

BAL SAHITYA PURASKAR

November 14-16, Ahmedabad

AWARDS PRESENTATION CEREMONY

November 14, 2016

Sahitya Akademi organized its Bal Sahitya Puraskar Presentation ceremony at R.V. Pathak Auditorium, Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, Ahmedabad, on November 14, 2016 with Sri Yashwant Mehta as Chief Guest and Sri Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivered the presidential address. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, guests, audience and the media. He said that children are the backbone of any civilization. There is a need to develop children's literature to help children learn more about their heritage and the Indian culture. A writer plays a significant role in such developments and the writers present today are the pillars of the civilization and Indian culture. There is a need to bring out the wealthy children literature in each of the Indian languages. It is a principle duty of an established or non-established writer to write for children. He



Bal Sahitya Puraskar Winners with the President, Secretary and the Chief Guest

briefed about various functions and activities adopted by the Akademi to bring out high quality literature. He welcomed the chief guest of the function, Sri Yashwant Mehta, who had also won the Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the Presidential address. At the outset, he congratulated the award winners and heartily thanked them for attending the event. In his speech he addressed the social issues of children hatred, abuse, human trafficking and their kidnapping. He continued to say that, the Indian society is very sensitive. There is an epic poem on the execution of a bird but it is a great agony that there is not a single article on child abuse. The poverty of Indian society is a main cause of such abuse. He also said that the modern western concept of nuclear families is a contentious issue since it results in children being left alone at home for a long period of time while parents go to work. There is a dearth of children's literature today. An aspiring writer hardly takes upon himself to write for children, as he/she believes that it would not lead to success. He also pointed out the fact that mostly only prosperous, successful authors have brought out children's literature. He appealed the young writers to avoid such practice and try their hands at writing children's literature too. The honours were bestowed upon the awardees in 24 languages at the hands of chief guest, Sri Yashwant Mehta. Sri Yashwant Mehta, renowned Gujarati writer, said that a child is the human form of God. He started writing children literature at the age of 13 and now also he enjoys editing children's magazines. He emphasized the importance of having Bal Sahitya Academies in each region of India to promote children's literature. He also appealed to the publishing houses to publish more children's literature at low prices. He cited example of Gujarat Samachar, a Gujarati daily which was publishing the children's magazine Jhagmag. The magazine became popular in due course and boosted the sale of the publishing house. He derived the relation between children and Indian culture which stands on the pillar of brotherhood, truth, non violence, etc. He urged to avoid superstition and enhance logical thinking in students. He also urged the youngsters to accept the task of national unity for which caste system should be avoided. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks, and elaborated on the programmes to be held on November 15-16, 2016 and requested the audience to attend all the events.

WRITERS' MEET

November 15, 2016

The Writers' Meet was held on November 15, 2016, the second day of the Bal Sahitya Puraskar ceremony at Govardhan Smriti Khand auditorium of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, Ahmedabad. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar winning writers shared their experience with the audience. The meet was chaired by Vinesh Antani, a renowned Gujarati writer. He said that language is the bridge between various cultures and regions in India and plays a very

important role in bringing them together. In childhood, the children should hear the folk tales which are the roots of our civilization. Amarendra Chakravorty, who writes in Bengali said, “A great piece of children’s literature is always great irrespective of its readers’ age. The appreciation may vary



Writers' Meet in Bal Sahitya Puraskar programme in progress

from generation to generation but it will attract all of them. What is the worth of children’s literature if it does not strike imagination and courage in the mind of children? It has many manifestations, dimensions. It provides succor to life even to adult life.” Rashmi Narzari, who writes in English said, “When I go for reading and interactive sessions, I tell kids, look, fine expression is not just to do with storytelling and literature. It has also to do with engineering, medicine, management and other technical streams. If you know an answer to, say, a physics question but do not have the right words to express it, you have a problem there too. So it’s important to have good expressing skills, whatever you pursue.” Dilip Borkar, Konkani writer, said, “We should tell a good story to the children and not hand over a laptop or mobile to play. We should try to develop their human nature rather a robot. A writer can develop humanity, equality and brotherhood in children.” N.P. Hafiz Mohamad, Malayalam writer said that, children love stories. They deserve good literature. They carry poetry and singing in their hearts. To foster their imagination and creativity and to encourage the goodness in their hearts, there needs to be more children literature in every Indian language. Creative works make us human; reading at an early age helps immeasurably. It is not easy to write for children. One has to understand the imagination, language and dreams of a child to create good literature for them. Writing for children is a nurturing act. Good children’s literature is to shield a future of love and peace from fascism and intolerance. Vakil Najeeb, Urdu writer said that, Urdu language has contributed a lot to develop children’s literature. The children stories should be more comical and interesting. The literature should teach elegance, decency, gentleness to children. Children are fond of rhymes. The language of rhyme should be innocent, candid and honest. The meet was concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

SEMINAR ON CHILDREN'S WRITING: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

November 15-16, 2016

Sahitya Akademi, on the second day of Bal Sahitya Puraskar presentation ceremony, organized a seminar on Children's Writing: Past, Present and Future, on 15-16 November 2016, at Govardhan Smruti Khand, Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad. At the outset, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the awardees, participants of the seminar, invitees and media. He said that there is a common perception that children's literature is easy and hence looked down upon. But on the contrary, it has more realistic and complex modules. Integrating sensitivity in simple diction is a difficult

task. It is imperative to have quality children's literature. We have very rich ancient children literature namely Panchtantra and Hitopdesha. But in the contemporary age, it has taken a back seat due to commercial interests, the internet and other modes of information technology. There is a



(L to R) Sashindrakumar Adhikari, Dinanath Basumatary, Udayan Thakar

constant decline in publishing children's literature. Animation and computer graphics are the fields of interest amongst children. Sahitya Akademi has adopted a policy to promote children's literature and Bal Sahitya Puraskar is one of its initiatives. To keep it floating is very complex issue. There is a need to translate children literature from source to destination languages which is a daunting task for translators. Prof. Raghuvveer Chaudhari, eminent Gujarati writer, and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the seminar. He expressed his chagrin for not having written children's literature till date. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, while presiding over the inaugural session of the seminar derived that children's literature should be popularized, for which young writers should come forward and accept the challenge of writing for this genre. He believed that the ancient lullabies, folk songs are the ground work of any literature. The inaugural session included recitation of poems by Sashindra Kumar Adhikari (Assamese), Dinanath Basumatary (Bodo), Udayan K. Thakker (Gujarati), Ramesh Tailang (Hindi), Vijayakanth Patil (Kannada), Inde (Punjabi), V.R. Sharma (Telugu), Roshan Golani (Sindhi) and Asad

Raza (Urdu). The session was summed up with vote of thanks by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. On November 16, 2016, the second day of the seminar, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, welcomed the audience and participants and invited the chair and paper readers of the first session. This session was chaired by Sri Bhagyesh Jha, eminent Gujarati, Sanskrit and Hindi writer. Ms Bulu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), Ms Daksha Dinesh Bhavsar (Gujarati), Sri Divik Ramesh (Hindi), Sri S.R. Lal (Malayalam) and Sri L. Joychandra Singh (Manipuri) presented their papers. Bhagyesh Jha while chairing the session, said that he believed that to write for children is to break the tradition. The literature should always remain in flow and there should not be classification of ancient and modern literature. We are having Shrutu and Smrutu parampara (learning and reciting tradition) therefore literature should not be complex. In ancient times, literature was the only medium of entertainment but now it has changed. Children are attracted more towards information technology. They even don't need a teacher to obtain any information. This myth has to be changed. In future there will be a global language and that will be based on short messages or Haiku, but it will lack the depth of elucidation. The contemporary generation is very thirsty to know the opportunities and a writer should create such opportunities to attract the children towards literature. All the paper readers gave their insight about children literature of past, present and future in their respective languages. They proclaimed to use the craft and pictures more to explain the characters to children. The second session was chaired by Sri Era Natarasan, renowned Tamil and English scholar, and papers were presented by Sri Santanoo Tamuly (Assamese), Ms Runa Chakraborty (English), Ms Shraddha Trivedi (Gujarati) and Sri Suryakant Saraf (Marathi). This session dealt with challenge of not having committed readers. Children speak fluent English but do not understand their mother tongue and this is a complex issue. English has taken a toll on many languages. Third session was poets' meet and was chaired by Sri Vasdev Mohi. The poet participants were Sri Shivdev Singh Manhas (Dogri), Sri Philip Clarke (Gujarati), Sri Syed Abass Jowhar (Kashmiri), Ms Chandrika Padgaonkar (Konkani), Sri Anmol Jha (Maithili), Sri Sishupal Sharma (Nepali), Sri Rajakishore Parhi (Odia), Sri Navneet Pandey (Rajasthani), Sri Pitambar Majhi (Santali) and Sri Subhash Sharma (Sindhi). They all presented their poems in their regional languages and its translation in Hindi/ English. Finally, Sri Krishna Kimbahune, proposed vote of thanks.

YUVA PURASKAR

December 2-3, 2016, Tripura

Sahitya Akademi, organised the Yuva Puraskar 2016 presentation ceremony on December 2, 2016 followed by All India Young Writers' Festival at Agartala in Tripura. The Award Presentation ceremony of Yuva Puraskar 2016 was inaugurated with an invocation song performed by Smt. Tithi Dev Barman, an internationally acclaimed Rabindra Singer of Tripura and her team. Then Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered his welcome address amid the presence of Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi and Chief Guest, Dr Dhrubajyoti Borah, the President of Asom Sahitya Sabha, Assam. Prof Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi delivered the Presidential Address congratulating all the awardees of Yuva Puraskar 2016. Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the concluding remarks, while Dr. K. Shreenivasarao, the Secretary of the Akademi proposed vote of thanks. The award presentation ceremony was followed by a cultural show on "Bhakat Prahlada in Kuchipudi Yakshagana Style" performed by Bhagavatha Melam Group, Kuchipudi.



Yuva Puraskar Winners with the President, Secretary and Chief Guest

AWARDEES' MEET

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, the Secretary of the Akademi welcomed all the awardees of Yuva Puraskar 2016, the distinguished guests and the esteemed audience at the Muktdhara Auditorium, Agartala, Tripura and the Awardees' Meet commenced on December 3, 2016. The Awardees' Meet was chaired by Dr. Gourahari Das, an eminent Odia fictionist and Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The Awardees were invited by the Chair one by one on the dais to share their experiences of literary journey. The awardees are Prarthana Saikia (Assamese), Raka Dasgupta (Bengali), Bijit Goyary (Bodo), Brham Dutt Magotra (Dogri), Raghu Karnad (English), Ankit Trivedi (Gujarati), Nilotpall Mrinal (Hindi), Vikram Hathwar (Kannada), Aadil Mohi-ud-din (Kashmiri), Anwesha Arun Singbal (Konkani), Deep Narayan 'Vidyarthi' (Maithili), Soorya Gopi (Malayalam), Chongtham Deepu Singh (Manipuri), Manaswini Lata Ravindra (Marathi), Sanjeev Chhetri (Nepali), Jnanee Debasish Mishra (Odia), Ranjit Saranwali (Punjabi), Jitendra Kumar Soni (Rajasthani), Bharat Bhushan Rath (Sanskrit), Parimal Hansda (Santali), Bharti Sadarangani (Sindhi), Lakshmi Sarvanakumar (Tamil), Chaithanya Pingali (Telugu) and Abdus Sami (Urdu). Finally, the Chair delivered his speech. The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata.

ALL INDIA YOUNG WRITERS FESTIVAL

The inaugural session of All India Young Writers Festival commenced on December 3, 2016 at Muktdhara Auditorium, Agartala, Tripura. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, the Secretary of the Akademi welcomed all the distinguished guests along with the distinguished award winners, writers and esteemed audience to the inaugural session of All India Young Writers Festival. The introductory speech was delivered by Sri Braja Gopal Ray, an eminent Bengali writer in Agartala and Member, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In his speech he congratulated all the award winners of Yuva Puraskar 2016 and expressed his satisfaction for organising such an important event in Agartala. Sri Sa. Kandasamy, an eminent Tamil writer delivered the inaugural address. Prof Saroj Choudhury, eminent educationist and folklorist of Tripura and North East of India was the guest of honour. Prof. Biswanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi delivered the Presidential speech emphasising. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi proposed vote of thanks. Thereafter the reading session began with the writer-participants, Mridul Haloi (Assamese), Khokan Saha (Bengali), Kusum Kanti Chakma (Chakma), Pranjal Dhar (Hindi), Narayan Jha (Maithili), Wangthoi Khuman (Manipuri), Thailow Mog (Mog), Gouri Shankar Nimiwal (Rajasthani), Chinmayee Marandi (Santali), Aleena Itrat (Urdu) and Sangita Khilwani (Sindhi). The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata. The first session of the All India

Young Writers Festival on the second day began with a story-reading session chaired by Sri Shankar Basu, an eminent Bengali writer of Tripura. In the session stories were read by Sayantani Bhattacharya (Bengali), Hansda Sowvendra Sekhar (English), Aswathy Sasikumar (Malayalam) and Vempalli Gangadhar (Telugu). The second story-reading session was chaired by Dr. Gourahari Das, an eminent Odia fictionist and Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. In the story reading session, Leben Lal Mushahary (Bodo), Mounesh Badiger (Kannada), Sujit Kumar Panda (Odia) and Veerpandian S. (Tamil) recited their stories.

