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Indian Science Fiction congress inaugurated

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The 17th Indian Science Fiction congress was inaugurated by Manoj Kumar Patariya, Director, National Institute of Science Communication and Information Research of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-NICAR), New Delhi at Prof. Gopal Tripathi auditorium at Indian Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) here on Saturday. Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director, IIT-BHU has presided over the function.

Prof PK Mishra coordinator of Malviya Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (MCIIE), IIT-BHU welcomed the dignitaries and participants, also informed the house that first time on the campus of BHU any event on science fiction is being organised. Kim Bo Young, the most famous science fiction writer of South Korea informed that Korea is doing lots of writing based on Indian Science Fiction and a large volume has already been translated. Kim Bo Young has already written hundreds of SF



Director of IIT-BHU, Prof PK Jain addressing science fiction conference in Varanasi on Saturday

books and majority of them are best sellers. Another Korean Lee Suhyeon is leading translator of Indian Science Fiction (SF) into Korean and has promised that she will now emphasise more on the collaboration writing between India and South Korea both being both the prominent Asian nations.

Dr. Patariya, in his key note address, expressed his happiness as 2018 is 200th year of first science fiction novel Frankenstein as it was written in 1818; even we are celebrating the 500th death anniversary of Sant. Kabir and today we are gathered in his city that worked against myth and always worked for scientific explanations. If you see the history of Indian SF you will find that physicist like Dr J.C. Bose and person of literature, Rabindra Nath Tagore has also contributed to India SF.

Vishwa Parichay by Rabindra Nath Tagore is classy work of pertaining to astronomy. Dr Srinarhari, secretary - general, Indian Association of Science Fiction Studies, Bangalore has presented the theme of the event.

A book by Nellai S Muthu, a scientist from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) titled 'Trends on Science Fiction in Tamil' was also unveiled by Prof Pramod Kumar Jain, Director IIT-BHU. Dr. Arvind Kumar Mishra, the convener of the conference thanked all the dignitaries and the delegates who came from nook and corners of the country and even from Korea and hoped that the two days interaction will certainly enrich SF works in the country and close associations can be made between SF and technology. Currently SF is written in number of ver-

nacular languages including Hindi, English, Marathi, Kannada etc.

Dr RR Upadhyaya, President Science Fiction Writers Association Faizabad and editor of SF magazine in Hindi Vigyan Katha shed a detailed light on the journey of Hindi SF writing in the country right from Bhartendu Harish Chandra and Rahul Sankrityayan.

He expressed hope that in years to come more and more scientific community will amalgamate with literary people and SF in Hindi global image.

Prof Pramod Kumar Jain said that this is the right time to blend technology in to Science Fiction as technology works on ideas and SF can give number of practical ideas on which technologist can work so that we can enter in future without shock.

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