



2016

# साहित्योत्सव festival of letters

15-20 February 2016

## SAHITYA AKADEMI Newsletter

Daily News Bulletin

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### Seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian Literary Traditions



Sahitya Akademi organized a daylong seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian literary traditions as part of Festival of Letters at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, participants and audience and talked about how translation lies at the core of all of Akademi's activities. He hoped with the help of translators' community across India that the seminar on translation will become a regular feature of Festival of Letters.

In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the translation activity that is inherent in the social fabric of

India. He pointed in a multilingual society like India where language changes every 100 kms, it is impossible to conceive of a life without translation of one kind or the other. Crude or refined, translation always existed and was on use on a day to day basis in India. He highlighted various works, periods, movements of translations over the past 2000 years and observed that translation is natural to Indians.

Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, eminent Hindi scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, who was the Guest of Honor, sated that India is a translation area. He wondered why no single critical text specifying the art or science of translation parallel to expert treatises in other fields and felt that maybe the exclusive attitude of Indians with regard to language and privilege of the speakers and their master narrative was responsible for this lacuna.

In his keynote address, Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, eminent Hindi scholar, said that translation permeates everything and the world is a construct of word but the word is a translation of the idea. Idea is abstract and





noted scholars T.S. Satyanath and Prakash Bhatambrekar presented their papers 'Translational Transactions in Medieval Indian Vernacular Literary Cultures' and 'Bhaktikaal mein anuvadkiya aadaan pradaan' respectively.

In the second session devoted to 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India,' Sri Alok Bhalla chaired the session and two noted translators, Ms. Monalisa Jena and Sri Rajendra Prasad Mishra presented their papers 'Translational Enterprise in Colonial India' and 'aupanivesika bharat mein anuvadkiya udyam' respectively.

In the third and final session that was devoted to 'Contemporary Translational Initiatives and Impacts' and chaired by Ms. Namita Gokhale, three noted translators, Sri N. Kalyan Raman, Ms. Neeta Gupta and Sri Harish Narang presented their papers. Ms. Neeta and Ms. Mini presented publishers' point of view. Sri Narang presented the perspective of the writer while Sri Kalyan Raman presented a paper on 'Translating the subaltern: Initiatives and impact.'

languageless, translation facilitates its manifestation in concrete forms through different aural visual performative media of communication. In a way, no communication can become a reality without translation and translational consciousness.

Dr Chandrashekhhar Kambar talked about translating cultural components of a language into another and highlighted traditional view points on translating / transporting cultural consciousness of one region into another.

The first session was devoted to 'Translational Transactions in Bhakti Movement' and chaired by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, eminent literary critic, two

## Spin-A-Tale

Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters concluded with the last day devoted to Children and Children's Literature at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Chief Guest Sri Prayag Shukla and the participants. Dr Sreenivasarao talked about inculcating good reading habits in the children at a very young age and the benefits of such inculcation. He said reading habits formed in childhood go a long way in shaping the mindscape of children and it is these children who go on to become adults and citizens of the world.

Sri Prayag Shukla thanked the Akademi for inviting him to inaugurate Spin-A-Tale 2016 and talked briefly about the moulding of children in the right direction from a very young age.

Dr Sreenivasarao and Sri Prayag Shukla released two books of Children's Literature – English translation of two Chinese books for children (Liao Zhai Zhi Yi: Selected Stories and Stories of Huainanzi) and two Hindi works *Papu bapu bane Mahatma* and *Bhartiya Bal Sahitya* edited by Harikrishna Devasare. Sri Shukla inaugurated the event by singing a poem from his works and children sang with him.

Children with special needs from Pt. Deen Dayala Upadhyay Institute for the Physically Handicapped, Delhi enacted a cultural performance.

The Young Mizo Association of Mizoram performed Cheraw (bamboo dancing) for Children's entertainment.

Certificates of appreciation were distributed by Dr Sreenivasarao to the students and faculty of Pt. Deen Dayal





Upadhyay Institute and he spoke at length appreciating the efforts of the children and the institute. He requested the elders and faculty not to address the children as handicapped as that would affect the psyche of children.

Ms. Anupa Lal and Mr Valentina Trivedi presented their stories for the children.

A poetry writing competition in two topics "Swachh Bharat" and "Pollution" was conducted.

The winners —Swachh Bharat:

1st Prize : Khushboo Jalu Thariya

2nd Prize : Gauri Lakshmi

3rd Prize : Afsana

Consolation Prize 1) Aamir Hussain and 2) Ruchi Singh

The winners —Pollution:

1st Prize : Arunima Tripathi

2nd Prize : A.M.N. Madhuri

3rd Prize : Khushi Bhatt

Consolation Prize 1) D.M. Ramita and 2) Karan Raj

A workshop on creative writing by Rahul Saini and a workshop on painting by S.V. Rama Rao were organized as part of Spin-A-Tale.





## National Seminar on GANDHI, AMBEDKAR, NEHRU Continuities and Discontinuities

Day 3



The National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities continued for the third day at the Sahitya Akademi auditorium in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

The seventh session of the seminar was first for the day devoted to 'Minority and Majority' and was chaired by Sri Nand Kishore Acharya. In this session, two noted scholars, Rana Nayar and Pravin Pandya, presented their papers 'Gandhi-Ambedkar Debate: Let us annihilate the caste as we eradicate untouchability' and 'Aadhe pul ki asamapt yatra'

respectively. Nayar's paper focused on the system of caste with untouchability and the perceptions / positions of Gandhi and Ambedkar on it. He hoped for a society where Gandhi and Ambedkar can co-exist and such a society should be casteless and progressive. Pandya said that according to Gandhi minorities can be classified into three broad groups such as dharmic, samajik and rajneetik corresponding to personal, social and political spaces of the state. For Ambedkar though majority is the community which is traditional and casteist while minority is something that may have religious leanings sans system of caste. He also highlighted the socialist principles of Nehru which laid the foundation for a secular state.

The eighth session was devoted to 'Culture and Education' and was chaired by Prof H.S. Shivaprakash, eminent poet and playwright. Two noted scholars Ms. Nilanjana Deb and Sri Satyanarayan Sahu presented their papers 'The Refracted Light of Asia: the Negotiations of Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar with Orientalist Writing on Buddhism' and 'Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on education and culture' respectively. While the former focused on the different approaches taken by Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar on utilizing orientalist sources in promoting Buddhism., the latter focused on the three doyens' contribution to education and culture. Prof Shivaprakash summed up the proceedings and observed that except Acharya Narendra Dev, all other makers of modern India based their understanding about the native texts through the prism of western ideas and western systems.

In the ninth and final session that was devoted to 'Religion and Democracy' and chaired by Sri Purushottam Agrawal, three noted scholars, Prof Satyakam Borthakur, Sri Sribhagwan Singh and Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented their papers on the topic of the session focusing on the trio's different approaches to religion and democracy and also on Gandhi's views on religions of the world. While Sri Sribhagwan Singh presented a paper on Gandhi's view of the religions of India, Sri Shahbaz Hakbari presented a paper highlighting continuities and discontinuities in the approaches to religion and democracy and Prof Satyakam focused on highlighting the similarities and common points among the three doyens under consideration.



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