PRESENTATION OF BHASHA SAMMAN

February 8, 2017, Pune

Sahitya Akademi conferred its prestigious Bhasha Samman upon Prof. Anand Prakash Dikshit and Prof. S.S. Bahulkar for their extensive and seminal research on classical and medieval literature of India. The Bhasha Samman was conferred upon both the scholars at a monumental function on 8 February 2017 at Patrakar Bhavan in Pune,



Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the presidential address, as Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Anand Prakash Dixit and S.S.Bahulkar listen

Maharashtra. While welcoming, and introducing the scholars to the audience, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, at the outset, informed that Prof. Anand Prakash Dikshit had a large body of works to his credit, and in his long and illustrious career, he had been conferred and feted with many awards and honours. The range of the subjects that he dealt with in his career and the depth of his critical analysis were staggering. He said that Prof. Dikshit's treatment of

Rasa Siddhanta proved to be extraordinary, and had brought out newer facets of medieval literature and Bhakti poetry. While introducing Prof. Bahulakar, Dr K. Sreenivasarao said that Prof. Bahulkar had a vast body of publications including books, articles, monographs, reviews, Sanskrit trans-creations, poems, stories and essays apart from recording of six Vedic recensions to his credit. His assiduous research spanning for more than three decades had helped many a researcher to understand better the life and philosophies of ancient and medieval India. His relentless contribution to the fields of Vedic Studies and Tantra was unparalleled in the contemporary Indian thought, he further said. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his presidential address stated that civilized society always welcomed intellectuals and honoring such people is to promote social values. To

love a book is similar to preserving social elements. There is a need to have a thorough research on ancient and medieval literature. We talk more about contemporaries but the medieval literature is a jewel. It developed when there was no media, seminars or any advanced technology. The medieval literature survived because there was an involvement of common man in it and due to its quality of emotional parity. The scholars who are to be bestowed with the Bhasha Samman award today are from the medieval era. They have to strive hard to keep their literature afloat. Both the distinguished scholars thanked Sahitya Akademi for conferring the Bhasha Samman upon them. Prof. Dikshit said that he was a teacher of literature first, and his writing was its off shoot, and, moreover, his work as a committed teacher had enabled him to sharpen his tools for literary criticism, he said. He reminisced that during his work of keeping detailed information on more than 500 manuscripts at the Jayakar Library of University of Pune he happened to leaf through some major work of great historical value and this developed his inclination towards the classical and medieval literature, and this lead to his deep interest in Indian poetics and aesthetics at a later stage. He said that he believed that knowledge was not impregnable but it kept on developing and moving, and he felt happy that at a certain point of its movement and development his name was marked by time for the research he did. Prof. Bahulkar said that he was extremely beholden to the authorities of Sahitya Akademi for his selection for the Bhasha Samman. This Samman encouraged him to work more in the field of his interest, he said. He shared further that he had been teaching, for last forty years, Vedic, classical, and Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit literature and working on a number of texts that were important for the study of Indian classical languages, religious sects and obscure cults, folk traditions, and the interaction between them. He also shared that he found it very interesting to observe how languages originate, develop, get influence and enriched by different conventions, concepts, idioms, and words, when they come in contact with the languages of different communities at different periods.

FELLOWSHIP PRESENTATION TO SRI NIRENDRANATH CHAKRAVARTI

August 6, 2016, Kolkata



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferring Fellowship on Nirendranath Chakravarti

Sahitya Akademi conferred the Akademi Fellowship, its highest honour, on distinguished Bengali poet, Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti at a glittering ceremony in the Sahitya Akademi auditorium, Kolkata on August 6, 2016. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti and introduced him to the audience. He read out the Fellowship Citation. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya

Akademi, conferred the Fellowship on Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari expressed his happiness at Sri Nirendranath being conferred the Akademi's highest honor and described him as one of the stalwarts of modern Indian literature. He also recited two poems by Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti and highlighted several unique features of Sri Nirendranath's poems. In his acceptance speech, Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti thanked the Akademi for bestowing such an honour on him, recalled his long association with the Akademi and said was grateful to the Akademi for publishing his work *Ulanga Raja* in many Indian languages. He talked about poetry through ages and referred to the works of Plato, Aristotle, Shelly and few others as influences on his writing. He concluded his speech by explaining why people read poetry even in this and highlighted that poetry gives happiness, soothes our pains and gives hope to go on with life. The fellowship programme was followed by 'Samvad' in which eminent writers, Prof Nabaneeta Deb Sen, Prof Pabitra Sarkar and Sri Subodh Sarkar, participated and discussed various aspects of life and works of Sri Nirendranath Chakravarti. Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay chaired the event. Prof Nabaneeta Deb sense talked about her impressions of Sri Nirendranath, his sense of humour and his sensibilities. Prof Pabitra Sarkar highlighted many interesting facts susch as he was a journalist, has written prose and a thriller and also translated many works including that of G.K. Chesterton. Prof Subodh Sarkar highlighted how many of Sri Nirendranath's poems have been translated into many Indian languages and inspired many a budding poet and talked about several nuances in Sri Nirendranath's poetry. Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay highlighted humanistic attitude of Sri Nirendranath, his support for the writers, his expertise in editing journals and magazines and also shared several interesting anecdotes. Dr K. Sreenivasaro proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON LITERATURE AND ITS LARGER CONTEXTS IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY BOMBAY PROVINCE

April 2-3, 2016, Ahmedabad

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Farbas Gujarat Sabha, Mumbai, Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics, Vadodara, and Gujarat Vidya Sabha, Ahmedabad, organized a seminar on literary culture in the 19th century Bombay Province on April 2 and 3, 2016, at the H K Arts College, Ahmedabad, focusing on Gujarati literature in the late pre-colonial and early colonial periods but also involving literature in other languages of the region, i.e. Marathi, Sindhi and Konkani, bringing in the Portuguese colonial context. The occasion for the conference was the 50th death anniversary of Alexander Kinloch Forbes, which falls this year, as Forbes was instrumental in bringing the culture of Gujarat to the light of the world in the nineteenth century. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, said that a remarkable scholar of the Gujarati language, and colonial administrator, Forbes proved his intellectual and academic acumen in the domain of culture in the 19th century Bombay province. His



(LtoR) Shirish Panchal, Rajesh Pandya,
Usha Upadhyay, Balkrishna Doshi, Navinbhai Dave
& Subhash Brahmabhatt

Gujarat Vernacular Society, established by him in 1848, offered a renaissance in Gujarati. The Gujarat Vernacular Society started first public library, school for girls, periodical, newspaper, and literary journal of Gujarat. This was his immense contribution and certainly showed his deep cultural awareness, and involvement in and affection for Gujarati language. Hearty thanks due to the poet Dalpatram as well, for it was the poet who taught Gujarati to Forbes. Forbes left his everlasting imprints of his flawless insights into culture in Ahmedabad, Surat, Bombay, and Pune. Commemorating such an extraordinary intellectual and academic, the seminar will explore into the excellent cultural output from literature in particular and from other domains of

human life in general that the 19th century experienced, and also into what the British, Portuguese contributed to the then India. It would certainly be interesting to investigate into what exactly this kind of cultural amalgamation offered and gave us then, for the Bombay Province included a lot of our geography – say Konkan, Nashik, Pune in Maharsashtra, Ahmedabad, Anand, Bharuch, Gandhinagar, Kheda, Panchamahar, Surat in Gujarat, Bagalkot, Belgavi, Bijapur, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri, Uttar Kannada in Karnataka, Sindh Province which is now in Pakistan, and Aden colony – now part of Yemen. This kind of amalgamation invites us to study the literary creation and exchange, socio-political and educational influences that worked, challenges posed before the native traditions, customs, intellectual exchange and upheavals in terms of reform, trade and the means that were used for it, and of course the what material gain we produced or imported while trading during the period. Let's get along with disciplined analysis of this vast geography, this industrious activity, the cultural intermingling as reflected in literature and arts during the century. Remembering Forbes' incredible contribution, he informed that Sahitya Akademi has taken up reprinting of Rasa Maalaa, following the recommendation of our Gujarati Advisory Board. The Inaugural Session was graced by Justice C. K. Thakkar of the Supreme Court of India and Justice Mohit Shah, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, both now retired. Professor Niranjana Bhagat, pioneering Gujarati poet and eminent scholar, gave the keynote address. Shri Navinbhai Dave, President, Farbas Gujarati Sabha and eminent industrialist, gave short but enlightening presentations. The session was presided by Dr. Balkrushna Doshi, renowned architect and President of Gujarat Vidya Sabha, who spoke of the role of architecture in shaping a living space for the emergent modern Indian culture and pointed out that Mr Forbes had, as a young man in England as an architect before he joined the civil service in India. Principal Subhash Brahmabhatt, of

the H K Arts College, a part of the activities of Gujarat Vidyasabha, himself an eminent critic, welcomed the speakers and the large audience which filled the auditorium to its capacity and a little more. In all five technical sessions were conducted during these two days in which informative and learned papers were read on history, society, economy, education, printing culture, and literatures of the nineteenth century Bombay Province. Chandrakant Topiwala, President of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad and a leading poet and critic, emphasised the need to study the pre-modern age of Gujarati literature that is before 1850s. Pravinchandra Patel, former V C of the Sardar Patel University and an eminent sociologist, showed how socio-religious reform in Bombay province was hindered by the rise of nationalism and how it remained an unfinished project. Makrand Mehta, eminent historian, delineated the economic trends in Gujarat in the nineteenth century and the pivotal role played by Kalabhavan established by T. K. Gajjar for the twentieth century development. Achyut Yagnik, eminent cultural historian, argued that the reform movement was restricted to the upper castes and the minorities, the Dalits, the tribals remained on the periphery and could not avail the benefits of the new system. Shirish Panchal, eminent critic and editor, Chanrakant Sheth, Usha Upadhyay and Rajesh Pandya, well-known poets and highly regarded critics, underlined the achievements of Gujarati literature and also showed the neglected areas. Deepak Mehta, eminent critic, outlined the development of education in Gujarat in the nineteenth century. Virchand Dharamsey, well-known cultural historian, displayed how various forms of spectacles and traditional means of entertainment provided a background for cinema in the next century. Arun Vaghela, whose path-finding work in tribal culture of Gujarat is noteworthy, depicted and analysed the sources of tribal history in the nineteenth century, mainly on the basis of archival data. Hasit Mehta, cultural historian of the new generation, presented a holistic picture of Gujarati literary magazine in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Hemant Dave, whose perceptive work in historiography and culture studies in Gujarat is nationally renowned, argued that self-consciousness and modernity in 19th century Bombay Province was not due entirely to the British impact. Religious cults like Pranami sect and Svaminarayan sect had already began reform in the society much before the utilitarian ideas were brought in by the new English education. A good number of nineteenth century scholars wrote diaries—an important mark of self-fashioning and self-reflexion—sans any influence from without. Since the then Bombay Province covered linguistic regions, in part, of what are now Maharashtra, Sind, and Konkan, apart from Gujarat, one of the sessions was dedicated to these languages. Eminent Indian writer of Konkani, Damodar Maojho, presided. He presented a study of Konkani literature and its Portuguese colonial contest. Issues related to Marathi and Sindhi literary culture of the period were discussed in papers by Pushpa Rajapure, Marathi critic and former Chair of Marathi at Mumbai University and Nandita Bhavanani, eminent researcher in culture of Sindh. Murali Ranganathan, a polyglot, spoke engagingly on early print culture in Bombay in languages like Gujarati, Marathi, Urdu, and Persian. Two special evening sessions were greatly appreciated by the

connoisseurs of Ahmedabad. The first was the renowned Gujarati artist, musician-singer Amar Bhatt, who sang some of the most beautiful songs and poems of nineteenth century Gujarati poets for almost two hours, linking them through erudite critical comments, and captivated the audience. The other was a slide show by Kaiwan Mehta, a young and well-respected Parasi architect practicing in Mumbai, on ‘Images and Ideas: Neighbourhoods of Action, and Bombay in the 19th century’, which was equally well appreciated. The Conference inquired into the some important dimensions of literatures of the Bombay Province and their political, economic, social and cultural inter-connections. The conference also explored ideas as to how the indigenous intelligentsia cope up with and effectively modified—at times even nullified—the onslaught of the Western value system and ideas. This was done especially by M. K. Gandhi and his teacher M. N. Dvivedi. On the other hand, the conference also investigated how British impact changed the Indian Weltanschauung. The ideals of Victorian morality, for instance, led people to question and finally to eradicate the age-old traditions of *phatānā* (‘obscene songs’ sung usually at the time of marriage) and *bhavāi* (traditional, subversive theatre) and the acquaintance of Western genres introduced new form of plays, essays, criticism, and autobiography.

SYMPOSIUM ON IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON MAITHILI LITERATURE

April 24, 2016, Patna

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Chetna Samiti, Patna, organized a daylong symposium on ‘Impact of Globalization on Maithili Literature’ on April 24, 2016 at Vidyapati Bhawan, Patna. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address. The programme commenced with the observance of a minute’s silence as a mark of homage to two departed Award winning Maithili litterateurs, Sri Raj Mohan Jha and Sri Sureshwar Jha. The symposium was inaugurated by Sri Vijay Kumar Mishra, President, Chetna Samiti and the inaugural session was presided over by Sri Munishwar Jha. Dr. Bina Thakur, Convener, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the importance of the symposium and the inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Sri Ramanand Jha, Joint Secretary, Chetna Samiti. The academic session that followed was chaired by Sri Sukant Som and papers were presented by Dr. Dharendra Nath Mishra on ‘The Nature and Concerns of Globalization’, Sri Shyam Darihare on ‘Globalization and Maithili Literature’ and Sri Ashok on ‘The Effect of Globalization on Maithili Literature’. The programme was moderated by Sri Umesh Mishra, Joint Secretary, Chetna Samiti.

