

Contents

ABOUT SAMANVAY	2
SCHEDULE	4
SPEAKERS	6
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	27
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	27



Delhi's Own
Literature Festival

A CELEBRATION OF INDIAN WRITING

डवामानवय

IHC Indian
Languages' Festival

3 days | 14 languages | Cultural Evenings | Book Exhibition

16-18 December, 2011
Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi

Partners
DELHI PRESS
magazines
प्र PRATILIP BOOKS

Supporters
IndianOil
IHC
Graphisads



दिल्ली का अपना
सालाना साहित्योत्सव

भारतीय साहित्य का जलसा

सामान्वय

आईएचसी
भारतीय भाषा महोत्सव

3 दिन | 14 भाषाएं | सांस्कृतिक संध्या | पुस्तक प्रदर्शनी

16-18 दिसंबर, 2011
एम्फीथिएटर, इंडिया हैबिटेड सेंटर, लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली

सह आयोजक
दिल्ली प्रेस
पत्रिका प्रभुद
प्र प्रतिलिपि बुक्स

सहयोगी
IndianOil
IHC
Graphisads

ABOUT SAMANVAY

India Habitat Centre, in partnership with Delhi Press and Pratilipi, is hosting its first Indian Languages Festival, Samanvay, from December 16-18, 2011.

The Centre has, over its eleven years, endeavoured to create platforms for public discourse across different genres of the pursuit of excellence by Indian minds. 'Samanvay' is a platform for bringing together expressions of human thought in the varied and diverse cultural contexts that have been nurtured and have flourished in many languages that are spoken in our cultural milieu. These conversations amongst brilliant and well-known writers will seek to bring to our audiences the sparkle of multilingual expressions and their inspirations.

14 Languages, 60 Writers

Kunwar Narain, K. Satchidanandan, Ashok Vajpeyi, Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Rajendra Yadav, Nida Fazli, Javed Akhtar, David Davidar, Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Lakshman Gaikwad, Nabarun Bhattacharya, Mangalesh Dabral, Namita Gokhale, C.P. Deval, Alok Rai, Radha Vallabh Tripathi, P. Sivakami, Gangesh Gunjan, Raj Liberhan, Paresh Nath, Dr. Gurbachan, Prof. Sadique, Swarajbir, Malkhan Singh, Subodh Sarkar, Balbir Madhopuri, Arshia Sattar, Basharat Peer, Hasan Kamal, Arundhati Subramaniam, Pokkudan, Paromita Chakravarti, Ujjal Singha, Arupa Patangia Kalita, Arun Maheshwari, Neeta Gupta, Rahul Pandita, Nirupama Dutt, Anant Nath, Chandras Choudhury, Prabhat Ranjan, Ravish Kumar, Sister Jesme, Nalini Jameela, Meena Kandasamy, Kutti Revathi, C.K. Janu, Srijato, Nitoo Das, Desraj Kali, Manika Devee, Bonti Senchow, Moushumi Kandali, Madan Veera, Salma, Sukirtharani, Mahesh Verma, Giriraj Kiradoo, Satyanand Nirupam.

ABOUT INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

The India Habitat Centre was conceived to provide a physical environment which would serve as a catalyst for a synergetic relationship between individuals and institutions working in diverse habitat related areas and, therefore, maximise their total effectiveness. To facilitate this interaction, the Centre provides a range of facilities.

Website: <http://www.indiahabitat.org/>

IHC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

'Samanvay' – a gathering at a place and time – is India Habitat Centre's initiative in the 'world of letters', in partnership with Delhi Press and Pratilipi. The initiative has been taken as a celebration of writings in select Indian languages, in which authors connect with the audience of readers in vibrant conversations, to explore their own experiences: the writer who crosses his boundaries of consciousness and the reader who discovers his own identity. Our country has a variety of languages and, naturally, the expression of thoughts and experiences takes many hues and inflections, many rhythms and varied resonances, as well as converging the local and global aspirations of characters placed in regional settings.

We have all largely remained fixated with our mother tongue and the language of our education, and rarely have an opportunity to engage with the beauty and nuances of another language except through translation. Given that all works are not translated for various reasons, 'Samanvay' – this gathering in the IHC – seeks also to bring together authors in Assamese, Punjabi, Malayalam, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali, Hindi and English, to engage with each other and knowledgeable audiences in prose and verse, and enchant the senses.

In a way it is important for us at the IHC to build this platform into an enduring one because the intrusion of SMS-es have morphed languages into something the inventor of the Morse Code would have been proud of. While the SMS transmits the immediate, the inventiveness of the phrase – its mere intonation conveying the spaces of the mind, sometimes to marvel and sometimes to emote pithily – can only be done in serious contemplation. The author says

it and the reader reflects. It is our hope that the cultural contexts which are so evocatively brought out and often set the stage for the vernacular spaces in writing and speaking will enhance our understanding of our own country and bind the intellectual community in a lasting relationship.

Raj Liberhan

Director, India Habitat Centre

ABOUT DELHI PRESS

Delhi Press, one of the leading magazine publishers of India, was established in 1939 by late Mr. VishvaNath. The Caravan, an English literary magazine, was launched in the following year and became an immediate success, enjoying wide readership in the country. In 1945, Sarita, a Hindi monthly magazine was launched. From the very first issues, Sarita became the Hindi householder's favourite magazine. Sarita has remained the flagship magazine of the Delhi Press that best captures the ideology of the group in fighting against obscurantism and authoritarianism. Over the years, the group has launched a number of magazines that have been just as successful: Mukta, Champak, Grihshobha, Woman's Era, SumanSaurabh and SarasSalil. In 2008, the group has launched three new magazines and acquired two established titles. Today, it publishes 31 magazines in 9 languages, and reaches out to more than 35 million readers.

Website: <http://www.delhipress.in/>

ABOUT PRATILIPi BOOKS

Pratilipi is a non-commercial, not-for-profit literary journal that provides space for conversation and debate between diverse sorts of writing and writers: almost 400 authors from 25 languages the world over, in 12 issues so far. After over 2 years as one of the most respected literary journals in India, Pratilipi expanded into publishing books, starting with 10 titles – 3 novels in English, translated from the Swedish, 2 collections of short fiction and 1 biography in Hindi, a collection of Hindi poetry in English translation, a collection of essays in English and Pratilipi's two special issues on *Terror and Village* – that reflect its multilingual focus and its commitment to translation and good literature.



