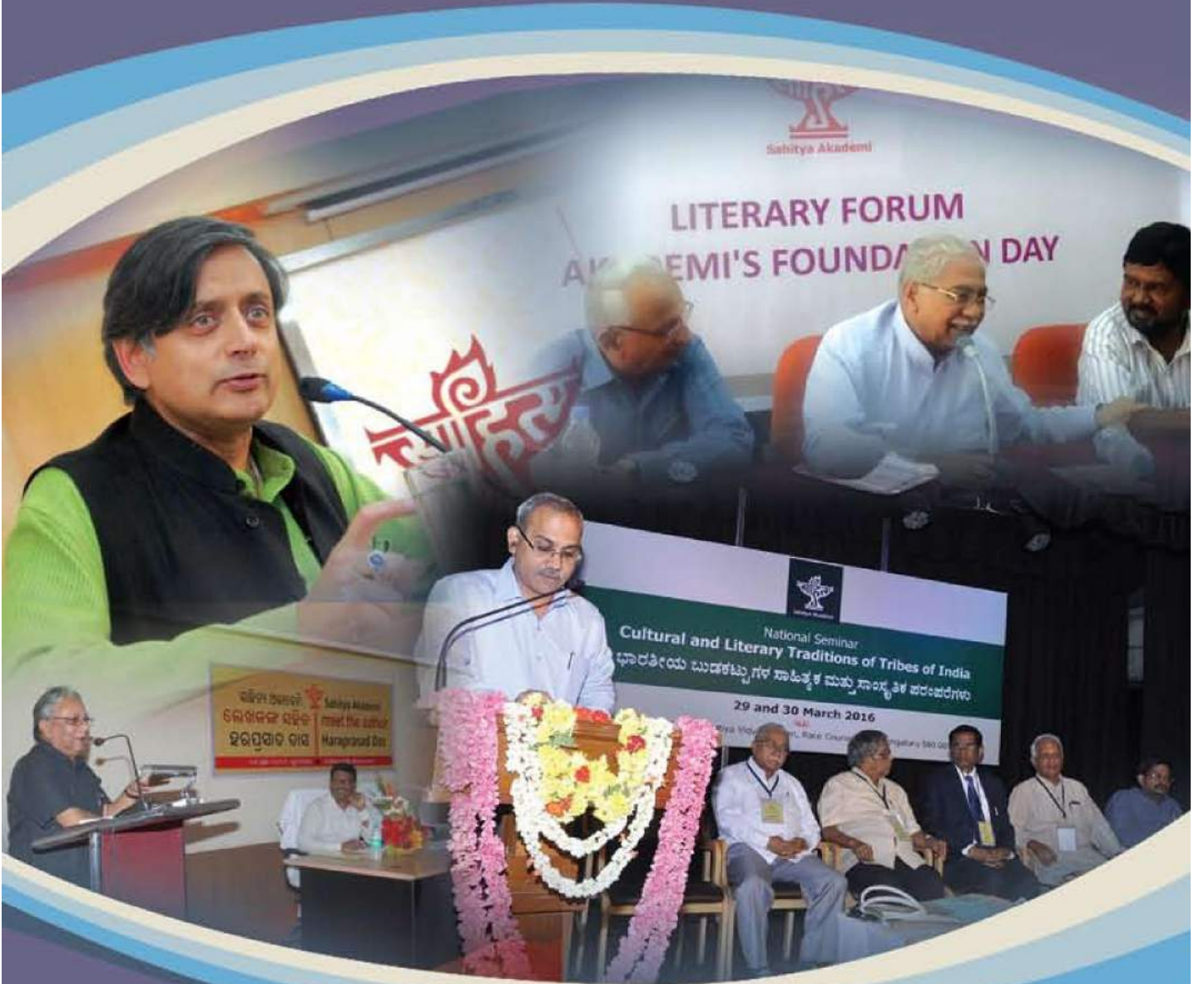




MARCH - APRIL 2016

SAHITYA AKADEMI

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

International Women's Day • Foundation Day • Centenary Celebrations • Literary Forum • Symposium
Seminar • Meet the Author • Face-to-Face • Kathasandhi • Nari Chetana • Through My Window

Secretary Speaks

A birth is a significant event in the life, be it in an individual's or in an institution's life. The entry into this world with the purpose of taking the road full of challenges, trying to reach up to the horizon filled with victories and euphoria while at the same time treading carefully on the path filled thorns and pebbles, is indeed a significant point in one's history. The events and celebrations to mark the beginning bring joy and happiness to everyone around even as the day of beginning always presents itself as an opportunity to reflect, both for the individuals and institutions alike.

Every Foundation Day at the Akademi spurs every one of us to reflect on the year that passed by and improve ourselves. The road ahead is long and am sure with the support of our patrons and well-wishers, we will overcome the shortcomings on our part, improve ourselves in all the areas and continue to render literary service to the country. This year's Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by the eminent writer and critic, Dr Shashi Tharoor. It was one of the most memorable speeches delivered on that platform and DrTharoor spoke on 'Anxiety of Audience: The Dilemma of Indian Writing in English.' The Foundation Day was also celebrated at all the branches of the Akademi.

As part of outreach program, Sahitya Akademi invited the representatives of the State Akademis and the State Governments of India, for enhanced cooperation and mutual enrichment. This is the second such meeting of Sahitya Akademi and the State Akademis and most of the State Akademis and the State Governments promised to collaborate more in the times to come. The Akademi has always been a willing partner in any program / scheme that will enrich the literary traditions of India and in all the languages.

The Akademi continued its outreach programmes in the North-Eastern Regions of the country by organizing several literary forums, seminars, workshops etc. We also organized a number of birth centenary seminars as a mark of respect for the past literary doyens of the country and we also release books on them during the events. As usual, International Women's Day was celebrated at all the branches of the Akademi. During this period, we also organized a few seminars focusing on oral and tribal literature with the aim of collecting and preserving more and more tribal works.

I would like to thank you all the patrons and well-wishers of Sahitya Akademi for your continued patronage, suggestions and help. I wish all the readers a very happy Buddha Purnima and Ramzan.

K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 8, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a Women's Writers' Meet on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2016 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, audience and spoke briefly about the significance of womanhood and highlighted varied role a woman plays in her life. He stated that in this day and age she delicately balances her myriad roles – that of a nurturer, caregiver at home and that of a professional meeting workplace goals with equal aplomb and it is, therefore, a proud moment to be in the company of women who, through their writings and work in the social arena have strengthened the capacities, broadened the horizons and have raised the bar for women in every conceivable way. He emphasized what women have played a pivotal role in every walk of life and have served as an inspiration for all to follow. Be it literature, medical sciences, technology, space, the armed forces – women have spearheaded every possible field. It is benefitting, therefore, to celebrate a day that felicitates the women in all her avatars. In her speech, Smt. Anita Agnihotri, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, observed that womanhood is both a boon and a responsibility and the women play these roles very well. She then invited various women poets, each accomplished, each sensitive to the particular environ she belonged to. The reading session was a mélange of different emotions, experiences, world-views. The session included poetry recitation by Neelakshi Chaliha Gogoi in Assamese, Swarnali Bhattacharjee in Bengali, Nitu in English, Anamika in Hindi, Nutan Sakhardande in Konkani, Arambam Memchoubi in Manipuri,, Tarspal Kaur in Punjabi and Nusrat Mehdi in Urdu. This was followed by a story reading session by Meenakshi Bharat in English, Akanksha Pare Kashiv in Hindi and Susmita Pathak in Maithili. There was bonhomie in the gathering with poets and audience appreciative of each other. The thought provoking pieces moved one and all.



Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the participants and audience. To his left is Ms. Anita Agnihotri, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

FOUNDATION DAY

March 12, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi celebrated its 62nd Foundation Day at the Akademi premises in New Delhi on March 12, 2016 and Dr Shashi Tharoor, eminent Novelist, Critic, Columnist and Member of Parliament, delivered the Foundation Day lecture on 'Anxiety of Audience: The Dilemma of Indian Writing in English'. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Dr Tharoor and briefly spoke about the journey of the Akademi, the stalwarts who nurtured and developed the institution and the doyens who had delivered seminal speeches in the platform. Dr Tharoor thanked the Akademi for the opportunity and said he felt humbled by just listening to the names



Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcoming Dr Shashi Tharoor

of the doyens of Indian literature. Dr Tharoor began by observing the impacts of globalization on the culture, arts and human imagination world over. He said people often assume that globalization affects only trade and economy and ignore its impact on the lifestyle etc. Globalization has both positive and negative sides to it. While the opening of minds of people world over and spurring human imagination beyond boundaries is the positive side, the opening of technology and use of it for terrorist purposes and the onset of fear and paranoia are the flip side of

globalization. Dr Tharoor reiterated that globalized imagination is the reality and people need not get cynical since opening up of the minds beyond restrictions has been there from very ancient time. He highlighted another impact of globalization – obliteration of one’s prized possession, that of one’s identity. In the world sans borders, identities tend to change rapidly and even without it every individual has multiple identities. He said it is a mistake to attribute a singular identity to an individual and such an act is nothing but a miniaturization of human beings and it is an act of belittling human existence. So, as such impact of globalization on writing is inevitable. Then Dr Tharoor talked about the writing – writer – reading – reader matrix. He stated that writing is an instinctual activity or if one prefers, it is a way of expressing one’s most intimate feelings and emotions. In writing, telling a tale is more important than the author the tale itself and the text belongs to the author in the sense that it is the author who chooses to deploy the words to describe events or to express a tale. Since a tale told is the tale told through the author’s prism, words and frames of reference, a piece of writing belongs to the author. The frames of reference and the paradigm of the tale undergoes a change and a byproduct emerges with the author’s engagement with the reader through the writing and the readers points of understanding unveils the meanings certainly unintended by the author thereby providing different angles to a single story told from a single frame of reference of the author and his / her own words. In this perception, critics’ reading may be well beyond the intention and purpose of the author of a particular writing. This process may in the end produce unintended emotions and feelings in the creator himself / herself and anxiety is one such phenomenon. Dr Tharoor then went on to discuss Indian Writing in English and misplaced criticism of Indian Writing in English and along the way Dr Tharoor used his own works to drive home the point. He said his 11 works of non-fiction and 4 works of fiction all have sought to explore Indian conditions, particularly the kind of stories that Indians tell about themselves. He said his works, though written in English, are all nothing but perspectives through a prism of experience that attempt to capture the spirit, the land, cultural identities, different value systems, ethos and understanding of nature of truth in real life and in fiction but expressed in a language



Dr Shashi Tharoor delivering Foundation Day Lecture



catering to modern sensibilities. Emergence of Indian Writing in English in the modern times, to begin with Salman Rushdie, for example, have expanded the horizons – of both the readers and writers. Criticism of Indian Writing in English and the consequent possible anxiety in the authors is unfounded because Indian Writing in English is nothing but reinventing India and her culture in the confident cadences of English prose. Dr Tharoor highlighted a possible unintended consequence of the emergence of Indian Writing in English – bringing to light the array of authors who wield significantly deeper memory and sharing a vast experience of the ancient culture compared to fellow English writers of other lands. Dr Tharoor observed that Indian Writing in English is no less authentic than the works written in other Indian languages. Further, the language of English has an added advantage in that English expresses the diverse Indian traditions, ways of life, culture etc better than Indian languages because it is not rooted in any particular region of the country. English may be a legacy of colonial era but Indian Writing in English has evolved well beyond the British connection and English writings of the country are no longer limited to flatter or rile against the British. Vast diaspora writers writing in English are also strengthening and contributing to the growth and evolution of literature in countries such as USA or UK. In the world of globalized existence the Indian Writers in English are writing secure of themselves and free of anxiety about the heritage of diversity of their own land. They are now writing free of anxiety of audience because their stories are the ones that can be narrated and easily understood by the locals and the westerners. Globalization has blurred the boundaries – geographical and mental – the authors and readers engage more freely than ever before. Dr Tharoor completed his lecture by stating that any and all literature must rise above its origin including that of the language in which it was produced originally. A brief interactive session followed between Dr Tharoor and the audience.

HARCHARAN SINGH BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

March 14-15, 2016, Bhatinda

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Baba Farid College, Bathinda, organized a two-day seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of veteran Punjabi writer Harcharan Singh on March 14-15, 2016 at Seminar Hall, Baba Farid Group of Institutions, Bhatinda. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convener, of Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke in detail about the literary contributions and achievements of Harcharan Singh. Gurmeet Singh Dhaliwal, Chairman, Baba Farid Group of Institutions, inaugurated the seminar. Chief Guest of the programme was Basant Garg (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Bhatinda. Satish Kumar Verma, in his key-note address said that the contribution of Harcharan Singh to Indian literature needs to be re-evaluated. Renowned playwright Ajmer Singh Aulakh was the Guest of Honour. The programme was divided into three sessions. Harbhajan Singh Bhatia, Jaswinder Singh, Satnam Singh Jassal

chaired these sessions and Uma Sethi, Pali Bhupinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh Hundal, Anita Madia, Ranju Bala, Satpreet Singh Jassal, Gurpreet Kaur, Ravinder Kumar, Pardeep Kumar, Usha Rani, Manorama Samagh and Taraspal Kaur presented papers.

