



BHASHA SAMMAN – 2013

24 APRIL 2014, VARANASI

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Bhasha Samman for 2013 on Pt. Hariram Dwivedi for his contribution to Bhojpuri language and literature in a ceremony organised on 24 April 2014 at Gardey Conference hall of Paradkar Smriti Bhawan at Golghar, Varanasi. This honour is equivalent to Sahitya Akademi's main award. It has been given twice earlier for contribution in Bhojpuri language, to Dharikshna Mishra and Moti B.A

The Programme started with hymn singing by Dr Preeti Vimarshini, Acharya, Panini Sanskrit Gurukul, Varanasi and her students. It was followed by 'Saraswati Vandana' by Sri Govind Shukla. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his welcome address referred to the famous quote of Saint Tukaram 'words are only jewels I possess' and said that Sahitya Akademi considers the works of literature in regional languages and dialects very precious. He said that despite the absence of scripts, minor languages and numerous dialects form healthy portion of rich cultural and literary traditions of India and

oral traditions are part and parcel of ancient, medieval and modern Indian literature. He explained that the Sahitya Akademi initiated Bhasha Samman to encourage and promote literature in these languages.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi delivered his presidential address in Bhojpuri and stated that literature of Bhojpuri is quite wide and it has various forms. He also said that Hariram Dwivedi's speciality is that he writes only poetry which places him in the category of pure poets and their poetic approach is very humble as that of legendary Tulsī. In Dwivedi's poetry one experiences the Folk beauty. It is very lyrical which is outcome of inner emotions and tremulousness. He has composed poetry in almost every folk tune. He further said that Hariram Dwivedi is associated with Gorakhpur Radio Station since its inception.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, honoured Hariram Dwivedi with Bhasha Samman and Dr K. Sreenivasarao read the citation. Later Hariram Dwivedi was felicitated with a plaque and prize money Rs. 1,00,000.

Hariram Dwivedi, in his acceptance speech said that "Bhojpuri is my mother tongue which I have learned from early years of my life." He also said

that since childhood he had liking for Bhojpuri songs. He used to accompany his mother to various marriage parties and other ritual ceremonies being organised in their villages and listen to the songs. Later, even as he was discouraged by his father, one day he felt a strong urge and thought that he can also compose these songs which helped him to discover the poet in him. Hariram Dwivedi stated that he never suffered from any complex while writing in Bhojpuri his mother tongue. He has not only experienced this folk language but he has lived it. He also recited some of his songs which were well received by the audience.

The programme was co-ordinated by Sri Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The programme was attended by well-known litterateurs, journalists and scholars like Dr Kamlesh Dutt Tripathi, Dr Dayanidhi Mishra, Prof Sadanand Shahi, Prof Vaishtha Anup, Neerja Madhav, Dr Ram Sudhar Singh, Dr. Kamlakar Tripathi, Ramavatar Pandey, Moolchand Sonkar, Jawaharlal Kaul, Vachaspati, Mukta, Manjula Chaturvedi, Prof Shraddhanand, Prof Varshitha Narayan Tripathi, Gorakhnath, Ashok Anand, Gautam Arora, Dr Saleem Rahi, Prof Rajendra Acharya among others.



Dr Viswanath Prasad Tiwari presenting Bhasha Samman to Pt. Hariram Dwivedi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao looks on

**FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION TO ASIT RAI,
20 JUNE 2014, DARJEELING**



Dr. Viswanath Prasad Tiwari confers Akademi fellowship on Sri Asit Rai

Sahitya Akademi organised a fellowship presentation programme in Darjeeling to honour Sri Asit Rai, an eminent Nepali novelist, poet, literary historian and critic on 20 June 2014. The programme began with Saraswati Vandana by Miss Sonu Rai.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the scholars and literary connoisseurs present at the venue, spoke briefly about the life, works and legacy of Sri Asit Rai and the reasons for the Akademi to confer its highest honour on the celebrated Nepali writer. He read out the citation of Asit Rai, who is the author of nineteen novels, five collections of short stories, four poetry collections, four books of criticism and literary history and five other books. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented Asit Rai the Fellowship and delivered his presidential address. He appreciated Sri Rai for his contribution to the development of Indian literature and spoke about the value of literature in human society.

In his acceptance speech, Asit Rai spoke about his literary and personal life and his contribution to the society. He said, "In yesteryears, there was no recognition or any awards but literature was there, dedicated writers were there. To further enable this creative endeavor, there is now the tradition of awards and honors, which has taken literature to this height and affluence is commendable." After his speech, various literary, social organisations and individuals from different parts of the country also felicitated Sri Rai.

Following the presentation, a 'Samvad' programme was held, which was presided over by Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board. The three speakers Jiwan Namdung, Shankar Deo Dhakal and Gokul Sinha discussed about the literary contribution of Asit Rai. They said that by conferring fellowship on Asit Rai, Sahitya Akademi has done a great work and has recognised his literary contribution to the society and the country. Sri Dhakal gave a power point presentation of the literary journey of Sri Rai. Sri Namdung evaluated Sri Rai as a Progressive writer. He referred his novels including the Akademi Award winning novel *Naya Kshitijko Khoj* and presented a brief analytical survey of his literature. Speaking from the chair, Prem Pradhan appreciated Sri Rai and spoke highly about Sri Rai's analytical representations and imageries and literary trends in the present context. He also spoke about his contributions in Nepali literature to make the Indian literature rich. The programme was covered in the local and national media.

ENSEMBLE : A POETRY FESTIVAL

19th - 21st of June 2014

The Sahitya Akademi and the Department of Cultural and Creative Studies, NEHU, Shillong organized a three day long poetry festival / conference “Ensemble” between 19th and 21st of June 2014 at the Old Guest House Auditorium, NEHU, Shillong to showcase and celebrate poetry and oral traditions from North-East India.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof S.K. Nanda, Head, Department of Cultural and Creative Studies. Sri Santanu Gangopadhyay, Assistant Editor at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the scholars, delegates, faculty, the students and literary connoisseurs for the three day long festival. He spoke about the fading popularity of poetry and also about

‘Challenges to Poetry’ and hoped that more concerted efforts will flow in to collect, preserve, translate and publish, in anthologies, these rich traditions. Prof Desmond L Kharmawphlang from the Department of Cultural and Creative Studies explained the aims and objectives of the three day conference further to the delegates and the audience. Sri Prabodh Shukla, Vice Chancellor, NEHU, formally inaugurated the programme and concluded his speech with a short poem, ‘Loneliness,’ that he wrote 34 years ago when he first moved to Shillong. Three poetry books, ‘A Map of Ruins’ by Nabanita Kanungo, ‘Midsummer Survival Lyrics’ by Mamang Dai and ‘Green Tin Trunks’ by Uddipana Goswami were released during the session. Prof Robin S. Ngangom proposed a vote of thanks.

In the panel discussion on Day 1 that was chaired by Mamang Dai, three panelists Uddipana Goswami, Nitoo Das and Lalnunsanga Ralte presented their views on the theme of the discussion “Is there a North-Eastern Sensibility?” While Uddipana Goswami said such a categorization as ‘North-Eastern’ is a false one and was a ploy of Colonial British to divide and rule, Nitoo Das said that such a simplified frame wrecks of ignorance as



Prof K.Satchidanandan and Prof Desmond L Kharmawphlang with other participants at poetry reading session

how the oral traditions have contributed in rich vein to the traditional narratives, not only in the north-east but also throughout the rest of the country. Prof K Satchidanandan, Convener, English Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the aim and the central themes of the festival. He delivered a speech on the

north east has diverse cultural and literary traditions. Lalnunsanga Ralte presented a version that was more or less agreed with the second paper. Towards the end of Day 1, five poets, Nini Lungalang, Nitoo Das, Uddipana Goswami, Lalnunsanga Ralte and Bhagat Singha recited their poems.



Day 2 started with the second panel discussion that was chaired by Prof Robin S. Ngangom and the topic was 'Poetry in times of trauma.' The chair introduced the topic and said that while pain and trauma often lead to poetry, at the same time too much of pain cripples the poet and leads to silence and not the expression of thoughts and anguish. Monalisa Changkija, the first panelist felt that poetry and trauma are intrinsic to each other. While she doesn't celebrate trauma, she celebrates all poetry including that which arises out of trauma. Next two panelists, Anurag Rudra and Nabanita Kanungo, talked about the pain of separation, partition and how such trauma gets reflected in their poems. Shreema Ningombam described the shapes and hues of violence and then proceeded to explain how the poetry can be a tool to express deepest of the feelings such as pain, trauma and depression stemming from being the victims or witnesses of violence.

In the poetry reading session that followed the panel discussion that was chaired by Prof Desmond L. Kharmawphlang, nine poets, Saloni Blah, Lumtimai Syiemlieh, Renee Rai, Prof K. Satchidanandan, Monalisa Changkija, Shreema Ningombam, Nabanita Das, Anurag Rudra and Robin S. Ngangom recited their poems.

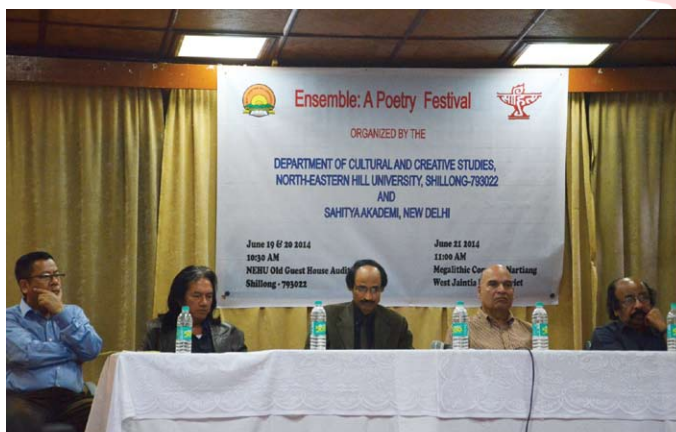
In the third panel discussion that was moderated by Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih with the topic 'Living in the mother tongue Vs writing in English,' three panelists presented their papers. The moderator started the discussion by saying that while linguistic ambidexterity can be extremely helpful and may be even desirable, one can express better with a range

of disposal at one's disposal when writing in one's own mother tongue. Shimanta Bhattacharya said that both are useful but problems arise when the two are confused and used without judicious and proper discretion. Sanamacha Sharma felt he did not feel rootless or disconnected just because he writes in English. Nuni Lungalang spoke about how one's choice of language of writing should not lead one being categorized, positively or negatively

In the final poetry reading session of Day 2 that was chaired by Prof Kynpham Sing Nongkynrih, four poets, Shimanta Bhattacharya, Sanamacha Sharma, Donboklang Rynthathiang and the chair recited their poems.

