through criticism in case of Odia fictions. In spite of such status, Odia criticism has to go a long way, remarked the speakers.

The concluding session of the national seminar was on ‘Odia Essay’ chaired by Debendra Kumar Das, renowned essayist; papers were read out by Babrubahan Mohapatra, Samar Mudali and Prassana Kumar Pattnaik. The topics of their papers were “The Beginning Chapter in the History of Odia Essays,” “Post-Independence Odia Essays” and “Essays and Non-Fictional Prose.”

Describing the evolution of Odia essays from the attempts made by Fakir Mohan Senapati and Radha Nath Ray, the participants expressed the view that while in the first phase Odia essays were non-specific without identifying scheduled subjects, in the second phase, they embraced diverse subjects and became recognized as a specific literary genre. These essays contained a subject, a world view, a literary verdict and certain modes of acceptance. The tones and styles of presentation have been different, from native to modernist, from simple to complex, from innocence to intellect. On the other hand ‘Ramya Rachana’ have become a recent literary output written with more vibrant, sophisticated and subtler presentation. Contemporary elements mixed with satire and laughter with colourful meanings and balanced conclusions have become the subject matter of these non-fictional prose, said the speakers.



Seminar on Bodo Drama



Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day seminar on 'Bodo Drama' from 9-10 September 2013 at Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, BTAD, Assam in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

Kameswar Brahma, President of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha chaired the inaugural session. Welcome-address was delivered by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi. Premananda Machahary, Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the session. Shekhar Brahma, Registrar, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

First session began with the topic "Theme and Technique of Bodo Jatra Gawn," presented by Bhounik Boro. Gwgmw Brahma Kachari presented his paper on the topic "Social Impact of Bodo Jatra Gawn." Mangal Sing Hazoary also presented his paper on the topic "Origin and Evolution of Bodo Jatra Gawn." At the end of the seminar, Bisweswar Basumatary, Vice-President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha took part in an interaction as respondents on the topic "Origin and Evolution of Bodo Jatra Gawn," Khabaram Swargiary responded on the topic presented by Sri Kachari and Swarna Prabha Chainary on the topic presented by Sri Boro. The first session came to an end by a brief speech from the Chair.

The second session began with the topic "Theme and Technique of Modern Bodo Drama" presented by Indira Boro. Another scholar Swarna Prabha Chainary presented a paper "Social Picture as reflected in Modern Bodo

Drama." Birhasgiri Basumatary also presented paper on "Bodo Historical Play a Critical Appreciation."

In the second session, Tulan Mushahary presented a paper on the topic "Women Characters in the Plays of Kamal Kr. Brahma." Another scholar Rajendra Kr. Basumatary presented a paper, "Bodo Social Reality reflected in Monoranjan Lahary's play." Brajendra Kr. Brahma, former President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha took part in the interaction as a respondent on the topic presented by Tulan Mushahary while Khabaram Swargiary, Rajen Khakhlary, Vice -President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha and Adhir Kr. Brahma discussed the other two topics of the session. At the end, the Chairperson delivered a brief speech highlighting the topics.

In the fourth session Adaram Basumatary presented a paper on the topic "Theme and Technique of Kamal Kr. Brahma's play." Another scholar Rwirup Brahma presented a written paper on the topic "Bodo One Act Play and Radio Play." Jibeswar Koch presented his paper titled "Critical Analysis of Mangal Sing Hazoary's Play." At the end, Indira Boro took part as a respondent on the topics presented by Sri Brahma while Sri Khabaram Swargiary responded on both the topics presented by Sri Basumatary and Sri Koch. The chairperson highlighted the topics in his brief speech.

The valedictory session was presided over by Kameswar Brahma, President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Prafulla Kr. Hazoary, Secretary, Education Dept. BTC, Kokrajhar graced the occasion as the guest of honour. He delivered his speech briefing vividly the topics discussed as mentioned in the programme.



Seminar participants and the audience



Seminar

Romanticism in Manipuri Literature

A two-day seminar on 'Romanticism in Manipuri Literature' was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with The Cultural Forum, Manipur from 15-16 September 2013 at Manipur Rifles Banquet Hall, Imphal.

The seminar was inaugurated by L. Iboton Singh, President, the Cultural Forum with H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Language Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, N. Khagendra Singh and Goutam Paul, Officer incharge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region were present on the dais.

Welcome address was delivered by Sri Paul. While delivering his welcome address, Sri Paul appreciated the high quality and richness of the wealth of Manipuri literature. Manipuri literature has enjoyed a prolonged relationship with romanticism. The ancient Manipuri poets had the habit of attributing human feelings to the objects of nature. N. Khagendra Singh in his keynote address "Romanticism Revisited" stressed the importance of Romanticism in literature. Romanticism was the dominant literary trend in the dawn of modern period in Manipuri literature that came around 1891 after the British came to Manipur. Many pioneer writers like Hijam Anganghal, Khwairakpam Chaoba, Hijam Irabot, Hawaibam Nabadwipchandra, Lamabam Kamal, Ashangbam Minaketan, Arambam Dorendrajit, Rajkumar Shitaljit appeared one after another after this event. They heralded a new re-awakening in Manipuri literature. This note of romanticism was discernible in the writing of other younger writers of the following generation.

H. Behari Singh delivered the inaugural address. He said that many

young writers took up the romantic tradition in their novels, short stories and later in narrative verse. Tokpam Ibomcha took up the romantic strain through his novels and poems. Thoibi Devi, a woman novelist, described love without any sound and fury in her novels. Ram Singh, another novelist, used his pen for reformation in the traditional society with romantic setting on the background. Not only novelists but playwrights and short story writers also explored the theme of love in their writings. M.K. Binodini Devi with her successful debut in play-writing and short stories brought out a historical novel *Bor Sabe Ongbi Sanatomb*. Kunjamohan Singh and Rajanikanta described in their short stories a new world and society, sometimes full of innocence and sweetness, and very often full of frustrations and helplessness. The traditional romantic and sentimental poetry also found its votaries in the writings of Ibohal Singh, Surendrajit Singh, Minaketan Singh and Nilbir Shastri. The Romantic trend, however, seems to deflect its course with the appearance of G.C. Tongbra whose socio-political plays are a class by themselves. Arambam Somorendra's drawing-room comedies kept the readers spell-bound. The inaugural function concluded with the presidential address by L. Iboton Singh, President, The Cultural Forum, Manipur. The first academic session on "Romanticism in Manipuri Poetry" was moderated by Th. Ratan Kumar of Manipur University. Three paper-presenters were T. Tampha Devi, N. Bidyasagar and K. Shantibala Devi on the poetry of Lanichenba, Memchoubi, Birendrajit and Raghu. All the papers made exhaustive study of all the poets given to each one of the paper readers.

The title of Tampha Devi's paper was "Romanticism in Manipuri Poetry of Irawat, Kamal, Chaoba, Anganghal, and Mineketan." The topic of Bidyasagar's paper was "Romanticism in Manipuri Poetry of Samarendra, Nilakanta, Madhubir, Biren and Ibopishak." Shantibala Devi spoke on "Romanticism in Manipuri Poetry of Bhubonsana, Lanichenba, Memchoubi, Birendrajit and Raghu."

The second academic session was 'Romanticism in Manipuri Short Story' was moderated by Kh. Prakash Singh. Paper presenters of this session were E. Dinamani Singh, N. Rojika Devi, Sri K. Hemchandra Singh and H. Nalini Devi. They presented papers on the topics "Critical Assessment of Romanticism in Manipuri Poetry, Short Stories, Plays and Novels," "Romanticism in Manipuri Short Stories of Kunjamohan, Prakash, Dinamani, and Nilbir," "Romanticism in Manipuri Short Stories of Sonamani, R.K. Elangba, Priyokumar, Viramani and Ibomcha" and "Romanticism in Manipuri Short Stories of Premchand, Sunita, Sudhir, Mani, Nabakishore" respectively.

The third academic session, on the second day, 'Romanticism in Manipuri Drama' was moderated by Professor N. Khagendra Singh. Paper presenters of this session were N. Ahanjao Meitei, Rajen Toijamba and Makhonmani Mongsaba. The topics of their papers were "Romanticism in Manipuri Plays of Ibungohal, Anganghal, Lalit, Tomba and Ibobi," "Romanticism in Manipuri Plays of G. C. Tongbra, Samarendra, Kanhailal, Tomchou and Sri Biren" and "Romanticism in Manipuri Plays of Sanajaoba, Shamu, Brajchand, Rajen and Brojendra" respectively.



The last academic session of 'Romanticism in Manipuri Novel' was moderated by Kh. Kunjo Singh. Paper readers of this session were Ng. Ekashini Devi, Sharatchandra Longjomba and S. Santibala Devi. The topics of their papers were "Romanticism in Manipuri Novels

of Chaoba, Kamal, Angahal, Shitajit and Thoibi," "Romanticism in Manipuri Novels of Pacha, Guno, Binodini, Biren and Chitreshwor" and "Romanticism in Manipuri novels of B. M. Maisnamba Bira, Borkanya and Jodhachandra" respectively.

The valedictory speech was delivered by H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks, proposed by Kshetri Rajen, Secretary, the Cultural Forum, Manipur.

Asmita Odia Writers

Sahitya Akademi organized an 'Asmita' programme with six Odia women writers on 17 July 2013 at Bhubaneswar.

