



# 2016 साहित्योत्सव festival of letters

15-20 February 2016

## SAHITYA AKADEMI *Newsletter*

Daily News Bulletin

Thursday, 18 February 2016

### Yuva Sahiti: New Harvest

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters continued for the third day and the first programme of the day was Yuva Sahiti, a programme devoted to the young writing across India.

In the inaugural session Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries, young writers from all over the country and other participants. He talked about the value of young people to all civilizations and observed that it is young people who are the drivers of change. He said young writing assumes more significance in the light of the circumstances and the times in which we are living and the crisis humanity is going through across the globe. He highlighted several programmes, schemes and projects that the Akademi has in place exclusively for the young writers / poets / translators across the country in addition to the Yuva Puraskar. He urged the young writers to utilize these facilities of Sahitya Akademi through any of its branches and benefit.

Prof Sukrita Paul Kumar, noted English poet and critic, in her inaugural address, dwelt at length upon the creative writing, the process involved and the impact it leaves on the writer and the reader. She said writing has nothing to do with age and she said she feels young whenever she starts writing. She laid out few principles of creative writing that she had imbibed during her career such as a catholic mindset, openness of the heart and uncluttered thought flow, which she thought might be useful to the young writers assembled. Freedom of mind, freedom of heart and freedom of physical space are vital for any creative writing. A writer should strive to release himself / herself from clutches of all kinds including that of a language and the cited examples of Samuel Beckett and Jhumpa Lahiri writing in a foreign language and then translating the same into the language of one's writing to establish that language need not be a constraining factor.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, agreed with the thoughts and principles of Prof Sukrita and said he is happy that more and more young writers are getting opportunities to express themselves at different levels. He thanked Prof Sukrita for agreeing to chair and inaugurate the young writers' festival. Seven noted young poets, Bijoysankar, Barman Ashok Amber, Sejal Shah, Arjun Golasangi, Arimbam Rimeeta Devi, Mary Margaret and Mohd Rasheedi, recited their compositions towards the end of the inaugural session.

In the first session that was devoted to 'Why do I write?' and chaired by Sri Angshuman Kar, three noted young writers, Sri Gauri Shankar Nemiwal (Rajasthani), Ms. Indira Dangi (Hindi) and Sri Veeran Kutti (Malayalam), presented their papers enumerating their reasons on why do they write. In the second session devoted to story reading and chaired by Shri Brajendra Tripathi, four noted young fiction writers,



#### Today's Programme

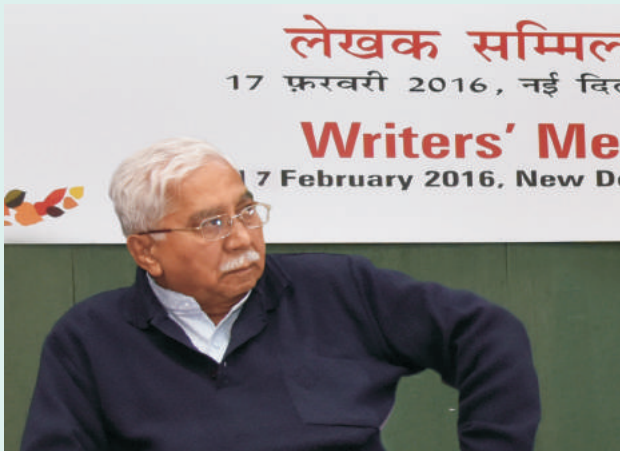
- Face-to-Face:** Awardees in conversation with eminent authors/scholars • **Purvottari :** North East and Northern Writers' Meet
- National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru :** Continuities and Discontinuities
- Cultural Programme :** Presentation of Qawwali by Nizami Brothers



Sri Binod Ghoshal (Bengali), Sri Naresh Naik (Konkani), Sri Prashant Bagad (Marathi) and Sri Kshetrabashi Nayak (Odia) read out their stories. In the third session devoted to poetry reading and chaired by Sri Brajendra Tripathi, ten noted young poets, Sri Rujab Machahary (Bodo), Sri Mahtab Manzoor (Kashmiri), Sri Balkar Aulakh (Punjabi), Sri Seemal Tudu (Santali), Sri Navneet Kumar Jha (Maithili), Sri Ranjeet Gurung (Nepali), Ms. Vaneeta (Tamil), Sri Narayan Dash (Sanskrit), Ms. Sangeeta Bapuli (Sindhi) and Sri Mihir Chitre (English), recited their poems.



