

Festival of Letters 2014

Conglemeration of Writers

Festival of Letters 2014 (Sahityotsav) was organised in Delhi on a grand scale from 10-15 March 2014 at a few venues, Meghadoot Theatre Complex, Kamani Auditorium and Rabindra Bhawan lawns and Sahitya Akademi auditorium. It is the only inclusive literary festival in the country that truly represents 24 Indian languages and literature in India. Festival of Letters 2014 sought to reach out to the writers of all age groups across the country. Noteworthy feature of this year was a massive 'Akademi Exhibition' with rare collage of photographs and texts depicting the journey of the Akademi in the last 60 years. Felicitation of Sahitya Akademi Fellows was held as a part of the celebration of the jubilee year. The events of the festival included Sahitya Akademi Award Presentation Ceremony, Writers' Meet, Samvatsar and Foundation Day Lectures, Face to Face programmes, Live Performances of Artists (Loka: The Many Voices), Purvottari: Northern and North-Eastern Writers' Meet, Felicitation of Akademi Fellows, Young Poets' Meet, Bal Sahiti: Spin-A-Tale and a National Seminar on 'Literary Criticism Today: Text, Trends and Issues'.

An exhibition depicting the epochs
A
down its journey of 60 years of its establishment organised at Rabindra Bhawan lawns, New Delhi was inaugurated on 10 March 2014. Nabaneeta Debsen, a leading Bengali writer inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Akademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, veteran Hindi poet, its Vice-President Chandrasekhar Kambar, veteran Kannada writer, the members of the Akademi General Council, the media persons and the writers and readers from Indian literary feterinity.

Speaking on the occasion K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that Akademi's exhibition marks the beginning of its Festival of Letters. This year, being a Diamond Jubilee Year, the Annual Exhibition showcases the history,



Nabaneeta Debsen inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition



milestones, seminal events, achievements in the last 60 years of the Akademi anticipating the great response it would evoke and of reaching out to even the common readers. The exhibition is an ambitious attempt to enable the literary connoisseurs as well as the readers to get a clear picture of our activities and the Akademi's change and growth in the last six decades, he said.

Inaugurating the Exhibition, Smt. Debsen, said that she experiences the real creativity through the creative endeavours of Sahitya Akademi and also through this massive depiction of great memories in pictures and texts. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, recalled the journey of the Akademi's 60 years with its achievements and he said, "This is truly the time to celebrate."

On the second day of the Festival of Letters, in an elegant function organised at Kamani Auditorium, Sahitya Akademi Award winners for



Dignitaries on the dais. L-R: Chandrashekhar Kambar, Ramakanta Rath, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari and K. Sreenivasarao

2013 representing 24 Indian languages were honoured with the prestigious Sahitya Akademi awards on 11 March 2014. Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, a poet of greater eminence presided

over the Award presentation ceremony. Ramakanta Rath, Akademi's former President and eminent Odia poet and Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi was invited as the chief guest



An array of Sahitya Akademi awardees on the dais



on the occasion. K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, and Chandrashekar Kambar, Akademi Vice President were present to deliver welcome address and propose vote of thanks, respectively.

The award winners were beautifully seated in an array on the dais in the presence of the chief guest, the President and Vice-President of the Akademi. K.Sreenivasarao cordially welcomed the awardees and the literary connoisseurs. In his address “Dr. K.S. Rao said, If only we spent a little more time reading and pondering the profound literary works that Indian authors and philosophers have produced over centuries each one of us would benefit by their wisdom and be a better person than we are today.” He also presented a detailed report of the functioning of the Sahitya Akademi in the past year with its attempts and achievements.

Then, the Akademi President Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, presented the Sahitya Akademi award, the awardees present which included a brass plaque and a cheque of rupees one lakh. The citations were read out by the Secretary, Sahitya Akademi

- ◆ *Katyayani Vidmahe, Telugu awardee being felicitated with a bouquet by Chandrashekar Kambar, Sahitya Akademi Vice-president.*
- ◆ *Sahitya Akademi president Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presenting the award plaque to Tamsula Ao, English awardee.*
- ◆ *Javed Akhtar, Urdu awardee receiving the Akademi award from the Akademi President.*
- ◆ *Sureshwar Jha, Maithili awardee is being presented with the Akademi award by the President of the Akademi.*



Ramakanta Rath, the chief guest delivering his address



before the presentation of the awards which was followed by garlanding the awardees by Chandrashekar Kambar, Akademi Vice-President.

Presiding over the ceremony, Prof. Tiwari said, "What the Sahitya Akademi is offering to these literary greats is merely a gesture compared to their immense contribution to Indian literature. We are privileged to be able to salute their great works in the form of this felicitation, which is not to be

OPEN HOUSE

An Interaction of Award Winners with Media

This special programme, introduced from last year facilitates the Sahitya Akademi awardees in 24 Indian languages to interact with the media that greatly help the awardees and their texts a wide coverage across the country.

This year the Media Open House programme was organised on 11 March 2014 at Meghadoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan lawns. Dinesh Mishra, literary activist and Anant Vijay, a veteran media person moderated English and Hindi media respectively. Media people threw several pertinent questions with the awardees with regard to protest literatures, globalization and other social changes that are taking place around the writers.

The writers, critics, translators and the lovers of literature and people from all walks of life too participated in the Open House discussion.

Samvatsar Lecture

Poetry that Defies Definitions: Its Relevance in Modern Times

O.N.V Kurup, veteran Malayalam writer delivered this year's Samvatsar Lecture on the topic 'Poetry that Defies Definitions: Its Relevance in Modern Times.' Further, in the course of his discourse one of the points ONV highlighted was the inherent music in the poem, continued to be the tradition in



both East and West. Though new experiments and improvisations of modern times have broken this tradition, it has not become extinct; the tradition lives on in folk poetry and even in contemporary poetry. The ballads of North Malabar region in Kerala are enriched with the sentiments of love and valour whose diction is colloquial and the melody all-pervading. Changampuzha's poetry flowed like music from a country flute. There is music in the poetry of great Malayalam poets Kumaran Asan and Vayalappilly, but in adequate measure with pristine precision. A mere emotional outburst cannot create an aesthetic experience, he said.

He further stated that poetry is also a creation; a lullaby is the self expression that a mother expands its status from personal to that of 'universal.' He dwelt at length on the use of metaphor in poetry. ONV remarked, "A genuine metaphor plays a vital role in poetry as it turns the abstract to concrete." The poetry becomes universal when the poetry

becomes the voice of the voiceless. He finally stated that definitions of poetry are defied, but poetry remains. Classics become contemporary when it stands the test of time. The tribe of poetasters may increase, but poetry will survive.

He also raised the issue of the social movement that was aimed at the protection of an ecologically sensitive forest in Kerala, which was later converted into a National park. The issue had drawn widespread support of poets then. The Silent Valley is monument of poet's collective intervention in the issue, Kurup said. He pointed out that most poets like Krishna Warriar, Vayalappilly, Edassery, Ayyappa Paniker, Kadammanitta and Vinayachandran who died were effective in raising awareness about the issue. But commitment alone will not make poetry great. Intellectual honesty is the hallmark of inspired poetry. He shared a number of his experiences of joy and sorrow in the course of a long journey seeking poetic truth.



Group picture of the awardees with the dignitaries

considered an award but an apt recognition for their efforts, dedication and the perfections that they have achieved in their works". He further added, "Writers play a vital role in functioning of the Akademi and because of this, Akademi is in a way self-operated organization. It symbolises the prestige of the democracy of our country."

The award winners who received the awards included Rabindra Sarkar (Assamese), Anil Boro (Bodo), Sita Ram Sapolia (Dogri), Temsula Ao (English), Chinu Modi (Gujarati), C.N. Ramachandran (Kannada), Mohi-ud-Din Reshi (Kashmiri), Tukaram Ram Shet (Konkani), Sureshwar Jha (Maithili), M.N. Paloor (Malayalam), Makhonmani Mongsaba (Manipuri), Satish Kalsekar (Marathi), Manbahadur Pradhan (Nepali), Bijay Mishra (Odia), Manmohan (Punjabi), Ambika Dutt (Rajasthani), Radhakant Thakur (Sanskrit), Arjun Charan Hembrum (Santali), Namdev Tarachandani (Sindhi), R.N. Joe D'Cruz (Tamil),

Katyayani Vidmahe (Telegu) and Javed Akhtar (Urdu).

Ramakanta Rath, the chief guest who delivered his address observed "The legacy of rich Indian literature is being carried forward by the eminent personalities present here today and hundreds of others like them who have

dedicated their whole lives to literary pursuits."

Chandrashekhar Kambar gave the vote of thanks and the ceremony ended with beautiful Manipuri dance presentation by the students of Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy.



Performance of cultural programme at the end of the Award Presentation Ceremony



Writers' Meet

Writing is a challenge of experience, language and craft

On the third day, 12 March 2014 of the Festival, 'Writers' Meet' programme was organised at 10.30 am at Meghadoot Theatre complex, Rabindra Bhawan. Chandrashekhhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi presided over the Meet.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the writers, he said that the authors would speak their hypnotic creative experiences.

Award winning writers presented their speeches expressing their creative experiences in this programme.

M.N Paloor, Malayalam awardee, Satish Kalsekar, Marathi awardee and Javed Akhtar Urdu awardee were unable to participate in the Meet.

Speaking about his poetry collection *Dhuliyori Bharir Sanch*, Rabindra Sarkar, Assamese poet and writer said that he tried to focus and amplify the feelings and emotions of the common people.

Subodh Sarkar, well-known Bengali poet said that for him poetry

is a treasure house of human civilisation. He also opined that the condition of women in India is a serious issue and should be given priority.

Anil Boro, Bodo poet and writer said that his role as a poet cannot be understood by bifurcating it from Bodo people who are in search of their identity while conserving language and culture.

Sitaram Sapolia, Dogri writer, while sharing his creative journey said that he is the supporter of human dignity and harmony. He further added that he has tried to assimilate sensitivities of modern times while following the tradition.

Temsula Ao, well-known writer in English, from North-East highlighted the foresightedness of founders of Sahitya Akademi for recognising English as an Indian language. She said, "Many small-language groups use English to share their rich literature like I write in English instead of my mother tongue."

Chinu Modi, Gujarati writer while talking about his award-winning collection *Khara Zaran* revealed that his

work is inspired by his late wife. He also shared various experiences of his creative life as how a writer deals with the challenges of language and craft.

Mridula Garg, Hindi novelist while discussing on her creative process said, "Writing a novel is just like ending your personal life and starting a new life. And this new life is a loan taken from others. On the basis of experiences and realisations you enter somebody else's life neglecting your own. Then you write as if you are living that life."

C.N Ramachandran, Kannada writer and critic said that as a critic he is not restricted to any specific school of thought.

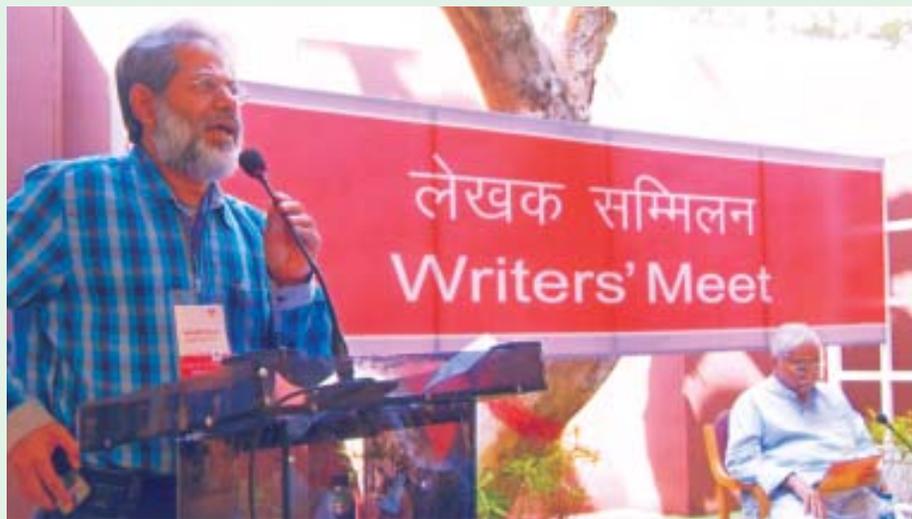
Mohi-ud-Din Reshi, Kashmiri writer shared his concern for Kashmir and said that though his work projects the crisis and contemporary situations of his mother land, it also deals with universal problems plaguing human life.

Tukaram Rama Shet, fiction writer, essayist and poet in Konkani said that he tries to capture through his pen the atmosphere, language, colloquial expressions, idioms and natural beauty of his village.

Sureshwar Jha, Maithili writer, essayist and translator said that the struggle in his life is associated with the betterment of the people and language of Mithila region. This is the reason that his work relates and travels through the life of ancient Mithila and its people.

Makhonmani Mongsaba, Manipuri poet and fiction writer said that his work *Chinglon Amadagi Amada* is the result of his travelling experiences around the world as an actor.

Manbahadur Pradhan, Nepali writer remarked that the great merit of being a writer is that, he can travel



Subodh Sarkar, Bengali awardee sharing his creative experience.
Chandrashekhhar Kambar presiding the Meet



anywhere anytime innumerable through your book or in your thoughts.

Bijay Mishra, Odia playwright remarked that the Oriya cultural heritage inspired him and that possibly was the reason he became a playwright.

Manmohan, Punjabi poet and fiction writer while speaking about his awarded work *Nirvaan*, he said that the completeness of a word is beyond words and is realised through poetry.

Ambika Dutt, Rajasthani writer expressed that he wants to infuse courage, strength and happiness into people to fight the challenges of life through his works.

Radhakant Thakur, Sanskrit poet and scholar spoke on the new trends in Sanskrit poetry. He further added that he wants to discover the truth, and progressive thought process of contemporary society.

Arjun Charan Hembram, Santali writer and activist shared that his literary experience is associated with software and literary revolution of Santali language.

Namdev Tarachandani, Sindhi writer and critic expressed his responsibility over Sindhi literature and his concern over the extinction of Sindhi language and literature.

R.N Joe D' Cruz, Tamil poet and fiction writer shared his various experiences of costal life and said, "To progress one must be aware of the history and culture of his society and should have respect for one's roots."

Katyayani Vidmahe, Telugu writer and essayist said that her work brings to the fore enormous bias faced by women writers in Telugu over the years.

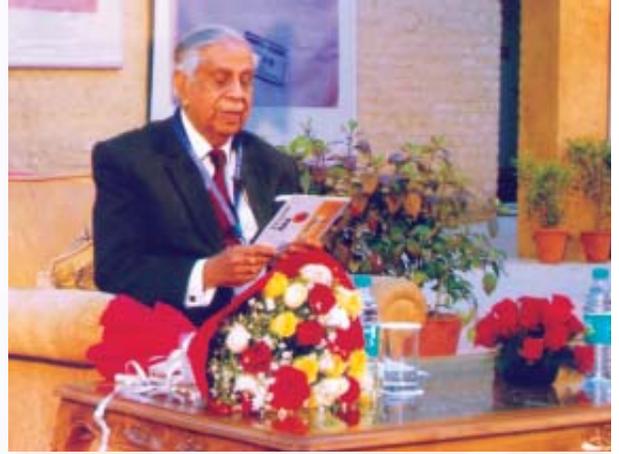
Foundation Day Lecture

Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah

Hon'ble Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India delivered the second 'Foundation Day Lecture' at 6 pm on 12 March 2014 at Meghadoot Theatre Complex. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi felicitated him with a bouquet.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi in his introductory address said that, "the Foundation Day being celebrated today is of special kind as exactly 60 year from today, Sahitya Akademi came into being, inaugurated by Dr. Radha Krishnan. Blessed and promoted by the great leaders and intellectuals of that period, generously supported by the Government of India, promoted by the literary community from every part of our multilingual country shaped and reshaped by reputed writers and scholars who were its Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and the governing council members since its inception. Sahitya Akademi has gone from strength to strength. All the celebrated writers and scholars, who tried to deepen, promote, diversify, disseminate and enrich the Akademi's activities in many splendours as ever expanding literary cosmos. Literature is basically commentary on life. Democratization by literature connects people.

Hon'ble Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah spoke about the origin of the Sahitya Akademi, which came into existence in 1954 and its journey so far in the field of Indian literature. He also spoke about the evolution of human race, contribution of science and technology to human civilization, origin of the Sanskrit language



and how its supremacy just as the Western-classical languages like Greek and Latin. He opined that despite the rich heritage of India, around 500 dialects have gone missing over the years. He congratulated the Sahitya Akademi for its role and exemplary contribution in the field of literature in presenting and sustaining Indian languages.

He said that in these modern times human civilization is obsessed with science and technology. Literature plays an important role in protecting the sensitivity in our hearts towards the nature and society. He emphasized on the existence of organizations like Sahitya Akademi, as these institution play an important role in conserving literature and culture. He further added that establishment of Sahitya Akademi was one of the landmark decisions made by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. He formulated the importance of literature by quoting various lectures given by important politicians, thinkers, writers and scholars.

Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi while praising the spontaneity and genuineness in the presentation of the lecture of the honourable guest, he expressed his gratitude to him for generous presentation at the end.



Excerpts

Foundation Day Lecture

The faculty of language allows us to take those thoughts brought into existence by the language and insert them with complete precision into the minds of others for them to share and disagree with. Language makes the world intelligible by allowing minds to transport his thoughts and experience in the form of accumulated knowledge from generation to generation. Language makes it possible to distinguish the truth. Language is the most powerful instrument in the development of the modern mind. The acquisition of languages is perhaps the most controversial and interesting aspects of early human intellectual life. Study of literature is the cultivation of art. “Life without art is brutality”. The cultivation of literature is the expression of taste.

There had been always connection between literature and society. No writer can be free from subtle influences of the milieu and psyche. Result in interaction between society and the writer depending on his own inherent tendencies conscious of choices and perhaps, the need of the hour by the writer as perceived by the writer.

Individual talent in the writer’s subconscious plays an important role (T.S. Eliot). We live in the age of scientific discovery and innovations, discovery that have changed our life immeasurably better. The enduring quality of any work of art and literature lies essentially in the virtue of the breath of its vision and values. The 21st century is going to be a century of stunning and accelerated changes. There will be a great renaissance of art, literature and spirituality. These aspects would counter the force of dehumanizing effect of materialism. Mental spiritualism is the most powerful technology. Power of motivation by great art, literature, music and dance can transform the society. There has been negligence in the preservation of our culture. Almost 500 Indian languages and dialects are in the verge of extinction. The enormous store house of cultural wealth and heritages in the languages and dialects would die away. The preservation of languages and dialect is the special responsibility of Sahitya Akademi.

Political morality today is very disturbing concern. If it continues as it is now, the political life of this country would be full-fledged anarchy in the near future. The disciplines of literature, art, music and dance, the culture inheritance of our society must step in to check these kind of moral degradation.

New ‘Face to Face’ Event

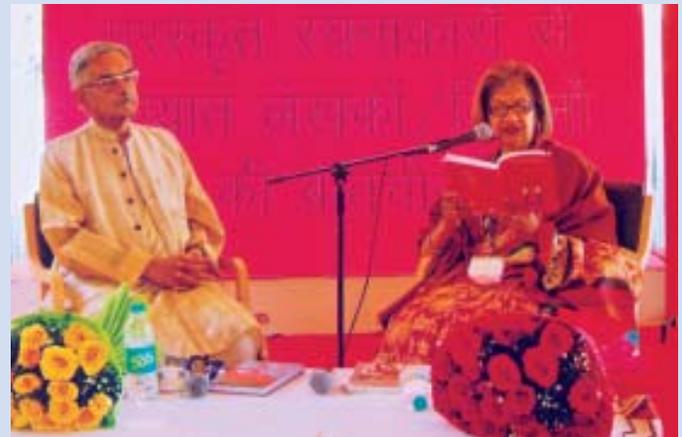
Awardee and His Critic

Akademi was deeply concerned over the years how far the Akademi award-winning authors and their Award winning texts in 24 Indian languages reach out to the Indian literary fraternity. Whether right kind of perspectives on the author’s personality or critical evaluations of his/her text reach out, to his readers at all is not certain. A new literary programme as a part of Festival of Letters called ‘Face to Face’ programme was introduced from this year on 13 March 2014.

In the ‘Face to Face’ literary programme authors were interviewed by a renowned critics of the respective language on the scope of the text, its place in the Indian literary scene and the personality of the author. Six awardees and six critics representing from different zones of the Akademi were interviewed on an experimental basis.

Prayag Shukla, Hindi writer, critic and editor interviewed Mridula Garg (Hindi awardee), C. Mrunalini with Katyayani Vidmahe (Telugu awards), Sitanshu Yashachandra, well-known Gujarati writer with Chinu Modi (Gujarati awardee), Maalan V Narayanan with R. N Joe D’Cruz (Tamil awardee), Esther Syeim with Temsula Ao, (English awardee) and Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee with Subodh Sarkar, (Bengali awardee).

It was observed by the lovers of literature that the programme was interesting and innovative. Media also covered the points discussed and meticulously published them.



Mridula Garg, Hindi awardee being interviewed by Prayag Shukla



Felicitational speech being delivered by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Akademi President. The Fellows seated on the dais

Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Felicitations of Sahitya Akademi Fellows

Sahitya Akademi felicitated its living Fellows in a special programme organised in the event of its Diamond Jubilee celebration on the evening of 13 March 2014, the third day of the Festival at Meghdoot Theatre Complex of Rabindra Bhavan. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi felicitated the Fellows with a plaque and shawl. The Fellows who

were presented on the occasion included Ramakant Rath, Gopi Chand Narang, Chandar Nath Mishra Amar, Manoj Das, Kedar Nath Singh, Raghuvveer Chaudhury, Sitakant Mahapatra, Satyavrat Shastri and Arjun Hasid.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Fellows and expressed his deep gratitude on behalf of the President, Vice-President, and the

members of the General Council for being present and honouring Akademi's invitation. Nine Akademi Fellows, great living legends in the field of letters representing Indian languages, delivered their brief speeches, praising on the performances of the Akademi and also gave few valuable suggestions. The suggestions included a demand of for subsidy towards the publication of old classics for all Indian languages and to prepare a register of translators

The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi.



Loka: The Many Voices

Bhojpuri Folk Songs

At the end of the fourth day of the Festival, a grand cultural evening was organised. Rakesh Upadhyay eminent Bhojpuri singer presented Bhojpuri folk songs at Meghdoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan to the great amazement of Akademi's guests and audience.



Purvottari : North East and Northern Writers' Meet

On the last day of the Festival 'Purvottari: North East and Northern Writers' Meet' programme was organised on 15 March 2014 at Meghadoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhawan. K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests, participants and audience. Eminent Manipuri writer H. Behari Singh inaugurated the Meet and Mangalsh Dabral, veteran Hindi writer was the guest of honour. Arupa Barua (Assamese), Bijay Baglary (Bodo), Varyam Singh (Hindi), Suman Bantawa (Nepali), Chandramani Jha (Maithili), Sarabjeet Kaur Sohal (Punjabi), Shyam Maharshi (Rajasthani), Ramakant Shukla (Sanskrit) and Chandrabhan Khayal (Urdu) rendered their readings in the inaugural session.

The first session of 'Short-Story Reading' was chaired by Chander Trikha.



K. Sreenivasarao welcoming the guests.

L-R: H. Behari Singh, Manglesh Dabral and Renu Mohan Bhan

Sibananda Kakoty (Assamese), Rahul Saini (English), Dayanand Pandey (Hindi) and Rajkumari Hemavati Devi (Manipuri) read out their stories.

Ganga Prasad Vimal, eminent Hindi writer chaired the second session on 'Poetry Reading.' Anupama Basumatary

(Assamese), Ano Brahma (Bodo), Lalit Mangotra (Dogri), Sudeep Sen (English), Sanjay Kundan (Hindi), Majrooh Rashid (Kashmiri), Bhavilal Lamichhane (Nepali), Surjit Judge (Punjabi), Fatikchand Hembram (Santali) and Abdul Ahad Saaz (Urdu) recited their poems.

The New Harvest: Young Poets' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organised a special programme under its Yuva Sahiti series entitled 'The New Harvest: Young Poets Meet' on 13 March 2014. As a parallel session, the New Harvest programme was introduced as a part of Festival of Letters 2013 and was well received among the literary public especially the young lovers of literature.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the writers and audience. The programme was inaugurated by Vishwas Patil, well-known Marathi writer. Leeladhar Mandaloi presided over the session and discussed the various elements of poetry and also shared his views on contemporary poetry.

The first session was chaired by J.P. Das, renowned Odia writer. Kongkana Dutta (Assamese), Yash Raina (Dogri),



Kongkana Dutta presenting her Assamese story. J.P. Das and other young writers on the dias



Bal-Sahiti

Spin-a-Tale Children's Literary Event

Jatush Harishchandra Joshi (Gujarati), Aarif Raja (Kannada), Arunabh Saurabh (Maithili), Ranvir Sarungbam (Manipuri), Manoj Bogati (Nepali) and Saalim Saleem (Urdu) presented their poetry.

Baldev Vanshi, eminent Hindi poet chaired the second session. Mau Dasgupta (Bengali), Mihir Chitre (English), Manzoor Yusuf (Kashmiri), Lopa R. (Malayalam), Preetidhara Samal (Odia), Om Nagar (Rajasthani), Praveen Pandya (Sanskrit) and Anuj Lugun (Hindi) recited their poems.

