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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था  
**Sahitya Akademi**  
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### Press Release

## **National Seminar on Oral Epics in Unwritten Languages**

**New Delhi, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021;** On the first 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 Kapil Tiwari, Dr Madhuri Yadav, Dr Aditya Malik, Dr Molly Kaushal, Dr Balvant Jani, Dr Vasant Nirgune, Dr Shrikrushna Kakade, Dr M. Mani Meitei, Dr Dilip Kumar Kalita, Dr S. Sanatombi and Dr Sylvanus Lamare participated in the deliberations.

The keynote speaker, recipient of Padmashree award, Dr. Kapil Tiwari said, "There is no need to look at our knowledge and traditions through western perspectives. This will impoverish our traditions. We need to understand the Indian perception of time in order to understand our mythologies." Dr. Kapil Kapoor, the chief guest of the seminar and renowned scholar spoke of epics being deeply rooted in India's oral traditions.

In the inaugural session, Shri Madhav Kaushik, Vice-president, Sahitya Akademi, said that all these oral epics reflect the varied dimensions of Indian life and the vibrant unity of its culture. In his welcome address, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, dwelt upon the pervasive impact of the oral epics such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata on the consciousness of the people of India and said that Akademi would preserve and disseminate these great works.

In the first session of the two-day seminar, three distinguished scholars, Dr. Aditya Malik, Dr. Madhuri Yadav and Dr. Molly Kaushal presented their papers. The session was chaired by Dr. Balvant Jani. In this session, Dr. Malik focussed on the oral, visual and textual dimensions of the Rajasthani oral epic *Devnayanam*. After him, Dr. Madhuri Yadav presented her paper which provided a detailed study on the Barela Tribes and Indal Pooja of Madhya Pradesh. Dr. Kaushal's paper laid stress on key aspects of written and oral Indian epics.

Discussions in the second session centred around the oral epics of north India and was chaired by Dr. Kapil Tiwari. The first paper presenter, Dr. Vasant Nirgune's presentation explored the aesthetics and styles of the mythic tribes of north India. Dr. Shrikrushna Kakade discussed in his detailed presentation the oral poetry tradition in Maharashtra.

The concluding session of the day was chaired by Dr. M. Meitei. Dr. Dilip Kumar Kalita provided valuable information on the Ramayana tradition of the Karbis in north-eastern India. Dr. S. Sanatombi's paper elaborated upon the central characters in the Manipuri oral epic titled *Khamba-Thoibi*. Elements of epics composed in Khasi language formed the theme of the paper presented by Dr. Sylvanus Lamare. The sessions came to an end with Shri Suresh Babu proposing a formal vote of thanks. The remaining sessions will be held tomorrow at the conference hall of the Akademi.

K. Sreenivasarao