



# साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

28 January - 2 February 2019



भाषाएँ अनेक • देश एक

Daily News Bulletin

MONDAY, 28 January, 2019

## Festival of Letters

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution will be organizing its annual **Festival of Letters from January 28, 2019 to February 2, 2019**. More than 250 eminent writers, scholars, poets, critics and translators are participating in this weeklong Festival. The Festival will commence with the inauguration of **Sahitya Akademi 2018 Exhibition**. The Exhibition will be inaugurated by Padma Bhushan **Prof Mrinal Miri**. A special Gandhi corner to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi featuring 700 books by and on Gandhi is an added attraction of this year's Exhibition. The Exhibition will be followed by the conferment of **Bhasha Samman** on 8 eminent scholars from different fields. For the first time, Akademi will be organizing a two-day **Women Tribal Writers' Meet in which women tribal writers and poets representing 36 tribal languages** of the country will be participating.

**Sahitya Akademi Awards** will be conferred on 24 distinguished writers, and **Prof. Manoj Das**, distinguished writer, scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, will be the Chief Guest. This year's **Samvatsar Lecture** will be delivered by **Prof. Gopi Chand Narang**, distinguished writer, scholar, former President and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi. This year's main focus will be a **three-day national seminar on Gandhi in Indian Literature** in which around 50 distinguished Gandhian scholars and writers will be participating. The Seminar will be

inaugurated by the distinguished poet **Sri Jayanta Mahapatra** and the keynote address will be delivered by **Sri Sudhir Chandra**, eminent historian. The unique feature of this year's Festival is **Transgender Poets' Meet, in which 14 transgender poets** will be participating. It will be inaugurated by **Prof Manabi Bandyopadhyay**, eminent scholar and academician, who is also the first transgender Principal of a college.

Another addition to this year's Festival will be a panel discussion on **Present Scenario of Playwriting** in which distinguished Theatre personalities will be discussing the challenges and possibilities before the playwrights of current times.

Other regular features like **Purvottari** (North East and Northern Writers' Meet), **Yuva Sahiti** (Young Writers' Meet), **Spin-a-Tale** (Children's programme), **Panel Discussions on Present Scenario of Playwriting and Translation, Media and Literature and Publishing in India** will take place during the Festival. During the Festival there will be Baiga Dance a cultural performance by Gopal Krishna Soni's Baiga Yuva Nrityadal, Chhattisgarh, performance by distinguished dancer and Padma Vibhushan **Sonal Mansingh** followed by cultural performance Gayan-Bayan, Mati Akhora and Ram Bijoy Khonda Drisya. Finally, on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> February, eminent violinist and vocalist, **Sunita Bhuyan** will be performing Indo Fusion Music.

### TODAY'S EVENTS

#### Akademi Exhibition

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns,  
10.00 a.m.

#### Presentation of Bhasha Samman

Sahitya Akademi  
Auditorium, 2.00 p.m.

#### All India Tribal Women Writers' Meet

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns,  
3.30 p.m.

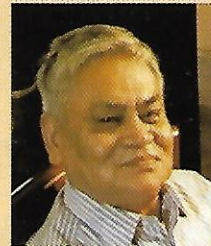
#### Baiga Dance

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns,  
6.00 p.m.



**Sonal Mansingh**,  
classical  
Indian dancer,  
guru,  
choreographer,  
scholar and  
author on

Indian Socio - cultural traditions, is the recipient of the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan among many other coveted national and international awards. She is the Founder-President of Centre for Indian Classical Dances.



**Mrinal Miri**, an eminent Indian philosopher and educationist, is the author of several books and numerous papers in professional journals. He also published widely in professional multi-disciplinary journals. He

has been Visiting Professor in several universities in India and abroad and served as a member of the National Advisory Council, constituted by the Prime Minister of India. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his contribution in the field of education and literature. Currently, he is Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha).



## Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018



### Assamese

Sananta Tanti is an eminent Assamese poet. He was born on 4 November 1952 in Karimganj, Assam. Kailoir Dinto Amar Hobo is a collection of Assamese poems which explore the human psyche in the midst of profound social changes. The poems portray the regressive effect of rapid globalization at individual and collective levels and also betray enormous empathy of the poet for the downtrodden and marginalized sections of the society.



### Bengali

Sanjib Chattopadhyay is an eminent Bengali fiction writer. He was born on 24 October 1934 in Baranagare, West Bengal. Besides Bengali, he knows English and Sanskrit. Srikrishner Sesh Kata Din is a Bengali literary fiction dealing with the last few days of Lord Krishna. Narrated through a character, Gandhari, the work recounts the war and the aftermath with all bloodshed and misery.



### Bodo

Rituraj Basumatary is a noted Bodo writer and editor. He was born on 20 October 1963 in Jhasiguri, Assam. Besides Bodo, he knows Hindi, Assamese and English. Dwnge Lama is a collection of 23 Bodo short stories. The stories in the collection deal predominantly with Bodo social life. Some of the stories are set in rural Bodo society while some others deal with Bodo ethnic resurrection.



### Dogri

Inder Jeet Kesar is a noted Dogri fiction writer, poet, essayist, translator and editor. Besides Dogri, he knows Hindi and English. Bhagirath is a Dogri novel dealing with many issues and challenges faced by human beings. Set in the rural ambience the story captures the joyous and turbulent moments of human life as whole.



### English

Anees Salim is a well-known English fiction writer. Besides English, he knows Malayalam. Presently he is freelancing in the field of advertising. The Blind Lady's Descendants is a literary fiction written as a suicide note of a young man. The book seeks to sketch the rituals and beliefs of a middle-class Muslim family and also portrays the slow decadence of a Muslim family living in a small town in Southern India.



### Gujarati

Sharifa Kasambhai Vijaliwala is a Gujarati critic, editor and translator. She was born on 4 August 1962 in Amargadh, Gujarat. Vibhajanni Vyatha is a collection of critical essays in Gujarati dealing with the novels and films based on Indian partition. The work is a detailed study of Indian partition and its aftermath.



### Hindi

Chitra Mudgal is an eminent Hindi fiction-writer, essayist, critic and translator. She was born on 10 December 1943, in Chennai. She knows English, Gujarati and Marathi besides Hindi. Postbox No. 203 Nalasopara is a literary fiction in Hindi dealing with the issue of individuals with sexual handicap into a specially developed category called 'Others' and not giving them the freedom to choose their gender.



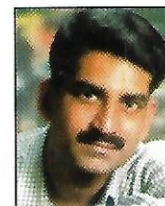
### Kannada

K.G. Nagarajappa is a noted Kannada critic, fiction writer and essayist. He was born on 9 January 1934 in Kalluru, Tumkur Dist., Karnataka. Anushreni - Yajamanike is a collection of Kannada essays which is a critical analysis and examination of the roles and functions of vaidika and avaidika traditions in society and their impact on the masses.



### Kashmiri

Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq is a noted Kashmiri short story writer, editor and translator. He was born on 8 August 1961 at Churmujroo in Budgam, J&K. Aakh is a collection of short stories which collectively portray the impact of post 1990 turmoil on the psyche and social milieu of Kashmir and also changing socio-economic and environmental situations.



### Konkani

Paresch Narendra Kamat is a well-known poet and translator. He was born on 28 March 1968 in Panaji, Goa. Chitralipi is a collection of poems arranged along a cyclic journey which begins with water, moves on to other phenomena with the journey concludes with reaching the land. They remind and keep alive the endless journey of life filled with perennial contradictions and contrasts such as darkness and light, earth and water.



### Maithili

Bina Thakur is an eminent short story writer, editor and translator. She was born on 19 March 1954 in Madhubani, Bihar. She knows Hindi and English besides Maithili. Parineeta is a fiction dealing with wide erosion and degeneration of human values in the contemporary society and its disastrous impact on human life. The work vividly portrays the ills plaguing the modern life and the roots for such ills are traced in the breaking up of traditional life style.