Day 3 started with a poetry reading session, Prof K Satchidanandan and four other poets, Esther Syiem, Mamang Dai, Tashi Chophel and Ibohal Kshetrimayum read out their poems. In the fourth panel discussion with the topic 'Poetry and Memory' that was chaired by Desmond L Kharmawphlang, four scholars presented their papers. Esther Siem said that poetry is memory itself and explained further that in the context of the region, poetry set free the memories and rich oral traditions of the people, hitherto untapped and prone to loss by capturing them on the written page, much like the histories etched on the stones. Ibohal Kshetrimayum said that in his own poetry he relies on memory, those from his youth and those etched in the land of the region and its people. Mamang Dai narrated how memory serves a vital part in human life and how it is inextricably intertwined with poetry too. She said that both good and bad memories are equally important. Tashi Chophel spoke about how intertwining of poetry and memory falls into two aspects, namely, personal and shared. In the final poetry reading session, seven poets, Desmond L Kharmawphlang, Esther Syiem, Ibohal Kshetrimayum, Mamang Dai, Tashi Chophel, Nini Lungalang and Pynhun Miki Susngi recited their poems.

In the concluding remarks, Prof K Satchidanandan, convener of the festival summed up all the panel discussions, poetry readings, general discussion and thanked all the participants and organizers for making the festival a grand success. He concluded the festival with a short poem of his 'Poetry Will Come Back.'



Scholars keenly listening to one of the papers being presented

TWO DAY SYMPOSIUM ON NAGA ORAL LITERATURE

4th and 5th April 2014, Nagaland University, Kohima



Prof Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay, Director of North-East Centre for Oral Literature speaking at the symposium

The Two-Day Symposium on Naga Oral Literature, sponsored by Sahitya Akademi was organized by North East Centre for Oral Literature, Agartala on 4th and 5th April 2014 at the Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema. The Symposium was held in collaboration with the Department of Tenyidie & Linguistics, Nagaland University.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. Temsüla Ao, Member, Advisory Committee, North-East Centre for Oral Literature. About 70 people attended the inaugural session. The keynote address of the symposium was delivered by Prof D.Kuolie, Coordinator of the Symposium. Prof A. Lanunungsang, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, Kohima Campus, Meriema, in his inaugural address conveyed his gratitude to Sahitya Akademi, NECOL for holding the Two-Day Symposium on Naga Oral Literature. He requested students to take up the task of collecting, preserving and disseminating oral literature of Nagaland, to the degree possible in their lives. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Mimi K.Ezung.

The first academic session was chaired by Dr A.J.Sebastian, Professor of English. Six scholars Dr. Kevizonuo Kuolie, Vivolhuno Punyü, Chingang Konyak, Kerevilie Kire, V.Rita Krocha and Ms. Petekhrienuo Sorhie presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Dr Mimi K. Ezung, Asstt. Professor, Department of Tenyidie and five participants presented their paper in turn. In the third academic session, five scholars presented their papers and the session was chaired by Nigamananda Das, Associate Professor & Head, Department of English. Six scholars presented their papers in the fourth academic session that was chaired by Prof D.Kuolie, Head, Department of Linguistics & Tenyidie. The valedictory session was chaired by Prof D. Kuolie. The certificate of participation was distributed to all participants by Prof Minakshi Sen Bandyopadhyay the Director of North-East Centre for Oral Literature. Prof Kethokhrienuo Belho, Department of Tenyidie, proposed the vote of thanks.

TWO DAY KASHMIRI SEMINAR ON “AESTHETICS IN KASHMIRI POETRY”, 7TH AND 8TH JUNE 2014, SRINAGAR

A two-day seminar on “Aesthetics in Kashmiri Poetry” was organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with the Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir, Srinagar on 07-06-2014 & 08-06-2014 at the Auditorium of Humanities Block, University of Kashmir.

The inaugural session was presided by Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University, Prof A.M. Shah as chief guest and other dignitaries present were Prof Rahman Rahi, celebrated Kashmiri poet and Jnanpith Award Winner, Dr K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, Prof Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, President Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Dr Aziz Hajni and HOD, Kashmiri, Prof. Shad Ramzan.

Prof Shad Ramzan in his address highlighted the glorious past of Kashmiri literature and attributed its richest literary traditions to the 14th century luminaries Lal Ded and Shaik-ul-Alam. He also opined that Kashmiri Sufi poetry was highly influenced by Sanskrit and Persian poetry and can be classified along with the best of poetry from around the world.

Dr K.Sreenivasarao defined the contribution of Kashmiri poetry towards the growth and development of aesthetics in Indian literature. He said that Kashmiri literature has always been attention-grabbing in terms of its beauty and exuberance. He welcomed the distinguished guests, participants, students and Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor of Kashmir University Prof A.M.Shah.

In his key note address, Dr. Hajni expressed his reservations with the topic chosen for the seminar

as it was quite philosophical and beyond the comprehension of a common man. He listed out rich and beautiful aesthetic traditions from Lal Ded to Rahman Rahi. He also enumerated the coordination between the universe and poetry on the higher canvas



Prof A.M. Shah delivering inaugural speech and other scholars keenly listening

of aesthetics. He visualized the aesthetic excellence in Kashmiri poetry through the window of Kashmir Shaivite philosophy but ultimately owed its origin to centuries long oral and literary traditions.

Prof Rahman Rahi, in his presidential address, deliberated upon the significant role of Sahitya Akademi in the promotion and development of Kashmiri language and literature. Prof Rahi also acknowledged the painstaking efforts of Prof Zaman Azurdah in bringing Kashmiri literature to the limelight at national level as he enriched Kashmiri by getting its books published through NBT India. Prof Rahi elaborated how aesthetics can be contemplated as the organic whole of beauty. He also threw light on various philosophies and trends that have influenced Kashmiri literature till date.

In his inaugural speech, the Guest of Honour, Vice Chancellor, Prof A.M.Shah, underscored the

importance of Sahitya Akademi to promote, inspire, propagate and encourage Kashmiri language and its writers. To wipe out mother tongue means to wipe out our sense of self and identity. He said that we could preserve our language only through transformation of our cultural legacy to our upcoming generations. He impressed upon the academicians, scholars and civil society to come forward to upgrade and safeguard our cultural ethos and legacy without any compromise. Prof Shah also thanked Sahitya Akademi for choosing Kashmir University as a venue for this seminar.

Prof Zaman enumerated a wide range of Kashmiri aestheticians who commendably contributed to the growth and development of aesthetic beauty in Kashmiri Poetry. He emphasized the scholars and intellectuals to discover aesthetics from Kashmiri literature with which they are less acquainted.

Academic sessions were held the following day. The first academic session was presided over by noted Kashmiri novelist and poet, Mr G.N. Gowher. SatishVimal, Iqbal Nazki and Margoob Banhali presented their papers on “Mozuneyat,” “Ha shairsawarokorgatshakh” and “Naatehjamaleyaat” respectively. Brijnath Betab reviewed and summed up the papers presented.

The second academic session was presided over by Prof Shad Ramzan.Wali Mohammad Aseer, Gh. Nabi Aatish, Mufuza Jan and Bashir Bashir presented papers on “Chinab wade Hindesahiretetezh Jamalyaat,” “Kashriwanyunichj Ammalyaat,” “Kashremasnavehinz Jamalyaat” and “Shaikh-ul-Alamisundjamalyaatehusun” respectively. Inayat Gul reviewed and summed up the papers presented.

The third academic session was presided over by Prof Majrooh Rashid. Farooq Fayaz, Ranjoor Telgami and Zameer Ansari presented papers on “Fazil Kashmir sedansharanmanzjamalyaat,” “Sufi Sharimanzjamalyaatiunsur” and “Marsimanzjamalyaatihusun.” Shabir Ahmad Mir reviewed, summed up the papers and initiated the debate.

The last academic session was presided over by Prof Mohammad ZamanAzurdah. Shad Ramzan presented a paper “Shash Rang” while R.K. Bhat’s paper “Lelayimanzjamalyaat” was read out by

the Chair in his absence. Prof Zaman thanked the Akademi, Registrar, faculty and students of the Kashmir University.

Dr Mushtaq Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

RACHNA PATH

5 May 2014, Shimla

Sahitya Akademi organised ‘Rachna-Path’ on 5 May 2014 at Holiday Home, Shimla. The programme had two sessions each dedicated to short-story and poetry reading respectively. The first session of story reading was chaired by Govind Mishra, eminent fiction writer. He also read out an excerpt titled ‘Ushma’ from his forth-coming novel that deals with the warmth in the lives of old aged people with help of mobile and a young volunteer. In this session R.S. Harnot, Badrisingh Bhatia, SudarshanVashishta and Arun Bharati read out their stories titled ‘Aabhi,’ ‘Bael Bani Betiyan,’ ‘Devta Nahin Hain’ and ‘Thapki’ respectively. Poetry reading session was chaired by renowned poets Leeladhar Jagudi, Arun Kamal and Rajesh Joshi. In this session O.P Sarswat, Anil Rakeshi, Om Bhardwaj, Kunwar Dinesh, Tulasi Raman, Keshav, Madhukar Bharati, K.K. Vaidya and Srinivas Srikant recited their poems, songs and Haiku. Arun Kamal, starting with his poem ‘Dhar’ presented his latest poetry. Rajesh Joshi read poems titled ‘Main Jhukta Hun,’ ‘Mera Naya Phone Number’ and Leeladhar Jagudi read ‘Pahad Aur Paid’ which were well received by the audience. Suryaprasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board, proposed a vote of thanks and the programme was coordinated by S.Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. A minute’s silence was observed in the beginning in memory of late Jyotsna Milan, well-known Hindi writer.

ASMITA PROGRAMME

22 May 2014, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organised 'Asmita' programme with three women poets Swati Melkani, Renu Pant and Rajani Anuragi on 22 May 2014 at Rabindra Bhawan, New Delhi.



The poets at the event

The programme started with the poetry reading of Swati Melkani from Haldwani, Uttranchal. She read out poems titled 'Dhuri,' 'AuratmeinPahad,' 'Nadi Hun Main,' 'Pahad Par Chadna,' etc from her new collection of poetry Jab Main Zindahoti Hun published by BhartiyaJyanapitha. She sensitively projected the tragedies and challenges faced by women living in hilly areas and her poems were well-received by the audience. Rajani Anuragi and Renu Pant also read out poems inspired by the themes of women's love and mountains. At the end of the programme, while commenting on the poetry read out in the session eminent writer and poet

Gangaprasad Vimal said that all the three women poets expressed their concern for women's self-respect and endangered mountains in cogent and sensitive manner and such works will give voice of consciousness to the society. Senior writers and poets like Hari Suman Bisht, Ramesh Rishikalp, Vigyan Vrat and aresh Shandilya participated. The programme was coordinated by Sri Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

LITERARY FORUM : MULTILINGUAL POETS' MEET

23 May 2014, New Delhi

A Multilingual Poets' Meet was held at Sahitya Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi on 23 May 2014. Sri Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub-Editor, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the poets and scholars participating in the programme. Ramesh Prajapati (Hindi), Vivekanand Jha (Maithili), Madan Mohan Soren (Santali) and Vishnu Bahadur Gurung (Nepali) recited their poems in the programme. Madan Mohan Soren presented his poems in English translation, while Vishnu Bahadur Gurung recited his poems in Hindi translation. The veteran Hindi critic Vishvanath Tripathi commented on the presented poems. The gathering was graced by the all members of Sahitya

Akademi Santali Advisory Board. Other dignitaries were Hindi poets Upendra Kumar and Madan Kashyap, Nepali writer Dambar Mani Pradhan and Maithili writer Gangesh Gunjan.

