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Press Release

30 June 2021

All India Bodo Women Writers' Meet 30 June 2021

Sahitya Akademi in collaboration with Bodo Women Writers Association organized an All India Women Writers' Meet for the first time from its inception on 30 June 2021 on virtual platform.

In the programme, the welcome address was delivered by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. He said as the northeast India has given birth to so many important writers. Bodo socio-cultural milieu is used to be controlled by women on equal basis as well as men. Bodo community has seen so many clashes and the disturbing reality comes to life through the writings of women writers. Women are homemakers as they are the carriers of change and energy, he opined. Therefore, the literature created by them needs to be developed and be given proper focus. Dr Rao also informed the audience of Sahitya Akademi's constant efforts in this regard. The introductory address was delivered by Dr Anil Kumar Bodo, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi. He said that in case of Bodo literature, the women picked up pen mostly after the Independence and in this 21st century Bodo women came to the fields of film-making, cultural performances, education etc. as well. The inaugural address was delivered by eminent Bodo writer Ms Harani Brahma. She spoke in brief on the development of the women writings in Bodo and shared her experiences and encounters with the society as a women writer. Sri Madhab Kaushik, Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi, while speaking from the chair, spoke on the emergence of women writers in India which excelled both in size and quality because of their close connection to the culture, tradition and emotions. Their writings are essential to the growth of society. In the inaugural session three major Bodo women writers, namely, Ms Anju Basumatary, Ms Dhirjyu Jyoti Basumatary and Ms Shanti Basumatary read out from their recent poems which laid bare their emotional bonding with the Bodo socio-cultural milieu. The inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks, presented by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region.

In the first session on short story reading, participants were Ms Anila Basumatary, Ms Anima Basumatary, Ms Dipali Kherkatary and Ms Jwishri Boro with Ms Uttara Bwiswmuthiary in the chair. While Ms Jwishri Boro's story "Silingkhar" was based on the effect of drug-addiction on the society, Ms Anima Basumatary's story "Art Gallery" revolved around love affairs among new generation. Ms Dipali Kherkatary read out her story "Somada Onghai Bikha" dealing with the corona situation and how it affected the society. Ms Anila Basumatary read out a story centered on the theme of women empowerment and the story was entitled "Swmahangfimai Khanai Bilai". Ms Uttara Bwiswmuthiary while speaking from the chair commented on the contents and style of the stories read out so far. Afterwards, she read out a short story written on the relationship between son and father and the story was entitled "Aafa". In the second session, the theme of panel discussion was the challenges before Bodo women writers. In the session, noted scholars and writers like Ms Anjali Prabha Daimari, Ms Dharitri Narzary, Ms Laishri Mahilary and Ms Ramela Islary presented their views on different dimensions of these challenges and how they affected the Bodo women writers. The session was chaired by Ms Indira Boro. The third session was centered on poetry reading where noted poets like Ms Dhwnshiri Swargiyary, Ms Ira Basumatary, Ms Maijli Rani Brahma, Ms Mira Brahma, Ms Mousumi Bargoyari, Ms Rashmi Choudhury, Ms Roma Mochary, Ms Swrjila Wary read out their poems with Bhabani Baglary in the chair.

> (Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh) Regional Secretary