**RAJINDER SINGH BEDI
BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR
May 7-8, 2016, Hyderabad**

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Telangana State Urdu Academy, organized a twoday Seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of eminent Urdu writer Rajendra Singh Bedi in Hyderabad on May 7-8, 2016. Prof. Abdus Samad, the famous Urdu fiction writer chaired the opening session of the seminar on 7th May 2016. Dr. K. Srinivas Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed those participating in the seminar. The key note address was delivered by the famous Urdu story writer, Prof. Baig Ehsas. He read quotations from the works of Rajinder Singh Bedi and then shed some light on various aspects of his life as well. Famous fiction writer in Urdu, Ratan Singh in his opening session talked about his time with Bedi and the very familial and close relationship they shared. While chairing this session, Prof. Abdus Samad called Rajinder Singh Bedi as the role model for Urdu fantasy fiction. The director of Telangana Urdu State Academy, Prof. S.A. Shakoor, expressed his happiness over the organization of this event and suggested for more such events to be organized. He also assured Sahitya Akademi that Telangana Urdu Academy would be keen about organizing events of such kind along with Sahitya Akademi in future. Famous Urdu writer Jilani Bano also participated in this session and expressed her views on the writings of Bedi. In the last session of the seminar, Chandra Bhan Khayal, the convener of the Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, proposed vote of thanks. Shafey Kidwai chaired the first session of the second day of the seminar on 8th May 2016, and Tarique Chhatari, Maula Bakhsh, and Firoze Aalam presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Prof. Khalid Qadri and Nizam Siddiqui, Shamim Tarique and Rahman Abbas presented their papers. Prof Ashraf Rafi chaired the last session of the seminar and Faiyaz Riffat, Habib Nisar and Wasim Begum presented papers.

**COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINAR
May 14-15, 2016, Srinagar**

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organised a two-day Comparative Literature Seminar in the Kashmiri language on 14th-15th May 2016 in the Seminar Hall of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages in Srinagar. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about various cultural and literary traditions of Kashmir and their contributions to Indian literature. In his Presidential address, Prof Rahman Rahi, renowned scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about the richness and depth of Kashmiri literary



Inaugural session of the comparative literature seminar in progress

traditions. Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, renowned Hindi scholar and writer, who was the Chief Guest at the event, presented a detailed and comprehensive paper on Comparative Literature. In his introductory address, Prof Mohammad

Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the benefits of seminars and symposia on comparative literature, especially in a multilingual society like India. Prof Mazrooh Rashid chaired the first session in which three well-known scholars, Farooq Faiyaz, Ghulam Rasool Josh and Satish Vimal presented their papers on comparative literature in Kashmiri language and literature. Dr Aziz Hajini, Secretary, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages while well-known scholars, Ghulam Nabi Khyal and Shaad Ramzan, presented their papers. Prof Ghulam Nabi Khyal chaired the third session in which three well-known scholars, Shafi Shauq, Bashir Bashir and Wali Mohammad Asir presented their papers. Prof Shaad Ramzan chaired the fourth session in which three well-known scholars, Farooq Nazqui, Omkar N Kaul and Abdur Sheedhlon presented their papers. Prof Mohammad Zaman Azurdah proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON 'MUTINY AND ODIA LITERATURE'

May 22- 23, 2016, Khurda

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi, to commemorate 200th anniversary of Paika rebellion and in collaboration with the Barunei O Khurda Garh Vikas Parishad, organized a two-day seminar on 'Mutiny and Odia Literature at Khurda on May 22-23, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the rebellion and the literature surrounding it. The inaugural address was delivered by Sri Bibhuti Pattnaik. Sri Dolagobinda Pradhan was the Guest of Honor. Dr Gourhari Das, Convener, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. Eminent historian, Dr Nibedita Mohanty delivered the keynote address. Sri Dilip Srichandan, Chairman, Barunei O Khurda Garh Vikash Parishad chaired the session while Sri Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Sri Debashis Panigrahi, two noted scholars, Prithish

Acharya and Laxminarayan Raysingh, presented their papers on the topics regarding the Rebellion against the Oppressive British Rule and its mark on various literary works, while Sri Bhagyalipi Malla of Odisha State Archives delivered an audio-visual presentation of Paika Rebellion. In the second session that was chaired by Sri Bijayanand Singh, three scholars, Ashok Patnaik, Debendra Kumar Dash and writer Banshidhar Rout presented their papers capturing different perspectives of Rebellion of Khurda. Das Mohapatra and Satyabadi Baliarsingh presented papers in the third session while writers Babaji Charan Patnaik and Gopal Krushna Das presented their papers in the fourth session. All the four experts touched some unconsidered aspects of Paika Rebellion, and the socio-cultural scenario of that time. These two sessions were chaired by Eminent Educationist Smt. Aadarmani Baral and Sri Bheemasen Pradhan respectively. Valedictory address was delivered by Atul Chandra Pradhan with Narayan Rao on the chair. Dilip Srichandan and Dr. Gopal Chandra Barman described about the objectives of organising the seminar on ‘Mutiny and Odia Literature.’ Sri Banoj Tripathy, Member, Odia Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi proposed the vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON PARASMANI PRADHAN

May 27-28, 2016, Kalimpong

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in association with the Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti of Kalimpong, organized a two-day seminar on the life and works of Parasmuni Pradhan, eminent Nepali writer at Kalimpong on May 27-28, 2016. In the inaugural session, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the



A session in the seminar in progress. L-R. M. B. Pradhan, Meharman Subba, Diwakar Pradhan, B. B. Sharma and Vinesh Pradhan

participants and audience and spoke briefly about various initiatives taken by Sahitya Akademi to promote Nepali literature. The seminar was inaugurated by a renowned Nepali critic and the dean of Sikkim University, Prof. Pratap Chandra. In his keynote address, Sri Prem Pradhan, Convener, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, talked about importance and relevance of the works of Sri Parasmuni Pradhan. This session was chaired by

Mr. Gyaan Suta from Nepali Sahitya Adhyayan Samiti, Kalimpong. The first session was chaired by the famous and respectable Nepali author, Dr. Gokul Sinha. Several scholars presented papers in this seminar, in this session, the presenters were, Naveen Pongal

(Parasmani Pradhan's contribution to Nepali language) Mr. Parshuram Pongal (contribution of Parasmani Pradhan in grammatology and word formation in Nepali language), Mahesh Pradhan (Parasmani Pradhan as a moral literary), Bhuvan Khanal (The life and history of Parasmani Pradhan). The second session was chaired by Mr. B.M. Pradhan, in which Mehman Subba, Binesh Pradhan, and Divakar Pradhan, respectively presented papers on 'Pradhan's Writing in the Genre of Children's Literature', 'Pradhan's Prose and the Role of Chandrika and Bharti Magazines in Promoting it', and 'Parasmani Pradhan: The Assiduous Linguist'. The third session was chaired by Krishnaraj Ghatani and there were two paper presenters, Sanjay Bisht who presented on 'Parasmani Pradhan as an Editor' and Meghnath Chhetri presented on 'Parasmani Pradhan as an Author of Textbooks'. The concluding session of the seminar was chaired by Kumar Chhetri, the concluding remarks were given by Nepali poet and critic, Jeevan Namdung. The vote of thanks and formal conclusion of the seminar was given by the chairman of Nepali Adhyayan Samiti, Mr. B.B. Sharma.

SEMINAR ON ORAL POETRY: PERFORMANCE AND AESTHETICS

June 18, 2016, Kokrajhar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata organized a seminar on 'Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics' at Kokrajhar UN Academy, on June 18, 2016. The inaugural session of the seminar was chaired by eminent Bodo litterateur and Sahitya Akademi Award Winning writer Janil Kr. Brahma. The Regional Secretary of Sahitya Akademi Gopal Ch. Barman delivered the welcome address. Renowned Bodo poet Brajendra Kr. Brahma inaugurated the seminar and attended the session as Chief Guest. He delivered his speech on the importance of the preservation and exploration of Bodo Oral Poetry. The key note address was delivered by Anil Boro. In his speech he has spoken about various aspects of Bodo oral poetry. Though the written Bodo literature is still in infant age but they are very rich in oral folk narratives, he said. At the end of the session Krishna Gopal Basumatary, Director, UN Academy proposed the vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Janil Kumar



Participants of the Seminar on Oral Poetry, Performance and Aesthetics

Brahma. In the session, three noted scholars Adaram Basumatary, Nareswar Narzary and Sansuma Khungur Boro presented papers on 'Bodo Ballads: Oral Singing and Aesthetics,' 'Bodo Ritual Songs' and 'Bodo Folk Songs in Radio Performance' respectively. The second session was chaired by Anil Boro. In the session four noted scholars, Indira Boro, Tulon Muchahary, Rahendra Brahma and Rwirub Brahma, presented papers 'Rhymes and Game Songs: Performance and Aesthetics,' 'Oral Written Continnum: Gibi Bithai and Other Oral derived prose,' 'Bodo oral songs and performances in new media' and 'Bodo marriage songs and Fusli Haba songs' respectively. Subung Basumatary chaired the third session. In the session Bhupen Bora, Detsung Swargiary and Rajib Bordoloi presented papers 'Rabha Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics,' 'Mising Oinitom: Performance and Aesthetics' and 'Tiwa Oral Poetry: Performance and Aesthetics' respectively.

SEMINAR ON KALACHAND SHASTRI

June 21, 2016, Imphal

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with Naharol Sahitya Premee Samiti, organized a daylong seminar on Kalachand Shastri's Works in Imphal on June 21, 2016. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the life and works of Sri Shastri and highlighted how study of his works will enrich litterateurs in Manipur. In his inaugural address, Prof H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that Kalachand Shastri was a multifaceted personality who made commendable and invaluable contribution towards development of Manipuri language, culture as a scholar of Sanskrit. He also said that he was a grammarian and wrote a text book on grammar called Manipuri Byakaran Koumudi; he wrote Basu Deva Mahakavya, Ashamba Manipuri Sahityagee Itihas and so on in Manipuri. In his Presidential speech, Prof P. Nabachandra Singh, talked about the relevance of Sri Shastri's works to the present society. H. Binodkumar Sharma, General Secretary, Naharol Sahitya Premee Samiti, proposed vote of thanks. In the first session that was chaired by Kh. Prakash Singh, three noted scholars, Amusana Sharma Shastri, Elangam Dinamani and I.S. Kangjam, presented papers 'Reminiscences of Kalachand Shastri,' 'Kalachand Shastri as a Translator' and 'Kalachand Shastri's Language and Literary Criticism' respectively. In the second session that was chaired again by Prakash Singh, three noted scholars, P. Nabachandra Singh, Nongthomba Premchand Singh and Lanchemba Meetei, presented papers 'Kalachand Shastri's Works,' 'Kalachand Shastri as a playwright and artist' and 'Kalachand, the writer' respectively.

TRIBAL POETS' MEET

July 16, 2016, Baripada

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with North Odisha University, Baripada organized a Tribal Poets' Meet on 16 July 2016 at Tribal Studies Central hall of the University at Baripada, Odisha. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. Prafulla Kumar Mishra, Vice Chancellor, North Odisha University. In his speech, he appreciated Sahitya Akademi organizing this type of conventions focused on tribal languages. He said that languages will die if the language not spoken by its people. He gave an example of Hibu language, how it became a prominent language. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh welcomed the gathering and given a brief introduction about Akademi. He also informed about initiatives taken up by Akademi to uplift tribal languages. In his key note address Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi gave an introduction about Ho language and literature. He informed that many of its tribal conventions, Akademi have included some poets/writers, but this is the first time, it is organizing a special poets' Meet of Ho language. There were two Guests of Honour at the occasion. One is Smt. Sushila Tiriya, Ex MP (Rajya Sabha) and other is Sri Vijay Kumar Agrawal, a senior journalist. Smt. Tiriya, who herself belongs from Ho community, extended her greetings for the programme. In absence of Sri Agrawal, his message was read by Sri Santosh Mohanty. Sri Binod Kumar Nayak, Bhasha Samman Awardee of the Akademi, presiding over the session, expressed his observations regarding Ho language and literature, especially about its oral tradition. There were two poetry reading sessions, which were chaired by Sri Rabindra Kumar Kalundia and Sri Ishore Bardara. Poets who read out his poems were Sri Prafull Chandra Tiyu, Sri Diwakar Say, Sri Budhan Singh Hessa, Sri Kaira Singh Badia, Sri Shankaru Singh, Sri Yaminikan Tiriya, Sri Rathi Balay and Sri Jaipal Singh Nayak. Poets presented their poems in Hindi/English translation also. A good number of audience was present there, who appreciated the poets and thanked the Akademi to organizing such type of events

AMRITLAL NAGAR CENTENARY CELEBRATION

August 20-21, 2016, Lucknow

Sahitya Akademi and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India organized two-day celebrations to commemorate the birth centenary of distinguished Hindi writer and scholar, Sri Amritlal Nagar at Nirala auditorium in Lucknow on August 20-21, 2016. A photo and book exhibition showcasing seminal moments in Amritlal Nagar's life and works was unveiled on August 20, 2016 before the centenary seminar on Amritlal Nagar. In the inaugural session of the seminar, Ms. Achala Nagar, who was the Chief Guest, stated that it is essential to discuss and analyze various aspects of Amrit Lal Nagar's works and multiple

facets of his life to take his works to masses. In his keynote address, Prof Surya Prasad Dixit, Convener, Hindi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, stated that Amritlal Nagar was one of the polyphonic novelists in Hindi literature and his works are full of plenitude perspectives. In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about various facets of Amritlal Nagar's works and observed that while Amritlal Nagar was the trendsetter in many ways. Prof Raghuvver Chaudhari, eminent Gujarati writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, who was the Chief Guest, stated that avant-garde writing was Amritlal Nagar's forte and he worked hard to paint a realistic picture of lives of common people. During the session, the Hindi monograph on Amritlal Nagar and translations in Gujarati, Tamil and Malayalm, in addition to 'Amrit aur Vish' translated into Marathi were released. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session devoted to 'The Novels of Amritlal Nagar' and chaired by Sri Govind Mishra, three noted scholars, Mamta Kalia, Madhav Hada and Rohini Agarwal, talked about humanism,