### Malayalam

S. Ramesan Nair is an eminent Malayalam poet, playwright, film lyricist and screenplay writer and translator. Gurupournami is a collection of Malayalam poetry dealing with the life, vision and philosophy of one of the 20th century's acclaimed preceptors, Sri Narayana Guru who was also a great social reformer of Kerala culture.



### Manipuri

Budhichandra Heisnamba is a well-known short story writer and poet. He knows English besides Manipuri. Ngamkheigee Wangmada is a collection of short stories which collectively capture the Manipuri cultural milieu, highlight the plight of the downtrodden and apathy of majority to them, the steady desertion of traditional life clamouring for flashy and instant gratification and bring out the importance of human relations. T



### Marathi

Madhukar Sudam Patil is an eminent Marathi poet, writer and critic. He was born on 7 March 1931 at Raigad, Maharashtra. Sarjanprerana Ani Kavittasshodha is a book of Marathi criticism dealing with various creative impulses especially poetry. The book, in ample measure, amplifies the nature of various creative impulses, the poetic mind and the poetic experiences.



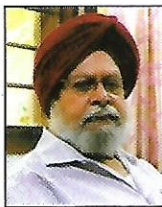
### Nepali

Lok Nath Upadhyay Chapagain is an eminent Nepali poet, short story writer, essayist and researcher. Kina Roeru Upama is a collection of Nepali short stories dealing with the evils plaguing the society at several levels. The stories amply depict the regressive role that various social constructs and institutions along with deep stratifications played in the stunting of human growth, especially among the poor and people inhabiting rural spaces.



### Odia

Dasarathi Das is an eminent Odia writer, editor and critic. He was born on 27 July 1936 in Ayatapur, Kendrapara, Odisha. Besides Odia, he knows, English, Hindi and Bengali. Prasanga Puruna Bhavana Nua is a collection of Odia essays dealing with the poetic traditions of Odisha, the creative process of poetry and other Odia literary traditions.



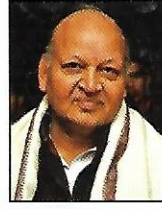
### Punjabi

Mohanjit Singh is an eminent Punjabi poet and prose writer. He was born on 7 May 1938 in Village Adliwala, Dist. Amritsar, Punjab. He holds Masters' Degrees in English and Punjabi. Besides Punjabi, he knows Hindi, Urdu and English. Kone da Suraj is a Punjabi poetic narrative of the construction/concept of Konark temple and a many layered discourse covering the history, art and power equations of the time.



### Rajasthani

Rajesh Kumar Vyas is an eminent Rajasthani poet and critic. He is well-versed in Hindi and English besides Rajasthani. Kavita Devai Deeth is a collection of Rajasthani poems depicting music, painting and dance. The poems in the collection beautify the lifestyle and folklore of the desert and also the hardships of the desert life while echoing the philosophy and meaning of indigenous culture.



### Sanskrit

Ramakant Shukla is a well-known scholar of Sanskrit and Hindi, poet, playwright, author, editor and translator. He was born on 24 December 1940 in Khurja, Uttar Pradesh. Mama Janani is a collection of Sanskrit poems dealing with various societal constructs, natural phenomena in modern life, movements, social institutions and their impact on society as a whole.



### Santali

Shyam Besra 'Jiwiraree' is an eminent Santali poet, fiction writer and essayist, who write both in Hindi and Santali. He was born on 12 February 1961, in Purulia District, West Bengal. Marom is a Santali novel portraying the displacement of tribals in Santal Pargana and the impact of rapid globalization on the lives of Santals in remote areas.



### Sindhi

Khiman U. Mulani is a noted Sindhi poet. He knows Hindi, Urdu and English besides Sindhi. Jia mein Taandaa meaning 'The fire inside' is a collection of poems is a poetic expression of poet's feelings about the happenings in the society. The poet, by placing 'man' at the centre of the process, brings out the aspirations and travails of ordinary people and also the problems and evils of societal constructs.