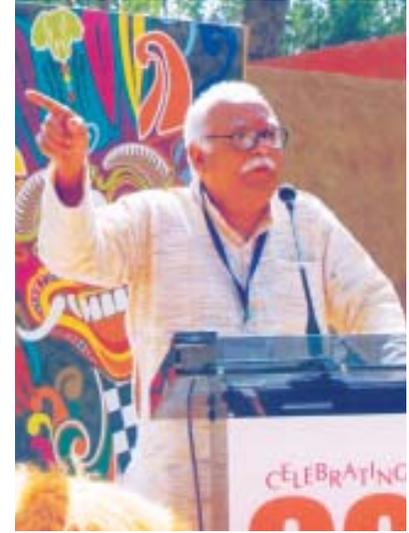
In the last session of the Meet Bijit Goyari (Bodo), Yuga Adarkar (Konkani), Kalpana Dudhai (Marathi), Neetu Arora (Punjabi), Shyam Charan Tudu (Santali), Bharti Sadarangani (Sindhi), M.Sumati (Tamil) and Siriki Swami Naidu (Telugu) presented their poems. Dinesh Kumar Shukla, eminent Hindi poet chaired the session.

Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, coordinated the event.

On the fifth day of the Festival on 14 March 2014, various programmes under the series of 'Bal-Sahiti' were organised. It comprised of 'Spin-a-Tale,' 'Poetry Writing Competition' and a 'Panel Discussion' on 'The Challenges of Getting Young Adults to Read in this Age of Technology.'

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the children from various schools, parents, teachers and guests. He spoke about various projects and schemes introduced by Sahitya Akademi in the field of children literature. He also informed the audience about Akademi's Children Literature Award, its programme series, the publication of books and other steps taken by the Akademi for this genre.

Prakash Manu, veteran children writer, in his inaugural speech mentioned



Prakash Manu delivering his speech

that, "the programme is a true fair and a festival for children." On seeing the huge gathering of children, he avoided reading his prepared speech. He simply narrated three small stories and a poem.



L-R: Sumit Basu, Devapriya Roy, Paro Anand, V.V. Karitika and Smriti Lamech at the panel discussion



He concluded with a suggestion that Sahitya Akademi should also encourage the publishing of monographs of writers for children.

Further in this programme, Kamaljeet Neelon (Punjabi), Usha Bande (English) and Anupa Lal (Hindi) read out stories for children. The programme was coordinated by Geetanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

Poetry writing competition was also organised simultaneously with 'Spin-a-Tale.' Deepa Aggarwal and Surekha Panandikar judged the competition. There were two categories Senior (About 12-16 years) and Junior (6-12 years). 56 students from various schools participated in the competition.

The programme concluded with a panel discussion on 'The Challenges of Getting Young Adults to Read in this Age of Technology.' K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address and Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced the panelist to the audience.

The panel included V.K Kartika (Publisher), Paro Anand (Writer), Smriti Lamech (Writer), Swati Roy (Director of Bookaru), Samit Basu (Writer) and Devapriya Roy as moderator. Well-known children writer in English Paro Anand said that the concept of adolescence or young-adult is new in India. Earlier there were two categories childhood and adult. She opined that these days inclination of children towards reading is more than adults.

V.K Kartika while further clarifying the term 'young-adult' said that children of this age group are capable of deciding what exactly they want to read as the books for children are bought only after the approval or recommendation from teachers, guardians and parents.

Smriti Lamech opined that children should not be discouraged from reading or watching television. She insisted that



Children at Spin-a-Tale competition

parents and teacher should not enforce on children what they want them to read. Rather they should encourage their independent decision of making their own choice. This will boost confidence and further motivate them towards creativity.

Sumit Basu said that writing for the young-adult category should be promoted as it will further enhance the

reading interests in the children.

The discussion was successful as it was concluded that writers should write keeping in mind the interests and psychology of children which will not only contribute in developing their interests in reading but will also work towards their development.

There was an interesting interaction session at the end of the discussion.



A section of audience



National Seminar

Literary Criticism Today: Texts, Trends and Issues



Namwar Singh delivering inaugural address.

L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Manoj Das, Aijaz Ahmad and Chandrashekhar Kambar

The three day seminar on 'Literary Criticism Today: Text, Trends and Issues' was organised from 13 to 15 March 2014 involving about 50 writers/scholars/critics from all over the country.

In his welcome address, K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that the seminar on 'Literary Criticism Today: Text, Trends and Issues' was conceived in order to study, review and evaluate the literary criticism in the regional and national levels in Indian languages in the global perspectives. Its connection with aesthetics, poetic perspectives and its Western influences on it and also the invisible interdependence between them would also be expected to be discussed in the seminar of its first kind on the subject organised by the Akademi.

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi in his presidential address emphasized, the point that critical acumen is born out of the creative talents. The criticism deprived of creativity is only supported by sheer references would never

work at all. Elaborating the process of critical endeavour, Prof. Tiwari said that it is a three layered process. Critic should first imbibe the spirit of the work, then comes the analyses and finally evaluation. He further added that critic should be free from any prejudices only then he can justify his attempt. He also quoted Alexander Pope who said critics are born not made like that of a true poet. He also emphasized on the need of translations of literary criticisms available in other languages in their own.

The seminar was inaugurated by Namwar Singh, veteran Hindi critic. In his inaugural address, he said that we do find *Kavya Shastra* in Sanskrit but no treatise on literary criticism or appreciation. The word 'alochana' in Hindi is just a translation of the term 'criticism.' While he discussed at length about the theories of criticism, Prof. Singh said that we must learn to read text first. He quoted Goethe in this context who said "All theory dear friend is grey, but the golden tree of Life springs ever green." He further added that only a creative



Aijaz Ahmad delivering keynote address



Manoj Das delivering his address

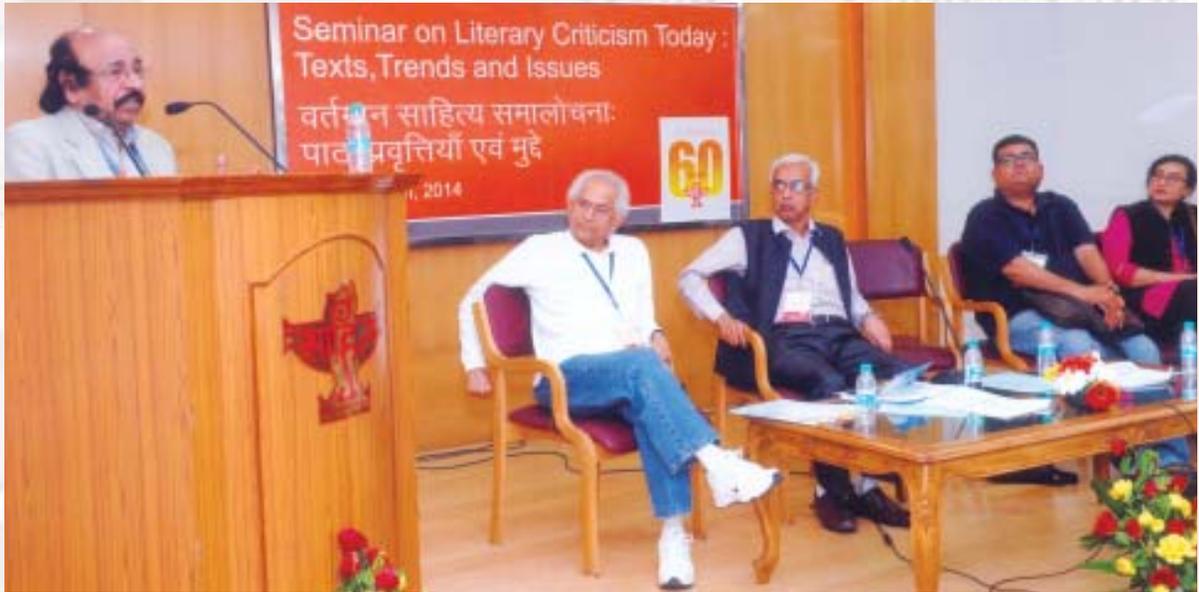
person can always be a good critic. While discussing about the theories of criticism, he quoted Viktor Shklovsky's theory of 'Ostranenie' which means 'defamiliarisation,' which means observing a work as if we are experiencing it for the first time. A critic can be deeply perceptive in his review, he concluded.

Manoj Das, veteran writer in Odia and English was invited as a guest of honour in the inaugural session of the seminar. In his free wheeling delivery, Sri Manoj Das said that he resorted only to critical appreciation in his evaluation of any work, being a creative writer. He expressed his fear to offer any critical dictum. Has there been any landmark in any of the creative achievement? Sri Das interrogated. Every decade had to offer a kind of critical theory. The past century was highly eventful than any other century of the past. "Two great World Wars, Russian Revolution, Chinese Revolution, rise and the fall of Soviet Russia, end of imperialism, monarchy, feudalism

and so many such cataclysmic epochs took place. Similarly great experiments of literature too were practised by writers. There was dadaism which led to surrealism, existentialism, social realism etc. There were innumerable critical theories. When the novel *Ulysis* by James Joyce was published, several critics opined "*Ulysis* was an ultimate novel." Whereas thousands of novels with equal merit or more were published later" he said. Sri Manoj Das referred to Lord Ganesha who helped Veda Vyasa in recording the great epic the *Ramayana*. Lord Ganesha never stopped, or interrupted Vayasa's creative endeavour. Creativity and evaluation



C. Rajendran, Gopi Chand Narang and Purushottam Agarwal



L-R: K. Satchidanandan, D.S. Rao, E.V. Ramakrishnan, Giriraj Kiradoo and Antara Dev Sen

are ingrained from the dawn of Indian history. The makers of literary movement or literary theories in the 20th century hardly followed their own dictum. Quoting the example of T.S Eliot, Sri Manoj Das was doubtful whether Eliot followed his own theory of Tradition and Individual Talent in his great works “The Wasteland” or “Four Quartets” One need not be a poet to appreciate the beauty of a poem. The readers are left to feel the exact beauty of a poem, Sri Das concluded.

In his keynote address, Aijaz Ahmad, veteran scholar began his address pointing out the role of Sahitya Akademi that it tries to provide the institutional mooring for the idea and practice of Indian Literature. In a national setting when college, universities and the other institutions of higher learning have not designed any shape on the whole and sustained in its study of Indian Literature and its complexities as a distinct academic discipline. Unlike the Euro American capitalistic modernity to create unilingual nation states, like France or United States, India by contrast represents for largest experiment that humanity has ever undertaken to make a tradition to a modern industrial society and vast market economy. No single university can possibly teach the number of languages with available material resources. The French monarchy in its heyday instituted an academic standardized linguistic culture for all of France suppressing local

regional differences in many dialogues and sense generating oralities. By contrast post-independent India constituted Sahitya Akademi with the belief to strengthen and promote a host of languages for multilingual production.

Dr. Ahmad expressed his opinion stating, however, we dramatically fail to restructure the actual teaching of literature in our universities and colleges in ways commensurate with this multilingualism. Much more impressive work was done in assembling literature histories and accumulation of translated texts but much less in the disciplines of comparative literature. It is within the last two decades or so a serious view have been made institutionally in terms of revision of syllabi, the organization of seminar and conferences and publication of books and papers addressing the whole range of subject involved in the study of Indian literature. He further stated that he would not be rehashing his old argument that Indian literature was not conceptualized on the model of national literature, but was inherited from the model of colonial educational apparatus. Dr. Ahmed reiterated that the comparative literature would be more appropriate for multilingual character of our society. Chandrashekhar Kambar Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, presented vote of thanks at the end.

The first session titled ‘Literary Criticism Today:



A Global Perspective' was chaired by Harish Trivedi. T. Vijay Kumar, Sachin Ketkar and P.P Raveendran presented their papers. The topic for the second session was 'The State of Literary Criticism in Indian Languages.' Sitanshu Yashaschandra chaired the session and C.N Ramachandran, Vaasanthi and C. Mrunalini read out their papers.

The second day of the seminar on 14 March 2014, the third session was chaired by Ganesh Devy and the topic for discussion was 'Interrogating the Hegemony.' Vellikkeel Raghavan, Y.S Alone and M.T Ansari presented their papers.

'Towards the Theory of Indian Poetics' was the topic for the fourth session chaired by Gopi Chand Narang. Purushottam Agarwal, C.Rajendran and S. Settar presented their papers. In the fifth session the topic on 'The Western Impact, Indian Response' was discussed. Samik Bandopadhyay chaired the session. Sachidananda Mohanty, GJV Prasad and Raj Rao presented their papers.

In the last session of the day, on the topic 'The State of Literary Criticism in the Indian Languages,' K.C Baral, M. Asaduddin and Swapan

Chakravarty read out their papers. Bhalachandra Nemade chaired the session.

On the last day of the seminar, the seventh session devoted to the topic 'Literary Criticism: Science or Art?', was the chaired by Manager Pandey. B. Rajeevan, V. Sanil and Sudhish Pachauri presented their papers.

'The State of Literary Criticism in the Indian Languages' was the topic for the eighth session. Anamika, Akshay Kumar and K.S. Ravikumar presented their papers while Purushottam Agrawal chaired the session.

In the ninth session 'Aesthetics and Literary Criticism' was discussed under the chairmanship of Kapil Kapoor. Radhavallabh Tripathi, Nirmal Selvamony and Sharan Kumar Limbale read out their papers.

The last session was devoted to the topic 'Do Book Reviews Qualify as Literary Criticism?' E.V Ramakrishnan chaired the session and D.S. Rao, Giriraj Kiradoo and Antara Dev Sen presented their papers.

The valedictory address was delivered by K. Satchidanandan.

Loka Many Voices Kutchi Folk Songs

The Festival of Letters concluded with an evening devoted to folk music on 15 March 2014 at Meghadoot Theatre complex. Famous folk artists presented Kutchi Folk songs giving the celebration an appropriate end.





Akademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presenting the Fellowship plaque to M.T. Vasudevan Nair

Fellowship Presentation to M.T. Vasudevan Nair

Sahitya Akademi conferred its prestigious and highest honour upon M.T. Vasudevan Nair, an eminent Malayalam litterateur in a function held at Calicut on 31 January 2014. Sah Madathil Thekkepaattu Vasudevan Nair, popularly known as MT, is one of the major voices in Indian literature, writing in Malayalam. Known for his contributions to Malayalam Literature and cinema both as director and scriptwriter, MT is considered one of the masters of post-Independence Indian literature. Vaikom Mohammed Basheer, Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai, N. Balamaniamma and Kovilan are the other writers from Malayalam to get the Akademi's Fellowship.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering. In his welcome speech, he gave a detailed account of MT's writing and life. MT is essentially an existentialist, but this truth could only be derived from the relationship he portrays. Communities and societies were not lost sight of, but were rather sublimated and viewed through the individual's place in them.

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, veteran poet and the President, Sahitya Akademi presented MT the Fellowship and delivered his presidential address. In his address he said "MT is a major voice

in Indian literature though writing in Malayalam. His creative expression touched upon many spheres of life. He is highly imaginative fiction writer and a versatile genius that contemporary India has produced. He is an institution himself," he complimented

MT began his acceptance speech remembering the writers who wrote before him. He remembered Changampuzha, Kesava Dev, P. Kunhiraman Nair and Vaikkom Mohammed Basheer and shared the difficulties and sufferings they had to encounter in their time. He introspected

him as a writer who said, "Why do I write? I am yet to find a satisfactory reply. I feel I am a little more sensitive than an ordinary individual to the pains, pleasures, fears, dreams and disillusion of the phenomenon called life. I try to analyze human situation and in the process I rediscover my own self sometimes. I feel guilty if I cannot share my anxieties and concerns with few like-minded people. Freedom of style and freedom in the selection of material gives the strength to go on. The limits of my craft are established by myself and not dictated by others. I know well that I



do not form a part of machinery which manipulates the commodisation of culture. And so I cannot aspire for a big material success. Yet I go on. I am trying to put across the uproar of the market place of the life a small silent cry from my heart. And I feel happy when I know a few eager souls are to it.”

Followed by the Fellow presentation a Samvad programme was held in which K.P. Sankaran, a well known critic, spoke on the articles written by MT on various subjects bringing his deep concerns. MT is concerned about nature, environment, hapless and the helpless atrocities happening around the world, and also cruelty showered upon the animals. He protested against male domination over the women and woman’s anger against the man in his short stories, he said.

Sunil P. Elayidam said that history in MT’s literature reflects his own experience and characters he reflect society.

E.P. Rajagopalan said that MT’s literature survived the limitation of renaissance. Though his characters are introverts by nature, they never hesitated coming out of their shells when necessary. He quoted various examples from MT’s stories. He also explained how MT reacted during the Endosulphan fertilizer tragedy that affected so many people especially the new born children at Kasaragodu, Kerala. MT was also there in person when the tribal people at Muthanga in Wayanad district were fired by the police for no fault of theirs, and raised his voice against the atrocity.

Alankode Leelakrishnan spoke on MT’s Desam, his birth place. He went in detail how his surroundings, the people in his village, the river ‘Nila’ influenced his writings and continues even now. He concluded his speech stating that MT is Kerala’s private pride.

Sahitya Akademi Premchand Fellow 2013

Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh, Nepali Writer



Sreenivasarao presenting a Fellowship plaque to Ram Dayal Rakesh, Premchand Fellow. Also seen Himanshu Joshi and Tara Devi Rakesh

Sahitya Akademi’s Premchand Fellow 2013, Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh, eminent writer and scholar from Nepal, visited India to avail his Fellowship from 7-23 January 2014. During his stay the Fellow visited various cities in India. Sahitya Akademi organized a Reading and Interaction programme on 9 January 2014, New Delhi.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered the welcome address and introduced the Fellow to the august gathering. In his speech, he gave a brief introduction about the scheme of Akademi’s Premchand Fellowship and informed that it was incepted during the 125th birth anniversary of Munshi Premchand in the year 2005. He further expressed that this Fellowship is offered to a person of eminence in the field of culture and literature from the SAARC countries. He put across the names of other scholars who have been honoured

with this Fellowship in the past—Janab Intizar Hussain from Pakistan in 2007, Ibrahim Waheed from Maldives in 2008, Ms. Selina Hossain from Bangladesh in 2009 and others. Later he presented the Fellowship plaque to the Fellow.

Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh, in his speech thanked the Akademi for conferring this prestigious Fellowship upon him. He spoke about the influence of Premchand’s works on him and his country, Nepal. He expressed his obsession for Premchand’s writings to the extent that he visited his birth place to know more about him and taught his novels to the students. During the programme he also read from his own works which was followed by a lively interaction with the eminent local writers and scholars.

Tara Devi, wife of the Premchand Fellow Dr. Ram Dayal Rakesh was also with him during his visit in India.



Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari delivering the presidential address. Yuva Puraskar awardees in array

Yuva Puraskar 2013 Award Presentation Ceremony

The need for the recognition of the talented young writers in Indian languages was realised by Sahitya Akademi. As a result, the governing body of the Sahitya Akademi instituted the Yuva Puraskar to be presented to the best of the literature produced by the youth in our country. The first award was presented in 2013. The second Yuva Puraskar award presentation ceremony was organized on 5 February 2014 at Jai Narayan Vyas Smriti Bhawan, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, in Jodhpur.

In a graceful Yuva Puraskar presentation ceremony, K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, opened up the function with the presentation of his welcomed address. He welcomed the chief guest, Nand Kishore Acharya, eminent Hindi writer, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, and all the Yuva Puraskar winners along with their family and friends, media representatives, as also the august gathering of eminent writers and scholars. "Sahitya Akademi's one of the most important events, the award function of Yuva Puraskar 2013, is being held for the first time in the beautiful sun-city, Jodhpur, he said in his speech. He thanked all the writers/

various languages for the selection of best works by youngsters for this award. He further expressed that Sahitya Akademi Awards for the best creative writing in different genres in 24 Indian languages have been bestowed upon the best of our writers across India. The most senior writers with proven achievements tend to get these awards. In effect, a lot of immensely talented young writers are denied high-level recognition and encouragement. It is with a view to closing this gap that Sahitya Akademi resolved to supplement main awards with awards for talented young writers and instituted the Yuva Puraskar, which he hoped would inspire them to hone and develop their talents further. Most important of all, Indian

writers no more need to wait till they grow grey and old to be recognized and honoured by Sahitya Akademi. Though it is believed that the greatest achievements happen in ripe old age this is not always true. Some of our best writers who lived to be very old – Tagore of Bengali or Shivaram Karanth of Kannada or Vishwanatha Satyanarayana of Telugu for example – had already become established geniuses with their very first works though it is true that their genius continued to flourish in different directions later. We also have examples of young writers who produced the best at a very young age and were taken away from our midst. Sant Jnanadev of Maharashtra wrote his best and died at a very young age, Dr. Rao concluded.



Akademi President V. P. Tiwari presenting the award to Bijoy Sankar Barman (Assamese)



Sansumai Khungri Basumatari (Bodo) being felicitated by Nand Kishore Acharya



Archana Bhaisare (Hindi) receiving the award from the Akademi President

Prof. V.P. Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presided over the function and presented the plaques and cheques to 21 Yuva Puraskar winners. One of the awardees in English Janice Pariat, could not attend the function. Dr. Acharya addressed the gathering as chief guest and presented bouquet and garlands to the award winners.

The grand award presentation ceremony was followed by an Awardee's Meet on the next day on 6 February 2014 at 10.30 a.m. at the Gallery of Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur. During the programme, the award winning authors from different

Indian languages, spoke about their work and the creative experiences.

Kumar Ajay, Rajasthani awardee said, that his language Rajasthani, bears the pain of unrecognition at the Constitutional level, but he is satisfied to write in it as it is counted as one of the world's most richest and greatest languages. Archana Bhaisare, Hindi awardee, spoke that her poetry starts from herself as she has experienced all the necessary and unnecessary restrictions levied upon a woman in her city. The other awardees who spoke were Bijoy Sankar Barman (Assamese), Subhro Bandopadhyay (Bengali), Sansumai

Khungri Basumatari (Bodo), Dheeraj Kesar 'Nikka' (Dogri), Ashok Chavda 'Bedil' (Gujarati), Lakkur Anand (Kannada), Yogini Acharya (Konkani), Dilip Kumar Jha 'Lootan' (Maithili), P.V. Shajikumar (Malayalam), Akhom Yandibala Devi (Manipuri), Ravi Laxmikant Korde (Marathi), Suraj Dhadkan (Nepali), Kshetrabasi Naik (Odia), Harpreet Kaur (Punjabi), Raj Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Lal Chand Saren (Santali), Sengathir Selvan (Kathir Bharathi) (Tamil), Manthri Krishna Mohan (Telugu) and Abdul Moid (Moid Rasheedi) (Urdu).



P.V. Shajikumar, Malayalam awardee



Yogini Acharya, Konkani Awardee



Akhom Yandibala Devi, Manipuri Awardee



Avishkar A Two-Day Young Writers' Festival



*V.P. Tiwari delivering the presidential address.
L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Arjan Dev Charan and Sheen Kaaf Nizam on the dias*

The Awardees' Meet on 6 February was followed in the evening at 3.30 p.m. at the Gallery of Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jodhpur by a two-day programme Avishkar - Young Writers' Festival.

Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address, Prof. Tiwari said, Sahitya Akademi has recognized English also as one of the Indian languages but the Government has not yet given that status. He opined we should give honour to all languages and English is one of them. He also admitted that our various regional languages are endangered due to this language and this needs to be tackled.

Sheen Kaaf Nizam, eminent Urdu poet, inaugurated the Festival. He said that poetry is immortal and existed for five thousand years. He further said everybody praises the good character and qualities of 'Vibhishan' in the epic *Ramayana*, but no body is willing to name their children after the name 'Vibhishan'.

Similarly, everybody likes to hear poetry but nobody encourages their children to write it.

Arjun Dev Charan, Convener, Rajasthan Advisory Board, delivered the introductory speech. He said that a writer should have close relationship with his mother tongue. He expressed his satisfaction on the fact that even in the era of globalization country's language is alive in the form of prose and poetry.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akadmi welcomed the august gathering of eminent writers and litterateurs. He said no writer or writing can exist without the lovers of literature. He further said that this programme is an opportunity for

young writers to express from their works. Ujjal Powgam, Sanjay Kundan, P. Chandrika read from their works among others during this session.

First session began on 7 February 2014. The feature of the session was 'Why Do I Write?' In this session, young writers shared their experience about what impetus to write. It was chaired by Bhanu Bharti and the papers were presented by Subhro Bandopadhyay (Bengali), Sagar Shah (Gujarati), Arun Dev (Hindi), K.P. Sudheera (Malayalam) and Arvind Ashiya (Rajathani).

The second session of 'Short Story Reading' was chaired by eminent Rajasthani writer, Malchand Tiwari. The story writers, Nirmal Vikram, Manisha Kulshreshtha, Sanatombi Ningombam, Ashok Kautik Koli and Madan Gopal Ladha read their short stories in Dogri, Hindi, Manipuri, Marathi and Rajasthani respectively. The writers beautifully depicted through their story reading, the true elements of society at their individual regional levels.

In the third session wherein eminent young poets from various Indian languages recited their poems and strongly portrayed the various current aspects and issues of society. Yatindra Mishra, eminent Hindi poet, reflected the social aspects on man and society by focusing



Arjan Dev Charan



Sheen Kaaf Nizam



his poem on Kabirdas. Sagar Nazir in his poetry portrayed the fear of common man in Kashmir due to terrorism. Nepali poet, Tika Bhai, expressed in his sad poem the problems and struggle of Nepali people, who are residents of India and consider themselves as Indian. Punjabi poet, Gangandeep Sharma, depicted Punjabi culture and civilization through his poetry. Om Nagar, Rajasthani poet, gave a picture of love in various characters. Kaushal Tiwari, Sanskrit poet, recited his poems, 'Haiku', 'Jab Maut Aati Hai Gaon Ki', 'Veh Daudta Hai Shehar Ki Aur'. Sheelu Tanha, Sindhi poet, recited his poems. 'Kyon Kisi Ko Yun Satate Ho' and 'Hum Azad Hain'. Her poems illustrated the real picture of corruption, bribery, cheating and other heinous crimes in the country.



The concluding session being chaired by Chander Bhan Khayal

'Khamoshiyon Mein Hi Saare Bayaa Jodhpuri. Eminent Urdu writer Chander Simat Jate', 'Hamare Paas Bhi Kabhi Ek Bhan Khayal chaired the session. The Hunar tha' were the poems recited by the programme was well attended by eminent Urdu poet, Mohd. Afzal writers and scholars.