Inaugural Session of Amritlal Nagar Centenary Celebration in progress

narration and vision of Amritlal Nagar in his novels respectively. In the second session devoted to 'Short Stories and Children's Literature of Amritlal Nagar' and chaired by Ramesh Chandra Shah, four noted scholars, Shivmurti, Prakash Manu, Vijay Rai and Noor Jahir, spoke about Amritlal Nagar's concern for marginalized sections of the society, his devotion to children's literature, dominant presence of Varanasi in his stories and his portrayal of women issues in his stories respectively. In the third session devoted to 'Non-Fiction Prose, Humour & Satire of Amritlal Nagar' and chaired by Gopal Chaturvedi, four noted scholars, Yogesh Praveen, Diksha Nagar, Yogendra Pratap and Anand Prakash Tripathi, spoke about description of Lucknow in Amritlal Nagar's works, Amritlal Nagar's autobiography and memoirs and humor and satire of Amritlal Nagar respectively. In the fourth session devoted to 'Amritlal Nagar: Playwriting, Theatre, Film & Radio' and chaired by Pratibha Agarwal, three noted scholars, Daya Prakash Sinha, Urmil Kumar Thapliyal and Atul Tiwari, spoke about Amritlal Nagar's varied contributions to plays, theatre, film and radio. In the fifth session devoted to 'Remembering Amritlal Nagar' and chaired by Giriraj Kishore, three noted scholars, Vijay Mohan Sharma, Rakesh Tiwari and Sandeepan Vimalkirti Nagar, recalled and shared various interesting anecdotes from Sri Nagar's life.

In the sixth session devoted to ‘The Presence of Amritlal Nagar in Indian Languages’ and chaired by Sreenivasa Udgata, four noted scholars, Alok Gupt (Gujarati), Sudhanshu Chaturvedi (Malayalam), S. Shesharatnam (Telugu) and Shakeel Siddqui (Urdu), talked about the impact of Amritlal Nagar’s works in respective languages. Naresh Saxena chaired the valedictory session while Achala Nagar delivered the valedictory address. Prof Surya Prasad Dixit proposed a vote of thanks. On the evening of both days, famous plays, ‘Yugavtar’ and ‘Nagar Katha’, were staged at Yashpal auditorium.

J & K TRIBAL WRITERS’ CONFERENCE

September 3-4, 2016, Kargil



J & K Tribal Writers’ Conference in progress

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, organized a two-day J & K Tribal Writers’ Conference on September 3-4, 2016 in Kargil. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed

the participants and audience and observed that it was for the first time that the Akademi is organizing a literary programme in Kargil and thanked the J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for collaborating. Dr Aziz Hajini, Secretary, J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, delivered the introductory address. Dr Mohd Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmiri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the keynote address. Sri Kacho Asfandyar Khan, renowned Purgi writer and poet and Sri Haji Anayat Ali, Chairman, J & K legislative council also spoke in the session. Sri Nazir Hussain, Dy Secy, SoCA-G1, Kargil, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session chaired by Sri Jaji Sadiq Ali Sadiq and Mohd Baqir Baqir, four noted scholars, Dr Javaid Rahi, Dr Konchok Rigzin, Sri Mohd Sadiq Hardassi and Sri Abdul Majid Hasarat, spoke on ‘The tribal languages and literature of J & K – An Overview,’ ‘Development of Ladakhi languages and literature in J & K,’ ‘Development of Balti languages and literature in J & K’ and ‘Development of Gojri languages and literature in J & K’ respectively. In the second session chaired by Sri Rashid Qamar and Sri Thupstan Paldan, five noted fiction writers, Sri Mohd Jawad Jalib, Sri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, Sri Mohd Raza Amjad, Sri Tsering Nurboo Martse

and Sri Mohd Amin Qamar, read out stories from Purgi, Balti, Dardi / Sheena, Ladakhi and Gojri languages respectively. In the third session chaired by Dr Konchok Rigzin and Sri Mohd Amin Qamar, two noted scholars, Sri Haji Mohd Hussain Pashkyum and Sri Mukhtar Zahid Budgami, spoke on ‘Development of Purgi languages and literature in J & K’ and ‘Development of Sheena / Dardi languages and literature in J & K’ respectively. In the fourth session devoted to poetry recitations, thirteen noted poets, Sri Mohd Ali Khan Sabeel, Sri Nasir-ud-Din Khafi, Sri Haji Sadiq Ali Sadiq, Sri Asharaf Ali Sagaar, Sri Abdul Majid Sehra, Sri Arif Hussain Arif, Sri Thupstan Paldan, Sri Konchok Nawang, Sri Jigmat Norbu Khayal Ladakhi, Sri Mohd Rahullah Rohani, Sri Fazil Abass Fazil, Sri Jan Mohd Hakeem and Sri Mohd Iqbal Azeem, recited their compositions.

RAJBHASHA EVENTS

HINDI WEEK

September 14-21, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized “Hindi Week” from 14 to 21 September 2016 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by the Chairman of National Book Trust India, Dr Baldeo Bhai Sharma. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the dignitaries and audience and talked briefly about how Hindi functions as a bridge connecting varied traditions of the country. He also observed that it is heartening to note that most of the translation prizes were Hindi works translated by translators from non-Hindi states and appealed to staff to carry out more and more work in Hindi. The Chief Guest, Dr Baldeo Bhai Sharma appealed to be guilt free in using Hindi. He observed that there are many words in Hindi that we do not use but they are being used in Non-Hindi regions and regional languages. During the week long programme, many competitions such as Hindi essay writing, translation, debate and dictation were organized for the staffs of the Akademi. Some of these competitions were in two categories- Hindi speaking and non-Hindi speaking staff. Some other competitions were organized for the staff of the offices under Ministry of Culture. Staff of Sangeet Natak Akademi, National School of Drama and



Dr Baldeo Bhai Sharma talking about value of official use of Hindi language

IGNCA took part in these competitions. On 20 September, 2016 a workshop on “Hindi Noting and Drafting” was organized. Sri Ved Prakash Gaur, Director, Official Language, Ministry of Culture, briefed the participating staff on the problems faced in day to day Hindi work. He encouraged the staff to use Hindi in correspondence and notes. Hindi week concluded on 21 September 2016. Eminent journalist Sri Rahul Dev was the Chief Guest. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, briefed about the condition of official language implementation and activities during the Hindi week. Addressing the gathering, Sri Rahul Dev appealed to educate the children in their mother-tongues. Further he added that aesthetics of language would be progressive if we use language with awareness. Winners of the competitions organized during the Hindi week got certificates and cash prizes from Sri Rahul Dev. Dr Ranji Saha, Guest Editor, ‘Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya’ talked about the present condition of official language implementation and proposed a vote of thanks.

RAJBHASHA MANCH

14 September, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, in Collaboration with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., organized a Panel Discussion on “Present Status of Hindi: Challenges and Solutions” on 14 September 2016 as Part of Hindi week. Dr. Subhash Chandra, Chairman Essel Group and Prof. Ashok Chakradhar, renowned Hindi Writer and Poet, discussed about the medium of education, especially technical education in Hindi, role of Hindi in uniting the society, capability of Hindi and its recognition as language in United Nations among other points. Dr. Chakradhar stated that Hindi can be made popular by accepting common words in place of technical jargons. Towards the end of the programme, Sri Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Prize winner also addressed the gathering and all the three speakers thanked the Akademi for organizing the programme.

HINDI SAPTAH

14-21 September, 2016, Bengaluru

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized Hindi Day Programme on 20 September 2016 at the Akademi premises in Bengaluru. A number of competitions such as essay writing, Hindi Translation and dictation were organized for the staff of the Akademi. All the staff members took part in the competitions and prizes were distributed to the winners. Well known Hindi writer and translator, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar was the chief guest and he talked about the importance of Hindi in today’s world. The programme was coordinated by Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

HINDI DIVAS CELEBRATIONS

20 September, 2016, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, celebrated 'Hindi Divas' on September 20, 2016 at the office premises. Renowned Hindi scholar Sri Sourirajan was invited as the chief guest. A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Chennai, welcomed the chief guest and the staff of Chennai office. Sri Sourirajan spoke about 'Hindi as Rajbhasha' and the usage of Hindi in day-to-day life. Competitions were organized among the staff of Chennai office and Sri Sourirajan distributed cash prizes to the winning staff. Sri A.S. Ilangovan thanked Sri Sourirajan for his support and guidance over the years and congratulated the prize winners.

HINDI DIVAS

19 September, 2016, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai organized several Hindi competitions for its staff members to celebrate Hindi Divas on September 19, 2016. The results of the contests were declared and prizes were given away by Sri Vinod Kumar Sharma, Assistant Director (Hindi), Electronics Corporation of India, A Government of India (Department of Atomic Energy) Enterprise.

RAJBHASHA MANCH

19 September 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, during Rajbhasha week, organized a lecture on 'Directions of the implementation of official language'. Dr Jaiprakash Kardam was the Chief Guest for this occasion. Secretary of the Akademi Dr K. Srinivasrao gave the welcoming address. At the end of the programme, OSD, Dr Devender Kumar Devesh proposed a vote of thanks.

RAJBHASHA SEMINAR

October 26, 2016, Chennai

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, organized a daylong seminar on 'Implementation of Official Language in Southern States' at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Chennai on October 26, 2016. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the seminar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Sri Vashishta Johri, General Manager, Southern Railways and Chairman, Town Official Language Implementation Committee (TOLIC), Chennai, inaugurated the seminar. Sri Ved Prakash Gaur, Director (Official Language),



Inaugural Session of Seminar on Implementation of Official Language in South India in progress

Ministry of Culture, Government of India, delivered introductory remarks. Sri P.K. Balasubramanian, veteran Hindi scholar, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh proposed the vote of thanks. In the first session of the seminar devoted to ‘Current Status of Hindi Training and Teaching’ and chaired by renowned Hindi translator Sri R. Sourirajan, three scholars, Sri Navanath Kamble, Sri S. Parthasarathy and Sri S. Basheer

presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Sri T.S.K. Kannan in which three noted scholars, Sri Dina Nath Singh, Sri Narendra Singh Mehra and Sri Shashank Dubey, presented their papers. Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh proposed a vote of thanks.

N. KRISHNA PILLAI BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

September 22, 2016, Thiruvananthapuram

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in association with the N. Krishna Pillai Foundation, organized a daylong seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Sri N. Krishna Pillai in Thiruvananthapuram on September 22, 2016. The seminar was inaugurated by Sri P.Sathasivam, Hon’ble Governor of Kerala, and chaired by Sri C.Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Sri S.P.Mahalingeswar welcomed the Hon’ble Governor, the participants and the audience. Dr Kayamkulam Yoonus, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. Sri C. Radhakrishnan delivered the presidential address. Sri Panyam Ravindran, former M.P. delivered the keynote address. Dr Ezhumattor Rajaraja Varma, the Secretary, Prof.N. Krishna Pillai Foundation, proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was moderated by Dr George Onakkoor. Four well-known writers, Dr Seema Jerome, Dr Raja Warriar, Dr Ezhumattor and Dr G.Padma Rao presented their papers in this session. The second session was moderated by eminent critic, Dr N. Mukundan.



Inaugural Session of the Seminar on Krishna Pillai in progress

Dr M.M.Basheer talked about his association with N. Krishna Pillai. In this session the papers were presented by Dr D. Benjamin, Dr C.R. Prasad, Dr Jyothish Kumar and Dr B.V.Sasikumar.

**SEMINAR ON
MULTI-CULTURALISM, IDENTITY CRISES AND PUNJABI LITERATURE**

September 22-23, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Punjabi, University of Delhi organized a two days national seminar on ‘Multi-culturalism, Identity Crises and Punjabi Literature’ on September 22-23, 2016 at the Seminar Hall, Delhi University. Inaugurating the seminar Prof M.L. Singla, Dean, Management Studies, University of Delhi spoke about the history of multi-culturalism in Punjab. Prof. Rawail Singh welcomed the scholars and participants, elaborated on the importance of the subject and outlined its need in the modern academic scenario. Prof Pitam Singh, Professor of Economics at Oxford University, UK delivered the keynote address of the seminar, while Dr. Manmohan chaired the inaugural session. The first session was chaired by Prof. Parminder Singh, while Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Prof. Buta Singh Brar, Dr. Depinderjit Kaur Randhawa and Dr. Vanita presented their papers. In second session Dr. Baljinder Singh, Dr. Baldev Dhaliwal, Dr. Gurmukh Singh, Dr. Kulvir and Dr. Yadwinder Singh presented their papers. Dr. Deepak Manmohan Singh chaired this session. Third and final session of the seminar was chaired by Prof. Satish Kumar Verma, while Prof. Gurpal Singh Sandhu, Madhuri Chawla and Dr. Jaspal Kaur presented their papers. Valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Ravinder Kumar. Mrs. Manjit Bhatia, Programme Officer Sahitya Akademi proposed vote of thanks.