SANSKRIT DRAMA TRAINING WORKSHOP

3-26 June 2014, Bhopal

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Bhopal, organised a 'Sanskrit Drama Training Workshop' from 3-26 June 2014, in Bhopal. This workshop was inaugurated on 3 June 2014 at Bhavabhuti Auditorium, Bhopal. Sanjay Upadhyay, Director, Madhya Pradesh Natya Vidyalaya was the chief guest and P.K. Das and

Bindu Juneja were special guests in the inaugural session. Key speakers for inaugural session were Sampurnanand Sanskrit University's Ex-Vice-Chancellor Prof Abhiraja Rajendra Mishra and Dr Kamal Vashishtha.

In the closing ceremony of the workshop on 26 June 2014 Dr Radhavllabh Tripathi, Ex-Vice Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sanathan was the chief - guest. Prof Alok Chatterjee, Abhiraja Rajendra Mishra and Brajendra Tripathi were also present in the ceremony. The trained students presented the drama 'Mricchakatikam' in the end of the ceremony.

This workshop was co-ordinated by Prof Azad Mishra of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan.

KATHASANDHI with GANGESH GUNJAN

13 June 2014, New Delhi

A Kathasandhi programme was organized with Gangesh Gunjan, renowned Maithili fiction writer, by Sahitya Akademi at Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi on June 13, 2014. Sri Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub-Editor, Sahitya Akademi introduced Sri Gangesh Gunjan to the audience and scholars present. Sri Gunjan, noted fiction writer and the Akademi award winner, read out his two short stories, titled 'Laat Sahebak Kirani' (Governor's clerk) and 'Dosar Lok' (Other world) in Maithili and 'Ek Peon ka Dukhant' (Tragedy of a Peon) in Hindi translation. All his stories were about the marginalized people of the society. A lively discussion on the stories presented and on dialects and language followed. Some well-known Hindi writers like Ganga Prasad Vimal, Ramesh Upadhyaya, Rekha Avasthi, Murali Manohar Prasad Singh and Narayan Kumar graced the occasion with their presence. Sri Devesh proposed a vote of thanks.

PEOPLE AND BOOKS with K. B. YOGI

21 June 2014, Kurseong, W.B.

A 'People and Books' programme was organized with K. B. Yogi, by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya at Paras Mani Pradhan Auditorium, Kurseong (W.B.) on 21 June 2014. Vinod Rasaily, Secretary, Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya introduced Sri K.B. Yogi to the audience and scholars present. Sri Yogi spoke about the books which influenced him and referred to the books of Krishna Singh Moktan (Charandhuli and Ashesh Yatra), I. B. Rai (Aaj Ramita Chha), Bhim Santosh (KhullaJhyal), Shankar Pradhan (Samiksha Samikshai) and AsitRai (NayakshitiKhoj). He also talked about his own writings and inspirations.

KAVI SANDHI with MOHAN DHUKUN

21 June 2014, Kurseong, W.B.

A 'Kavisandhi' programme was organized with Mohan Dukhun, veteran Nepali poet, by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya at Paras Mani Pradhan Auditorium, Kurseong(W.B.)on21 June2014. Sri Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub Editor, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the poet and the audience and also highlighted various programs being carried out by Sahity Akademi for the development of Indian literature in various languages. Vinod Rasaily, Secretary, Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya introduced Sri Dhukhun. He recited some of his metrical and prose poetry. The poems reflecting many aspects of human life were highly appreciated by all those present.

NEPALI POETS' MEET, 21 June 2014, Kurseong, W.B.

A 'Nepali Poets' Meet' was organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Gorkha Jana Pustakalaya at Paras Mani Pradhan Auditorium, Kurseong (W.B.) on 21 June 2014. The programme, divided into two sessions was compered and moderated by Vinod Rasily.

The first session was presided over by Sudhir Chhetri. Raju Pradhan 'Himanshu', Bhawani Sharma, Satish Chhetri, Jaiprakash Lama, Sushila Subba and Umed Gole recited their poems in this session. The second session was chaired by Arjun Pradhan. Dil Thapa, Purushottam Adhikari, Hanok Thapa, Milan Pradhan, Rachna Anakar and Ushakiran Rai 'Satyadarshi' recited their poems in this session, while Bimal Rai expressed his views on the recited poems and the state of contemporary Nepali poetry.

PRAVASI MANCH

24 June 2014, New Delhi

Under the series 'Pravasi Manch,' a programme was organised by Sahitya Akademi with well-known writer Prahlad Rammsurrin from Mauritius on 24 June 2014 at New Delhi. He presented a paper 'Hindi and Hindi Journalism in Mauritius.'



Sri Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, introducing Sri Prahlad Rammsurrin to the audience

While giving a brief historical account of the first arrival of Indians in Mauritius, Sri Prahlad Rammusurrin discussed in detail about Hindi language, research work, newspapers and magazines published in Hindi etc. He also talked about the writers in detail who immensely contributed in promoting the language in Mauritius. He mentioned Dr Manilal, Bholanath Tiwari, Atmaram Vishwanath, Vasudev Vishnu Dayal, Jai Narayan Ray and Prof Ram Prakash as most prominent among them. He mentioned about writers like Abhimanyu Anant, Ramdev Dhurandhar, Ragheyraman and Alka Dhanpatetc and regarded them as the contributors for the golden period of Hindi in Mauritius. A discussion on the paper followed.

PRAVASI MANCH

30 June 2014, New Delhi

'Pravasi Manch' programme was organised by Sahitya Akademi with Archana Penuli, a well-known writer of Indian origin from Denmark on 30 June 2014 at Sahitya Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi.



Sri Ranjit Saha introducing Ms. Archana Penuli to the audience

The programme was coordinated by Sri Ranjit Saha, Editor, Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya. He presented a brief account of contemporary non-resident writings and introduced Archana Penuli to the audience. She read an excerpt from her novel "Where do I belong...?" This novel is based on the theme of identity crises faced by people of Indian origin living in Denmark. A lively question-answer session followed the reading.



The Akademi organised a Literary Forum programme at Musafir Memorial Centre State Library, Patiala by inviting local Punjabi writers on May 21, 2014.

Sri Khurshheed Alam, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcoming the participants.
Others (L-R) Sri Jatinder Parakz, Ms. Tarun Guzral, Sri Kulwam Grewal, Prof Anup Singh Virk, Sri Darshan Singh Buttar and Prof Nashir Nagvi.

Sahitya Akademi's perseverance in promoting quality children's writing and creating platforms to encourage children and children's literature received boost when the Akademi and Rashtrapathi Bhavan joined hands to organize a two day workshop involving children from various groups and writers of children's literature at Rashtrapathi Bhavan, New Delhi on June 27 and June 28, 2014. Ms Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi represented the Akademi along with the children and the writers.

The Akademi organized a two-day Seminar on Criticism in Rajasthani Literature on May 31 and June 1, 2014 at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The seminar was conducted in four sessions over two days to showcase the evolution and development of literary criticism in Rajasthani literature over the past century. Dr Arjun Dev Charan, Convener, Rajasthani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the seminar and chaired the inaugural session. Ms Manjeet Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, welcomed the delegates, participants and literary connoisseurs from all over Rajasthan who had assembled at Jodhpur for this very important literary event. Sri Gajsingh Rajpurohit proposed a vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Dr Kiran Nahta and three Rajasthani scholars, Dr Kundan Mali, Dr Chetan Swami and Dr Mangat Badal, presented their papers. Sri Dulharam Saharan proposed a vote of thanks.

The second session was chaired by the noted writer Ambika Dutt and three scholars, Kumar Ajay, Om Nagar and Dr Dhananjay Amaravati, presented their papers. Dr Rajesh Kumar proposed vote of thanks.

The third session was chaired by Dr Narpat Singh Sodha and three scholars, Sri Gajesingh Rajpurohit, Dr Rajendra Barhat and Dr Meetha Sharma, presented their papers. Sri Kundan Mali proposed a vote of thanks.

The final session was chaired by Madhu Acharya and two scholars, Shyam Maharshi and Maalchand Tiwari presented their papers. The seminar concluded with the summing up and vote of thanks by Dr Arjun Dev Charan.

SYMPOSIUM ON ARABIC MALAYALAM AND MAPPILA PATTU

17 April 2014, Kondotti

Sahitya Akademi and Mahakavi Moyinkutty Vydyer Mappila Kala Academy jointly organized a one day Symposium on the topic “Arabic Malayalam and Mappila Pattu” on 17 April 2014, at the Vydyer Memorial Trust Hall, Kondotti.

Dr Shamsad Hussain welcomed the audience and the scholars. She emphasized the importance of Mappila Kala Academy in preserving the traditional art forms of Malabar. Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board inaugurated the Symposium. He pointed out that it is the duty of educated people to study and appreciate the origin of their language and culture. He talked about the contributions of Muslims to the traditional Hindu culture prevailed here before the coming of Islam and the amalgamation of both resulted in today’s rich hybrid culture.

Kerala Folklore Academy Chairman Prof Muhammed Ahammed presented the keynote address. He called our attention towards the fact that Quadi Muhammed composed Muhiyyadeen Mala even before Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam language. Preservation of Hindu Muslim hybrid culture with all its virtues is the only solution for communal harmony. Mappila Kala Academy Chairperson Sri C.P. Saithalavi delivered the presidential address in which he advised all to study Arabi-Malayalam to be on familiar terms with our culture. Sri A.K. Aburahiman, Vice-Chairperson appreciated the literary programme. Singer Sri K.V. Abutty and Sri Kanesh Poonur talked in the function and Asad Wandoor delivered the vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by the eminent scholar Dr. M.N. Karassery who delivered a scholarly talk on the history of Arabi-Malayalam

and opined that it is the language that moulds us and not vice versa. Dr.Illias M.H. presented a paper on the history of Arabi-Malayalam and its political importance. Sri K. Sethuraman presented a paper on the cultural tradition of Arabi-Malayalam and suggested that we should include the poems of Moyinkutty Vydyar in the school syllabus. Dr. P.A. Aboobaker talked on the scientific books in Arabi-Malayalam. Sri Balakrishnan Vallikunnu pointed out the similarity in Mappila Pattu Ishal with the traditional folk tunes of Vadakkan Pattu, Pulluvan Pattu etc., while presenting his paper on meter and musical characteristics of Mappila Pattu. Dr K.M. Sherrif presented a paper on how mappilapattu cannot be considered as a minor literature as it was parallel to the main stream literature.