Our Languages
Our Festival

Partners

DELHI PRESS
magazines

PRATILIPi BOOKS

Supporters



You are cordially invited to

डरामावुवयु



IHC Indian
Languages' Festival

16-18 December 2011

Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003
Entry by Gate 3

Programme

Day 1
16-12-2011

Inaugural Session:

Inauguration by
Kunwar Narain, U.R. Ananthamurthy,
Sitakant Mahapatra
Is There An Indian Literature?
Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Ashok Vajpeyi,
Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Alok Rai,
Laxman Gaikwad,
Moderators K. Satchidanandan,
Readings: K. Satchidanandan,
Sitanshu Yashaschandra, C.P. Deval,
Radhavallabh Tripathi, Ashok Vajpeyi,
Mangalesh Dabral, Malkhan Singh,
Gangesh Gunjan
Times: 4pm to 6pm

Concert

by the Ensemble Chaar-Yaar
Led by Madan Gopal Singh
Times: 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Other Attractions

Film Screenings
by Sahitya Academy

Book Exhibition

Poster-poetry

Day 2
17-12-2011

Assamese

New Challenges for Women Writers
Anupa Puranga Kalita, Bonti Serchowa Manika Devi,
Moushumi Kandali. Moderators Niso Das
Reading: Anupa Puranga Kalita, Bonti Serchowa

Punjabi

Dalit Love Poetry
Dr. Guruchand, Balbir Malhotra, Swrajit,
Nirupama Dutt. Moderator: Deraaj Kaur
Reading: Balbir Malhotra, Deraaj Kaur,
Madan Veera

Malayalam

Autobiographies from the Margins
Susee Jose, Pukkadan, Nalini Janardhan,
C.K. Jenu. Moderator: K. Satchidanandan
Reading: Susee Jose, Nalini Janardhan

Urdu

The Death of the Mushaira
Nida Fazli, Javed Akhtar, Sheen Kaif Nizami,
Prof. Sadique. Moderators: Hasan Kamal
Reading: Nida Fazli, Javed Akhtar,
Sheen Kaif Nizami, Hasan Kamal

Qawwali

by Nizami Brothers
Times: open onward

Day 3
18-12-2011

Tamil

Women Writing the Body
P. Sivakami, Kunti Revathi, Salma,
Sukirtharani. Moderators: Meera Karthaswamy
Reading: Kunti Revathi, Salma

English

Indian English Writing: Beyond Fiction
David Davidar, Arshia Sattar, Basharat Peer,
Anjan Sethi, Annie Zaidi.
Moderator: Chandrabati Choudhury
Reading: Anuradha Subramaniam, Rajal Pandita

Bengali

Poetry and the Popular
Nabaran Bhattacharya, Subodh Sarkar, Ujjal Singha,
Srijeta. Moderator: Dr. Panimita Chakravarti
Reading: Nabaran Bhattacharya, Subodh Sarkar,
Ujjal Singha, Srijeta

Hindi

Searching For Readers in the 21st Century
Rajendra Yadav, Mangalesh Dabral, Pooja Nath,
Rakesh Kumar, Anur Maheshwari, Neta Gupta,
Girraj Kiradco. Moderator: Suryarand Nirupam
Reading: Prabhat Ranjan, Mahesh Verma

Closing Session

Reflections
Namita Gokhale, Rej Liberman, Anant Nath
Satpatand Nirupam, Girraj Kiradco
Times: 5:30pm to 5:45pm

SCHEDULE

DAY 1: DECEMBER 16

INAUGURAL SESSION

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Is There an Indian Literature?

क्या कोई भारतीय साहित्य है?

Inauguration: Kunwar Narain, Sitakant Mahapatra

Speakers: Kunwar Narain, Dalip Kaur Tiwana, Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Ashok Vajpeyi, Laxman Gaikwad, Alok Rai

Moderator: K. Satchidanandan

Reading: Sitakant Mahapatra, K. Satchidanandan, Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Ashok Vajpeyi, Mangalesh Dabral, C.P. Deval, Radha Vallabh Tripathi, Gangesh Gunjan, Malkhan Singh

EVENING PERFORMANCE

6:30 PM

Concert by **The Chaar Yaar**, led by **Madan Gopal Singh**, based on the poems of renowned Hindi and Maithili poet Nagarjun

DAY 2: DECEMBER 17

SESSION 1: ASSAMESE

10:45 AM– 12:00 PM

New Challenges for Women Writers

स्त्री लेखन : नई चुनौतियां, नई संभावनाएं

Speakers: Arupa Patangia Kalita, Bonti Senchowa, Manika Deveen, Moushumi Kandali

Moderator: Nitoo Das

Reading: Arupa Patangia Kalita, Bonti Senchowa

SESSION 2: PUNJABI

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Dalit Love Poetry

दलित प्रेम कविता

Speakers: Dr. Gurbachan, Balbir Madhopuri, Swarajbir, Nirupama Dutt, Madan Veera

Moderator: Desraj Kali

Reading: Balbir Madhopuri, Desraj Kali, Madan Veera

SESSION 3: MALAYALAM

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Autobiographies from the Margins

हाशिए की आत्मकथाएँ

Speakers: Sister Jesme, Pokkudan, Nalini Jameela, C.K. Janu

Moderator: K. Satchidanandan

Reading: Sister Jesme, Nalini Jameela

SESSION 4: URDU

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

The Death of the Mushayara

मुशायरा: माज़ी और मकाम

Speakers: Nida Fazli, Javed Akhtar, Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Prof. Sadique

Moderator: Hasan Kamal

Reading: Nida Fazli, Javed Akhtar, Sheen Kaaf Nizam, Hasan Kamal

EVENING PERFORMANCE

6:30 PM

Qawwali by Chand Nizami Bandhu

DAY 3: DECEMBER 18

SESSION 1: TAMIL

10:45 AM– 12:00 PM

Women Writing the Body

स्त्री लेखन में देह

Speakers: Kutti Revathi, Salma, Malathi Maithri, Sukirtharani

Moderator: P. Sivakami

Reading: Kutti Revathi, Salma

SESSION 2: ENGLISH
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM

Indian English Writing: Beyond Fiction
गल्प से परे : भारती अंग्रेजी लेखन की दुनिया

Speakers: David Davidar, Arshia Sattar, Basharat Peer, Annie Zaidi, Aman Sethi
Moderator: Chandradas Choudhury
Reading: Arundhati Subramaniam, Rahul Pandita

SESSION 3: BENGALI
2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

Poetry and the Popular
कविता और लोकप्रियता

Speakers: Nabarun Bhattacharya, Subodh Sarkar, Ujjal Singha, Srijato
Moderator: Paromita Chakravarti
Reading: Nabarun Bhattacharya, Subodh Sarkar, Ujjal Singha, Srijato

SESSION 4: HINDI
4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

Searching For Readers in the 21st Century
नई सदी में नए पाठक की तलाश

Speakers: Rajendra Yadav, Mangalesh Dabral, Paresh Nath, Arun Maheshwari, Neeta Gupta, Ravish Kumar, Giriraj Kiradoo
Moderator: Satyanand Nirupam
Reading: Prabhat Ranjan, Mahesh Verma

CLOSING SESSION

Reflections
जायजा

Speakers: Raj Liberhan, Anant Nath, Giriraj Kiradoo, Satyanand Nirupam
Special Guest: Namita Gokhale

SPEAKERS



ALOK RAI

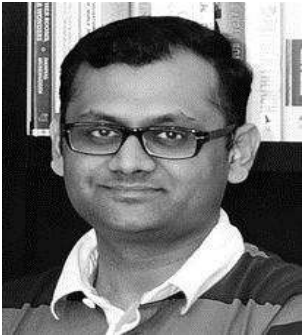
Alok Rai is currently Professor at the Department of English, Delhi University. As a Rhodes Scholar, he received his B.Phil. in Modern English Studies from the University of Oxford, and went on to do his Ph.D. on the writings of George Orwell from University College London. His areas of interest include Modern English Literature, and cultural processes in modern North India, with particular reference to issues of language and literature. He was awarded the Senior Fellowship of the ICSSR in 1985, and was a Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library during 1985-

87. Publications include *Orwell and the Politics of Despair* (1990), *Hindi Nationalism* (2000), and an English translation of Premchand's *Nirmala* (2001).