THROUGH MY WINDOW

March 15, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in association with Vivekananda College, University of Delhi organized a 'Through My Window' programme at the college premises on March 15, 2016 featuring well-known poet, critic and translator, Dr Sukrita Paul Kumar. Dr Sukrita Paul Kumar talked about 'Ismat Chughtai – Her Life and Times' followed by an interactive session. Ms. Geetanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker and introduced her to the audience. Dr. Kumar discussed the importance of contextualizing a text with respect to the times in which the author wrote it and the issues relevant in that particular era with reference to



Ismat Chughtai's works. She explained how Ismat's works are a reflection of her personal experiences. She narrated many interesting nuggets from Ismat's life. Ismat was a realist, who was inclined towards prose and wrote for the masses. She never wrote theoretically but applied theory to her writing. Dr. Kumar discussed Ismat's relationship with her brother, Azeem Baig Chughtai, a renowned Urdu poet known by his pen name 'Shabnam Romani', who was the first to recognize her literary talent. But he disapproved of her style of writing and the issues she discussed. She archived all the gossip and scandals she overheard being discussed in the Zenana and unveiled it to the world in the language of the inner courtyard of the household. Thus she constructed an altogether separate language for women which is referred to as 'Begumati Zubaan', or 'women's own language'. It is rich in colloquial expressions; and is highly metaphorical and spicy. Dr Kumar also talked about Ismat's self-reflexive and confessional writing style (like Sylvia Plath and Emily Dickinson). It wasn't pretentious and there was no hypocrisy involved. She wrote what she saw and took the risk of writing about issues which weren't even named in the society of that time. She was the realization of what Elaine Showalter termed "female". Ismat's memoir Kaghazi hai Pairahan (A Life in Words) provides an insight into her life.

RAJBHASHA MANCH

March 15, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, as part of its Rajbhasha Manch celebrations organized a short story reading session by renowned Hindi authors at the Akademi premises on March 15, 2016. Four noted scholars, Sri Madhudeep, Sri Balram Agrawal, Sri Ashok Bhatia and Sri Sukesh Sahani participated and read their short stories. At the end of the reading session, Sri Ram Kumar Atreya, Sri Rameshwar Kamboj Himanshu, Sri Subash Neerav, Sri Rajkumar Gautam and Sri Sherjang Garg presented their brief commentaries on the short stories. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi.

DINA NATH NADIM BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

March 15-16, 2016, Srinagar

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized a two-day birth centenary seminar on noted Kashmiri poet, late Dina Nath Nadim on March 15-16, 2016 at seminar Hall of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar.

The seminar evoked an interesting discussion among a large section of audience comprising writers, scholars and teachers. The programme began with a welcome speech by Prof. Mohammed Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In his welcome address Azurdah highlighted the role of Sahitya Akademi as well as that of JKAACL in promoting and propagating Kashmiri language and literature. Prof. Rehman Rahi presented inaugural address in which he highlighted various aspects of Nadim's literary works. Key note address was delivered by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad on behalf of Mohammad Yousuf Taing. In his Presidential Address, Prof. Marghoob Banihali emphasized the need to preserve and promote Kashmiri as a mother tongue and enhance its role in social sphere. Secretary of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Dr. Aziz Hajini highlighted the true contributions of Nadim to Kashmiri poetry on the occasion. Dr. Mushtaque Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, presented vote of thanks.



Inaugural Session of the Seminar in progress



First session of the seminar was presided over by Farooque Nazki and Shafi Shouq and Farooq Faiyaz presented their papers on life and works of the poet Nadim. Second session of the seminar was presided over by Shanti Veer Kaul. Prof. Bashar Bashir, Ghulam Nabi Aatish and Abdul Ahad presented their papers. The paper readers highlighted the role of Nadim in the development of Kashmiri poetry with specific reference to the period in which the poet emerged. On the second day of the seminar, the third session was presided by Ghulam Nabi Khayal. G.R.Hasrat Gadda. Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq and Satish Vimal presented their papers in this session. The last and fourth session was presided over by Mishal Sultanpuri and B.N. Betab and Aafaq Aziz presented their papers. A large number of Kashmiri writers, academics and linguists attended the two day seminar and took part in the discussions also.

LITERARY FORUM

March 17, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Department of English of Janki Devi Memorial College, organized a Literary Forum at the college premises on March 17, 2016 featuring renowned author and translator Dr Aruna Chakravarti in conversation with Dr Swati Pal, Principal of the college. Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker and audience and spoke briefly about the platform and other activities of the Akademi in promoting literature across the country and in 24 recognized languages. During the conversation, Dr Chakravarti spoke about her interest in creative writing, her choice of songs of Tagore for her first publication, her earliest encounters with Bengali literature, portrayal of female characters in her works, her interest in 19th century Bengal, role of time in her works, life-work balance and her experience as a Principal of the college. A brief interactive session followed the conversation.

ASSAMESE – NEPALI TRANSLATION WORKSHOP ON SHORT STORIES

March 17 – 20, 2016, Guwahati

Sahitya Akademi organized a four-day Assamese - Nepali translation workshop from 17th to 20th March 2016 at the Guwahati University premises, Guwahati. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, welcomed the participants and audience. He spoke briefly about the various activities and initiatives of the Akademi in promoting inter language translations. He also spoke about the various challenges involved in the translation process and informed that the Akademi would publish the texts that were to be translated in the course of workshop proceedings. Prof. Kagen Sharma, director of the workshop, and two other literary connoisseurs, Sri Dr. Dilip Bora and Sri Gyanbahadur Chetri were present on the occasion. Sri Chandramani Upadhyay, Sri Rudra Baral, Sri Lakshman Adhikari, Sri Khemraj Nepal, Sri Gathadar Sharma, Sri Chhatraman Subba, Smt. Gita Limbu and Smt. Gayatri Newad were the workshop participants. In the workshop, short stories of Akademi's Assamese publication 'Nirbachita Asamiya Chut Galpa' (Selected Assamese Short Stories) compiled and edited by Sri Gobinda Prasad Sharma, Sri Sailen Bharali and Sri Hrudayanand Gogoi, were translated. Also, Akademi's 1984 Award winning Assamese novel 'Jangam' translated into Nepali by Sri Chandramani Upadhyay, was released in the workshop.



(L-R) Gyan Bahadur Chhetri, Chandramani Upadhyaya, D. K. Devesh, Khemraj Nepal and others



MEETING WITH THE STATE AKADEMIS & STATE GOVT. REPRESENTATIVES

March 17, 2016, Guwahati

Sahitya Akademi organized a meeting with the 16 representatives State Akademis and State Governments from 14 states of India at Guwahati on March 17, 2016, to explore the ways in which the ties with them can be strengthened. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and thanked the representatives for participating. He stated that the purpose of having this meeting was to explore the possibilities of holding collaborative programmes in the field of literature so that the State Akademis may come closer and know the functioning of each other and also observed that the Akademi would like to take its programmes to the remotest areas of the different States and that can be possible only with the help of State Government/State Akademis. He further stated that if there is proper communication between the Akademis and we all know the activities of each other, we can avoid overlapping of the programmes and publications, which will reduce the expenditure too and also observed that as per its constitution, Sahitya Akademi gets nominations to its General Council from every state of India but the Central Sahitya Akademi does not find its representation in the governing bodies of the State Akademis besides a few like Manipur State Kala Akademi, Goa Konkani Akademi etc. He suggested that by coming together, we can reach to the maximum number of writers and give them an opportunity to come into the main stream. In his speech, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, suggested that the literature and culture of a country can only survive and has survived as it reaches the masses and this is what Akademi should aim at. He pointed out that the culture of India has survived for many years because it reached the masses of India and we inherent it into our day to day life. In the submissions by the state representatives, Sri Sri Bhagvesh Jha, Chairman, Gujarat Sahitya Akademi, informed that Gujarat Sahitya Akademi is a combination of seven different Akademis. The Akademi has recently restructured and since then organized around 80 programmes at different places in Gujarat. He requested the Central Sahitya Akademi to have more tribal festivals and

involve the Gujarat Sahitya Akademi in its programmes. Sri Sekhar Banerjee, Secretary, Paschimbanga Bangla Academy, informed about the structure, functioning, aims and objectives of the Paschimbanga Bangla Academy. He observed that even though there are other State Akademis in the State, but they hardly know each other and hence everyone must collaborate more often to strengthen the Akademis in the State. Sri V.C. Pandey, Secretary, Dept. of Art and Culture, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, stated that every Akademi is only working for the promotion of languages of their region and not promoting the literature in other languages / regions. He informed that the Delhi Government has six Akademis such as Hindi, Sindhi, Punjabi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Maithili-Bhojpuri and Sahitya Kala Parishad for the promotion of Visual Art, Music, Dance, Drama and Culture. He suggested that the State Akademis may take their programmes to the remotest areas of the region, if that is not possible, at least the replicas of the programme may be taken. Sri Ashwini Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Odisha Sahitya Akademi, informed that Odisha Akademi is organizing programmes all over the state and in collaboration with the Central Sahitya Akademi also. He felt that various factions and various literary organizations should come forward to work together for the betterment of literature in the state. In his speech, Dr. Aziz Hajini, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, informed that he is associated with Sahitya Akademi for past several years and in his opinion it is the mother of all the State Akademis. He suggested that Sahitya Akademi may celebrate International Mother Tongue Day in all its 24 languages and it must be a regular feature for the Akademi. All the Akademis should come together for the development and protection of regional languages otherwise these Akademis may become irrelevant in the coming days. He also stated the Akademis should encourage State literary exchange programmes on regular basis and he proposed a three-day literary festival in Delhi in collaboration with other State Akademis. Sri Mamidi Harikrishna, Director, Dept.



of Culture, Govt. of Telangana, stated that Telangana is the youngest state of the country and he has come to learn many things on the part of literature and culture. State Government is planning to establish three State Akademis in terms of Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi and Lalit Kala Akademi. He also informed that the Government of Telangana is planning to establish two world class auditoriums in Hyderabad and Warangal. He invited all the State Akademis for collaborative events and assured to provide full support from the State Government. Sri Narayan S. Navti, Secretary, Goa Konkani Academy, talked about the functioning of the Academy and informed that Goa Konkani Academy has several scheme of book publishing like Sahitya Prabha, Pratibha Samman etc. The Academy published research oriented works in the form of reference books and text books. Also published various dictionaries like Konkani-Marathi, Konkani-Hindi, and Konkani-Portugees etc. The Academy also provides 100% grant for preservation of dramas. Dr. Prem Sharma, Vice-President, HP Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, stated that Sahitya Akademi is doing yeomen service in the field of literature and because of this many State Akademis were established by the State Governments. He suggested that this type of conference may be held every now and then at different places. He stated that a detailed proposal from the Himachal Pradesh Academy of Art, Culture and Languages will be sent to Sahitya Akademi to have some collaborative events. Sri Anand Narayan Sinha, Director, Madhya Pradesh Sahitya Akademi, requested all the State Akademis to have some literary events / arranged exhibitions on the occasion of Simhastha Kumbh in April at Ujjain. He suggested that MP Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Central Sahitya Akademi may have a seminar on 'Phrases and Idioms'. Smt. Kumud Bansal, Director, Haryana Sahitya Akademi, informed that the Haryana Sahitya Akademi has residency workshops for poetry, short stories in the villages of Haryana so that the Akademi may reach the masses and provide opportunity to the young generation of writers. She assured to extend all possible help to Central Sahitya Akademi to have the literary programme at the villages/districts of Haryana. Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice-Chairman, Chandigarh Sahitya Akademi, requested the Central Sahitya Akademi to establish a

regional center at Chandigarh and the State Government may provide all assistance for the same. He suggested that Central Sahitya Akademi may sign an MOU with Doordarshan and All India Radio to telecast the documentaries of Sahitya Akademi through them. Sri Santanu Debbarman, Director, Dept. of Art and Culture, Govt. of Tripura, proposed a three-day Literature and Cultural Festival in Tripura by inviting writers and artists from different Indian languages and region. He also proposed an All India Young Writers' Meet at Tripura with the collaboration of Central Sahitya Akademi. Ms. E.R. Rumong, Librarian, Dept. of Art & Culture, Govt. of Meghalaya, assured to extend all kind of support from the government of Meghalaya to have the collaborative literary events. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, while summing up the proceedings stated that Sahitya Akademi has three literary journals namely Samkaleen Bharatiya Sahitya, Indian Literature and Sanskrit Pratibha. We may send these journals to the State Akademis and on reciprocal basis, the State Akademis may send their journals to the Akademi; that Sahitya Akademi and the state akademis may add the details of each other in the mailing list so that we may know the activities of the Central as well as State Akademis. The Central and State Akademis may organize exclusive collaborative book exhibitions to make available the books of both the Akademis to the general readers on subsidized rates. The Akademi regularly receiving requests for opening Regional Centers at different states. It is difficult for the Akademi to run a center with the limited staff strength but still the Akademi may think over it. The Akademi has already signed an MOU with Doordarshan to telecast Akademi's documentaries, which they are regularly doing. The idea behind the opening of NECOL center is to promote the oral literature and the literature in unrecognized languages in the north-eastern states. Earlier the center was at Guwahati, then it went to Shillong and Tripura and is presently situated at Imphal. The Akademi may also think of having some collaborative activities in the tribal literature and culture as well. The State Akademis may send the proposals, which the Central Sahitya Akademi will certainly take up. Secretary once again thanked the members and hoped that at the next meeting the Central and State Sahitya Akademi can take it further.