The afternoon session was chaired by the eminent writer Sri P.K. Parakkadavu. He praised Mappila Pattu as a song genre which defended the social evils. Dr Ummer Tharammel presented a paper on the genres in Mappila Pattu. Dr Raghavan Payyanad’s paper focused on the identity crisis of Muslims as they have already abandoned their traditional dress code, songs and language. Dr P. Pavithran’s paper outlined how religious texts should also be treated as literary. Dr Sherin B.S. argued that we are getting a totally different but authentic picture on the women’s lives in Malabar from Mappila Pattu. She was the only female representative among the paper presenters and talked on the importance of women in Mappila Pattu tradition. Mappila Pattu didn’t get the deserving place in the Bhakti movement as Muhiyyadheen Mala was written even before Poothanam’s Jnanappana. The programme was well attended and covered by the media.

**SYMPOSIUM ON
SANJAYAN'S HUMOROUS WRITINGS**
 4 May 2014, Payyannur

Sahitya Akademi organized a Symposium on Sanjayan's Humorous Writings in association with Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam at Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam, Annur, Payyannur on 4 May 2014.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the guests and gathering. Prof. M. Thomas Mathew inaugurated the symposium and said Sanjayan was a great writer of humour in Malayalam who had only sorrows in personal life. In a short span of live he wrote essays, humorous writings, journalistic posts, travelogues etc.

Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board presided over the session. He spoke about how Sanjayan influenced so many writers of his generation. He highlighted the unique style and narration of Sanjayan which inspired the fellow writers.

Dr. K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi delivered keynote address and explained how humor in Sanjayan's writings healed many a wound across the state.

Sri Bhaskar Poduval spoke Sanjayan's life and his connections with Payyannur where the only memorial library has been established. Sri P. Kammara Poduval proposed vote of thanks on behalf of Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam.

In the following sessions, papers were presented by Sri C.P. Rajasekharan, Dr. E.P. Rajagopalan, Sri T.N. Prakash and Sri Ramankutti. The sessions were chaired by Sri C. Radhakrishnan and Sri P.K. Parakkadavu respectively.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge expressed thanks to the guests and participants. Writers, students, researchers, teachers, researchers, students including reading public participated in the symposium. Print and electronic media covered the programmes and deliberations effectively.

SCREENING OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS

17 April 2014

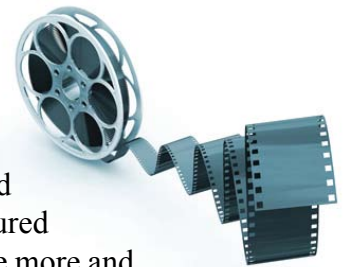
Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, Bengaluru organized the Screening of Documentary Films on Eminent Indian Authors on 17th April 2014 at Ravindra Bharathi Conference Hall, Hyderabad.

The special invitee to the programme Sri Akkineni Kutumba Rao, who produced the documentary on Kalipatnam Rama Rao, doyen of Telugu literature, thanked the Akademi and its office bearers for giving such a unique opportunity to make a distinct film and narrated his experiences while making film on such great writers.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and outlined how Akademi made films on doyens of Indian literature, the

positive response these films evoked throughout India and abroad which is a welcome gesture and too heartening. He assured that Akademi will organize more and more documentary film festival in other areas of Andhra Pradesh in the days to come.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Bengaluru thanked the audience, dignitaries and large assembly of media persons. The films screened were on Kalipatnam Rama Rao by Sri Akkineni Kutumba Rao, on Khushwant Singh by Sri Suresh Kohli and on U.R. Anantha Murthy by Sri Krishna Masadi.



WORLD BOOK DAY

23 April 2014, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru organized World Book Day on 23rd April 2014 at Institute of World Culture, Bengaluru in association with Karnataka Publishers Association, Bengaluru. While inaugurating the World Book Day eminent poet and Director of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Research Centre, Bangalore University, Dr. Siddalingaiah overwhelmingly appreciated the Sahitya Akademi for initiating such a unique programme to mark the World Book Day. Then he said 'through books we are able to make dialogues with our ancestors the books are bridges between we and our fore fathers'.

Dr Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board opined that 'books are great because they are vehicles of great intelligentsia reflecting the great minds communicating with us'. Dr G.B. Harish noted writer and journalist expressed his feelings on book culture. He quoted how European nations organize reading session of one of the books of great authors like Marquez in thousand places to mark World Book Day which is really extraordinary event. He said like writers, readers also occupy core of the book culture. Sri U.B. Pavanaja, a technocrat and writer opined that digitalization of books are very important. Sri Prakash Kambattalli, the Secretary, Karnataka Publishers Association, welcomed the gathering and President of Association, Dr. Ramakanth Joshi proposed vote of thanks.

Many media persons, writers and publishers from all over Karnataka participated.



MEET THE AUTHOR PROGRAMME

with T. PADMANABHAN

3 May 2014, Payyannur

Sahitya Akademi organized a Meet the Author programme on 3 May 2014 at Sanjayan Smaraka Grandhalayam, Payyannur featuring eminent Malayalam story writer Sri. T. Padmanabhan.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Bengaluru introduced the life, works and legacy of Sri T. Padmanabhan.

Sri T. Padmanabhan spoke at length about his literary journey, how he started writing at a fairly young age, how his early publications and reactions to them shaped his life as a writer and what made him dabble in vast number of literary genres. He also spoke about what it means to be a fiction writer, rules of fiction, etc for the benefit for young writers who were present at the venue.

Eminent writers like Prof. Thomas Mathew, Sri C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Dr K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, Sri T.N. Prakash, Payyannur Raghavan, Appukuttan Nampiar and Bhaskar Poduval participated in a lively dialogue with the author and also spoke on his unparalleled short stories that have been influenced Keralites and seen number of editions.

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, thanked the author and the participants for their lively interactions and also the Sanjayan Memorial Library authorities for the grand success of the programme.



INTERACTION with SRI VED PRAKASH GAUR

19 May 2014, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi organized an interaction with Sri Ved Prakash Gaur, Director (OL), Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, New Delhi who visited the office on 19 May 2014. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge welcomed the guest and also introduced him to the staff.

Sri Ved Prakash Gaur said that Hindi is not only North Indian language but it is our national language. He explained to the staff how many Indians are opting for Hindi as a second language. He said that it is necessary to create Hindi awareness all over the nation since it is Rajbhasha (Official Language) of Government of India and all the employees of the Central Government must know the basic knowledge of Hindi. All the staff members and Sri Chidambara Rao Jambe, Director, National School of Drama, Regional Office, Bengaluru actively participated in the interactive session. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge proposed a vote of thanks.

SYMPOSIUM ON "SOUTHERN LANGUAGES SHORT STORIES: TRENDS"

June 10, 2014, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi organized a day long symposium on Southern Languages Short Stories on June 10, 2014, at Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, Bengaluru. The symposium was inaugurated by Dr Chandrasekhara Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi. Dr Kambara, speaking on the occasion said he was glad to see more and more short stories, not only from the south india but also from all over are being inspired by the folk literature. He commended the Akademi for organizing these kind of significant programmes. C. Radhakrishnan, a Malayali writer, talked at length about the theories of short story writing, place of rationality in the realm of fiction and the role of short stories in moulding the members of a given society and also about the present day Malayalam short stories. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, proposed vote of thanks at the end of the inaugural session.



Dr. Chandrasekhara Kambar delivers the inaugural address of Southern Short Stories : Trends on 10 June 2014 at Nayana Auditorium, Bengaluru.

In the first session S.R. Vijayashankar, Kannada Critic, read a Paper "Contemporary Trends in Kannada Short Stories." Vijayashankar traced the ancientness of Kannada Short Stories to 'Vaddaradhane' of Shivakotyacharya of 9th Century. Enumerating the development and evolution of Kannada short story, he listed out important features of each passage and felt that anti-ploitation sentiment is the core of Navya stories. He also listed out contemporary Kannada short story writers and their unique contributions. Dr. K. Sathyanarayana, a contemporary Kannada short story writer read his short story "The Doctor's Mad Child." The second, third and fourth sessions were devoted to Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu short stories respectively. E.P. Rajagopal, a Malayalam writer, read a paper "Contemporary Trends in Malayalam Short Stories" where he listed out anguish, silence, alienation and disillusionment as dominant themes of the contemporary fiction scene though he felt romanticism still exists. Sri Indra Manuel explained about the evolution of contemporary Tamil short stories and various stages of their development. He also deliberated upon the contribution of diaspora Tamil writers. Sri Azhagiya Periyavan, noted Dalit writer from Tamil Nadu, read out his short story "Veecham." In the fourth session, Dr Muktevi Bharathi listed social problems, patriotism, family system, occupational hazards, social evils and hegemony as dominant themes in the Telugu fiction world from 1985 to 2010. Sri Peddinti Ashok Kumar read his telugu short story "Bhoomi Minda Neelu Levu."

Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore proposed vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM ON READING OF NEW POETRY

22 June 2014, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi organized literary forum programme on Reading of New Poetry and Interaction 22 June 2014 at Regional Office, Bengaluru. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, welcomed the guests and gathering.

Dr. Chandrasekhara Kambar delivered the inaugural address. He said the perception of Kannada poetry by critics should change, for, in the criticism they are using Western poetic concepts to evaluate Kannada poetry. We have to use our own poetics. He felt that there is lack of Kannada books in science writings with more and more science books being published in English and we have to publish them in our mother tongues for the benefit of many.

Dr Chintamani Kodlekere chaired the session. Sri Chimanahalli Ramesh Babu, Sri Vasudeva Nadig, Sri D.S. Ramaswamy and Ms. Chethana Thirthahalli presented their poems and interacted with the audience. Smt. Ambika Ananth and Smt. Laksmisree Bannerjee also participated in the programme as special invitees. Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, proposed a vote of thanks.



Vice President Dr. Chandrasekhara Kambar inaugurating Literary Forum : Reading of New Poetry and Interaction on 22 June 2014 at R.O.Bangaluru. Dr. Lakshmi Sree Benerjee and Ms. Ambika Ananth are looking upon.

MULAKAT - 7 June 2014, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi organized a Mulakat programme on 7 June 2014 at Karnataka Sangha, Mumbai. Dr G.N. Upadhyaya, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, welcomed the guests and gathering.

Dr Baraguru Ramachandrappa delivered a special lecture on Kannada language. He said that all the vernacular languages in India are facing difficult situation at present and therefore education in mother tongue is very important. Along with mother tongue, learning another language is essential. His lecture followed a lively discussion with other participants, Dr Bharathkumar Polipu, Sri Srinivas Jokatte and Smt. Poornima Sudhakar Shetty. Dr G.N. Upadhyaya, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, proposed a vote of thanks.



LITERARY FORUM

27 June 2014, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi organized literary forum programme on 27 June 2014 at National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru. Prof. M. Leelavathi, Principal, National College, welcomed the guests and the audience.

Prof. S.N. Sridhar delivered a special lecture on Multilingualism and Indian Cultural Values. He opined that multilingual structure is a basic need for the development and cited how Kannada language was enriched by Sanskrit in ancient times and in the

modern period by English. He gave examples in his lecture how to modernize the regional languages through give and take from other languages.