Seminar on Dogri Literature of 21st Century

A seminar on 'Dogri Literature of 21st Century' was organized by the Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Dogri Sanstha, Jammu at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu. The inaugural session of the seminar was presided over by Nilamber Dev Sharma, who in his address spoke about the changing trends in dissemination of literature in the light of the fast growing modes of media communication. Santanu Gangopodhyay, Assistant Editor, Sahitya Akademi, earlier welcomed the audience.

Lalit Mangotra, Convener, Dogri Advisory Board, in his key-note address emphasized the need for writers to be sensitive to the socio-political and psychological impacts of the fast changing environments due to unprecedented growth of technology and media. On one hand old traditional ways are still being followed and on the other hand technology and consumerism, in contrast, is changing the ways and concept of people. The society is in a very fast changing dynamic mode creating many

peculiar situations which should not escape the attention of the writers.

Veena Gupta, expressed in her speech that the publication of Dogri literature and also the literary programme organised by the Akademi greatly contributed to the growth of Dogri Contemporary Literature.

In the paper reading session, scholars who presented papers included Sushil

Begana, Prakash Premi, Surjeet Hosh, Shiv Dev Singh Manhas, Mohan Singh, Pratyooosh Guleri, Chhatrapal, Shashi Pathania, Bansi Lal Sharma, Sushma Sharma and Darshan Darshi. The paper reading sessions were chaired by Narasingh Dev Jamwal, Piyush Guleri and Lalit Mangotra. The valedictory address was delivered by Satyapal Srivats.



Sushil Begana, Nansingh Dev Jamwal, Prakash Premi and Lalit Mangotra



Indian Ocean Rim Association

An (IORA) Festival of Poetry

Sahitya Akademi, under the aegis of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, organised this IORA Festival of Poetry from 1 March 2014 to 3 March 2014 at Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi. The Festival brought together more than 20 poets from 15 countries of the region, including 30 poets representing 24 Indian languages, who represented varied poetic voices and aspirations from the region. They devoted three days to fruitful exchanges of thought and poetry through reading

sessions as well as panel discussions, leading to greater understanding cooperation among the countries and cultures they represent.

The Indian Ocean Rim constitutes not merely a geographical area, but a cultural one too. These countries got connected long ago through sea routes and exchanged ideas, concepts and forms of art. It is extremely important to retrieve that partly lost organic connection, both politically and culturally.

The Festival opened with the introductory address by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, who stated that the focus of the festival being a platform to share the poetry and creative thoughts within the present era of globalization and to fight dominant

cultural hegemonies. The festival was inaugurated by eminent poet and distinguished scholar in English Shiv K. Kumar. He stated that although poets from IORA countries belong to different regions, religions, cultures and speak different languages but still united by a water body. Creation begins with water, and poetry has been a means of expression and moods; therefore, this festival will offer banquet of poetry to all poetry lovers, he added.

The introductory remarks were given by Chandrasekhhar Kambar, Vice-president, Sahitya Akademi, emphasising the commonalities of the countries and continents whose shores are washed by the waves of Indian



The inaugural session. L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, Chandrasekhhar Kambar, Dinesh Bhatia, V.P. Tiwari, Shiv K. Kumar, Sitakant Mahapatra, Syed Shamshul Haq, Keki N. Daruwalla, Saksiri Meesomsueb



Inaugural address being delivered by Shiv K. Kumar



Syed Shamsul Haq, chief guest delivering his address

Ocean. He elaborated the unity and diversity that the Indian Ocean Rim countries share through their diverse religions, languages, cultures and rituals.

The presidential address by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, emphasised the important role of the oceans in the flourishing of human civilizations. He further added that international festivals like these bring together love, anxieties, frustrations, lofty ideals, noble thoughts, hoary past and rich legacies of communities that the poets represent. He also articulated how poets are the greatest messenger of peace and love.

Dinesh Bhatia, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, thanking the IORA member countries, welcomed all the participating poets and dignitaries and shared the history of the formation of IORA. He further remarked the core of this collaboration with Sahitya Akademi being a process of documentation of friendship and extension of the literary and poetic fraternity through a closer association, awareness and shared destiny amidst present global circumstances.

Chief guest Syed Shamsul Haq, recipient of the highest civilian award (Ekushey Padak) of Bangladesh, shared greetings from the people of his country and poets of Bangladesh. Highlighting the 21st February's relevance in Bangladesh (International Mother Language Day), he threw light on the violent history of the liberation of Bangladesh which began with the *Bhasba Andolan*. He optimistically remarked the power of poetry which can unite and witness the best of minds to enable good senses to prevail over fundamentalism, terrorism and the anguish of common men.

The key-note address was delivered by Sitakanta Mahapatra, veteran Oriya poet. His scholarly lecture focused on the varied powers and poignancy of poetry. He cited several poets drawing our attention to the miracles and magic of poetry which can "look for that other voice which is beyond history and yet belongs to today, freshly minted in the passion of the soul." His speech also focused on the debate about the role of literature in creating a just society and to achieve it to take recourse, if necessary to revolutionary methods. He

concluded his lecture stressing that despite the current cruel time which is not too friendly to arts, literature and particularly poetry; all poets should be determined to continue singing for all men.

The inaugural session had poetry readings by noted Thai poet, singer and musician Kittisak Saksiri Meesomsueb and renowned Indian English writer and poet Keki N. Daruwalla. In his poem "Hidden", Saksiri Meesomsueb presented the contrast between the quiet Buddha and the ranging city. Keki N. Daruwalla recited his poems "Crossing of Rivers", "Night fishing", "A Take-off on a Passing Remark" and "Grave of Cyrus". His "Crossing of Rivers" is a fascinating poem that transforms an ordinary experience into a mysterious adventure. Another poem by him "A Take-off on a Passing Remark" reiterates the impossibility of finding a rationale for love.

The first session was chaired by noted English author and poet Keki N. Daruwalla. Mohammed Al-Mahgari from Yemen presented short poems, which are like wise statements full of insights into existence. "Rain" by Nilim



Kumar, Assamese poet invoked a typical Indian scene, of pouring rain getting into the bus and drenching him, but what he creates out of it is a scene of romantic intimacy. N. Gopi's "Freedom Fighter" narrated the tragic tale of a freedom-fighter in cruel times as there are no takers for his stories, nobody acknowledges his heroism. Ninda Fali, Urdu poet and ghazal singer, he recited *nazms*, and numerous *sbers*.

The second session was chaired by Dhunpal Heeramun, veteran Hindi author, poet and scholar from Mauritius. The poets who recited their poems in this session were eminent Hindi poet from Australia Rekha Rajvanshi, noted writer, critic and Iranian poet Abdul Jabbar Kakaei, eminent Gujarati poet Prabodh Parikh, renowned Hindi poet Kailash Vajpeyi, eminent Marathi poet Chandrakant Patil and Sindhi poet Vasdev Mohi.

The first day of the IORA Festival of Poetry concluded with a Manipuri dance repertoire by the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy, Imphal.

In the third session, six renowned poets from India, Malaysia, Mozambique, and U.A.E recited their poems in English as well as in their respective native languages. The session was chaired by noted Odia poet and critic Sitakanta Mahapatra.

The first poet to recite poems in English and Malay was Mohammad Haji Saleh, a leading poet from Malaysia. Saleh was followed by Sangre Okapi, a Portuguese language teacher and poet from Mozambique. He recited short verses on nature and his motherland. The third poet of the session was Abdullah Hasan Abdulla Alhedeyeh Alshehhi from U.A.E. who recited poems in Arabic which were long spiritual and philosophical verses. The fourth poet to recite was Padma Sachdev, leading Dogri poet and writer. She began by reciting an Urdu couplet followed by a Dogri

poem. She also recited two other poems in Hindi about love, longing, and desire. The fifth poet of the session was celebrated and internationally acclaimed Indian-English author Jayant Mahapatra, who recited a short poem in English, "the Earth" and a long English poem titled "Uneven Mercies" in which poet is reluctant to acknowledge the history of India. The last and final poet of the session was Chadra Prakash Deval an eminent Rajsthani poet. His recitations ranged from satires on space, globalization, market and the loss of innocence in life.

The next session of the day was a panel discussion titled "Poetry: The New Challenges". The session was chaired by noted Malayalam poet and critic K. Satchidanandan. The participating discussants were Marie Clarisse from Seychelles, Parvathi Arasanayagam from Sri Lanka, Prabodh Parikh and Arundhati Subramaniam from India.

The discussion was opened by the chair raising questions about the freedom of poets and their responsibilities. He raised issues about responsibility of poets towards the language, the form, and the entire art of writing poetry itself. K.



Satchidanandan also signposted fundamentalist tendencies which are inherent in the contemporary writings, which create the idea of the "other" and hold them responsible for everything that is evil and violent.

The first speaker Arundhati Subramaniam, who is an Indian poet and writer on spirituality and culture, lamented the fading away of a prolific poetic culture, although she stressed the strategy that poetry develops by itself to survive and thrive. The next speaker Mary Clarisse, a poet, singer and writer based in tiny island of Seychelles, reminded us about the victory of poetry in today's times as it has therapeutic values, it can heal and cajole distressed minds and souls. Poetry in fact becomes



Elijah S. Mwaifuge presenting a Tanzanian song. L-R: Edwin Thumboo, K. Satchidanandan, Zurinah Hassan, Arundhati Subramaniam and Anil Kumar Boro



Sirpi Balasubramaniam, Nirmalendu Gosain, Josiah Macaleni Msija, Nagesh Karmali and Parvathi Asaranayagam

humans, and readers become the poem. The next speaker was veteran Gujarati writer and painter Prabodh Parikh, who spoke not so much about the absence of poetry from our lives but the absence of poetics in our lives. He quoted several European poets and thinkers like Allen Ginsberg to emphasize the value and idea of poetics in the philosophy of life and existence amidst times of trauma, violence and bloodshed. He also quoted Jhon K. Heich and poet Dilip Chitre. The last speaker of the panel discussion was Parvathi Arasanayagam, a contemporary writer and poet based in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Her speech highlighted the relevance of poetry in a war affected nation like Sri Lanka where it has acted as a medium of reconciliation. According to her, poets are like chroniclers of social, political and cultural lives and events. She too cautioned poets about hurting feelings and values of communities and others.

The fifth session was of poetry readings by Sedley Richard Assone from Mauritius, Zakariya Amataya from Thailand, Sunita Jain, K.G. Sankara Pillai and Shefalika Verma from India.

The session was chaired by Malaysian poet Mohammad Haji Saleh. While Sedley

Richard informally narrated one of his recent poem in English which was explicit with his love and admiration for India, his second recital was a song in his native language. Zakariya Amataya began by playing the harmonica and recited poems in Thai and English. In his poem "Beloved", the poet goes to the market and buys a bomb, a coffin and a flower for his beloved; but he couldn't buy peace as peace is never for sale.

Indian poet Sunita Jain read out some of her intense poems in Hindi about women and dedicated her last poem to the sufferings and assaults that women face in her every-day life. K.G. Sankara Pillai's satirical poems delighted the audience; he recited both in English and Malayalam. Maithili poet and writer in period Shefalika Verma's poems dealt with women's plight post-independence in period and the love of her land Mithila. The concluding remarks by the chair were on the diversity of languages around the shores of the Indian Ocean and the widespread travels of myths, legends and cultures among these countries.

Sixth session devoted to poetry reading was chaired by veteran Kashmiri poet, author and critic Rahman Rahi.

The poetry readings session began with recitation by a young poet from Oman, Ishaq Mahfooz Khalfan Al Khanjari who recited two poems in English translation. His poem "Ardity" reflected that Al Khanjari is seeing his brother in the wind and asks him to come back from death of the desert. The second poet was Marie Clarisse from Seychelles; her English poems expressed feelings of waves, dreams and hope. The third presenter was a noted Kannada poet Siddhaling Pattanshetti who read out poems in Kannada, Hindi and English. The fourth presenter was a renowned Sanskrit scholar and poet Radhavallabh Tripathi, who began his recitation with a Sanskrit poem on the river Narmada, titled "The Hands of Narmada" in English. He also recited other poems in Hindi and English. Manipuri poet Y. Ibomcha Singh's, his poems were caught in the crossfire between the rebels on the one hand and soldiers on the other. In his poem "Story of Dream", the poet has a strange dream of being shot and the bullets seemed sweet like grapes.

Rahman Rahi from the chair also recited some of his poems in Kashmiri, highlighting the troubles and turbulences in the valley of Kashmir for the last three decades.

The seventh session saw a range of poets from countries like Malaysia, Tanzania and Singapore along with poets from India in different languages.

The poets who presented their poems were Zurinah Hassan, eminent poet and writer from Malaysia, who began by singing a Malay song written and composed by her. She also recited poems in English like "The Water Flowers", "Facing the Harbour", "Looking for space", "At the Jetty" and "Marriage".

The next poet Anil Kumar Boro from Assamese were picturesque depiction of his motherland rich in natural resources and ever welcoming



to all. Elish S. Mwaifuge from Tanzania, poet and writer began his recitation with a song in his native language and went on to recite another poem “Dark Moments” in the official language of Tanzania i.e. Swahili. The “Dark Moment” was filled with the foreboding of an impending doom. This was followed by eminent Malayalam poet K. Satchidanandan, who recited a poem in Malayalam and also poems in English.

This session was chaired by one of the most renowned writer, scholar and poet of Singapore Edwin Thumboo also read out some of his poems. The final presenter was Arundhathi Subramaniam, a poet in English.

During the session, an anthology of poems by all the participating poets of the IORA Festival of Poetry, 2014 was released. This anthology of poems titled *Songs of the Sea Shore* has been brought out by Sahitya Akademi and edited by K. Satchidanandan. The first copy of the book was presented to Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi.

The concluding session of the three

day poetry festival was chaired by eminent South African writer, poet, singer and actor Josiah Macaleni Msija. Before inviting the poets for their recitation, Josiah Msija sang a beautiful song in his native tongue Zulu and recited a poem in English. Mixing African native words with English, in his poems “I am Father” and “Avalon,” the poet created rhythm and mesmerized the audience.

The first poet to recite was Nirmalendu Goon, eminent Bangladeshi poet and writer. He recited poems in Bangla about revolution, liberation and dreams. This was followed by a passionate recitation of poems by Parvathi Arasanayagam from Sri Lanka. Her poems expressed her personal memories of being in the refugee camps during the turbulent years of the Sri Lankan Civil War in the 80s and expressed the natural beauty of her country and also addressed the issues of mass disappearances of activists and common men during the civil war. The next poet was from Goa, eminent Konkani writer, Nagesh Karmali who recited his poems



in Hindi, English and Konkani. His first poem “What all Day” was in fact a tribute to the freedom struggle of Goa and his own memories of being part of it. The last poet of the session was Tamil poet, essayist and translator Sirpi Balasubramanian, who read his Tamil poem titled “She Too a Mother” followed by “The Tower of Babel”, “Dilemma” and “The Adivasi”.

The festival concluded with the valedictory session and vote of thanks by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



The group picture of the bards from IORA nations participated in the Festival



National Seminar **Ali Sadar Jafri**

Renowned Urdu poet, scholar, and one of the founder-members of the Progressive Writers' Association, Ali Sardar Jafri, a major voice in Indian literature transcended the barriers of language and territory. Popularly known as a poet of the masses, Jafri was one of the beacon lights of Urdu progressive literature. He raised his pen and voice against the economic and social injustice prevalent so much in our country and abroad.



Gopi Chand Narang, the chief guest delivering his address



L-R: Khwaja Mohammad Shahid, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Ali Ahmad Fatmi and Chander Bhan Khayal

A three day national seminar was organized by the Sahitya Akademi on 'Ali Sardar Jafri' from February 22-24, 2014 to mark the century celebration of the author. More than 60 scholars from all over India participated in the seminar and spoke on Jafri's multifaceted personality and dimensions. At the end of each seminar day a poetry session was held in which the distinguished national level poets recited their poetry.

The inaugural session of the seminar was presided over by the president of the Sahitya Akademi Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari while Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, noted scholar and veteran critic of Urdu was the chief guest of the session. The seminar was inaugurated the pro-Vice Chancellor of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad Khwaja Mohammad. Shahid while Ali Ahmad

Fatmi delivered the key-note address. The Secretary of the Sahitya Akademi K.Sreenivasarao welcomed all the guests, scholars and lovers of literature. Dr. Rao who welcomed all the participants in the beginning of the seminar, said that Sardar Jafri is also counted among one of the major voices in Indian literature. Chanderbhan Khayal, Convenor Urdu Advisory board, called Ali Sardar Jafri a legend of Urdu literature and poetry.

Prof. Narang, in his address, said "Ali Sardar Jafri was the captain of the Progressive writers. He benefitted from the company of Sajjad Zaheer, Mulk Raj Anand, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Ehtesham Hussain and Makhdum Mohiuddin. Josh was his hero. The style of direct addressing which is found in the poetry of Sardar was because of the impression of Josh. He proved himself a great writer in

poetry and prose as well." He further added, "I had always seen Sardar Jafri active in socially and politically but creative genius in him made him great. He met with many ups and downs in life but he always kept his commitments. The distinguishing values of his poetry are human friendliness and patriotism." Prof. Narang remarked. He said that Sardar Jafri's had magnetic personality was the reason for his popularity. People opposed him as they opposed Ghalib and Mir but it did not interfere his creative genius.

Prof. Tiwari said in his presidential speech that Ali Sardar Jafri was equally popular in Hindi as he was in Urdu. He also said that he was the one who introduced Ghalib to the Hindi literary circle. He also published the selection of Mir Taqi Mir, Meera Bai, and Kabir with full introductory foreword.



In the inaugural speech Khwaja Mohammad Shahid said Jafri was a highly talented writer, a poet, a critic, a playwright, and a story writer. Among the progressive writers no one had such a critical eye. He brought in new trends contemporary Urdu literature. He subdued the difference of east and west through his poetry and prose writings. In the key-note address, Ali Ahmad Fatmi said that the personalities like Sardar Jafri is born after centuries. He had unique vision who tried to dispel the barriers. He dealt with high seriousness on the issues like social exploitation and inequality.

After the inaugural session, the first session was presided over by Syed Taqi Abidi. In his presidential speech, he said that Jafri wrote allegorical poems, and also experimented in different forms of poetry. Nezam Siddiqui presented a paper on the critical excellence of Sardar Jafri. Beig Ehsas presented the critical analysis of "Asia Jaag Utha", a poem

by Sardar Jafri. He called this poem an important creative experiment and a great narrative. Afaq Ahmad presented his paper on the topic on "Sardar Jafri and Iqbal" while Rakhshanda Jalil presented the critical study of "Lucknow ki Paanch Ratein." Third session was a poetry session in which Farhat Ehsaas presented his experience and inner feelings in an innovative way, Jayant Parmar presided Dalit issues, Asad Raza stated his feelings of social and political waves, Rashid Anwar Rashid presented the romantic and love poetry and Iffat Zarrin recited her poems about the decreasing values.

In the second day of the seminar the first session was presided over by Abul Kalam Qasmi. In his presidential speech, he called, Ali Sardar Jafri, a multi faceted personality. There are many aspects of his personality and creativity which is yet to be studied. In his dramas, poetry, fiction and criticism he exhibited the revolt besides human kindness and

patriotism. In this session Atiqullah, F.S. Ejaz, Athar Farooqi and Umar Raza presented their papers. Atiqullah explained the layers of meaning in the poems of Sardar Jafri. Fey Seen Ejaz has presented his paper "Sar-e-Daar Ghazlein" in which he focused on ghazals of Sardar Jafri. Umar Raza presented the paper in which he analyzed the dramas of Sardar Jafri.

The second session of the day was presided over by Sahfey Kidwai. In this session Khalid Alvi presented his paper on Kabir and Sardar Jafri. Raza Haider chose his topic "Paighambaran-e-sukhan" while Ejaz Ali Arshad's topic was "Sardar Jafri and Iqbal".

The third session was presided over by Anis Ashfaq. In this session, Waseem Begum's presentation encompassed the personality and contribution of Sardar Jafri. Humayun Ashraf discussed *Pairahan-e-Sharar* a collection of poems by Sardar Jafri and Fazal Imam Rizvi discussed the style of Jafri in *Labu Pukarta Hai*.

The fourth session was a poetry



One of the sessions in progress



session, presided over by eminent Urdu poet Sheen Kaaf Nizam. Khalil Mamoon, Syed Taqi Abidi, Aazim Gurvinder Singh Kohilee and Moin Shadaab recited their poems.

In the third and last day of the seminar the first session was presided over by Sadiq ur Rahman Kidwai who called Sardar Jafri a representative poet of the period. He made his mark with long poems and also impressed with his ghazals too. In this session Ibn-e-Kanwal discussed the different aspects of Sardar Jafri's short stories. Saifi Sironji covered Jafri's literary journalism while Jamil Akhtar presented the analytical study of "Aman ka Sitara" a long poem by Sardar Jafri.

The second session of day was presided over by Akhtarul Wasey. Sardar Jafri contributed so much to the corpus of Urdu literature that can never be forgotten. In this session, Shamim Tarique presented his paper based on Sardar Jafri's poetry on special genre. Maula Bakhsh paper was on the topic "Nai Duniya ko Ssalam: a Post Colonial Advocacy."

In the third session of the seminar, Fazal Imam Rizivi presided over. He mentioned in his presidential speech that the writings of Sardar Jafri should be read with seriousness and also they should be seen in today's perspective. In this session Anwar Pasha presented his paper based on "Sardar's revolutionary style" and discussed his revolutionary poems. Nusrat Zaheer presented his paper on "Sardar Jafri and Films" while Saleha Zarrin presented analytical study of Sardar Jafri's poem "Mera Safar".

The last session was a poetry reading session. It was presided over by Chandra Bhan Khayal. The poets Shahid Mahuli, Shaista Yousuf, P.P. Shriwastav Rind, Shakeel Azmi, Shams Ramzi, and Moid Rashidi recited their poetry. Mushtaq Sadaf, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi, proposed the vote of thanks.

National Seminar

Yogavasishtha and Indian Thought Tradition

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Jnana-Pravaha organised a three-day national seminar on 'Yogavashishtha and Indian Thought Tradition' from 18 to 20 February 2014 at Auditorium, Jnan-Pravaha, Centre for Cultural Studies and Research, Varanasi. Sudhanshu Shekhar Shastri presided over the inaugural session and Kamlesh Datta Tripathi delivered the inaugural address. Wagish Shukla presented the key-note address and Radhavallabh Tripathi, Convenor, Sanskrit Advisory Board gave the introductory address. Vote of thanks was given by Brijendra Tripathi.

On the second day of the seminar the first two sessions were devoted to "The Textual Tradition of Yogavasishtha and Textual Criticism" and "Yogavasishtha and Nigamagam Tradition." Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat chaired both the sessions. Chandrakant Shukla, Hareram Tripathi, Vasundhara Filliozat,

Wagish Shukla, Omprakash Pandey, A.S Narsimha Murthy and Sachchidanand Mishra presented their papers.

The third day of the seminar "Philosophical Tradition of Yogavasishtha" was the topic for the third session. Under the chairpersonship of Mark Dizkovaski, Bettina Baeumar, Krishnakant Sharma and Rajendra Prasad Sharma presented their papers.

The fourth session was chaired by Ram Nath Sharma and the topic was "Yogavasishtha and different Traditions." Vindhyeswari Prasad Mishra examined "Narratives of Yogavasishtha." Chandan Pandey and Ila Kumar also presented their papers.

The valedictory session was chaired by Yugal Kishore Mishra and Radhavallabh Tripathi gave the valedictory address. Acharya Nilakanth Purshottam Joshi delivered the vote of thanks.



Kamlesh Datta Tripathi, Brajendra Tripathi, Radhavallabh Tripathi, Wagish Shukla and Sudhanshu Shastri



WORLD POETRY FESTIVAL

MARCH 21-24, 2014

Sahitya Akademi, under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised ‘SABAD – A World Poetry Festival’ in Delhi involving 50 poets from all over the world including India at Meghdoot Theatre Complex, Rabindra Bhavan from 21 to 24 March 2014. The Festival showcased the best of contemporary poetry in diverse languages and countries. It brought together poets from 21 countries and those from India, young as well as old, on a common platform. The Festival was organized during the celebrations of 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and 100th year of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore’s receiving the Noble Prize.

The invited poets devoted four days of the Festival to fruitful exchange of thoughts and poetry through reading sessions as well as panel discussions, leading to a greater understanding and cooperation among the countries and cultures they represent. The Festival was a celebration of world of poetry in its best and most appealing and enduring forms. Overall, the Festival created creative space for meaningful exchange and interaction among poets and other participants.

International Poetry Festivals usually showcase the tribulations and felicitations of poetic talents; but in the case of ‘Sabad - A Festival of Poetry,’ the participants presented nuanced elements of their poetry that



*George Sziters inaugurating the Festival.
To his left are Viswanath Prasad Tiwari and Chandrashekhar Kambar*

had vestiges of their respective cultural histories along with common traits of advancing human aspirations.

The ‘Sabad- A Festival of Poetry’ opened with the introductory address by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, who, remembering two great Indian thinkers of last century, Swami Vivekananda and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, stated that Festival is being organized to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and 100th year of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore’s receiving Noble Prize. He welcomed poets from all over who represented every nook and corner of

the world. Dr. Rao also added that the Festival is the celebration of spring and also celebration of human excellence in poetry.

In his presidential address, Viswanath Prasad Tiwari expressed his great pleasure over Sahitya Akademi for hosting such a prestigious international poetry event and stated that it would contribute in a major way to creative diversity. He stated that festival like this brings together minds, enhance the awareness of other cultures and highlight the important lessons to be learnt from the histories of other cultures and communities.



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Referring to universal language of poetry, he stated, “Through medium of poetry we want to establish unity of human beings. Poets do not belong to a nation.” He said that poetry should be about the knowledge of all fields of human life than about the language of tender feelings. Prof. Tiwari also expressed his wish that this Festival would mark the revival of poetry in the rapidly changing world societies across the world in general and among youth in India particular.