## Writers' Meet



All the winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and shared with one and all their experiences during their journeys as creative writers / poets. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, briefly welcomed the Award Winners, spoke briefly about objective of the programme and requested Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi to kindly conduct the proceedings of the meet. Sri Kula Saikia, the Award Winner in Assamese, spoke about varied subjective feelings, the relationship between the creator and the subjects of his works and the impact of recognition on writers. Sri Brajendra Kumar Brahma, the Award Winner in Bodo, described briefly his journey and evolution as a poet. Sri Dhian Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, talked about how his life experiences reflect in his poetry and the travails and struggles of Dogra society, the pain and anguish are reflected in all of his works. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award

Winner in English, described his journey as a writer, as a journalist and his struggles with illness.

Sri Ramdaras Mishra, Award Winner in Hindi, described the process of creative journey through personal examples from his own life. Sri K.V. Thirumalesh, Award Winner in Kannada, thanked the Akademi, his family and friends and his publisher. Sri Bashir Bhadarwahi, Award Winner in Kashmiri, talked about his journey as a writer and influences on him. Sri Uday Bhembre, Award Winner in Konkani, observed the seeds for many a story comes from the society in which the creator lives and described how his play came into existence. Sri Man Mohan Jha, Award Winner in Maithili, talked about his creative journey and alluded to the role of circumstances in the making of a creative writer. Ms. K.R. Meera, Award Winner in Malayalam, spoke at length about how she reflected with the question that is the topic for the meet and how she derived different answers depending on the situation but ultimately she felt that all of us should write to ensure all of us can attain complete citizenship. Sri Arun Khopkar, Award Winner in Marathi, spoke about his dabbling in arts, including acting before moving on to study film direction course, how he ended up in writing and about synaesthetic effect of cinema.

Sri Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh, Award Winner in Manipuri, described how the satisfaction provided by the poems and his love for Nature, ensured that he became a poet. Sri Gupta Pradhan, Award Winner in Nepali, described influences on his life and how that shaped his journey as a writer. Sri Bibhuti Pattnaik, Award Winner in Odia, described in an autobiographical narration his journey as a writer, his attempts, struggles and triumphs. Sri Jaswinder Singh, Award Winner in Punjabi, described in detail about





his journey as a writer and the birth of Mat Lok. Sri Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadhi,' Award Winner in Rajasthani and Sri Ramshanker Awasthi, Winner in Sanskrit, described their journey into creative world.

Sri Rabilal Tudu, Award Winner in Santali, provided a brief account of his life and how his play *Parsi Khatir* came about. Ms. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi, talked about how partition and other travails of Sindhi community ensured she became a writer as she wanted to give expressions to her experiences. Sri Aa. Madhavan, Award Winner in Tamil, described his long and arduous literary journey in detail. Ms. Volga, Award Winner in Telugu, described her journey as a creative writer and also influences on her writing.

## SAMVATSAR LECTURE



Every year during the Festival of letters Sahitya Akademi invites an eminent scholar to deliver a lecture that betrays a deep concern for values, throws light on different ways of thinking, that engages the speaker and the audience about creativity, literature, life etc.

Many great minds have adorned this platform and great speeches have been delivered on the occasion. Some of the distinguished people who have delivered Samvatsar lecture in the past are Agyeya Vatsyayan, Umashankar Joshi, Vidya Niwas Mishra, Nirmal Verma, U.R. Ananthamurthy, Sitakant Mahapatra, Manoj Das, Amitav Ghosh, Karan Singh, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

The guest speaker of the day, Dr Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari is an eminent Gandhi scholar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guest speaker, spoke about the objectives of the programme and introduced the speaker to the audience.

