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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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Press Release
Condolence meeting of Sri Sankha Ghosh

A condolence meeting was organized by Sahitya Akademi to pay homage to Sri Sankha Ghosh on 7 May 2021. Sahitya Akademi deeply mourns the passing away of Sri Sankha Ghosh, one of the distinguished writers of Modern Indian Literature, a poet as well as Fellow of Sahitya Akademi on 21 April 2021. At the beginning, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, briefly described the life and works of Sri Sankha Ghosh. He paid a humble tribute to the great writer. Dr. Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay said that Sri Sankha Ghosh was a poet of love. He was the most significant poet in pages of 'Krittibas'. He changed attitude of Bengali scholars in interpretation of Tagore, his interpretation gave us the key to enter Tagore's poetry, life and other literary creations. He was a combination of Rabindranath Tagore and Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. He was also a powerful voice of protest. Smt Yashodhara Roy Choudhury mentioned that in many ways Shankha Ghosh was not just the conscience of the Bengali people, but also a visionary, a mystique, a prophet of humanity, whose art stood like a pillar of support at the darkest hours when all else was falling apart or crumbling. His poems are always resonating with our time. She made mention of his famous line "Mukh dheke jay bigyapone". Social responsibility and Protest element were most important in his poems.

Dr. Pabitra Sarkar spoke on how he beautifully commented on public issues created around him in the society in his poems and prose. Though his speech was not very loud, but you are bound to listen to it. He was not only a great teacher but also a wonderful man. His dress, words, poetry, authority on Tagore had a magical quality which attracted people towards him. He also mentioned about some of their memories together. To him humanity is the essence of existence. Smt Samragnee Banerjee said that Sri Sankha Ghosh knew where to protest and where not to protest. It made him conscience of the time. In his poetry we can find calmness. He wrote about Bengali language in a new way through his works. To him 'we' was greater than 'self'. She also mentioned about some anecdotes from some of her memories. Sri Prabodh Parikh mentioned how Sri Sankha Ghosh helped him to know Tagore better. He had an extraordinary way of describing 'sthiti', 'gati' and 'lay'. He made mention of a number of his poems like poems of 'Gandharva Kavitaguccha' and many others. Smt Sanjukta Dasgupta, said that Sri Sankha Ghosh was a towering figure in the world. His visual appearance struck her. His white dhoti-kurta dress all throughout his life was an ascertainment of an image and identity that totally integrated and did not surrender to cultural colonization. She read out the poem 'Bhir' from his book of poems 'Kabitar Muhurto' and many other great poems. Dr. K. Satchidanandan mentioned Sri Sankha Ghosh as a poet of suggestion who is also flamboyant which made him different from many of his contemporary poets. He transformed Bengali language from older complex form to distilled everyday language. His poems had metaphors and simplicity combined with depth. He worked on language like sculpture. He read out his poem 'The House', 'Black and White' and many others. Dr. Subodh Sarkar, briefly described the greatness of his personality and his works. He said that with his demise we have come close to the end of generation of poets, which enriched the age of Post Jibanananda era. His poetry were clinical thermometer to monitor fever of the nation. He concluded his speech with a few lines of Shankha Ghosh's poetry. The meeting was conducted by Dr. Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Regional Office, Kolkata.


(K. Sreenivasarao)