Gourahari Das, Convenor of Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi presided over the programme and introduced the women writers.

Sucheta Mishra read her poems, "Nari Deha" and "Monsoon-wet Evening of July." Smt. Mishra was unfolding the common perception of the society in a very aggressive manner. She voiced that a woman has always been judged by her anatomy and not her personality. Her self-consciousness needs to be redefined against what has been written in the scripture like *Manusmriti*. Her other poem was "Samadharna."

The other women writer Angurbala Parida recited her two poems "Rabana" and "Balada." She tried to portray the helplessness of an emasculated bull which was a metaphor for the helpless human being.

The new yet refined voice of younger generation Pratikhya Jena recited her two poems entitled "Ahalya" and "Ghataka". Ranjita Panda, a poet from Sambalpur recited "Prema Karib asa". An architect turned poet Ratnamala Swain recited her two poems entitled "Ghara-1" and "Ghara-2" which were based on the contradiction and commonality between the two houses – one built in brick and mortar and the other one in emotion and aspirations. Swagatika Swain was the only story-teller of the evening. She read out her story "Padamudi" (A toe ring). This is a symbol of marriage. This differentiates a married woman from an unwed girl. A small ornament can speak in volumes – that was the plot of her story. The poems and story of this programme unveiled the never-ending quest of identity of Indian women. programme was attended by eminent poets and writers. Banoj Tripathy proposed vote of thanks.



Ranjita Panda, Sucheta Mishra, Ratnamala Swain, Gourahari Das, Angurbala Parida, Swagatika Swain and Pratikhya Jena



Symposium

Sankaradeva in Modern Assamese Literature



In connection with 445th death anniversary of Sankaradeva, a symposium on the topic, 'Reception of Sankaradeva in Modern Assamese Literature' was held in Duliajan College on 7 September 2013. The symposium was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Duliajan branch of Assam Sahitya Sabha.

The inaugural session of the symposium was chaired by Kamala Boragohain. Delivering the inaugural speech, Karabi Deka Hazarika specifically mentioned the impact of Sankaradeva on Assamese art and literature across the ages. According to her, Sankaradeva's influence on Assamese cultural life is too deep to be effaced by the passage of time.

Ananda Bormudoi, Professor, Department of English, Dibrugarh University in his keynote address pointed out the difference between ancient literature produced during the time of Sankaradeva and modern Assamese literature. He observed the dichotomy between creative literature and social life, he stated that when creative literature has rejected God, social life has welcomed God.

The first session was chaired by Prafulla Borah. The first paper presenter was Anil Saikia and the topic of his paper was "The Lyrical Literature of Sankaradeva". In his presentation, he highlighted through illustrations the salient aspects of Sankaradeva's songs and lyrics. The second paper was on the topic "Reception of Sankaradeva in the language of Bezboruah," presented by Bina Bordoloi and Deepak

Gogoi. The paper was an in-depth study of how Bezboruah received the philosophy, language and diction of Sankaradeva in his creations. The third paper was presented by Ranjan Bhattacharaya on the topic "Study of Sankaradeva by Maheswar Neog." He drew attention to the fact that it was Moheswar Neog, who provided for the first time a scientific and systematic analysis of Sankaradeva in his research-based writings.

The second session was chaired by Nava Kr. Handique. The first paper was a joint paper by Aichena Buragohain and Phulajyoti Saikia on "Biographical Novels on the Life of Sankaradeva." The presentation was with special reference to two novels, namely *Dhanya Nara Tanu Bhal* by Abdul Malik and *Jakeri Nabi Upam* by Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Borah. Sankaradeva emerged as a social reformer and brought about numerous reforms in the beliefs and customs of the society, the scholars observed. Ajit Saikia presented a paper on "Reception of Sankaradeva in Tribal Novels." In his presentation, he showed how starting with *Miri Jiyari*, most of the novels bear the signs of Sankaradeva's reception. The last paper of the session by Pranjit Borah was on the topic, "Reception of Sankaradeva in Modern Assamese Poetry." Sri Borah presented the impact of Sankaradeva on many poets in terms of idea, theme and language.

The valedictory session was chaired by Punya Saikia. In his speech, he hoped the symposium on the life of Sankaradeva would contribute substantially in creating awareness about Sankaradeva among the masses.



Participants in inaugural session of the symposium on Sankaradeva in Modern Assamese Literature



Literary Forum Creative Literature for Children

Sahitya Akademi organized a literary forum on 'Creative Literature for Children' on 6 September 2013 at D. C. B. College auditorium, Jorhat, Assam. The welcome-address was delivered by Karabi Deka Hazarika. The guest of honour of the occasion was Kamaljyoti Gogoi. The speakers were Abhijit Sarma Baruah and Santichaya Saikia with Prafulla Rajguru in the chair.

Prof. Hazarika in her address said that the writers of children's literature should have deeper understanding of child psychology and its attraction towards creativity.

Santichaya Saikia presented her paper with Jyotiprasad Agarwala's poems. According to Smt. Saikia, acquiring one's mother tongue is the first creative art of a child. She also pointed out that Sankaradeva also wrote for children. Abhijit Sarma Baruah, in his paper, briefly depicted the scenario of children's literature along with its history.

Prafulla Rajguru in his speech, in the chair, discussed about those books which gained worldwide fame in the field of children's literature as well as that of adults.

Literary Forum Birth Centenary of Jyotrindra Nandi

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Literary Forum' on the Birth Centenary of noted Bengali writer Jyotrindra Nandi in its auditorium, Kolkata on 12 August 2013. Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcomed audience and introduced the guests.

The first speaker Rabin Pal discussed on the themes, imageries and the narrative skill of Nandi's works in general and with special reference to popular novel *Baaro Ghar Ek Uthon*.

In his speech, Srabani Pal, Professor in Bengali, Rabindra Bharati University observed that Jyotrindra lead a secluded life. He wrote in the troubled post-war world. He chose his themes from his surroundings. Sense of beauty is the hallmark of many of his writings. Dr. Pal analysed some of the short stories of Nandi who spoke a lot about the marital life of Bengali families. Returning to nature in a different way was the theme of many of his works. His writings

were full of dramatic elements, she pointed out.

Sutapa Bhattacharya, a retired Professor of Bengali from Visva-Bharati University analysed two novels of Nandi in her speech. She opined that in his writings, Nandi wanted to show the fact that women are not born with the sense of physical chastity. He threw light on the psychology of married Bengali women. She discussed the novel *Mirar Dupur* in details. The image of blood and the colour red dominate this novel. The plurality of voices is a significant impact of this novel.

Gopa Datta Bhaumik, former Vice-Chancellor of Gourabanga University from the chair discussed about the love stories of Nandi. He said that Nandi was never after popularity and wrote stories with subtle hints which general reader sometimes could not decipher. He wrote about the loneliness of the city life. According to Bhaumik, he can be compared to Kafka in this context.



L-R: Sutapa Bhattacharya, Gopa Datta Bhaumik, Srabani Pal and Rabin Pal



Kathasandhi Amar Mitra



Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme with noted Bengali fictionist Amar Mitra on 22 July 2013 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium in Kolkata.

Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convenor, Bengali Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address. He said that in the 70s language of soil came into foreplay as the majority of the writers were closely associated with the soil. They wrote from the viewpoint of an insider. Amar Mitra belongs to this group of new writers.

Sri Mitra in his speech said that his writings were not of a homogeneous nature. They were written from different view-points. Many of them have personal elements in them. He is deeply committed in understanding the common Indian people, their hopes and aspirations, their struggle for a meaningful, joyful existence. He read out two stories and an excerpt from one of his novels entitled *Dashami Divas* (The Tenth Day).

Festival of Poetry Reading

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Festival of Poetry Reading' in collaboration with Meetei Society, Churachandpur, Manipur on 17 August 2013 at SYNOD Hall, I. B. Road, Churachandpur, Manipur.

The welcome address was given by H. Bijen Kumar Singh. Rajen Toigamba, General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi also delivered his speech. Key-note address was delivered by M. Chaoba Stanley, Meetei Society, Churachandpur district. In his speech, he spoke about the evolution of Meetei society from the very beginning till date. He focused on the different tribes of Manipur, particularly those living in the district of Churachandpur. He also said about the modern tendency among painters and playwrights to subordinate realism to the symbols or characters inner experience.

The chief guest H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi expressed the importance of this one day festival of poetry programme. This programme can promote the cause of language and literature of different tribes of Manipur, he asserted.

In his presidential address, S. Shanajaoba Meetei, Vice President, Meetei Society, Churachandpur opined that this one day festival of folk-poetry would guide the young and grown-up who like the folk language and literature. He also said that folk literature is the mirror of our past culture.

In the first session, the Moderator was L. S. Gangte. In this session poetry from six languages were read and then opened for discussion.

Sri Tualchin Neisial recited the poetry in Paite language; Zejem Gangte recited the poetry in Gangte language and L. Thangjom critically assessed their oral poetry; Hatneo recited the poetry in Thadou Kuki and Anty Ngulyang critically assessed their oral poetry; Ginsuanthang recited the poetry in Teddim Chin language and H. Pauzachin critically analysed the poems; Thangsawihmang recited his poetry in Hmar language and critically assessed the tradition of oral poetry in his language.

Sri L. Malsawam recited the poetry in Vaiphei language and Sri Liankthong critically assessed the tradition of oral poetry in the particular language. At the end of the session a general critical assessment was presented by Anty Ngulyang.