SYMPOSIUM & POETS' MEET

March 20, 2016, Shillong

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong, organized a daylong symposium on the 'Role of Small Nepali Literary Magazines in Society' at Gorkha Pathshala Higher Secondary School, Shillong. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, delivered the welcome address. Prof. Nar Bahadur Roy, Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Nav Sapkota, who was the chief guest, in his inaugural address, spoke about the societal impact and the role of Nepali literary magazines on literature. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in his introductory remarks, briefed the objectives of the symposium. The academic session that followed was chaired by Sri Vikramveer Thapa. Four noted scholars, Sri Sachin Rai, Sri Tek Narayan Upadhyay, Sri Krishna Pradhan and Smt. Lakshmi Meenu participated and presented their papers.

POETS' MEET

March 20, 2016, Shillong

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Shillong, organized a Poets' Meet on March 20, 2016 at Gorkha Pathshala Higher Secondary School, Shillong. Sri Surya Sreshth, renowned Nepali litterateur, chaired the Poets' Meet. Six noted poets, Sri Chavilal Upadhyay, Sri Sitaram Paudyal, Sri Tulsiram Phulel, Sri Suryaprasad Adhikari, Sri Umesh Subba and Smt. Manju Lama participated and recited their poems.

SYMPOSIUM

March 27, 2016, Manipur

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Manipur, organized a daylong symposium on 'Trends of Indian Nepali Short Stories: After Independence' on March 27, 2016 in Manipur. Dr.

Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. The symposium was inaugurated by renowned Nepali litterateur,

Dr. Durga Sharma. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Harikrishna Sivakoti. Dr. Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory remarks. In his presidential address, Sri Lok Bahadur Basnet, President, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, stated that Manipur had always been regarded as a historical place for the development of Nepali literature since the first ever Nepali literary work came out of Manipur in 1893. Sri Kritimani Khatiwada, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Parishad, proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session. The academic session that followed was chaired by Sri Arjun Pradhan. In this session, Sri Milan Bantawa presented a paper on post-modern elements in Indo-Nepali literature, Smt. Pushpa Sharma presented a paper on women deliberation with reference to post-independence Nepali fiction and Sri Tankanath Khatiwada presented a paper on post-independence Nepali war literature. The programme witnessed huge response from the students and individuals from various Gorkha organizations across the state.

POETS' MEET

March 27, 2016, Manipur

Sahitya Akademi and Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Manipur, jointly organized a Nepali Poets' Meet programme on March 27, 2016 in Charhajare, Manipur. The event was moderated by Sri Kritimani Khatiwada, General Secretary, Nepali Sahitya Parishad and Sri Gopichandra Pradhan, eminent Nepali litterateur, chaired the Poets' Meet. Sri Sukraj Diyali, Sri Ghanshyam Koirala, Sri Suraj Chapagai and Ms. Srushti Paudyal participated and recited their poems.



THROUGH MY WINDOW

March 28, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Punjabi Department, University of Delhi on March 28, 2016 at Seminar Hall of Department of Punjabi, University of Delhi. In this programme senior Punjabi writer Gulzar Singh Sandhu spoke on the life and works of Khushwant Singh. He spoke at length on the life, works and literary achievements of renowned author and columnist Khushwant Singh.

MEET THE AUTHOR

April 3, 2016 Ahmedabad

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a ‘Meet the Author’ programme featuring eminent Indian English Writer, Ms. Esther David on April 3, 2016 at Ahmedabad. Esther began her talk by remembering Rabindranath Tagore and Sankho Choudhuri who came from Santiniketan and became her guru for life. She went on to say that she knew, inside her there was a sea of stories, but as a sculptor she was locked in a block of wood. Following is the excerpts from her talk in which she talked about her life and her works: “I had a dream. I wanted to recreate the Jewish experience in India through my books and it is heartening to speak about them. I changed professions, when people sit back, satisfied with their life’s work. I took the risk of changing my profession. From an art critic and an artist, I became an author. I suddenly became known for my writing about the Jewish experience in India. I wrote *The Walled City* to understand myself. So, I wrote without research, just the way I felt about it, straight from my heart. A rather confused heart... That the novel worked it was a miracle. While writing *The Walled City*, whenever I was at the Magen Abraham Synagogue in Ahmedabad, I was uncomfortable and embarrassed as I did not know how to follow the rituals. But, when *The Walled City* was published, it changed everything, and I knew, I had to understand myself through my own Jewish experience of growing up in India. Today, the novel has broken many walls

and also opened many doors, so that I understand myself and my Jewish background a little more than before. Before *The Walled City* happened, I kept my distance from Jewish scholars from abroad, most of them women, but I am deeply touched by the way they teach my novels at American universities write about them and research them in India and abroad. So, I decided to become better informed about the Jewish experience in India and have spent many years learning religious texts, rituals, prayers and food habits from Johnny Pingle, the cantor of Ahmedabad’s Magen Abraham Synagogue. This led me to study the Torah and family histories, which I mingle with fact and fiction to create my own imaginary world in my writing. Today, I have done extensive research on Jewish life in Western India and discovered Alibaug in the Konkan, the other homeland of Bene Israel Jews. It was not a deliberate decision to write about Jewish themes. It was an abstract search of my Jewish roots



Ms. Esther David delivering a lecture



which led from one novel to another. Not coming from a religious background, in the initial stages, it was difficult to cope conflicts and confusions through literature, set especially in Ahmedabad, the city of my birth. The Walled City was followed by a collection of short stories *By the Sabarmati*, which was about women's lives and then I wrote my novel *Book of Esther*, where I wrote about my family history. It is loosely based on family lore and legend. But, it needed a lot of research. It became even more difficult as I did not have a religious upbringing, as my parents were not practicing Jews. But, from my grandmother's stories, I constructed the novel. It was an uphill task. I researched extensively and every afternoon went to understand our rites, rituals and traditions from Johny Pingle. But, while going through my manuscript, I realized that there was something missing in my work, so I went to Alibaug, a coastal town, near Bombay. It was the site where Jews had first landed in India, some 2000 years back, according to legend. As soon as I reached the coastal villages of Alibaug, I felt at home as though I had known the land before. Here the Jews lived a different form of life, from the Jews of Gujarat to other urban Jews of India. Everything was different, the life style, food, beliefs. *Book of Esther* begins in the 19th century as the narrative travels across generations, till the family settles down in Ahmedabad. While researching for '*Book of Esther*,' I met an elderly Jewish lady living in a village near a Synagogue, which was no longer used for services. It gave me the perfect setting for '*Book of Rachel*.' Soon after, I wrote '*Shalom India Housing Society*' based loosely around '*Book of Rachel*,' where the Prophet Elijah is the protagonist. So, I decided to weave '*Shalom India Housing Society*' around the prophet. '*Shalom India Housing Society*' is set in Ahmedabad after the communal riots of 2002. The storyline weaves the lives of its residents and their inter-cultural relationships with other Indian communities. Later, on a lighter vein I wrote *My Fathers Zoo* for people of all ages, as a tribute to my zoom an father Reuben David and wrote about my experience of growing up in a zoo. Later, after the riots of 2002 in Ahmedabad, I wrote

The Man with Enormous Wings, where Mahatma Gandhi was the protagonist of my work. And, as I often use Ahmedabad as a stage to set my novels I wrote *Ahmedabad: City with a Past*, where I wove the myths, legends and reality of ancient city, which has a living heritage.”

LITERARY FORUM

April 8, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Dept of English, University of Delhi, organized a literary forum at the University premises on April 8, 2016 featuring a lecture by Sri Vishwajyoti Ghosh on Prof. Christel R. Devadawson's '*Out of Line: Cartoons, Caricature, and Contemporary India*' and conversation between the expert and the author. Mr. Ghosh dived into the oeuvre of his own work to provide interesting anecdotes, observations and comments in order to discuss the agendas central to Prof. Devadawson's book – tracing the historical contours of graphic satire in India, discussing the relationship between political cartooning and news print culture and the changing dimensions of the genre as it finds expression and medium in cyberspace in the recent times. Ghosh – who has authored two graphic novels *Delhi Calm* and *This Side That Side* – also addressed the questions of how graphic satire, in general, and political cartooning, in particular, is now travelling across medium(s) along with the ways in which they are negotiating with changing political and social scenarios. Furthermore several other questions emerged that fed off – and into – the conversation between Ghosh and Prof. Devadawson, some of which were about what actually comprises a 'cartoon'; does the moment of conflict call for a different kind of graphic writing; if there exists an 'Indian' genre of the graphic; does anthologization of cartoon into coffee table books inspire a certain kind of nostalgia and if so, does it lead to a creation of different registers of memory and remembrance, among several others. A brief interactive session followed the conversation.



THROUGH MY WINDOW

April 12, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Through My Window' programme with well-known poet and writer Sri Baldev Vanshi, who spoke on Sri Maheep Singh, eminent writer, at the Akademi premises on April 12, 2016. Floral tributes were paid to the photograph of Maheep Singh. Sri Baldev Vanshi spoke on the life and literary works of Mahdeep Singh. Smt. Kusum Ansal, Dr. Hardayal, Sri Kamal Kumar, Sri Virendra Goyal, Sri Sandeep Singh and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



Sri Baldev Vanshi clarifying a point

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SYMPOSIUM ON EMOTION, EXPERIENCE, EXPRESSIONS: ETHICS AND AESTHETICS

April 23, 2016, Santiniketan

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on 'Emotion, Experience, Expressions: Ethics and Aesthetics' at Visva Bharati in Santiniketan at the Bhasha Bhavana Conference Room, at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan on April 23, 2016. Coordinated jointly by Professor Tapati Mukherjee and Professor Ipsita Chanda, the symposium brought together six scholars of varied disciplinary practices from Visva-Bharati, Jadavpur University, IIT, Gandhinagar and Indian Council of The Welcome Address was given by Santanu Gangopdhyay, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, who wished the One Day Symposium a success and spoke a while about how we come across Ethics and Emotions in our daily lives. The Inauguration by the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Visva Bharati, Professor Swapan Kumar Datta, brought to the table the idea of Ethics and how we as human beings deal with ethics in academic and non-academic lifestyles. He spoke of how one should treat plagiarism and cheating especially in academic works which put the symposium into motion. Professor Tapati Mukherjee's paper Experience and Expression: Biography in Indian Literature brought to the fore some definitions and understandings of the Biography as a genre. She explained how the biography as an art form has existed in several language literatures across India, especially in Sanskrit Literatures. Drawing on examples such as Asvaghose's Buddhacharit, Bana's Harshacharit, and the Lalitavistara Sutra, she brought forth the idea that literary categorisation in the West is not the same as in India. Sri Romit Roy's paper Conflicts within the Aesthetic Sphere, was a bilingual (German-English) paper wherein the reader discussed about Aesthetic theories developed by Theodore Adorno and Walter Benjamin. Drawing examples from their texts, his paper attempted to develop a methodology of Aesthetics in Continental Philosophy, the reader set



apart how these theories have worked their ways into the socio-political realm, which were considered to be one of the founding understandings in working towards reconciliation after the Second World War. His understanding of the reception of Art in the Modern Art movements initiated a lively discussion on how one is to consider Art as affecting our everyday lives. Dr Swati Ganguly's paper *Editing Epistles, Editing Emotions: The Making of Bhanusingher Patrabali* was a lively read paper which discussed some of Tagore's letters to Ranu Adhikari. Her paper looked into the formation of an emotional and aesthetically invigorating journey which Tagore penned down in the form of a letter. The reading provided an insight to what is considered to be the Nobel-laureate's ability to produce harmony with Dr Rajlakshmi Ghosh's paper *Reading Ethical Singularity: An Exemplary Case* was a reading of the theory of Ethics propounded by the post-colonialist writer Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. The reader presented how one's response to the other is a way of acknowledging the Other's presence by taking responsibility of hearing and speaking to the other as a human being. This paper also portrayed how this theory may be put into practice within the rubrics of Subaltern Studies, wherein responsibility to not assimilate but to The post-lunch session opened with Dr Anshuman Dasgupta's paper *The Scene of Affect: Narrative and Post Narrative Indian Art*, which put forth an inter-disciplinary understanding of how one may read narratives within art works. It described how theories such as Deconstruction and Semiotics may aide one in reading other art forms aside of Literature. The reader interpreted works of art by Baroda based artist Bhupen Khakkar and the Ajanta rock cut caves, thereby providing a description of the rich tapestry that is Indian Art. He questioned the representation of a national identity as one understands India to represent, by ending his paper on the evolution of identity politics in Germany and Kashmir. Smt. Epshita Halder's paper *The Prohibited Pain of Muharram: Bringing Affect from Book to Body* discussed about mourning practices during Muharram. This provided the audience with a variety of interpretations on how we visualize cultures of

mourning in and across the subcontinent. Making several references to the Islamic practises amongst Bangladeshi women, this study discussed how such practices have also been communicated via scripts especially in the Karbala narratives, wherein there was an interesting take on how devotion and the experience of grief has been aestheticized through song and script. Dr Payal C. Mukherjee's paper *Silent Fallibilities: Poetics of the Unspeakable in Sadat Hasan Manto and Ismat Chughtai* spoke of the agency of resistance through a conceptual reading of Chughtai's 'Gharwali', and Manto's 'Khol Do'. This brought back the debate of censorship and obscenity in literatures of the subcontinent. The reader described how in the brink of the Partition authors took to the basic materials to compose a text, wherein the 'body' becomes a metaphor for the divided land. This paper put forward how sexuality is always rationalized, and instead should be carried forward as an agent of aesthetics in any The Concluding Comments given by Prof. Ipshita Chanda was a fitting conclusion which put together all the papers and motioned the audience towards an understanding of Literatures providing a means to experience life. Talking about how poetry has the ability to bring emotions and experience of something as distinct as Silence, she described how we as readers have a role and responsibility in treating this quality of Literature with the utmost care. She ended on the role of Emotions in daily life and literature and how seeing 'experience' through literature may invite further introspection into the art of poetry.