**SEMINAR ON
TAMIL NADU TRIBAL ORAL LITERATURE**

September 23-24, 2016, Puducherry

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics & Culture, organized a two-day seminar on ‘Tamil Nadu Tribal Oral Literature’ at the Institute premises on September 23-24, 2016. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered welcome address. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Dr R. Sambath, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, delivered introductory remarks. Dr Bhakthavatsala Bharathi, Director, PILC, delivered a thought-provoking keynote address. Sri A.S. Ilangovan, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a

vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Sri B. Nazimdeen. In this session, three scholars, Ms. G. Muthulakshmi, Dr. T. Vijayalakshmi and Mr. Gnana Bharathi presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Sri Sundara Murugan. In this session, three scholars, Dr. O. Muthaiah, Prof. K. Srinivasa Varma and Sri Duraimurugan presented their papers. In the evening, a cultural programme was arranged to highlight various tribal cultures. The seminar continued for the second day and the third session was chaired by Dr.A. Dhananjayan. In this session, two scholars, Sri Manikko Panneerselvam and Sri Ka Ila Mahendran presented his paper on 'Koththar Tribe'. The fourth session was chaired by Sri G. Stephen. In this session, three scholars, Sri Dharmaraj, Sri Jayakrishnan and Ms. Deeparani presented their papers. The fifth and last session was chaired by Prof. R. Kamarasu. In this session, Sri Govindaraj, and Ms. Vasamalli presented their papers. At the end, Prof. Kothandaraman delivered the valedictory address on the languages of the Dravidian Tribe.

SEMINAR ON PEARYCHAND MITRA

23-24 September 2016, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day Seminar on the occasion of the birth bi-centenary of Pearychand Mitra on September 23-24, 2016 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata. In the inaugural session Gopal Ch. Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata welcoming the participants and the gathering and briefly narrated Pearychand's literary career and his contribution to the Bengali novel as a pioneer. Alok Ray delivered the inaugural address, while Swapan Basu, gave the keynote address. Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, presided over the session. In the first session, Sakti Sadhan Mukhopadhyay and Subhendu Dasmunshi presented their papers on Pearychand's thoughts on education with Abhra Ghosh in the chair. In the second session, Amit Hazra and Pijushkanti Panigrahi discussed Pearychand's thoughts on agriculture and library with Kishore Krishna Bandyopadhyay in the chair. In the third session, Debasis Ray and Sarbananda Chaudhury spoke about the songs of Pearychand while Amitava Khastagir was the chair. In the fourth session, Suman Mukhopadhyay and Suman Gun dwelt on Pearychand's novel Alaler Gharer Dulal with Chinmoy Guha in the chair. In the fifth session, the speakers were Abhra Bose and Swapnamoy Chakraborty with Amiya Dev in the chair. In the sixth session, Amartya Mukhopdhyay and Jayeeta Dutta spoke on the novel Ramaranjika with Bharati Ray in the chair. In the valedictory session, Debes Ray was the sole presenter.

NORTH EAST AND NORTHERN WRITERS' MEET

September 26-27, 2016, Kargil

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages organized a two-day conference titled “North East and Northern Writers’ Meet” on September 26-27, 2016 at Kargil, Ladakh. The inaugural session of the two-day conference took place at Syed Mehdi Memorial Auditorium Hall, Kargil in the presence of Dr. K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Mohd. Zaman Azurdah, Convener, Kashmir Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Mr. Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Urdu Poet as the Guest of Honour and Mr. Aziz Hajini, Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The Convener of the programme and District Cultural Officer Kargil, Mr. Mohd Ali Tak began the conference by delivering the introductory address and invited Dr K. Sreenivasarao to deliver the welcome address. Prof. M. Zaman Azurdah gave the introductory remarks, while Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivered the presidential address. Mr. Sheen Kaaf Nizam, who was the Guest of Honour, also gave a brief speech. “Kashmiri Kahavatunki Dictionary” a new book by Purgi writer KachoAsfandyar Khan was also released on the occasion in the presence of all the distinguished guests. At the end of the inaugural session Dr. Aziz Hajini delivered the vote of thanks. The second session was a reading session of Short Stories chaired by Dogri writer Mr. Lalit Magotra. Mr. Rahman Abbas, Mr. Shyam Darihare, and Mr. Sudarshan Vashishtha read out their respective stories in this session. Mr. Lalit Magotra, who chaired the session, thanked the writers and the audience at the end. The third session was the Poets’ Meet. Mr Alamdar Hussain Shah gave the introductory speech. Rajasthani writer, Arjun Deo Charan, chaired over the session that had eight poets in attendance which included Nilim Kumar, Debakanta Ramchiary, Randhir Raipuria, Madhav Kaushik, Aziz Hajini, Khanpo Konchok Phandy, Kirat Singh Inqlabi and Surya Bali. The second day of the two day Writers’ Meet took place at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Byamathang Kargil. The day began with a session of reading of Short Stories. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao delivered the introductory remarks which were followed by a note of welcome by



Dr Vishwanth Prasad Tiwari delivering Presidential Address

the vote of thanks. The second session was a reading session of Short Stories chaired by Dogri writer Mr. Lalit Magotra. Mr. Rahman Abbas, Mr. Shyam Darihare, and Mr. Sudarshan Vashishtha read out their respective stories in this session. Mr. Lalit Magotra, who chaired the session, thanked the writers and the audience at the end. The third session was the Poets’ Meet. Mr Alamdar Hussain Shah gave the introductory speech. Rajasthani writer, Arjun Deo Charan, chaired over the session that had eight poets in attendance which included Nilim Kumar, Debakanta Ramchiary, Randhir Raipuria, Madhav Kaushik, Aziz Hajini, Khanpo Konchok Phandy, Kirat Singh Inqlabi and Surya Bali. The second day of the two day Writers’ Meet took place at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Byamathang Kargil. The day began with a session of reading of Short Stories. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao delivered the introductory remarks which were followed by a note of welcome by

Mr. Mohd Ali Tak. The session was chaired by renowned Rajasthani writer Mr. Malchand Tiwari. The following three writers read their stories in this session: Mr. Inayat Gul, Madhav Kaushik, Prof Mohd Zaman Azurdah. The second and third session was Poets' Meet. Both the sessions were chaired by Kacho Asfandyar Khan. In the first session six writers/poets including Mr. Sadiq Ali Sadiq, Bodo writer Mr. Bijit Goyari, Dogri writer Nirmal Vinod, English writer Asiya Zahoor, and Sheena / Dardi writer Mohd. Shafi Sagar participated. The second session of the Poets' Meet was attended by seven writers/poets which included Mr. Nida Nawaz, Mr. N. Bidyasagar Singh, Mr. D. Ramakrishna, Mr. Aditya Kumar Mandi, Mr. Younus, Mr. Lalit Magotra, and Mr. Sheen Kaaf Nizam. The day concluded with vote of Thanks from Secretary Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi Dr K. Sreenivasarao and District Cultural Officer Kargil Mr. Mohd Ali Tak.

SEMINAR ON SANTALI FOLK AND ORAL LITERATURE

September 28-29, 2016, Santiniketan

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, in collaboration with Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata organized a two-day seminar on 'Santali Folk and Oral Literature' on September 28-29, 2016 at Srijani Complex, Santiniketan (W.B.). Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, OSD(P), Sahitya Akademi, gave the welcoming address while the key-note address was delivered by Dr Dhaneswar Majhi. Sri Birendra Tete, Director, Doordarshan, Santiniketan was the Guest of Honor. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi chaired the session. The first session was chaired by Dr. Naku Hansda, while Sri Sriapati Tudu and Smt. Dulee Hembram presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Sri Ratan Hembram. Sri Mansaram Murmu, Sri Tapan Soren, Sri Ramu Hembram and Sri Sanat Hansda presented their papers in this session. Two more sessions were conducted on second day, chaired by Prof Damayanti Beshra and Sri Sobhanath Beshra, respectively. Sri Jogendranath Murmu, Sri Kalicharan Hembram, Sri Fatik Murmu, Sri Sambhunath Soren and Sri Rajiv Murmu presented their papers. At the end Sri Madan Mohan Soren given an observation on all the papers presented in the seminar.

SEMINAR ON BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA, ANDHRA PRADESH AND KARNATAKA; A MODERN PERSPECTIVE

October 3-4, 2016

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with Hirachand Nemchand College of Commerce, organized a two-day national seminar, 'The Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka : A Modern Perspective', on October 3-4, 2016 at the college premises in Solapur. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary,

Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Prof Bhalchandra Nemade, chaired the inaugural session. Sri Krishna Kimbahune proposed a vote of thanks. Dr Krishna Ingole chaired the first session – Evaluation of the Bhakti Movement in Maharashtra. Dr Ashok Babar and Dr Vidyasagar Patangankar presented their papers in this session. Dr Iresh Swami chaired the second session - the Vachanasahitya in Kannada and Modern Social system. Sri Vitthalrao Gaikwad and Sri B.B.Pujari presented their papers in the session. Sri Laxminarayan Bolli chaired the third session – Telugu Bhakti Sampradaya and Bahujan Parampara. Papers were presented by Sri Vyankatesh Devanpalli and Dr Kanchan Jatkar. The fourth session – the Bhakti Movement in Karnataka and participation of the Down trodden - was chaired by Dr Ashok Babar. Dr Shoba Naik and Dr Anand Zunzarwad presented their papers in this session. The fifth session – the traditional of Kirtana in Thanjavur and Saint-literature in Marathi – was chaired by Sri Rajashekhar Shinde. Sri Vivekanand Gopal and Sri B.Ramachandra presented their papers in this session. The sixth session – Poetry by Saints in Marathi and Modern Marathi Poetry : Co-relation – was chaired by Dr Shobha Naik. Dr Satish Badve and Dr Ranadhir Shinde presented their respective papers in this session. Prof G.M.Pawar and Sri Nishikant Thakar made concluding remarks.



(L-R) Santosh Koti, Mohd. Azam, Bhalchandra Nemade, K. Sreenivasarao, Krishna Kimbahune

The fourth session – the Bhakti Movement in Karnataka and participation of the Down trodden - was chaired by Dr Ashok Babar. Dr Shoba Naik and Dr Anand Zunzarwad presented their papers in this session. The fifth session – the traditional of Kirtana in Thanjavur and Saint-literature in Marathi – was chaired by Sri Rajashekhar Shinde. Sri Vivekanand Gopal and Sri B.Ramachandra presented their papers in this session. The sixth session – Poetry by Saints in Marathi and Modern Marathi Poetry : Co-relation – was chaired by Dr Shobha Naik. Dr Satish Badve and Dr Ranadhir Shinde presented their respective papers in this session. Prof G.M.Pawar and Sri Nishikant Thakar made concluding remarks.

SYMPOSIUM ON LITERARY CONTRIBUTION OF ANDHRA PATRIKA

November 6, 2016, Vijayawada

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru, in collaboration with Krishna University and Krishna District Writers' Association, organized a symposium on 'Literary Contribution of *Andhra Patrika*' on November 6, 2016, in Vijayawada. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. Dr. N. Gopi, Convener, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the presidential address. Dr. Papineni, Shivashankar, Member, Telugu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory remarks and the Chief Guest, Sri Mandali Buddha Prasad, Hon'ble Dy Speaker A P. State Legislative Assembly and Sri S. Rama Krishna Rao, Vice-chancellor, Krishna University also gave brief speeches. Dr G. V. Purnachand, General Secretary Krishna District Writer's Association delivered

the keynote address. Sri S. P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bangalore proposed a vote of thanks. Sri Guttikonda Subba Rao, President, Krishna District Writers Association presided over the first session. Sri Kadiyala Rama Mohan Roy and Sri Rapaka Ekambaracharyulu presented their papers in this session. For the second session, Sri D. Surya Chandra Rao, Registrar, Krishna University, was in the chair. Sri Pannala Subrahmanya Bhatt and Padmasri Sri S.V. Rama Rao presented their papers in this session. Sri Veeraji, Ex Editor, Andhra Patrika, delivered the valedictory address and Sri Buddha Prasad delivered the concluding remarks.

SYMPOSIUM ON YOUNG WRITING IN NEPALI LITERATURE

November 6, 2016, Gangtok

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Nepali Sahitya Parishad, Gangtok, Sikkim, organized a symposium, titled, “Nepali Sahitya Mein Nav Lekhan” on November 6, 2016 at Gangtok, Sikkim. The guest of honor was Sri Sanu Lama, renowned Nepali writer. While delivering the welcoming address, Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, gave a brief overview of the various activities undertaken by the Akademi and mentioned some of the programmes that the Akademi has conducted for the young writers of the country. Sri Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepal Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory remarks and said that he was satisfied by the current trends in the writing of the youth of Nepal and India and also said that these young writers should always be ready to take benefit from the opportunities that are being presented to them. The session was chaired by Sri Rudr Pondyal, who said that the youth need to be encouraged to read and write literature more. Shri Pradhunn Shreshth delivered the formal vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Prof Pratapchandra Pradhan and the speakers were Dr Rajkumar Chhetri, Shri Praveen Rai ‘Jumaili’, and Shri Sapan Pradhan. The second session was chaired by Dr Arjun Pradhan and the speakers were Dr Geeta Chhetri and Shri Gyanbahadur Chhetri.

