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PRESS RELEASE

**National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature
Spin-a-Tale : Programmes for Children
Panel Discussion on Publishing in India
New Harvest : All India Young Writers' Meet**

National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature

The eighth session – “Nature in Poets’ Imagination – II” - was chaired Prof. K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam poet, critic and translator. Sri Melvyn Rodrigues in his paper on “Nature in Poets’ Imagination” said that the relationship between poets and nature is highly organic. Sri Mogalli Ganesh in his paper on “Nature in Poetic Imagination” said that to construct the invisible beauty and the truth of any poem, imagination stimulates the poet, but only through his social environment. Sri Ashwani Kumar in his paper said that our concepts of Nature are relative, historically determined. Prof. Balwant Jani in his paper on “Gujarati Lokgeetmein Prakriti Nirupan” said that in folk literature, an active person plays last longer role between the human life and natural substances.

The ninth session titled “Nature in Indian Tribal Lore” was chaired by Prof. Mahender Kumar Mishra, eminent folklorist of India. Prof. A. Chellaperumal said that Nature appears as a vital source of life in tribal lore. Dr. Kalachand Mahali in his paper on “Modernity of Tribal Lore: With Special reference to the Indigenous Mahali” said that the tribal existence is the evidence of the interrelation of nature and human that maintains the ecological balance. Sri Anil Kumar Tiriya in his paper on “Deshauli: A Life, Lore and Identity of Ho Tribe” attempted to redefine eco-spirituality and identified Deshauli as a life, lore and identity of Ho tribe in Kolhan. Sri Sibdas Baskey in his paper on “Deciphering the concept of ‘Jaher Than’ (Place of worship for Santal people) as in-situ biodiversity conservation at village level” said that the traditional concept and knowledge of indigenous people on bio-conservation can be utilized as potential tool to address the complex issues of in-situ biodiversity conservation at village level.

The tenth session on “Ecological Aesthetics and Criticism: Precepts and Praxis” was chaired by Sri G. Madhusoodanan, a pioneer in Ecological Literary Criticism in Malayalam. Dr. Dhananjay Singh in his paper on “Ecological Aspects of Indian Aesthetics and Poetics” said that the pre-Modern aesthetics and poetics in India develop theoretical axioms out of ecological experience. Prof. Jatindra Nayak in his paper discussed dimensions of the relationship between the animate and inanimate as depicted in Fakir Mohan Senapati’s classic novel *Chha Mana Atha Guntha*. Dr. Om Prakash Dwivedi in his paper on “Eco-precarity and the Odds against Tomorrow” said that we are living in an age of ‘precarity’, a recent theoretical construct that broadly refers to precarious existence comprising ‘crises’ of all kinds. Prof. Rohit Manchanda in his paper on “The Two P’s and the Gulf Betwixt: A Sensibility Deficit?” said that it seems to me that what keeps the two P’s, precept and praxis, from fusing together into a gratifying whole is what one might term a sensibility deficit. Sri G. Madhusoodanan concluded the session and with this, the three-day seminar on “Regionality, Environment and Literature” came to end witnessing the rich presence of eminent writers, literatures and scholars from all walks of literary genres.

New Harvest : All India Young Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized a “New Harvest: All India Young Writers’ Meet” at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Saturday, 29 February 2020, in New Delhi featuring readings and discussions by well-known young litterateurs representing 24 Indian languages. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience saying that not only individually but collectively too young people add immense value to the society in which they live. In his inaugural address, Dr Siddhalingaiah, eminent Kannada poet and playwright, said that the Akademi has always been encouraging young writers by organizing this kind of programme and honoring them. The Guest of Honour of the programme, Sri Dhruva Jyoti Bora, noted Assamese novelist, historian, essayist, painter, and social scientist in his address said that in an era where the interest in reading books has completely gone up in the young generation, young writers must stand up to be counted. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, said that young writers, irrespective of the genre they are indulging in or the cultural traditions and languages they represent, have to be encouraged and promoted.

The first session “Why Do I Write?” was chaired by Sri K.P. Ramanunni, eminent Malayalam writer. Sri Lakshyajit Bora, Assamese writer, said that I write my mind briefly, and it seems like poems. I write with despair and as well as happiness. This is solely mine. Ms Kinjal Joshi, writer in English and Gujarati, said that her writing is the whistle of the pressure cooker of her heart and mind and that she throws out the steam from within on the paper sky and feel comfortable. Ms Priyanka Mishra, presently pursuing Masters in Maithili language, said, I write so that I can interview myself. Ms. Mandakini Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of English, said that poetry-writing is not merely a personal passion but more importantly it is collective journey. Sri Sreejit Perumthachan, Malayalam poet and sub-editor with *Malayalam Manorama* said that more than a passion or profession, writing denotes my position. It is, to me, a way to mark my presence in both the society and my existence. Sri K.P. Ramanunni concluding the session wished all young poets that they will be able to make this world more pleasant through your writings.

