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**Sahitya Akademi**

(National Academy of Letters)

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Press Release

**Birth Centenary Seminar on Bimal Kar  
26 June 2022, Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata**

26 June 2022

Sahitya Akademi organized a birth centenary seminar on Bimal Kar in its office auditorium, Kolkata on 26 June 2022. In the programme, Dr K. Sreenivasaro delivered the welcome address. He stressed on the evolution of literature due to the changing nature of people and society. Every writer is unique and they create their magical world in their own way. He presented a brief sketch of the life and works of Bimal Kar. Bimal Kar felt the joys and pains of common people which were reflected in his writings and thereby giving them lives. He also informed the audience about Sahitya Akademi various activities.

Dr Subodh Sarkar, Convener, Bengali Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the introductory address. He stressed on the immense popularity of Bimal Kar which started with his controversial writing *Atmaja*, a success on stage. He lived in different places throughout his lifetime and explored the psyche of the common people. His *Asamay*, *Kharkuto*, *Jadubangsha*, *Pracchanna* can be exemplified as great artistic novels of 50s and 60s. Many of his works were adapted into celluloid, though some like *Jaduhangsha* presented difficulties. Bimal Kar always maintained a low profile and his writings displayed flow of inner consciousness, adventures of mind and turmoil of faith, thus opined Dr Sarkar.

Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay, eminent Bengali writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, delivered the inaugural address. He focused on the fact that Bimal Kar bring about changes in the tradition of narrative techniques prevalent in Bengali fiction. His stories gave life to flow of emotions with minute details, though with a lack of major events. It was prosaic poetry the essence of which came from Bimal Kar's excellent use of words. While discussing the writings of Bimal Kar, Sri Mukhopadhyay referred to painters like Dali and Picaso as well as writers like Debes Ray and Moti Nandi. He also pointed out that though most of Bimal Kar's novels reveted around the settings like Chhotanagpur and Hazaribag, his *Deoyal* spoke of war-time Bengal. His writings displayed controlled emotions. Sri Mukhopadhyay also spoke about his personal relationships with Bimal Kar.

Professor Chandrashekar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the session. He spoke highly of Bimal Kar, referring to his contribution towards the Indian literature as whole. He spoke about his writings in different genres, which included drama and children's literature as well.

Sahitya Akademi's recently published monograph on Bimal Kar, written by Professor Debarati Bandyopadhyay, got released in the inaugural session as well.

The first session of the seminar was on "Life and Works of Bimal Kar". In this session, Professor Debarati Bandyopadhyay and Sri Sayam Bandyopadhyay presented their papers with Dr Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay in the chair. While Professor Debarati Bandyopadhyay spoke on the important events in the life and works of Bimal Kar as well as their significance, Sri Sayam Bandyopadhyay explained Bimal Kar's writings through the perspective of contemporary Bengali writers of young generation. He compared Bimal Kar's writings with other stalwarts and tried the trace the origin of his immense popularity.

The title of the second session was "Literary World of Bimal Kar". In this session, Sri Biren Sasmal, Sri Sadhan Chattopadhyay and Sri Tapan Bandyopadhyay presented papers on the theme of the session with Professor Sumita Chakraborty in the chair. Sri Biren Sasmal focused on the short stories of Bimal Kar. He stressed on the evolution of the narration and the narrative with respect to the background of the stories. Sri Sadhan Chattopadhyay spoke on the innovation of Bimal Kar regarding the structural development of his stories. He traced the philosophical strains found in Bimal Kar's writings, mostly fictional ones. Sri Tapan Chattopadhyay spoke on Bimal Kar's writings for the then younger generation. He focused on his novels and short stories which have a strong impact on the mind of the youth. The session was chaired by Professor Sumita Chakraborty.

The programme was compered by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, and Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo, Programme Officer, Sahitya Akademi. At the end, the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Mihir Kumar Sahoo.

(Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh)

Regional Secretary

Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region