SEMINAR ON BALWANT GARGI

November 7-8, 2016, Patiala

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Punjabi, Punjabi University, Patiala, on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of Veteran Punjabi dramatist Balwant Gargi Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day seminar on November 7-8, 2016 in the Seminar Hall of Punjabi University. Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi gave the welcome address. Dr. Jaswinder Singh, Head, Punjabi Department, Punjabi University

in his introductory address talked in detail about the plays of Balwant Gargi and their relevance in modern times. Dr. Atamjit Singh, in his key-note address, talked in detail about the life and works of Balwant Gargi and his contribution to Punjabi and Indian drama. Dr Jaspal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala chaired the inaugural session. The first session was chaired by Dr. Satish Kumar Verma and Dr. Sunita Dhir, Gupal Singh Sandhu, Rajinder Kumar Lehri, Uma Sethi and Amrik Gill presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Tejwant Singh Gill and papers were presented by Sukhdev Singh Sirsa, Paramjit Singh Dhingra, Pali Bhupinder, Yogram and Taskeen. The last session was chaired by Dr. Manjit Pal Kaur and papers were presented by Baldev Singh Dhaliwal, Gurmukh Singh, Yadvinder Singh, Gurpreet Kaur and Rupinder Singh Dhillong.

SEMINAR ON NATIONAL INTEGRATION

November 17-18, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, organized a seminar on National Integration on November 17-18, 2016 at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi. The welcome address, during the inaugural session, was given by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while the inaugural address was delivered by Sitakant Mahapatra, Odia Poet and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi. He said, “Most of the initial writings of all Indian languages are somehow inspired by the Ramayana and Mahabharat, so the main focus of the composite Indian literature is of unity.” Giving his keynote address, Purushottam Agarwal, eminent Hindi writer said that the creation of multicultural India into a modern nation united through this diversity of culture and language was a lesson in unity for the whole world. This sense of unity and integration is present in Indian literature right from the beginning. The presidential address was delivered by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi. According to him, a nation is constructed through a combination of geography, history, society and traditions of



Inaugural Session of the Seminar on National Integration in progress

the country. The unity of India is formed through its pluralism and diverse traditions and it is the foundation of emotional unity among the people. Giving examples of Sanskrit literature, he said that in our literature the sources of self-consciousness, global consciousness and moral sense have always been delineated. The concluding remarks were

given by Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi. The first session of the seminar, titled, 'The Fundamental Spirit of Indian Literature', was presided over by Bhalchandra Nemade and Bhagwan Singh, Lakshminandan Bora and Farooq Nazki presented their papers. Bhagwan Singh, while discussing history, culture and lifestyle of ancient India, also highlighted the changing trends in contemporary Indian literature. Lakshmi Nandan Bora said that the life in North-East India is a sufficient example of harmony despite diversity of different languages and dialects. Bhalchandra Nemade, also gave a short speech, where he highlighted the importance of Indian tradition and culture and said that good Indian literature cannot be written without deeper knowledge of the country's history and tradition. The second session was titled, 'Unity and Diversity of Indian Cultural Traditions' and was chaired by Surya Prasad Dixit. The papers were presented by Rovena Robinson, Ajay Dandekar and Bajrang Bihari Tiwari. The third session, held on November 18, 2016 was titled, 'Ideal Human Values in Indian Literature.' It was chaired by S.L. Bhyrappa, and the papers were presented by C. Radhakrishnan, K. Enoch and Sa. Kandasamy. The fourth session was titled, 'Indianness in Indian Literature' and was chaired by Narendra Kohli. Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Chakradhar Tripathi Badrinarayan presented their papers in this session. The valedictory session was chaired by Kapil Kapoor. Narendra Jadhav delivered the valedictory address.

SEMINAR ON DOGRI FOLK LITERATURE

November 18-19, 2016, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration with Post-Graduate Department of Dogri, University of Jammu organized a two-day national seminar on Dogri Lok Sahitya – Samkaleen Sameekaran on November 18-19, 2016 at Jammu. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Desh Bandhu, Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu. Prof Desh Bandhu in his inaugural speech appreciated the efforts for holding the Seminar on such an important topic which opened a new window to study the prosodic nature of Dogri language. On this occasion Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi presented Bal Sahitya Award of Sahitya Akademi of Dogri for the year 2016 to Dr. Om Goswami. Dr. Devendra Kumar Davesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi welcomed the audience and the dignitaries. In his welcome address, he highlighted the aims and objectives of the seminar which was first of its kind in Jammu University. Prof. Narender Mohan, noted Hindi scholar, presented keynote address. He discussed in detail the relevance of Lok Sahitya in contemporary society. Prof Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi while giving introductory remarks said that Dogri has a very old tradition of oral literature and there exists a rich treasure, both in content and form of folk songs, folk tales, riddles, proverbs, idioms, etc., which represent various



Seminar on Dogri Folk Literature in progress

aspects of Dogra life. Prof Parmeshwari Sharma, Head of Department, Dogri Department presided over the inaugural session and proposed the vote of thanks. After the inaugural session there were two paper-reading sessions chaired by Prof. Champa Sharma and Prof. Veena Gupta respectively. In the first session, Dr Sushma Sharma and Dr Om Goswami presented their papers on the topics “Dogri Lok Geeten Ch Nari Vimarsh” and “Dogri Lok-Kathen Ch Nari Vimarsh” respectively and Sh. Mohan Singh was the convenor. Prof. Champa Sharma gave the presidential remarks. In second session, Prof Ashok Khajuria, Prof Shiv Dev Singh Manhas and Dr Joginder Singh presented their papers on the topics “Dogri Lok Kathen Ch Nari Vimarsh”, “Dogri Muhavaren te Kahavaten Ch Nari-Vimarsh” and “Dogri Lok-Sahitya ch Sati-Paridrishya,” respectively and Padamshree, Dr Jitender Udhamपुरी was the convenor. Prof Archana Kesar chaired the third session, in which three papers were presented by Dr Padam Dev Singh, Sh. Jagdeep Dubey and Dr Chanchal Bhasin on the topics “Dogri Lok-Geeten Ch Jaatigat Samikaran”, “Dogri Lok-Kathen ch Jaatigat Samikaran and “Dogri Lok-Gathaen ch Jaatigat Samikaran,” respectively and Sh. Prakash Premi was the convenor. Prof Archana Kesar gave the presidential speech in this session. The fourth session was chaired by Prof Shashi Pathania. In this session, three papers were read, one by Ms. Sunita Bhadwal on the topic “Dogri Lok-Sahitya ch Dhaarmik Charit/Pauranik Charit, the second by Sh. Brahm Dutt on the topic “Dogri Lok-Sahitya ch Veer Charit”, and the third by Dr Rajni Bala on the topic “Soochana Pradyogiki te Lok-Sahitya.” Sh. Pritam Katoch coordinated the programme. In her presidential address Prof Shashi Pathania lauded the role of the department for holding this seminar and appreciated the efforts of all the presenters. The valedictory address of the seminar was delivered by Prof Jigar Mohd., Dean Research Studies, Jammu University, who stressed the importance of the relationship between folk literature and history. He said that the folk literature of Jammu is very rich and is humanitarian and secular. He appreciated the efforts of the Department of Dogri and Sahitya Akademi for having come up with the idea of organizing such a seminar. Prof Parmeshwari Sharma said that the concluded seminar will have a big impact on the academic and scholarly growth of the students and scholars of Dogri department. Prof Lalit Magotra proposed the vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON ADIVASI LITERATURE AND CULTURE

November 19-20, 2016, Mumbai

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, organized a two-day seminar on Adivasi Literature and Culture, on November 19-20, 2016 at Surendra Gavaskar Hall, 172, MMGS Marg, Dadar, Mumbai. At the outset, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and guest writers. Vinayak Tumram, Member, Marathi Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, and a leader of Adivasi movement in Maharashtra, gave the introductory speech while Motiraj Rathod delivered the inaugural address. Vahru Sonawane, gave the keynote address. Bhalchandra Nemade, a Jnanpith Awardee and Convener of Marathi Advisory Board, delivered the presidential address. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, proposed a vote of thanks. The first session, dedicated to Adivasi Literature: Inspiration, Form and Expansion, was chaired by Vinayak Tumram. The papers were presented by Kashinath Barhate, Sunil Kumre and Govind Gayaki. Kirankumar Kavathekar chaired the second session on the topic 'The Adivasi dialects in Maharashtra'. Vaijnath Anmulvad, Veera Rathod and Pushpa Gavitt presented their respective papers in this session. The third session, dedicated to two subjects, 'Adivasi Oral Traditions' and 'Adivasi Literature: Its entity and revolt,' was chaired by Vahru Sonawane. Vinod Kumre, Ushakiran Atram and Anil Sable presented their papers in this session. The fourth session on Adivasi folk songs and dance was chaired by Maruti Shinde. Shirish Jadhav and Dhanaji Gurav presented their research papers. B.M. Parasvale chaired the fifth session on Adivasi art. Mukund Kule and Chandoji Gaukwad presented their papers on the subject. The sixth and concluding session of the seminar, devoted to Globalization and Adivasi Culture was chaired by Hemant Khadke. The papers were presented by Rajendra Gonarkar and Pitamber Kodape. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, proposed the vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON CRITICISM

November 23-24, 2016, Thanjavur

The sub-regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Literature, Tamil University, Thanjavur, organized a two-day seminar on 'Criticism – Theories and Approaches to Tamil Literature: Ancient & Modern' on November 23-24, 2016 at the university premises. In the inaugural session, Sri A.S. Ilangovan welcomed the participants and audience. Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Convener, Tamil Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session. Dr. R. Kamarasu, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi, delivered introductory remarks. Prof. G. Bhaskaran Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University, Thanjavur, delivered inaugural address. Sri S. Muthukumar, Registrar, Tamil University, Thanjavur, offered felicitations.

Sri S. Ramakrishnan, distinguished Tamil writer, delivered keynote address. Prof. K. Thilakavathi, Department of Literature, Tamil University, proposed a vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Prof. S.V. Shanmugam. He along with Prof. Indra Manuel and Prof. Y. Manikandan presented their papers in this session. The second session was chaired by Dr. Bhakthavathsala Bharathi and he, Prof. P. Anandakumar and Prof. R. Murali presented their papers in this session. The third session was chaired by Prof. S. Thothathri. He presented his paper along with Prof. Durai Seenisamy, Prof. R Thiagarajan and Prof. R. Manoharan. The fourth session was chaired by Prof. K. Panjangam. Dr. R. Sambath, Sri H.G. Razool, Prof. Stalin Rajangam and Prof. Aranga Mallika presented their papers in this session. The valedictory session was chaired by Prof. A. Dakshinamurthy. Valedictory address was delivered by Prof. P. Maruthanayakam. Prof. Ravichandran of the Tamil Department of Tamil University proposed a vote of thanks.

TRIBAL WRITERS' MEET

November 26-27, 2016, Bhubaneswar

Sahitya Akademi, in collaboration PG Dept of Oriya, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, organized Tribal Writer's Meet on November 26-27, 2016 at PG Council Hall, Utkal University, Vanivihar, Bhubaneswar. The inaugural session was held on November 26, 2016 and the welcome address was given by Dr Devendra Kr Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural speech was given by Prof Ashok Kumar Das, Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University where he said that he appreciated the efforts going into promoting tribal languages and said that more needs to be done, including translation of literature written in various tribal languages to Hindi and English and other languages. Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santhali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, gave the introductory speech, where he underlined the diversity of tribal communities in Orissa and their literary achievements. The keynote address was delivered by Binod Kumar Naik, writer and Akademi Bhasa Samman Awardee. The guest of honor was Gourahari Das, Convener, Odiya Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. The inaugural session was chaired by Ranjan Kumar Bal, Chairman, PG Council and the vote of thanks was delivered by Anadi Charan Gan, Coordinator, Odia Deptt., Utkal University. Four sessions were held chaired by Sri Krushna Chandra Nayak, Rajkishore Naik, Rajendra Padhi and Anpa Marndi, respectively. In these sessions, fourteen writers presented their texts, both short stories and poems in ten languages as well as their Hindi, English and Oriya translations. Laxman Mandra (Bonda), Dahnu Muduli (Gadaba), Sugriv Juaang (Juaang), Bidulata Huika (Kandha), Sabita Muduli (Bhotra), Sarat Chandra Nayak (Bathudi), and Purnachandra Juaang (Juaang) recited their stories, while Sabita Mandra (Bonda), Rabindranath Naik (Bathudi), Jaminikanta Tiria (Ho), Khaga Kendu (Bhumia), Gagarin Sabar (Soura), Padma Chalan (Gadaba), Purna Penthia (Penthia) and Anpa Marndi (Santali) narrated their poems.

AKHTARUL IMAN BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR

November 26-27, 2016, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi organized a seminar to commemorate the birth centenary of Akhtarul Iman, on November 26-27, 2016 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. Sri K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and guests and highlighted the purpose of the seminar, while Shafey Kidwai, renowned Urdu writer and scholar, gave a special lecture and said that Akhtarul Iman's poetry presented without destroying any important context of the contradiction of human life. The presidential address was delivered by Prof Gopichand Narang, former Chairman, Sahitya Akademi. He said that the effect of childhood is clear on the poetry of Akhtarul-Iman. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Anis Ashfaq. Prof Maula Bakhsh, Urdu Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi thanked all the guests on behalf of the Akademi. The first session was chaired by Prof. Irtiza Karim, in which Dr. Shaista Yusuf, Haqqani Al-Qasmi, Raza Haider and Humayun Ashraf presented their papers. At the end of the session a documentary on Akhtarul-Iman, produced by the Akademi was aired. The second session was chaired by Prof. Ali Ahmed Fatmi. Waseem Begum, Iqbal Masood and Ajay Malwi presented their papers in this session. The third session was chaired by Prof Ibne Kawal, Delhi University. Prof. Mohd. Zakir, Shehzad Anjum and Kausar Mazhari presented their papers in this session. The fourth and last session was chaired by Nizam Siddiqui and Saheb Ali, Maula Baksh and Saifi Saronji presented their papers in this session. Dr K. Shreenivasrao proposed the vote of thanks.