Aman Sethi

Aman Sethi is the author of *A Free Man* and covers the Maoist insurgency for *The Hindu*.



ANANT NATH

Anant Nath is the Managing Editor of *The Caravan*. He is a Director of Delhi Press, India's leading magazine publishing house. Delhi Press publishes 32 magazines in 9 languages, including titles like *Grihshobha*, *Sarita*, *SarasSalil*, *Women's Era* and *Champak*. Nath has an MBA from IIM (Lucknow) and an MA in Politics from Columbia University, New York. He revived *The Caravan* after a gap of 22 years, starting first with a soft launch in 2009 followed by the formal relaunch in January 2010. He also writes the Editor's Notebook in *The Caravan*. AnantNath is on the Executive Committee of Association of Indian Magazines (AIM) and Indian Languages Newspapers Association (ILNA).



ANNIE ZAIDI

Annie Zaidi is the author of *Known Turf: Bantering With Bandits And Other True Tales*, which was shortlisted for the Vodafone-Crossword Book Award 2010, and co-author of *The Bad Boys Guide To The Good Indian Girl*. She has written for a number of publications including *Frontline*, *Tehelka*, *Mid-Day*, and writes a regular column for *DNA*.



ARSHIA SATTAR

Arshia Sattar's translations from Sanskrit of the *Valmiki Ramayana* and the *Kathasaritsagara* are published as Penguin Classics. Her new book, *Lost Loves: Exploring Rama's Anguish*, a series of essays on the *Valmiki Ramayana* was also published by Penguin in 2011. Most recently, she was one of the editors of the anthology, *The Best of Quest*, published by Tranquebar Press. Arshia teaches classical Indian literatures and narrative at various institutions across the country.



ARUN MAHESHWARI

Arun Maheshwari is Managing Director of Vani Prakashan, India's leading publishing house for Hindi language and literature. Under his leadership since last thirty years, Vani Prakashan has published more than 4,00 books and has become a forerunner in promoting and publishing regional and international translations in Hindi directly from source languages. He has been honoured at National Library, Sweden, Indo-Russian Literary Club and Russian Centre of Art Culture and by Polish Government for promoting Indo-Swedish, Russian and Polish literary exchange, respectively. He has won Distinguished Publisher Award instituted by The Federation of Indian Publishers in 2008 and is a distinguished member of Board of Studies at T. M. Nagpur University and at Department of Hindi, University of Delhi.



ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM

Arundhathi Subramaniam is a poet. She has worked over the years as poetry editor, freelance arts writer and cultural curator. She is the author of three books of poems, most recently *Where I Live: New and Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe Publishers, UK, 2009). She is also the author of a biography on a contemporary mystic (*Sadhguru: More Than a Life*, Penguin, 2010) and a prose work on the Buddha (*The Book of Buddha*, Penguin, 2005). She has recently edited an anthology of essays on sacred journeys in the country (*Pilgrim's India*, Penguin, 2011) and was co-editor of an anthology of contemporary Indian love poems in English (*Confronting Love*, Penguin, 2005). Her poetry has been translated into Hindi, Tamil, Italian and Spanish and featured in several national and international journals and anthologies. She has been awarded the Charles Wallace Fellowship, the Visiting Arts Fellowship and the Raza Award for Poetry. She has since 2004 been editor of the India domain of the *Poetry International Web*. She has worked at the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, leading a discussion-based inter-arts forum named *Chauraha*. She has also been Head of Indian Classical Dance at the NCPA.



ARUPA PATANGIA KALITA

Arupa Patangia Kalita(1956), one of India's best writers of fiction writing in Asamese, has three novels and nine short story collections, besides a children novel and works of translation to her credit. One of her more successful novels, AYANANTA, has been translated into English and Hindi. FELANEE, another important novel, has been published in English by Zubaan. Some of her stories have also been translated into other languages including English, Hindi and Bengali. A recipient of several literary awards including Bharatiya Bhasa Parisad literary award and Katha Prize, she had declined an award from Axom Sahitya Sabha as the award in question was a woman only award. A teacher in the department of English, Tangla College, Assam, Arupa Patangia Kalita did her Ph.D from Gauhati University on Pearl S. Buck's women characters. She writes also on questions concerning woman and society.



ASHOK VAJPEYI

Ashok Vajpeyi, a Hindi poet-critic, translator, editor and culture-activist, is a major cultural figure of India. With more than 13 books of poetry, 7 of criticism in Hindi and 3 books on art in English to his credit, he is widely recognized as an outstanding promoter of culture and an innovative institution-builder. As editor of many prestigious journals he has done much to promote critical awareness of contemporary and classical arts and young talent in poetry and criticism. As an organizer he has more than a thousand events to his credit relating to literature, music, dances, theatre, visual arts, folk and tribal arts, cinema etc. He has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award, the Dayawati Kavi Shekhar Samman and the Kabir Samman. He has written two large books on the Paris-based Indian master Sayed Haider Raza and also one on 7 contemporary Indian abstract painters. He set up the renowned multi-arts centre Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal; has been the first Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University (set up by Govt. of India). He has been decorated by the President of Republic of Poland by the outstanding national award 'The Officer's Cross of Merit of the Republic of Poland', the French Govt. by the award of 'Officier De L'Ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres' and the Embassy of Romania to India by the award 'Best Promoter of Indo-Romanian Relations'. Presently Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi.



BALBIR MADHOPURI

Balbir Madhopuri is a Punjabi writer, journalist and translator, and is the Deputy Director and Editor of *Yojana* (Punjabi), Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India. Earlier, he served as Deputy Director (News), All India Radio, New Delhi. He has published several volumes of prose, poetry and translations, straddling various genres and styles. He is General Secretary of the Punjabi Munch, Delhi, and Advisor to the Academy of Fine Arts and Literature (New Delhi) and the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (New Delhi).