Dr. Narahalli Balasubramanya, Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, in his presidential address thanked Prof. S.N. Sridhar for giving an excellent lecture and explained Sahitya Akademi's efforts on developing languages and literature on different counts. Smt. P. Chandrika, Member, Kannada Advisory Board, proposed a vote of thanks.

ONE DAY SYMPOSIUM ON FICTION WRITER VINDHAN

June 25, 2014

Sahitya Akademi organized a one day Symposium on Vindhan's Writings in collaboration with Department of Tamil University of Madras on 25th June 2014.

Inaugural Session:

A.S. Ilangovan Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai welcomed the panelists, writers and students. Smt. V. Geetha, Member, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the session. In her assessment, short stories of Vindhan, who was the follower of socialist path, amplified the wails and pleasures of the proletariat and his writings mirrored the contemporary society in which he lived. His stories were more realistic in nature but he used ample amount of satire and irony to drive home his



Vindhan Symposium - (L-R) Dr. V. Geetha, Prof V. Arasu, Prof K. Pazhani and Sri A.S. Ilangovan

points and to make his stories accessible even to those readers who are not keen on realistic fiction. Prof V. Arasu delivered the keynote address. He traced the life history of Vindhan in elaborate detail. Vindhan's affinity towards working class permeates through his works right through his illustrious career. Dr K. Palani proposed the vote of thanks.

First Session:

The first session was chaired by eminent writer and Sahitya Akademi award winner Sri Ponneelan.

Dr R. Sambath presented the paper on Vindhan's cinema writings. Vindhan wrote screen plays, dialogues and some lyrics for movies. The dialogues were lucid, simple and effective. Though movies added glamour to his repertoire, Vindhan never compromised on his principles both in his life and works. Dr R. Kamaraj informed that Vindhan's birth centenary is an appropriate time to revisit Vindhan's masterpieces. Dr. Kamaraj felt those Vindhan's writings are relevant to the present day social scenario.

Second Session:

The second session was chaired C. Mahendran. He analyzed the local factors of the working class life and their contribution to the art and craft of storytelling of Vindhan. He described Vindhan as a writer with conscience who struggled hard for the progress of his fellow beings. Dr A. Sathish presented the paper on biographies written by Vindhan. One of them revolved around M.R. Radha, the controversial cinema actor who held non-traditional values. His biographical sketches were keenly followed by avid readers. Dr J. Sivakumar analyzed the anecdotes which were presented in the form of ministories. They were forerunners present day ministories published in about one page or half a page.

Third Session:

The third session was chaired by Prof Bharathi Puthiran. Keeranur Zakir Raja presented a paper on Vindhan's novels and presented a sensitive study of "Palum Pazhamum," the widely acclaimed novel. He felt that though the characters in the novel are poor and face troubles in life, they never lose confidence and optimism pervades through his writings. Sri Paravi spoke on the metaphors in Vindhan's writings. Sri. Radhakrishnan, IPS (Rtd.) Director General of police, Sri. K. A. Satchidanandhan, Pulavar Ve. Prabhakaran, Prof. Muhilai Rajapandian, Sri Azhagiyasingar, Sri Pa. Veeramani, the faculty of Madras University languages departments, research scholars and important writers attended the symposium.

The programme was telecast in local channels.

LITERARY FORUM – PRAVASI MANCH

June 15, 2014

Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer in Charge of Chennai branch of Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and the gathering. He highlighted the magnanimity of the ancient Tamil poets downwards to the present time. He spoke also about the mutual benefits of diaspora and native Tamil writers in gatherings like this. He pointed out how Sahitya Akademi has been promoting the diaspora writings through Pravasi Manch not only in few languages but also in all the languages recognized by the Akademi.

Sri Maalan Narayanan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board spoke at length, while introducing the participants, about the changes in the outlook and psyche of the diaspora writers. He highlighted this point by comparing the awareness and expressions of native writers vis a vis diaspora writers. He spoke about the need to have more interactions between the native writers' community and that of the diaspora writers.

Sri Narayanan Kannan, Professor at University of Putra, Malaysia, spoke at length about lesser known facts about Tamil's contribution to the development of languages in other Asian countries. He highlighted the presence of Tamil languages, Tamil culture and other historical connections among various Asian nations to emphasize on the connection between Tamil culture and that of other countries over 2000 years. He spoke about the yearning of diaspora writers to interact more with the native writers and gave examples of how native writers such as eminent Tamil writer and Jnanpith Award Winner Akilan enriched the diaspora writings.

Ms Subashini Tremmel from Germany spoke about her efforts to contribute to Tamil literature

through several mediums. She spoke about the plight of diaspora writers especially when it comes to the enrichment of cultural content of diaspora writings.



Pravasi Manch Chennai - (L-R) Prof M Rajendra, Maalan, Subashini Tremmel, Dr Kannan Narayanan

She said more interactions with various native writers could help in remedying this situation and felt organizations like Sahitya Akademi should organize more and more such programmes not only in India but also abroad.

Sri Rajendran spoke about the connections between thought and language. He took this forward to landscapes and wondered whether it is possible for anyone to classify a particular literature as diaspora and compare that with that of native literature given that over past three thousand years Tamil have ventured into far off lands and have gained and contributed in similar vein.

More than 100 people including journalists, academicians, research scholars and translators took part in this Pravasi Manch programme. Sri Ilangovan gave a vote of thanks speech.

LITERARY FORUM

A Comparative study on Bharathi's Panjali Sabatham and SriAurobindo's Savitri

Puducherry chapter of Sahitya Akademi conducted the monthly meeting on the topic "Bharathi's Panjali Sabatham and Sri Aurobindo's Savitri: A Comparative Study at 6.00 P.M. on 29th June, 2014 at ThanizhSangam, Venkata Nagar, Puducherry-605 011

Thiru. Sundara Murugan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board and General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, gave an introductory address. He explained why the Akademi arranges such forums and how people will be benefitted by such discussions on comparative literature.

Dr R. Sampath in his welcome address traced the inception of Sahitya Akademi and its contribution to maintain unity among the people of different cultural and linguistic background in India. He highlighted the significance of the topic taken up for the present literary forum and the reason for choosing this topic for this programme.

Dr Siva Madhavan who chaired the meeting spoke at length about similarities and difference in the works of Sri Aurobindo and Subramania Bharathi.

Prof R. Natarajan presented a paper on how Sri Aurobindo's Savitri captured the struggles of human life in a small space though it was supposed to be an Epic focusing just on the story of Satyavan and Savitri. He compared Bharathi's work and said that the poet amply brought out the vagaries of human mind though he used just a single act of the Epic.

Dr Sengamala Thayar spoke about the benefits of comparative studies, especially of two epics composed during almost at the same time. She said though both the poems were magnificent in their own ways and amplified the struggles of human existence, Savitri had more spiritual tenor compared to Panjali Sabatham.

Sri Maalan, Member, Tamil Advisory Board of the Akademi spoke at length about how both the poems were touching the heart of the people going beyond the realms of dharma and samaya. He said that is the reason why both were great poems capable of taking common people beyond the realm of phenomena.

Mr Sundaramurugan proposed vote of thanks. Close to hundred scholars and dignitaries attended the programme.

Panjali Sabatham & Savitri - (L-R) Sri Sundaramurugan, Dr R Sampath, Sri Maalan, Sri Siva Madhavan, Sri R Natarjan and Smt Sengamalathayyar



THROUGH MY WINDOW: NABANEETA DEV SEN ON MAHASVETA DEVI

2 April 2014, Sahitya Akademi Office Auditorium, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a ‘Through my Window’ on 2 April 2014 at the office auditorium, Kolkata, where eminent Bengali writer Nabaneeta Dev Sen spoke on the life and works of another eminent Bengali writer Mahasveta Devi.



Nabaneeta Dev Sen speaking on the occasion

Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, delivered the welcome address. He introduced Professor Dev Sen and Mahasveta Devi pointing out some of the similarities of their life to the audience. Nabaneeta Dev Sen was born in Kolkata, to the poet-couple Narendra Dev and Radharani Devi in 1938. She graduated from Presidency College and completed MA from Jadavpur University, Calcutta; and a Masters with Distinction from Harvard University. She completed her Ph.D from Indiana University. Professor Dev Sen completed her post-doctoral research at the University of California at Berkeley; and Newham College, Cambridge University. She was also a University

Grants Commission Senior Fellow at University of Delhi.

Professor Dev Sen in her speech informed the audience about the similarities between her life and that of Mahasveta Devi. Both of them were born to the poet couple as the parents of Mahasveta Devi were Manish Ghatak, a well-known poet and novelist of the Kallol era, who used the pseudonym Jubanashwa, and Dharitri Devi who was also a writer and a social worker. Besides these, there is hardly any similarity between their life. She observed that Mahasveta Devi’s first schooling was in Dhaka, but after the partition of India she moved to West Bengal in India. She joined the Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan and completed a B.A. (Hons) in English, and then finished an M.A. in English at Calcutta University as well. She later married renowned playwright Bijon Bhattacharya who was one of the founding fathers of the IPTA movement. Mahasveta Devi has so many awards to her credit including Sahitya Akademi Award (1979), Padmashri (1986), Jnanpith Award (1996), Ramon Magsaysay Award (1997), Padma Vibhushan (2006) etc.

Professor Dev Sen also highlighted that Mahasveta Devi who is also known for her social activities and acute sympathy for the downtrodden people is more famous for her work related to the study of the Lodhas and Shabars, the tribal communities of West Bengal, women and dalits. She is also an activist who is dedicated to the struggles of tribal people in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. In her elaborate Bengali fiction, she often depicts the brutal



Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Nabaneeta Dev Sen

oppression of tribal peoples and the untouchables by potent, authoritarian upper-caste landlords, lenders, and venal government officials. Professor Dev Sen emphasized the works like Hajar Churashir Maa, Chotti Mundaevam Tar Tir and Aranyer Adhikar which influenced the literary world by storm. She also opined that the translations of many works of Mahasveta Devi into English by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Samik Bandyopadhyay played an important part in giving her world-wide reputation. In this context, Professor Dev Sen opined that though Mahasveta Devi has written many works, centered on the life of down-trodden people, she is also an eminent creative writer. She referred to the stories of “Nadyas” in this context. Her simple narrative style reflected her simple straight-forward way of looking towards the life.

Professor Dev Sen also shared her personal experiences while speaking of Mahasveta Devi. She always took the righteous stand while speaking about any political issue. While speaking about the feminist aspects of the Mahasveta Devi’s writings, Professor Dev Sen opined that she wrote about the general human life. We cannot term her a feminist in the so-called sense of the word.

Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, delivered the concluding address

in which he stressed on the special writing style of Mahasveta Devi which is different from other major Bengali women writers like Ashapura Devi. She places value of life above mundane things. He also shared his personal experiences while with Mahasveta Devi.

Sri Goutam Paul delivered the vote of thanks.