SYMPOSIUM

April 24, 2016, Patna

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Chetna Samiti, Patna, organized a daylong symposium on 'Impact of Globalization on Maithili Literature' on April 24, 2016 at Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. The programme commenced with the observance of a minute's silence as a mark of homage to two



departed Award winning Maithili litterateurs, Sri Raj Mohan Jha and Sri Sureshwar Jha. The symposium was inaugurated by Sri Vijay Kumar Mishra, President, Chetna Samiti and the inaugural session was presided over by Sri Munishwar Jha. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the importance of the symposium and the inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Ramanand Jha, Joint Secretary, Chetna Samiti. The academic session that followed was chaired by Sri Sukant Som and papers were presented by Dr. Dharendra Nath Mishra on 'The Nature and Concerns of Globalization', Sri Shyam Darihare on 'Globalization and Maithili Literature' and Sri Ashok on 'The Effect of Globalization on Maithili Literature'. The programme was moderated by Sri Umesh Mishra, Joint Secretary, ChetnaSamiti.

MEET THE AUTHOR

April 24, 2016, Patna

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Chetna Samiti, Patna, organized a 'Meet the Author' programme, featuring the eminent Award winning Maithili litterateur, Sri Kirtinarayan Mishra, on April 24, 2016 at Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and introduced the guest speaker to the audience. Sri Kirtinarayan Mishra, in his talk, spoke about his long literary career and the factors that influenced his writing. A brief interactive session followed. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

KATHASANDHI

April 24, 2016, Patna

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with ChetnaSamiti, Patna, organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme, featuring Smt. Usha Kiran Khan, Award winning Maithili fiction writer, on April 24, 2016 at Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the

guest speaker and introduced her to the audience. Smt. Usha read out her story 'Oyi Gham Mein' and shared her literary experiences with the audience. Sri Vivekanand Thakur, Vice-President, Chetna Samiti, proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON PUNJABI BHASHA

April 28-29, 2016, Badal

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Dasmesh Girls College of Education, Badal organized a two-day seminar on 'Punjabi Bhasha, Sahit ate Sabhiyachar De Sanmukh Chaunotian' at the seminar hall of Dasmesh Girls College of Education on April 28-29, 2016. The seminar was inaugurated by Sahitya Akademi Fellow Gurdial Singh. He said that language and literature are closely related with our life. Literature is mirror of our life, that we should have the complete knowledge of language and Punjabi people should make efforts to strengthen the Punjabi language because language has an important role in strengthening the literature and culture of a country. Dr. Rawail Singh, Convener, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience. In his address he said that due to the wrong policies of our governments and unrestrained mushrooming engineering colleges, language and social sciences are not given importance. In the present education system we are not producing good human beings, but we are producing robots to earn money. So they are unable to preserve their literature and culture. This seminar is an attempt to overcome this danger. Dr. Surjeet Lee in his keynote address said that in our life we are giving too much importance to the English language and the gap between the poor and the rich is increasing day by day which has resulted in the abandonment of Indian languages. The chief guest of the seminar, S.Surjeet Singh Rakhra, Minister of Higher Education, Punjab, in his address said that Punjabi language is not facing any danger. Punjabi language is progressing day by day. Punjabi language has expanded beyond domestic boundaries. Dr. Deepak Manmohan in



his presidential address appreciated the resource persons who are well versed in their field and have contributed a lot in the field of Punjabi literature. The first session was chaired by Dr. Deepak Manmohan Singh. In this session Dr. Baldev Singh, Dr. Gurpreet Singh Behal and Dr. Paramjeet Singh presented their papers. Second session was chaired by Dr. Jaswinder Singh. In this session Dr. Ravi Ravinder, Prof. Barinder Kaur, Dr. Kirpal Kazak and Dr. Tarsem Sharma presented their papers. On the second day of the seminar Harbhajan Singh Bhatia chaired the first session and Sukhdev Singh Sirsa, Satnam Singh Jassal, Raminder Kaur and Pardeep Koura presented their papers. In the valedictory session S.S.P Barnala spoke from the chair. S. Gurpreet Singh Toor, in his address discussed the importance of knowledge of Language, Literature and Civilization. He also shared his experiences about the Police Administration. He exhorted the young generation to use Literature to live a better life. Prof. Onkar Singh read the report of the Seminar.

ALL INDIA POETS' MEET AT SIMHASTAKUMBH

April 29 – May 6, 2016, Ujjain

The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh, organized a National Cultural Festival as part of Simhastha Kumbh, in Ujjain from April 22, 2016 to May 21, 2016. Sahitya Akademi, as part of the celebrations, organized a 10 day 'All India Poets' Meet', commencing from April 29, 2016, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, at Vikramaditya Manch, Gadkalika, Ujjain. Poets and literary enthusiasts from various parts of the country participated and recited their compositions. In the inaugural session held on April 29, 2016, Dr. Harekrishna Satpathy, Vice Chancellor of Puri University, symbolized the significance of 'Kumbh'. Dr. Harimohan Singh Budholiya chaired the inaugural session. The session was followed by a poetry recitation session, and three noted scholars,



Poets' Meet at Simhastha Kumbh in progress

Smt. Madhumohini Upadhyay, Sri Harish Kumar Singh and Sri Ashok Bhati recited their poems. On April 30, 2016, Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh, Deputy Director, Environment Department, Lucknow, spoke about environmental cleanliness and the cultural value of rivers. On the following day, Dr. Nageshwar Rao, Vice Chancellor (In-Charge), IGNOU, put forth his observations on the Indian culture and tradition. Eminent lyricists Sri Budhinath Mishra, Sri Jagdish Sen 'Manoj' and Sri Suraj Nagar recited their poems. On May 2, 2016, theme of the session was 'Role of Litterateurs in Environmental Conservation' and the session was chaired by Dr. Mahendra Pratap Singh. Five eminent poets, Sri B.L. Gaur, Sri Yogendranath Sharma, Sri Lakshmi Shankar Vajpayee, Sri Rajesh Reddy and Sri Vasishth Anup enthralled the audience by their poems and ghazals. The session was coordinated by Sri Ashok Bhati. On May 3, 2016, Sri Yogendranath Sharma presented a paper on the 'Legendary Perspectives of Kumbh'. Sri Hariram Dwivedi, Sri Ira Tak, Sri Budhinath Mishra and Sri B.L. Gaur recited their poems. On May 4, 2016, the poetry recitation session was chaired by Dr. Kunwar Bechain and other eminent poets such as Sri Ashok Chakradhar, Sri Hariram Dwivedi, Sri Yogendranath Sharma, Sri Lakshmi Shankar Vajpayee, Sri Vasishth Anup and Sri B.L. Gaur participated and recited their compositions. The Akademi had arranged for book exhibition on all days of the Poets' Meet.



YOUNG SANTALI WRITERS' MEET

April 30, 2016, Dumka

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Young Santali Writers' Meet' programme on April 30, 2016, at Sona Hotel, Dumka, Jharkhand. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Sharmila Soren, eminent Santali writer, in her inaugural address, expressed that more such programmes should be hosted to inculcate and encourage interest amongst the budding writers. The inaugural session was presided over by Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In this session, Sri Babudhan Murmu and Sri Sunil Baskey recited their poems. The session was followed by a short story reading session, chaired by Sri Chunda Soren, Member, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In this session, three noted fiction writers, Sri Mahendra Besra, Smt. HolikaMarndi, and Sri Palton Soren read their short stories. The programme was witnessed by many Santali literature lovers and people interested as well.

KAVISANDHI

April 30, 2016, Dumka

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme, featuring renowned Santali poet Sri Satilal Murmu, on April 30, 2016, at Sona Hotel, Dumka, Jharkhand. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest poet-speaker and the audience. Sri Murmu recited a few of his poems that reflected the state of the society and pathos of life. Sri Singhrai Murmu proposed a vote of thanks.

SAHITYA AKADEMI ALSO ORGANIZED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES

Sl. No.	Date	Programme
1	17/3/2016 18/3/2016	The Akademi partly sponsored the seminar on Re-Interpretations of the Past: The Discourse of Cultural Identity in South Asia, organized by the Department of English, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.
2	19/3/2016	The Akademi organized a Book Release function of the English Translation of Sahitya Akademi's award winning Odia Novel at Bhubaneswar. The title of the book was Amrutara Santana.
3	8/4/2016	The Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme in Delhi by inviting noted Kashmiri writers
4	11/4/2016	The Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme in Delhi by inviting noted Urdu writers
5	18/4/2016	The Akademi organized a Literary Forum programme in Delhi by inviting noted Hindi writers. On this occasion, the Hindi translation of Sahitya Akademi's prestigious book Five Decades was also released.
6	30/4/2016	The Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme at Sopore, Kashmir by inviting noted Kashmiri short story writers
7	30/4/2016	The Akademi organised an Asmita programme at Sopore, Kashmir by inviting noted Kashmiri women writers



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 8, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a literary forum featuring eminent women scholars as part of International Women's Day celebrations at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru on March 8, 2016. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the participants to audience. Three women scholars, Dr R.K. Saroja, eminent radiologist, Mrs. Nalini Maiya, well-known Kannada poet and Mrs. Rema Prasanna Pisharody, noted Malayalam poet spoke on the occasion. In her speech, Dr Saroja recalled the efforts of pioneers of women empowerment and women's liberation movements in India and highlighted how the current generation of women are enjoying the fruits of the labor of the pioneers. She appealed to the parents to give care, freedom and knowledge to girl children. In her speech, Mrs. Nalini Maiya stated that though overall condition of women in the country has improved, a lot not more needs to be done and called for complete eradication of orthodoxy for women's emancipation and empowerment in the country. On the occasion, she also recited some of her compositions such as 'Nanna Atte', 'Ammana Preethi', 'Beelkoduge', 'Aenagi Bandhe', 'Idhu Dampathya', 'Saneehadalli Neeniralu Nalla' and 'Mouni.' Mrs. Rema Pisharody talked about the overall superiority of women and quoted from Srimad Bhagavad Gita to drive her point home. She also recited her Malayalam compositions along with English rendering such as 'Sita' and 'Real Women.' A documentary film on Indira Goswami directed by Jahnu Baruah was screened during the event. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.



Participants of Nari Chetna at Bengaluru

FOUNDATION DAY

March 12, 2016, Bengaluru



Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar speaking on the occasion of Foundation Day

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a literary forum on the occasion of Sahitya Akademi's Foundation Day at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru on March 12, 2016. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, audience and media and spoke briefly about various activities of the Akademi. Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the forum and Dr Siddalingaiah, eminent Kannada Dalit writer, delivered the keynote address. In his speech, Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, stated that the Akademi has been doing yeomen service to Indian literature by catering to all sections of literary community and in all the Indian languages. In his address, Dr Siddalingaiah observed that literature has the capacity to heal and also that transparent and enthusiastic living by the writers result in good literature. Therefore, he urged the literary community to work for the development of Indian languages and Indian literature. He recalled his association with the Akademi for close to thirty years and the number of opportunities that the Akademi provided to him and his fellow writers to learn, improve and form great associations is what makes the institution a great one. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhara Kambar, observed that Sahitya Akademi is the only institution in the country which promotes creativity and literature in all the Indian languages and highlighted how the doyens of 20th century Indian literature worked for the establishment and continuity of the Akademi. He felt that the Akademi should do more for the unrecognized languages. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.



