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साहित्य अकादेमी
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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)
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Press Release

Nilmani Phookan, distinguished Assamese poet and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, passed away on Thursday, 19 January 2023. He was 89.

Born in 1933, Phookan was known for striking symbolism and imagistic quality of his poetry. Though the youngest of the group of the poets, who, influenced by the French symbolist poets as well as the imagists and formalists of the West, established themselves in Assam after the Second World War, Nilmani Phookan contributed more than any other poet and set these trends in modern Assamese poetry.

Some of his widely acclaimed collections of poems are *Surya hene nami ahe ei nadiyedi*, *Nirjanatar Sabda*, *Aru ki Naisabada*, *Phuli Thaka Suryyamukhi*, *Kaint*, *Golap Aru Kaint*, *Kobita*, etc.

The recipient of Padma Shri, Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award and many others, Nilmani Phookan emphasized the importance of the expression of personal feelings through symbolism, images and suggestions and dealt with novel ideas and excelled in the fine analysis of his experience, along with these a very subtle sensibility raised his poems to a unique level.

Sahitya Akademi conferred its highest literary honour, its Fellowship, on Nilmani Phookan in 2022.

Sahitya Akademi is deeply saddened at the passing away of the great poet.

K. Sreenivasarao