L to R - Maula Bakhsh, Shafey Kidwai,
K Sreenivasa Rao, Gopi Chand Narang, Anis Ashfaq

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SEMINAR ON FOLK LITERATURE IN KONKANI

December 17-18, 2016, Panaji

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with the Directorate of Art and Culture, Govt of Goa, organised the seminar 'Folk Literature in Konkani' on December 17-18, 2016, in Panaji, Goa at the lecture hall, Sanskriti Bhavan. Sri Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, delivered the welcome address while Sri Vinayak Khedekar, delivered the keynote address at the seminar. Sri Prasad Lolayekar, Director, Directorate of Art and Culture, made the introductory remarks. Dr Tanaji Halarnakar, Convener, Konkani Advisory Board, chaired the inaugural session. Finally, Mrs Hema Naik, Member, Konkani Advisory Board, proposed vote of thanks. Sri Pandurang Phaladesai chaired the first session, "Folk Literature in Konkani: Regional Diversities". Sri Payyanur Ramesh Pai, Sri Louis Roderigues, Sri Paul Moras, Ms Jayanti Naik presented their papers in this session. Sri Edward D' Lima chaired

the second session. Sri Sanjay Talwadkar's, Ms Sunita Kanekar and Sri Purnanad Chari presented their papers in this session. The third session was chaired by Sri Mahabaleshwar Sail. Dr Priyadarshini Tadkodkar and Sri Satish Dalvi presented their papers in this session. The last session was chaired by Sri Uday Bhembre. Sri Narayan Desai and Sri S.M. Borjes (paper read out by Sri Eliton Fernandes) presented their papers in this session. The session was immediately followed by Loka: the Many Voices programme at which Loknaad (Maand), folk dance and music typical of Konkani Christian Kunabi people, was performed by Sri John Fernandes and his fellow artists.

SEMINAR ON VARNA RATNAKAR

December 17-18, 2016, Kolkata

Sahitya Akademi, organized a two-day seminar on 'Varn Ratnakarak Mahatava Evem Upadayata,' on December 17-18, 2016 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata. The welcome speech, during the inaugural session was delivered by Gopal Chandra Barman, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while the inaugural speech was given by Prof Bhubaneswar Prasad Gurumata, prominent Maithili and Hindi scholar, he highlighted the then-socio-cultural features of Mithila mentioned in 'Charan Ratnakar' and said that this work of poetry by Jyotirishwar Thakur is literally a mirror of medieval society, social and governance of Mithila. Shri Mahendra Malangia, the famous Maithili playwright, presented the keynote address. Prof Veena Thakur, Convenor, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi said that it is indeed a matter of pride for Maithili literature that 'Charitra Ratnakar' composed by Jyotirishwar Thakur is included among all Indian languages, in the form of a prose-book. Sri Kamdev Jha, Member, Maithili Advisory Board, gave vote of thanks. The first session of the seminar was chaired by Shri Rajanandan Lal Das, Maithili author and editor, and Mr. Tarakant Jha, Phoolchand Dramishr 'Raman' and Ashok Avichal presented their papers. The second session was chaired by Mr. Shyam Dariharey, and in this session Dr. Naresh Mohan Jha, Mr. Amlendu Shekhar Pathak and Ramnaresh Singh presented their papers. The third session was chaired by Sri Sukant Som, in which Indira Jha, Ashok Jha and Ramanand Jha 'Raman,' presented their papers. The fourth and final session of the seminar was chaired by Shri Shiv Chandra Jha in which Sri Panchanan Mishra, Yoganand Jha and Ramlochan Thakur presented their papers.

SEMINAR ON SHAKESPEARE IN INDIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

January 18-19, 2017, Kolkata

In order to pay a tribute to the Bard of Avon on his 450th birth anniversary and 400th death anniversary, Sahitya Akademi, organized at its Kolkata auditorium, a two-day national seminar on "Shakespeare in Indian Languages and Literature". In his address to the inaugural session K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi emphasized the role of

the organization in bringing in scholars who have vividly contributed to and researched on the adaptation and trans-creation of Shakespeare's works in several Indian languages and literature. Being the coordinator of the seminar, Sanjukta Dasgupta, Professor, Department of English, University of Calcutta, delivered the introductory remarks where apart from mentioning her first nostalgic encounter with Shakespeare by watching Bhranti Bilass (The Comedy of Errors). She added that the screen and the stage in Bengal has continued to represent, recreate and reframe Shakespeare's canonical plays till date, mentioning Anjan Dutt's Hemanta (Hemlet), Srijit Mukherjee's Zulfikar (a blend of Julius Caesar and Antony and Cleopatra) and Aparna Sen's Arshinagar (Romeo and Juliet) along with the several Bollywood productions based on Shakespeare's plays, which have recently received critical acclaim, Dasgupta believes that in "inter-semiotic translation the creative dynamism of the translator is as important as the creativity of the original author". In her remarks she affirmed that the scholars how will share their observations in this seminar will surely "interrogate the dominance of the coloniser's tongue transforming it into the global lingua franca" and the seminar will locate new directions in order to sustain Shakespeare studies in India. The guest of honour, Bhanu Bharti, eminent theatre personality charmed the audience with his personal experiences of staging Amrit Roy's Hamlet (Hindi translation) and establishing the fact that Shakespeare is "a living phenomenon and not a subject of cold academic debate" and as we "cannot escape from Shakespeare' we need to accept it in order to 'justify theatre, poetry and the arts". Sharmistha Panja, Professor, Department of English, University of Delhi delivered an extremely well-researched keynote address where she elaborated on the intrinsic identity of the adaptations of Shakespeare's works in the context of the recent Bollywood production, Haider. The session was chaired by Professor Harish Trivedi, eminent academic and critic. Trivedi, in his illuminating address, started the development of an "Asian Shakespeare", how Shakespeare's omnipresence has merged him into a space of global landscape through the development of a new search to re-study discover him, ushering a cultural assimilation through a shift from being an icon of high culture to becoming an icon of popular culture. The vote of thanks was delivered by Gitanjali Chaterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. In the first academic session chaired by Prof. Poonam Trivedi, Prof. Rajiva Verma made a comparative study between Shakespeare's All's Well That Ends Well and a folk story, The Clever Wife. Prof. Sukanta Chaudhuri reviewed the impact of Shakespeare on the development of the sonnet in the Bengali language and Prof. Mahesh Champaklal discussed two adaptations of Macbeth (BV Karnath's Barman Vana and Lokendra Arambam's Stage of Blood). In the second academic session chaired by Prof. Malashri Lal, Prof. Mon Moon Majumdar enlightened those present on the social diversities and challenges posed to hierarchies in the three adaptations of Macheth in India's North-east. Dr. Asha Devi's feminist study explored the process of creating women characters in Shakespeare. Prof. Sumanyu Sartpathy provided an inter –textual reading of Ramasankar's Banabala, the first Odiya

adaptation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The third academic session chaired by Prof. Rajiva Verma had speaker like Prof. Jatinder Kumar Nayak discussing the reception of Shakespeare in Odisha from the 1960s to 80s; Prof. Tejwant Singh Gill shared his observations on the Punjabi translation of Shakespeare's works and Prof. Ananda Lal, acclaimed theatre critic, enriched all comes through his intriguing comments and critique of the stage productions in India on the occasion of Shakespeare 450th birth anniversary in 2014 and 400th death anniversary in 2016. The second day of this enriching seminar began with the fourth academic session chaired by Prof. Sukanta Chaudhuri, Prof. Poonam Trivedi commented on the reception of Shakespearean tragedy in Indian literatures' Prof. Avadhesh Kumar Singh focused on Bhartendu and Moti Ba's translations of Shakespeare respectively, and Prof. M. Narendra discussed the Shakespearean influence upon the modern Telugu literature. The fifth academic academic session was chaired by Prof. Sharmistha Panja where Prof. Amitava Roy discussed the jatra presentation of Ashir Basu's play *Kolkatar Hamlet* (Hamlet). Prof. Supriya Chaudhuri established the Shakespeare-Bengal connection through the literary links between Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay's *Kapalakundala*. Prof. Malashri Lal's paper decoded the Bard's influence in a remote village in Rajasthan. The last academic session was chaired by Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay and he critically enlightened the audience on the association of plays and politics in our real life. In this session Prof. Vikram Chopra shared his varied observations by discussing and performing aspects of Indian elements in Shakespeare. The outstanding highlights of the seminar were the two impromptu performances by Prof. Amitava Roy and Mahesh Champaklal.

BHASHANTARA ANUBHAVA

January 27, 2017, Pollachi



Inaugural Session of Bhashantara Anubhava in progress

The Regional Office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru in collaboration with Arutchelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam Translation Institute, Pollachi organised a Bhashantara Anubhava programme on January 27, 2017 at New Seminar Hall, Dr. Mahalingam College of Engineering and Technology, Pollachi, Coimbatore. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the guests

and participants of the programme. Prof Krishnaswamy Nachimurthu, Convener of Sahitya Akademi's Tamil Advisory Board delivered the introductory address. The programme was

inaugurated by Dr Sirpi Balasubramaniam, former Convener, Sahitya Akademi, Tamil Advisory Board. Prof. N. Gopi, Convener, Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Board chaired the session. Sri C. Ramaswamy, Secretary, NIA Educational Institutions, Pollachi and Sri Puviyarasu, eminent Tamil poet were the guests of honor. Prof. A. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Professor (SS), MCET, Pollachi proposed vote of thanks. The first session was chaired by Prof. N. Gopi. Sri Chavara K.S. Pillai (Malayalam poet), Smt. Sakthi Jothi (Tamil poet) and Dr Mamidi Harikrishna (Telugu poet) had participated and recited their poems in their respective languages and their translations in other languages as well. Sri B.R. Lakshman Rao, Kannada poet, couldn't attend the programme but his poems were recited as well. The second session was chaired by Dr Sripi Balasubramaniam. Sri Sreejith Perumthacha (Malayalam poet), Sri K. Anandh Krishna (Tamil poet), and Dr. P. Jayaprada (Telugu poet) recited their poems in this session. Smt. Rupa Hassan, Kannada poet couldn't attend the programme but her poems were recited as well.

SEMINAR ON HARI DARYANI DILGIR

January 28-29, 2017, Adipur

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Mumbai, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Sindhology, organized Hari Daryani 'Dilgir' Birth Centenary Seminar on January 28-29, 2017 at Adipur, Gujarat. Sri Lakshmi Khilani, Sindhi writer, inaugurated the seminar. After the inaugural address the monograph on Hari Daryani 'Dilgir' written by Sri Mohan Gehani and published by Sahitya Akademi was released. Dr Vimmi Sadarangani and Sri Kamal Nihalani recited some of 'Dilgir's poems. Dr Prem Prakash delivered the key-note address, while Sri Pritam Variyani chaired the inaugural session. Sri Kamal Nihalani, Director, the Indian Institute of Sindhology, proposed vote of thanks. Sri Vasdev Mohi chaired the first session, in which Ms. Seema Gurnani, Sri Mohan Gehani, Sri Mohan Himthani presented their papers. Sri Mohan Gehani chaired the second session. Dr Vinod Assudani, Sri Kamal Nihalani, and Dr Vimmi Sadarangani presented papers in this session. Dr Vinod Assudani chaired the third session. Sri Murlil Govindani, Ms. Veena Shringi, Dr Ram Dariyani and Ms. Sarita Sharma presented their presented papers. The fourth was chaired by Dr Ram Dariyani. Sri Vasdev Mohi, Sri C.T. Gyanchandani and Ms. Asha Rangwani presented their papers in this session. In the fifth session, which was chaired by Ms. Sarita Sharma, Sri Laxman Dubey, Sri Khiman Mulani, and Dr Kamla Goklani presented their papers. In the last session, which was chaired by Ms. Asha Rangwani, Dr Jetho Lalwani and Dr Hundraj Balwani presented papers. In the concluding session, Sri Sahib Bijani and Ms. Seema Gurnani shared their fond memories of 'Dilgir' and Dr Prem Prakash made concluding remarks.

SYMPOSIUM ON DOGRI YUVA LEKHAN

March 5, 2017, Jammu

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Dogri Sanstha jointly organized a symposium on Dogri Yuva Lekhan on 5 March 2017 at Jammu. The inaugural session of symposium chaired by eminent Hindi poet and former secretary of JKAACL, Sri Ramesh Mehta while Prof Lalit Magotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the inaugural address and Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Officer on Special Duty, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience. In his address Dr Devesh delineated the Akademi's initiatives to promote Dogri language and literature. Prof Magotra talked about the significance of such symposia which provide opportunity to evaluate the quality of literature. Sri Chhatrapal, President, Dogri Sanstha delivered keynote address. On this occasion, Sahitya Akademi Award 2016 also presented to Chhatrapal who could not attend the Akademi Award presentation event held on 22 Feb at New Delhi. On behalf of President of Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Lalit Mangotra presented the Award while Dr. Devesh read out the citation. In the first session chaired by Prof Shashi Pathania, two noted Dogri writers, Sri Surjit Hosh and Prof Shivdev Manhas, presented their papers on Dogri poetry and Dogri short stories respectively.