SEMINAR ON TRIBAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES IN TELUGU SPEAKING AREAS

March 26-27, 2016, Vishakapatnam

The regional of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Girijan Cooperative Corporation, organized a two-day seminar on 'Tribal Languages and Literatures in Telugu speaking areas' in Vishakapatnam on March 26-27, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke about Akademi's initiatives in promoting tribal literature across the country. He also stressed upon the need to collect and compile tribal literature and highlighted Akademi's institution of Bhasha Samman and organization of regular language conventions in addition to the establishment of tribal and oral literature centers in the country. In his Presidential address, Prof N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the evolution of mainstream languages from the tribal languages over a period of time and stated that in such a scenario it is not correct for people to treat tribal languages as inferior. He observed that it is the 'civilized' who are going away from their root and not that 'tribals' are not getting alienated and thanked the Akademi for organizing the programme. In his speech, Sri Akella Ravi Prakash, who was the Guest of Honor, observed that while some initiatives have been taken to document the literature of tribal languages and script evolution, not much effort has gone into sustaining these efforts. In his keynote address, Dr B. Ramakrishna Reddy, eminent linguist and former Registrar, Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, talked about the pre-conceived notions about languages and observed that it is difficult to convince people that there can be languages without a script. He also highlighted the massive ignorance about many languages sharing a common script while at the same time it is possible for each language to have its own unique literary and linguistic tradition. The first session of the seminar was chaired by Sri G. Uma Maheshwara Rao, who



Prof N. Gopi delivering the Presidential address

talked about the 'Language and Literature of Gondi.' In the session, two noted scholars, Ms. S. Prasanna Sree and Sri Ch. Srinivasa Rao, presented their papers 'Scripts and encoding standards of tribal languages' and 'Struggles and movements in literature of tribal societies' respectively. In the second session Dr B. Ramakrishna Reddy chaired and presented a paper on 'Languages and literature of Jathapulu, Konduly and Gadaba.' In the session three noted scholars, Sri 'Shakti' Sivarama Krishna, Sri D. Surya Dhananjay and Sri A. Chandrashekara Rao, presented their papers 'Languages and

literature of Konda Reddy, Bagatha, Vaalmikulu and Konda Doralu,' 'Language and literature of Banjara' and 'Language and literature of Savara' respectively. Ms. K. Malaya Vasini chaired the third session and presented a paper 'Influence of tribal languages and literature on classical Telugu literature.' In the session, three noted scholars, Ms. Vadrevu Veeralakshmi Devi, Ms. K. Shyamala and Sri Madabhushi Sampath Kumar, presented their papers 'Scholars who worked on tribal languages and literature,' 'Languages and literature of Chenchu and Yanadula' and 'Language and literature of Erukala' respectively. In the fourth session, Sri N. Bhaktavatsala



Reddy chaired and presented a paper on 'Language and literature of Korrajulu and Pujari.' In the session, three noted scholars, Sri C.R.S. Sarma, Sri Goparaju Narayana Rao and Sri N. Ch. Chakravarthi, presented their papers on 'Language and literature of Koya,' 'Manyam Pithuri as reflected in tribal literature' and 'Tribal students and my teaching experience' respectively. Prof N. Gopi chaired the valedictory session and underlined the importance of research into tribal literature and languages. In his valedictory address, Sri Vadrevu China Veerabhadru, eminent Telugu critic, highlighted the neglect of rich tribal languages and literature, lack of awareness among the educated class about the cultural heritage of tribals, prevailing misconceptions about tribal languages and the ensuing hatred and neglect and appealed to Sahitya Akademi to translate tribal literature into many Indian languages. Dr Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, who was the guest of honor at the session observed that unless tribal literature gets translated into Hindi, comparative studies would not happen. In his concluding remarks, Dr K. Sreenivasarao assured that the Akademi would commission translations of tribal literature wherever possible since there is huge dearth of translators who are well versed both in the tribal languages and mainstream languages.

SEMINAR ON CULTURAL AND LITERARY TRADITIONS OF TRIBES OF INDIA

March 29-30, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a national seminar on Cultural and Literary Traditions of Tribes of India at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bengaluru on March 29-30, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi in promoting tribal literature across the country. He observed that even the current seminar is Akademi's another attempt to have a larger debate on the relationship between mainstream cultures and languages and that of the tribal societies. In his introductory address, Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory



Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar lighting the lamp and inaugurating the seminar

Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the need for all concerned to have a proper perspective and understanding about tribal cultures. He stated there are many factors such as globalization, industrialization etc that have adverse impact on the tribal societies of the country and many more seminars of this type are needed to have a proper dialogue about tribal literature and culture of the country. In his inaugural address, Dr Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, stated that need of the hour is to launch a



separate Akademi for the study and research of tribal societies and the proposed Akademi should be a resource for study and research into all aspects of tribal life. He also further stated that unless sustained interest is created among scholars, writers and artists and genuine awareness and growing interest among people on tribal cultures and literature, it would be difficult to have a broad based dialogue and the proposed Akademi would take care of that aspect. In his keynote address, Dr Tejasvi Kattimani, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, observed that the tribal communities should be brought to the mainstream. He cited an anecdote of Kaka Kalelkar requesting Verrier Elvin to work with the Indian tribal and compile a book. He said he is pained by the fact that tribal languages are fast vanishing and all efforts should be taken to stem the rot and spoke briefly about the initiatives of Tribal University to safeguard the culture and languages of tribal communities of India. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that art is becoming a commodity, that democracy should not neglect tribal communities, exploitation of forests and forest dwellers should be stopped and tribal communities should be brought to the mainstream. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, proposed vote of thanks.

In the first session devoted to the 'Myths in Tribal Languages Literatures and Cultures' and chaired by Dr H.C. Boralingaiah, three noted scholars, Sri B.R. Kacharia, Sri Javed Rahi and Sri Hemant Khadke, presented their papers focusing on the 'Myths of Gir;s Rabari – Sarjagan,' 'A study of Gujjars and Baker tribes in Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Myths of tribals of Maharashtra' respectively. From chair Dr Boralingaiah made a power point presentation on the lives of tribes, like Jenukurubas, Koragas, Siddhis, and others. About Siddhis, he said that they came from Zambia and were sold as slaves .Some of them came to Karnataka and others went to Gujarat. He further noted that the tribal leaders have established bond with the land and the people. Oral narratives start with the stories of the creation. Myths are like the cultural indices. At this stage Sitakant Mahapatra observed that various commissions set up by government have not done much for the tribals. As such, the writers and artists working for the cause of tribals should see that they are brought to the mainstream. They must get proper education, health, and enough for their livelihood. In evening, Lambani Dance, a cultural programme featuring Sri Gujasatti Lambani Dance Troupe, Bendigeri Sanna Thanda, Davangere was staged. In the second session that was devoted to 'Tribes in Indian Literature, Cultural Change and Conservation' and chaired by Dr Arjun Deo Charan, two noted scholars, H. Kamkhenthang, Basavaraj Donur and Suhrid Kumar Bhowmik, presented their papers focusing on 'Cultural and Literary traditions of the tribes of Manipur' and 'Cultural and Literary traditions of Bengali tribes' respectively. From the chair, Dr Arjun Deo Charan stated that culture means to cultivate, in the Adivasi culture of India mind is the most important and adivasis of India has the first right to the land they inhabit. In the third session that was devoted to the 'Influence of Globalization on Tribes of India' and chaired by Dr Bhanu Bharthi, three noted scholars, Sri Raj Kishore Mishra, Sri Upen Rabha Hakacham and Sri Maalan, presented their papers focusing on the impact of globalization on Odisha Tribes, Santali tribes and Tamil tribes, respectively. In the fourth session that was devoted to 'Myth and Reality of Tribal Culture' and chaired Dr Anil Kumar Boro, three noted scholars, P.C. Hembram, A.T. Mohan Raj and Kashinath Vinayak Barhate, presented their papers focusing on pre-conceived notions about the tribals, Mallukurukumba tribe of Wynad and Koru Oral traditions respectively. Sri. S.P. Mahalingeshwar proposed a vote of thanks.



FACE TO FACE

March 31, 2016, Thiruvananthapuram

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with YMCA, Thiruvananthapuram, organized a literary forum, 'Mukhamukham' or 'Face to Face' on March 31, 2016, featuring veteran Malayalam writer Prof George Onakkoor at the YMCA premises in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr Kayamkulam Yoonus,



Sri C Radhakrishnan delivering the inaugural address

Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. In his inaugural address Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, spoke briefly about various initiatives of the Akademi to promote Malayalam literature. Prof George Onakkoor was invited to felicitate him on the 50th anniversary of his creative writing journey and to mark 40th anniversary of his celebrated novel 'Ulkadal.' In his speech, Prof George Onakkoor, talked about his early life, influences on his writing, his journey as a creative writer and how he cherished the new trends in literature. He urged the youth of Kerala

to take part actively in all the literary events. A novel, 'Swapna Nakshatram' by Ms. Aswathy was released during the event and Prof George Onakkoor received the first copy. Several dignitaries, Dr A. Jameela Begum, Sri B. Murali and Sri Haneefa Rawther also participated and spoke at the event. Sri Shaji James proposed the vote of thanks.

WORLD BOOK DAY

April 23, 2016, Bengaluru

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the Karnataka Publishers Association, Bengaluru & Karnataka Women Writers' Association, Bengaluru, organized a literary forum to celebrate the World Book Day on April 23, 2016, at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the uniqueness of the World Book Day and the Akademi's initiatives to promote and inculcate good reading habits among young people. Sri Prakash Kambathalli, Chief Secretary of Karnataka Publishers Association delivered introductory speech. Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the forum. Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya in his presidential address stated that there should be a special drive for promotion of books, knowledge, and awareness about world book day in mass media and the day should be observed as a celebration but as a drive to build an educated and conversant citizen. He observed that if the citizen doesn't become creative and conversant, we cannot build a better nation. Dr. H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, eminent Kannada poet and Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar awardee delivered a special lecture on 'Inculcating Reading Habits in Children'. Veteran freedom fighter, Kannada writer and publisher Sri H.S. Doreswamy, Kannada Women writer and publisher Smt. Hema Pattanshetti and Dr. Vasundhara Bhupathi, eminent doctor and writer, the President, Karnataka Women Writers Association, Bangalore also participated in the programme. Sri H.S. Doreswamy and Smt. Hema Pattanshetti were honored at the programme. Smt. Vanamala Achar from Karnataka Women Writers Association proposed vote of thanks.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 8, 2016, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a Nari Chetna programme to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2016 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Chennai. Noted Tamil women writers P. Sivakami, Thara Ganesan and Vaigai Selvi participated and presented various dimensions of feminist writings in contemporary Tamil literature. Ms. Thara Ganesan presented a historical overview of Tamil feminist writing. Ms. Vaigai Selvi talked about the travails of Tamil women writers and varied challenges they face as women and as a writer. Ms. P. Sivakami presented a critical evaluation of various trends, traditions and currents of Tamil feminist writings and also presented a comparative analysis of Tamil women writing and women writing of other languages in modern India. Sri Maalan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed vote of thanks.



FOUNDATION DAY

March 12, 2016, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai organized a literary forum featuring eminent Tamil writer and critic Sri S. Ramakrishnan on March 12, 2016 at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Chennai as part of Foundation Day celebrations. Dr S. Rajmohan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed and introduced the guest speakers to audience and spoke briefly about the significance of Foundation Day. Sri Maalan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the varied contribution of Sahitya Akademi to the development of Tamil literature in modern India. Sri Ramakrishnan presented various perceptions about Sahitya Akademi and its contributions to the development of Tamil literature. Sri Ramakrishnan also delivered critical evaluation of the Akademi in general and highlighted successes and failures of the Akademi in its 62 years of literary service to the nation. Many distinguished Tamil writers, poets and critics participated in the programme. Sri Maalan proposed vote of thanks.





BHASHANTARA ANUBHAVA

March 5-6, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Bhashantara Anubhava, a multilingual poetry recitation literary event featuring translations into North-Eastern and Eastern languages on March 2-6, 2016 at Court Hall of Manipur University in Imphal. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. The inaugural address was delivered by Prof H. Nandakumar Sarma, Vice Chancellor of Manipur University. Dr H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Sri Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed the vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Jaya Mitra, four noted poets, Sri Amarnath Jha (Maithili), Sri Kangjam Radhakumar Singh (Manipuri), Sri Madhav Bhattarai (Nepali) and Sri Senapati Pradyumna Keshari (Odia) recited their compositions followed by translations of the renderings. In the second session that was chaired by Asit Mohanty, four noted poets, Ms. Anupama Basumatary (Assamese), Sri Rahul Dasgupta (Bengali), Sri Adaram Basumatary (Bodo) and Sri Subodh Hansda (Santali) recited their compositions and rendering of translations of the compositions followed the recitation. In the third session that was chaired by Sri Gangadhar Hansda, three noted poets, Sri Utpal Datta (Assamese), Sri Nareswar Narzary (Bodo) and Sri Gobinda Ch. Majhi (Santali) recited their compositions followed by rendering of translations. In the fourth session that was chaired by Dr H. Behari Singh, three noted poets, Sri Shive Kumar Mishra (Maithili), Sri S. Lanchenba Meetei (Manipuri) and Sri Dembarmani Pradhan (Nepali) recited their compositions followed by rendering of translations of their compositions.

SYMPOSIUM ON LINGUISTIC & CULTURAL BACKGROUND OF THE BODOS OF WEST BENGAL

March 6, 2016, Alipurduar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha, organized a daylong symposium on the Linguistic and Cultural background of the Bodos of West Bengal at Hemaguri in Alipurduar on March 6, 2016. The Inaugural Session was presided over by Jnan Singh Basumata, President, Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha. Subin Saiba, General Secretary, Paschim Banga Bodo Sahitya Sabha delivered the welcome address. The session was inaugurated by Ramesh Chandra Suba with a short speech. The key-note address was given by Balendra Mochhary. He commented that the identity of any community cannot be well defined without language as gradually they lose their identity in absence of the language of their own. Both the first and the second sessions were chaired by Phukan Chandra Basumatary, Member, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Ashit Baran Narjary discussed on revitalization of the Bodo folklore in the context of West Bengal. Mahesh Chandra Narjinary discussed about the festivals of the Bodos of West Bengal briefly. Samendra Narjinary discussed phonetic and morphological character of the Bodo language of West Bengal. He continued, Bodo language is regarded as a dialect in West Bengal till now. This language should be recognized by the West Bengal Govt. immediately to make it strong and sound technically and grammatically. Without introduction in schools and colleges any language can neither be developed nor popular. Sri Gabinda Thakur delivered his paper on Folklore and Belief of the Bodos of West Bengal. He also stressed in his speech about rituals and customs of the Bodo society. The customs of Bodo society and culture is rich and unique itself, he commented. Bidesh Suba proposed the vote of thanks.