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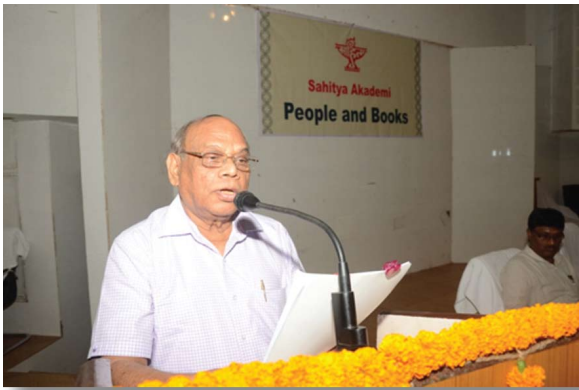
nationalregistertranslators@gmail.com

Project-in-Charge

PEOPLE AND BOOKS

26 April 2014, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organized a programme 'People and Books' at Bhubaneswar on 26 April 2014, Saturday, with eminent cardiologist and artist Jadunath Prasad Das. Sri Gourahari Das, Convener of Odia Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guest and said Dr J. P. Das understands both hearts and minds of people. Dr K. Srinivasrao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced Dr Das to the audience. Narrating the brilliant career of Dr Das he said that the people of Odisha regard him as the God as Dr. Das saved lives of many critical patients in his medical profession.



Jadunath Prasad Das speaking on the occasion

Dr Das in his speech shared his views on the books which have a great influence in his life beginning from childhood. Good books lead a person from darkness to light, he observed.

The Bhajan Ahedayamayabiswabihari, which school children sang as their prayer, had an impact on him in his childhood, he said. Parents' reading habit also have an influence on the minds of the children, he said, pointing out that his father's reading of the Tulasi Ramayana and Bhagabat had greatly influenced him.

Dr Das said Mahatma Gandhi's Autobiography also influenced him vastly. Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das' books Kara Kabita and Bandira Atmakatha instilled in him a feeling of patriotism and induced him to follow the Swadeshi movement. He wore khadi being influenced by those books, which also shaped his life and personality.

Dr. Das recalled that his first posting as a doctor was in a tribal area of Mayurbhanj district. He had an opportunity to be familiar with tribal people and their living style and culture. Tribals are very honest and simple, he said. "As I knew them and was familiar with their living style, Gopinath Mohanty's books Parajaand Amrutara Santana (which depicts tribals' life) also touched my heart," he said.

Besides, Sachhi Routray's Baji Raut, poems of Radhamohan Gadanayak, Matira Manisa of Kalindi Charan Panigrahi, Rabindra Nath Tagore's Geetanjali also had their effects on his life and personality, Dr Das said. He also recollected how inspiring to him were Surendra Mohanty's Satabdira Surya, Kali Charan Pattanayak's Kumbhara Chaka, Pratibha Ray's Jainaseni and the writings of English veterans like Wordsworth and Thomas Gray.



Gourahari Das, Jadunath Prasad Das & Dr K. Sreenivasrao

THROUGH MY WINDOW: RANJIT PATNAIK ON BIJAY MISHRA

27 April 2014, Puri, Odisha

Sahitya Akademi organized a Through My Window programme with Ranjit Patnaik an eminent playwright, actor and director who expressed his feelings and impressions about the life and works of another eminent Odia playwright and Sahitya Akademi award winner, Bijay Mishra.

Gourahari Das, Convener of Odia Advisory Board, introduced Ranjit Patnaik to the audience. Sri Patnaik has written fifty five full length and one act plays, published thirty five books, directed fifty stage drama, acted in more than 100 plays. He has two state awards to his credit.



Ranjit Patnaik speaking on the occasion

Ranjit Patnaik narrating his feelings and impressions on



Bijay Mishra, Gourahari Das & Ranjit Patnaik

Bijay Mishra said that Sri Mishra came to Cuttack in 1953 to study Engineering. He took his career as playwright from 1960. He has over 50 plays to his credit and also several film script. He has directed two Odia films, several dramas and serials. Some of his important works are Tasta Niranjana, Saba Bahaka Mane, Janani, Jajabara and Ashantagosha. He recounted the early life of Sri Mishra, when it was not an easy job to publish his plays. Mishra is a voracious reader and he has written less in comparison to his vast knowledge, he said. For a certain period of time he completely stopped writing, he commented. He dwelt upon Mishra's experiment on form and style of writing plays, characterization, settings etc. He continued, Dr Mishra basically writes his plays on and for a definite mission. His area of theme depicts about

the strugglers who struggle to get a foothold under the sun and to establish himself with an identity. Even when he portrays the character of a rich and affluent man he finds and discovers the man's prerogative. Mostly his area of operation are slum or bustees. He is acclaimed as a playwright with difference and one of the existentialist playwrights. He is not only the proud of Odia but also of India, he commented. Dr Mishra, in his life time has become a legendary figure in the field of drama and the source of inspiration for future generation, he asserted.

The programme ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata.

SEMINAR ON UPENDRAKISHORE RAYCHOUDHURI AND SUKUMAR RAY

4-5 June 2014, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar on 'Upendrakishore-Sukumar', eminent figures in the field of children's literature in Bengali, on 4-5 June 2014 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, 4 D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700 025. The seminar was organized to commemorate 150th birth-anniversary of Upendrakishore and 125th birth-anniversary of Sukumar Ray.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. He spoke about the life and works of Sukumar Ray and Upendrakishore Raychoudhuri in a nutshell. He informed the audience of Upendrakishore's association with Rabindranath Tagore as well as the other noted literary figures of the era. He focused on Sukumar as the printer cum editor of 'Sandesh' magazine. He also threw light on the narrative technique employed by Sukumar in his works which gained him immense popularity. He referred to the nonsensical creations of Sukumar, which in a different way speaks of sense. He also compared the nonsense literature of Sukumar with that of Lewis Carroll.

Prof Manabendra Bandyopadhyay, former Convener

of Bengali Advisory Board, inaugurated the seminar. Professor Bandyopadhyay explained the political and social background of Abol Tabol. In printing technology, the introduction of halftone is his landmark contribution.

The keynote address was delivered by Sri Prasadranjan Ray, eminent scholar as well as the one of the descendents of the Ray family. He traced the origin of Upendrakishore, the lucid style of Sukumar and musical compositions of Upendrakishore Raychoudhuri.

Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi,

enumerated the overwhelming literary output of Both Upendrakishore and Sukumar in such a short period of time. Behala, pen and paint-brush moulded Upendrakishore. While establishing Visva-Bharati Granthana Vibhag and printing press, Tagore took the suggestions of Sukumar. He referred to two writings in particular – one which was written by Sukumar after the death of his father and the speech Tagore delivered after the death of Sukumar. Dr Mukhopadhyay presented the cultural and literary ethos of the era in brief.

Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office, proposed the vote of thanks.

The first academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: The Man and His Time'. The speakers of the session were Professor Amal Kumar Paul and Sri Hemanta Kumar Addhya with Professor Biswanath Ray in the chair. Professor Amal Kumar



Dr K. Sreenivasarao inaugurating the seminar

Paul spoke on those magazines contemporary to Upendrakishore and Sukumar, which were primarily meant for children. Sri Hemanta Kumar Addhya spoke on the life of Upendrakishore. Professor Biswanath Ray, while speaking from the chair, opined while the members of Ray family emphasized on the practical sides as well as on the theoretical discourse of different branches of art and science, Upendrakishore stressed the technical knowledge.

The second academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: The Writer'. The speaker of the session was Sri Kartik Ghosh with Professor Baridbaran Ghosh in the chair. Sri Kartik Ghosh focused on Tuntunir Boi in particular and his inimitable writing style. Professor Baridbaran Ghosh, while speaking from the chair, opined that Upendrakishore was well aware of the nooks and corners of a child-mind. In the interactive session, Professor Sumita Chakravorty and Sri Debasish Mukhopadhyay enlightened with some interesting information regarding Upendrakishore.

The third academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore : In Other Artistic Mediums'. The speakers of the session were Sri Debasish Dev and Sarbananda Chaudhuri with Sri Hiran Mitra in the chair. Sri Debasish Dev spoke about Upendrakishore as an illustrator. Sri Dev explained the techniques of painting used by Upendrakishore. Sri Chaudhuri spoke on the contribution of Upendrakishore in the field of

music, particularly in playing harmonium and behala. Being also a musician, Upendrakishore wrote two books about music in Bengali - Sohaj Behala Shikkha, about learning to play the violin, and Sikhak Batorike Harmonium, about learning to play the harmonium as an accompaniment to Indian music.

The fourth academic session of the seminar was on 'Upendrakishore: Editor and Printer'. The speakers of the session were Sri Debasish Bandyopadhyay and Sri Subhendu Dasmunsi with Sri Asis Khastagir in the chair. Sri Debasish Bandyopadhyay spoke about Upendrakishore as an editor of Sandesh, a popular children's magazine in Bengali that is still published today. Upendrakishore (and later his son Sukumar and grandson Satyajit) published most of his children's literature here. Sri Subhendu Dasmunsi said about 'Upendrakishore as painter vs U. Ray as printer'. Sri Dasmunsi stressed on the four stages of Upendrakishore's printing – the use of simple line, complex line, black and white halftone, coloured photograph. Sri Asis Khastagir, while speaking from the chair, referred to the role of Vidyasagar in establishing printing press.

On the second day, the first academic session of the seminar was on 'Sukumar Ray: The Man and His Time'. The speakers of the session were Sri Ashoke Kumar Mitra, Professor Krishnarup Chakravarti and Sri Shyamalkanti Das with Sri Amitrasudan Bhattacharya. Sri Ashoke Kumar Mitra presented a portrait of

Kolkata at the time of Sukumar, Monday Club and related literary activities. Professor Krishnarup Chakravarti's paper was entitled 'Sukumar Ray: His Family and Time'. He said about writings by sisters of Sukumar Ray. He quoted for the diaries of Punyalata and other family members of Sukumar. He also said about the funny, witty side of the character of Sukumar as well as the depressed side of Sukumar. Professor Chakravarti quoted from the funny poems of Sukumar to explain the real facts behind them. Sri Shyamalkanti Das emphasized the fact that Sukumar was outside the influence of Tagore in many respects. He quoted from poems of Sukumar while explaining them. Sri Amitrasudan Bhattacharya, while speaking from the chair, referred to other contemporary writers and their distinguished traits.

On the second day, the last academic session of the seminar was on 'Sukumar Ray: His Words and Arts'. The speakers of the session were Sri Mrinal Ghosh and Sri Palashbaran Pal with Smt Esha De in the chair. Sri Mrinal Ghosh spoke on the influence of Surrealism on the writings of Sukumar. He said about some of the earlier forms of Sukumar. Sukumar translated Abanindranath Tagore's writing related to painting. Sukumar wrote on the difference between painting and poetry. Sri Palashbaran Pal said about the use of words in Sukumar Ray as well as in Lila Majumdar. He also said about the choice of words. The seminar ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Goutam Paul.

KAVISANDHI WITH DHARANIDHAR WARY

21 June 2014, Gauhati University

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme with noted Bodo poet Dharanidhar Wary on 21 June 2014 in the Dept of Bodo, Gauhati University.