In the second session, the Moderator was L. Pangamte, Secretary, Hmar Literature Society. In this session poetry from six languages were read and then taken for discussion:

T. Ezara Kom recited the poetry from Kom literature; Kh. Lungdin Aimol recited from the Aimol poetry. An indigenous group presented a folk song with musical instrument.

Ngaizahat recited the Smite folk poetry. Aloysius Nehkhojang recited poems in Zou language and Aloysius Nehkhojang critically assessed the oral poetry of his language; H. H Mate recited poetry in Mate language and critically assessed them and N. J. Rajen Lai recited the poetry from Meetei language.

At the end of the session a general critical assessment was presented by Dr Ginneiching Simte.



R.K. Jhalajit, M. Nara Singh and R.K. Bidur

Men and Books

Five Eminent Manipuri Personalities

Sahitya Akademi organized 'Men and Books' and 'Young Poets' Meet' programmes in collaboration with the Sahitya Seva Samiti, Kakching, Manipur, at the auditorium of Library and Information Centre, Kakching on 18 August 2013.

Y. Dhananjoy Singh, President, Sahitya Seva Samiti, Kakching was the Chair and the Chief Guest was H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipur Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The welcome address was delivered by Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. Five eminent personalities from Manipur in the field of theater, cinema, art and science were invited to speak on the books that have shaped their personalities.

H. Behari Singh in his address said that the speakers expressed firmly that the writers must be very cautious and have to extensively read books. He focused on the themes of the writings of modern Manipuri writers. He also

pointed out how they are influenced by the Manipuri society.

The presidential speech was delivered by Y. Dhananjoy Singh. He opined that every generation of writers and poets must support the young poets and writers of the next generation.

The first session of 'Men and Books' was moderated by 'Padmashri' R.K. Jhalajit Singh.

First speaker of the session, 'Padmashri' M. Kirti Singh recalled his past life experiences of Kakching village and his acquaintance with the people of that area. He reflected on the inspiring words of Francis Bacon about reading books- "Reading makes man perfect." He stressed the value of judging books and its impacts on human society. The speaker mentioned that writers, poets and authors must try to venture a new technique of writing which lays both subjective and objective views. He gave some examples of Greek, Roman and Indian philosophy referring to literature.

Approach to reading and writing should be for "Art for Art's Sake," he asserted. Second speaker of the session was M. Nara Singh who said that science and literature cannot be separated. Literature and culture are the products of society. He dwelt on his melodrama "Lidici Gee Gulap" and also his participation in the World Peace Council in Prague in 1983, where the participants, medical doctors from all over the world resolved to an immediate action to save the blue planet, from the holocaust of nuclear bomb. He also recited his poems. He pointed out that World Conference at Havana in 2007 changed the views of many and he believed that 'Literature is for society.'

Jodha Chandra Sanasam, the third speaker referred to two works; an epic poem "Khamba Thoibi Sheireng" by Hijam Anganghal and "Madhabi" by Dr. Kamal as the most inspiring sources for him to write books despite being a doctor. Next, he pointed out about the plot structure of Dan Brown's *Da Vinci Code* and also referred to *The Bourne Identity* by Robert Ludlum, *Doctor Zivago* by Boris Pasternak, Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* and books of Ruskin Bond. Dr. Sanasam read out gists of some of the best novels. The thematic plot and structure of *The Bourne Identity* mainly influenced him. According to him the books are intellectual thriller, full of adventures, mysteries, conspiracy, excellent narratives interspersed with romance.

Fourth speaker, R.K. Bidur presented his speech on the topics "Theatre and Mirror" and "Theatre and Films" relating to the Manipuri Literature. He delivered his speech by recalling his closeness with people of Kakching in various occasions through art and literature. He stressed on the concept that "Theatre" is an age old traditional product and art form of the society. In the context of Manipur,



theatre and its performing art is associated with their cultural heritage like “Lai Haraoba” and other ritual performances. He earnestly drew the attention of the audience on the responsibility for upliftment of cinema and theatre. The speaker tried to revive the value of ‘true’ art through theatre.

N. Rajmohon Singh, the fifth speaker reflected on Mother Teresa’s experience and dedication for leprosy patients, and the Partition of India into two independent nations - India and Pakistan in 1947. He also reflected the importance of global concern for further existence of life emphasising on the changing world.

Sri R.K. Jhalajit. “Man alone is endowed with capacity of reading literature and human beings are the integral parts of society.”

Manipuri Poets’ Meet

A ‘Young Poets’ Meet’ was organized by Sahitya Akademi with the assistance of Sahitya Seva Samiti, Kakching, Manipur. Twenty poets participated in the Meet with R. K. Bhubonsana Singh as the chair. The participants were Thokchom Kiran, C.H. Deepu, Seema Sadarani, N. Romina, Prema Chanu, Okendro Khundongbam, M. B. Meme, Ranita Konthoujam, R.K. Naoria, Uttarnbala Chanu, Kunjo Naorem, P. Pradeep, Ksh. Joykumar Singh, Sarat Salam, Th. Joykumar, Th. Bishwamittra Sharma, M. Bheigyachandra (Tentha), Y. Sunolata and Lenin Khumancha. All the poets read out their poems in Manipuri followed by the English translations. Sri Singh from the chair observed that this kind of programme would inspire the budding poets to produce quality writings.

Meet the Author E. Dinamani Singh



E. Dinamani Singh at the centre

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Meet the Author’ programme with E. Dinamani Singh in collaboration with Manipuri Literary Society, Imphal at Hindi Parishad Hall, Assembly Road, Imphal on 16 September 2013.

A fiction writer, poet, playwright Elangbam Dinamani Singh is an expert in the creation of comic situations and eccentric characters who interact with one another in a dialogue of simple words. *Thaklabi* (1970), *Morambi Angaobi* (1974), *Pistol Ama Kundalei Ama* (1981), *Mantra Jantra Tantra* (1986) are some of Dinamani’s important collections of short stories. The Sahitya Akademi Award for Manipuri was given to him in 1982 for his collection of short stories entitled *Pistol Ama Kundalei Ama*. In the field of novel, Dinamani has made significant contributions. The All India Radio, Imphal, gave him the award for being the best Humorous Playwright 1992-93. Apart from being an established creative writer, Singh is an excellent literary critic also. The first three of his major critical works are *Manipuri Sabitya Amasung Sabityakar* (1969), *Khwairakpam Chaoba* (1971) and *Dr Kamal, Punsu amasung Sabitya* (1982). Well-read in Hindi and English

besides his mother tongue Manipuri, Dinamani is a good translator who translated novels and plays into Manipuri. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize in 1994. Dinamani was Editor of *The Ritu*, a quarterly journal of the Cultural Forum, Manipur of which he was General Secretary for a long time.

Huirem Behari Singh introduced the speaker to the audience and said that his short stories are the blend of humour and human sympathy. Singh’s poems were also read out.

E. Dinamani Singh said among the literary genres he wrote, writing novel was his first love. He also clarified that some personal elements were bound to appear in some of his writings. He added that he was trying to explore the human relationship in his works of fiction. He also gave his opinion about how to build up a singular effect in writing short stories. His intention was to give a message at the end of his fiction. The programme concluded with vote of thanks proposed by the General Secretary, Manipuri Literary Society, Imphal.



Literary Forum Treatment of Nature in Manipuri Literature

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Literary Forum' on "Treatment of Nature in Manipuri Literature" in collaboration with Malem Aye Kol, Khabam Lamkhai on 19 August 2013 at Asheiningthou Garden, Matai, Imphal.

H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and W. Mahendra Singh, President, Malem Aye Kol graced the function as the Chief Guest and President respectively. S. Lanchenba Meetei moderated the session.

H. Behari Singh dwelt on various aspects of Manipuri literature including the writings where nature played a major role and influenced many Manipuri writers in his address.

Makhonmani Mongsaba the first speaker mentioned that there was a close relation between the Manipuris and Nature. People depend on nature for their livelihood. Nature as mother-nature was depicted in Manipuri literature.

The second speaker Sharatchandra Longzomba read his paper by introducing the poems of Khwairakpam Chaoba, one of the renowned poets

of Manipur. In all the poems written by the modern poets like R.K. Shitajit Singh, Elangbam Nilakanta, Minaketan etc, the beauty of nature is glorified. He quoted many lines from different poems written by different modern poets like Biren, Memchoubi Devi, S. Lanchenba Meetei, Raghu Leishangthem etc.

The last speaker T. Tampha Devi read her paper "Treatment of Nature in Medieval Manipur Literature." In her

opinion, the medieval Manipuri literature, started from the 18th century lasted till 19th century, was greatly influenced by the Bhakti literature. Hindu epics like the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana* were also written in Manipuri. Even the Manipuri language liberally borrowed Sanskrit and Bengali words. Old religious stories of Manipur also extolled the beauty of nature. There was a lively discussion and interaction at the end.



Saratchandra Longzomba, S. Lanchenba Meetei and T. Tampha Devi

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Through My Window

Prafulla Kumar Tripathy on Purnananda Dani

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Through My Window’ programme on 30 August 2013 in Panthanivas Conference Hall, Sambalpur in which Prafulla Kumar Tripathy described the multifaceted personality and creative career of the writer Purnananda Dani (1943-2004). Purnananda Dani is regarded as one of the extraordinary fiction writers with marks of excellence and exuberance. He was born and brought up in Sambalpur, the cultural nerve centre of West Odisha. Gopal Krushna Rath, celebrated poet and member of the Akademi’s general council and Odia Advisory Board, chaired the programme while Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Regional Office, Kolkata, in his welcome address briefed on Akademi’s initiatives to promote Indian literatures as a whole through various programmes.