The Festival was inaugurated by distinguished Hungarian poet Mr. George Sziters by lighting lamps. During his inaugural address he stated, “A poet is a scientist of emotions and he feels that these emotions should be preserved and woven into poetry so that many more can savour it and enlighten their thoughts and lives. Poetry

is compared with the creator of the universe since a poem creates a scene which is as vivid, truthful and soul enriching as the one by the creator or god himself.” Referring to poems and story-telling as means of connecting with human emotions, he recited six of his poems written in English.

Sanjeev Mittal, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Culture, was also present during the inaugural session. Eminent poet and a fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Kunwar Narain was the chief guest of the inaugural session. He stated that although poets belong to different countries and region, there is no physical boundary for the poems. Eminent Odia poet, Ramakanta Rath who was the guest of honour, expressed same thoughts and stated that all poets belong to same world and share same values. He recited his poem “Radha”, which

expressed Radha’s unconditional love for Lord Krishna.

The inaugural session had poetry readings by noted Australian poet Mr. Les Wicks, Mr. Nikola Madzirov from Macedonia, eminent German poet Ms. Ingrid Fitchner, and young poet from Palestine, Mr. Najwas Darwish. Poems recited by Mr. Les Wicks were deep in meaning and thoughts. Some of the poems recited by him include “Fire Break Out,” “Sky Trail,” “First Breed.” etc. Ms. Ingrid Fitchner also recited couple of her short and crispy poems like “A Call,” “A Slumbering,” “Lightening,” “Intruding,” etc loaded with deep emotions. Memory and images were the dominant feature of poems recited by Macedonian poet Mr. Nikola Madzirov like “Home,” “I Don’t Know,” “The Hands of the Clock,” “Perfection is Born” etc. However, the main theme of poems recited by young poet from Palestine Mr Najwan Darwish was war and



Ramakant Rath, Kunwar Narain, Nikola Madzirov, George Sziters, Viswanath Prasad Tiwari, Les Wicks, Ingrid Fitchner, Chandrashekhara Kambara and Najwan Darwish



human atrocities. Some of his poems recited by him were “Jerusalem I,” “The Nightmare Bus to Sabra and Shatila,” “Sleeping in Gaza,” “In Hell,” etc.

Vote of thanks was proposed by distinguished Kannada poet and Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi Chandrashekhar Kambar who congratulated Sahitya Akademi for organising this prestigious international event that aimed to present multiple voices of many tongues and visions, identities and poetic culture from around the world.

The inaugural session was followed by poetry reading session chaired by eminent Indian English writer and poet Keki N. Daruwalla. Ms. Marra PL. Lanot from Philippines, Mr. Milosov Topinka from Czech Republic, and Vanita from India recited their poems in English as well as in their native languages. Chair of the session Keki N. Daruwala also recited some of his selected and popular poems like “Bars,” “Before the Word,” “Fish- metaphorical Love,” and “Migration,” which told the story of India’s partition and the horror of migration.

The last session of day one saw the poetry reading of four poets from Denmark, United Kingdom, and India. The session was chaired by distinguished Danish poet and writer Ms Pia Tafdruf. Manipuri poet Thongjam Ibospishak Singh, Mr. George Sziters, eminent Hungarian poet based in United Kingdom, eminent Tamil poet Tamilanaban read their poems. Many of the poems recited by him expressed poet’s displeasure with capitalist society, profit-making motive, materialism advocated by capitalist culture. Ms Pia Tafdruf, chair of the session, also recited her selected poems like

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K. Sreenivasarao greeting the poets from abroad

“Kennel,” “We are no Creatures of a Single Day,” “A Dog is Let in,” “Good Night,” “Inside Edge,” “Seven Dresses for Visibility” etc.

In the evening of the first day of the Festival, internationally acclaimed Odissi dancer, Kavita Dwivedi presented “Shewata Mukti: Feminine Glory of Nirvana” through her dance accompanied by poetry and music.

In the third session five distinguished poets from India as well as Australia and Nigeria recited their poems in English as well as in their respective native languages. The session was chaired by Mr. Tanure Ojaide, eminent Nigerian poet and recipient of Commonwealth Poetry Prize for African Region.

The first poet to recite poems in that session was noted Gujarati poet Kamal Vora. Mostly in his poems, Kamal Vora talked about beauty and aesthetics. The second poet of the session was eminent Australian poet and publisher

Mr. Les Wicks. His recitation was accompanied by music of his country, which created an atmosphere peace and calmness in the auditorium. The third poet to recite poems was Dr. Desmond Kharmawaphlang, a noted poet from Northeast India. The last poet of the session was veteran Hindi poet Mr. Chandrakanta Devtale who recited couple of poems in Hindi followed by English translation. Chair of the session, Mr. Tanure Ojaide also recited his selected poems like “Remembering,” “You Don’t have to Bbe,” “Warrior Songs,” “In Durban, Kwa Zulu Natal.” etc. The next session of the day was a panel discussion titled “Poetry and Other Arts.” The session was chaired by noted Hungarian poet and painter Mr. George Sziters. The participating discussants were Mr. Les Wicks from Australia, Ms. Ingrid Storholmen from Norway, Mr. Tanuare Ojaide from Nigeria, and Dr.



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Balachandra Nemade with other poet invitees from abroad

Bhalachandra Nemade from India. The discussion started with a question answer session between the chair and the participants. The four questions from the chair were about the experience of the various arts in childhood, about practical experiment with other art forms, which blended into the proposed third question regarding collaboration with other arts, and the last, briefly addressed was essentially about emphasis and how far the different art forms constituted a unified field.

In response to the first question, each of the poets talked about their childhood and influence of art in their early life. Noted Marathi poet Bhalachandra Nemada talked about various forms of celebrations and rituals in his village, which had a great influence in his early life. He also talked about Indian tradition of 64 arts that

do not fall within the category of seven forms of Western art referred by Plato and Aristotle. Mr. Les Wicks talked about influence of books and paintings in his childhood. Nigerian poet Mr. Tanure Ojaide talked about influence of music in his childhood while Norwegian poet Ms. Ingrid Storholmen recalled the meaning of beautiful that she learnt from her parents. Regarding the second question about collaboration with other forms of art, Dr. Namade referred various forms of Indian art that cannot be separated from poetry. He added that India had a rich tradition of art and poetry; however, after the colonisation, India was directed toward monolithic art forms. Mr. Tanuare Ojaide stated that poems cannot be separated from music and dance as those are indispensable to each other. Australian poet Mr. Les Wicks illustrated various forms of art and poetry through pictures

collected by him. Ms. Ingrid Storholmen stated that poems and art are inseparable as visuals play a great role in poetry.

In the fifth session Mr. Oscar Cruz from Cuba, Ms. Maram Al-Masri from France, and Mr. Shafi Shauq from India presented their poems. The session was chaired by noted poet and academician from Ireland Ms. Lorna Shaghnessy. The session was started by noted Syrian poet based in France Ms. Maram Al-Masri who showed a wonderful video about women and suffering to audience. It reflected the helplessness of the poet. Rest of her poems were addressed to current political turmoil in Syria, killing of innocent people and children in war, horror of current war in her country. Her poems were an act of identification, making claims on the hearer in terms of compassion, presenting an invitation to identify partly with the subject and partly with the poet. Young Cuban poet recited poetry in Spanish and later translated into English. In his poem "Poetry Sub-40" he questioned the older generation for criticising the current generation without admiring their work. Noted Kashmiri poet Shafi Shauq recited series of poems in Kashmiri as well as in English titled. Referring poetry is all about witnessing, wandering, and wonder, chair of the session Ms. Lorna Shaghnessy also recited couple of her poems dedicated to Ireland, birds, and nature.

The last session of third day was chaired by noted Macedonian poet Mr. Nikola Madzirov. The poets who took part in the session included Ms Ingrid Storholmen from Norway, Ms Moya Canon from Ireland and noted Urdu poet Sheen Kaaf Nizam from India. The first reading in the session



was done by noted Norwegian poet Ms Ingrid Storholmen who recited a long romantic poem and other selected poems in English. The next poet was Ms Moya Canon, noted Irish poet and academician, who recited series of her short poems. Many of these poems were about memories, historical places, and journeys undertaken by the poet. Sheen Kaaf Nizam, well-known Urdu poet and critic recited his highly lyrical deeply and meaningful poems. Chair Mr. Nikola Madzirov also recited his selected poems that reflected rich visual lyricism.

The second day of the Festival came to an end with a splendid performance of Indian traditional folk singing by Meghwal singers, Kamad, Manganiar and Langers from Rajasthan.

The seventh session was chaired by veteran poet and writer from Sri Lanka Ms Jean Arasanyagam. Ms Arasanyagam from the chair also recited some of her poems who dedicated to her country, civil war in Sri Lanka, and disappearance of war victims.

The session began with poetry reading by noted poet and fiction writer from Wales, Mr. Richard Gwyn. He recited couple of his poems as well as prose pieces reflected complexities and paradoxes of life, marriages, and love. Mr. Belal Chowdhury, veteran poet and journalist from Bangladesh. Whole poems reflected poet's love for Bangladesh and his language, and his passion for the country, and the language movement. The third presenter was eminent young poet in English Ranjit Hoskote from India. Sanskrit poet and author Rajendra Mishra recited all the poems in Sanskrit followed by English translation.

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Shafi Shauq with fellow poets from abroad

The eighth session of the third day was a panel discussion titled "Poetry Time, Timelessness." The session was chaired by eminent Marathi poet and writer Bhalchandra Nemade. The participating discussants were distinguished poet Ms. Jean

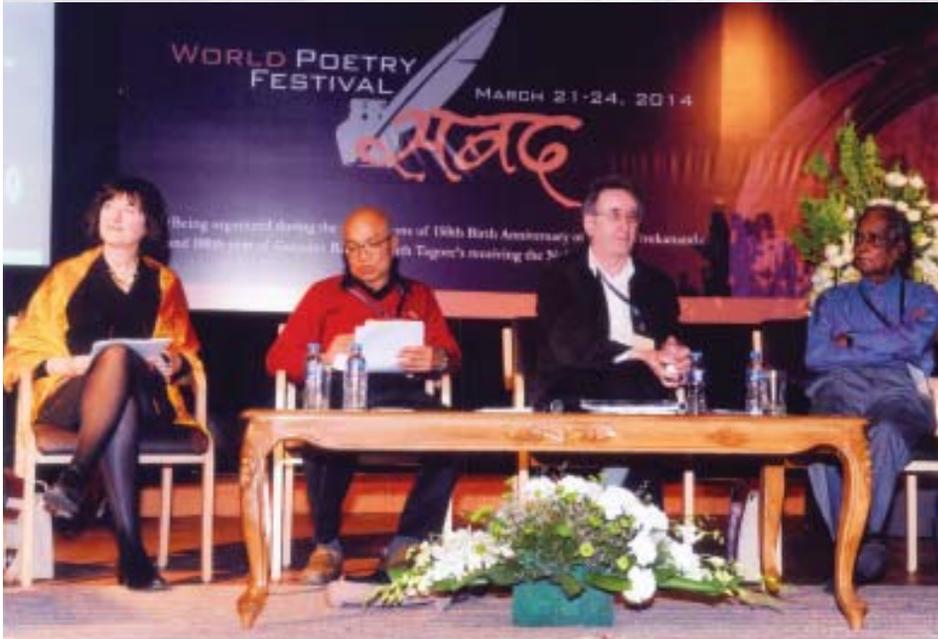
Arasanyagam from Sri Lanka, eminent Telugu poet K. Shiva Reddy, and poet and academician from Kashmir Shafi Shauq. In the beginning of the discussion, chair Dr. Nemade referred that the element of time is well known to scientists while the element of timelessness is



One among the lively poetry presentation sessions, the poets from India and abroad



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Pia Tafdrup, Thangjam Ibopishak Singh, George Sziters and Tamilanban

known only to poets he expressed his concern about disappearance of many languages, which is posing a great challenge to timelessness. Ms. Jean Arasanyagam stated that time is something visual, historical, space specific and horizontal and it is territorialized. K. Shiva Reddy referred to Indian classics like the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* as these classics have gone beyond time, place, and society. Safi Shauq stated that best poems are those which are faithful to moment and milieu.

The last session was chaired by distinguished poet and folklorist from Nepal Dr. Tulasi Diwasa. While explaining the significance of silence and its power, the poet opened the session for audience. The first poet to recite poems was young Bengali poet Ms Mandakranta Sen. Each of the poems recited by her like are

strong expression of emotions and feeling. Second poet to present was eminent Kannada poet and playwright H.S. Shivaprakash. He recited some of his poems in Kannada language and in English translation as well. Young poet from Palestine Mr. Najwan Darwish also recited his poems in this session. Through his intense poems, Najwan invited reader to share his passion for Palestine cause and lamented the loss of land and territory. The last session came to an end with concluding remarks and poems recitation by Tulsi Diwasa. While praising this international event, he stated that now the time has come to declare some writers and poets as living heritage as they are master creators.

The tenth session began with poetry readings by veteran Spanish poet, novelist, and critic Mr. Antonio Colinas. Mr Colinas stated that oriental thinking and philosophy has a great influence on his

poems. The second poet who recited poems was Mr. Gérard Noiret, noted poet and social worker from France. He recited couple of poems in French followed by English translations The third presenter was distinguished Hindi poet and journalist Manglesh Dabral whose poetry expressed concern about irony of our time. In fact, memory was a dominant theme in his poems.

The session was chaired by veteran Telugu poet K. Shiva Reddy.

The eleventh session of the day saw a range of poets from countries like Seychelles, Germany, and Italy along with poets from India. The first poet who presented was Ms. Helda Marie, noted writer and poet from Seychelles, who began showing some of the beautiful pictures of her island country. The Malayalam poet P.P. Ramachandran presented his poems which were basically a reflection of society and everyday life in big cities of India. Eminent German poet Ms Ingrid Fichtner recited series of short poems in German followed by English translation. The final presenter of the last session was Ms. Tiziana Cera Rosco, a noted poet, photographer, and performer based in Italy. She presented a long poem, consisting of two parts, about the Passion of Christ. The two parts were basically spiritual and philosophical verses with deep religious meaning. She recited in Italian in the form of drama and prayer. The session was chaired by eminent Kannada poet H.S. Shivaprakash who in his concluding remarks stated that there is no conclusion of poetry, there is only a beginning through the 'Sabad – A Festival of Poetry.'

The four-day long Festival concluded with the valedictory session and vote of thanks by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.



Vishnu Prabhakar Birth Centenary Seminar



On the occasion of birth centenary of Vishnu Prabhakar, Sahitya Akademi organised a two-day seminar on 24-25 January 2014 at Bikaner, Rajasthan.

In the beginning of inaugural session, Srilal Mohta, eminent scholar said that Vishnu Prabhakar inherited the sensitivity of Saratchandra, humanism of Mahatma Gandhi and Tolstoy, the judgement of Maharishi Dayanand's logic and the language Jainendra.

Nand Bharadwaj, eminent Hindi writer, in his keynote address opined that Prabhakar meaningfully lead the

tradition of idealistic realism after Premchand. Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board in his inaugural address said that Vishnu Prabhakar learned Bengali language and researched for 14 years to write *Awara Masiba*, a biography of Saratchandra. This biography enriched Hindi literature.

The first session was chaired by Malchand Tiwari. Both Anita Navin and Bulaki Sharma presented their papers on "Short-Stories of Vishnu Prabhakar." In the next session under the chairmanship of Suresh Salil; Atul Prabhakar, Sudhir Vidyarthi, Ramkumar Krishak and Shyam Maharishi shared their memories and experiences with Vishnu Prabhakar. "Novels of Vishnu Prabhakar" was the topic for the third

session. Pankaj Parashar, Anirudh Umat and Vatsala Pandey presented their papers under chairpersonship of Kaushalnath Upadhyay. The fourth session was chaired by Ramshankar Diwedi and Ramesh Rishikalp, Radheysam Tiwari and Brajratan Joshi discussed "Biographies, Reminiscences and Poetry of Vishnu Prabhakar."

Fifth and sixth sessions were devoted to "Children Literature" and "Plays and One-act Plays/Travelogues of Vishnu Prabhakar." Prakash Manu and Pratap Sehgal chaired the respective sessions. Surendra Vikram, Divik Ramesh, Rashmi Bhargav, Pratyush Guleri, Phoolchan Manav, Suresh Tripathi, Ramji Bali and Rajendra Joshi presented their papers.

A symposium on Bhagwat Sharan Upadhyay, famous archaeologist, historian, thinker, critic and fictionist was organised by Sahitya Akademi on 28 January 2014 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, New Delhi.

In the inaugural session K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the audience and Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board, delivered introductory speech. Khagendra Thakur, eminent critic, in his inaugural address stated that, not much is written about Bhagwat Sharan Upadhyay though his valuable contribution enriched Hindi literature. He added that Upadhyay's commitment towards the general public is remarkable and his thoughts should be acknowledged and justified.

Nirmala Jain, eminent critic, in her presidential address said, "Bhagwat Sharan Upadhyay's approach comprises of logic, sanity and experiment. His outlook for history and literature was scientific."

Symposium

Bhagwat Sharan Upadhyay



Khagendra Thakur, K. Sreenivasarao, Surya Prasad Dixit, Nirmala Jain and Bhagwan Singh

The chief guest Bhagwan Singh, veteran Hindi writer, while commenting on the cultural consciousness of Bhagwat Sharan Upadhyay, opined that his studies in the context of culture relate us with humanity, sociology and science.

In the second session chaired by Manager Pandey, Usha Kiran Khan, Uday Prakash Arora, Gopeshwar Singh and Arun Verma presented their papers.

National Seminar: Contexts and Concerns Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture



Jaspal Singh, Jaspal Kaur Kang, Rawail Singh, Satinder Singh and Arun Kumar Grover

A national seminar on 'Contexts and Concerns: Punjabi Language, Literature and Culture' of first Decade of 21st Century, was organized by Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Department of Guru Nanak Sikh Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh on 20 and 21 February 2014 at Chandigarh.

The seminar was inaugurated by Arun Kumar Grover, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh. Earlier, Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Publication Assistant, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the participants and audience. Rawail Singh, Convenor, Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi delivered the introductory address.

Dwelling on the theme of the seminar Satinder Singh, in his key-note address said that along with the existing emphasis on historic and developmental dimensions of Punjabi writing, philosophy and cultural dimension could not be ignore in the 21st century. D.D.S. Sandhu, in his presidential address emphasized that it was necessary to recognize the fact that Punjabi language, literature and culture may become endangered species in the wake of

exponential growth of new challenges of globalization of communication technology.

Jaspal Singh, chief guest of the seminar, said that the Punjabi language was accredited with international recognition largely due to liberal, dynamic and enterprising outlook of Punjabis which was receptive to pluralities and

diversities. Deepak Manmohan Singh, Member Punjabi Advisory Board was the guest of honour. First session of the seminar was chaired by Jaswinder Singh. Jadish Singh, Joga Singh, Buta Singh Brar, Sukhdev Singh, Uma Sethi and Gurnaib Singh presented papers on different genres of fiction written during the first decade of twenty first century. Second session was chaired by Rainer Singh Bhatti and Harsimrant Singh Randhawa, Gurbal Singh Sandhu, Dhanwant Kaur, Raminder Kaur, Yograj Angrish and Kulbir Singh presented papers on poetry written during the first decade of twenty first century. Third session was based on drama and role of electronic equipments in the promotion of Punjabi literature in the first decade of twenty first century. It was chaired by Harbhajan Singh Bhatia and papers were presented by Satnam Singh Jassal, Manjit Singh, Surjit Singh Bhati, Rajinder Brar, Jaspal Kaur Kaang, Surinder Kumar Daweshwar and Gurmukh Singh. In the valedictory session, Ravi Ravinder expressed his observations on the seminar. Satish Kumar Verma gave his valedictory address.

Symposium: Sindhi Sufi Poetry

A symposium on 'Sindhi Sufi Poetry' was organised by Sahitya Akademin in collaboration with Sindhi Academy, Delhi on 22 March 2014 at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests. Laxman Bhatia 'Komal', eminent Sindhi writer delivered the inaugural address. Key-note address was delivered by Prem Prakash, Convenor, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. C.J. Daswani, eminent Sindhi scholar was the guest of honour. Murlidhar Jetley, Vice-Chairman, Sindhi Academy, Delhi gave the presidential address and Sindhi Bhagla Mishra, Secretary, Sindhi Academy, Delhi

devlivered vote of thanks.

The first session was chaired by Laxman Bhatia 'Komal'. Paper were presented by Jagdish Lachhani, Mohan Gehani, Nand Zaveri, Vasdev Mohi, Veena Shringi, Meena Rupchandani and Khiman Mulani.

In the second session, Arjan Hasid chaired the session. Kamla Goklani, Jaya Jadwani, Laxman Dubey, Mohan Himthyani, Vinod Assudani and Arjan Chawla presented their papers. The third session was chaired by Murlidhar Jetley. Papers were presented by Goverdhan Sharma 'Ghayal', Hundraj Balwani, Asha Rangwani and Kaladhar Mutwa. Prem Prakash gave the concluding remarks.

Meet the Author Manmohan Bawa



Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar organized a 'Meet the Author' programme on 24 February 2013 at GNDU Hall, Amritsar, Punjab. Eminent Punjabi writer Manmohan Bawa was invited to speak on his writing and creative process. Manmohan Bawa is better known as fiction writer, but primarily he is an adventurer.

Manmohan Bawa in his speech said that his works are inspired from classics of Indian literature like the *Mahabharata*, the *Ramayana*, *Upanishads*, *Puranas* etc. He deals with old themes in modern contexts. Referring to his collection of short stories *Ajat Sundari*, he mentioned that the stories of this collection are inspired by Rahul Sankrityayan's 'Volga se Ganga.' In 2004, suddenly he realized that he is not able to justify his expression in short stories because of the limitation of the genre. So he moved towards novel. He published his first novel *Yudh Naad* which is still considered as a milestone in the history of Punjabi literature.

He said that his travelogues are more close to his heart as he has trekked the mountains several times in different conditions. He has tried to portray the present scenario like the road conditions, the access, weather conditions, available food, trekking restrictions and how and where to get assistances of each place he has visited.

Changing Social and Human Values in Dogri Literature

A symposium on 'Changing Social and Human Values in Dogri Literature' was organised by the Sahitya Akademi on 21 February 2014 at K.L. Saigal Hall, Jammu.

Lalit Mangotra, Convener of the Dogri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, welcomed gathering and introduced the topic. He said that literature needs to be reviewed and evaluated from time to time to assess its progress and direction.

The symposium was inaugurated by Rajiv Gupta, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Jammu. In his inaugural address, he said that Dogri language has come up through a long struggle and discussed how social and human values are being represented in Dogri literature.

Veena Gupta, eminent Dogri writer in her key-note address said that though literature apparently appears subjective. It always has a universe appeal.

The inaugural session was followed by the paper reading session. The first paper was presented by Sunil Sharma "Changing social and human values in

Dogri poems." He said that the control of society has now come into the hands of uncivilized, cruel and corrupt people leading to the deterioration of the society. This degradation affects the emotional and sensitive section of the society whose pain is reflected and represented in their poetry. The next speaker was Yash Raina who spoke on "Changing human and social values in Dogri stories." He said that our individual values define our social behaviour and social relations. Dogri stories and particularly contemporary stories tell us about the positive and negative values and thoughts existing in the society and the changing roles of women in the society.

The last speaker of the session was Rattan Doshi, who gave his views on the topic "Changing human and social values in Dogri drama." He said that in Dogri drama, all social evils and issues are portrayed and act as a medium of awareness for the society.

Nilambar Dev Sharma, chairperson of the paper reading session, threw light on the issues related to the topic of the symposium.



L-R: Yash Raina, Sunil Sharma, Nilambar Dev Sharma, Lalit Mangotra and Rattan Doshi

Seminar on Pandit Jeevan Jha

Sahitya Akademi organised a two-day seminar on 27-28 February 2014 at Patna to mark the death anniversary of Pandit Jeevan Jha, eminent Maithili playwright. The seminar was inaugurated by Kamal Nath Singh Thakur, former M.L.C., Bihar. At the beginning, Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub-Editor, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and gathering.



Mohan Bhardwaj, Ratneshwar Mishra,
Kamal Nath Singh Thakur and Bina Thakur

In her introductory speech, Bina Thakur, Convenor, Maithili Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, spoke about the life and works of Pandit Jeevan Jha. She referred his four plays *Maithili Sattak*, *Samwati Pumarjanma*, *Sundar Sanyog* and *Narmada Sagar*. Ratneshwar Mishra, chief guest of the occasion, dealt on the works of Jeevan Jha in the context of his contemporary social, cultural, educational, economic and political situations.

Mohan Bhardwaj, presiding over the session, marked Pandit Jeevan Jha as a epoch-making playwright. He said that plays of Pandit Jha were more prominent than his poetry.

First session of the seminar was chaired by Devendra Jha, well-known Maithili writer and critic. Yoganand Jha, Madhukant Jha and Indira Jha presented their papers in the session, which were focussed on contemporary literary and national perspectives and the life and works of Pandit Jeevan Jha. Second session was presided over by Premlata Mishra Prem, eminent theatre artist. Naresh Mohan Jha and Shankar Deo Jha presented their papers in the session. Bhagya Narayan Jha discussed on the presented papers. Third session was

chaired by Ashok, while Veena Karna, Tarannand Viyogi and Aruna Chaudhary presented their papers. Papers focused on characters, dialogue and the language of the plays of Jeevan Jha. In his presidential address, Ashok said that the modernity begins with the writings of Jeevan Jha in Maithili Literature.

Second day, on 28th February, Vasuki Nath Jha, Secretary, Chetna Samiti, Patna, chaired the fourth session. Ramanand Jha Raman, Panna Jha and Kamal Mohan Chunnun presented their papers in the session. They dealt on the aspects of *rasa*, *sangeet* and *kavyatattva* in the plays of Pandit Jeevan Jha.