BASHARAT PEER

Basharat Peer was born in Kashmir. He studied journalism and politics at Columbia University, worked as a reporter in India and as an editor at *Foreign Affairs* in New York. He is a Fellow at Open Society Institute, New York. His first book, *Curfewed Night*, an account of the Kashmir conflict won the Vodaphone Crossword Award for nonfiction and was chosen among the Books of the Year by the New Yorker, The Economist, Sunday Times, and Daily Telegraph. His work has appeared in Granta, Financial Times magazine, Guardian, Foreign Affairs, N+1, The Caravan, Open, and Outlook magazines. He is working on a book on India's Muslims. *Shadow of the Broken Dome: India and Its Muslims*, his second book, will be published in 2013 by Random House in South Asia and by Free Press, Simon and Schuster in the United States.



BONTI SENCHOWA

Bonti Senchowa is Associate Professor with R.G. Baruah College, Gauhati University, Assam, and has authored 3 collections of short stories – *Nishad Gandhar*, *Saralaru Sundar*, and *Duparor Paaro Sorai*, as well as editing an anthology of Assamese Fiction by women writers. She was the first recipient of the Jehirul Hussain Memorial Award, for outstanding contribution in the genre of short-stories (2006).



C.K. JANU

C.K. Janu is the leader of the Adivasi Gothra Maha Sabha, a social movement that has been pushing for land to be redistributed to landless adivasis. Janu was with the Communist Party for a while in her youth and gained some experience in politics there, but left the party in 1982. She was an active social worker at the beginning of the 90s and, in November 1994, was awarded a State award for her efforts in this field. She however returned the award as a critique of the government's lack of responsiveness to the demands of landless adivasis. In 2001 she led a protest march through the state and held a long sit-in strike in front of the Secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram to demand land for landless adivasis. In 2003 she also led the occupation of land at Muthanga. Janu has sometimes been described moreover as the first 'organic' leader of adivasis in Kerala: she does not hold strongly to abstract political dogmas but works more from the concrete experiences of adiya life. She cooperated for some time with national and international indigenous people's organizations but was always very wary of being funded by any organization. Most of the activities of the AdivasiGothraMahaSabha are funded entirely through the solidarity of poor adivasis and dalits.



C.P. DEVAL

Born 1949, Rajasthani and Hindi poet, and translator, Deval received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 for his first poetry collection *Paagi*. His other collections include *Maarag*, *Kaavad*, *Topnama*, *Udeek Puran* (Rajasthani) and the Meera Award winning *Bolo Madhavi* (Hindi). Besides translating the Upanishads, Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* and Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, he has also translated major Indian poets like Sitakant Mahapatra, Haribhajan Singh, Subhash Mukhopadhyay, Kedarnath Singh, Sitanshu Yashaschandra, Ashok Vajpeyi, Ramakant Rath and K. Satchidanandan into Rajasthani. Recently he has completed his monumental bilingual edition of Suryamall Misan's classic epic *Vansh Bhaskar*. His other awards include Bharatiya Bhasa Parishad Samman and Sahitya Akademi's translation award.



CHANDRAHAS CHOUDHURY

Chandrahas Choudhury is the author of the novel *Arzee the Dwarf* (HarperCollins, 2009) and editor of the anthology of Indian literature *India: A Traveller's Literary Companion* (HarperCollins, 2011). He grew up in Bombay and his native Orissa, was educated at the Universities of Delhi and Cambridge, and now lives in Delhi. His book reviews appear in the National, the Wall Street Journal, and the New York Times. He is also the Fiction & Poetry editor of *The Caravan*.



DALIP KAUR TIWANA

Dalip Kaur Tiwana is an eminent fiction writer of contemporary Punjabi literature. She was Professor of Punjabi and Dean, Faculty of Languages, Punjabi University, Patiala, and is now Life Fellow of the Punjabi University. She has participated in numerous international conferences on writing and has written 3 books of literary criticism, has edited 3 anthologies of short stories, and translated 2 novels from Hindi to Punjabi. She has 38 novels to her credit and 7 collections of short stories, and her works have been translated into several languages internationally. She was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1971 for her novel *Ehu Hamara Jeevna*, the Shiromani Sahitkar Award, the Vagdevi Award for the novel *Duni Suhava Bagh* and the Saraswati Samman in 2001 for novel *Katha Kaho Urvashi*. In 2004 she was awarded the Padma Shri. .



DAVID DAVIDAR

David Davidar works in publishing. He is the author of three published novels, *The House of Blue Mangoes* (2002), *The Solitude of Emperors* (2007) and *Ithaca* (2011). In 2010, he co-founded Aleph Book Company, a literary publishing firm, in partnership with Rupa & Co.



DESRAJI KALI

Born 1971, Desraj Kali has published 4 collections of short stories (*Chanan Di Leek*, *Kath-Kali*, *Phaqiri* and *Chup Kitey*), 6 novels (*Parneshwari*, *Antheen*, *Paratham Pauran*, *Shanti Parav*, *Nar Natak* and *Thumri*). He edits the magazine *Pancham* and has directed the documentary *Kite Mil Ve Mahi*, besides publishing numerous research papers on the Ghadar movement, the literature and culture of Punjab and on Dalit issues.



DR. GURBACHAN

Dr. Gurbachan is a critic and prose writer and taught English Literature at Delhi University. He is the author of six books and edits the quarterly journal *Philhaal*. He is known for his offbeat and sharp views.

GANGESH GUNJAN

Gangesh Gunjan is an award-winning Maithili and Hindi writer. After having worked with the All India Radio and the Kathak Kendra, he is now serving as Vice President of the Sulabh Sahitya Akademy. He has published plays, poetry, short stories and a novel in Maithili, as well as poetry, stories and translations in Hindi. He edited the magazines Anaama, Katha Disha, Bharti, Sahi-Sahi etc. and has written and produced numerous radio plays and features for All India Radio. His awards include: the Sahitya Akademi Award (1994) for *Uchitvakta*, a short story collection; the Rajbhasha Vishisht Pandulipi Puraskar (1984) for *Apni Basti Ke Log* (Hindi short stories); the Vidya Varidhi, Mithila Vibhooti and Mithila Ratna awards; and the Sahitya Sadhana Samman.



GIRIRAJ KIRADOO

Founder-Editor, Pratilipi, and Founder-Managing Director, Pratilipi Books, Giriraj Kiradoo is a leading young voice from Hindi. He has edited three books, has published poetry, fiction and translation in almost all the reputed journals and some of his work has been translated into Urdu, Marathi, Catalan and English. A recipient of the Bharat Bhushan Agrawal Smruti Poetry Award and the Krishna Baldev Vaid Fellowship, he is a translator in Hindi, English and Rajasthani currently translating novels by Orhan Pamuk, Hanif Kureishi and Gitanjali Shree into Hindi and poetry by Shree Kant Verma and Arun Kamal into English. A university teacher by profession, he has also worked with the Rajasthan Sahitya Akademi as an Associate Editor, with Siyahi as a Consultant and is currently an Advisor to the Sangam House International Writer's Residency Program.



JAVED AKHTAR

Javed Akhtar is a poet, lyricist and scriptwriter. He is a prominent figure in Bollywood and is one of the most popular and sought-after lyricists. Akhtar has also written more serious Urdu poetry, a major set of which was compiled in *Tarkash*. He was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1999 and received the Padma Bhushan in 2007.