Dr. Tripathy, a prominent scholar, writer, linguist and literary activist, a friend of Dani during his childhood and

college days, walked down the memory-lane giving a panoramic description of his long association with Dani who later became an amazing story writer. Dr. Tripathy said that Dani had experimented through his fictions to test, entertain and enlighten his readers. Despite a series of interruptions in his career, Dani loved to write stories. His frequent publications in the then children’s magazine *Mina Bazar* helped him to grow as a powerful fiction writer. Dr. Tripathy underlined the features of Dani’s writings that included surrealistic elements, symbolic and imaginative presentation, thought provoking irony, artistic craftsmanship, beauty and fantasy in

building the characters; silent protest against value erosion; long-standing contemplation over scenes and experiences which made his stories not only powerful but also memorable. In them readers recognize themselves, their neighbours and acquaintances. He appreciated the verbal gifts of Purnananda and underlined the tones



Prafulla Kumar Tripathy and Gopal Krushna Rath

and lines of his creative works. His creative endeavour was aimed to transcend time and place, finally providing *Purna Ananda* (total delight) to the readers, said Dr. Tripathy.

THROUGH MY WINDOW E. Dinamani Singh on E. Sonamani Singh



E. Dinamani Singh, H. Behari Singh and Chinganbam Chandrakal

Sahitya Akademi organised a ‘Through My Window’ programme in collaboration with Iramdam Meeyamgi Apunba Khorjei Lup (IMAKHOL) on Elangbam Sonamani Singh on 19 August 2013 at Kiekol Community Hall, Kiekol, Manipur. Chingangbam Chandrakala presided and Huirem Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in his introductory speech stressed on the importance of translations.

Sri Sonamani Singh, a versatile Manipuri writer started writing from his school days. He has published over forty books in Manipuri in diverse genres like poetry, short story and novel of which thirteen books are works of translation. He has also translated two books into English. He is an adept translator who also translated a collection of Bengali essays by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.



Kathasandhi Nagen Saikia

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme with eminent Assamese fictionist writer Nagen Saikia on 6 September 2013 at D.C.B. College auditorium, Jorhat, Assam. Guest of Honour of the occasion was Jeenamoni Bhuyan, Principal, D. C. B. College. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convenor, Assamese, Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address. The programme was chaired by Basanta Kumar Goswami.

In her speech, Prof. Hazarika threw light on the life and works of Dr. Saikia spoke on the origin of many of his writings. He also discussed Saikia's characters from his stories. He also replied to the questions raised by the audience in the interactive session. The programme ended with the chairperson's speech in which he highlighted the influence of Dr. Saikia's writings on the readers and his contribution to the Assamese literature.

Symposium Criticism in Bodo Literature

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium 'Criticism in Bodo Literature' in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha on 11 September 2013 at Bodo Sahitya Sabha Bhawan, Karbi Anglong District, Assam.

The introductory address was delivered by Nirmal Basumatary, Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The inaugural address was delivered by Nipen Ch. Baglary, President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.

The topic of the first paper presented by Aurobindo Uzir was "Modern Bodo Poetry." He focused on the nature of post-modern poems and its use of simple language, formlessness, lack of traditional principles etc. Gopinath Brahma presented a brief sketch of the characters from the book entitled *Soul of Sound* by Aurabindo Uzir. The topic of the paper by Lokeshwar Hainary was "A Short Descriptions of the Modern Poems in the Book of Poems entitled *River of the Moon*." Rituraj Basumatary spoke on the features of two poems by Uzir in his paper. Premananda Machahary, Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the session.



The topic of the second academic session was "Criticism in Bodo Novel." The speaker of the session was Magesh Narza Bodo with Lalit Ch. Basumatary in the chair. Sri Bodo spoke on the character of Rebeka in the novel of Manoranjan Lahary.

The topic of the third academic session was "Criticism in Bodo Short Story." The speakers of the session were Dhanjoy Narzary and Uttam Ch. Brahma with Bisweswar Basumatary in the chair. The topic of Sri Narzary paper was "The reply of Incomplete Letter: The Trend of the Social Awareness in the Short Story." Sri Brahma presented the paper "Short Story of the Bodo and Its Style and Development."

After a brief interactive session, the symposium ended with the vote of thanks by Modon Ch. Swargiary, Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha.



One of the sessions in progress



Ancient Manipuri Literature: Critical Assessment



Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Literary Forum' in collaboration with Nongchup Haram Khorjei Lup, Yurembam on 'Critical Assessment on Ancient Manipuri Literature' on 20 August 2013 at Patsoi Taomang Rising Club, Imphal West, Manipur.

In the inaugural function, H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board and Kunjo Ningomba, President, HOHAKHOL, Yurembam were the chief guest and president respectively. Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered his welcome speech. In his keynote address, P. Nabachandra Singh, Dean, School of Humanities, Manipur University critically evaluated the Manipuri literature from ancient to the contemporary period. He also pointed out the relevance of them in modern Manipuri context. The chief guest, Prof. H. Behari Singh in his address briefly discussed the relevance of Manipuri folk-lore. In the presidential speech, Kunjo Ningomba expressed the importance of such symposium which brought out the classical aspects of ancient manipuri literature. The vote of thanks was delivered by L. Shashikumar Singh.

The first session was chaired by O. Ibochaoba Singh in which four papers were read out. A. Tejmani Singh's paper "Heroic Elements in *Chainarol*" brought out the heroic elements of the ancient Manipuri society. The topic of the paper of N. Shreema Devi was "Concept of Death in *Kontboujam Nongkarol*." She tried to trace the demarcating line between

life and death and the development of the concept of death as found in the discussed book. Y. Kunjabihari Singh's paper "The Allegorical Study of Social and Political Preview of *Numit Kappa* in Modern context," dealt with an allegorical bond between man and nature with special reference to early Manipuri literature.

The second session was moderated by Th. Ibohanbi Singh. The first paper read by K. Shantibala was titled "An Essence of Feminism in *Panthoipi Khongkul*." She focused upon the feminist movement in Manipuri society both past and present.

N. Indramani Singh read the paper "Literary Aspect in *Tutenglon*." He

presented a graphic account of geographical structures of Manipur in the ancient time based on the descriptions in *Tutenglon*.

The topic of the paper of I.S. Yumnam was "The Mystical elements in *Khoriphaba Naotbemlon*." He traced the mystical elements in the mythology of Khoriphaba – the only son of Soraren, the king of heaven. The topic of the paper of W. Romesh Singh was "Art of Literary Style in *Leirol*." Dr. Singh dwelt on the craftsmanship employed on the structure of *Leirol*. He briefly discussed the significances of the imagery flowers found in *Leirol*.

In the valedictory function, presided by Kunjo Ningomba, Leima Dance by Tombimcha and her group was performed.

Literary Forum

Image of Manipuri Women Activists

Sahitya Akademi organized a literary forum 'The Image of Manipuri Women Activists in the Contemporary Manipuri Literature' in collaboration with Leimarol Khorjeikol, Imphal on 13 September 2013 at M.D.U. Hall, Yaiskul, Manipur.

H. Behari Singh, Convener of the Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in his inaugural address said that from time immemorial Manipuri women had the tradition of protesting against all odds which is reflected in the literature as well as in folktales of Manipur.

N. Aruna Devi, Vice-President, LEIKOL, in her speech from the chair referred to Irawat, Sharmila and Manorama, in different contexts for achieving

empowerment for women. The role of Manipuri activists is far more advanced than writers as observed by Devi. In the inaugural session, the academic session was moderated by Ch. Shilaramani Devi. Papers were read by W.Kumari Chanu, Salem Shanibala Devi, Sangeeta Devi on the Manipuri poetry, fiction and drama.



Salem Shanibala Devi, Sangeeta Devi and W. Kumari



Through My Window Ranajit Dev Goswami on Lakshmi Nandan Bora



Lakshmi Nandan Bora and Ranajit Dev Goswami

‘Through My Window’ programme was organized by Sahitya Akademi on 9 September 2013 at the Department of Assamese, Gauhati University. Ranjit Kumar Dev Goswami, Professor of English, Gauhati University spoke on the life and works of eminent Assamese litterateur Lakshmi Nandan Bora. Prof. Goswami spoke about Dr. Bora’s prolific output as a creative writer, with 32 novels, a large number of short stories, drama, and

travelogues. He called Dr. Bora’s short story “Sakhaa Daamodar,” the best short story ever written by an Assamese writer till today. Prof. Goswami said that Dr. Bora’s autobiographical writing *Kaal Bolukaar Kboj*, first serialized in the Assamese periodical *Prantik*, could very well be considered a document of its time, and that this could possibly be a characteristic of much of Dr. Bora’s writing. Dr. Bora’s novel on the life of the Assamese vaisnava saint Srimanta Sankaradeva, *Jaakeri Naabike Upaam*, published in 1993, was a major contribution to Assamese literature. He said it was the product of a lot of hard-work by Dr. Bora. Prof. Goswami described Dr. Bora as one of the most brilliant Assamese writers writing in the realistic and naturalistic mode. The lecture was followed by an interactive session during which there were several questions asked to which Dr. Bora promptly responded. In the question and answer session, he particularly mentioned about the pleasure of being a creative writer experienced in writing something good. He also said he wrote for his own creative satisfaction more than for anything else.

