



साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

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Presentation of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019



The Sahitya Akademi Award from 2019 were presented to 23 writers at a splendid ceremony on 25 February 2020, at Kamani Auditorium in New Delhi.

The ceremony began with the invocation. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi,

welcomed Dr Chandrashekhkar Kambar, President, and Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, Sri Gulzar, the Chief Guest, dignitaries, Award winners and the audience. He congratulated the Award winners for their contribution to literature, and stated that the nations that do not celebrate literature cannot be called progressive. Writing, writers, and literary traditions have a very significant role in the society. These awards are for the writers who enrich the literary traditions in a given language. On this occasion he also elaborated upon Sahitya Akademi's activities in 2019.

Concluding his speech Dr. Sreenivasarao thanked the Indian writers' community for their continued patronage and support through 65 years of the Akademi.

Secretary, Sahitya Akademi read out the citations and Dr. Chandrashekhkar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, conferred the Awards on the awardees. On behalf of (Late) Om Sharma 'Jandriari', the Awardee in Dogri, his son - Sri Manoj Kumar Sharma 'Nishchint' received the award.

Dr Chandrashekhkar Kambar in his presidential address said that on this occasion we celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity of the nation. The Akademi makes available most heterogeneous literature and excellent translations to the country.

Sri Gulzar, Oscar-winning film director, lyricist, screenwriter, producer, poet said that the writers register their voice, some of their own and much of the others. The writer speaks about the world,

TODAY'S EVENTS

Writers' Meet

(Award Winning Writers will share their creative experiences)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

All India Tribal Writers' Conference (contd.)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

Panel Discussion on Present Scenario of Playwriting

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 02.30 p.m.

Samvatsar Lecture (by Sri Pranab Mukherjee, Eminent Thinker & Former President of India)

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 06.00 p.m.





speaks for coming generations. Although the lives of the next generation are different, the writer never fails to register. This is a sort of ordeal, as writers put their lives on fire, they are like boiling pots.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, in his concluding remarks heartily congratulated the family members of the awardees. He said that the awardees represent the cultural diversity of India. He emphatically pointed out that literature has its own power and no other power can interfere in it.

Name of the Award-Winners

Joyasree Goswami Mahanta (Assamese), Chinmoy Guha (Bengali), Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), (Late) Om Sharma 'Jandriari' (Dogri), Shashi Tharoor (English), Ratilal Borisagar (Gujarati), Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Vijaya (Kannada), Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Neelba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Beryl Thanga (Manipuri), Anuradha Patil (Marathi), Solon Karthak (Nepali), Tarun Kanti Mishra (Odia), Kirpal Kazak (Punjabi), Ramswroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Penna Madhusudan (Sanskrit), Kali Charan Hembram (Santali), Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi), Cho. Dharman (Tamil), Bandi Narayana Swamy (Telugu) and Shafey Kidwai (Urdu).

Media Interaction with Awardees



Sahitya Akademi organized Media interaction with Award winners at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi) and S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru welcomed the Award winners and introduced them to the media persons.

Highlights of the programme: Sri Ratilal Borisagar, award-winner in Gujarati, told that all his works are based on his personal experiences and he gave them a touch of humour. Sri Nand Kishore Acharya, award-winner in Hindi, said that Sahitya is a kind of sensitive Satyagraha. He answering to a question about the difference between great writer and good writer, said that a great writer's writing always affect the society and a good writer's writings are true mirror of the society. Sri Ramswroop Kisan said that he is a farmer by profession, and he has seen and lived the village life himself, and tried to recreate the village

life in his writings. Prof. Shafey Kidwai spoke on the violence in literature. He said that "Sahitya mein bane banaye ayamon ko torna" is itself violence in literature. Sri Chimony Guha, award-winner in Bengali, said that people read lesser then past because of the modernized media scenario. The growing demand of English literature is a threat for regional languages. Smt. Anuradha Patil, award-winner in Marathi, said that it is the duty of the author to write in his own language to save regional languages and enrich regional literature. Sri Beryl Thanga, award-winner in Manipuri, said that he is a nature lover and his award-winning book is also about the journey of an old man, who works for the preservation of environment. Rest of the award-winners in other languages also interacted with the media regarding their award-winning works, their experiences to the audience.





All India Tribal Writers' Conference (contd.)

The second session of the All India Tribal Writers' Conference was on *Tribal Literature: Preservation and Revitalization*. Dr. Addanda C. Cariappa, playwright and journalist, Chaired the session. The session began with Dr. Chukey Bhutia. In her paper Dr. Bhutia discussed the tribes and tribal languages habituated in the North-Eastern states. She said that north-east is confluence the northern-eastern languages. She insisted that whatever language we use for our employment or medium of outside public relation, but at least we should interact within our family in our mother tongue.

The second speaker was Sri Srikrushna G. Kakade, Sri Kakade in his speech said that India is a multi-language country. Language diversity is the specialty of this country. According to him nationalism and globalization are the main enemies of tribal languages. He stressed that governments should take proper measures for the preservation of the tribal languages.

The third speaker of the session was Sri Ganga Sahay Meena, Sri Meena said that we are less sensitive in connection with the development of tribal languages. He informed that around 250 languages are dead and about 197 languages are in danger to be extinct. He further said that displacement is the alarming bell in the development of tribal languages.