### Tamil

S. Ramakrishnan is an eminent Tamil writer, scholar, screenplay-writer and translator. He was born on 2 June 1966 in Mallankinar, Tamil Nadu. Besides Tamil, he knows. Sancharam is a Tamil novel dealing with the life and struggles of Nagaswaram vidwans. The work portrays the shattered dreams of the performers through a character Pakkiri, who wants to scale the heights of music world after learning about great musicians.



### Telugu

Kolakaluri Enoch is an eminent Telugu fiction writer, poet, critic, academician and translator. He was born on 1 July 1939 in Guntur in Andhra Pradesh. Vimarshini is a critical work in Telugu which is remarkable for its rare insights into modern Telugu literature, critical evaluation of contributions of major trends and personalities, influence of literature on society and the principle of inclusiveness of man in literature.



### Urdu

Rahman Abbas is an Urdu fiction writer and critic. He was born on 20 January 1972 in Thane, Maharashtra. He also knows Marathi, Konkani, Hindi and English besides Urdu. Rohzin is an Urdu novel dealing with the psychological trauma and suffering of the children who witness either of their parents having relationships beyond the boundaries of their marriage. The arc of the novel studies various aspects of human emotions, especially love, longing and sexuality as sublime expressions.



## PRESS CONFERENCE

Like every year Sahitya Akademi will be organizing its annual Festival of Letters from January 28, 2019 to February 2, 2019 at Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi 110 001. In order to inform the media about the details of this Festival, a Press Conference was organized on 24 January, at 4 p.m. in Sahitya Akademi's third floor Conference Hall. Speaking on this occasion, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, informed that more than 250 eminent writers, scholars, poets, critics and translators from all over the country are participating in this weeklong Festival. A special Gandhi corner to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi featuring 700 books by and on Gandhi is an added attraction of this year's Exhibition. While speaking about the rest of the events, the Secretary said that, for the first time, this year's Festival will see a **Transgender Poets' Meet**. At the end of the Press Conference, he also answered the various questions raised by the media.



### Programmes of Festival of Letters

28 January 2019	
Inauguration of Akademi Exhibition (10.00 a.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	Bhasha Samman Presentation Ceremony (2.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
BAIGA DANCE by Gopi Krishna Soni's Yuva Nrityadal (6.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	All India Tribal Women Writers' Meet (3-30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
29 January 2019	
All India Tribal Women Writers' Meet (10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	Media Interaction with the Awardees (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
Sahitya Akademi Awards 2018 Presentation (5.30 p.m.) Kamani Auditorium	Naatya-katha : KRSHNA by Sonal Mansingh and troupe (7.00 p.m.) Kamani Auditorium
30 January 2019	
Writers' Meet (Featuring Sahitya Akademi 2018 Award Winners) (10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	Purvottari (North-East and Northern Writers' Meet) (11.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
Panel Discussion on Translation (2.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	Samvatsar Lecture on Faiz Ahmad Faiz by Gopi Chand Narang (6.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
31 January 2019	
Face-to-Face (Interaction with Akademi Awardees 2018) (10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	Yuva Sahiti : The New Harvest (Young Writers' Meet ) (10.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
GAYAN-BAYAN, MATI AKHORA & RAM BIJOY KHONDA DRISYA by Sri Sri Uttar Kamalabari Satra, Sankardev Kristi Sangha, Assam (6.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	NATIONAL SEMINAR Gandhi in Indian Literature (11.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.) Sahitya Akademi Auditorium
1 February 2019	
NATIONAL SEMINAR : GANDHI IN INDIAN LITERATURE (10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.) Sahitya Akademi Auditorium	PANEL DISCUSSION : MEDIA AND LITERATURE (11.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
PANEL DISCUSSION : Present Scenario of Play Writing (2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	INDO FUSION MUSIC by Sunita Bhuyan and Troupe (6.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
2 February 2019	
NATIONAL SEMINAR : GANDHI IN INDIAN LITERATURE (10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.) Sahitya Akademi Auditorium	SPIN-A-TALE : PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN (10.30 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns
PANEL DISCUSSION : PUBLISHING IN INDIA (11.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns	TRANSGENDER POETS' MEET (2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.) Rabindra Bhavan Lawns

