



साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

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New Harvest: All India Young Writers' Meet



Sahitya Akademi organized a "New Harvest: All India Young Writers' Meet" at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Saturday, 29 February 2020, in New Delhi. The Meet included readings and discussions by well-known young litterateurs representing 24 Indian languages. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience saying that not only individually but collectively too young people add immense value to the society in which they live. The dynamism and freshness they bring in many a movement in a given society or country.

In his inaugural address, Dr

Siddhalingaiah, eminent Kannada poet and playwright, said that the Akademi has always been encouraging young writers by organizing this kind of programmes and honoring them. He referred to Kuvempu's saying that we cannot throw old ornaments thinking they are of old types, but by melting them into new ornaments, we can re-use them with new shape.

The Guest of Honour of the programme, Sri Dhruba Jyoti Bora, noted Assamese novelist, historian, essayist, painter, and social scientist in his address said that in an era where the interest in reading books has completely gone up in the young generation, young

writers must stand up to be counted. It is not enough to write, it is not enough to pen any short stories or poems, unless your readers could recognize you. He appealed to young writers that they must give voice to the voiceless, voice to the marginalized people.

In his presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhkar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, said that young writers, irrespective of the genre they are indulging in or the cultural traditions and languages they represent, have to be encouraged and promoted.

The first session – "Why Do I Write?" – was chaired by Sri K.P. Ramanunni, eminent Malayalam writer. Sri Lakshyjit Bora, Assamese writer, said that I write my mind briefly, and takes a form of a poem. I write with despair as well as happiness. This is solely mine.

Ms. Kinjal Joshi, writer in English and Gujarati, said that her writing is the whistle of the pressure cooker of her heart and mind, and that she throws out the steam from within on paper sky and feel comfortable.

Ms. Priyanka Mishra, presently pursuing Master's in Maithili language, said, "I write so that I can interview myself". Ms. Mandakini Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of English, said that poetry-writing is not merely a personal passion but more importantly it is collective journey. Sri Sreejit Perumthachan, Malayalam poet and





sub-editor with *Malayala Manorama* said that more than a passion or profession, writing denotes my position. It is, to me, a way to mark my presence in both the society and my existence. Sri K.P. Ramanunni, concluding the session, wished all young poets that they will be able to make this world more pleasant through your writings.

In the second session devoted to "Writing: Passion or Profession" was chaired by Sri Gourahari Das, noted

Odia writer, and Ms Moonisa Aslam Dervash, scholar, working with Akashvani, Srinagar, Ms Rimi Mutsuddi, Bengali poet, and Ms G. Akhila, English poet participated in the session and shared their views.

The third session – "Me and Literature of my Generation" – was chaired by Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, noted Bengali writer, chaired the session. Sri Nagaraj Hetturu, Editor, *Bheema Vijaya*, Kannada Daily,

Sri Tongbram Amarjit Singh, associated with Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat and Sri Ambesh Talwadkar, short story writer, shared their views.

The fourth session was devoted to short story reading, and was chaired by Sri Prakash Bhatambrekar, eminent translator. Sri Khiroda Bihari Biswal, Odia short story writer, Ms Saroj Bala, Dogri short story writer, Ms Manushi, Tamil poet and short story writer, Ms Roshini Rohera, Sindhi short story writer and dramatist, and Sri Indla Chandra Sekhar (Telugu), read out their short stories.

The fifth and concluding session of the programme was devoted to poetry recitation, and was chaired by Shri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, eminent Urdu poet and scholar. Sri Mihir Chitre (English), Sri Raj Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Sri Swapnil Shelke, Ms Reena Menariya (Rajasthani), Sri Roshan Rai (Nepali), Sri Mahender Kumar (Urdu), Sri Chandra Mohan Kisku (Santali), and Sri Madhu Raghavendra (English) recited their poems.

National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (contd.)

The eighth session – "Nature in Poets' Imagination – II" - was chaired Prof. K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam poet, critic, and translator. Sri Melvyn Rodrigues, noted Konkani writer, poet and lyricist, Sri Mogalli Ganesh, Kannada writer, poet and researcher, Sri Ashwani Kumar, poet, writer and presently Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences and Prof. Balwant Jani, noted Gujarati writer and researcher, presented their papers.

Sri Melvyn Rodrigues in his paper on "Nature in Poets' Imagination" said that the relationship between poets and nature is highly organic. In their craft, nature occurs more often than not. Konkani poets have embraced nature in a big way.