Fifth session was chaired by Lekhnath Mishra, while papers were presented by Ajit Azad and Khushi Lal Jha. Lekhnath Mishra spoke about the tradition of Maithili play and modernity. Sixth session was presided over by Vivekanand Thakur. Panchanan Mishra, Ashok Avichal and Amlendu Shekhar Pathak presented their papers in the session.

Valedictory session was chaired by Ushakiran Khan, while Virendra Jha expressed his views as an observer of the seminar.

Symposium

Nari Chetna in Punjabi Literature

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with University College, Chunni Kalan, Punjab organised a symposium on Nari Chetna programme on 31 March 2014, in Punjabi Literature at University College, Chunni Kalan, Punjab.

Manjeet Kaur Bhatia, Publication Assistant, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and audience. V.K. Tiwari, Principal, University College, Chunni Kalan, in his introductory speech endeavoured for a social change by empowering women and also addressing complex issues concerning left wing extremism. Reading session was chaired by Jaspal Kaur Kaang, Member, Punjabi Advisory Board and chairperson, Guru Nanak Sikh Studies, Punjab University, Chandigarh and papers were presented by Charanjeet Kaur Brar, Kamaljeet Kaur, Amarjeet Ghumman, Sarbjeet Kaur Sohal, Balbahudur Singh and Davinder Singh on contribution of Punjabi women writers in the field of poetry, prose, short story, novels, research work respectively.

Jaspal Kaur Kaang who spoke from the chair, said that a women distributes love, will power and sanctity to make the society advanced and throws light on the path of wisdom. Referring to the powerful writings of Punjabi women writers like Amrtia Pritam, Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Ajeet Kaur, Manjit Tiwana etc., she said that their works are no less in any sense in comparison to the works written by Punjabi male writers as women and their writings are unfortunately underrated.



National Seminar

Multilingualism and the Literary Culture of India

The Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Sahitya Akademi, organized a three day national seminar on “Multilingualism and the Literary Culture of India” from 27 to 29 March, 2014 at the School of Humanities Auditorium, UoH, Hyderabad.

Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary of Sahitya Akademi, initiated the proceedings and the welcome address was given by K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary of Sahitya Akademi. E. Haribabu, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of University of Hyderabad, implied the need for preserving the multilingual character of India. Noted poet Shiv K. Kumar chaired the session while K. Satchidanandan, a well known figure in Malayalam literature, gave a concise history of India with regard to its multilingual character and the threats to it. Two noted scholars, Amiya Dev, former Vice-Chancellor of Vidyasagar University and Harish Trivedi, Professor in the Department of English, University of Delhi slightly differed with K. Satchidanandan and pointed out that the concept of multilingualism needed closer inspection. Vote of thanks for the inaugural session was given by Amitabha Das Gupta, Dean, School of Humanities, UoH.

The inaugural session was followed by a Reading Session which was chaired by Sowmya Dechamma, Assistant Professor at Centre for Comparative Literature, UoH. Shiv K. Kumar had a short story of his read out and recited a few lines of Urdu poetry. He was followed by Shashi Deshpande, noted Indian English novelist, who read out an excerpt from her novel *Shadow Play*.

Hoshang Merchant, former Professor of English and poet followed Deshpande and he read a range of poems from his latest collection *Sufiana*. The final reading was by K. Sridhar, Physicist and writer of fiction who read out excerpts from his novel *Twice Written*. This ended the event on 27 March, 2014.

On 28 March, 2014 there were three sessions. Session I was chaired by Shashi Deshpande. The first paper of the day was presented by the well known writer, translator and former Professor in Department of English, University of Hyderabad, M. Sridhar. His paper titled, “Between Languages, Writing Creativity and Translation” explored his reasons for not preferring to be translated by others and through it he asked questions of authorship, creativity and bi-lingual creativity. Being a bi-lingual creative writer himself, he posed engaging questions like what is the language of thought? And which of the two languages shape the thoughts of a bilingual speaker? Scaria Zacharia, former Professor and HoD, Department of Malayalam, Sree

Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, presented the next paper. He talked about his theoretical understanding of multilingualism and creativity, his research project on Jewish Malayalam that focused on Jewish-Malayalam folk songs written and translated by Jewish women in Kerala and justified the use of such an academic exercise. Damodar Mauzo, one of best known Konkani writers, traced the complicated history of Konkani and while acknowledging multilingualism as a tool for enrichment of languages, also alerted us on its dangers of suppressing regional languages.

Second Session was chaired by Avadhesh Kumar Singh, Professor and Director, School of Translations Studies and Training, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and the papers presenters were Shivarama Padikkal, Professor of Translation Studies at University of Hyderabad and Vanamala Vishwanath, Professor at Azim Premji University, both respected scholars of Kannada literature. Padikkal’s paper



K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi speaking in the inaugural session



talked about translation vis-à-vis the growth of nationalism. The role of translation in building up a Kannada identity was argued for. Vanamala Vishwanath presented her paper on two women Muslim writers, Sara Aboobacker and Banu Mushtaq, who although wrote in Kannada, have their cultural and linguistic roots elsewhere. She talked of their success in carving spaces and voice for Muslim and women in the Kannada literary scenario.

Session II was followed by the second Reading Session. It was chaired by J. Bheemaiah, Associate Professor at Centre for Comparative Literature, UoH. K. Sachidanandan, E.V. Ramakrishnan and Vanamala Vishwanath read out from their original/translated works. K. Satchidanandan read out a number of his poems first, both Malayalam and English. He was followed by E.V. Ramakrishnan, Dean, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Central University of Gujarat, and he read out his translations of Malayalam literary texts. Finally, Vanamala Vishwanath read out from her translations of thirteenth century Kannada poetry and called herself a re-creator rather than a creator.

After this session, a play *4.48 Psychosis* was performed by the Theatre Arts students of Sarojini Naidu School, UoH, in association with CCL. The introduction to the play was given by B. Ananthakrishnan, Dean, S.N. School. The actors, backed by a wonderful stage work, enacted a commendable performance.

One the last day of the seminar, 29 March, 2014, there were three sessions. The first session was chaired by the renowned Konkani writer Damodar Mauzo. Sachidananda Mohanty, Department of English, UoH and V.B. Tharakeshwar, Department of Translation Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, presented their papers on the different scenarios of multilingualism. Mohanty's paper focused on multilingual travel narratives from the eastern India of the nineteenth century. Tharakeshwar in his paper proclaimed that Indians were always multilingual, but there are problems with the way the Indian pedagogy is operating and does not completely support multilingualism. He argued that even an illiterate can be a multilingual but the serious problem is with academicians who were turning out to be monolingual.

The second session was chaired by Tutun Mukherjee, Professor at Centre for Comparative Literature, UoH and the paper presenters were E.V. Ramakrishnan and Avadesh Kumar Singh. E.V. Ramakrishnan argued that multilingualism in India had not come by itself and was a result of the will of the various people speaking those many languages. The second part of his paper was a criticism of Sheldon Pollock's analysis of the two great movements that transformed South Asia. Avadesh Kumar Singh talked about multilingualism, an attitude that fosters multilingualism. Rather than scholars who were actually monolingual he argued it was the common people that practised multilingualism.

The concluding session was chaired by M.T. Ansari, Professor and Director of the Centre for Comparative Literature, UoH and the valedictory address was given by Udaya Narayan Singh, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati and occupant of its Tagore Research Chair. Uday Narayan Singh gave a detailed presentation on the multilingual characteristics of India, bringing the three day seminar to an apt end.



L-R: J. Bheemaiah, E.V. Ramakrishnan and Vanamala Viswanath



Seminar on Contemporary Santali Play

Sahitya Akademi organised a seminar on 'Contemporary Santali Play' on 9 February 2014 at Vishakhapattanam. N. C. Mahesh, Officer on Special Duty welcomed the invitees and gathering.

The tradition of written literature including Santali drama began with Pandit Raghunath Murmu, who has also the invented Santali script "Olchiki". In this process participants got opportunity to pay respect to the founder to which audience liked a lot. Drama not only provided entertainment and it also creates consciousness among the people to identify the issues in life.

Seminar was divided into four

sessions including inaugural session. The seminar was inaugurated by N. N. Hembram, well-known Santali writer. Jadumani Beshra was the guest of honour on the occasion. Inaugural session was chaired by Gangadhar Hansdah, Convenor, Santali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi.

First session was chaired by Kherwal Soren, while Jamadar Kisku, Dasrath Hansda, Singrai Murmu, Gangadhar Hembram and Ramesh Hansda presented their papers on 'Themes of Santali playes', 'Stage decoration in Santali theatre', 'Dress and Make up of Actors in Santali plays', 'Management of

Santali Theatre' and 'Santali Plays on screen' respectively.

Second session was chaired by Ravilal Tudu. Mahesh Murmu (on acting), Pitambar Hansda (on dialogue), Durgapada Hembram (on direction) and Krishna Prasad Hansda (on social impact) presented their papers.

Third session was chaired by Gangadhar Hansda. Jitray Hansda, Shyam Charan Mandi, Saroj Kumar Soren and Sushil Hansda presented their papers on 'Santali Theatre', 'Audience response', 'Commercial aspect' and 'Trends of Santali plays and theatre'. There was a good response from the audience.

Symposium

'Being a Women, Being a Writer' & Writers' Meet

Akademi organised a symposium on 'Being a Woman, Being a Writer' on the occasion of International Women's Day. K.Sreenivasarao Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the audience. The symposium was inaugurated by Namita Gokhle, eminent English writer. Rajee Seth, eminent Hindi writer was the chief guest in the inaugural session.

The speaker in the inaugural session were Ramnika Gupta, Urvashi Butalia, Anita Agnihotri, Nirmala Pillai, Varsha Adalja, Urmila Pawar, Santi Chhetri and Salma. Vote of thanks was delivered by Renu Mohan Bhan, Deputy Secretary Sahitya Akademi.

The Short Story Reading session was chaired by Chandrakanta. Neelakshi Singh, Adyasha Das, Chandan Negi and Chandra Latha presented their stories.

For the Poetry Reading session,



Sujata Chaudhuri, Padma Sachdev and Brajendra Tripathi

Padma Sachdev, eminent Dogri writer chaired. Lutfa Hanum, Salima Begum, Sebanti Ghosh, Lakshmi Kannan, Gagan

Gill, Laxmishree Banerjee, Sujata Chaudhuri, Shabana Nazeer and Rizio Raj read out their poems.

Sahitya Akademi, in association with National Book Trust organised four literary programmes viz. Hindi Rachna-Path, North East and Northern Writers' Meet, Reading by Children's Writers and Young Writers' Meet on 16, 17, 20 and 21 February, 2014, respectively during the World Book Fair 2014 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Indo-Czech Writers' Meet was organised by the Akademi and the NBT on 18 February 2014 for the first time in the World Book Fair.

Readings by Children's Writers



Darshan Ashat, Anupa Lal, Usha Bande, K. Shantibala Devi, K.E. Priyamvada and Santanu Tamuli

The event witnessed participation from six prominent children's writers. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the audience and the writers. Anupa Lal, a well known children's writer, began the evening with a Hindi folktale. She also narrated a fascinating tale about an oarsman and his tribulations in finding a tree's trunk. The charming story had all the ingredients—a king, food, betrayal, suspense and twist ending—to capture the audience's attention. Usha Bande, Indian English poet narrated a moral fable.

Punjabi writer Darshan Ashat surprised the children with a hauntingly beautiful recitation of his poem. Beginning with a few verses of the original Punjabi poem, he then recited the Hindi translation of the poem that ruminates over the pathetic situation of sparrows in cities. He was followed by Manipuri poet K. Shantibala Devi. Her calm and sweet tone of recital was well received by the audience.

K. E. Priyamvada, a young writer with a fresh approach towards children's literature asked the audience to pick an alphabet and then recited a poem corresponding that. She ended up reciting poems on Rhinoceros, Panda and Xenops among others. She also held an impromptu quiz. A child present in the audience was awarded with her book for correct answer.

Lastly, it was the turn of Assamese writer Santanu Tamuli who read out a moral tale of two friends.

North East and Northern Writers' Meet

On 17 February, 2014, North East and Northern writers programme was organised. Assamese writer Kaustubh Moni Saikia recited a number of poems. Most of Saikia's poems had a strong sense of social commentary. Binod Basumatari, a young Bodo poet recited a couple of poems including "Patharon Ka Bhi Jeevan" and "Is Samay Ki". Vijay Verma, veteran Dogri poet, then, recited a number of poems.

Desmond L. Kharmawphlang, recited his English poems.

Hindi poet Kailash Vajpeyi read his poem titled "Dhyan" (Focus). With rapt attention of the audience in a few moments, he recited another couple of interesting poems.

Kokborok poet Sefali Debbarma recited the English translations of her poems "Liberty", "Laminations", "When I feel you" and "Emancipation". Kshetri Rajen, Manipuri poet recited the English translations of his poems. Mog poet Thailow Mog recited three of his poems.

Punjabi poet Tarsem recited three of his poems of nostalgia.

Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed and conducted the programme.



Czech writers with A. Sethumadhavan and Sukrita Paul Kumar

Indo-Czech Writers' Meet

A five-member Czech Writers' delegation consisting of Mr. Martin Vopenka, Mrs. Marketa Hejkalova, Mrs. Sylva Fischerova, Mrs. Blanka Skuchova and Mrs. Marta Hochmal visited India from 14 to 19 February 2014 under the Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries.

During the course of their visit, the Akademi organized an Indo-Czech Writers' Meet in collaboration with the National Book Trust, India in which Martin Vopenka, Uday Prakash, Sukrita Paul Kumar and Marketa Hejkalova participated in the Inaugural Session. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the audience. The programme was chaired by A. Sethumadhavan, Chairman, National Book Trust and in the first session of the programme, Sylva Fischerova presented a paper on Children Literature in Czech, H.K. Kaul on "Literary readership and Libraries in India", Manorama Jafa on "Children's

Literature in Indian Languages", Blanka Skuckova on "Literary readership and Libraries in Czech" and N.K. Bhattacharjee "Contemporary Indian Literature". The session was chaired by K. Satchidanandan and the vote of thanks was proposed by M.A. Sikander, Director, National Book Trust.

Many eminent Indian writers including Chandra Mohan, Lakshmi Shankar Bajpai, Bharat Bharadwaj, Manohar Bandyopadhyay, J. Bhagyalakshmi, Sujata Chaudhary, Manglesh Dabral, J.P. Das, Mridula Garg, Mohan Himthani and Suresh Kohli participated in the programme.

Hindi Rachna-Path

Sahitya Akademi organised 'Hindi Rachna-Path' on 16 February 2014 at World Book Fair, Akademi's Hindi department organised at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

In the first session under the chairpersonship of Ashtbhuj Shukla, eminent Hindi poet, Dinkar Kumar (Guwahati), Krishna Mohan Jha (Silichar), Ranjana Jaiswal (Gorakhpur) and Sudha Upadhyay (Delhi) presented their poems.

The second session was chaired by Mahesh Katare (Gwalior) and Neerja Madhav (Allahabad) and Prabhat Ranjan (Delhi) presented their stories.

Young Writers' Meet

In the Young Writers' Meet, six young writers across the languages were invited for the reading programme held on 21 February, 2014.

Chongtham Dipu Singh, a Manipuri poet recited a couple of remarkable poems in Manipuri. Punjabi poet Sanwal Dhami recited a few of his Punjabi poems. Urdu poet Tasneef Haider sophisticated recital of poetry, associated with the language itself, was well received. Rati Agnihotri, a Hindi and English poet. She recited her poems in both the languages. Her Hindi poems were social in nature while her English poems dealt with the nature of man-woman relationship. Sanjib Pol Deka, Assamese writer read out the translated version of an original story and also a Hindi poem. Bharat Tiwari recited his poems in Hindi. A number of different poems with the same title was a notable feature of his recital. He also read a ghazal. An interactive session took place at the reading session.

Play Reading Sai Paranjpye



Sahitya Akademi organised a Play Reading programme by Sai Paranjpye, on 21 February 2014. Born of a Russian father and an Indian mother, Paranjpye is an exemplary playwright and a film maker. Smt. Paranjpye is known for her inimitable story telling abilities both in the plays and the films where she puts in her creative talent. A student of a National School of Drama, Smt. Paranjpye began her career as an announcer in All India Radio in Pune but later drifted towards films.

Sai Paranjpye read excerpts from her latest work *Birwa* and had the audience spell bound with her inimitable story telling abilities. The excerpts she had selected to read out were heart rending with emotional expressions. Her choice of words and phrases to express the poignant emotions combined with her narrative ability makes her a legendary figure. Her most successful films reflect her unique creative talents.

While speaking on the literary scenario today, Smt. Paranjpye added that accessing to literature of the world and of the major authors can now be possible through internet.

Mulakat Young Santali Writers

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Mulakat' programme with young Santali writers on 2 March 2014 at Malda, West Bengal. The programme was chaired by Kanailal Tudu, well-known Santali writer. Arjun Majhi, Asit Soren, Prem Soren, Birsant Hansdah and Prasenjit Murmu presented their poems and short stories in this programme. Arjun Majhi read out two short stories titled "Disom Gorom" and "Paraschit", while other participants recited their poems. In his short story "Disom Gorom", he has tried to teach people in all age group to work for the society. His second story "Paraschit" bears a current crisis which the Santal people are now facing. The Santal youths are going for inter caste marriage. But as per their tradition and belief this is not acceptable by their society. Same thing has happened to his main character.

Asit Soren presented three poems titled "Asar San", "Kherwal Amdo" and "Kherwal". As a young writer he has attempted to give a beautiful narration of the rainy season in his first poem and remaining two are appeal to the society like most writer does in their first poem. Likewise all other participants presented three poems each. They are all emerging and it is evident from their poems that they will do better in future.

In his presidential address, Kanailal Tudu said that all the young writers keep writing to help the society and enrich Santali language and literature.

Delhi International Art Festival



The Secretary, Sahitya Akademi presenting a memento to Prakash Manu

Nari Chetna

Akademi organised Nari Chetna programme with eminent women writers from different Indian languages on 10 February 2014 in which Vitastan Raina (English), Alpana Mishra (Hindi), Beant Kaur (Punjabi) and Wasim Rashid (Urdu) participated and read out their works.

Yuva Sahiti

Yuva Sahiti programmes was organised on 14 February 2014 at Sahitya Akademi Auditorium. Young writers like Devapriya Roy (English), Mritunjay Prabhakar (Hindi), Kulvir (Punjabi) and Parvez Shahryar (Urdu) were invited to read out from their works.

Bal Sahiti

In the Bal Sahiti programme held on 17 February 2014, eminent children writers were invited. The programme was chaired by Gita Dharamarajan, eminent Hindi writer. Prakash Mani (Hindi), Surekha Panandiker (Hindi) and Kamaljit Neelon (Punjabi) presented their works.



Writers' Delegation from Thailand



K. Sreenivasarao with Thai writers in Indo-Thai writers' meet

A five-member writers' delegation consisting of Mr. Chart Korbjitti, Mr. Rewat Panpipat, Mr. Uthis Haemamool, Ms. Nardnisa Sukchit and Ms. Saengthiwa

Narapit visited India from 15 to 22 January 2014 under the Cultural Exchange Programme between the two countries. During the course of their

visit, the delegation visited Sarnath Temple and Ganga Ghat in Varanasi and also to Jaipur where they had attended the Jaipur Literary Festival on 19 January 2014. The Akademi had also arranged a programme of interaction between the delegate members and the local writers on 20 January 2014. Many eminent writers including M. Asaduddin, Sitesh Alok, Lakshmi Shankar Bajpai, Bharat Bhardwaj, Manohar Bandopadhyay, J. Bhagyalakshmi, Smt. Sujata Chaudhary, Manglesh Dabral, Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Keshav Malik, Parmanand Panchal, Divik Ramesh, J.I. Reddy, Prayag Shukla, Ravindra Tripathi, Vanita, K.G. Verma, Bhaswati Goswami, Amar Nath 'Amar,' Ram Gopal Sharma, Pankaj Singh, Bhoomika Jain, R.K. Barik, Rajendra Upadhyaya, Sunita Jain participated in the programme where the visiting delegation and the local writers interacted on the contemporary literary scenario in Thailand and India.

Symposium

Shastra in Sanskrit and Creation of New Shastrakavyas

Sahitya Akademi organised a symposium on 'Shastra in Sanskrit and Creation of New Shastrakavyas: with Special Reference to Gangadhar Shastri' on 4 March 2014 at Sahitya Akademi Conference Hall, New Delhi. K. Sreenivasarao welcomed the guests and the audience. Ramakant Pandey, renowned Sanskrit scholar gave keynote address. Radhavallabh Tripathi, Convenor, Sanskrit Advisory Board, delivered the introductory address.

Papers were presented by Parmanand Jha and Pankaj Mishra. Kalanath Shastri chaired the session. Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi conducted the programme.



Ramakant Pandey, Radhavallabh Tripathi and Pankaj Mishra



Nepali Poets' Meet

One day Nepali Poets' Meet was organized by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi in collaboration with Prasad Singh Subba Chintan Manch, Tezpur at Hotel Centre Point, Tezpur (Assam) on 2 February 2014. Tanka Bahadur Rai, Honorable Minister, Planning, Law and Pension Affairs, Govt. of Assam, in his inaugural speech praised the role of poets in maintaining peace and harmony in the society. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Sub Editor, Sahitya Akademi extended his warm welcome to the participants. Jeevan Namdung, renowned Nepali poet, while delivering his speech as chief guest expressing his appreciation for producing high class literature even in adverse atmosphere. Dambar Dahal, President, Asom Nepali Sahitya Sabha was the distinguished guest.

The first session was presided over by Prem Pradhan, Convenor, Nepali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi and was chaired by Khemraj Nepal. Jamadagni Upadhyaya, Dharmendra Upadhyaya, Mohan Subedi, Kamala Devi, Guru Prasad Upadhyaya and Khadagraj Giri recited their poems in this session. The second session was chaired by Kharga Bahadur Kaushik. Lalit Subba, Vishal KC, Daibaki Devi Timsina, Dilliram Khanal, Balaram Upadhyaya and Amiya Devi recited their poems in this session.

The valedictory session was presided over by Nabasapkota. Madhab Bhattarai, Lavanya Devi, Bishnu Shastri and Sukraj Diyali were scheduled poets, while Chhabilal Upadhyaya, Vedamaya Devi, Jharna Bhattarai, Kul Prasad Sarma and Kamala Devi recited their poems.



Literary Forum Mr. Margus Lattik Estonian Poet

Sahitya Akademi organised a 'Literary Forum' with Margus Lattik, eminent Estonian poet and translator who writes under the pen-name of 'Mathura.' He has produced eight collections of poetry, a travelogue and a few short-prose. The scope of his work is very wide, yet his poems very often take the reader to the bays and forests of his Estonian homeland. Although his writing carries social tones, Mathura's main interest lies in the timeless elemental aspects of mankind. His work has been translated into English, Polish, Finnish, Russian, Mari and Punjabi. In 2004 Mathura was awarded the Annual Regional Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia. At present he lives in a small village in central Estonia. K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi introduced him to the audience.

He read a few of his poems from his poetry collection *Presence and another Poems*, English translation of his Estonian collection of poetry with same name. He wrote this book while travelling to different parts of world including India. He also read poems from his collection *Currant Beads*. He also presented some Estonian folk songs. At the end of the programme there was a lively interaction.

Kannada-Kashmiri Short Story Translation Workshop

The Sahitya Akademi organized a Kannada-Kashmiri Short Story Translation Workshop from 24-27 of March, 2014 at Jammu. In this workshop, a selection of 13 short stories was translated from Kannada into Kashmiri. Narahalli, Convener Kannada Advisory Board and Roop Krishan Bhatt worked as Resource persons. Zaman Azurdah was the Director of the Workshop. Shah Ramzan, Farooq Fayaz, A.A. Hajini, Gauri Shankar Raina, Pyarey Hatash, Inayat Gul and Manshoor Banihali, all established translators participated in the workshop. At the very outset, while inaugurating the workshop, the Director of the workshop Prof. Azurdah emphasized the need of translating creative literature into the other Indian languages. The translation process from Southern languages into Northern languages and vice-versa will give us a feeling of creative process in literature and the nuance of the linguistic culture that vary from region to region.

All the 13 stories translated into Kashmiri were read out in the presence of the Resource Persons and the participants and both the Resource Persons participated and helped in conveying the expressions of Kannada stories into the target language. The Director, while concluded the workshop, thanking the participants and Resource Persons.



Symposium on Krishan Chander: Sahitya Avam Chintan



Waseem Beghum, S.A. Shakoor, Chander Bhan Khayal and Baig Ehsas

The symposium on Kishan Chander was held on 19 January 2014 at Hyderabad. Renowned poet and Convener, Sahitya Akademi Urdu Advisory Board, Chander Bhan Khayal said that Kishan

Chander a distinguished Urdu fiction writer, wrote short stories, novelette, novel and dramas besides writing stories and dialogues for films. He wrote for children as well.

On the occasion of birth centenary of veteran poet and lyricist Narendra Sharma, Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Hindi Department of Mumbai University organised a seminar on him from 26 to 27 February 2014 at Shahir Amar Shekh Auditorium, University Club House B Road, Churchgate, Mumbai. Programme was presided by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi. Rajan Velukar, Vice-Chancellor, Mumbai University and Harimohan Sharma, well-known Hindi writer delivered the keynote address.

Surya Prasad Dixit, Convenor, Hindi Advisory Board presented the introductory address. The first session was devoted to the memories of Narendra Sharma and was chaired by Govind Mishra, eminent writer. Achla Nagar, Paritosh Sharma, Lavanya Shah and Udbhrant shared their experiences with Narendra Sharma. In the second session under the chairmanship of Ramji Tiwari, Amarnath, Pushpita Awasthi, Alok Gupta and Prakash Shukla presented their papers on "Uttarchayavadi Poetry and Narendra Sharma."