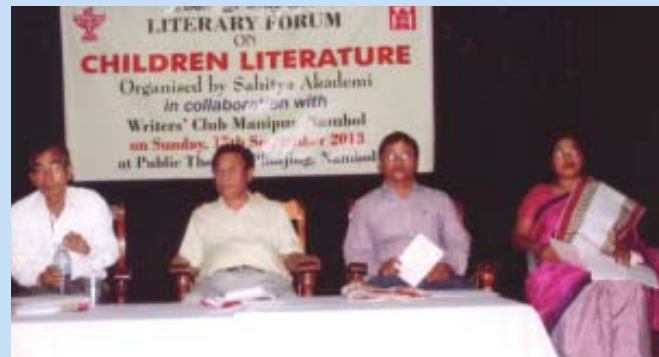
Literary Forum Children’s Literature

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Literary Forum’ on Children’s Literature, in collaboration with Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol on 15 September 2013 at Public Theatre Hall, Phojjing, Nambol.

The inaugural session was chaired by Saratchandra Nongthomba, President, Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the function and delivered the introductory address.

The academic session was chaired by Lamabam Viramani Singh. The three speakers of this session were Chirom Rajketan, Raghu Leishangthem, and K. Shantibala Devi. They spoke on the topics “Children Literature: An overview,” “Style and Technique” and “Past and Present” respectively. The chairperson of the session presented her

opinions on the presented papers. The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Kh. Samungou Singh.



L-R: Reghu Raghu Leishangthem, Lamabam Viramani Singh, Chirom Rajketan and K. Shantibala Devi



Bodo Poets' Meet

A two-day 'Bodo Poets' Meet' was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bodo Writers' Academy at Dudhnoi College Auditorium Hall, Dudhnoi, Goalpara, Assam from 8 to 9 September 2013.

In the inaugural session, Premananda Machahary, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the inaugural address. Mongol Singh Hazowary, Anjali Daimary, Diganta Lawary, Gopal Phukan, Principal, Dudhnoi College, Dudhnoi participated in the programme as distinguished guests. The President of Bodo Writers' Academy, Bijay Baglary presided over the inaugural session.

Atul Chandra Boro, President of the Reception Committee of the programme traced the history of Bodo publications. He mentioned that the first book on Bodo language was *Boroni Fisha o Ayen* published in printed form from Dudhnoi in the year 1915. Dr. Premananda Machahary gave a valuable speech on the development and upliftment of the Bodo language, literature, art and culture etc.

Mongol Singh Hazowary, the special guest spoke about his works. The speech of Anjali Daimary was centered around the feminist literature. Rajen Basumatary, General Secretary of the Bodo Writers' Academy delivered the keynote address. Bijay Baglary, President, Bodo Writers' Academy spoke from the chair about the technical expressions of the literature, their application and their influence over the readers. The first session was presided over by Bhabani Baglary, Vice-President, Bodo Writers' Academy. Roma Kanta Basumatary, Dhaneswar Narzary, Madhu Mohan Lahary, Sarat Boro, Khagen Ramchiary, Rashmi Choudhuri, Sansumwi Khunggri Basumatary, Beshari Basumatary, Dhirju Jyoti Basumatary, Utpal Khakhlary participated in the session and presented their poems.

The second session was chaired by Naba Kumar Brahma, Vice-President, Bodo Writers' Academy. Dhansri Swargiary, Upen Daimary, Samar Narzary, Barua Kanta Brahma, Umesh Brahma, Aran Raja Basumatary, Champabati Khakhlary, Bhupendra Narayan Basumatary, Ranen Chandra Muchahary, Khabam Basumatary and Thulungga Mwshahary recited their Bodo poems. The valedictory session took place with Bijay Baglary in the chair. Uttara Bwiswmuthiary was the guest of honour who spoke on the feminist literature in Bodo language.

Kathasandhi M. Nabakishore Singh



H. Behari Singh and M. Nabakishore Singh

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme with noted Manipuri writer M. Nabakishore Singh in collaboration with Macha Chanu, Kakching, Manipur on 14 September 2013 at Yambem Mani Sahitya Bhavan, Kakching.

Nabakishore Singh started writing at a very young age and published his first poem in his school magazine. He has authored four short story collections. He won Yambem Mani Sahitya Mana and Manipur State Kala Akademi Literary Award.

H. Bihari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the inaugural address. He spoke about fictionists of Manipur and the distinctive features of their works. N. Pramodini Devi in her presidential address presented an overview of the present scenario of Manipuri literature and the place of noted writers like M. Nabakishore Singh in it.

M. Nabakishore Singh read out a story entitled "On the Lost of Bala". The story is centered on a simple family where the main character Madhu, the head of the family, and his spouse Tombi are well blended. The story is a well-structured creation of the fictionist. The writer personifies "Bala" as a victim of the modern diabolic man. The art of the presentation is very simple but the subtle portrayal of characters is really interesting. The story is built up with three consequences of short episodes. It is a mixture of irony and satire through various elements of humours. The writer interacted with the audience at the end.



Kathasandhi

Padmja Paul



Sahitya Samaj Award, Sri Baladeb Jiu Sahitya Sammana, Bhubaneswar Pustakmela Award, Dharitia Award, Pakhighra Award, Sammana, Binapani Mohanty Galpa Sammana and Bhubaneswar Behera. Mr Banoj Tripathy gave vote of thanks.



Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme with noted Odia scholar Padmja Paul at IDCOL Auditorium, Bhubaneswar on 28 September 2013.

Introducing Sri Paul, Gourahari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, said that Paul distinguished himself by his uniqueness in storytelling and selecting themes among his contemporary writers. His stories appear to be autobiographical, he added.

Talking about his own story, the journey of a successful writer, Sri Paul said Bibhuti Pattanaik's novel *Dina Jae Chibna Rube* inspired him to write stories. He said one needs honesty, hard labour and dedication to be a good writer. For the young writers he advised to select simple words and communicable idioms in order to make the stories intelligible and acceptable to the common readers. To encourage the budding writers, he suggested the readers to read their stories. Ajay Swain read out a story of Sri Paul entitled "Pinjarabadha".

Sri Paul was born in the year 1946 in Kusinga village of Jagatsingpur. He has 11 short story collections and wrote more than 15 novels. Sri Paul was conferred with many literary awards such as Puraskara, Jhankara award, Utkal

Loka on Pena Literature

Poets' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Loka on Pena Literature' as well as a 'Poets' Meet' on 14 September 2013 in collaboration with Manipuri Sahitya Pracharak Sabha, Wangjing in Manipur. The Loka programme was started with an invocation by Pena singer Longjam Pishak Singh. H. Behari Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest and N. Biren Singh, President of Manipuri Sahitya Pracharak Sabha, Wangjing as the President of the programme.



H. Behari Singh, Convenor of the Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi explained the relationship between Pena and literature. For the multitalented Manipur, people have started experimentation with Pena. As Manipur grapples with a growing distrust amongst communities, perhaps in the strings of Pena lays the strength of uniting such a varied multi-ethnic fabric.

The inaugural function was concluded with a speech delivered by the President, N. Biren Singh. In the first session, Makhon Mani Mongshaba spoke on the origin of pena, the most antique and unique musical instrument of the Meiteis. After the speeches, two Pena singers Leimapokpam Yaima Singh and Rk. Surjit gave demonstrations of the living art form.

In the second session, a 'Poets' Meet' was held with S. Nabadwip Singh in the Chair. Participating poets were M. Bheigyachandra, Th. Bishwamitra, Y. Utambala, Th. Joykumar, Kshetri. Rajen, Seema Sardarani, M. Devadas, Sarat Salam, Ranjita Konthoujam, Th. Khoiren, Y. Surchandra, T. Sorojini, Oken khundongbam, Lenin Khumancha and Gunamani Leima. M. Rajendra Singh, 'Kavya Bhushan', proposed the vote of thanks.



Literary Forum Sunil Gangopadhyay



Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Literary Forum' on Sunil Gangopadhyay, veteran Bengali poet and fiction writer and the former President of Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Naharol Sahitya Preme Samiti on 17 September 2013 at Dave Literature Centre, Imphal, Manipur on 17 September 2013.

The programme was a tribute being offered in honour of the late writer. In the first session, four scholars spoke about life and works of Sunil Gangopadhyay and the latter session was devoted to the reading of Sunil Gangopadhyay's selected poems (translated into Manipuri) by Manipuri poets and writers. P. Nabachandra Singh, President of the Naharol Sahitya Preme Samiti presided over the inaugural session and H. Behari Singh, Convenor of the Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the literary forum and delivered the introductory speech. At the outset, Naorem Bidyasagar, a Manipuri poet and writer read out a poem of Sunil Gangopadhyay "Keu

Katha Rakheni" in Bengali and then its translation in Manipuri. H. Temba Singh, Joint Secretary of the Samiti welcomed the gathering and read out a short biographical sketch of Sunil Gangopadhyay. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of the departed poet before further proceedings of the main programme. The Convenor also released the 156-159th issue of the *Wakhal*, a quarterly journal of the Samiti on the occasion.