K. SATCHIDANANDAN

K. Satchidanandan is a poet of international repute writing in Malayalam. He was Professor of English at Christ College, University of Calicut, Kerala, editor of *Indian Literature*, the journal of the Sahitya Akademi and later the Chief Executive of the Akademi. He worked as a Language Policy Consultant for the Govt. of India and has been associated with Katha, Delhi. He edits the SAARC journal *Beyond Borders* in English, the poetry quarterly *Kerala Kavita* in Malayalam and the *South Asian Library of Literature*. At present he is Director and Professor, School of Translation Studies & Training, IGNOU, Delhi. He is also on the Project Advisory Board of Indian Literature Abroad, a Govt. of India Initiative. He has 21 collections of poetry in Malayalam besides 16 collections of world poetry in translation and 23 collections of critical essays and interviews besides four collections of essays in English. He has edited several anthologies of poetry and prose in Malayalam, English and Hindi. He has 27 collections of his poems in translation in 17 languages. He has won 21 awards for his literary contribution. Satchidanandan has been honoured with Knighthood by the Government of Italy, with the Dante Medal by the Dante Institute, Ravenna, and the India-Poland Friendship Medal by the Government of Poland.



KUNWAR NARAIN

Kunwar Narain is regarded as one of the finest poets today and Hindi's leading living poet. Translated nationally and internationally, his honours include the Sāhitya Akademi Award, the Kabīr Sammān, the Shalākā Sammān, Warsaw University's honorary medal, Italy's Premio Feronia, the civilian honour Padma Bhushan, the Sāhitya Akademi's Senior Fellowship, and the Jnānpīth Award. His oeuvre began with *Chakravayūh*, his first poetry collection in 1956. A little later, he was a poet in *Tīsrā Saptak* edited by Agyeya and, in 1961, his second collection *Parivēsh: Ham-Tum* came. *Ātmajayī* (1965), a short epic, is widely recognised as a classic of Hindi literature. In the poems of *Apné Sāmné* (1979), contemporary political and social ironies found a more pronounced place. A long hiatus later, his much-awarded collection of poems, *Koī Dūsrā Nahīn* came in 1993. *Āj Aur Āj Sé Pahlé*, literary criticism, *Méré Sākhātkār*, a collection of interviews and *Sāhitya Ké Kuchh Antar-Vishayak Sandarbh*, an essay, followed. Journals like *Yug Chétna*, *Nayā Pratīk* and *Chhāyānat* that he co-edited, and writings on cinema, music and art, reveal more aspects of his repertoire. In 2002, the poetry collection *In Dino* and, in 2008, his acclaimed epic poem *Vājashravā Ké Bahāné* were published. A selection of his poems in English translation, *No Other World*, by his son Apurva, was published in 2008. In 2009, came his latest poetry collection *Hāshiyé Kā Gavāh*.



KUTTI REVATHI

Kutti Revathi, a contemporary poet of first rank, has been an important Tamil voice, dealing with the politics of the female body through poetry. Some of her poems, such as *Mulaigal* (Breasts), have achieved iconic status all over the world. She has explored the zone of caste and the female oppressive condition with a remarkable inventiveness in language and expression. She founded and edits a feminist journal, *Panikkudam*. She has published five collections of poetry — *Poonaiyai Pola Alaiyum Velicham*, *Mulaigal*, *Thanimaiyin Aayiram Irakkaigal*, *Udalin Kadhavu*, and most recently, *Yanumitta Thee* — as well as a collection of essays on feminist issues, besides editing an anthology of poems by Sri Lankan refugee poets. Her filmography includes the documentary, *Looking Through the Glass*, about the legendary poet Kamala Das.

LAXMAN GAIKWAD

Laxman Gaikwad lives in Mumbai and is the author of novels like *Uchalaya* (The Branded) which was awarded the Maharashtra Gourav Puraskar, and the Sahitya Akademi award. He has actively participated in the Labor Movement for the rights of Labor, and has worked to solve the problems of farmers and worked for slum dwellers, as well as experimenting with cooperative farming for the weaker sections on Government wastelands. His other novels include: *Dubang*, *Chini Mathachi Divas*, *Samaj Sahitya Ani Swathantra*, *Wadar Vedna*, *Vakila Pardhi*, *Utav* and *A Swathantra Konasati*. He was awarded the Sahitya Ratna Anna Bhau Sathe Puraskar in 2000, the SAARC literary award, 2001, and the Gunther Sontheimer Memorial Award in 2005. He is presently working as Convener of Sahitya Academy, and President of All India Denotified Nomadic Tribes.



MADAN VEERA

After working as Editor (Punjabi) at the National Book Trust, India, and as a journalist, Madan Veera is now a Punjabi Lecturer with the Education Department. He is also General Secretary of the Kendriya Punjabi Lekhak Sabha. His publications include 4 books of poetry and a book on Pash, the revolutionary poet.



MAHESH VERMA

Mahesh Verma, based in Ambikapur, a remote small town in Chhattisgarh, is a young poet, fiction writer and artist who took the Hindi literary scene by surprise in 2011, with a series of brilliant pieces in various publications. He works as a medical representative and is currently curating a poetry special for the magazine *Paraspar*.



MALKHAN SINGH

Born 1948, Malkhan Singh has had a distinguished career in Education, before retiring in 2008 as District School Inspector. Malkhan Singh is among the best-known Dalit poets of contemporary India, and has published a collection of poetry *Suno Brahman*. Another collection *Andhad* is to be released soon.



MANGALESH DABRAL

Mangalesh Dabral was born in 1948 in a village in Tehri Garhwal district in the Himalayan region. He has spent his entire adult life as literary editor in various newspapers published from Delhi and other north Indian cities. His books include five collections of poems, *Pahar Par Laltein* (1981), *Ghar Ka Rasta* (1981), *Hum Jo Dekhate Hain* (1995), *Aawaaz Bhi Ek Jagah Hai* (2000), *Mujhe Dikha Ek Manushya*, and three collections of prose, *Ek Baar Iowa* (1996), *Lekhak Ki Roti* (1998), and *Kavi Ka Akelapan* (2008). His poems have been widely translated and published in all major Indian languages and in English, Russian, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, Polish and Bulgarian. He has received many honours and prizes including the Sahitya Akademi Award (2000). He has translated works of Bertolt Brecht, Hans Magnus Enzensburger, Pablo Neruda, Ernesto Cardenal, Nicanor Parra, Yannis Ritsos, Tadeusz Rozewicz, Zbigniew Herbert, and Dora Gabe, Stanca Pencheva.



MANIKA DEVEE

Manika Devee is the author of 3 short story collections — *Priya Aalap*, *Sakhiyati* and *Maidamor Jonak*. She has won the Munin Borkotoky Award and the Asom Prakashan Parishad Award for her work.



