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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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Press Release

National Seminar on Oral Epics in Unwritten Languages

New Delhi, 9th December, 2021; On the concluding day of the two-day national seminar titled Oral Epics in Unwritten Languages, organized by Sahitya Akademi, was held at the conference hall of on the third floor.

Eminent writers and scholars Dr Pandurang R. Phaldesai, Dr Upendra Anu, Dr Nila Shah, Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Dr K. Muthulekshmi, Dr Veeresh Badiger, Dr D. Gnanasundaram, Dr and Dr S. Nagamalleswara Rao participated in the deliberations.

In the fourth session of the seminar, three distinguished literary figures, Dr. Upendra Anu, Dr Nila Shah and Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra presented their papers. The session was chaired by Dr. Pandurang R. Phaldesai. Dr. Phaldesai, presenting a paper, observed that how folks of Goa has preserved their impressions of epic narratives of the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. The theme of this session was titled 'Epics of the western and eastern India'. In this session, Dr. Upendra Anu focussed on extraordinary poetry of Rajasthan, which is also known as a place of power and devotion, in unwritten language. After him, Dr. Nila Shah presented her paper which provided a detailed study on the living Ramayanas of adivasis residing in Gujarat. Dr. Mishra's paper laid stress on key aspects of oral epic as a marker of ethnic identity. He added that ethnic groups narrating their oral epics in their own cultural pretext maintain their ethnic identity through their land and territories.

Discussions in the concluding session centred around the oral epics of south India and was chaired by Dr. K. Muthulekshmi. She briefly dwelt upon the oral tradition of epics in Malayalam language. The first paper presenter, Dr. Veeresh Badiger provided a vivid account of identity issues of women in Kannada folk epics. Dr. D. Gnanasundaram, in his paper, provided a detailed overview of oral epics in Tamil language. He also threw light on the two sections of the epics of Tamil, i.e. the epics recorded before the rules of epic poesy and the ones recorded after that. The last paper presenter of the seminar, Dr. S. Nagamalleswara Rao's paper laid emphasis on oral poetry traditions carried out in Telugu language.

The two-day national seminar came to an end with Dr. N. Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, proposing a formal vote of thanks.

K. Sreenivasarao