In the second session devoted to “Writing: Passion or Profession” was chaired by Sri Gourahari Das, noted Odia writer and Ms Moonisa Aslam Dervash, scholar, working with Akashvani, Srinagar, Ms Rimi Mutsuddi, Bengali poet, and Ms G. Akhila, English poet participated in the session and shared their views. The third session “Me and Literature of my Generation” was chaired by Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay, noted Bengali writer, chaired the session. Sri Nagaraj Hetturu, Editor, *Bheema Vijaya*, Kannada Daily, Sri Tongbram Amarjit Singh, associated with Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat and Sri Ambesh Talwadkar, short story writer, shared their views. The fourth session was devoted to short story reading, was chaired by Sri Prakash Bhatambrekar, eminent translator. Sri Khiroda Bihari Biswal, Odia short story writer, Ms Saroj Bala, Dogri short story writer, Ms Manushi, Tamil poet and short story writer and Ms Roshini Rohera, Sindhi short story writer and dramatist, and Sri Indla Chandra Sekhar (Telugu), read out their short stories. The fifth and concluding session of the programme was devoted to poetry recitation, and was chaired by Shri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, eminent Urdu poet and scholar. Sri Mihir Chitre (English), Sri Raj Kumar Mishra (Sanskrit), Sri Swapnil Shelke, Ms Reena Menariya (Rajasthani), Sri Roshan Rai (Nepali), Sri Mahender Kumar (Urdu), Sri Chandra Mohan Kisku (Santali), and Ms Madhu Raghavendra (English), recited their poems.

Spin a Tale

Sahitya Akademi organized a programme for children “Spin—a-Tale” at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on Saturday, 29 February 2020, in New Delhi, at which more than 200 students from various schools such as D.P.S. International School, Gurugram, Delhi, Kannada Senior Secondary School, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi, Brahma Shakti Sr. Sec. School, Sonapat, Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Rouse Avenue, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, New Delhi, TheUnior Academy Sr. Sec. School, Raja Bazar, New Delhi enthusiastically participated. The programme comprised a Short story Competition followed by Poetry Competition and Drawing Competition. Subject for all the three competitions was – “Conservation of Mother Nature”. There were two categories. In the first category, the children from class 1st to class 7th participated, in the second category the children from class 8th to 12th participated. Three prizes were given in each category in Hindi and English languages separately. After the competition, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the children and guests. Noted children-writer in Hindi, Smt. Madhu Pant narrated a story of a donkey who wanted to become wise and intelligent, to the children. She also had the children engaged in a game asking questions about environment. Smt. Deepa Agarwal, eminent children-writer in English, also narrated a short story in English depicting the lives of different creatures and animals of jungle in a very interesting way. All the children enthusiastically participated in, and enjoyed the programme.

Panel discussion on ‘Publishing in India’

As part of the Festival of Letters 2020, Sahitya Akademi organized a panel discussion on ‘Publishing in India’ at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns on 29 February 2020. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the august gathering saying that the publishing sector all over the world and especially in India has undergone a sea change in the past decade and a half. Sri Gobind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust, in his inaugural address, pointed out that there is a sharp decline in the sales of book, e-books books being one of the reasons. The First session of the Panel Discussion was devoted to “Publishing Fiction”. Sri Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, noted editor and translator, as the moderator of the session, pointed out the trend of self-publishing among writers these days. Taking part in the discussion, Ms. Karthika V. K., Publisher, Westlad Publications Pvt. Ltd. said that generally a publisher publishes what there are readers for still the Indian reading population has scope for all types of genres which is the strength to publishing scene in India. Ms. Aditi Maheshwari, Head, Department of Copyrights and Translation, Vani Prakashan, stress on how there is a need for mentorship of intellectual property by Government agencies. Ms. Paramitha Satpathy, noted Odia fiction writer and poet, also put forward the need of Governments agencies to bring out and support the writers and poets from the regional languages. Ms. Preeti Shenoy, Indian English author, pointed out towards exploring the space which lies between commercial fiction and literary fiction, and how the competition is not among the writers but with the social media.

The Second session of the Panel Discussion was devoted to “Publishing Poetry”. Sri Arun Kamal, well-known Hindi poet and essayist, said that poetry is mother-tongue of humanity, it is the mirror of a society and publishing poetry makes it long lasting. Taking part in the discussion, Sri Alok Shrivastav, noted Hindi poet, said that the market speaks the demands of consumers and Hindi poetry in Hindi language itself is not much demanded, but in overall there is a rise in publication of poetry-collections. Ms. Arundhati Subramaniam, eminent Indian English poet, said that making available the Indian writings online helps in making it available to translators all around the world.


(K. Sreenivasarao)