Prof Swarna Prabha Chainary of Dept of Bodo at the University introduced the poet and welcomed the audience. The poet was welcomed in a traditional Araonai by Dr Pratima Brahma. Sri Dharanidhar Wary read out two of his poems and also explained the meaning. The poet also answered questions raised by the students and the staff of the Gauhati University.



Sri Dharanidhar wary reciting his poems

KATHASANDHI WITH NANDESWAR DAIMARI

21 June 2014, Gauhati University

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kathasandhi' programme with noted Bodo fiction writer Sri Nandeswar Daimari on 21 June 2014 in the Dept of Bodo, Gauhati University.

Prof. Swarna Prabha Chainary of Dept of Bodo at the University introduced the writer and welcomed the writer in a traditional Araonai. Sri Daimari read out one of his short stories rooted in the contemporary social reality. Sri Daimari also spoke about his life, Bodo literature and his inspirations. He answered the questions raised by the staff and the students of the University. Prof. Swarna Prabha Chainary proposed a vote of thanks.



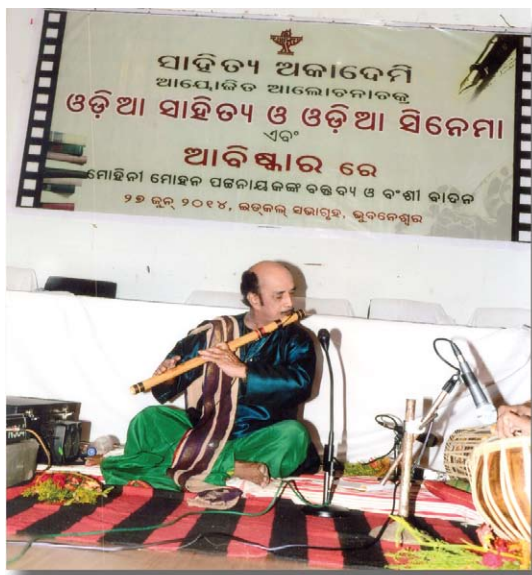
Sri Nandeswar Daimari speaking on the occasion



Literary forum on “Odia Film and Odia Literature” & ‘Aviskar’ programme with Mohini Mohan Patnaik on ‘Meghaduta of Kalidasa with flute’

27 June 2014 at IDCOL auditorium, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi organised a literary forum on “Odia Literature and Odia Cinema” at IDCOL auditorium, Bhubaneswar on 27 June 2014 and an ‘Aviskar’ programme with Mohini Mohan Patnaik on ‘Meghaduta of Kalidasa with flute’ in the evening on the same day.



Prof Mohini Mohan Patnaik's Lec-Dem in progress

Inaugurating the programme, veteran actor Jharana Das shared her experience as an actress. She narrated how many of her hits were based on popular Odia novels and said that in her life she has come to understand that to be a good actor one should understand all the characters of the story and should be well acquainted with literature. Giving the key note address, cine journalist Surya Deo narrated the history of Odia cinema. Around 80 percent of Odia cinemas are women centric and rest 20 percent are on social issues, Deo informed. Eminent writer Bibhuti Patnaik graced the occasion as the chief guest. Dr Patnaik shared some of his personal experiences with the audience. Dr Gourahari Das, convener of Odia Advisory Board, concluded the session by saying, “The relation between cinema and literature was old, but there is a gap between Odia films and Odia literature, which needed to be bridged.”

In the first session, Dr Ajay Swain presented his paper on ‘Odia literature- virgin land for film makers’. While more than seventy percent of Bengali and Malayalam literature had been made into films, only handful of Odia films have been made on Odia stories and novels. In the same session, Bijay Malla presented his paper on some of the incomplete films based on Odia literary works. Dr Subodh Patnaik discussed on the films based on masterpieces of Odia literature and the opportunity and challenges they faced. Eminent playwright and Akademi award winner Bijay Mishra chaired this session.

Sampad Mahapatra, eminent journalist said that though literature is integral part of Odia film scenario the financial compulsions have made this part of the scenario vanish. He opined that films should be made from short stories. Mahapatra chaired the second session of the meeting. Among others, Akhilkumar Mishra, Director of CBFC, Cuttack and the senior faculty of Biju Patnaik Film & TV institute of Odisha, Dr Dillip Pani participated in the forum. Cine-critic Ashoka Palit also presented a paper on Odia literature and Odia cinema.

In the valedictory session, veteran film director, Gopal Ghosh was the Chief Guest. Ghosh said that Cinema and literature are inextricably intertwined. Cinema is not possible without literature. Ajit Das, eminent actor graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Bijayanand Singh chaired this session while Banoj Tripathy gave vote of thanks.

Aviskar

This programme was followed by Aviskar where Professor Mohini Mohan Patnaik presented a demonstration-lecture on Kalidas’s Meghaduta based on Raga Megh. Patnaik’s flute recital mesmerized the audience.

LITERARY FORUM ON “LANGUAGE AND DICTION IN MANIPURI POETRY SINCE 1991”

27 June 2014, Nambol, Manipur

A literary forum on “Language and Diction of Manipuri Poetry since 1991” was held at Public Theatre, Nambol, Manipur on Friday the 27 June, 2014, organized by Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol, Manipur in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi. Professor H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, and Shri Rajen Sarangthem, Vice-President, Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and President respectively.



Prof Behari Singh speaking on the occasion

Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and the audience. Prof H. Behari Singh, the Chief Guest of the function, summarized the need and importance of organizing the forum. He hoped that the papers would throw light on the language and diction used in Manipuri poetry since 1991 till the present day. Dr O. Lukhoi Singh, General Secretary, Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol said that it is very important

to analyze the language and diction used in modern Manipuri poetry as many changes in the use of the Manipuri language can be observed in the poetry of modern writers. Shri Rajen Sarangthem thanked the Sahitya Akademi for organizing such an important forum which would ultimately help in the enrichment of Manipuri literature.

The academic session began with Prof A. Tejmani Singh in the chair. Dr T. Tampha Devi of Manipur University presented a paper “Language and Diction of Manipuri Poetry from 1991 upto 2000”. Her paper highlighted the greater benefits of avoidance of archaic words as the poems published in that decade reached masses more easily than the earlier ones. She also felt that themes on the happenings of the contemporary Manipuri society, ideas which can guide the future generations, patriotism and the narration of ancient history in the verses will attract youngsters. Dr L. Kaminikumar Singh, Moreh College presented a paper “Language and Diction of Manipuri Poetry from 2001 upto 2006”. Dr S. Lanchenba Meitei, D.M. College of Arts, Manipur presented a paper “Language and Diction of Manipuri Poetry since 2007”. His paper analysed the decrease in the use of Sanskrit, Bengali and English and are being substituted by the old and archaic words of Manipuri language and words related with culture, religion and tradition of the ancient Manipuri society are now used by modern Manipuri writers. Dr S. Shantibala Devi, Editor, Wakon Journal, Writers’ Club Manipur, Nambol proposed the vote of thanks.

KAVISANDHI WITH JOY GOSWAMI

27 June 2014, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Kavisandhi' programme with eminent Bengali poet Joy Goswami on 27 June 2014 at Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata.

Sri Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Regional Office, welcomed the poet and the audience. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. While stressing the distinguished features of Joy Goswami's writings, he informed the audience of the special nature of this programme organized by Sahitya Akademi. Hearing poems from its composer himself/herself is an altogether different experience. By hearing that one can feel the actual rhythmical pattern of the poem as intended by the poet.

The poet, Joy Goswami, recited some of his recent compositions in addition to the old, but popular poems. He also relived his experiences of reading poetry in Sahitya Akademi more than two decades ago. Sri Goutam Paul proposed a vote of thanks.

LITERARY FORUM ON BENGALI-MANIPURI BI-LINGUAL DICTIONARY

28 June 2014, Imphal



Prof Nandakumar Sarma releasing the dictionary

The Bangla-Manipuri Bilingual Dictionary was released on 28 June 2014 at Dave Literature Centre, D.M. College Campus, Imphal at a function organized by Sahitya Akademi. Prof H. Nandakumar Sarma, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University and Shri Kh. Prakash Singh graced the function. Prof N. Khagendra Singh, Nehru Fellow and Former Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, and Professor K. Chandradhon Singh, Assistant Editor, Bangla-Manipuri Bilingual Dictionary were the Guests of Honour at the function.

Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the dignitaries and the audience. Prof H. Behari Singh, the Convener of the Manipuri Advisory Board said that the publication of the dictionary was the realization of a dream. Prof H. Nandakumar Sarma, Vice Chancellor, Manipur University released the Bangla-Manipuri Bilingual Dictionary. Prof K. Chandradhon Singh, Assistant Editor of the Bangla-Manipuri Bilingual Dictionary, narrated the events in the making of this dictionary.

Prof N. Khagendra Singh stressed the need of using both the dictionary and thesaurus if one is to understand a language along with its nuances. Prof H. Nandakumar Sarma said that he was indeed fortunate to be a part of the release function of the dictionary and expressed his desire that a Manipuri-Bangla dictionary should also be published in the near future. Sri Kh. Prakash Singh briefly narrated how the dictionary came to be published. Dr Rajen Toijamba, Member, General Council of Sahitya Akademi, proposed the vote of thanks.

'PEOPLE AND BOOKS' WITH N. RAJMUHON SINGH

28 June 2014, Imphal

A 'People and Book' programme with Sri N. Rajmuhon Singh of the Manipur University was organized by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with the State Central Library, Imphal on June 28, 2014 at the premises of the State Central Library at Imphal.

Dr. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer of the Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the scholar and the audience. Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The function was presided over by Dr K. Shushila, Joint Director,



Sri Rajmuhon Singh (far right) at the function

Art & Culture, Govt. of Manipur. Padmashree Shri R.K. Jhalajit Singh, a well known Manipuri historian, scholar and writer chaired the programme.

Prof. H. Behari spoke at length about the life and works of Prof N. Rajmuhon Singh. Professor N. Rajmuhon Singh, at the outset of his lecture said that education is the key to everything in the society and good books are needed to bring a value based society of human beings—books can't be separated

from the society. Padmashree R.K. Jhalajit Singh felt that translation of good books from other languages into Manipuri should be encouraged. This will increase their knowledge of people pertaining to other communities of different languages or countries.

Dr. K. Shushila Devi delivered the presidential speech and Shri Elangbam Latakishwar Singh, Chief Librarian of the State Central Library proposed the vote of thanks.

THROUGH MY WINDOW : Abhiram Biswal on Prafulla Das

28 June 2014, Kendrapara



Professor Abhiram Biswal speaking on the occasion

Sahitya Akademi organized a 'Through My Window' on 28 June 2014 at Kendrapara, Odisha where Prof. Abhiram Biswal spoke on the life and works of eminent Odia writer and freedom-fighter Sri Prafulla Das.