Khumanthem Prakash Singh in his speech touched upon Gangopadhyay's early literary activities and traced the trajectory of his coming up to the limelight as a remarkable writer. The second speaker was Nongthombam Kunjamohan, a distinguished writer and translator who has an erudition over original Bengali works of Sunil Gangopadhyay. Naorem Khagendra Singh, former Convenor, spoke about Gangopadhyay's activities in building up a company of likeminded young writers who ventured to publish a new wave magazine *Kritibas* in preserving the old values.

The fourth speaker was Longjam Jaychandra Singh who said that

Gangopadhyay's writings are always lyrical that makes reading pleasurable. A.C. Netrajit, General Secretary of Naharol Sahitya Preme Samiti proposed vote of thanks.

In the poetry reading session eleven poets participated. It was chaired by Jodhachandra Sanasam, a distinguished writer. He began by reading out a poem in English by Gangopadhyay and then its Manipuri translation. The readers were Sanjenbam Bhanumati Devi, R.K. Bhubonsana, Arambam Memchoubi Devi, Birendrajit Naorem, Raghu Leishangthem, Koijam Shantibala Devi, Yambem Tombi Devi, Sri Salam Rupachandra, R. K. Hemabati Devi, Saratchand Thiyam and B.P. Bhattacharjee. At the end, Sri Jodhachandra Sanasam, the Chairman, gave his observations on the poetry reading session.

Loka

Horse Dance of Odisha

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Loka: The Many Voices' programme on the Horse Dance of Odisha on 28 September 2013 at IDCOL Auditorium, Bhubaneswar. Guru Utsab Charan Das and his team was profound and amazed the audience.

Guru Utsab Charan Das tried to bring about some innovations in the subject matter of the *Chaiti* songs in order to raise public awareness and educate the mass against various social evil. He has also written *Chaiti* songs depicting the evils of illiteracy, of having large and unplanned family, of dowry system, of pollution and so on.



H. Behari Singh, P. Nabachandra Singh, Kh. Prakash Singh, N. Kunjamohan Singh, N. Khagendra Singh and L. Joychandra Singh



The impact created by the Tamil films is far reaching than that of any religious or cultural movement in the past. Popularizing the Freedom Movement and getting across Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu are the strides achieved by the Tamil Cinema. Adaptation of literature into cinema in Southern Indian languages is widely varied from Malayalam or Tamil literatures. The seminar tried to deliberate the links between the cinema and literature in Tamil especially the issue involved in converting Tamil Literature into cinema.

Seminar

Tamil Literature and Tamil Cinema

Sahitya Akademi, Chennai organized a seminar on the 'Influence of Tamil Literature on Tamil Cinema' on 20 & 21 September 2013

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered his welcome address. In his welcome address, Dr. Rao said that literature and cinema apply balm to the aching hearts of millions. Story telling is the fundamental technique both for cinema and literature. Chennai evolved as the centre for South Indian cinema and the ethos had spread among the people of Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Though the technique of cinema is Western, but the structure, texture and content of southern cinema are native— Dravidian tone interspersed with folk idiom. Bharatidasan, Aringnar Anna and many poets and intellectuals from Tamil literary world gave a new direction to Tamil films.

Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu, Convenor of Sahitya Akademi, Tamil Advisory Board delivered his presidential address. While analyzing its pros and

cons of the impact of Tamil cinema on the society, Prof. Nachimuthu said that cinema served as a vehicle to spread ideals for the Indian Independence movement in India and Dravidian movement in Tamil Nadu. Tamil cinema propagated progressive ideas and gave an awakening call to a superstitious society.

Maalan, a reputed Tamil writer and well-known editor delivered introductory address. He mentioned that 2013 is the centenary year of Indian cinema and Tamil literature has influenced cinema in various spheres like dialogue, songs, narrative technique and social content. He discussed the literary creations of Jayakanthan, Rajaji, Namkal Kavignar, Kalki, Mu.Va., P.S. Ramaiah, Akilan, Ki Ra, Neela Padmanabhan and illustrated how the films were different from the novels.

Balu Mahendra, veteran film director delivered the keynote address. He exhorted the writers to enter into the film world and improve the screen play,



L-R: Kamarasu, Balu Mahendra, Neela Padmanabhan, Maalan and K. Sreenivasarao



dialogues and songs with a better creative touch.

Neela Padmanabhan, well-known Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi Award winner participated as the guest of honour. Literature and cinema could not remain without influencing each other. Adaptation is more important when making a novel into celluloid, Neela Padmanabhan pointed out. The adaptation can happen consciously and sometime unconsciously, he added.

R. Kamarasu, well-known Tamil critic delivered the felicitation address. He mentioned that cinema, a medium is globally spreading its tentacles of good and evil. Globalization in cinema and literature sometimes affects the native efflorescence. He felt that progressive ideals emanating from literature should necessarily be portrayed well in films.

A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-charge Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

The first session concentrated on 'Transition from Text to Cinema'. Three film directors participated to share their film-making experiences based on novels and stories. Playwright and actor Mu. Ramasamy chaired the session. Lenin, a veteran film editor and director, spoke on the film *Ooruku Nooruper*, a film based on the novel of the same title

written by D. Jayakanthan. The script is more important and novelist can be roped in to do the job, Sri Lenin expressed. Amshankumar informed that literature and cinema are parallel, though identical, cinema adds colours and glamour to literature. Sasi said that a novel can be lengthy but a film should be crisp and focused to shun boredom. Literature is on emotion whereas the film is on visual and action.

The second session also concentrated on film-making experiences of Gnanasekaran and Gowthaman. Na. Muthusamy director of 'Koothu Pattarai', chaired the session. Na. Muthusamy informed that film-making and acting involve continuous learning process and the reading experience is different from cinematic experience. Gnanasekaran said in his presentation that if a film venture is based on a book, it would only be successful if the total effect of reading experience of the novel is fully conveyed on screen.

Gowthaman, film director and actor spoke about his film *Makizhchi* based on Neela Padmanabhan's novel *Thalaimuraigal* (Generation). He tried to recreate the pain and pleasures portrayed in the novel. The story creates empathy in a deeper level. He also screened some important scenes from the film which

impressed the discerning minds that evoked appreciation.

The third session featured a single lecture by Theodre Baskaran on "Imaging the Word." He analyzed the portrayal of characters in literature to films and the narrative techniques followed. in literature and cinema. Satyajit Ray mastered the imagination of the word that cinema is visual media, and the story should not be told through conversations, he stated.

The fourth session held on 21 September 2013 was on "Living up the Legendary Characters". Eminent Tamil fiction writer G. Thialakvathy chaired the session. She recounted important characters in the films of Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen. She extensively analysed *Pather Panchali* and *Flight of Pigeons* known as *Jugnu*.

Film actor Sivakumar commented on characterisation in the film *Uchiveyil* based on the novel by Indira Parthasarathy.

Abishek mentioned that the book *An Actor Prepares* by Stainslavski is a master piece and guide for upcoming actors. He spoke on the characters of *Mobamul* by T Janakiraman.

The panel discussion in the fifth session was on a controversial topic, "Does filming novel mar their original texture?" Ponneelan, veteran Tamil fiction writer acknowledged the difficulties of film makers in his remarks. Well-known writers and filmmakers participated in the session. S. Ramakrishnan, well-known fiction writer said that film making is a different art and the writer can only help in screenplay and dialogue. Bhagyaraj wanted full freedom for a director. R.C. Sakthi spoke about controversial actions portrayed by him and the reaction from the audience. Nanjil Nadan also advocated the need of freedom for film makers.

Indira Parthasarathy delivered the valedictory address.



Balu Mahendra delivering the keynote address



Tamil Poets' Meet



L-R: K. Kamarasu delivering his speech at the meet with other participants

Sahitya Akademi arranged 'Poets' Meet', a programme on the eve of Subrmania Bharati Day on 11 September 2013 at Marudupandiyar Educational Institution, Thanjavur. Kamarasu, General Council member of Sahitya Akademi welcomed the august audience and introduced the poets on the dais. Sujatha Bharatidasan presided over the function and spoke on Subramania Bharati and his influence on Tamil poets and the society on the whole.

Thenmozhi recited a few of her poems. Thanga Senthilkumar recited poems on Bharati written by him. Vetrichevan's poems gave an overview of the present political scenario in the country. Sugan recited his poems on the currencies of India and the US. Viyakulan's poems depicted the realities of society. Finally Ilakkumikumaaran Gnanathiraviyam recited his poems to conclude the programme.

Croatian Writers' Delegation with Tamil Writers

Nadazada Cacinovic, Srecko Horvat and Nikola Petkovic participated in a literary forum organised by Sahitya Akademi, Chennai. The delegates spoke about Croatia, its culture, education and literature. A selected audience consisting of major Tamil writers interacted with the foreign writers. Veteran Tamil fiction writer Neela Padmanaban, Sa. Kandasamy, Nanjil Nadan, Ponneelan and Thilagavathi were introduced to the delegation. The social context and current trends of Tamil literature were discussed. Manavalan spoke on non-fictional works, scholarly compendiums and critical works. While Pandiyarajan discussed about cultural context, Ramasamy and Subhaschandra Bose discussed the role of writers and scholars in a turbulent society.