Sri Mogalli Ganesh in his paper on "Nature in Poetic Imagination" said that to construct the invisible beauty and the truth of any poem, imagination stimulates the poet, but only through his social environment.

Sri Ashwani Kumar in his paper said that our concepts of Nature are relative, historically determined. The notion of Nature in poetry is affected by ideology,



by literary conventions as well as social and cultural ideas.

Prof. Balwant Jani in his paper on "Gujarati Lokgeetmein Prakriti Nirupan" said that in folk literature, an active person plays longer role between the human life and natural substances. These natural substances are constantly visible in front of them.

The ninth session titled "Nature in Indian Tribal Lore" was chaired by Prof. Mahendra Kumar Mishra, eminent folklorist. Prof. A. Chellaperumal, Professor and Head of the Department of

Anthropology at Pondicherry University, Dr. Kalachand Mahali, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, Sri Sibdas Baskey, Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology in North Bengal Agriculture University, West Bengal and Sri Anil Kumar Tiriya, Assistant Professor of English in Berhampur University, presented their papers.

Prof. A. Chellaperumal said that Nature appears as a vital source of life in tribal lore. Dr. Kalachand Mahali in his





of others and deploy them in their own work.

Sri Gobind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, in his inaugural address, pointed out that there is a sharp decline in the sales of book, e-books books being one of the reasons. There is a need to imbibe the culture of reading among the new generation which can be only be done during the school level education. He said that a publisher also has the responsibility to look at the aspect of social welfare through the books he is publishing.

The First session of the Panel Discussion was devoted to "Publishing Fiction". Sri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, noted editor and translator, as the moderator of the session, pointed out the trend of self-publishing among writers these days. Taking part in the discussion, Ms. Karthika V.K., publisher, Westland Publications Pvt. Ltd. said that generally a publisher publishes where there are readers, for still the Indian reading population has scope for all

types of genres which is the strength to publishing scene in India. Ms. Aditi Maheshwari, Head, Department of Copyrights and Translation, Vani Prakashan, stressed on how there is a need for mentorship of intellectual property by Government agencies. She said there is also a need to fill the chasm of communication between independent publishing houses and government run organisations. Ms. Paramita Satpathy, noted Odia fiction writer and poet, also put forward the need of Government agencies to bring out and support the writers and poets from the regional languages. Ms. Preeti Shenoy, Indian English author, pointed out towards exploring the space which lies between commercial fiction and literary fiction, and how the competition is not among the writers but with the social media.

The Second session of the Panel Discussion was devoted to "Publishing Poetry". Sri Arun Kamal, well-known Hindi poet and essayist, said that poetry is mother-tongue of humanity, it is the



mirror of a society and publishing poetry makes it long lasting. Taking part in the discussion, Sri Alok Shrivastav, noted Hindi poet, said that the market speaks the demands of consumers and Hindi poetry in Hindi language itself is not much demanded, but in overall there is a rise in publication of poetry-collections. Ms. Arundhathi Subramaniam, eminent Indian English poet, said that making available the Indian writings online helps in making them available to translators all around the world.

Spin-a-Tale: Programme for Children



Sahitya Akademi organized a programme for children "Spin—a-Tale" at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Saturday, 29 February 2020, in New Delhi, at which more than 200 students from various schools such as D.P.S. International School, Gurugram, Delhi, Kannada Senior Secondary School, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, Brahma Shakti Sr. Sec. School, Sonapat, Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, New Delhi, The

Union Academy Sr. Sec. School, Raja Bazar, New Delhi enthusiastically participated. The programme comprised a Short story Competition followed by Poetry Competition and Drawing Competition. Subject for all the three competitions was – "Conservation of Mother Nature". There were two categories. In the first category, the children from class 1st to class 7th participated, in the second category the children from class 8th to 12th participated. Three prizes were given in each category in Hindi and English languages separately. After the



competition, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the children and guests. Noted children-writer in Hindi, Smt. Madhu Pant narrated a story of a donkey who wanted to become wise and intelligent, to the children. She also had the children engaged in a game asking questions about environment. Smt. Deepa Agarwal, eminent children-writer in English, also narrated a short story in English depicting the lives of different creatures and animals of jungle in a very interesting way. All the children enthusiastically participated in, and enjoyed the programme.



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