

डॉ. के. श्रीनिवासराव
सचिव
Dr. K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary

साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
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Press Release

National Seminar on Saint Poet Madhavadeva

New Delhi, 27th November, 2021; A two-day national seminar on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav was organised by Sahitya Akademi on 27th November to celebrate the unique contribution to the Bhakti Movement made by Sri Sri Madhavadev, the foremost disciple of Saint Shankardev, in Assam.

On the concluding day of the seminar, eminent writers, scholars and singers Dr. Pradip Kumar Mahanta, Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Dr. Brajendra Tripathi, Dr. Venkataramaiah Gampa, Dr. Hiranya Kumar Das, Arabinda Rajkhowa, Dr. Pikumoni Dutta, Dr. Sanjib Sharma, Tarali Sharma, Ratnottama Das, Bhaskarjyoti Sharma and, Arindam Borkataki participated in the deliberations.

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, and Shri Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests and presented the eminent dignitaries with some of the latest publications brought out by the Akademi.

In the third session of the seminar, three distinguished scholars, Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika, Dr. Brajendra Tripathi and Dr. Venkataramaiah Gampa, made presentations. This session was chaired by Dr. Pradip Kumar Mahanta. Dr. Hazarika laid emphasis on the beauty and philosophy of Namaghosha. He added that Namaghosha has a deep impact on the people of Assam and the psyche of the Assamese people. Subjects of deep philosophical and spiritual significance found expression in musical forms and filled everyone's hear with delight. In his paper, Dr. Venkata Ramaiah Gampa discussed the philosophical foundations of the pan Indian Bhakti Movement. Dr. Brajesh Tripathi, in his presentation, shed light on key aspects of the Bhakti Movement in Northern India.

The fourth session was chaired by Dr. Hiranya Kumar Das. In this session, Arabinda Rajkhowa, Pikumoni Dutta, Sajib Sharma and Tarali Sharma presented papers. Arabinda Rajkhowa explained how Madhavadev institutionalized random cultural practices in Assam and rendered them vibrant. Tarali Sharma sang some the few well-known songs written by Madhavadeva and showed how the Saint used human hands as a musical instrument. Dr. Sanjib Sharma's paper focused upon the grass-root practices of Bhakti in the community with special reference to Namghar. Dr. Pikumani Dutta dwelt on Madhavadev's contribution to the actualization of Assamese society.

In the final session of the seminar, papers were presented by Ratnottama Das, Bhaskarjyoti Sharma and, Arindam Borkataki and this session was chaired by Dr. Karabi Deka Hazarika. Ratnottama Das celebrated the contribution of Madhavadeva to Assamese literature. Dr. Bhaskarjyoti Sharma examined aspects of the linguistic tradition of Bhakti Movement in Assam with reference to translations of Madhavadev's works. Arindam Borkataki discussed the role Madhavadev played in laying the foundation of Bhakti Movement in Assam.

At the end of the seminar, Dr. Sreenivasarao thanked all the participants and requested them to send their papers to the Akademi, which it would like to publish in a volume.

K. Sreenivasarao