MOUSHUMI KANDALI

Moushumi Kandali, a well-known young fiction writer, art critic and translator with nine published books is regarded as one of the most innovative, original and experimental fiction writers of Assamese literature. For her three collections of short stories (*Lambada Nachor Seshot*, *Tritiyottor Golp* and *Mockdrill*) she has received several prestigious awards at the national and regional level, such as the Yuva Purashkar of Bharatiya Bhasa Parishad (2005), Munin Borkatoky Memorial Prize (2000), Eka Ebong Koyekjon Sahitya Sanskriti Samman (2007), etc. Her stories have been published in several national and international literary magazines and edited anthologies, and have been translated into many foreign & Indian languages. She has represented India and the North-East in many international and national fora in the United States, Germany, Taiwan etc., both as a creative writer and as an art critic/historian. She has also done several translations: Salvador Dali's *Diary of a Genius* into Assamese and poetry of the Missing tribe of Assam into English, published by the Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, are notable amongst them.



NABARUN BHATTACHARYA

Nabarun Bhattacharya is an award-winning Bengali poet and writer. Born in 1948 to actor and playwright Bijon Bhattacharya, and writer and social activist Mahasveta Devi, Bhattacharya won wide acclaim and many awards including the Sahitya Academy Award for his first novel *Herbert* (1993), whose cinematic adaptation later won the National Award for best film. His writings reveal a deep commitment to revolutionary and radical aesthetics. Bhattacharya lives in Kolkata, with wife Pranati Bhattacharya, a retired professor, where he edits the Bengali literary magazine, *Bhashabandhan*.



NALINI JAMEELA

Nalini Jameela is an Indian bestselling author and activist from Thrissur, Kerala. She is the author of the book *The Autobiography of a Sex-Worker*. The book was translated into English in 2007 by J. Devika. She is the coordinator of the Kerala Sex Workers Union. Her upcoming book is titled, *In the Company of Men: the Romantic Encounters of a Sex Worker*.



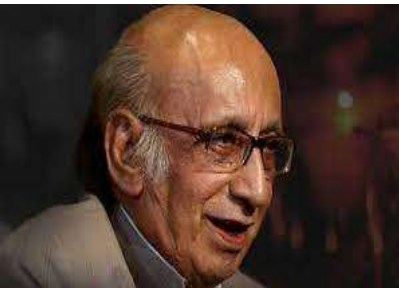
NAMITA GOKHALE

Namita Gokhale is a writer and publisher. Her first novel, *Paro: Dreams of Passion*, caused an uproar due to its candid sexual humour. Her other books include, *Gods Graves And Grandmother*, *A Himalayan Love Story*, *Mountain Echoes*, *The Book of Shadows* and *The Book Of Shiva. Shakuntala, The Play of Memory*, published in 2005, was the first Indian novel to be released simultaneously in Hindi and English. Gokhale's retelling of the Mahabharata for young readers, *The Puffin Mahabharata*, was released in January 2009. *In Search of Sita*, an anthology of essays co-edited with Dr. Malashri Lal, was published in October 2009. Namita Gokhale is a director of Yatra Books, which co-publishes with Penguin India in English, Hindi, Marathi and Urdu. Besides being a founder and the co-director of the DSC Jaipur Literature Festival, Namita Gokhale conceptualized the International Festival of Indian Literature, Neemrana 2002, and the Africa-Asia Literary Conference, Neemrana 2006.



NEETA GUPTA

Neeta Gupta is the publisher at Yatra Books and a literary consultant with a special emphasis on translations. She is also the editor of Bharatiya Anuvad Parishad's quarterly journal on translation, *Anuvad*. Yatra Books and Bharatiya Anuvad Parishad share strategic strengths and draw synergy and creativity from their complementary activities. Yatra Books has been coordinating Penguin's Indian Languages Publishing Programme since January 2005. They have published almost two hundred titles together in Hindi, Urdu and Marathi. These books have been published both in translation as well as in the original languages. In 2010, Yatra Books launched an independent 'International Bookshelf'. These are translations from Catalan, French and Italian into Indian languages, published in collaboration with European publishers and institutes.



NIDA FAZLI

Muqtida Hasan Nida Fazli is an eminent Urdu poet and lyricist. He has received various awards including the Khusro Award, the Best Poetry Award from Maharashtra Urdu Academy, the Hindi-Urdu Sangam Award and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1998.



NIRUPAMA DUTT

Nirupama Dutt is a poet, literary/art critic and journalist of many seasons, and has worked with leading newspapers and journals. Nirupama's first anthology of poems won a Punjabi Akademi award. She has edited several fiction and poetry anthologies and translated into English major writers of Punjabi and Hindi. She is presently writing a book on Punjab. She works as editor of *The Sunday Indian* (Punjabi) at Chandigarh.



NITOO DAS

Nitoo Das teaches English at Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi. She was born in Guwahati, but has survived in Delhi since 1994. Das's Ph.D. from Jawaharlal Nehru University dealt with constructions of the Assamese Identity under the British (1826-1920). Her first poetry collection, *Boki*, was published by Virtual Artists Collective, Chicago, in September 2008. Her poetry has also been published in online sites like *Poetry International Web*, *Pratilipi*, *Muse India*, *Eclectica*, *Poetry with Prakriti* and in several anthologies. Das's poetry works with voice, soundscape and comic defamiliarisation. Her interests include fractals, photography, caricatures, comic books, horror films, poetry as hypertext and translation from Assamese to English. She is one of the selected writers of the Sangam House writers' residency programme, 2012. At present she is working on her second book of poetry.



P. SIVAKAMI

P. Sivakami, born in 1957, is an acclaimed Tamil writer. Sivakami has written four critically acclaimed novels, all of them centered on Dalit and feminist themes. One of them, *Grip of Change* was translated into English by the author herself. She edits a monthly *Pudhiya Kodangi* which she has been bringing out since 1995. In literary circles, Sivakami is considered a strong Dalit writer with a feminist penchant. Her second novel *Anandayee* is soon to be published in English translation by Penguin. Her other novel, *Kurukkuvettu*, is under translation to many foreign languages. As part of her long unbroken creativity, Sivakami's first collection of poems was published in October 2011 under the title *Kadhavadaippu*.



PARESH NATH

Paresh Nath is Editor and Publisher of Delhi Press magazines. Paresh Nath started his mission with the group at only 22 years of age and has seen it rise to become a leading publishing house in India with 32 magazines spread over 9 languages commanding a readership of over 30 million. Besides his editorial accomplishments, he is associated with many social organizations in various capacities. He served as President of the Delhi Junior Chamber in 1978. He is Trustee of Indraprastha Education Society and Hindu College Education Society. On the professional front, he is the Founder President of Association of Indian Magazines (AIM). He is President of Indian Languages Newspapers Association (ILNA) since 2009 and served for two years as Deputy President of Indian Newspapers Society (INS). He also served as Chairman of the Media Research Users Council (MRUC) for two years. He is a Political Science post-graduate and has a degree in Law, both from Delhi University.