Croatian delegates with Tamil writers



Symposium

Mundur Krishnankutty and His Literary World



L-R: C.Radhakrishnan, S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Thomas Mathew, K.S. Ravikumar and Ajan

Sahitya Akademi in association with Palakkad District Public Library organized a ‘Symposium on World of Fiction of Mundur Krishnankutti’ on 28 September 2013 at Palakkad. S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the guests and audience. M. Thomas Mathew, veteran Malayalam critic and scholar, who inaugurated the symposium said that Mundur Krishnankutty could understand and record the pathetic plights of human lives. Prof. Mathew undertook an indepth understanding of Mundur. The energy level, he maintained in his thoughts, emotions and approaches were the determining factors of Mundur’s style of writing. Every human sorrow has its own private level, not to be shared with anyone. It is therefore a challenge, every writer encounters as how to convey the feelings that are rooted in the introvert nature of an individual. The crisis happens when the language is insufficient to express what the writer has to share, observed Prof. Mathew.

C. Radhakrishnan, the Convenor, Malayalam Advisory Board, who chaired the inaugural session said that sincerity of the story-teller is the only thing that makes a story great. A sincere mind can only narrate a good story. Sincerity is something that is inborn in a writer.

K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi in his keynote remarks said that Mundur’s stories gained prominence during the seventies when communist ideologies dominated the literary world. Mundur promoted these ideas long before the communist movements in India. Through varied satirical and humanistic approaches, he has created a miniature universe throwing light to the ugly faces of societal violence and proclaims his presence in a very subtle yet strong manner.

P.K. Parakkadavu, General Council Member of Sahitya Akademi in his chairperson’s introductory address said Mundur created a unique path in story writing and that he cannot be categorized into any specific generation of writers. He had been always involved and attached with the young generation. There is no other writer who has powerfully drawn the conflicts between an individual and a society.

K.P. Mohanan, presented his paper on the political undercurrents of Mundur Krishnankutty’s writings. His depth, and ideologies have gained strength in various readings, writings and cultures. Its relevance has increased from time to time, in its extreme form towards the individual and ultimately to the society itself.

Ganesh Mathur presented a paper on the “Regional Culture in Mundur’s Stories”. Mundur’s stories have a humanistic touch in it and yet the language has a certain flow common to the regional areas of the writer that speaks of a man unaware of time and space.

G. Dileepan presented a paper on “Alternative worlds in Mundur Krishnankutty’s Stories”. Mundur’s stories were always evocative rather than simple depiction of middle class people’s lives, he observed. A kind of political ambivalence is clearly visible in his stories. We can see a parallel dimension shift in all his stores. Habits play a very vital role in them, especially those which are unacceptable. Realities and dreams exist together there, but do not interact.



K.P. Ramesh presented a paper on “Layers of the self”. The prime meaning of the term ‘layers of the self’ is the feeling of becoming isolated, even standing in the middle of a crowd. These thoughts are reflected throughout in Mundur’s stories. The situations written in his stories are such that, at one point, the characters merge in with the writer and move along as one entity.

Mundur Sethumadhavan chaired the second session on ‘Tributes’. He shared his memories of Krishnankutty of their strong relationship. Ashokan Charuvil, while paying tribute to Mundur, said that though modernism ruled the literature of that age, Mundur’s narrative style differed and moved in a pace, keeping certain distance from the modernistic views. He along with Mundur Sethumadhavan, Vaisakhan and C.V. Sreeraman, bridged the gap between their generation and ideas of modernism.

George Joseph K read his paper in which he recalled his days with Mundur Krishnankutty. He stated, “Mundur’s story “Moonnamathoral”, has the depth of love and care in it. Women are positively portrayed. The family bondage depicted in the story is a very rare phenomenon. Through his simple worlds, he has conquered a lot of human minds”, he concluded.

N. Radhakrishnan Nair presented his views on the personality of Mundur Krishnankutty. One would feel the magical presence of a musical touch in his talks. It has its own tenderness. Similarly his stories have a poetic touch, which makes it difficult to determine whether it is a story or a poem. In the story like “Aaswasathinte Manthra Charadhu”, we feel the presence of the writer in each and every line of it.

P. Murali recalled his memories on Mundur Krishnankutty’s advice as his preacher and teacher for his career.

The valedictory session was held in the evening. Ramachandra, IAS, District Collector and Chairman, Palakkad District Public Library welcomed the gathering. K.P. Sankaran, eminent critic chaired and in detail hailed Mundur Krishnankutty’s literary achievements. Eminent fiction writer Vaisakhan delivered the valedictory address. Kasim, Secretary, District Library Council, Palakkad proposed a vote of thanks to conclude the symposium.

Literary Forum Children’s Literature

Sahitya Akademi’s ‘Literary Forum’ on Children’s Literature was held on 27 August 2013 at Thamizh Sangam, Puducherry. R. Sambath, Member of General Council, Sahitya Akademi delivered his introductory speech stressing the need to redefine the theory of writing for children at this time of globalization.

Krishnaswamy Nachimuthu, Convenor, Sahitya Akademi, Tamil Advisory Board chaired the programme. In his speech, he stressed that more number of qualitative books for children must be written by our writers. The publishers should take special interest in producing books suitable to the taste of the children. Tamil culture and its interest for Tamil language among children should be emulated.

Ka.Thamizhmallan delivered his speech about the present trend of children literature. Bharathivanar Siva delivered lecture on his stories for children. He denounced the culture of consumerism existing in children’s literature in Tamil today. Saravanan Velu spoke about the dramas meant for children and the need for such plays, etc. Children’s literature should not have the tendency to preach morals. However, children’s literature should touch the inner chords of the children. S. Raguraman delivered his speech on the technique of how to express the facts of science through children’s fiction.

Sundara Murugan, Member of Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi compered the programme. Sethupathi, Member of Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered a vote of thanks.



Sampath delivering his speech at the Forum



Contemporary Malayalam Novel Trends and Approaches



Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore in collaboration with Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram organised a literary meet on the topic ‘Contemporary Malayalam Novel- Approaches and Trends’ on 5 September 2013 at the College in Thiruvananthapuram.

R.B. Sreekala, Co-ordinator of the literary meet introduced the dignitaries on the dais and also welcomed the august gathering. The programme was chaired by Babu K, Associate Professor, Department of Malayalam.

The event was inaugurated by C.R. Prasad, Member of Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In his inaugural address, Dr. Prasad said that the Malayalam literary critics had to be more sensible and judicious in their approach. The language used in literary works is influenced and shaped by the changing culture and society. Dr. Prasad quoted examples from the works of S.K. Pottekkatt, Anand and Basheer. He informed that it is the collective responsibility of the audience that gives Malayalam its due importance.

In her felicitation speech, Mary Dorothy, Principal, Government College for Women, Thiruvananthapuram upheld the importance of Malayalam as a mother tongue and official language. Novel has the unique power to captivate human minds, she said.

“Modern Trends in Malayalam Novel” was the focal point of the lecture delivered by Benjamin. He said that ‘modern’ is a pseudo concept. Fictionalization of history is a prominent tendency among contemporary Malayalam novelists. Dynamic plots and settings are also the popular drifts showcased by Malayalam novels today, he added. It was indeed a sensible evaluation of *Aarachar*, *Aadujivitham*, *Basra*, *Manushyanu Oru Amukham*, *Pravasam*, *Ice*, *Aadi* etc. “The genre of Malayalam novel is not retarding, but flourishing rapidly,” he concluded.

Deviating from the conventional manner, V.J James started his speech by presenting a ‘panacea’ for those who aspire to write a novel. Experience plus creativity adds to the birth of a novel, he observed. He also shared his experience, pain and endurance behind the creation of his noted works *Laikka*, *Chorasastram* and *Dattapabaram*.

G.R. Indugopan in his presentation stressed that a novelist should empathize with the reader and make them feel like an integral part of the story.

An interactive session was followed after the presentations. Ashrafa Nisa, Associate Professor delivered the vote of thanks.



C.R. Prasad delivering the inaugural address and also seen are other guests



A Literary Forum cum Poets' Meet

A 'Literary Forum' cum 'Poets' Meet' was held at Puducherry on 27 September 2013 at Thamizh Sangam, Puducherry.

R. Sampath, Member of General Council, Sahitya Akademi delivered his introductory speech. He spoke on the contemporary Tamil poetry, its form and content.

During the 'Poets Meet' held thereafter, M. Lenin Thangappa shared his poetic journey in his lecture on "Me and my Poetry."

He also chaired the programme. In his remark, Sri Thangappa informed the participants and audience that he was influenced by Bharatidasan's works especially for the use of chaste Tamil and also for his powerful expression. He also added that his acquaintance with Subramania Bharati's major works opened up new vistas of poetic sensibility for him and also infused patriotism in him.

Arimathi Thennagan, Ko. Bharati and Mu Balasubramaniam presented their speeches. They reminisced their early childhood days and their later experiences with literature, their inspirations and responses.

Vote of thanks was delivered by Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Sethupathi, another Member of Advisory Board also participated in this programme.

Hindi Day Celebrations

Bengaluru



Santosh Kumar Mishra, the guest on the occasion and members of the Akademi staff

Regional Office, Bengaluru organized the 'Hindi Saptah' at its premise on 24 and 25 September 2013. Santhosh Kumar Mishra, Hindi Poet from Bengaluru was invited to deliver inaugural speech. He spoke on the need to learn Hindi so as to translate and promote the rich literary works of the South Indian languages and thereby bringing fame to the South Indian literature. Competitions in dictation, handwriting, translation and essay writing were conducted among the staff. Distribution of prizes to the winners of the competition winners were given on the same day. Prof. Mishra gave away the prizes. Maher Mansoor, Urdu poet and translator was also present during the occasion and delivered his concluding speech.