Accepting Akademi's offer to deliver the annual Samvatsar lecture and feeling honored by the magnanimous gesture of the Akademi, Dr. Dharmadhikari at the outset made an admission that he felt wholly inadequate to address such an august gathering full of literary luminaries. He said that the language he uses is a curious admixture which he has named "hirathi" - an amalgamation of his mother tongue Marathi and the national language Hindi. He said he spent 10 crucial years of his childhood under Gandhiji 's influence in Wardha. He is beholden to the 'samskara' of Swadeshi and one particular event - Gandhiji's interview to the BBC on 15th August 1947 where he said "tell the world that from now on Gandhi does not know Hindi" moved him so much that he took a vow to speak in Hindi, even in his verdicts as a dispenser of justice





(judge) he has stuck to Hindi although barring some international seminars. He has whole heartedly believed in the slogan of swadeshi, having worn khadi all along and having participated in the Quit India movement in 1942 when he was just 15 have left an indelible imprint on his mind. He said he had immense respect for literature and for the creators of literature. A writer has the unique talent to search for knowledge as well as bliss from all creation and from life itself.

He said that the human race is facing a very difficult time where old values, old established system of thought are facing decay and death and new systems have to be set in place yet. So these are times of flux. A writer has to express the same in his work; also it is important that a writer should be a living example of the writing he espouses. If there is an incongruence of thought and action, a writer may be living a split personality syndrome which would lead to a hypocritical dual lifestyle which is wholly undesirable.

The world faces crucial questions. Today's world is one terrorized world. Everyone is busy safeguarding their interests. Nobody trusts the other. In such an atmosphere of distrust and disbelief how can one trust, love, respect and help the other? How can complete distrust be replaced by complete assurance? Man has become man's greatest enemy. It is then, the sacred duty of the writer to build bridges through his writing. He opined that we have to do a re-think and develop a sense of duty than just have an acute sense of rights. Doing one's duties well, one's rights are automatically assured. One should ruminate on one's Duties as well. Sister Nivedita, in response to a question on whether there is an Indian mind, opined that there are three special qualities that Indian possess and these are synthesis, harmony and co-ordination. Acharya Vinoba Bhave defined "Sahitya" as one which moves alongside life. Sahitya, according to Dr. Dharmadhikari is a kind of yagna - a ceremonial worship, an offering. Literature or Sahitya is not just a mirror to reality. It should lead to revolution in thoughts and action. Sahitya should reflect sincerity and commitment.

Today, more than ever, man has become self centered. Core values of life which are instilled by the family are missing because parents are busy with their own lives. Often, the television acts as a babysitter, then can we really blame the young generation if they are not interested in literature? Does a writer live a part of what he writes as well- is something the new generation wants to know. if he does not, if there is a conflict or contradiction between what he writes and what he truly is, never will great literature be forthcoming. He then spoke elaborately about the havoc social networking sites are causing to the society instead of meeting face to face, people now prefer connecting on face book. A British organization-divorce online researched in 2012 and came up with the data that 33% of divorces took place due to face book. Virtual reality is taking over the larger reality. Also, the advent of smart phones has led to an increase in the problems of memory loss and deafness. People also live in anxiety and waiting for a reply or a like or a message and suffer from what is now called "nomophobia" also, increased use of digital devices has led to isolation of the individual whereas the crux of human life is socialization. How to bring back the human aspect in this era of commoditization is a big question facing the creator of literature.

Sahitya means the welfare of all, according to an old definition. And what can be achieved by the pen cannot be achieved by the sword. Books/literature is not just a physical, tangible reality but an emotional reality as well. We are faced with new challenges in these new times for which readymade, instant solutions may not be available. We can face the change by the dictum of - think globally, act locally he then went on to talk about the system of justice and how it is dependent upon a number of factors. The law ensures that everyone is equal in its eyes but a broader perspective shd include equal opportunities as well. Today there is the paradox of "bharat" vs "India". Dr Dharmadhikari felt that justice should be dispensed in Hindi as well. The saints and philosophers of our country have taken forth the principle of one nation one people more than any other section of people. We have to arouse nationalism of the people- the work that was done by saints and philosophers in the past. We have to look afresh at ourselves, removing our spectacles.

**SCHEDULE OF  
FESTIVAL  
OF LETTERS 2016**

**19 February 2016 (Friday)**

Symposium on Unwritten Languages of India  
National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru : Continuities and  
Cultural Programme : Performance of 'Kathakali'

**20 February 2016 (Saturday)**

Seminar on Translational Consciousness and Literary Traditions in India  
National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru : Continuities and  
Spin-a-Tale : Children Activities

**Book Exhibition : 10 am to 7 pm daily at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns**



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