PAROMITA CHAKRAVARTI

Dr. Paromita Chakravarti is Associate Professor, Department of English and Joint-Director, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She completed her doctoral studies in English at the University of Oxford, UK. She teaches Renaissance drama, women's writing, poetry, popular culture, queer and film studies. Her work in the School of Women's Studies has focused on education and sexuality.



POKKUDAN

Pokkudan was born in Etakkeltthara, Ezhome Panchayath (Kannur district) in the year 1937. He had to give up his education in the 2nd standard in between his labour in the fields because of the opposition of prejudiced landlords. At the age of 18, he entered active politics through the Communist Party, before the time of its division, and joined CPI(M) when the party split. He took a leadership role in agricultural labour protests in Ezhome, and when the strike was on the brink of violence, was charge-sheeted for the alleged murder of a henchmen of the landlords, remanded and then went underground. He has participated in several social movements and agitations and was also part of the movement against untouchability. During the struggle for justice, he was sent to jail 3 times. In 1989, he gave up active politics and began planting mangrove shrubs on river banks. Ever since, he has become a unique figure among

environmentalists. He has planted more than 1 lakh mangrove plants, delivered more than 500 lectures in schools and colleges on mangroves, and participated in many seminars both inside and outside Kerala. He has been honoured with many awards and has published three books *Kandalkkadukalkidayil Entey Jeevitham* (Autobiography), *Chootachi* (Memories) and *Entey Jeevitham* (Autobiography).



PRABHAT RANJAN

Fiction writer, translator and editor, Prabhat Ranjan teaches Hindi at Zakir Husain Evening College, DU. Prior to this he has worked with the Hindi daily of the Indian Express group, Jansatta, as Assistant Editor and also edited a few issues of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha's magazine *Bahuvachan*. He has published two collections of short stories *Janaki Pul* and *Bolero Class* and has translated Vikram A. Chandra's novel *Srinagar Conspiracy* and Anne Frank's *Diary* into Hindi. His other publications include *Marquez ki Kahani*, a biography of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Neem ka Ped*, a novelization of Rahi Masoom Raza's TV series, *Television Lekhan* (with Asghar Wajahat) and *Anchor Reporter* (with Punya Prasoos Joshi). He also edited, with Ashok Vajpeyi and Apurvanand, a collection of Sumitranandan Pant's poetry, *Svachchand*. *Janaki Pul*, the story, won him the Sahara Samay Katha Prize (2004). In 2007, he was awarded the Premchand Samman.



RADHAVALLABH TRIPATHI

With 40 years of his continuous service as regular teacher in Universities at Udaipur and Sagar, Prof. Radhavallabh Tripathi is one of the senior-most professors of Sanskrit in the country. At present he is working as Vice Chancellor of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (Deemed University) in Delhi. Widely acclaimed for his original contributions to the study of *Natyashastra* and *Sahityashastra*, Prof. Tripathi has published 129 books, 187 research papers and critical essays as well as translations of more than 30 Sanskrit plays and some classics from Sanskrit into Hindi. He has received more than 25 national and international awards and honours for his literary contributions, including the Sahitya Akademi Award for Sanskrit Poetry and the Shankar Puraskar of K.K. Birla Trust for his *Natyashastravishvakosha* (in four volumes). Prof. Tripathi has visited Holland, Austria, Germany, Thailand, UK, Nepal, Bhutan, USA and other countries on various academic assignments. He has delivered more than a dozen keynote addresses and more than 30 special lectures for International/National seminars etc. *Gyanayani*, a quarterly journal in Hindi, published a special issue devoted to his life and writings.



RAHUL PANDITA

Rahul Pandita is Associate Editor of the *Open Magazine*. He is the author of the bestselling *Hello, Bastar: The Untold Story of the Maoist Movement*, and the co-author of the critically acclaimed *The Absent State*. He has reported extensively from battle zones – from Bastar to Baghdad – and is currently working on a memoir on growing up in Kashmir.



RAJ LIBERHAN

An LLB from Symbiosis Law College, Pune, 1984, Raj Liberhan worked as a civil servant with the Government of India and held senior positions of responsibility in Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) before taking over as Director, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, since October 1995. He has also written various articles on his areas of expertise in news-magazines & e-newspapers.



RAJENDRA YADAV

Rajendra Yadav is an eminent Hindi fiction writer, and one of the pioneers of the Nayi Kahani literary movement. He edits the famous literary magazine *Hans*, which was originally founded by Munshi Premchand in 1930, and which continued publication till 1953. Thereafter, it was relaunched by Rajendra Yadav on July 31, 1986. He has remained its editor ever since. He is the author of several collections of short stories, essays and novels, including *Sara Akash*.



RAVISH KUMAR

Ravish Kumar has been working with NDTV India, a national news channel in Hindi, for more than 15 years. He does a weekly report called *Ravish Ki Report* on NDTV India. His work can be accessed on www.tubaah.com. He has won several awards including the Ramnath Goenka Award for excellence in journalism. His blog is called naisadak.blogspot.com. Ravish has been reviewing blogs for Hindi Daily Hindustan for more than 2 years. He has published one book, *Dekhte Rahiye*, and his next book is going to be published by Penguin India.



SALMA

Salma has published one novel, *Irاندام Jamangalin Kathai*, which has been translated into many languages and was shortlisted for the Vodafone-Crossword Book Award, as well as two collections of poetry, *Oru Maalaiyum Innuru Maalaiyum*, and *Pachchai Devadai*. She has worked as Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board, and was Member of the Committee of National Council Association of Local Governance of India as well as President of the Ponnampatti Town Panchayat from 2001-2006.



SATYANAND NIRUPAM

Satyanand Nirupam is a young writer, poet and editor. After completing his M.Phil. from Delhi University, he worked with the NCERT as a research associate. Nirupam joined Penguin/Yatra in March 2009 and steadily built a list of important titles for them, including an anthology of Sahir Ludhianvi's poetry, two new collections by the reclusive Krishna Baldev Vaid and a successful translation of Pavan Verma's *Becoming Indian* into Hindi. He plays an active role in promoting a book-reading culture in Hindi through all possible media channels, and is a member of the Program Advisory Committee, India Habitat Centre. In 2010 he was a coordinator and one of the concept developers for Bahastalab, the popular debate series. In 2011, he joined Delhi Press as Associate Editor (*Sarita*).



SHEEN KAAF NIZAM

Born 1947, Urdu poet and critic Sheen Kaaf Nizam has published *Lamhon ke Saleeb*, *Dasht mein Dariya*, *Naad*, *Saya Koi Lamba Na Tha*, *Bayazein Kho Gayi Hai*, *Gumshuda Dair ki Gunjti Ghantiyan*, *Rasta Yeh Kahin Nahin Jaata* and many other collections and anthologies. He has also published books in criticism, including *Lafz dar Lafz*, and a book on fellow poet Makhmur Saidi. He has edited many Devnagari volumes of poets like Wazir Agha, Nida Fazli, Makhmur Saidi, Kumar Pashi, Muhammad Alwi and others besides editing *Deewan-e-Ghalib* and *Deewan-e-Mir*. His work has been translated into many languages and he has been honoured with many prizes including the Iqbal Samman (2006), Bhasa Bharti Samman, the Begum Akhtar Award, the Mahmood Sheerani Award, the Marwar Ratna and Raja Man Singh Samman, and the Sahitya Akademi Award.