Chennai

'Hindi Day' was celebrated in Sahitya Akademi's Chennai Office on 23 September 2013. Veteran Hindi expert Sourirajan delivered a lecture on the importance of Hindi today. Prizes were given to winners of the competition in translation, essay writing, handwriting and dictation.

Indian Literature

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Symposium

Moral Short Stories for Children

A symposium 'Moral Short Stories for Children' was organized on 15 September 2013 at Vishakapattanam. Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office S P Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering.

N. Gopi, Convenor, Telugu Advisory Board, and former Vice-Chancellor, Potti Sreeramulu Telugu Vishwavidyalaya, Hyderabad delivered the inaugural address. He welcomed Velaga Venkatappaiah, a great personality in the field of children's writings, and reputed writers of the genre for presenting papers in this symposium. Writing for children is a difficult task than writing for adults. It demands dedication and devotion. Children's Literature should be more vibrant like a gurgling stream. Today we keep children engaged with heavy syllabi exerting extreme pressure to excel in their academic programmes. "Children's literature should be aimed to inculcate subtle moral values in the society. The writers have to extricate our children from the onslaught of globalised culture", Dr. Gopi observed and remarked.

KSV Ramanamma, Editor, *Balabata*, Telugu monthly magazine, a reputed writer for children delivered the presidential address. She said that better books will certainly raise children to the heights. The books published for the 0-3 age group must contain full page illustrations and less matter so that children can understand the story through colourful pictures. There is a dearth of writers for children in Telugu.

The first session of "Moral Short Stories for Children" was presided over by an eminent short story writer and former editor of *Chandamama*, Telugu monthly. He said that all children must invariably find place for moral values. Chokkapu Venkataramana,

popularly called as Magic Cho, a reputed writer for children, and other reputed writers for children such as Naramsetty Umamaheswararao, B Nageswararao and Puttagunta Suresh Kumar also presented the papers.

The second session was presided over by Ravi Ranga Rao, who said that playlets have great impact on children. That is why the playlets must contain moral values. In this session, eminent children's writers like Dasari Venkataramana, Sivam Prabhakar, Darla Chitti Babu presented the papers. The third session was presided over by Belagam Bheemeswara Rao. In this session, PSN Murthy read the paper on the impact of electronic media on children. D K Chaduvula Babu presented



Velaga Venkatappaiah and N. Gopi

the paper on writing techniques of moral short stories for children. K Laxminarayanamma narrated her experience on story-poems for children. The valedictory session was presided over by Velaga Venkatappaiah, Member, Telugu Advisory Board. Reddy Raghavaiah, Bal Sahitya Puraskar awardee of Sahitya Akademi also delivered his address.

An Evening with Bal Sahitya & Yuva Sahitya Puraskar Awardees

A 'Literary Forum: An evening with Bal Sahitya Puraskar awardee 2013 and Yuva Puraskar awardee 2012 in Kannada' held by Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bangalore on 21 September 2013 at Kuvempu Auditorium, Sahitya Parishat, Chamarajpet, Bangalore.

P. Chandrika, Member, Akademi's Kannada Advisory Board welcomed the guests and the audience for the programme. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convenor, Akademi's Kannada Advisory Board chaired the event. H. S. Venkatesh

Murthy, Bal Sahitya Puraskar Awardee 2013 award winner and Lakkur Anand, Yuva Puraskar awardee for 2012 award winner were guests of honour. Subbu Holeyar, Kannada poet spoke on Lakkur Anand's poetry, and Chintamani Kodlekere, Kannada writer and critic highlighted H.S. Venkatesh Murthy's contribution to children's works.

H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, the veteran Kannada writer and Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar award winner, said that without sorrow there won't be song.



The children's literature should not be measured under the yardsticks of literary criticism. Children are the real judges of the quality of their literature.

Lakkur Anand, young Kannada poet and Akademi's Yuva Puraskar awardee said that Dalits speak on the eons of their existence and were being anguished. The oppressed people should certainly write their own literature.

Kannada poet Subbu Holeyar spoke on the poetry of Lakkur Anand. He said that until the dalits and women writers started writing, there was no significant growth in Kannada literature. It did not reach the mass. After the dalit and women's movement in Kannada literature, poetry widened its horizon. While speaking on Lakkur Anand, he said that he is like a flower blossomed on the inner and outer yards of a village fence. His poetry is the



L-R : Chintamani Kodlekere, Narahalli Balasubramanya, H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, Lakkur Anand and Subbu Holeyar

poetry of the anguished and downtrodden.

Chintamani Kodlekere elaborately spoke on the writings and contributions of H.S. Venkatesha Murthy to Kannada Children's Literature and Cinema as well. He said that Dr. Murthy has played a

pivotal role in keeping the mindset of the children of Karnataka both through his writings and audio/visual creations.

Narahalli Balasubramanya, presiding over the meet, said that the programme has envisaged a dialogue among the writers from different communities.

Symposium Pejavara Sadashiva Rao

A 'Centenary Symposium' on Pejavara Sadashiva Rao was organised on 31 August 2013 at Udupi. The programme commenced with the recital of Pejavara Sadashiva Rao's poems by Chandrashekar Kedlaya. S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering. Na. Damodar Shetty in his introductory remarks mentioned that late Pejavara Sadashiva Rao's vast body of writings reflected the core human values.

In his inaugural address, Muralidhar Upadhya Hiriyadka recalled how as a student he read Sadashiva Rao's works with keen interest. His literary works were best sellers. Had not Sadashiva Rao passed away at a young age of 26, Kannada literature would have been richer by many more outstanding literary contributions from him.

Narahalli Balasubramanya in his presidential remarks recalled how

Pejavara Sadashiva Rao was a precursor of 'Navya Sahitya.' Though a student of engineering, he was passionate about literature and drew material for the same from experiences in life. He can be ranked among the eminent literary luminaries of coastal Karnataka namely Muddana, Govinda Pai, Sediypu Krishna Bhat. Just like Shivaram Karanth and Adiga, he was also interested in post colonial theories.

In the first session of the symposium, Janardhana Bhat presented his paper on "Pejavara Sadashiva Rao as a Story Writer." He analyzed Pejavara's eight stories. In his stories, one gets the true perspective of the society of his times, Sir Bhat expressed.

In the second session, Tharini Shubhadayini presented her paper on the poetry of Pejavara Sadashiva Rao. She pointed out how Rao's writings were a link between 'Navodaya' and 'Navya.'

His poems reflect patriotism and nationalism. He had a diasporic outlook considering the fact that most of his life was spent in Italy. His poems are universal as they reflect human experience.

In the third session, A.V Navada made a comprehensive analysis of Pejavara Sadashiva Rao's Letters available from the archive, written to Gokak and to his mother. His letters to Gokak are intensely personal wherein he gives even minute details about his day to day affairs. Prajna Marpalli read the letter which Sadashiva Rao wrote to Gokak when the former was in Milan University. The letter discusses the literary works of contemporary writers.

In the fourth session Na. Damodar Shetty presented his paper on Pejavara Sadashiva Rao as a Playwright. He analyzed two plays *Beedigilida Naari* and *Jeevana Sangeetha*. Pejavara Sadashiva Rao's cousin C.R. Ballal traced the history of Pejavara family.

Narahalli Balasubramanya summed up the proceedings.



Centenary Seminar

Konduru Veeraraghavacharyulu

A two day seminar on the 'Centenary of Konduru Veeraraghavacharyulu' was organized on 21 September 2013 at Tenali.

S P Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the gathering.

Velaga Venkatappaiah, Member, Telugu Advisory Board inaugurated the session. He narrated his association with Konduru during his student days. He was impressed by Dr. Konduru as a great teacher and also a personality who simply believed in the values of life. He also said that Dr. Konduru is a versatile writer in Telugu and his works include novels, poetry, literary criticism, philosophical works etc. He was popularly known as 'Pratyananda'.

Dr. Konduru is not only a versatile poet, fiction writer and biographer but also a great scholar. P. Sridevi, daughter of Dr. Konduru presided over the session and narrated the great qualities and scholarships of her father. P. Dakshinamurthy, eminent physician and a man of letters presided over the academic

session. As a physician, who treated Dr. Konduru in his last days told his experiences with him. Beeram Sundara Rao spoke about Dr. Konduru as a novelist. Alluri Venkata Narasimha Raju spoke on the literary talent of Dr. Konduru as a great author.

The second session on "Dr. Konduru as literary critic" was presided over by Sankaranarayana. He explained his experiences with Dr Konduru, during 1980s. K V Padmavathi, M. Ravikrishna and Jampani Purnachandra Prasad spoke on the occasion. In the evening session, Velaga Venkatappaiah a close associate and a student of Dr. Konduru, and also a Member, Sahitya Akademi, Telugu Advisory Board presided over the session. Annapareddy, Venkateswara Reddy, Sopinti Chandrasekharachari, and Kanneganti Venkatrao spoke on the occasion. The valedictory session was presided over by KTV Prasad. K Kanakachari, who did research on Dr. Konduru, in his valedictory address explained the life and works of Dr. Konduru. Jampani Purnachandra Prasad proposed the vote of thanks.



L-R: Sopinti Chandrashekarachari, A. Venkateswara Reddy, Kanneganti Venkatrao and Velaga Venkatappaiah