S.A. Shakoor, chief guest said that Krishan Chander was a major writer in the field of Urdu fiction. In the keynote address, Baig Ehsas dwelt upon different facets of Krishna Chandra. There is a crisis of the artists like Krishna Chandra. He was like a legend who standardized the Urdu fiction. Krishna Chandra portrayed the plight of the lower state of the society in his stories. Waseem Begum called Krishna Chandra progressive writer in the fore front.

The second session was presided over by the famous fiction writer Jeelani Bano. She gave her views on the stories of Krishna Chandra. In this session, Syed Mustafa Kamal and Firoz Alam presented their papers.

Narendra Sharma Birth Centenary Seminar

On the second day of the seminar the third session was chaired by Arunesh Niran. Tribhuvan Nath Rai, Ratan Kumar Pandey, Ajit Rai and Rajendra Upadhaya expressed their thoughts on "Poet-Lyricist Narendra Sharma". The topic "Proses of Narendra Sharma" was discussed in the fourth session of the seminar chaired

by Narendra Mohan. Nandkishore Pandey, Bharati Gore and Vinod Tiwari presented their papers. Topic for the fifth session was "Narendra Sharma: As a Flim Lyricist and Screenplay writer." Maya Govind, Irshad Kamil, Bodhisatva and Ravikant read their papers and Raj Kumar Keswani chaired the session.

Seminar on Sufi Writings

The Akademi organised a seminar on Sufi Writings on behalf of the Akademi's Western Regional Board on 25 and 25 February 2014 at Hindi Sansthan Auditorium, Lucknow.

Geetanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered her welcome address. Zaman Azurdah, reputed Kashmiri writer and Convenor of Sahitya Akademi Kashmiri Advisory Board delivered his erudite keynote address. In his address he said, "The solution to all the problems that we face in a society lies in love for fellow human beings irrespective of caste, colour, religion or nationality. And that is exactly what sufism preaches. It teaches human beings to love the creation of God." He further added, "As long as relationship between God and human exists, sufism would stay relevant and appeal to the masses".

Earlier, former Lucknow Universiyy academician Surya Prasad Dixit outlined how Hindi and Urdu poets alike had been propagating the messages of love through their Sufi writings.



Pravasi Manch: Pankaj Mohan

14 February 2014, New Delhi

Eminent Scholar in Hindi from South Korea.



Through my Window: Dogri Chhatrapal on B.P. Sathe

21 February 2014, Jammu

Pravasi Manch: Usha Raje Saxena Eminent Hindi writer from Britain

31 March 2014, New Delhi.

Asmita: Kashmiri Women Poets Santosh Shah Nadaan, Bimla Aima and Dolly

26 March, 2014, Jammu



Katha Sandhi Nirmal Vikram Dogri Fiction Writer

22 February 2014, Jammu.

Literary Forum: Kashmiri Fiction Writers Rinku Kaul and R.L Johar

25 March, 2014, Jammu

Kavi Anuvadak Saridharam Hansda and Krishnapada Kisku

2 March 2014 at Malda, West Bengal

Maithili Poets' Meets

29 March 2014, Begusarai

Sindhi-Dogri Poetry Translation Workshop

25-28 March, 2014, at Mansar.



Kavisandhi: Chakrapani Bhattarai Nepali Poet & Writer

16 February 2014, Namchi,
South Sikkim

Nepali Poets' Meet

12 January 2014

Mulakat with Young Poets Prabhat, Vipin Chnaudhury and Pranjaldhar

21 January 2014

Kathasandhi

Chandi Charan Kisku, Santali Fiction Writer

2 March 2014, Malda, West Bengal

Literary Forum Urdu Writers

23 March, 2014 at Rajouri.



Nepali Rachna Path

16 February 2014, Namchi,
South Sikkim



Seminar on Indian Literature: The Changing Concept of Family and Kinship



Amiya Dev delivering the inaugural address. L-R: K. Sreenivasarao and P.P. Ravindran

A national seminar on “Indian Literature: the Changing Concept of Family and Kinship” was organised jointly by Sahitya Akademi and Thunchan Memorial Trust on 2-3 February 2014.

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi who delivered the welcome address said that it is family that brings together in a meaningful and mutually enriching relationship with people with diverse mindsets and interests. In one sense, it is the model of life and literature. Our literatures from ancient times till today are explorations of the tensions between concord and discord in the family and the world he added.

Amiya Dev, scholar and writer from Kolkata who presided over and inaugurated the session said that perhaps, of all genres, the novel deals most immediately with family and kinship. In fact social historians of late, have been turning to novels to ascertain their supposedly scientific findings about family and kinship. He narrated in detail the works of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Tagore, Sarat Chandra, Jean Paul Sartre,

Albert Camus, Nathalie Sarraute and Tolstoy and explained how they approached the family and relations. He also quoted from Ayyappa Paniker’s poems, and Chandu Menon’s *Indulekha*.

P.P. Raveendran who delivered the key-note address said that family history and customs prevailed long back can be understood from literature. He quoted examples from the *Ramayana*, the *Mababharata*, *Shakuntala*, etc. He also quoted examples from the works of Thakazhi, M.T. Vasudevan Nair and Madhavikutty to show how the families functioned and relationships maintained in Kerala.

The subject of the first session was “The Changing Concept of Family and Kinship in Regional Languages”. M.R. Raghava Varier, chaired the session.

Vaasanthi, Tamil fiction writer in her presentation enumerated Sangam literature, and *Silappadikaram*, and explained the influence of Dravidian Movement under the leadership of Periyar (anti Brahmin and anti God) and reached at the present day writers views

on human relations. She concluded thus: “Call it a shift, call it a voice of protest, it is to my mind a passionate search for answers to questions that the previous generations failed to ask or comprehend. The present writer has a larger picture in mind, far beyond the family and kin, a history behind it all that blurred and wronged sections of people for no apparent reason.”

Damodar Mauzo Konkani fiction writer said, “In the early sixties of the past century, the writings in Konkani were focused mainly on the changing political scenario and its impact on the society. Later, it was in tune with the themes that appeared in other languages. The departure from joint family structure to the nuclear family system reflected in our writings where arguments were, both, for and against. This was effectively depicted in poetry and one-act plays too.” He concluded by saying that the rapidly advancing technology have swept us off our roots. The reform that is brought in writing and thinking patterns look artificial and non-organic. He also said that the globalization has brought the family attachments and affections to mechanisation. The depth in relations is slowly reducing.

N. Manu Chakravarthi, Kannada writer said that there is a compulsion to re-institute the family tradition due to the pressure of modern times. He admitted that the younger generations of writers are at cross roads — whether to accept the change in family relations or not.

Varsha Das from Gujarati said that the “Modern and post-modern Gujarati literature speaks more about man and woman relationship, feud and freedom is treated implicitly and also explicitly. This may be the case in other languages also. A modern Gujarati novelist is not averse to social or historical realities. In the literature of this era inner world



became more important than the external world. Alienation thrust upon us by new technology cannot be ignored.

The topic of the second session was “Malayalam Poetry: Transformation of the Concept of Family” and was chaired by Trust Vice-President, Chathanath Achuthanunni.

Speaking on the family concept in traditional poetry, S.K. Vasanthan said that family concept was never there in big canvas in the traditional poetry. There were only heroes and heroines. Of course they were of literary values but one finds no family attachments in them”, he concluded. K.M. Bharathan speaking on colonial interventions on the family concept said that the English educational system and print media influenced the thinking of Indians, but the influence was not unilateral. It gave birth to a new type of family concept. The foreign literatures saw love and spirituality not as one. But Indian literature saw both are interrelated and complementing to each other.

The session was chaired by Chathanath Achuthanunni. ‘Family and Malayalam Theatre’ was the topic discussed in the third session.

Speaking on theatre and social changes, T.M. Abraham, Vice-president, Sangeet Nataka Akademi, Kerala said that changes are happening, but you cannot imagine a drama without a family plot. He gave a detailed account of changes in the presentation of the drama since 1860 to the present day.

The subject for the discussion in the third session was “Fiction and Family”. Anil Kovilakam welcomed the guests and gathering and K.P. Ramanunni chaired the session. Valsan Vathussery speaking on nuclear family — concept and practice, said that India is designed in a family concept. Pradeepan Pambirikunnu whose subject was “Family a Confinement” was of opinion that women are treated as slaves in families even now. Sex is linked with religion, so that the male and religious heads get an upper hand and rule the women, he concluded.

Earlier, the Thunchan Festival was inaugurated by Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, veteran Hindi poet and President, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 1 February 2014. M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Chairman, Thunchan Memorial Trust presided and M.P. Abdussamad Samadani M.L.A. gave the key-note address.

Literary Forum: Young Novelists on Novel

27 January 2014, Trivandrum



Young novelist C. Rehim and S.R. Lal participated in the programme. G. Sudheesh and S. Rajeshwari from NSS College, Trivandrum were also present.

Kathasandhi Programme Sunkoji Devendrachari, Telugu Poet

7 February 2014, Kadapa.

Literary Forum Kannada Literature, Culture and Art

11 January 2014.

Devadas Shetty, Eshwar Alevoor, B.S. Kurkal, Sridhar and G.N. Upadhya participated.

Kathasandhi Programme with Attada Appalanaidu, Telugu Fiction Writer

17 January 2014, Vizianagaram.

Literary Forum on Novel

21 March 2014, Koyilandy



U.K. Kumaran (Speaking). L-R: S.S. Sreekumar, K.M. Anil, V.N.D. Unni and Pradeepan Pampirikunnu

Foundation Day Celebration

At Bengaluru



Maheer Mansoor, Srinivas Vaidya and Gopalakrishna Pai

The Foundation Day of Sahitya Akademi was organized by Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Bengaluru on 12 March 2014 at Bengaluru. Sahitya Akademi award winners Srinivas Vaidya, story writer and novelist, Gopalakrishna Pai, novelist and Maheer Mansoor, poet in Urdu and H.S. Raghavendra Rao, eminent Kannada critic were invited as guests for the programme.

At Chennai

Sahitya Akademi, Chennai organized the Foundation Day Programme at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan inviting Sahitya Akademi award winners and prize winners of different awards on 12 March 2014. Erode Tamilanban, Thilakavathy — Kurinjivelan, and Kamalavelan were invited as participants during the occasion. Rama Gurunathan presided over the function.



L-R: Thilakavathy, Erode Tamilanban and Kurinji Velan

Southern Languages Poetry Festival



L-R: K. Sreenivasarao, B. Sandhya, S.G. Siddaramaiah, N. Gopi, M. Chinnaswami, H.G. Rasool, Devipriya, Mrunalani and others

Sahitya Akademi organized a day-long 'Southern Languages Poetry Festival' in Ravindra Bharathi Conference Hall, Saifabad, Hyderabad on 9 February 2014.

The Festival was inaugurated by well-known Kannada poet S.G. Siddaramaiah who lighted the lamp and delivered the inaugural address. K. Sreenivasarao, in his welcome address gave a brief but illuminating glimpse into the wide spectrum of poetic achievement of the four Southern languages, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam. S.G. Siddaramaiah, in his inaugural address defined poetry in myriad ways. He traced the multi-cultural dimension of Indian literature and emphasised the aspect of social consciousness of contemporary poet. N. Gopi, Convener of Telugu Advisory Board, in his presidential address, recalled the engagements of the Telugu Board for the past one year and thanked the Sahitya Akademi for its consistent encouragement for all regional languages in highlighting their great tradition. He also read out two poems rich in content and form.

The poetry recital in the inaugural session was a wonderful combination of lyrical poetry and free verse, with two Kannada poets, two Tamil poets, one Malayalam poet and three Telugu poets regaling the audience with their poetry. Eminent Kannada poet, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy presented a very original and thought provoking theme in Dalit Poetry. Rallabandi Kavitha Prasad's long poems touched upon the angst of man in the conflicting and complex society of today with rich imagery and metaphoric expressions. B. Sandhya, through her musical rendition of Malayalam poetry emphasised the empowerment of women and in another poem, paid tribute to the author of the *Mahabharata*, Vyasa Maharshi.



Tamil poet, H.G. Rasool enthralled the audience with a variety of subjects from cat in the library to Adam and Eve. Telugu poet Devipriya's excellent range in subject was a treat to the audience. The inaugural session was concluded with a brief but comprehensive review of the session along with vote of thanks by C. Mrunalini, Member, Sahitya Akademi General Council.

The first post-lunch session was chaired by S.V. Satyanarayana, Member, General Council, Sahitya Akademi who also read out his own poems. Malayalam poet Alankode Leelakrishnan, Ilakuvu Kumaran Gnana Diraviyan from Tamil, Ammangi Venugopal and Dhenuvakonda Sriramamurthy from Telugu read out their poems ranging from the sentimental to the socially conscious and the human predicament with great finesse. Leelakrishnan's poem on Devagandhari paid rich tributes to the great Telugu saint composer, Thyagaraja Swami. Gnana Diraviyan's poem on Advaitam and Displacement gave evidence of his immense command over content and form. Ammangi Venugopal's poetry, rich and extremely creative in subject and content won over the audience.

The second and last session of poetry had a rich variation of expression and experience. K. Siva Reddy, chaired the session and spoke extensively on what poetry means in a world of conflict and chaos. He read out two excellent poems of his own. The session had one Tamil poet Kalapriya who read out short poems on various contemporary issues. P.K. Gopi and Rajan Babu, two Malayalam poets regaled the audience with their melodious rendition of their poems. The Telugu poets of this session J. Bhagya Lakshmi read out her poems "Self-binding", "Director, Sir" and "Riding a Tiger" and Y. Sudhakar enthralled the audience with a poem "Father's Daughter", a comment on the distance between a father and daughter as she grows up.

The valedictory address was presented by one of the all time great poets of Telugu, Jnanapith Awardee, C. Narayana Reddy, who traced the aesthetics of poetry and rendered one of his own recent poems. He said, "Poetry can enlighten, educate and guide different sections of people on the methodologies to be adopted to face all eventualities in various stages of life. It strengthens and emboldens their mindset to combat with fortitude".

Akademi's Documentary Film Festival

Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Centre, Bangalore organized a three day 'Indian Writers Documentary Films Festival,' from 10 to 12 January 2014 at Suchitra Films Society, Bangalore.

K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered welcome address. While welcoming the dignitaries Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, Narahalli Balasubramanya, the Convener, Kannada Advisory Board, O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy eminent critic and N.S. Shankar, film maker he spoke about the valuable archival material of Indian writers preserved by the Akademi.

Chandrasekhar Kambar spoke on the direct translations from one Indian language to another and also highlighted the importance of documentaries on Indian writers and the magnitude of life sketches of eminent, writers which are culturally useful to not only for the writers but for the whole society.

O.L. Nagabhushana Swamy noted Kannada writer, critic and translator gave a befitting tribute to Prof. G.S. Shivarudrappa who is an epoch in the field of Kannada studies.

Narahalli Balasubramanya eminent critic and Convener, Kannada Advisory Board chaired the session. He recalled how late Shivarudappa inspired students literally and culturally.

N.S. Shankar, Kuvempu's film maker, narrated his experience with Kuvempu during the film being made. Kuvempu was real cultural hero of the age apart from his writing in Kannada, he opined. S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer in charge, proposed vote of thanks.

The films screened on the first day were on Shivaradurappa, Kuvempu and Thakazhi; On the second day films on D. Jayakanthan, Kamala Das and P.T. Narasimhachar were screened; on the third day on Khushwant Singh, U.R. Anantha Murthy and on P.T. Narasimhachar.

After screening of the documentaries concluding session began. K. Marulasiddappa, eminent critic in Kannada, Vijaya, eminent writer and theatre personality and Krishna Masadi, film maker participated and delivered their expert comment on the films and the authors.

Centenary Seminar on Chaganti Somayajulu Chaso



The two day Chaganti Somayajulu (Chaso) centenary seminar was held on 17 and 18 January, 2014 in Chaso's hometown Vizianagaram. The inaugural session held on 17 January was chaired by N. Gopi, Convener of Sahitya Akademi. Rama Rao, eminent Telugu writer was the guest of honour. Kethu Vishwanatha Reddy, eminent Telugu writer and critic and Chaganti Tulasi, daughter of Chaso were invited as special guests.

In her introductory remarks, Chaganti Tulasi remarked that Chaso's centenary celebrations was an occasion to reaffirm and carry forward Chaso's vision on the function of literature and the writers' task. On these issues, Chaso was a true heir of Gurajada, the harbinger of modern literature in Telugu. Like Gurajada, Chaso wanted to influence society to move toward better state through his writings. At the same time, he also wanted his writings to be remembered for their artistic excellence and understanding of society. N. Gopi, well-known Telugu poet and academician, said in his presidential remarks that Chaso's 40 short stories reflect social reality and the economic foundations of the society sans any overt Marxist jargon.

Kalipatnam Rama Rao, the 90 year old eminent short story writer, who also hails from North Andhra, recounted his association with Chaso.

In his key-note address, Kethu Vishwanatha Reddy, eminent Telugu writer and critic made a masterly survey of Chaso: his background, his evolution as a writer, the pioneering role played by him in Progressive Writers' Movement in Telugu, his literary accomplishments, his influence and his lasting value.

Chaso's stories are universal and timeless as his stories extremely well-rooted in the geographical, cultural, historical and social reality of Kalingaandhra (north Andhra and the adjoining districts in Orissa) region, felt Kethu.

The first session of the seminar was presided over by U. A. Narasimha Murthy a renowned scholar and teacher. In his introductory remarks, he said that not a single word in Chaso's stories can be ignored.

K.K. Mohapatra, well-known translator and short story writer, spoke on the subject, "Understanding Chaso while Translating into English".

Eminent Telugu poet K. Siva Reddy eloquently spoke on "Chaso as a Poetical Short Story Writer" and kept the audience spell-bound. Chaso excelled in the art of weaving a short story like a complex lyric poem, from the beginning till the end, he said. He read and explicated many wonderfully evocative lines and passages from Chaso's celebrated stories.

Chaganti Krishna Kumari, the younger daughter of Chaso, made an original presentation analyzing the use of sensory thematic elements and formal structuring in Chaso's



N. Gopi delivering his speech.
L-R: Chaganti Tulasi, Kalipatnam Rama Rao, Kethu Vishwanatha Reddy and S.P. Mahalingeshwar



stories, drawing on principles of music and visual arts, in her talk titled “Music and Art in Chaso’s Stories”.

The second session on 17 January was presided by A.N. Jagannatha Sarma, writer and editor of *Nanya*, a popular Telugu literary magazine. Vakulabharanam Rajagopal, historian and Associate Professor at University of Hyderabad spoke on the topic “Sociological Background in Chaso’s Writings”.

While the predominant themes in the stories written in the first period are poverty, hunger and social injustice, in the second phase, he also critically dealt with social mobility and the pernicious role played by the state, the judiciary etc. Chaso’s stories are replete with valuable observations on new developments, both physical and social happening in small towns in those decades. These could be very useful for writing a proper social history of Andhra, Rajagopal said.

“Common Ideology and Different Takes: A Comparative Look at Chaso, Raavi Sastry and Kaa Raa” was the subject of the talk delivered by Sumanaspati Reddy, critic and radio broadcaster. A Marxist understanding of human affairs and a trust in the transformative efficacy of an artistic practice springing from such an understanding was the common datum for Chaso, Raavi Sastry and Kaa Raa. The trio was among the foremost writers to emerge from North Andhra. They were also contemporaries of each other and knew each others’ writings quite well.

Ramatheertha, well-known critic, writer and translator from Visakhapatnam spoke on “Chaso’s Place in Telugu Literature” who said that he was one of the pioneers of the progressive literary movement in Telugu in the 1940s. His creative output was prolific in that decade. Chaso kept himself familiar of the developments taking place in political and literary arena based on Marxist ideology till end.

The day concluded with a brief ‘Retrospection’ session in which Penugonda Lakshminarayana, Secretary of All India Progressive Writers’ Association and President of its A.P. unit, reminisced Chaso’s association with Progressive Writers’ Association in Andhra in 1943 at Tenali.

K. Malleswari, story writer and well-known feminist critic from Visakhapatnam, presented the first paper on “The Regional and the Universal in Chaso’s Writings” at the third session. The session was presided over by Suri Sitaramiah (or Ramasuri), a life-long student and admirer of Chaso, and a retired lecturer of Telugu literature.

“Aesthetic Outlook in Chaso’s Stories” was the subject of Kakumaani Srinivasa Rao, a Telugu scholar and critic from Vijayawada. Chaso’s unique merit was out rightly rejecting

the notion of art for art’s sake. But in the next breath, deemphasized that writers should pursue their art as if they believed in that dictum, for a great social purpose can be served by art only when it is great in itself too.

Suri Sitaramiah presented his study on “Portrait of Childhood in Chaso’s Writings”. He began by saying that Chaso is the kind of writer who engages with every new generation making them think, reminding them of the social purpose of literature and creates a better understanding of society. In Telugu creative fiction, he was a pioneer who infused a revolutionary activist spirit with true social awareness.

The last session was presided over by Chintakindi Srinivasa Rao, well-known writer, journalist and editor of the newspaper Public, being published from Visakhapatnam.

Sasisri, writer and journalist from Kadapa, presented his paper on “Brevity: Chaso’s Forte”. Although the modern short-story was a genre Indian literatures imbibed from English, it soon became naturalized and very popular. It had a particularly felicitous launch in Telugu, because “Diddubaatu” considered to be the first modern short-story in the language, and written by Gurajada Appa Rao, was an amazingly artistically refined and socially purposive piece, a perfect example of the form. Moreover, it was written in simple, spoken language, Sasisri pointed out.

Aruna Kumari in her paper examined the stories of Chaso and pointed out how Chaso revealed with great precision, insight and critical irony, the immoral, exploitative, insensitive and seemingly perverse behaviour into which individuals find themselves thrown or push those around them because of the pressures and motivations created by the social and economic situations they were caught up in.

A.N. Jagannatha Sarma, prominent short-story writer and editor of *Nanya*, a popular Telugu literary magazine, recounted that Chaso’s sense of humour was fearless and pungent. To differentiate between humour and satire as found in Chaso’s stories is a tough task, he said.

Attada Appalanaidu, a leading short-story writer’s paper, on “Language and Style in Chaso’s Writings” described Chaso, a unique writer who rendered the beauty and ugliness and the joy and sadness in the lives of people of all sections and castes of a region, using their idiom and intonations, also achieved universality by virtue of his narrative craft.

At the ‘Reintrospection’ session Cheekati Divakar, termed the seminar an important literary event. G.S. Chalam, a writer and avid fan of Chaso, read out a review of the day’s proceedings. Chaganti Tulasi, the coordinator of the seminar and N. Gopi, Convener of Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

Impact of Sangam Literature on Modern Tamil Literature

28 February 2014 Chennai

K.P. Aravanan, former Vice Chancellor Manonmaniam Sundaranar University who chaired the Forum traced the history of Hebrew language, its re-incarnation as the modern official language of Israel. He also compared the long history of Greek and Chinese literature with Sangam literature. V. Arasu spoke that the themes and techniques of Sangam literature that are compatible to modernity and contemporary ideas. The lyrical poetry, narration, description of nature and the common feelings fundamental to the humanity are features of Sangam literature that are followed in modern literature also.

K. Ganesan described the special features of *Paththuppattu* (10 idylls); *Ettutbogai* (8 collected works) and *Pathinen Kilkanakku* (18 didactic works). Science and modernity are creating new thought processes and new genres. The evolution has taken the local literature to the global perspective. Nationalism, feminism, globalization, social equity are the new themes. The simplicity in diction and style, directness in modern creations reflect the impact of Sangam literature. Aranga Ramalingam analysed literary principles and theory that shaped Sangam literature and modern literature. He dwelt on the literature as a mirror of life. He spoke on *Silappadikaram* and its modern interpretations. He mentioned that the celebrated novelist and scholar Mu. Varadharajan wrote a novel *Paavai* which contained the 'Agam' literary theory of *Tolkappiyam*. He quoted the plays *Cherathandavam*, *Pisiranthaiyar*, *Veerathai* and others. The presentation discourse was followed by lively discussion. A large number of scholars and writers participated in the programme.

Symposium

K. Bhaskaran Nair's Birth Centenary Celebration



M. Leelavathy speaking. K.S. Ravikumar and M. Thomas Mathew on the dias

Sahitya Akademi in Association with Department of Malayalam, Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit Kalady organised a one day symposium in connection with the birth centenary of the writer Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair on 16 January 2014 at the university campus at Kalady, Kerala.

K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the gathering. M. Leelavathy, veteran Malayalam critic inaugurated the symposium. In her inaugural address, she said that K. Bhaskaran Nair maintained strong beliefs and convictions. As a literary critic he believed in the aesthetic aspects of literary works. As a science writer, he believed in the morality of science. He could pump new energy into the world of Malayalam literary criticism by engaging in debates with his contemporary critics, Dr. Leelavathy said.

Thomas Mathew, veteran Malayalam critic in his key-note address said that the basic aspect of the literary criticism of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair was the conviction on the autonomy of art. At the same time, he made the attempts to know the secretes of nature by the way of science. His science writings are very brilliant due to its scientific value and artistic style. Bhaskaran Nair's prose style is very unique and pleasant, he said.

In the first session on "Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair's Literary Criticism", Valsalan Vathusseri chaired. Eminent critic in Malayalam, K.P. Sankaran presented his paper. He illustrated the uniqueness of the prose style of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair. In his paper, M.R. Raghava Warier revealed the cosmic vision and scientific attitude of Bhaskaran Nair. In the next paper, S.S. Sreekumar well illustrated and analyzed the writings of K. Bhaskaran Nair on the novels of C.V. Raman Pillai. N. Ajayakumar presented the aspects of the poetic studies of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair in his brilliant paper.

