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## PRESS RELEASE

**Dalit Chetna programme, an evening of Dalit Poetry readings by  
Rajani Anuragi, Rajni Disodia and Yashwant Virodai at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi,  
29/11/2019**

Sahitya Akademi organized Dalit Chetna Programme at Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi on 29/11/2019, with well-known dalit poets Yashwant Virodai, Rajani Anuragi and Rajni Disodia participating.

Rajni Disodia recited her poems, “Kahani Bahut Puraani Hai,” “Badthi Umar Ki” “Kunwari,” “Ladkiyaan,” “Sunno Nadi,” “Tumhara Naam Kya Hai,” “Tum Aur veh.” These poems were reflective off the poet’s sensitive eye towards caste disparity and the despicable state of dalit women in general.

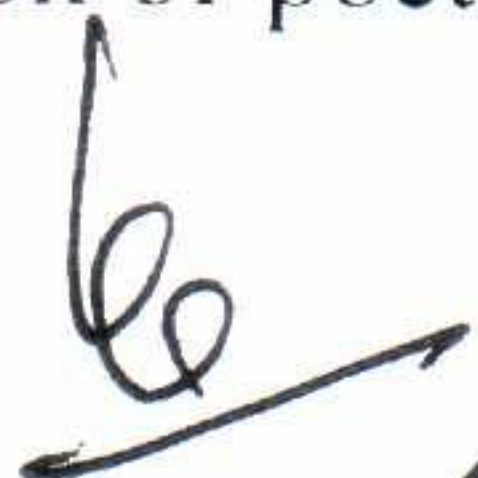
Yashwant Virodai expressed his views through two ghazals. He followed it up by the two poems titled “Iss Daur ka Hatyara,” “Kya Aap Jante Hei Wo Koun Hai,” which exhibited a deep and sensitive understanding of the delicate balance that dalit hold in the society. His work is a brave attempt to pin down those who are bent upon creating schisms in society.

The last poet of the evening, Rajni Anuragi, recited “Savera Bunti Striyaam,” “Phoolan,” “Tumhara coat,” “Choodiyaan and “Hamari Kavita.” In her work she mused upon the very mundane, often ignored aspects of a woman’s life which is so common that it often escapes our eye, and thus, her poems had a resonance with the audience, especially women.

The readings were followed by interventions from senior poets and critics like Mukesh Manas, S.Bharati and a few others. Mukesh Manas said dalit poetry is moving towards a new horizon where the tools of poetry are themselves changing whereas S.Bharti emphasized that unless dalit poetry has aggression and the tone and tenor that it is known for, it will lose its character and the end it was intended for.

Though the audience was thin at the beginning, the hall filled towards the middle of the programme, and it was a very intense, intimate exchange of ideas in the interactive session.

Sri Kumar Anupam, Hindi Editor of Sahitya Akademi joined in the introduction of poets, and offering concluding the concluding remarks in the end.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)