SYMPOSIUM ON DECLINE OF THE TRIBAL CULTURE & ITS FUTURE

March 7, 2016, Bijni

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Bijni College, organized a daylong symposium on the decline of the tribal culture and its future at the college premises on March 7, 2016.

The inaugural function was presided over by Gobinda Basumatary, former General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The welcome address was given by Birhas Giri Basumatary, Principal of Bijni College. Dr Anil Boro, Associate Professor, Department of Folklore, Gauhati University was the Chief Guest. Dr. Boro and Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatary, Associate professor, department of Bodo, Bodoland University presided over the first and second session respectively. Dr. Jibeswar Koch presented a paper on Folk Music of Garo and Rabha: Its existence and decline. In this paper Dr. Jibeswar Koch discussed about the Folk music of the Garo and Rabha, two tribal communities of Assam. Like the other tribal in Assam the Garo and Rabha also have their own language, literature, culture and identity, he said. According to Dr. Koch, the increase of use of bilingual language has diminished the importance of indigenous tribal language gradually. The mixture of loan words is found in almost all sentences. The pronunciation and dialects used by the tribals differ from place to place. However, though they speak in their own tone of dialect they sing very well with perfection. Sukrajit Daimary presented a paper on Some Traditional Food of Bodo and Garo: Its Decline and Future. The paper is mainly based on the indigenous tribe of Assam, Bodo and Garo and their traditional Food. He also discussed how the traditional food system of these two tribes has declined day by day. Both Bodo and Garo lives on cultivation. The Garos mainly do Jhoom cultivation. The main food of both the tribe is Rice. Both the tribes collect food from nature. They collect green vegetables like- Kheradapini, Khansisa, Manimuni etc. Motison Daimary presented a paper on Traditional Costumes of Bodos and its Decline. In his paper Motison Daimary has discussed about

the traditional costumes of the Bodo and the reason behind its decline. Bodo is the largest tribe in Assam. They have their own language, dress or costume, culture and literature. The traditional costume or dress of the Bodo is Dolhna, Phashara or Shima (shawl), blouse for female and Gamsa for male. Aronai (Maflar) is also a traditional costume worn both by male and female. Different costumes are used in different occasion. Champabati Khakhalary presented a paper on Decline of Assam Tribal's Tradition of Weaving and Its Future. She discoursed on Tribal's tradition of weaving in Assam, its decline and future. At the very beginning Khaklary pointed out all the tribals in Assam like – Bodo, Babha, Tiwa, Deuri, Mising, Dimasa. The tribals in Assam have their own language, literature and culture. It can be said that tribal culture has great contribution in Assamese culture. The tribal in Assam are Mongoloids. It is seen that though most of the tribal in Assam are less educated, poor economic background, still they are rich in their tradition and culture. However, in the influence of modern period their tradition and culture is seen declining day by day. Dr. Ada Ram Basumatary presented a paper on Tribal Culture and Its Threshold of Globalization –with Special Reference to Bodo. He narrated that Culture is transient as it keeps on changing. According to him Globalization has great



One of the sessions of the symposium in progress



contribution behind the transient nature of culture. As today is the world of science and technology, the knowledge of entire world can reach every nook and corner of the world. Here, in this paper Dr. Ada Ram has taken a particular area of study i.e. Bodo culture. The Bodo is the largest majority tribe in North East Assam. Bodo have their own culture & identity. However, now-a-days it is witnessed that different changes has come in their culture in different fields. For example- religion, dress and cloths, food etc. Rupnath Owary presented a paper on the Decline of Cottage Industries among the Bodos. He dwelt on the influence of Cottage Industries among Bodo community. According to Rupnath Owary the Cottage industries among the Bodos are witnessing a rapid change day by day. And this might be the effect of Globalization on them. Cottage Industries among the Bodos are actually an unorganized sector, it is made by economically depressed peoples mainly the villagers. The Cottage Industries among Bodos are mainly Bamboo craft, Wood craft, Clay making and Weaving.

MEET THE AUTHOR

March 7, 2016, Bijni

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a 'Meet the Author' programme on March 7, 2016 at Bijni College featuring Sri Mangal Singh Hazoway eminent Bodo litterateur. He is the first ever Sahitya Akademi award winner (2005) in Bodo, after the inclusion of the Bodo language in the eighth schedule of Constitution of India for his book of poems Jiuni Mwghang Bisombi Arw Aroj which reflects the spiritual side of life, embedded in the original religious teachings in the Bodo society, and it exhorts the readers to eschew violence. He presented his brief life sketch and spoke about his literary creations and contributions. There was a lively interaction session between the author and the participants after his speech.

LITERARY FORUM

March 9, 2016, Sivsagar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Gargaon College organized a Literary Forum on the Tradition and Contemporary Context of the Assamese Satirical Literature at Gargaon College, Sivsagar on March, 9, 2016. The inaugural programme was inaugurated by Mr. Durlav Buragohain. Dr. P.D. Gogoi, Principal Gargaon College delivered welcome and introductory address. Out of two sessions, Dr Karabi Deka Hazarika presided over the inaugural session. Sri Punya Saikia attended as a Chief Guest in the inaugural session. All resource persons mentioned that the history of Assamese Satirical literature is as old as the legend itself. Poly Konwar was the anchor in the session. Arundhati Mahanta presided over the other session. Bikesh Boruah, Durlav Buragohain and Punya Saikia presented their papers in the session.

FOUNDATION DAY

March 12, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a literary forum on March 12, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Kolkata as part of Sahitya Akademi Foundation Day celebrations. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the forum featuring Sri Groutram Prasad Barua, Sri Hemen Bhattacharya, Smt. Manda Mukhopadhyay, Sri Rabeendra Prasad



Foundation Day celebrations at Kolkata office in progress



Panda, Sri Rabisankar Bal and Sri Shyamalkanti Das. Dr Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience and spoke briefly about the birth, evolution and functioning of Sahitya Akademi. Smt. Mandar Mukhopadhyay and Sri Shyamalkanti Das recited their poems, Sri Rabisankar Bal read out his short stories, Sri Hemen Bhattacharya talked about the role of Sahitya Akademi in the preservation of Indian literary traditions, Sri Goutam Prasad Barua presented a paper on the role of Sahitya Akademi as a bridge connecting diverse traditions of the country, Sri Rabeendra Prasad Panda talked about the role of Akademi as a promoter of Indian literature and Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay talked about achievements of Sahitya Akademi and also recalled several seminal events in its history.

LITERARY FORUM

March 13, 2016, Duliajan

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Rotary Club of Duliajan, organized a literary forum on Science and Literature on March 13, 2016 at Rotary Community Centre, Duliajan. Dr. (Smt) Anindita Das, a member of Rotary Club of Duliajan, introduced the participants to the audience. The forum was chaired by Pankaj Goswami, a social worker of Duliajan. The welcome address was given by Dr. (Smt) Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In her address Dr. Hazarika narrated a brief overview of the activities of Sahitya Akademi and delivered a thought provoking lecture on the importance of the chosen topic of the forum- "Science and Literature". In his speech Dr. Deka, Vice Chancellor, Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, explained the relation between Science and Literature picking up various examples from fictional world. The first paper on the topic was presented by Tridiv Hazarika on various aspects of relationship between literature and science, positive sciences of the ancient Hindus and

the presence of descriptions of cosmos and universe in Indian literature of ancient and medieval times. The main speaker of the evening was Dr. Alak Kumar Buragohain, Vice Chancellor Dibrugarh University. Dr. Buragohain in his lecture explained the connection between science and philosophy since the early civilization. He also analyzed the presence of science in metaphysics, mythology besides in literature. Dr. Buragohain concluded his speech with the support of observation of Rabindranath Tagore that there cannot be scientific truth or literary truth, Truth is Truth — the ultimate one. The vote of thanks was proposed by Satyakam Barthakur, Member, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

POETS' MEET AND MULAKAT

March 13, 2016, Majuli

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Majuli College, organized Poets' Meet and Mulakat programme on March 13, 2016 at Majuli, Assam. The Inaugural session of both the programmes combined together was chaired by Dr Debjit Saikia an eminent poet and Principal of the Majuli College, while Anis-uz-Azman, an eminent Assamese poet delivered the inaugural address and Professor Apurbajyoti Hazarika of Majuli College delivered the welcome address. Dr. Debbhusan Bora on behalf of Majuli College expressed his gratitude to the Akademi for organizing both the programmes at their college. Dr Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata proposed the Vote of thanks. In the Mulakat programme Gitali Bora, Kamal Kumar Tanti and Sanjib Pol Deka read out from their recently written creative works with Arindam Borkotoky, an eminent critic and Assamese writer in the chair. In the Poets' Meet Ajit Bharali, Anis Uz Zaman, Chandan Goswami Debyajyoti Bora, Dilip Phukan, Gangamohan Mili, Gopal Ch. Bezbaroa, Gyan Pujari and Paraj Jyoti Mahanta read out their poems with Nilim Kumar, an eminent Assamese poet in the chair.



ASMITA AND NARI CHETANA

March 15, 2016, Tingkhong

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Tingkhong College, organized Asmita and Nari Chetna with women writers on March 15, 2016 at Tingkhong College, Assam. The Asmita programme was chaired by Binita Dutta, while prominent writers of Assam Juri Bora Borgohain, Malini Goswami, Jyotirekha Hazarika, Monalisha Saikia, Ila Borgohain, Paimthi Gohain participated. In this programme two famous and popular writers Juri Bora Borgohain and Malini Goswami read out two of their short stories respectively. Their stories were based on the present situation of Assam and it beautifully mirrored the condition and status of women in the society. Nari Chetana programme was held in the second half of the day. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata delivered the welcome address. Jyotirekha Hazarika recited her poems, Monalisha Saikia delivered the lecture on the contribution of woman to build the society. Jyotimala Gohain, Principal, Tingkhong College graced the occasion from the chair.

MIZO POETRY FESTIVAL

March 15-16 2016, Aizawl

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a two-day Poets' Meet with young Mizo Poets on March 15 & 16, 2016, at Mizoram University. Professor Margaret Zama and Professor R.L. Thanmawia Members, NECOL Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, along with Professor R. Lalthantluanga, Vice Chancellor of Mizoram University were present in the meet. The poetry festival was organized to identify and showcase the growing young talent in Mizoram and to bring out a bilingual volume of unpublished works of unheard voices of Mizoram. Though poetry writing in Mizo has been in place for many decades now, young contemporary Mizo poets have dared to move out of the influence of euro-centric as well as old traditional song forms, an established niche created by their predecessors.

AVISHKAR

March 16, 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Chirantan Sahityar Din, organized 'Avishkar' on "Galpakatha," a stage performance based on the art of storytelling with a musical background on March 16, 2016 at the Kanaklal Barua Auditorium in Guwahati. Sri Sankar Saikia, Secretary, Chirantan Sahityar Din, welcomed the participants and audience. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata and in his speech Dr Barman explained the significance of the programme. Sri Atanu Bhattacharya, Executive Editor of Satsori, read out his stories 'Sankatar Muhurtat Amar Galpabur' (Our stories on crucial moments) and 'Eta Byartha Anusaran' (A futile Quest) and talked about the pain and pleasure of staging a story. Ms. Mitali Dey with the accompanists staged a performance.

PRATIBHA BASU BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

March 17, 2016, Guwahati

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Cotton College, organized seminar to celebrate birth centenary of Pratibha Basu on March 17, 2016 at Cotton College, Guwahati. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. Prof Mita Chakraborty, Head of the Dept. of Bengali, Cotton College, delivered the introductory address. Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali writer graced the occasion as the chief guest of the seminar. The keynote address was delivered by Gopa Dutta Bhaumik, eminent Bengali scholar. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the inaugural session. Dr Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Kolkata proposed the vote of thanks. Bela Das and Kankabati Dutta read out about the novel writings of Pratibha Basu in the first session of the seminar. Sumita Chakrabarti chaired the first session. Binata Roychowdhury, Nandita Bhattacharya read



out about the story writings of Pratibha Basu in the second session of the seminar while Madhumita Bhattacharya chaired the second session. In the third session Aveek Majumder read out the works on Mahabharata by Pratibha Basu, Memoirs by Manju Das and Brajagopal Ray from the chair read out the Travelogues of Pratibha Basu. Valedictory address was delivered by Usharanjan Bhattacharya.