The second session was chaired by K.V. Dileep Kumar. The session concentrated on the science writings of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair. In the first paper Kavumbai Balakrishnan told that, Dr. Bhaskaran Nair represents the second phase of the science writings in Malayalam. He added that Dr. Bhaskaran Nair gave seriousness and beauty to science writings in Malayalam.

In his paper K.B. Prasanna Kumar expressed the contradictions and complexities of the writings of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair as a literary critic and science writer. In his paper, Jeevan Job Thomas pointed out the vision and approach of Dr. K. Bhaskaran Nair as a science writer in the view of the science writer of 21st century.



Seminar Classical Status of Malayalam: Present and Future

Sahitya Akademi, in association with the Department of Malayalam, University of Kerala conducted a one day seminar on 'Classical Status of Malayalam: Present and Future' on 6 January 2014 at Malayalam Department Seminar Hall, Kariavattom Campus, Thiruvananthapuram.

C. Radhakrishnan, Convener, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi in his inaugural address stated that Malayalam should be made medium of instruction in the educational institutions in Kerala. Malayalam must strictly be used in day to day life especially in administration. Malayalam has to develop a new and advanced online dictionary for its translation. The keynote address was delivered by K. Jayakumar, Vice-Chancellor, Malayalam University. He said that the declaration of Malayalam as a classical language creates a great cultural feeling in our society.

The presidential address was delivered by C. R. Prasad, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi who said that Malayalam language is capable of accommodating any innovative literature without losing its essence.

Putussery Ramachandran and Joly Jacob gave felicitation address. "The primary objective of Malayalam University is to codify the various research works in Malayalam", said Putussery Ramachandran. Joly Jacob said that the teachers and researchers are responsible for the waning of Malayalam language and hence this is the time for self analysis. The welcome speech was delivered by S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-charge, Sahitya Akademi, Bengaluru.

The first session of the programme was chaired by M. A. Siddique. Naduvattom Gopalakrishnan presented a paper on "Classical Status of Malayalam Language." "Kerala Culture in Sangham Period" was the topic discussed by Manoj Kuroor. He talked about the capability of Malayalam words with reference to Sangam Literature in Tamil.

Sheeba M. Kurian chaired the second session. C. R. Rajagopalan gave a brief note on "Cultural Perspective of Orality". His paper gave emphasis on digitalization of oral tradition and folk taxonomy. Later, Anil Vallathol presented a paper in "Rhetorics and Poetic Language in Ancient Literature". He pointed out that the rhetorics in ancient literature and imagery in modern literature go parallel. Vidhu Narayan made a power point presentation on "Future of Malayalam in Language Computing". He made the audience aware of the challenges and opportunities of Malayalam computing. Sunitha T. V. discussed about "Cyber Malayalam". She distinguished literature in cyber media and cyber media in literature.

P. Mohanachandran Nair chaired the valedictory session. The valedictory address was given by K. S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, Sahitya Akademi.

Literary Forum Programmes

Translators' Meet

7 March 2014, Chennai



Literary Forum in Progress

Poet Murugusundaram

15 March 2014.



Kalpana delivering her speech

Tamil Dialects and Literature

28 March 2014, Puducherry



Ravindran delivering his speech.

L-R: Sundara Murugan, Sambath, Jeyapirakasam and Kothandaraman

Symposium

Centenary of Pala Venkatasubbaiah

Pala Venkatasubbaiah was a prolific writer, poet, novelist, short story writer and critic both in Telugu and English.

N. Eswara Reddy welcomed the gathering and said the idea of organizing this symposium is to respect and evaluate a dalit writer, who was ignored all these days. He introduced the life of the author through the recitation of his poems. G. Balasubrahmanyam delivered a thought provoking key-note speech on the writer. He said though the writer was an ideologist, he never forgot ground realities of his contemporary society and he could easily intertwine the content and form in a suitable manner. He urged the public to pay attention at least now to study the valuable literature of 'Pala'.

Rachapalem Chandrashekhara Reddy who delivered his address exhorted the publishers to publish the writing of Pala Venkatasubbaiah to make them available to the Telugu readers.

The first session was chaired by M. Sampathkumar, M.M. Vinodhini and M. Mallikarjuna Reddy submitted papers on his works "Paramadarshini", "Malliswari" and "Anila Sandesam" respectively. Sampath Kumar analyzed "Paramadarshini" (1945) as a didactic poem and opined that one can see the influence of Vemana and Jashuva on the poet. Vinodhini described "Malliswari" (1956) as a historical tragic poem and explained the concept of beauty of the poet. Dr. Reddy introduced "Anil Sandesam" as a poem of message. This was the result of the influences by Kalidasa and Jashuva. He felt sad that the poet and his writings are miserably neglected all these years.

The second session was chaired by

Katta Narasimhulu in which three papers were presented. M. Ravi Kumar, G. Parvathi and G. Ravi Kumar presented their paper on "Anuthapam", "Mushtivadu", "Seelavathi" and "Amarajeevi Bapuji" respectively. Katta Narasimhulu explained the poetic excellence of the poet and his personal experiences with him. Prof. Kumar described "Anuthapam" a philosophical and "Mushtivadu" as a realistic poem. He saw the self criticism in the first poem and social criticism in the second. Dr. Parvathi analyzed "Seelavathi" as a reflection of women who fought against dacoits, once upon a time in Kadapa district and said this is a poem on a particular incident.

The third session was chaired by Hari Krishna. The papers were presented by T. Venkataiah and P. Nagaraju on "Pipasi", "Bhagyamathi" and

"Navayugam", respectively. Krishna defined "Pipasi" as a poem of self purgation based on Gandhian philosophy. Dr. Venkataiah defined "Bhagyamathi" as a reformative and progressive poem since it has proposed inter-caste marriage and eradication of caste system. Nagaraju introduced the novel *Navayugam* on socio-political grounds and defined as a dalit novel. He said that the novel has strongly propagated the education as a solution for dalit problem.

P. Sanjeevamma chaired the valedictory session in which Sasi Sri delivered valedictory address and P. Vijayalakshmi Devi, the daughter of Pala invited as special guest. Sanjeevamma appreciated the organizers for honouring a dalit writer through a symposium and said that the writer was a dignified personality both as a politician and as a writer and never begged anybody for anything. Sri Sasi Sri shared his experiences with 'Pala' and explained some of his literary beauties like construction of plot, characterization in novels and poetic style.



L-R: G. Balasubrahmanyam, Penugonda Lakshminarayana and Rachapalem Chandrashekhara Reddy

Centenary Symposium

S.V. Parameshwara Bhatta

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with S.V. Parameshwara Bhatta Centenary Memorial Committee, Mangalore organized a one day Centenary Symposium on S.V. Parameshwara Bhatta, one of the doyens of modern Kannada literature on 8 February 2014 at Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara B.B.M. College Auditorium, Mangalore.

Eminent writer Erya Lakshminarayana Alva chaired the inaugural session. T.V. Venkatachala Shastry, eminent scholar and Akademi's Bhasha Samman Awardee inaugurated the symposium. B.A. Vivek Rai, eminent folklorist and former Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi delivered key-note address.

S.P. Mahalingeshwar, Officer-in-Charge, Sahitya Akademi Bengaluru welcomed all the dignitaries and the audience who came from all over the Karnataka. T.V. Venkatachala Shastry in his inaugural address gave huge tributes to his guru, S.V. Parameshwara Bhatta. He said Prof. Bhatta did not tread the

path by others but he made a distinct way of his own through his creative writing, translation and speeches. Though he looked simple, however, he was the most popular and an extraordinary personality.

Vivek Rai in his key-note address described how Prof. Bhatta became a cultural ambassador in the coastal district where he came as Director of Kannada Post-Graduate Centre in 1968. His continuous experimental ventures are unique in modern Kannada literary history. He also highlighted the immense contribution of Prof. Bhatta as a poet. He was a guiding force to Kannada literary lovers of his time.

Damodara Shetty, Member, Kannada Advisory Board in his introductory remarks profusely thanked Akademi for organising such a literary fest on rare celebrity of modern Kannada who was so popular among common folk.

In the following session C.N. Ramachandran chaired while AV Navada and Rajashekharappa presented their papers.



C.N. Ramchandran delivering his speech. L-R: A.V. Navada and B. Rajashekharappa

Narichetna

18 January 2014, Chennai

Sahitya Akademi organised a Narichetna programme on 18 January 2014 at Chennai Book Fair. K. Nachimuthu, Convenor, Tamil Advisory Board moderated the programme. He informed about Sahitya Akademi's schemes in general and also about the role of women writers and poets in particular. Thilakavathy, Sahitya Akademi Award winner chaired the programme and mentioned that women writers should use dignified style and should be role models to the upcoming young generation.

Porkalai well-known poet recited a few of her poems. Aranga Mallika, Murugan, Kalpana and others participated in the programme.

Literary Forum Short-Story Reading

Kalaiselvi, Angarai Bhairavi, Pattali and Sembai Muruganandham presented their short-stories at Thiruchirappali. Eminent Tamil scholars Kaliyamoorthy, Rathika and Dhanalakshmi Baskaran analysed the stories presented in the programme.

Story Reading

Eminent short-story writers Vaiyavan, Muhilai Raja Pandian, Bharathi Balan, Muhilson and Priyasaki presented their short stories at the Reading Programme held at Presidency College, Chennai.

Symposium C.L. Antony Birth Centenary Celebration

A symposium on ‘Grammatical Studies in Malayalam’ was organized by Sahitya Akademi in Association with the Department of Malayalam, Sree Shankaracharya University of Sanskrit at Kalady on 20 February 2014 in connection with the Birth Centenary Celebration of C.L. Antony.

Eminent Malayalam writer and literary critic M. Leelavathy inaugurated the symposium. In her inaugural address Dr. Leelavathy mentioned that C.L. Antony’s works in the field of grammatical studies in Malayalam are very significant. Among them the interpretations on *Keralapanineeyam*, the most accepted Malayalam grammar book written by A.R. Rajaraja Varma is the most prominent one. She also remembered the qualities of C.L. Antony as a teacher and a research guide in Malayalam, from her personal experience.

M. Thomas Mathew a student of C.L. Antony at Maharajas College, Ernakulam expressed his personal memories with him. He told that C.L. Antony was very meticulous and analytical in his works on grammatical studies and also in the day to day life. Scaria Zacharia delivered the keynote address. He mentioned that C.L. Antony made a new approach to the grammatical studies in Malayalam by his studies on *Keralapanineeyam*.

The first session was chaired by K.S. Ravikumar. T.B. Venugopala Panicker presented the paper on “Notes on *Keralapanineeyam* to *Keralapanineeya Bhashyam*”. He mentioned that C.L. Antony’s studies were the continuation of the studies of L.V. Ramaswami Ayyar on Malayalam grammar. In the next paper presented by N. Srinathan, he emphasized that C.L. Antony developed the way of study in grammar from that of the facts to theory. K.V. Sasi in his paper argued that C.L. Antony is basically footed in the social aspects of language in his grammatical studies.

In the second session, Sunil P. Elayidam chaired the session. C.R. Prasad presented the paper on “Word and Meaning”. He pointed out that the basic character of the language is its changeability. C.L. Antony’s studies are always based on this aspect. Joseph K. Job mentioned that C.L. Antony’s studies are based on the social dimension of language. In his theory of Transition of Language, C.L. Antony had emphatically noted the self of Malayalam language.

Literary Forum Programmes

Narichetna

14 March 2014, Bengaluru



Kannada writers P. Chandrika, Anajali Ramanna, B.V. Bharathi, N. Sandhya Rani and Spoorthi participated in the programme

Narichetna

8 March 2014, Chennai



Umad Devi, Amarantha and C.V. Geetha took part in the programme

On Language

14 March 2014, Calicut



L-R: Pradeepon Pampirikunnu, T.B. Venugopalap Panikker, Sreenatham, P.N. Raghavan and K.P. Ravi

North East and Southern Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organised a two day North East and Southern Writers Meet at YVS Murthy auditorium, Andhra University Engineering College premises, Visakhapatnam on 29 and 30 of March, 2014. Some forty five writers from eleven states participated in the fete that extended to poetry reading, story presentation, writers interacting on the subject "Why do I Write" and critical review of the contemporary literary scene in the four southern states, and north east as a whole segment.

Kalipatnam Ramarao, noted Telugu writer in his inaugural address said that, such exchanges of literature help the people and writers of different languages, to develop fair understanding of literature and also about writers of different languages. Addressing the well attended Meet of lovers of literature and writers, G.S.N. Raju, Vice-Chancellor, Andhra University was the chief guest who expressed his satisfaction over the writers' conglomeration and their interactives

K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposing a formal welcome address spoke on the diversified nature of the programmes of Sahitya Akademi, and hoped that with good response, Akademi would be planning more activities in the region. Member representing Telugu in the Executive Board of the Akademi, N. Gopi who presided over fondly remembered the great stalwarts of literature from the region like Gurajada, who heralded the modern era in Telugu literature, Sri Sri and Rachakonda Vishwanatha Sastry, whose contributions gave impetus to Telugu literature as a whole with great dynamism and freshness.

Symposium

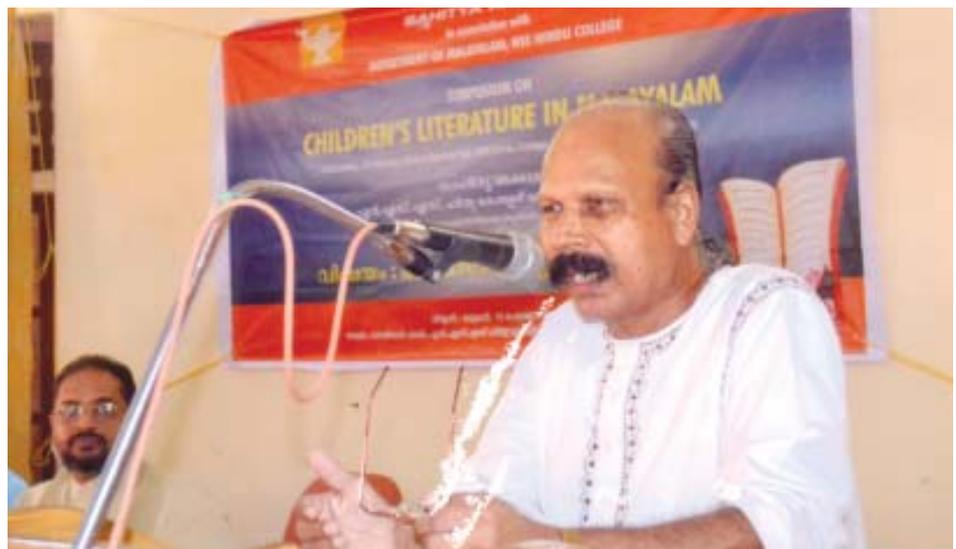
Children's Literature in Malayalam

Sahitya Akademi in association with Department of Malayalam, N.S.S. Hindu College, Changanacherry conducted a symposium on Children's Literature in Malayalam on 19 February 2014. C.R. Prasad, Member, Malayalam Advisory Board welcomed the participants and gathering. K.S. Ravikumar, General Council Member, inaugurated the symposium, which was presided by the N. Jagadish Chandran, Principal of the N.S.S. College. K.S. Ravikumar explained the historical importance of children's literature from the period of the work *Balaramayanam* to the modern era, in his inaugural speech. Prabhakaran Pazhasi, who did his doctoral thesis in children's literature, specified on the psychological approach which is essential for the works for children of various age groups, in his key-note address.

This was followed by five important papers. K. Sreekumar said that the children's literature should be presented in way to satisfy the change of society in an electronic era. He mentioned about

the struggles faced by the writers from publishers, who are not ready to accept any innovative change in writing. Famous writer Sippy Pallipuram presented a paper on children's poetry through reciting some poems by notable writers. He selected some poems from Kerala's folk tradition also. Radhika C. Nair talked about certain errors in some translated works. She introduced famous translations of children's literature also. Ushasri explained the possibilities of blogs and other electronic media in the field of children's literature. She noted that these possibilities are widely used by Malayali women in various parts of the world. S.R. Lal presented a paper on novel and children's literature. He explained the themes and styles in important novels for children in Malayalam.

C.R. Prasad and George Joseph K. were the moderators of the symposium which was divided into two sessions. Vote of thanks was given by S. Rajalakshmi, Head of the Department of Malayalam.



Sippy Pallipuram presenting his paper

National Seminar Indian Renaissance and Its Impact on Contemporary Writings



L-R: Goutam Paul, Nagen Saikia, Bhalchandra Nemade, Karabi Deka Hazarika, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay and Arpana Konwar

Sahitya Akademi organized a national seminar on 'Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance and Its Impact on Contemporary Writings' on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Laxminath Bezbaroa in collaboration with Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, on 12 and 13 February 2014 at the University campus, Assam.

In the inaugural session, the welcome address was delivered by Gautam Paul. Introductory address was delivered by Arpana Konwar, who said that Bezbaroa contributed a lot for establishing the modernity in nineteenth century Indian literature.

The seminar was inaugurated by Bhalchandra Nemade, veteran Marathi fiction writer. He spoke on certain parameters that help to analyze the colonial period in India and their impact on Indian psychological set-up.

The key-note address was delivered by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He emphasized on the efforts which we should make for searching the truth and he inspired by the great personalities like Ramakrishna, Vivekananda and Laxminath. He stressed

on Laxminath's connection with Bengal.

Nagen Saikia, eminent Assamese scholar and the chief guest analyzed the manifold characteristics of the great personality Laxminath and his greatest contribution towards Assamese literature, culture and society. He also highlighted the impact of Bengal renaissance on Bezbaroa.

Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, while speaking from the chair, stressed on the importance of the comparative study of the impact of renaissance in various Indian languages. The vote of thanks was proposed by Satyakam Borthakur at the end of the inaugural session.

In the first session, paper readers were Ashoke Kumar Jha 'Avichal', Irom Rabindra Singh, Manorama Biswal Mahapatra and Smt. Chakravarty with Nandita Basu in the chair. Sri Jha's paper

dealt with renaissance in India as a whole and influence on the Maithili literature. He also highlighted the social reforms, birth of new classicism and the need of the different classes of the society. The topic of Sri Singh's paper was "Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance: Its Impact on the Development of Manipuri Literature". Smt Mahapatra's paper entitled "The Nineteenth Century Renaissance and Its Effect on Contemporary Literature" gave the perspectives of renaissance trends in three languages, in Assamese, Bengali and Odia, mainly influenced by the European Renaissance. The title of Dr Chakravarty's paper was "Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance and Contemporary Bengali Literature". In her paper she traced how the major Bengali figures like Rangalal Bandyopadhyay, Hemraj Bandyopadhyay and Nabin Chandra Sen were influenced by English education and Western writers and how they have adapted the Western style of writing but with complete Indian concept and nationalism.

In the second session, paper readers were Khemraj Nepal, Mamoni Gogoi Borgohain (jointly with Swati Kiran), Pallavi Deka Buzarboruah and Papor Goswami with Nava Kumar Handique



H. Behari Singh speaking from the chair along with the participants of the seminar

in the chair. The topic of Sri Nepal's paper was "Bezbaroa and His Contemporary Nepali Journalism". Enumerating the Nepali journals, he said that the journals introduced romanticism in Nepali literature. The topic of the paper jointly presented by Smt Borgohain and Smt Kiran was "Romanticism in Laxminath Bezbaroa's Poetry". In the paper, they dwelt on two books of Bezbaroa, *Padumkali* and *Kadamkali*, which introduced romanticism in Assamese poetry. The topic of Smt Buzarboruah's paper was "Laxminath Bezbaroa: A Spirit of the 19th Century Assamese Literature (Rooted in the Autobiography of Laxminath Bezbaroa)". Pappi Goswami's paper was on "Indian Renaissance and Its Impact on Contemporary Indian Society". She discussed the writings of Jaishankar Prasad, Sumitranandan Pant, Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala' and Mahadevi Varma.

In the third session, Arindam Borkataki, Arpana Konwar, Jayanta Kumar Borah and Subasana Mahanta Choudhury with H. Behari Singh, Convener, Manipuri Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, in the chair. Sri Borkataki in his paper "Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance and Its Impact on Assamese Mind," spoke on the writers who were influenced by Indian Renaissance, referring to Anandaran D. Phukan, Gunabhiram Baruah and Hemchandra Baruah. Arpana Konwar's paper on "Indian Renaissance in the Nineteenth Century: The Question of Social Reform and Contemporary Assamese Literature", presented the historical perspectives of Indian Renaissance. Jayant Kumar Borah's paper on "Social Movement of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar in the Backdrop of the Nineteenth Century Indian Renaissance and Its Reflection in the Contemporary Assamese Drama" made a survey on Assamese plays right from its first Assamese social drama entitled *Raam Navami*. The fourth paper of the session was jointly presented by Subasana Mahanta Choudhury and Nabakumar Chamua. The topic of the paper was "Impact of Indian Renaissance on 19th Century Assamese Journals". While discussing, the paper-readers referred to four journals in particular – *Orunodoi*, *Asam Bandhu*, *Mou* and *Jonaki*. All the journals were highly influenced by the renaissance form and content. All of the sessions were followed by interactions.

The valedictory address was delivered by Ananda Bormudoi and the chairperson was Kailash Patnayak. In his speech, Prof Bormudoi focused on romantic as well as the humanistic aspects in the poems of Laxminath Bezbaroa and Chandrakumar Agarwal. He also referred to the aesthetic and humanitarian values inherent in the works of Jyotiprasad Agarwala. He referred to the pioneers of renaissance in Bengali, Odia and Assamese society. At the end of the seminar Satyakam Borthakur proposed the vote of thanks.

Foundation Day Celebrations

12 March 2014, Kolkata.



Participant Biswanath Garai, Syed Hasmat Jalal, Manabendra Bandyopadhyay, Subrata Mukhopadhyay and Sekhar Banerjee

Aviskar: Rekha Surya

1 March 2014, Kolkata

Rekha Surya presented Hindustani light classical songs along with her team written by Amir Khusro, Tulsidas, Kabir and others in different styles with lecture-demonstration.

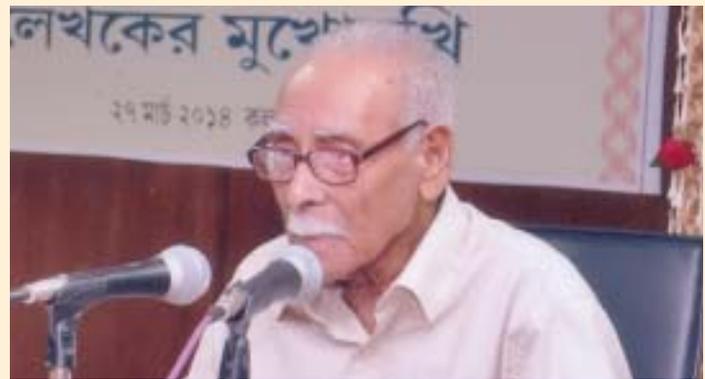


Rekha Surya singing Hindustani light classical song

Meet the Author

Manindra Gupta, eminent Bengali poet participated

27 March, New Delhi



National Seminar cum Workshop Translation and Assamese Literature: History and Theory

Sahitya Akademi organized a national seminar cum workshop on 'Translation and Assamese Literature: History and Theory' on 7-8 March 2014 at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, in collaboration with Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology.

The inaugural session on first day of the seminar started with a welcome address by Rohini Mokashi Punekar, from IIT Guwahati gave an insightful speech on the theme of the seminar. M. Asaduddin, from Jamia Millia Islamia gave the introductory remarks saying that the history of literary translation has hardly been given its due importance. The session was chaired by Basudev Chatterji, Chairman, ICHR and the key-note address was given by Ranjit Kr. Dev Goswami, Gauhati University.

The first session was chaired by Krishna Barua, IIT Guwahati. The speakers of the session were Madan Mohan Sarma, Professor, Tezpur University, Manjeet Baruah, Assistant Professor, JNU, New Delhi, and Shalim Hussain, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Prof. Sarma delivered his talk mainly on his observation on the strategies followed by the translator on his course of translation. His paper was entitled "Translation of the Bible into Assamese: Strategies Adopted and Language Used in *Dharmapustak*." Manjeet Baruah focused mainly on the translated works of Bishnu Prasad Rabha, a multifaceted artist and revolutionary singer of Assam. His paper on "Translation, Culture and Peasant Movement of Assam" highlighted mainly on the objective of throwing light on two kinds of politics Rabha was engaged in. The third and the final speaker of the session was Shalim M Hussain. The speaker mainly tried to pose some questions through his research work regarding the authentication of some translated works whose publication dates and the authorship of the same. His paper was on "Gaps and Contradictions in the Sources of

History of Translation in Assam." The session came to an end with lots of introspection and venturing in to some into areas and new thoughts.

The theme of the panel discussion of first day was "Translation in Assamese: History and Practice – II". The session was chaired by Madan Mohan Sarmah, Tezpur University. There were three speakers in the session Tilottama Misra, formerly of Dibrugarh University, M. Asaduddin of Jamia Milia Islamia and Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, former Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Kolkata.

On the second day of the national seminar started on the topic entitled "Translating Culture" with M. Asaduddin in the chair. Sanjib Kr. Baishya, Professor from University of Delhi, presented his paper entitled "Translation of Shakespeare's Plays into Assamese: a Brief Survey." The paper tried to draw a trajectory of Shakespeare's plays translated/adapted into Assamese throughout the late nineteenth century to the present time. He examined the paradigm shifts in the history of Assamese theatre through the prism of translated plays and also commented upon the methods and the problems faced by the translators in the process. Arzuman Ara, from the English and Foreign Languages University, Shillong, presented the paper "Inter-semiotic and Cultural Translation in Media". The paper



Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee speaking. M. Asaduddin, Bamdev Chatterjee and others

focused on how media is often contested as a mode of inter-semiotic translation. The third paper was presented by freelance writer Komoruzzaman Ahmed. His paper was on “Translations of Islamic Texts to Assamese” which looks into the beginning of Islamic writings in Assamese and its history of translation. The final paper of this session was presented by Prasun Barman. His paper was titled “Translation from Bengali to Assamese Language: An Evolving Story.” His paper focused on Bengali to Assamese translation from 1877 to 2000, the historical contexts of translations from colonial to post-colonial era and the translations by Government cultural agencies and independent efforts.