Professor Abhiram Biswal spoke on how Sri Das became a writer of international repute, his association with freedom movement and his effort to remove social institutions. During his long and illustrious career Prafulla Das was decorated with many honors including Odisha Sahitya Akademi award. Prof Biswal also listed the works of Prafulla Das and read out excerpt from them to substantiate his views.

MANIPURI WOMEN POETS' MEET

29 June 2014, Imphal



Participants of the Poet's Meet

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Malem Ayeekol (MAK), organized a women poets' meet on 29 June 2014 at Asheiningthou Garden, Matai.

Dr. Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the poets, dignitaries and audience. Prof. H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, expressed his happiness over the participation of female writers in the programme and opined that such type of programmes would definitely boost the commitment of Manipuri women writers. Sri W. Mahendra Singh, President, Malem Ayeekol, delivered the presidential address.

The poetry reading session was moderated by Dr Makhonmani Mongsaba. The participating poets were Smt H. Benubala Devi, Smt. Subadani Chongtham Ongbi, Smt. Dr H. Nalini, Smt. L. Ibeyaima Devi, Smt. R. K. Shantibala Devi, Smt. S. Bilasini Devi, R.K. Hemabati Devi, Dr K. Shantibala Devi, Smt. K. Joymati Devi and Smt T. Sarojini Chanu. All the participants read out two poems each – one in Manipuri and another in English or Hindi. Dr Mongsaba commented on the nature of the poems read out. He stressed the strong feministic elements of some poems as well as the elements of nature and love of some others. He read out some of his poems as well. The vote of thanks was proposed by Sri Y. Manimohon Singh, Secretary, Malem Ayeekol.

POETS' MEET

29 June 2014, Imphal

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Asei Waphong Yak-khat Lup, Itam Nungoi, Imphal East, Manipur organized a poets' meet for the male poets on 29 June 2014 at the Dave Literature Centre, Imphal,

Prof H. Behari Singh, Convenor, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the meet and introduced the speakers. Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the gathering and Shri Nepram Jila Singh, President of the Asei Waphong Yok-khat Lup presided over the inaugural session. The Inaugural Session was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Randhir Kumar Yendrembam, Secretary, Asei Waphong Yok-khat Lup.



Participants of the Poetry reading session

In the poetry reading session, eight poets recited their latest Manipuri poems. It was chaired by Shri Raghu Leishangthem, Sahitya Akademi Awardee.

The eight poets were Sri Laimujam Rameshchandra, Sri Yaima Haoba, Sri Saglosem Lakpati, Sri S.C. Yaikhomba, Sri Randhir Kumar Yendrembam, Sri Dhanajit Thongam, Sri Akendra Tensuba and Sri O.C. Meira.



LITERARY FORUM ON CRITICISM IN MANIPURI LITERATURE

30 June, 2014, Manipur College, Singjamei

A literary forum On 'Criticism in Manipuri Literature' was organized by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Manipuri, Manipur College, Singjamei on 30 June, 2014 at the auditorium of the college.



Prof Behari Singh speaking on the occasion

Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Program Officer, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, welcomed the gathering. Prof N. Khagendra Singh, delivering the Key-note Address presented an enlightening and comprehensive view of the value of literature in life, the beauty of figurative languages, the growth and development of literary criticism. Prof M. Lokendro Singh appealed to all the teachers belonging to other departments other than Manipuri to encourage the writers and contribute in their own capacity to the development of Manipuri Literature.

Dr Kh. Jayantakumar Singh expressed

his happiness in hosting such a seminar and ensured to give whatever co-operation needed in similar ventures in future. He thanked the Sahitya Akademi for giving this opportunity where Manipuri teachers can interact with the resource persons as an academic exercise.

The academic session of four papers was moderated by Prof E. Dinamani Singh, an eminent Manipuri writer, scholar and critic. Dr Saratchandra Longjamba presented 'Survey of Criticism in Manipuri Literature,' listing out major critical activity from the beginning of 20th century under the classification of criticism in journals, books and dissertations and also abroad categorization of professional and amateur criticism. Dr S. Robindro Singh presented 'Khamba-Thoibi Seireng as an Epic'. He traced the origin of Khamba-Thoibi Seireng by Hijam Anganghal to the oral literature of Manipur, which was being preserved by the ballad singers called pena singers. Dr Lanchenba Meetei presented 'Criticism of Manipuri Poetry in Accordance with the Rules Enshrined in Indian Poetics'. Dr Lanchenba opined that literary criticism, not in the modern sense but in a rough way, had started before the modern period i.e. the early part of 20th century. Professor Ratankumar Singh presented 'Criticism of Manipuri Poetry according to the Rules of Western Poetics'. He gave a birds' eye-view of the western trends, schools and practices of poetry writing and made comparative analysis vis a vis Manipuri poetry.



SYMPOSIUM ON 'CONTEXTS OF LITERARY CULTURE'

June 28, 2014, Mumbai



Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Kanti Patel, Bhalchandra Nemade and Krishna Kimbahune

Regional Office, Mumbai organized the symposium on “Contexts of Literary Culture” on Saturday, 28 June 2014 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, 172, Mumbai Marathi Grantha Sangrahalaya Marg, Dadar (East), Mumbai 400 014. Prof. Kanti Patel, distinguished Gujarati writer and critic inaugurated the symposium. Prof. Bhalchandra Nemade, Convener, Marathi Advisory Board, chaired the Inaugural Session.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome speech, said that literary text or literary work of art has ample contexts such as the writer, the times in which (s)he writes,

its readers, presence / absence of a tradition, the ways in which culture/religion/state influence the literary work of art. In the Inaugural Address, Prof Kanti Patel said that the literary work exists in a certain time frame and it is appreciated and judged by its contexts. The contexts, he said that, may be aesthetic, social or historic. Prof Bhalchandra Nemade stated that aesthetic judgement of a literary work of art is a basic component of literary culture and the aesthetic judgement is not eternal and is decided by the moment of history. Particular aesthetic judgement helps one to understand the society and literary culture. Sri Krishna

Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai proposed vote of thanks.

Prof. Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Western Regional Board, chaired the first session, and Sri Hasit Mehta (Gujarati), Prof. S. M. Tatkodkar (Konkani), Ms. Aruna Dubhashi (Marathi) and Sri Namdev Tarachandrani (Sindhi) presented papers. Prof Tatkodkar said that Culture and Literature are two conceptual designs, which are inter-related and play a vital role in human life. Besides these designs, there are other centripetal forces, which like to play in the vicinity of culture and literature.

Ms. Aruna Dubhashi stated that the writer is the most significant element of the literary culture and also an element of a particular society. The writer is generally influenced by the concepts of morality, thought, values, and linguistic, literary traditions of the society. The writer accepts or rejects all these. From the writer's acceptance or rejection grows the literary tradition and literary culture. Sri Namdev Tarachandani expressed his deep concern for the dearth of readership, life of script of Sindhi in his paper.

Dr. Prem Prakash, Convener, Sindhi Advisory Board, chaired the second session, and Sri Vasant Joshi (Gujarati), Prof. Bhushan Bhawe (Konkani), Dr. Jagdish Patil (Marathi), Sri Mohan Gehani (Sindhi) presented papers. Prof. Bhushan Bhawe said that manifestation of literature occurs in different styles. Every literary work carries different contexts. Literature depicts period, history, geography, socio-economic and political life, emotional and intellectual side etc. All these get reflected in

different forms, size and shapes. Dr. Jagdish Patil in his paper "Lilacharitra: A Retrospect" said that arts, literature, architecture, history, religion, customs and traditions, food, clothing, etc. are the constituents of culture. Needless to say that literature is a part of any culture and reciprocates the culture of that language group. However, literature contextualizes a variety of factors which governs the culture. This context leads to the literary culture of that tradition and mirrors the society through literature. Sri Mohan Gehani said that literary culture in Sindhi language unlike



Audience attending the Symposium

the literary culture of other contemporary Indian languages moves on quite different trajectories and planes and explained apparent reasons for this.

Sri K. P. Radhakrishnan, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai proposed a vote of thanks.



LITERARY FORUM ON WORLD BOOK DAY

April 23, 2014 - Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai organized a Literary Forum on the occasion of the World Book Day on 23 April 2014 at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium in Mumbai. Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi chaired the Forum. Sri Prabhakar Kolate eminent abstract artist and painter; Dr Ila Arab Mehta, noted Gujarati fiction writer; Mrs. Pushpa Bhawe, renowned Marathi critic and activist; Sri Ravindra Lakhe, celebrated theatre

by us in our mundane life, almost all our saint poets had spoken of the power of words, he observed. Until we internalize the knowledge and wisdom from the books, it has no value, he stated. He opined that it was not only that literature mirrored human life but also had power to create new society, civilization, culture. He recited his poem – Pustakein – on this occasion. Marathi translation of the poem was read out by Krishna Kimbahune.



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Ila Arab Mehta, Pushpa Bhawe, Prabhakar Kolte and Ravindra Lakhe

director; and Sri Vishwanath Sachdev, distinguished journalist participated in the forum and shared their observations on the books that influenced them.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guest speakers and audience. It was a pleasure to celebrate the World Book Day, he said, but for the Akademi every day was a Book Day though. Sri Tiwari said that he was extremely happy to be in Mumbai on the World Book Day. The power of words is very significant and is hardly experienced

Sri Prabhakar Kolte spoke of 'Pratispardhee', novel by Kiran Nagarkar. The writer's excellent narrative technique had made the novel so picturesque, and its diction indicated a deep sense of the art of painting, he said. Dr. Ila Arab Mehta said that the Mahabharata, Gandhiji's writings, and Gunwantra Acharya's novels had influenced her deeply. Sri Vishwanath Sachadev said that apart from the classics such as the 'Ramayana', 'Yama' by Mahadevi Varma, the other works – Kushwa Kant's fiction, Durgaprasad Khatri's 'Mrityukiran', 'Discovery of India' by Jawaharlal Nehru had left deep impact on his mind. Sri Ravindra Lakhe said the power of words can be gauged from the fact that even a solitary article can influence and change people's life. Apart from J. Krishnamurthy's 'Commentaries' series, Dr. Abhay Bany's 'Maza Sakshatkari Hridayrog', and Bhalachandra Nemade's 'Kosla' had cultured his mind, he said.

Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary of the Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.



KAVI DARBAR

May 3, 2014, Mumbai

Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai organized a multilingual Kavi Darbar 3 May 2014 at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium in Mumbai. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guest speakers and audience.



Smt Amarjeet Ghumman and Sri Jalees Sherwani reciting their poetry

Sri Dinkar Manwar (Marathi), Sri Vianash Gaikwad (Marathi), Smt. Amarjeet Ghumman (Punjabi), Sri Sukhachian Sigh Bhandari (Punjabi), S.Swaran (Punjabi), Sri Nida Fazli (Urdu), Sri Jalees Sherwani (Urdu), Sri Hassan Kamaal (Urdu), Sri Arjun Chawla (Sindhi) and Ms. Jaya Jadwani (Sindhi) participated. Mrs. Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Programme Officer, proposed a vote of thanks.

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