



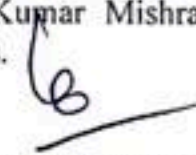
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Purvottari – North-East and Northern Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized "Purvottari," North-East and Northern Writers' Meet on Wednesday, 30th January 2019 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. Eminent poets representing different languages participated in the programme. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the delegates and audience and stated that "the regions of North-East India assume great importance. The sheer number of languages and dialects and the literature, especially tribal and oral, make the region highly vibrant and exciting. Beautiful landscapes often tend to produce fantastic creative literary and artistic work. However chaotic and violent the atmosphere and surroundings, the literary and art productions too often tend to focus on them or at times on some utopian world" The more the litterateurs from North-East interact with writers from other regions, languages and traditions they will get exposed to other traditions and gain firsthand knowledge about newer crafts and techniques, he said. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, eminent Hindi Poet, former President of the Akademi, and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi said that different languages have been created by the human beings which have their limitations in terms of particular regions. He mentioned about the drastic social condition caused due to violence and said literature can be a possible hope for solution if it reaches the masses. Prof. Chandrashekhara Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi in his presidential address said that the North and North-Eastern interface is underpinned by an encompassing idea of the connections between the two regions, and at the same time celebrates the plurality and differences that characterize these regions. This concept highlights the manner in which the distinct, yet, linked histories, cultures, and political identities of the two regions can be brought together. The Guest of Honour, Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Borah, well known Assamese writer said that we are living in an era which faces critical and drastic situations worldwide in which writers have a prominent role to play. Writers must be come forward strongly to achieve freedom and the first and foremost freedom would be the freedom of press and media. The first session, 'Story Reading' was chaired by Prof. Malashri Lal. Sri Gobind Basumatary, Ms. Shinie Antony, Ms. Manisha Kulshreshtha, read their stories. Prof. Malashri Lal emphasized the plurality of Indian traditions expressed through story-telling traditions. Reading the oral components of any language is far more important than the written form of the story. Story-telling is a collective enterprise. In the second session of *Purvottari*, eminent English writer, Sukrita Paul Kumar, the moderator, said that the topic of the session *My Creation, My World* in itself is intriguing. She said that *My World* deals with 'my-ness,' while on the other hand Sahitya is 'sa' 'hit' which means that ultimately we have to connect with everyone. So how is this insular world created by a writer? How conscious is one when he is creating by thinking that it is just my world....Then she added that the need is to get liberated from 'my part' of the creation. We need to build bridges with the outside world. Every writer is unique, but to be more interactive, one needs to be less insular.

The first panelist, Adaram Basumatary (Bodo), spoke about his childhood activities and the present day scenario of the society around him. He said that he tries to present the reality of his surroundings, the happiness and woes of the people through his drama and stories but also emphasized on the importance of travelling into the imaginary world for literary creations. Krishna Mohan Jha (Hindi), the second discussant, started by speaking about his early days when he had started reading poetry. He was in the 6th standard when his interest in poetry grew. He used to read poems in English and get them translated in Hindi by his brother to understand its meaning. He was happy about the fact that in spite of residing in a backward village in Mithila, its scenic views, flowing crops, fishes in the pond, the serene moonlight inspired him to write poetry. The third participant, Sangeeta Mall (English), said that for her the perfect world can exist within the pages of fiction. She calls her world 'Beyond Pink.' She writes about the middle class woman who doesn't exist in fiction, though in reality you meet her every day. She has grown up in a nuclear family with working parents, received an education, put that education to good use, used this power to contribute and raise the bar for the perception of women in India and lastly is financially empowered to take life's challenges on her own terms. Rajendra Joshi (Rajasthani), the fourth panelist, said that he learns from his surroundings and builds his characters around them. He began writing and reading while starting his journey as a social worker. The responsibility of an author is more than that of the common man towards the society making it important for the author to be an activist. The third and final session of the programme was devoted to Poetry Reading. The session was chaired by eminent Hindi poet, Arun Kamal, who applauded the Akademi for giving an opportunity to more than 15 eminent poets from the North-East and Northern parts of India to recite poems in their mother language. He further said that this proves that poetry is the mother language of humanity. The participants Archana Puzari (Assamese), Khokan Saha (Bengali), Aurobindo Uzir (Bodo), Khajur Singh (Dogri), Nitu (English), Vandana Yadav (Hindi), Fayaz Tilgami (Kashmiri), Jiten Narah (Mising), Kenebo Rajkumar (Manipuri), T.B. Subba (Nepali), Mohan Tyagi (Punjabi), Alok Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Rampada Kisku (Santali) and Monika Singh (Urdu) recited their poems.


(K. Sreenivasarao)