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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)
An Autonomous Organisation of Government of India, Ministry of Culture



Press Release

National Seminar on Saint Poet Madhavadeva

New Delhi, 26th November, 2021; A two-day national seminar was organised by Sahitya Akademi on 26-27 November to celebrate the unique contribution to the bhakti movement made by Madhavadev in Assam on the occasion of the Amrit Mahotsav. The Bhakti movement enriched social life in India immensely and gave its literature new directions. Saint poets in different parts of the country challenged entrenched orthodoxies of many forms and preached a religion of love and universal brotherhood.

On the first day of the seminar, eminent writers, scholars and, artists Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Bohra, Dr. Malinee Goswami, Justice Mukundakam Sharma, Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Arshiya Sethi, Hiranya Das, Ratnotamma Das, Dr. Udaynath Sahoo, Dr. Rajendra Mehta, Sharodi Saikia, Gunakar Dev Goswami, Arshiya Sethi and Anil Saikia participated in the deliberations.

In the inaugural session, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the welcome address and threw light on the life of the legendary religious reformer Sri Sri Madhavadeva, the foremost disciple of Srimanta Shkardev. Shri Suresh Babu, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the guests. Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, eminent Assamese scholar, began his inaugural address reciting a few lines in Assamese. Expressing his gratitude to the Akademi, Dr. Mahanta shared a vivid account of the life and works of this great saint. In her keynote address Dr. Malinee Goswami explained how like all other saint poets of India, Shankaradev and Madhavadeva propagated their religio-philosophical thoughts through dance, music, drama and literature. Dr. Dhruva Jyoti Bohra who chaired the session spoke on the rich and enduring legacy of Saint Madhavadeva. A monograph written in Hindi on Sri Sri Madhavadev's Guru Mahapurush Shankaradev was also released.

In the first session of the two-day seminar, two distinguished scholars, Dr. Udayanath Sahoo and Dr. Rajendra Mehta, presented papers. Dr. Sahoo's observed that the Bhakti Movement was transformed into a social movement in the 15th Century. He added that Odisha, Bengal and Assam have shared a strong cultural, social and linguistic kinship for centuries. Interestingly, the three great poets, Sarala Das, Shankar Dev and Rama Saraswati contributed significantly to the Bhakti Movement. In his presentation, Dr. Rajendra Mehta compared the life and works of Narasinh Mehta with those of his contemporary Madhavadev of Assam. This session was chaired by Justice Mukundakam Sharma. He stated that Sri Sri Madhavadev was not only a devoted disciple of Mahapurusha Shkar Dev, he also provided exemplary service in the field of creative activities. According to him, these creations formed the backbone of Assamese culture, ethos and tradition.

The second session was chaired by Dr. Sharodi Saikia, renowned Sattriya dancer (traditional dance form of Assam). In this session, Gunakar Dev Goswami, Arshiya Sethi and Anil Saikia presented papers. Gunakar's paper was titled, 'The Tradition and Character of Madhavadeva's Jhumura Play' and he delight everyone present with a short performance. In her paper titled 'Dance and Danceability in the works of Madhavadeva', Arshiya Sethi said that no one's devotion to the tenets of Srimant Shankaradev's new faith exceeded that of Madhavadev. Dr. Anil Saikia's paper 'Synoptic Outline on Music of Madhavadev' threw light on how dances and songs and rhythmic patterns played a dominant role in Madhavadev's dramas.


(K. Sreenivasarao)