FOUNDATION DAY

March 10, 2017, New Delhi

Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra eminent Odia writer, poet, scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the annual Foundation Day Lecture on 10 March 2017 in New Delhi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed and introduced the guest speaker to audience. Dr. Sitakanta Mahapatra delivered the lecture on "Gratitude for Living: Love and Prayer in the Poetry of Primitive Tribes of India." In the beginning of his lecture narrating his experience of a night of full moon he spent during one of the most important festivals of the Mundas a tribal community in a tribal village of Odisha in Eastern India he said "It was no longer the same village I had seen in daytime: featureless, squalid and ordinary. It had been transformed by the magic of moonlight and the exuberance of spirit all round. They danced, they sang. Ancient, timeless songs..." He further said, "Let this not be understood as romantic nostalgia. One is aware that culture is not static or frozen, it is a flowing stream. It changes as it flows along. But posterity loses if it has no access to the knowledge of what an earlier age and other communities believed in, what were their songs, their dances, their way of life...." He quoted Martin Buber who says, "Singing is

older than speech. In singing the human being has always expressed his relatedness with his forces, with the totality of life... Song is the primeval communion of all, the ancient amicable—inimical closeness of nature, whose pulse educated its rhythms. Speech is acquired separation... Song is magic.” He said that thus, an interest in the collection and documentation of the oral poetry of the tribes in Eastern India became a passion to him over the last twenty-five years. He expressed, “Song is thus the basic rudiment of what later came to be known as poetry.” He further informed, “Singing was in fact at the core of the entire business of living. The birth of a child, assigning a name to the child, attainment of puberty of a girl; love, marriage, death, the activities of the agricultural sessions, hunting, curing illness, propitiating and offering thanks to the unseen gods and goddesses, each occasion demanded songs appropriate to it...” In the second part of his lecture he provided a detailed picture of the Kondh Tribe and its ritual invocation



Dr Sitakant Mahapatra delivering the Foundation Day Lecture

song which is called Meria Sloka. He further expressed his concerned that “songs are part of an oral tradition and need early documentation as they are in the process of being forgotten by the younger generation... This song or sloka is an invocation to the earth-goddess for the welfare and prosperity of the tribe and, in parts, it can be compared in tone to the Vedic hymns...” In the third part of his lecture he gave a brief idea of Santal Invocation songs called by the generic name of Bakhens. The Bakhens collected by Pandit Ragunath Murmu, who is called guru Gomke (Great Guru) number eleven. In the fourth section of his lecture he stressed that “the

most fascinating aspect of tribal poems is their symbolism. He quoted Owen Barfield “that poetic diction is nothing but the primitive, undifferentiated state of language...” In his lecture he also mentioned some songs/ poems of Munda tribes sung at different occasions. Concluding his lecture, he said, “I have sought to present the poems as of today, living vital and warm, and not as dry ethnological data of a complex and strange “primitive” world. Being a poet myself, I have tried to see and feel them as poetry and no other consideration has mattered—neither ethnology nor religious association or ritual significance...” He summed up his speech by quoting Brandon “All that we want from any of it is the feeling of poetry. Let the ethnologists keep its ‘science’ and the oncoming generation of Indian poets its mystery.”

LONDON BOOK FAIR

March 14-16, 2017, London

Sahitya Akademi participated in the London Book Fair at the Kensington Fair Grounds, London between March 14, 2017 and March 16, 2017 with the four member Akademi writer delegation, Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam, Sri Kuladhar Saikia and Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi. The main objective for the participation in the London International Book Fair was to promote Indian Literature through the participation of Indian writers’



Dr K. Sreenivasarao introducing Prof S.L. Bhyrappa to the audience

delegation and also to showcase some of the important publications of the Sahitya Akademi which is the premier institution of literature in the country. The Akademi organized two literary programmes – Symposium on “Indian Writing Today” and the Literary Forum “My World, My Writing: Readings by Indian Authors.” In the Symposium on Indian Writing Today, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, introduced the visiting Indian writers and also welcomed the audience. Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam spoke on Contemporary Indian English

Literature; Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi spoke on the Literature of the North Eastern India while Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa spoke on Contemporary Kannada Literature and also read some excerpts from his work. In the second programme, My World, My Writing: Readings by Indian Authors, Smt. Arundhati Subramaniam read out few of her English poems and also interacted with the audience thereafter. Sri Kuladhar Saikia read one story and one poem in English translation and Sri Yeshe Dorji Thongchi read Assamese stories in English translation. Sahitya Akademi also contacted number of publishers to explore the possibility of having translations for our Indian Literature Abroad project. To name a few, Vatayan: Poetry on South Bank, IRUM Productions, Heart Care Foundation of India, Govinda’s, L. Ron Hubbard Fitzroy House, India Link International. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi also participated in the interactive session with UK based Indian writers which was coordinated by the National Book Trust. The Chairman, National Book Trust, Sri Baldeo Bhai Sharma welcomed the august gathering and also spoke about the functions of the National Book Trust. Secretary, Sahitya Akademi talked about the activities of the Sahitya Akademi and its relevance in the field of translations in India and also proposed a vote of thanks. This was a very fruitful session which was well attended by different publishers, writers and the general public.

PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP TO DR NAMVAR SINGH

March 27, 2017, Delhi

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Fellowship on Dr. Namvar Singh, distinguished Hindi writer and critic on March 27, 2017 at New Delhi. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address, talked about the lasting impact of the works of Namvar Singh. Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his Presidential address, talked about the reach of Namvar Singh's works and the revolutions and ripples they created in the far off literary communities, especially Doosri Parampara ki Khoj and the abiding literary merits of Namvar Singh's works and described Namvar Singh's life as one dedicated to literature. Dr. Vishwanath Tripathi, Prof. Nirmala Jain and Dr. Leeladhar Mandloi spoke about the life and works of Dr. Namvar Singh. Dr Sreenivasarao read out the citation and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari conferred the Fellowship on Dr. Namvar Singh. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Namvar Singh thanked the Akademi for the honour, talked about the inherent value of literature in all languages to everyday life, the process of creative writing, influences on his creative works and criticism and the role of literary institutions in promoting literature. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the programme.



Dr Namvar Singh being conferred with the Akademi Fellowship

BIRTH CENTENARY SEMINAR ON SNEHA DEVI

March 27-28, 2017, Dibrugarh

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Kolkata, in association with the Dept of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, organized a two-day seminar to commemorate birth centenary of Sneha Devi at the university premises on March 27-28, 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri Goutam Paul, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata, welcomed the participants and audience. Prof Niranjana Mahanta Bezborah, Dept of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, delivered the introductory remarks. Prof Alak Kr. Buragohain, Vice Chancellor Dibrugarh University inaugurated the seminar. In his keynote address, Sri Nagen Saikia, eminent scholar, highlighted the literary achievements and seminal works of Sneha Devi. Sri Lakshminandan Bora, eminent novelist, was the Chief Guest, Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, was the Guest of Honor, Dr Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya

Akademi, chaired the session and Prof Satyakam Borthakur, Dept of Assamese, proposed a vote of thanks. In the first session chaired by Ms. Anuradha Sarma Pujaree, three noted scholars, Dr Ajit Bharali, Dr Jayanta Kumar Bora and Sri Jayanta Madhav Bora, presented their papers, 'Daaponat Aanar Chabi-Sneha Devir Galpat Purush,' 'Naatak Rachanat Axomiya Naari Aaru Sneha Devir Naatak' and 'Sneha Devir Galpar



Inaugural Session of the Birth centenary seminar on Sneha Devi in progress

Manastavtta' respectively. In the second session chaired by Mrinal Talukdar, three noted scholars, Sri Arabinda Rajkhowa, Ms. Ratna Bharali Talukdar and Ms. Subasana Mahanta Choudhury, presented their papers, 'Xamakaaleen Xaamaajik Prekhyaapat Aaru Sneha Devir Krisnaa Dwiteeyaar Jonaak,' 'Breaking The Gender Barrier: Women's Voices In Contemporary Assamese Short Stories' and 'Sneha Devir Chutigalpa-Baagdhaaraagata Shoilee Prasanga' respectively. In the third session chaired by Tarani Deka, three noted scholars, Jitanjali Borpuzari, Aisena Burhagohain and Mousumi Hazarika, presented their papers, 'Sneha Devir Galpar Charitra,' 'Sneha Devi Aaru Ashapura Devir Galpar Tulanaatmak Aalochanaa' and 'Sneha Devir Galpar Ek Bishleshanaatmak Adhyayan' respectively. In the valedictory session, Nava Kr. Handique chaired, Sri Basanta Kumar Sarma delivered the valedictory address and Prof Satyakam Borthakur proposed a vote of thanks.

SEMINAR ON TRIBAL EPICS OF KARNATAKA

March 27-28, 2017, Sagar

The regional office of Sahitya Akademi at Bengaluru organized a two-day seminar on Re-reading the Tribal Epics of Karnataka at Kagodu Thimmappa Rangamandira, Sagar, Shimoga District, Karnataka on 27 & 28, March 2017. In the inaugural session, Sri S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru, welcomed the participants and audience. In his keynote address, Prof H. Chi. Boralingaiah, former Vice Chancellor, Kannada University, talked about the importance and relevance of tribal epics to modern times and lamented about the fast vanishing of such epics. In his inaugural address, Sri Huchappa Master, eminent tribal scholar, talked about the need for urgency to adopt holistic attitude towards the tribal communities in view of the hostile environment of the contemporary world. In his speech as Guest of Honor, Sri H.P. Nagarajaiah, eminent scholar, talked about the inherent judiciousness of tribal epics and humanness



Inaugural Session of Seminar on Re-reading the Tribal Epics of Karnataka in progress

in them which is rather difficult to find in modern times. In the first session chaired by Prof A.V. Navada, three noted scholars, Dr Prashant Nayak, Sri Veeresh Badiger and Sri Chaluvvaraju, presented their papers, ‘Tribal Epic and Classical Epic,’ ‘Tribal Epics: Type and Trait’ and ‘The technique contextual theory of Tribal Epics’ respectively.

In the second session chaired by Prof Srikanta Kudige, three noted scholars, Dr Meti Mallikarjuna, Sri Kumsi Umesh and Sri Kiran Gajanoor, presented their papers, ‘Tribal Epics: Symbolic World,’ ‘Resistance in Tribal Epics’ and ‘The Knowledge Discourse in Tribal Epics’ respectively. In the evening on the first day Recitation of Epic of Billigiri Ranga by Basavaraju and troupe, Epic of Kudiya by Sharada and troupe and Gumate Paang of Halakki Tribe by Ramesh Gowda and troupe performances were staged in Loka: The Many Voices programme. In the third session chaired by Sri Sripada Shetty, three noted scholars, Sri Kuruva Basavaraj, Dr Mohan Chandragutti and Dr B. Ramesh, presented their papers, ‘Tantric Rituals and Scientific Concept,’ ‘Spirituality and Concept of God in Tribal Epics’ and ‘The Gender Treatment or Concepts in Tribal Epics’ respectively. In the fourth session chaired by Dr A.S. Prabhakar, two noted scholars, Sri S.S. Angadi and Smt. Vatsala Mohan, presented their papers, ‘Linguistic Context of Tribal Epics’ and ‘Worldview of Tribal Epics’ respectively. Recitation of Hasalara Hantike Pantike by Sudhakara and troupe and Buduga Jangamara by Ramu and troupe was performed after the fourth session. Sri Kagodu Annaji chaired the valedictory session, Sri Na. D’Souza delivered the valedictory address and Sri Huchappa Mastar and Sri Karigowda Beechanahalli were guests of honor in the session.

ALL INDIA SANTALI WRITERS’ MEET

March 30-31, 2017, New Delhi

Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi organized “All India Santali Writers’ Meet”, on March 30-31, 2017 at Rabindra Bhavan, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Dr Sitakant Mahapatra, distinguished Odia poet and scholar. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, gave the welcome address, while Sri Prithvi Majhi chaired the inaugural session. The introductory remarks were delivered by Sri Gangadhar Hansda, Convener, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, while Sri Poornchandra Hembram gave the keynote address. Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Special Officer on Special Duty,

gave vote of thanks. After the inaugural session, a documentary film titled, “Four Santali Writers”, directed by Sangeeta Dutt and based on Shobhanath Besra, Dheerendra Baske, Bhaiya Hansda and Thakur Prasad Murmu was displayed by the Akademi. The first session, “The present condition of Santali Literature,” was chaired by Sri Vishwanath Hansda. Sri Bhogla Soren, Sri Naku Hansda, Sri Madhav Chandra Hansda and Sri Anpa Marandi were the participants for this session. The second session was a poetry reading session and the participants were Chinmayi Hansda, T.C. Boskey, Bhujang Tudu, Ganesh

Mandi, Lakshman Kisku and Tudha Murmu. This session was chaired by Sri Govind Majhi. After that, “Jugi Tiriyo”, a Santali play by the Mendez Artist Association of Tribal Jamshedpur was successfully staged. The play was written and directed by Jeetrai Hansda. The third session titled, “The challenges faced by the Santal Community”, was chaired by Sri Nityanand Hembram. The participants for this session were Ravilal Tudu, Gopal



The Inaugural Session of the Meet in progress

Soren and Salkhoo Murmu. The fourth session was chaired by Sri Shyam Besri and the participants were Niranjana Hansda, Rani Murmu and Dileep Hansda. The participants in the fifth session, “My World, My Writing”, were Bhogla Soren and Raghunath Marandi, while Damyanti Besra presided over the session. The last session was poetry recitation and was chaired by Sri Bholanath Murmu. The participants were Sarojini Besra, Kashunath Soren, Somnath Hansda, Aditya Mandi, Mansigh Majhi and Dhudu Murmu.