EASTERN REGIONAL LANGUAGES POETS' MEET

March 19, 2016, Shillong

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Poets' Meet in eastern regional languages on March 19, 2016 at St. Edmund's College Auditorium in Shillong. The welcome address was delivered by Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, while the inaugural address was delivered by Sylvanus Lamare, Member NECOL, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Pradip Acharya, eminent scholar and translator proposed the keynote address. Sri Kailash Chandra Baral, Director EFLU, Shillong, graced the occasion as the guest of honor. Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board chaired the inaugural session of the Poet's Meet. Vote of thanks of the inaugural session was proposed by Monotosh Chakravarty. English translation of Sahitya Akademi publication Madhupur Bahudur was released during the event. In the first session Pratim Barua (Assamese), Anuradha Mahapatra (Bengali), Christina Wanniang (English), Pankaj Parashar (Maithili) and N. Nandini Devi (Manipuri) recited their recent compositions. The session was chaired by Dr Gourahari Das. In the second session Aleendra Brahma (Bodo), Jean S. Dkhar (Hindi & Khasi), Karna Biraha (Nepali), Sakuntala Baliar Singh (Odia) and Shyama Charan Tudu (Santali) recited their compositions. The session was chaired by Dr H. Behari Singh. Sri Premananda Muchahari delivered the valedictory address.

SEMINAR ON BODO FOLK LITERATURE AND ITS SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC VALUE

March 21, 2016, Baksa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in collaboration with Bodo Sahitya Sabha, organized a seminar on "Bodo Folk Literature and its Social and Academic Value" at Barama College, Barama, Baksa, BTAD, Assam on March 21, 2016.

The Inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Tiken Ch. Das, Principal, Barama College. The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Anil Boro, Ex-Convenor, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He said that the Sahitya Akademi has been organizing many programmes for up-liftment of Bodo literature. The Folk literature transmits from generation to generation which lasts forever. It has good Social and Academic value which can educate the people by the way of amusement and entertainment. Padmashree Dr. Kameswar Brahma, the President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, delivered his speech as a special guest. He said that the topic has the immense importance for the development of language. He expressed his gratitude heartily to the College Authority for providing the venue of the College for holding the seminar. Sri Bisweswar Basumatary, Vice President, Bodo Sahitya Sabha delivered the Keynote address and talked about the genesis, evolution and relevance of folktales and folk literature in 21st century. Dr. Tiken Ch. Das, Principal, Barama College, who chaired the session thanked the Akademi for organizing the seminar at college premises. Kamala Kt. Muchahary, General Secretary, Bodo Sahitya Sabha, proposed vote of thanks.

Dr. Birhasgiri Basumatary, Principal, Bijni College, chaired the first session. In this session two noted scholars, Mrs. Rwirup Brahma, Sri Prasanta Boro presented their papers focusing on the role of Bodo folk literature in everyday life and educating the illiterate and the social and academic values of folk



literature respectively. In the second session that was chaired by Sri Dharannidhar Wary, eminent Bodo writer, three noted scholars Sri Rujab Mushahary, Sri Chittaranjan Mushahary and Sri Sitaram Basumatary participated and spoke about folk literature as a mirror of the society, the prevalence of Bodo terminology in folk literature and types of folk literature respectively. Sri Dharannidhar Wary observed that folk literature is the beginning and completes the frame of literature.

MEET THE AUTHOR

March 26, 2016, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a Meet the Author programme with Sri Haraprasad Das on March 26, 2016 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker and audience and spoke briefly about the platform. Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the life and works of Sri Haraprasad Das, his immense contribution to Indian literature and introduced the guest speaker to audience. ‘I died with every poem and forgot what I wrote yesterday. My creative journey is a constant forgetting and forgetting enabled me to write again and again. I forget therefore I remember,’ said eminent Odia poet, story teller, essayist, columnist and cultural historian Sri Haraprasad Das. Addressing a jam packed audience in the auditorium of the state archive in Bhubaneswar, Sri Das narrated his intellectual and creative journey and shared the nuances of his poetic self. He began his speech with a humble note by saying “a writer is always unseen or unknown... and the one who we see as a writer is not exactly the one who is really writing.” Sri Das said sixth decade of 20th century was very important for his generation of writers because during this decade Indian literature rediscovered itself. Sri Das also critically analyzed his time, society, human relationship and world literature. Sri Das also described how modern Odia poetry started its journey and flourish with new ideas, contents and styles. He also recited a bunch of his poems from his

various collections. Ajit Tripathy, Sakti Mohanty, Pabitra Mohan Dash, Debabrata Jena, Dr. Abhinna Chandra Sahu, Manoranjan Panigrahi, Subhransu Panda and others asked questions to Sri Das which he responded with great charm and warmth. Several eminent Odia writers including Sri Ramakant Rath, Dr. Sitakanta Mohapatra, Dr. Debiprasanna Patnaik, Dr. Bibhuti Patnaik and, Amaresh Patnaik participated. Sri Goutam Paul proposed vote of thanks.

BHUBANESWAR BEHERA BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

March 27, 2016, Bhubaneswar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a daylong Seminar to celebrate the birth centenary of Sri Bhubaneswar Behera on March 27, 2016 at Bhubaneswar.

In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. In his introductory address, Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, enumerated the many ways in which Sri Bhubaneswar Behera inspired generations of readers and writers and stated that he will continue to inspire the generations to come also. In his inaugural address, Sri Rajendra Kishore Panda, eminent Odia poet, talked about the larger than life persona of Sri Bhubaneswar Behera who



Monograph on Sri Bhubaneswar Behera is being released



was a humanist to the core and recollected several incidents from his life. Dr Ramakant Rath, Fellow of Sahitya Akademi and the Chief Guest of the Seminar, talked about the extraordinary ability of Sri Behera to write about ordinary people and day to day dry life with great artistic skill. In her keynote address, Dr Yashodhara Mishra, well-known Odia writer and daughter of Sri Bhubaneswar Behera, talked about the life and works of Sri Behera and also enumerated in detail the creative legacy which Sri Behera left behind. She also observed that Sri Behera was one of the first batch of Odia writers to pen travelogues from Africa and described him as a sensible humorist, a brilliant craftsman of short stories and an erudite scholar. Sri Santanu Kumar Acharya, who chaired the session, described Sri Behera as a master story teller who dealt with trials and tribulations of common man with great empathy. Sri Pitabas Routray, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed vote of thanks.

In the first session that was devoted to the ‘Criticism and Travelogues of Bhubaneswar Behera’ and chaired by Sri Gopal Krushna Rath, two noted scholars, Prativa Satpathy and Prof Sumanyu Satpathy, presented their papers focusing on criticism and travelogues of Sri Behera respectively. In the second that was devoted to Sri Behera’s short stories and autobiography and chaired by Sri Satkadi Hota, two noted scholars, Ms. Mamata Das and Sri Binay Kumar Behera presented their papers. Dr Gourhari Das chaired the valedictory session. Prof Madhusudan Pati, eminent Odia critic, delivered the valedictory address. He talked about the personality and creativity of Sri Behera and stated that Sri Behera’s personal life is inseparable from his literary life. Sri Goutam Paul proposed vote of thanks.

WORLD BOOK DAY

April 23, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata celebrated the World Book Day on April 23, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Kolkata. Sri Sirsendu Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali writer, chaired the meet while two eminent scholars, Prof Chinmoy Guha and Prof Ujjwal Kumar Majumdar, delivered the lectures. Prof Guha talked about the significance of April 23rd as it happens to be the birthday of one of the greatest poets and playwrights of the world ever, William Shakespeare and observed that it is apt that the World Book Day is being observed on this day. Prof Majumdar talked about the influence of books on his life. Prof Mukhopadhyay lamented the declining readership despite availability of many platforms to read and thanked the Akademi for organizing events of this kind.

ASMITA

April 25, 2016, Kolkata

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi Kolkata organized ‘Asmita’ programme featuring four women poets and two women fiction writers at the Akademi premises in Kolkata on April 25, 2016. Dr Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants, dignitaries and audience. Smt. Rusati Sen chaired the event. Four well-known women poets, Ms. Swagata Dasgupta, Ms. Raka Dasgupta, Ms. Sanjukta Bandyopadhyay and Ms. Sutapa Bhattacharya, recited their compositions. Ms. Swati Guha and Ms. Trishna Basak read out their stories. Smt. Rusati Sen appreciated the presentations and observed that the Akademi should organized more and more programmes of this type to encourage young women writers in Bengal.



THE NORTH-EAST AND EASTERN WRITERS' MEET

April 30 & May 1, 2016, Burdwan

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Krittibas and AIINAA, organized a 'North-East and Eastern Writers' Meet' at the Townhall in Burdwan on April 30 and May 1, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr Gopal Ch Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the objectives of multilingual meets of the Akademi. In his introductory remarks, Dr Angshuman Kar, talked about the significance of the events of this type, to not only for one to know more about the literature from the north-eastern regions but also about the Indian literature itself. He also observed that meets of this type helps the participants to develop the sense of oneness and interact and learn from fellow writer participants. Ms. Swati Gangopadhyay, Editor, Krittibas, appreciated the organization of the meet and congratulated the Akademi for diligently promoting literature in so many languages. In his keynote address, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi observed that North Eastern and the Eastern states have a historical legacy of their own but all are connected with each other in some or the other aspects and this is a fact that sometimes we tend to forget. He also felt that meets of this type will help in eradicating and erasing such differences where people will meet each other and develop a mutual respect and a fellow-feeling. Dr Debesh Thakur, Director, AIINAA, proposed vote of thanks.

In the first session split into two parts and chaired by Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, six noted poets and writers, Debabhushan Bora, Ranajit Das, Phukan Ch Basumatary, Naorem Bidyasagar Sinha, Prakash Hangkim and Pitambar Taraiand participated and recited poems and presented short stories. In the

evening of the first day a cultural performance by the troupe of AIINAA was staged. In the second session devoted to short story reading and chaired by Janilk Kr Brahma, four noted short story writers, Sibananda Kakati (Assamese), Kumar Ajit Dutta (Bengali), Budhichandra Heisnamba (Manipuri) and Itirani Samanta (Odia), presented their stories. In the third session devoted to poetry recitation and chaired by Faneline Marak, four noted poets, Khwairakpam Sunita Devi, Pinaki Thakur, Roma Kanta Basumatary and Jaindra Janium Munda Harrffa recited their compositions. In the fourth session that was chaired by Ms. Yashodhara Roy Chowdhury, three noted writers, were Rumi Laskar Bora, Mayanglambam Kandesh Singh and Loknath Upadhyay participated. While Rumi Laskar Bora and Mayanglambam Kandesh Singh presented their stories, Sri Loknath Upadhyay spoke on 'Mera Vishwa, Mera Lekhan.' In the fifth and sixth sessions devoted to poetry recitations and chaired by Sri Santosh Rath and Mridul Dasgupta, eight noted poets, Krishna Basu (Bengali), Wansalan E. Dhar (Khasi), Krishna Mohon Thakur (Maithili), C. Lalawmpuia (Mizo), Ajit Gogoi (Assamese), Srijato (Bengali), Rabibal Tudu (Santali) and Dharinjoy Tripura (Kokborok) presented their compositions. In the evening of the second day, a dance programme featuring Odisi, Manipuri and other folk dances was performed by the AIINAA troupe.





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

March 8, 2016, Mumbai



(LtoR) Geeta Bindrani, Sanskritirani Desai, Jaimala Danait and Cecelia Carvalho

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, to celebrate the International Women's Day, organized the Nari Chetna programme on March 8, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Mumbai. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the guest participants and audience and briefed about the Nari Chetna programme which is exclusively designed for the women writers. He introduced the guest speakers to the audience. Jaimala Danait, a well known Konkani writer, presented her short story Badalta Samay in the Hindi translation. The story was based on male dominated society. Sanskritirani Desai, a versatile Gujarati poet,

rendered the poems Koi Ek Zamane Mein, Passing the Pillow, Shabda Dibiya, Luka-Chhipi, Coolie Shabda (in Hindi translation) and A Dream Starts (in English translation). Cecilia Carvalho, a Marathi writer, presented her short story Suvarna Rekha (in Hindi translation) from Kaath, her collection of short stories which was inspired by a true event. The story revolves around a suppressed love of a woman with a handicapped person. She described Women Day as a Human Day as she considered women to be a human first. The last presentation was made by Geeta Bindrani, a Sindhi poet, who rendered her unique collection of one liner poems called as Tanha. Some of her one liners include Ashanti Ke Baad Shanti, Balak ne khub Sataya, Amir Ke Liye Sau Jashn etc. She also presented the poems from Nayi Kavita viz. Sapna, Man Aur Main, Kuchh Pyar-Kuchh Vyavhar in Hindi translation. She also enthralled the audience with some of her Ghazals namely Preet Ki Reet Nibhakar Jao, Tumhara Naam Likhkar Dharti Par Main Geet Purana Gaati Hun etc. Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks.