The fourth speaker of the session was Sri S. Nagmalleswara Rao. In his paper Sri Rao talked about the tribes and tribal languages spoken surrounding Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana state. He said that successive governments are not taking serious steps for the preservation of the tribal languages in these regions.



From the Chair Sri Addanda C. Kariappa, discussing the different aspects of Kodava language, concluded the session.

The third session of the All India Tribal Writers' Conference was devoted to readings of tribal songs and poems. Dr Devendra Kr Devesh, Regional Secretary, Kolkata, coordinated the session. Smt. Mangala Garwal, who writes both in Bhili and Hindi, chaired the session. Sri Ramgopal Ramlal Bhikvekar (Korku); Ms. Anjali Belagal (Hakki Pikki); Sri Dahun-I Mon-I Kharsyntiew (Khasi); Sri V.R. Raltery (Mizo) presented their poem. Smt. Mangla Garwal from the chair before concluding the session also recited some of her lyrical poems.

The fourth session of the All India Tribal Writers' Conference was meant for readings of tribal songs and poems. Sri Anjula Mohan Pradhan, who writes in Odia, Hindi, English and Kui, chaired the session. Sri Suresh Husnrao Velade (Gond); Sri Simeon Ronglo (Khoibu); Ms. Shefali Debbarma (Kokborak); Ms. Evanisha Pathaw (Jayantia); Sri L. Soloman Dangsawa (Maring) and Sri Shanoi Moses Tarao (Tarao) their poems. Sri Anuja Mohan Pradhan concluded the session and read out his poems also.





Purvottari (North-Eastern and Northern Writers' Meet)

Sahitya Akademi organized a "Purvottari" programme featuring eminent North-Eastern and Northern writers and poets at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium on 25 February, 2020. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address said that linguistically India is a very unique place, the pride of place for sheer diversity and linguistic depth should go to Northeastern states. In the same way, the northern parts of the country are blessed with a wide range of geographical locations and a large number of dialects including tribal ones. Sahitya Akademi has been abiding by that mandate for over 65 years now by united the cultural traditions of the country. In her Inaugural address, Ms. Arambam Memchoubi, eminent Manipuri poet, said that the writings of the eight states of North eastern part started to enter into the main land literary scenario. This happened during the 90s. The north eastern states with the other parts of India may be living under the same sky, within the same political boundary and under the same constitution but their world view is totally different. She further said that for many centuries so far, we have been surviving together. If we consciously work together, we will survive. In his Presidential address Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, said that encouraging creative literature and the art of translation, the Akademi attempts to creativity fill in the cultural gaps in order to achieve integration on the grounds of creativity, fraternity and equality.

The first session of the Purvottari programme, devoted to short story reading, was chaired by Sri N. Kirankumar, eminent Manipuri poet, lyricist, critic and translator. Ms. Rumi Laskar Bora, eminent fiction writer and poet in Assamese, read out her story, "Apratirodh"; Prof. Anita



Singh, presented her English short story "The Wait"; Sri Navneet Mishra, eminent Hindi fiction writer and playwright read out his Hindi short story, "Vilom", and Mrs. Haobam Satyabati Devi read out one of her Manipuri short stories to the audience.

The second session of the "Purvottari" programme was meant for a Panel Discussion on "Intertwining of Fact and Fiction". The session was chaired by Dr Anamika, eminent writer and poet in Hindi. Sri Kamal Chakraborty (Bengali), Ms. Garima Srivastav (Hindi), Dr. Nishi Pulugurtha (English), Dr Mangat Badal (Rajasthani) and Sri Harihar Hasda (Santali) shared their views in connection with their creative writing. The third session of the programme was meant for poetry reading, and chaired by Prof. Karabi Deka Hazarika, eminent Assamese poet, fiction writer and a critic. Sri Pikumoni Dutta, Sri Chandramani Jha, Ms. Rashmi Choudhury, Sri Gopal Krishan Komal, Dr Jaydeep Sarangi, Sri Mrityunjay Kumar Singh, Sri Manshoor Banihali, Sri Abdul Hamid, Sri Barjinder Chouwhan, Sri Alok Kumar Mishra, Sri Shariq Kaifi recited their poems.

Programmes of Festival of Letters 2020

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
27 February 2020	10.00 a.m.	Face to Face (Select Award Winners in Conversation with Eminent Writers/Scholars)	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
27 February 2020	10.30 a.m.	National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature	Sahitya Akademi Auditorium
27 February 2020	2.00 p.m.	All India LGBTQ Poets' Meet	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
27 February 2020	6.00 p.m.	Cultural Programme: Ensemble of Indian Percussion Instruments	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
28 February 2020	10.00 a.m.	National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (cont...)	Sahitya Akademi Auditorium
28 February 2020	10.30 a.m.	Panel Discussion on Art of Translation: Cultural Responsibility	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
28 February 2020	2.30 p.m.	Panel Discussion on Media and Literature: Information and Sensibility	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
28 February 2020	6.00 p.m.	Dastangoi by Mahmood Farooqui	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
29 February 2020	10.00 a.m.	National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (cont...)	Sahitya Akademi Auditorium
29 February 2020	10.00 a.m.	Spin-a-Tale (Programme for Children)	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
29 February 2020	10.00 a.m.	Panel Discussion on Publishing in India	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
29 February 2020	10.30 a.m.	New Harvest (All India Young Writers' Meet)	Rabindra Bhavan Lawns



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