The second session of the day was chaired by Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee. The speakers of the session were Pradip Acharya, former Professor of Cotton College and Bibhash Choudhury, Associate Professor, Gauhati University. Prof. Acharya mainly concentrated his discussion in the main purpose of the translation work. He considered the purpose of translation as purely ‘evangelical’ and ‘ethical’, which he again refutes back as an ‘export’ ‘import’ business. Bibhash Choudhury remarks on Ajit Baruah, who has to his credit Sahitya Akademi and the Assam Valley Literary Awards. His talk on translation is that ‘translation from translation is not acceptable.’

The third session of the day was on the topic of “Translation and Politics of Gender.” Three speakers presented papers on the theme – Garima Kalita (Cotton College), Banani Chakravarty (Gauhati University) and Hemjyoti Medhi (Tezpur University). Garima Kalita talked about translation as translocation. She brought in the translated work of Tilottama Mishra’s *Ram Navami* which was extensively criticized and did not reach the common readers due to lack of awareness and venturing attitude. The second speaker Banani Chakravarty referred to the Assamese magazine *Ghor Jenti* which made a special note on shaping a ‘contemporary woman’. Hemjyoti Medhi talked about Chandraprabha Saikia and her revolutionary zeal to build a platform for the woman of her time. Rohini Mokashi-Punekar was in the chair of this session.

The fourth and the last session of the second day of the seminar were entitled “Translation and Colonial Interventions”, the theme of the session. The session was chaired by Basudev Chatterji (IIT, Guwahati). There were two speakers for the session, Arupjyoti Saikia of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT, Guwahati, and Chandan Kumar Sarma from Dibrugarh University. The concluding remarks were given by M. Asaduddin.

People and the Books

J.B. Patnaik

A veteran politician and Governor of Assam participated. 4 January 2014 in Bhubaneswar



J.B. Patnaik speaking and Sitakanta Mahapatra with him

Mulakat with Bengali Writers

27 February 2014, Kolkata.

The participant writers Chandrani Bandyopadhyay, Debajyoti Mukhopadhyay and Swagata Dasgupta presented their poems and Binod Ghoshal and Jhumur Pande read out their short stories.



Loka: The Many Voices

17-18 January 2014, West Bengal

‘Loka: The Many Voices’ programme was held at Durgapur, West Bengal. The performances included folk dances, ‘Rava’ dance of Jalpaiguri and ‘Raibenshe’ dance of Murshidabad.



Asmita with Bengali Women Writers

24 February 2014, Kolkata



Rusati Sen, Popri Gangopadhyay, Sebanti Ghosh, Krishna Basu and Tripti Santra

The participants of the Asmita programme with Bengali writers included Krishna Basu, Papri Gangopadhyay, Sebanti Ghosh and Tripti Santra. The programme was chaired by Rusati Sen.

Bengali Short Story Reading

9 January 2014, Kolkata



L-R: Puspal Mukhopadhyay, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Samaresh Majumdar and Jaya Mitra

The writers invited to participate in the programme were Jaya Mitra, Puspal Mukhopadhyay and Samaresh Majumdar. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay.

Bengali Poetry Festival

22-23 March 2014, West Bengal.



Participant poets, Soumitra Mitra, Srijata, Angshuman Kar and Debesh Thakur

150th Birth Anniversary Seminar Ramendrasundar Trivedi

Sahitya Akademi organized a one-day seminar on Ramendrasundar Trivedi on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary on 6 March 2014 at its office auditorium in Kolkata.

The inaugural address was delivered by Alok Ray, a noted Bengali thinker and scholar who mentioned that Trivedi wrote poems in the early stage of his life, the major part of his works consisted of science-based writings.

In his key-note address, Partha Ghosh, a noted researcher and scientist, informed that Trivedi's major interest was in literature and history, though he later chose science. He also worked on physiological and geographical terminology. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, while speaking from the chair, informed the audience about some of the key events of Trivedi's time.

In the first session, Bidyendu Mohan Dev and Ashish Lahiri presented papers on the topic of "In Search of the Origins of Science and Philosophy of Ramendrasundar Trivedi" and "Ramendrasundar Trivedi: Perception of Science" respectively.

In the second session Abhra Ghosh and Pabitra Sarkar, noted Bengali scholars presented papers on the topics on "Ramendrasundar Trivedi as a guide of Parishad" and "Ramendrasundar Trivedi: Linguistics and Grammar" respectively. In his paper, Sri Ghosh spoke on the role of Ramendrasundar in building up the Bangiyo Sahitya Parishad whose guidance the Parishad did many path-breaking works including collection of ancient manuscripts, recording of



*Alok Raj delivering the inaugural address.
L-R: Partha Ghosh and Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay*

geographical information, translations etc. For Trivedi, one should not look into language and culture from different perspectives. Trivedi tried his best to collect materials related to the history and evolution of Bengalis as a collective identity.

Prof. Sarkar, laid emphasis on the thoughts of Ramendrasundar regarding grammar and terminology. Bengali language has many dialectical variations. But Trivedi tried to see a complete portrait of Bengali language. He discussed some aspects of the language in detail. Those aspects included onomatopoeia, case, morphology and terminology.

In the third session, Mou Dasgupta presented a paper on 'Ramendrasundar Trivedi: Sanskrit Works.' Prof. Dasgupta, Professor of Sanskrit, University of Calcutta, explained the context of the translation of 'Oitoreya Brahman' by Ramendrasundar. In this translation, Ramendrasundar's scientific bent of mind is traceable. He used simple, short and logical sentences in this translation. Prof. Dasgupta also read out some samples of this translation and compared this translation with other such attempts by European scholars. He also once delivered some lectures on *vedic jagnas* in the University of Calcutta which was later published in the form of five essays in *Sahitya* magazine.

Prof. Bhattacharya in his paper on 'Ramendrasundar Trivedi: A Synthetic Interpretation' emphasized on the way Trivedi wrote on topics related to science. In his science-based writings, Trivedi adopted two types of language. One is about the facts of science and the other is about the way in which scientific matters are narrated. Ramendrasundar applied the notion towards science to the life-style. He referred to the concept of *Prakriti* in the sense of Sankhya philosophy. He tried to explain the nature of truth as explained in scientific writings.

Symposium

Tribal Writer and Assamese Literature

Sahitya Akademi organized a symposium on 'Tribal Writer and Assamese Literature' in on 14 February 2014 at Namphake village, Naharkatia, Assam.

Inaugural address was delivered by Kandarpa Kumar Deka, former Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University. Introductory speech was delivered by Atanu Bhattacharyya, Akademi Assamese Advisory Board Member. He highlighted the scripts and perspectives of the literary traditions of the tribal languages.

Jyanapal Mahathero, the guest of honour traced the history of tribal Assamese literature. In his speech, Phanindra Kumar Dev Choudhury, opined that Tai Phake writers' contribution open a new horizon of new socio-cultural possibilities, beauty and the happiness of the tribal world.

The key-note address was delivered by Paim Thee Gohain, noted writer and journalist. Karabi Deka Hazarika, while speaking from the chair, referred to the social customs, culture and literary tradition of Tai Phake.

In the first session paper readers were Ong Sing Shyam. He presented

a paper on Tai language from a linguistic point of view. Ngi Pethon Gohain presented his paper on the Tai Phake language and its diverse cultural traditions and Banwang Losu spoke on Wangsho language and its script which was developed by their own people and also the orthography of the language. Bhimkanta Baruah was in the chair.

In the second session, paper readers were Chikari Tiss, Phozet Nong Wa and Maniram Sonowal with Aicheing Hun Weing Ken in the chair. Sonowal, in his paper spoke on the writings of the Sonowal Kachari tribe as well as their culture and tradition. Sri Wa, in his paper, spoke on the problems and difficulties of survival of the culture, tradition and language of the Nokte community which is oral and not written. Sri Tiss spoke on the oral tradition of Karbi community of Karbi Anglong. Another speaker Am Chon Gohain spoke on the folk literature of the Tai Phake community. She also demonstrated some folk songs of this genre. In the valedictory session, the valedictory address was delivered by Santanu Tamuli.



Satyakam Borthakur speaking. L-R: Gautam Paul, Kandarpa Kr. Deka, Karabi Deka Hazarika, Phanindra Kr. Deb Choudhury and Atanu Bhattacharya



Karabi Deka Hazarika introducing the poets at the Meet

North East Poets' Meet

A North-East Poets' Meet was organised by Sahitya Akademi and Sabda Saikshik Nyas on 22 January 2014 at Jorhat Book Fair, Jorhat, Assam.

The inaugural session of the Meet was chaired by Karabi Deka Hazarika, Convener, Assamese Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. Ujjal Powgam, President, Sabda Saikshik Nyas, introduced the dignitaries and the poets. Santanoo Tamuly, Member, Assamese Advisory Board gave his welcome speech. Kutubuddin Ahmed inaugurated the programme and spoke briefly on the present scenario of poetry in the languages of North-East.

The reading session was moderated by Santanoo Tamuly. Poets who participated in the session were Biman Kumar Doley (Mising), Deben Tasa (Odia), Gayotree Newar (Nepali), Hridoy Ranjan Das (Assamese), Jyotirekha Hazarika (Assamese), Nilakanta Saikia (Assamese), Pankaj Gobinda Medhi (Assamese), Phulmoti Teronpi (Karbi) and Paragiyoti Mahanta (Assamese).

Santanoo Tamuly, and Kutubuddin Ahmed presented an analysis on the poems presented at the session.

Discourse on Translation as a Skill

6 February 2014, Kolkata



L-R: Sayantan Dasgupta, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Aveek Majumdar, Jatindra Kumar Nayak and Ujjal Singha

Narichetana: Women Writers' Meet

8 March 2014, Kolkata

The participants of the programme were Binata Raychoudhuri, Chaitali Chattopadhyay, Kaberi Raychoudhuri, Mitul Dutta and Tilottama Majumdar with Gopa Dutta Bhowmik, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Gour Banga, in the chair. All the invitees were noted Bengali writers. The writers read out from their works. The programme ended with the comments on the works presented by the writers by Manasiz Majumdar, noted critic.



L-R: Tilottama Majumdar, Kaberi Raychoudhuri, Chaitali Chattopadhyay, Gopa Dutta Bhowmik, Binata Raychoudhuri and Mitul Dutta

Foundation Day Celebrations

12 March 2014, Kolkata



L-R: Biswanath Garai, Syed Hasmat Jalal, Manabendra Bandyopadhyay, Subrata Mukhopadhyay and Sekhar Banerjee

The writers invited on the occasion included Abul Basar, Biswanath Garai, Sekhar Banerjee, Sibasis Mukhopadhyay, Subrata Mukhopadhyay and Syed Hasmat Jalal with Manabendra Bandyopadhyay in the chair. The writers presented their works before the lovers of literature. Prof. Bandyopadhyay, gave an overview of the works presented by the poets and the fiction writer.

Cultural Meet on 'Knitting India Through Languages'

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with National Book Trust organized a Cultural Meet on 'Knitting India through Languages' on 7 February 2014 at Kolkata Book Fair Ground, Kolkata.

Discussants were Aziz Hajini (Kashmiri), Jagmohan Singh Gill (Punjabi), Zahir Anwar (Urdu), Sourin Bhattacharya (Bengali), Kamala Kanta Mohanty (Odia), Neelam Sharma Anshu (Hindi) and Nehru Narayanan (Tamil) with Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay in the chair.

In the welcome address Goutam Paul, Officer in charge, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region, commented on how languages can play a vital role in fostering cultural unity and amity of the nation. He also introduced the participants to the audience.

Aziz Hajini, former Kashmiri Convener and an eminent poet, maintained that the concept of unity in diversity can only be realized by the efforts of creative writers in Indian languages. The faculty of language makes

man different from other animals. Kashmiri can boast of its literary history which can be dated back to 800 years, deeply imbibed in Indian tradition. Folk literature in Kashmiri is really important. We have to promote translators who have the potential to enrich languages.

Kamala Kanta Mohanty, a retired journalist and an Odia scholar, said every Indian should be bilingual to interact with people of other languages. The spirit of Indianness is to be maintained though we continue to speak in different languages. He also spoke about the presence of Indian myths and cultures in Odisha.

Neelam Sharma Anshu, a well-known Hindi scholar and a translator, opined that Hindi in its present form is the youngest among Indian languages but it survives as a communicative and link languages to other Indian languages. Nehru Narayanan, a well-known Tamil scholar, writer and poet, spoke about the Tamil literary tradition. He also recited some couplets from *Tirukkural*, a great

Tamil epical literature explaining them in English. He referred to the great works from Bengali, Punjabi, Telugu and other Indian languages relating to Tamil literature. He also spoke about bhakti tradition in Tamil and its influence over common people.

Zahir Anwar, a well-known Urdu scholar, stressed on the simplicity of the Urdu vocabulary and also referred to great Urdu masterpieces.

Sourin Bhattacharya, Sahitya Akademi awardee, said that though direct translation is more authentic but, in a multilingual country like India, translation through a medium language is inevitable.

Jagmohan Singh Gill, a noted Sikh scholar and columnist, spoke on the influence of Punjabi masterpieces on the psyche of creative writers of other languages.

Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, while speaking from the chair, said about the necessity of building up a body of translated literature which will connect the people of different regions.



L-R: Sourin Bhattacharya, Zahir Anwar, Jagmohan Singh Gill, Nehru Narayanan, Aziz Hajini, Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, Neelam Sharma Anshu, Sunit Bhattacharya and Kamala Kanta Mohanty

National Seminar: 'Rewriting History of Literature'



L-R: M.S. Pagare, Yashwant Manohar, Sudhir Meshram, Bhalchandra Nemade, Krishna Kimbahune and Shobha Shinde

A two day national seminar on 'Rewriting History of Literature' was organised by Sahitya Akademi, Regional Centre, Mumbai in collaboration with North Maharashtra University on 10-11 January 2014 at Jalgaon. Bhalachandra Nemade, Convenor, Marathi Advisory Board, inaugurated the seminar.

Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the audience and the scholar participants who said in his speech that the seminar aims to explore many dimensions of history of literature, rewriting history of literature influenced by several schools of thoughts.

Bhalchandra Nemade, in his inaugural address, professed that history of any literature should be written and updated at regular intervals, and that the historian should keep in mind the entire culture of the period of time to be dealt with. Every generation should write history of literature, for no history could be complete in all respects, he stated. Yashwant Manohar delivered key-note address. A historian of literature should consider lifestyles, social-economic-cultural upheavals of the past, he said. Rewriting history of literature should be continuous a process, he further stated

M.S. Pagare, Head, Dept. of Marathi, North Maharashtra University, proposed a vote of thanks.

Pushpa Bhawe, well known Marathi writer chaired the session on "Research on History of Literature: New Dimensions". Satish Badwe and Ramesh Warkhede presented their papers. Sri Badwe said that literary history is set chronologically in a literary point of view, and it could not be possible to write history of literature without studying social aspects in connection with the time to be dealt with. Sri Warkhede said that literary history is part of culture, and that it is in fact is history of human conscience. He further categorized the study of literary history as 'Cultural Oriented,' 'Time Oriented,' and 'Genre Oriented' and said that the categorization would help literary historians.

Satish Badwe chaired the second session "Research on History of Literature: New Dimensions II," and Bharat Shirsath on "History of Pali, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Magadhi, Ardhamagadhi Literature" and Sahikh Iqbal Minne on 'History of Muslim-Sufi Literature' presented papers. Shrisath said that the languages Pali, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Magadhi, Ardhamagadhi were related to particular religion and hence was chaired by Ramesh

Warkhede, and papers were presented by Shailendra Lende on "Rewriting History of Literature: Phule-Ambedkar Perspective" and Ravindra Shobhane on "Rewriting History of Literature: Marxist Perspective." Both the papers shared the view that history of literature should in turn be history of social consciousness, and structure of society.

The fourth session held on 11 January 2014 was chaired by Ravindra Shobhane. Papers were presented by Mrinalini Kamat on "Research History of Gujarati Literature," and by Shobha Naik on "Research History of Kannada Literature." Kamat said that there is hardly a tradition of writing history of literature in Gujarati January-Marchand and it began under the influence of Britishers. The first disciplined history of Gujarati literature was written by the late Goverdhanram Tripathi in 1892, she informed. Ms. Naik said that it was Sahitya Akademi that first brought out history of Kannada literature and it was written by R.S. Mugli. The mutual exchange between oral and written literature is highly significant in the history of Kannada literature, she said further.

The seminar ended with the valedictory address delivered by Pushpa Bhawe.

Symposium Unusual Trends in Konkani Literature



Basti Vaman Shenoy inaugurating the symposium, to his right, Gokuldas Prabhu, and to his left, Tanaji Halarnakar and Krishna Kimbahune

In collaboration with Konkani Bhas aani Sanskriti Pratishthan, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, organised a symposium on 'Unusual Trends in Konkani Literature' on 19 January 2014 in Mangalore. Basti Vaman Shenoy, President, Konkani Bhas aani Sanskriti Pratishthan, inaugurated the symposium. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai welcomed the audience. Gokuldas Prabhu, noted Konkani writer, critic and Member, Konkani Advisory Board, delivered keynote address. He dealt with changes, movements, and development that took place in Konkani literature, he said. Tanaji Halarnakar, Convenor, Konkani Advisory Board, chaired the session.

First session was chaired by Ramesh Velsukar and included papers by Asha Mangutkar on "Spiritual Solitude in Prakash Padgaonkar's Poetry" and Paresh Kamat on 'Silent Themes in Madhav Borkar's Poetry.' Mangutkar's paper on "Sri Aurobindo's and Bakibab Borkar's influences on the contemporary writers". Sri Kamat said that Madhav Borkar was a modern poet, and that his poetry had musicality and unconventional style without verbosity.

Mahabaleshwar Sail chaired the second session. Melvyn Roderigues on "Surrealism in *Sune Majar Hansata* by C.F. Costa" and Avinash Chyari on 'Rebellion in Pundalik Naik's Plays,' presented papers. Sri Roderigues observed that surreal element existed in Da. Costa's work as creative demand, theoretical necessity, and literary ethics. Sri Chyari stated that Pundalik Naik's plays ethically challenged social institutions.

The last session was chaired by Madhav Borkar, and Meena Kakodkar on 'Characters in A.N. Mhambro's short stories,' presented by Gurudath Bantwalkar on "Existentialism in *Hanv Jiyetam* by Edwin JF DSouza," and Vrushali Mandrekar on "Cultural Dimensions in *Yuga Sanwar* by Mahabaleshwar Sail." The programme was concluded by the remarks by Pundalik Naik.

Symposium: Harish Waswani

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language and Indian Institute of Sindhology, organized a symposium on Harish Waswani on 11 February 2014 at Adipur.

Moti Prakash, eminent Sindhi writer, inaugurated the symposium. Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, welcomed the audience. Prem Prakash, Convenor, Sindhi Advisory Board, pointed out that his career as poet, writer and journalist was also remarkable. Ramesh Warliyani was the guest of honour. Lakhmi Khilani, Chairman, Indian Institute of Sindhology, chaired the inaugural session. Pritam Wariyani proposed a vote of thanks.

Moti Prakash chaired the first session. Kala Prakash presented her paper on "Life and Times of Harish Waswani" Shefali Vasudev presented a paper on "Harish Waswani: My Father, My Friend." Ms Vasudev frankly discussed several dimensions of Waswani as a creative writer and as a person. She said that he possessed many personalities in him contradictory to one another. Amit Bodani presented his paper on "Harish Waswani as a Genius." Bodani elaborated on bipolar element in Waswani's genius personality.

Arjan Hasid chaired the second session, and papers were presented by Vasdev Mohi on "Harish Waswani's Poetry: An Appreciation," Kamla Goklani on "Harish Waswani's Short Stories," Namdev Tarachandani on "Harish Waswani's Criticism," presented papers. The last session was chaired by Assan Waswasni. Mohan Himthani on "Harish Waswani's Laboratory Test of Poetry," Vimmi Sadaranganion "Harish Waswani's Dhara Column," Kirti Khatri on "Harish Waswani as a Columnist," Hero Thakur on "Harish Waswani's Edited Works," Jetho Lalwani on "Harish Waswani's Plays," presented papers. Sahib Bijani rendered his friendship with Waswani.

Prem Prakash made concluding remarks.



L-R: Prem Prakash, Moti Prakash, Lakhmi Khilani and Pritam Wariyani

Symposium

Contemporary North-Eastern Literature and Poets' Meet

Symposium on 'Contemporary North-Eastern Literature and a Poets' Meet as part of Octave-2014, were organised on 16 January 2014 in Mumbai. Temsula Ao, eminent litterateur, inaugurated the symposium.

K.Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience. He observed that it is true that the North-East India has long been under the painful and tragic spell of insecurity and violence, death and torture on a daily basis, governmental apathy, corruption, poverty and unemployment, web of insurgents, militants, etc. The literature of the older generation of North-Eastern writers reflects this tension and chaos of violence and death. Their literatures have successfully depicted the painfully and terribly amorphous ethos of the North-East India maintaining an outstanding worldview and universal warmth.

Temsula Ao, in the inaugural address, stated that oral traditions in the North-Eastern literature are so very significant, and that 'orality' seems to have sustained literature of the North-Eastern region. It is essential to make attempts to transit oral literature to written form, she said further. The land of the North-East is the land of identity, originality, and it cherishes a strong sense of lost cultural past, she stated. She emphasised that literature of the North-East is not merely about violence, disorder and existential angst. On the other side of the North-East Indian life there is love and hope in the human spirit and universal warmth, so the contemporary North-East Indian literature is certainly as rich as the nation is, she said firmly.

After the inaugural speech, Pranjit Bora of Assamese, Dhirju Jyoti Basumatary of Bodo, Naorem Vidyasagar Singh of Manipuri and Siddhartha Rai of Nepali recited their poems. The Poets' Meet was followed by the symposium, and it was chaired by H.Behari Singh, Convenor, Akademi Manipuri Advisory Board. Satyakam Borthaur on 'Contemporary Assamese Literature,' Anjali Daimari on 'Contemporary Bodo Literature,' Pratapchandra Pradhan on 'Contemporary Nepali Literature,' presented their papers.. H.Behari Singh, concluded the sessions, sharing his views on contemporary Manipuri literature.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Krishna Kimbahune, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai.

Literary Forum Programmes

Poetry Reading Programme

24 January 2014, Mumbai



Participant poets Bharat Naik, K.P. Shashidharan, Kamal Vohra, Satish Kalsekar and Raja Holkunde

Sahitya Akademi Foundation Day

A Reading Programme

12 March 2014, Mumbai



Urmila Pawar reading out excerpts from her books.
L-R: Sadhana Kamat and Himanshi Shelat

International Women's Day

Dhiruben Patel and Usha Mehta

8 March 2014, Mumbai



Usha Mehta and Sadhana Kamat

Symposium Konkani Drama in Kerala

A symposium on 'Konkani Drama in Kerala' was organised by Regional Office Sahitya Akademi, Mumbai, in association with the Konkani Sahitya Akademi Kerala, on 23 March 2014, at Swarna Bhavan, Ernakulam. It was inaugurated by Padmabhushan Kavalam Narayana Pannikar, celebrated theatre persona, who, in the inaugural address, mentioned that the Konkani community is rich with experiences of the past like migration, suppression and multiple language skills, which can contribute a lot towards building up a strong theatrical wealth.

Delivering the key-note address, Pundalik Naik, President, Goa Konkani Akademi exhorted the artists and writers from Kerala to enrich the Konkani drama with serious plays.

Jayaprakash Kulur, guest of honour was the noted playwright. Tanaji Halarankar, welcomed the gathering and T R Sadananda Bhat, proposed a vote of thanks.

The symposium witnessed deliberations on "Mythological Themes in Konkani Drama," chaired by G. Krishna Rao in the first session.

L. Krishna Bhat mentioned in his paper that several plays with mythological themes were staged all around and the women characters were acted by only men actors. K.K Subramanian said in his paper that plays like *Chandrabasa*, *Bhakta Markandeya*, *Satyavan Savitri* and *Dhruva Charitram* left indelible impacts on the audience in those days. Discussant S. Ashok was the discussant

The second session on "Social and Comic Themes" was chaired by M Krishnanand Pai. R. Ramananda Prabhu, in his paper presented gist of some dramas enacted in and around Ernakulam during 1970s.

R.S. Bhaskar recalled some social dramas like *Mbantari Aiji* and *Anusandhan* that were unique in handling the themes. S. Ramakrishna Kini took part as discussant.

The third session on "Songs and Music in Konkani Dramas" was chaired by K. Anantha Bhat.

V. Suresh Shenoy in his paper quoted several drama songs that were composed by him. N. Prasen Kumar Mallya, presented a few songs in his melodious voice.

Payyanur Ramesh Pai presided over. Kasargod Chinna delivered the valedictory address.

Another theatre personality, Sridhar Kamat Bambolkar, also spoke on the occasion.

Kavi-Anuvadak

Manohar Jadhav

Marathi translator and critic rendered Pawan Karan, Hindi poems

17 January 2014, Pune

Literary Forum

16 January 2014, Mumbai.



Akademi Premchand Fellow Ram Dayal Rakesh had an interaction with local writers in Mumbai

Meet the Author

23 February 2014, Ahmedabad.



Vasudev Mohi Veteran poet and writer in Sindhi participated in the above programme

Meet the Author

23 February 2014, Karnataka.

Arun Sadhu

Celebrated Marathi fiction writer participated in the above programme

Narichetna with Sindhi Writers

23 February 2014, Ahmedabad

Six women writers participated. Sunita Mohanani, Heena Agnani and Sunita Mohanani read out their short stories. Roshani Rohra, Monika Panjwani and Meena Shahdapuri recited their poems. Arjan Hasid chaired the programme.

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