FOUNDATION DAY

March 12, 2016, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, to celebrate its Foundation Day, organized a Literary Forum on March 12, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Mumbai. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the guest participants and audience and briefed about the importance of Foundation Day of Sahitya Akademi. He introduced the guest speakers to the audience. Meera Savkur, a senior Konkani Poet, rendered her poems Manachya Khidakitun in originally Konkani version and its English translation. She also



(LtoR) Meera Savkur, Neeraja, Urvashi Pandya, Soni Mulchandani-Belani



rendered Nature and Humanity, Ishwari Sanket (Lords Will) and Real Truth behind Illusion in Konkani as well as English translation. Urvashi Pandya, a well-known Gujarati Critic, Translation and Writer presented her short story Buwa Maa which was more a realistic autobiographical sketch of women fondly known as Buwa Maa. Neeraja, a distinguished Marathi Poet and Writer rendered her poems like Rangili Choriyan, Ek Chitra Shahar Ka in Hindi translation and Natak, Mukat Padalelya Galyasathi, Khel and Shahar Vasnya Aadhi in Marathi. These poems were well received by the audience. Soni Mirchandani, a Senior Sindhi Writer from Radio World presented her short story Jewel in My Wallet (Battua Mein Hero) in English and read few lines in original Sindhi version to present the audience with flavour of Sindhi language. Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks to sum up the programme.

BIRTH CENTENARY SYMPOSIUM

March 13, 2016, Nadiad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Balvant Parekh Centre, Vadodara and Surajba Mahila Arts College organized a symposium in memory of the two great litterateurs - essayist Yashwant Shukla and dramatist Jashwant Thaker, on March 13, 2016 at Nadiad.

In the inaugural session, Sri Prakash Shah, in his keynote address, recalled last days of Yashwantbhai and added that he was acquainted with educationists namely Umashankar Joshi, Bhogilal Gandhi, Jayantilal, Nagindas Parekh, Manubhai Pancholi and Yashwant Shukla. Dr Raman Soni in his speech said that he was a student of Yashwantbhai in H.K.College from first year till his M.A. He also added that it was so pleasant to hear him in class during that time, he could not make the notes of his lessons due to concentration on hearing him. He recalled his arranging the categories of students on ground and various floors, so nicely. He then switched on to the subject given to him and concluded with many literary aspects of Yashwantbhai's contribution to literature.

Second half of the symposium was dedicated to Jashwant Thaker and the memories by their families. First such family member was Ms. Neela Jayant Joshi who was Yashwantbhai's daughter, who happens to be retired professor of philosophy. She recalled many incidents concerning Yashwantbhai how fortunate we all are to have him in literature despite many alternates that he had, that time. She always had some fear of his father and not father-in-law while showing her thesis of Ph.D for the critical evaluation of the work, she did. She could meet many towering personalities of literature only because of his father's inter-actions with them. She also had memories of Jashwant Thaker's plays. She only had a knowledge of enjoying the play and playing the roles in a play, but she know that it is also an Art and Jashwantbhai knew the technique of making audience to like the play.

Thereafter it was of Ashutosh turn to remember his father Yashwantbhai who recalled some incidents and said that Yashwantbhai wanted him to belong to Arts discipline (faculty) though was Engineer by profession as he could have shared many common things concerning literature. He also said about Jashwant Thaker and recalled one event where an actor could not reach to perform. Ultimately, he was made to perform the play with strict instructions 'you will only act which you were taught'. He expressed his gratitude of being accompanied of many literary personalities, only because of his father. Two speakers, namely Hasmukh Baradi and Bharat Dave could not come due to their health.



Ms. Devaki Dave (daughter of Bharat Dave) read the paper of his father and recalled some incidents of her childhood. In his paper he also said about Jashwant Thaker. There was also a vide show on Jashwant Thaker which had contents of various aspects of international plays for all Gujarati audience. Thereafter Pravin Pandya read some excerpts from plays of Jashwant Thaker and said that he was student of both the writers and recalled few incidents. Sri Sanmya Joshi, the grandson of Yashwantbhai and eminent poet, professor and dramatist read the easy – ‘Moti’. The symposium concluded with vote of thanks where on any other writers, poets, vice-chancellor, novelists were also present.

TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

March 15-16, 2016, Valsad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized Translation Workshop on March 15- 16, 2016 at Valsad at which selected short stories in other regional languages were translated into Gujarati. Prof. Himanshi Shelat, distinguished Gujarati writer, and Member of Gujarati Advisory Board was Director of the workshop. Dr Raman Soni and Ms. Sharifa Vijaliwala were resource persons.

SYMPOSIUM

March 20, 2016, Goa

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Goa Konkani Akademi and Institute Menezes Braganza, organized a symposium on Prachin Sahitya Aani Itihasacher Aadaarit Konkani Sahitya (Konkani Literature Based on Ancient Literature and History) on 20 March 2016 at Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa. Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, welcomed the guest participants and audience. Sri Gopalakrishna Pai was the Chief Guest. Sri Uday Bhembre, Sri Mahabaleshwar Sail, Dr Jayanti Naik, Sri S.Ramkrishna Kini and Melvin Rodrigues presented their papers. Sri Madhav Borcar proposed vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON LITERATURE AND ITS LARGER CONTEXTS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BOMBAY PROVINCE

April 2-3, 2016, Ahmedabad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Farbas Gujarati Sabha, Mumbai, Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics, Vadodara, and Gujarat Vidya Sabha, Ahmedabad, organized a seminar on literary culture in the 19th century Bombay Province on April 2 and 3, 2016, at the H K Arts College, Ahmedabad, focusing on Gujarati literature in the late pre-colonial and early colonial periods but also involving literature in other languages of the region, i.e. Marathi, Sindhi and Konkani, bringing in the Portuguese colonial context.

The occasion for the conference was the 50th death anniversary of Alexander Kinloch Forbes, which falls this year, as Forbes was instrumental in bringing the culture of Gujarat to the light of the world in the nineteenth century. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, said that a remarkable scholar of the Gujarati language, and colonial administrator, Forbes proved his intellectual and academic acumen in the domain of culture in the 19th century Bombay province. His Gujarat Vernacular Society,



(LtoR) Shirish Panchal, Rajesh Pandya, Usha Upadhyay, Balkrishna Doshi, Navinbhai Dave & Subhash Brahmabhatt

established by him in 1848, offered a renaissance in Gujarati. The Gujarat Vernacular Society started first public library, school for girls, periodical, newspaper, and literary journal of Gujarat. This was his immense contribution and certainly showed his deep cultural awareness, and involvement in and affection for Gujarati language. Hearty thanks due to the poet Dalpatram as well, for it was the poet who taught Gujarati to Forbes. Forbes left his everlasting imprints of his flawless insights into culture in Ahmedabad, Surat, Bombay, and Pune. Commemorating such an extraordinary intellectual and academic, the seminar will explore into the excellent cultural output from literature in particular and from other domains of human life in general that the 19th century experienced, and also into what the British, Portuguese contributed to the then India. It would certainly be interesting to investigate into what exactly this kind of cultural amalgamation offered and gave us then, for the Bombay Province included a lot of our geography – say Konkan, Nashik, Pune in Maharashtra, Ahmedabad, Anand, Bharuch, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Panchmahal, Surat in Gujarat, Bagalkot, Belgavi, Bijapur, Dharwad,

Gadag, Haveri, Uttar Kannada in Karnataka, Sindh Province which is now in Pakistan, and Aden colony – now part of Yemen. This kind of amalgamation invites us to study the literary creation and exchange, socio-political and educational influences that worked, challenges posed before the native traditions, customs, intellectual exchange and upheavals in terms of reform, trade and the means that were used for it, and of course the what material gain we produced or imported while trading during the period. Let's get along with disciplined analysis of this vast geography, this industrious activity, the cultural intermingling as reflected in literature and arts during the century. Remembering Forbes' incredible contribution, he informed that Sahitya Akademi has taken up reprinting of Rasa Maalaa, following the recommendation of our Gujarati Advisory Board. The Inaugural Session was graced by Justice C. K. Thakkar of the Supreme Court of India and Justice Mohit Shah, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, both now retired. Professor Niranjana Bhagat, pioneering Gujarati poet and eminent scholar, gave the keynote address. Shri Navinbhai Dave, President, Farbas Gujarati Sabha and eminent industrialist, gave short but enlightening presentations. The session was presided by Dr. Balkrushna Doshi, renowned architect and President of Gujarat Vidya Sabha, who spoke of the role of architecture in shaping a living space for the emergent modern Indian culture and pointed out that Mr Forbes had, as a young man in England as an architect before he joined the civil service in India. Principal Subhash Brahmabhatt, of the H K Arts College, a part of the activities of Gujarat Vidyasabha, himself an eminent critic, welcomed the speakers and the large audience which filled the auditorium to its capacity and a little more.



In all five technical sessions were conducted during these two days in which informative and learned papers were read on history, society, economy, education, printing culture, and literatures of the nineteenth century Bombay Province. Chandrakant Topiwala, President of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad and a leading poet and critic, emphasised the need to study the pre-modern age of Gujarati literature that is before 1850s. Pravinchandra Patel, former V C of the Sardar Patel University and an eminent sociologist, showed how socio-religious reform in Bombay province was hindered by the rise of nationalism and how it remained an unfinished project. Makrand Mehta, eminent historian, delineated the economic trends in Gujarat in the nineteenth century and the pivotal role played by Kalabhavan established by T. K. Gajjar for the twentieth century development. Achyut Yagnik, eminent cultural historian, argued that the reform movement was restricted to the upper castes and the minorities, the Dalits, the tribals remained on the periphery and could not avail the benefits of the new system. Shirish Panchal, eminent critic and editor, Chanrakant Sheth, Usha Upadhyay and Rajesh Pandya, well-known poets and highly regarded critics, underlined the achievements of Gujarati literature and also showed the neglected areas. Deepak Mehta, eminent critic, outlined the development of education in Gujarat in the nineteenth century. Virchand Dharamsey, well-known cultural historian, displayed how various forms of spectacles and traditional means of entertainment provided a background for cinema in the next century. Arun Vaghela, whose path-finding work in tribal culture of Gujarat is noteworthy, depicted and analysed the sources of tribal history in the nineteenth century, mainly on the basis of archival data. Hasit Mehta, cultural historian of the new generation, presented a holistic picture of Gujarati literary magazine in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Hemant Dave, whose perceptive work in historiography and culture studies in Gujarat is nationally renowned, argued that self-consciousness and modernity in 19th century Bombay Province was not due entirely to the British impact. Religious cults like Pranami sect and Svaminarayan sect had already began reform in the society much before the utilitarian ideas were brought in by the new English education. A good number of nineteenth century scholars wrote diaries—an important mark of self-fashioning and self-reflexion—sans any influence from without.

Since the then Bombay Province covered linguistic regions, in part, of what are now Maharashtra, Sind, and Konkan, apart from Gujarat, one of the sessions was dedicated to these languages. Eminent Indian writer of Konkani, Damodar Maojho, presided. He presented a study of Konkani literature and its Portuguese colonial contest. Issues related to Marathi and Sindhi literary culture of the period were discussed in papers by Pushpa Rajapure, Marathi critic and former Chair of Marathi at Mumbai University and Nandita Bhavanani, eminent researcher in culture of Sindh. Murali Ranganathan, a polyglot, spoke engagingly on early print culture in Bombay in languages like Gujarati, Marathi, Urdu, and Persian.

Two special evening sessions were greatly appreciated by the connoisseurs of Ahmedabad. The first was the renowned Gujarati artist, musician-singer Amar Bhatt, who sang some of the most beautiful songs and poems of nineteenth century Gujarati poets for almost two hours, linking them through erudite critical comments, and captivated the audience. The other was a slide show by Kaiwan Mehta, a young and well-respected Parasi architect practicing in Mumbai, on ‘Images and Ideas: Neighbourhoods of Action, and Bombay in the 19th century’, which was equally well appreciated.

The Conference inquired into the some important dimensions of literatures of the Bombay Province and their political, economic, social and cultural inter-connections. The conference also explored ideas as to how the indigenous intelligentsia cope up with and effectively modified—at times even nullified—the onslaught of the Western value system and ideas. This was done especially by M. K. Gandhi and his teacher M. N. Dvivedi. On



the other hand, the conference also investigated how British impact changed the Indian Weltanschauung. The ideals of Victorian morality, for instance, led people to question and finally to eradicate the age-old traditions of phatānā(‘obscene songs’ sung usually at the time of marriage)and bhavāī(traditional, subversive theatre) and the acquaintance of Western genres introduced new form of plays, essays, criticism, and autobiography.

LITERARY FORUM

April 23, 2016, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, on the occasion of World Book Day, organized a ‘Literary Forum’ on April 23, 2016 at the Akademi premises in Mumbai. Rangnath Pathare, an eminent Marathi writer and critic was invited to deliver his thoughts on the Contemporary Reading-Culture. Krishna Kimbahune,



Rangnath Pathare talking about importance of books in life

Regional Secretary, welcomed the guest speaker and audience. He introduced the guest speaker to the audience and briefed about various initiatives opted by Sahitya Akademi to promote the Indian literature and also the reading culture in India. Rangnath Pathare, in his speech stressed the need for bringing out more books depicting the Indian culture and to attract the reader towards reading such books by promoting it on a large scale. He emphasized that a good reader should be a good listener first. He said that today’s young generation has adopted Western Culture and the technology and social media is hurting the reading culture. He was of the firm opinion that the reading culture will be developed and preserved long if only

the Language culture is rich and mature in his content and values. He gave various instances of his childhood memories which attracted him towards the reading culture. The scholar audience who witnessed the speech posed their queries to the speaker regarding the subject which was answered in very scholarly and satirical way. Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks.





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