

Translators to be honoured at lit fest

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Ahmedabad: You may have enjoyed reading Kalidasa without knowing a word of Sanskrit. Again, you may have felt the pangs of Partition by reading the stories of Saadat Hasan Manto without knowing Urdu. But do you remember the names of the translators, who have brought home these gems in the language you know? If not, it is time you paid your dues to the unsung heroes of literature – translators – through Tarjuma: Festival of Translators 2013. Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGn) would be organising Tarjuma on July 25 and 26.

"There is hardly any acknowledgement about who made Malayalam writers like UR Ananthamurthy and MT Vasudevan available to English readers. The immense role that translators play in connecting languages, literatures, people, regions and nations needs not only be acknowledged but also celebrated. So, there is an emphasis on honouring translation, which is why we call Tarjuma a festival and not a workshop or a conference," said professor Rita Kothari, a co-organiser of the event.

"The idea is also not to have people, who only talk about the abstract theories of translation but people involved in the empirical task of translation. We want the translators to reflect very deeply on the trade they are engaged in and also compare notes with each other. Therefore, this event would be the first of its kind ever in the world. We call it Tarjuma, meaning translation in Arabic," she added.

Well, it would not be the only

IITGn will organise two-day festival of translators 'Tarjuma - 2013'

event for the translators working between the languages, but also for the translators, translating literature into other forms of art. For instance, dancer Mallika Sarabhai will talk about the process of how Mahabharat can be translated into a stage performance.

"Looking at the response on our website, it seems so many people are interested in the translation, especially in Indian languages. I think we should create more public, national and international awareness about how important, diverse and powerful translation is in India," said professor Shrinivas Reddy.

"Translation is not just a concept of literature but it is an idea about how you move things from one point to the other, which I think Indians are always doing in their lives," he added.

Lakshmi Holmström, Arunava Sinha, Mallika Sarabhai, Tridip Suvrud, Neerav Patel, Arshia Sattar, Namita Gokhale, Urvashi Butalia, Bill Wolak, Priya Adarkar, Shanta Gokhale, T Vijay Kumar, Vanamal Vishwanatha, Gita Chaudhuri, Rakhshanda Jalil and many other translators of much repute will talk about their work and discuss aspects and politics of the craft of translation. Also, publishing houses such as Oxford University Press, Penguin and Orient Blackswan will release some of their translation titles during the festival.