SISTER JESME

Sister Jesme is a doctorate in English Literature, and was Principal of St. Mary's College in Trichur, Kerala, till 2008. She was a member of the Congregation of the Mother Carmelite (CMC) which she left for reasons of emotional torment, after 33 years as a nun. Her life as a nun and her experiences with the Institution of the Catholic Church in Kerala are poignantly described in her book, *Amen: The Autobiography of a Nun*.



SITAKANT MAHAPATRA

Sitakant Mahapatra is a notable Indian poet and literary critic in Oriya as well as English. He has also been in the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) since 1961 until retiring in 1995, and has since held ex-officio posts such as the Chairman of National Book Trust, New Delhi. He has published over 15 poetry collection, 5 essay collections, a travelogue, over 30 contemplative works, apart from numerous translations. His poetry collections have been published in several Indian languages. His notable works are, *Sabdar Akash* (1971), *Samudra* (1977) and *Anek Sharat* (1981). He was awarded the 1974 Sahitya Akademi Award in Oriya for his poetry collection, *Sabdar Akash*. He was awarded the Jnanpith Award in 1993 for outstanding contribution to Indian literature and in its citation the Bharatiya Jnanpith noted, "Deeply steeped in western literature, his pen has the rare rapturous fragrance of native soil". He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2002, apart from winning the Soviet Land Nehru Award, Kabeer Samman and several other prestigious awards.



SITANSHU YASHASCHANDRA

Sitanshu Yashaschandra is among contemporary Gujarati literature's most eminent representatives. A poet, playwright, translator and academic, he has received several awards over the years from the Sahitya Akademi Award (1987) for his opus, *Jatayu*, to the Padma Shri (2006) from the Government of India. He has authored three books of poetry. Yashaschandra has worked as Vice Chancellor (Saurashtra University), UGC Emeritus Professor and National Lecturer, as well as Chief Editor of the Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi). He has also been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and a Ford West European Fellowship for research in Comparative Literature. He has taught, as Professor and Chair of Gujarati, at the M.S. University of Baroda, from 1972, and has been a visiting Professor at the Sorbonne University (Paris), the Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), and Jadavpur University (Kolkata). His work is mainly in Gujarati but has been widely translated into Hindi and other languages. He has translated several works of poetry, drama and criticism from English to Gujarati. *Tokhaar*, his adaptation of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* was hailed as a landmark play in modern Gujarati theatre.



SRIJATO

Born 21st December, 1975, into a family of musicians that has had deep Hindustani Classical traditions for more than three generations, poet Srijato has established himself as one of the primary exponents of modern Bengali poetry. Srijato's first book *Sesh Chithi* (The Last Letter) was published in 1999. In 2004, he became the second-youngest recipient of the prestigious Ananda Puroshkar for his seminal work *Uronto Sob Joker* (Those Flying Jokers), which was also awarded the Krittibas Puroshkar (2004), the most coveted award for Bengali poetry. Srijato was also invited to attend the Writer's Workshop at Iowa University (2006) and was the representative for Bengali Poetry in the Writer's Fair, Scotland (2008). He is the author of more than 15 books of modern Bengali Poetry, and currently works as the Senior Sub-Editor for the Bengali Magazine *Parama*.



SUBODH SARKAR

Subodh Sarkar is a major Bengali poet, writer and editor, and Reader in English Literature at City College, Kolkata. His first book of poems was published in the late 70s and now he has 26 books to his credit – 20 of poems, 2 of translations and one travelogue on America. His poems have been translated into English, French and several Indian languages and published in prestigious journals and anthologies. He is the editor of *Bhashanagar*, a Bangla culture magazine with occasional English issues. In 2010 he was appointed as the Guest Editor of Indian Literature, the flagship journal of Sahitya Akademi. His awards include the Shakti Chattopadhyay Binodan Vichitra Puroskar (1997) and the Bangla Akademi Anita-Sunil Basu Puroskar (2000).



SUKIRTHARANI

Sukirtharani is a prominent Dalit poet in Tamil. She is currently at work on a novel which she describes as dalit-feminist. In 2009, she organized a poets' protest against the violence against Tamils in Sri Lanka, in which a large number of poets read. She has published four collections of poetry: *Kaippatri Yen Kanavu Kel*, *Iravu Mirugam*, *Avalai Mozhi Peyarthal*, and *Theendap Pataatha Muththam*. Recently, she was given the Sundhara Ramasamy Viruthu Award by Neithal Ilakkiya Amaippu, Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu. She has completed her MA, M.Phil. and B.Ed. in Tamil Literature. She is working as a Tamil teacher in the Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Ranipet, Tamil Nadu.



SWARAJBIR

Punjabi poet and dramatist. Books include: *Aapni Aapni Raat*, *Sahan Thani* and *Tei March* (poetry); and *Dharam Guru*, *Krishan*, *Medni*, *Shairi*, *Kallar*, *Massia Di Raat*, *Agnikund*, *Jan Da Meet*, and *Haq* (plays). Plays have been performed at various places in India including the National School of Drama and the Ghadri Babian Da Mela, Jalandhur (a festival in honour of the freedom fighters of the Ghadar Movement). Wrote the column *Teri Dharti Tere Lok* in *Preet Lari* during 1988-1989.



UJJAL SINGHA

Born 1954, in Jamtara District (Jharkhand), Ujjal Singha is a well-known poet, essayist, and translator into Bengali from Hindi and English. He received his Masters in Bengali from Calcutta University and has gone on to publish more than 20 books of prose and poetry. He has been editing a poetry magazine for over 25 years and regularly appears on All India Radio programmes, besides delivering lectures on Bengali language, grammar and poetry. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Prize for translation, was granted a Senior Research Fellowship to work on poetry and poetics by the Department of Culture, and was awarded the Government of India Prize for a book written on environmental pollution.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Paresh Nath

Vidyun Singh

Anant Nath

Rahul Soni

Shiv Kumar Gandhi

Renu Oberoi

Shadab Hussain

Sandhya Surana

Dr Chandrima Roy Mazumdar

Shivani Darbari

Devyani Bhardwaj

Oaindrilla Banerjee

Aakriti Mandhwani

Ritu Bhargava

Girish Kiradoo

ART AND DESIGN

RAJEEV KHARE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

K. Satchidanandan

Sheen Kaaf Nizam

Ravi Singh

Desraj Kali

Lalit Kumar

Vinod K. Josh

Nitoo Das

Trina Nileena Banerjee

Kutti Revathy

Anupama Raju

Rikimi M. Adhukailiya

Reyaz Ul Haque

Puneet Pushkar