

Hello again, friends!

The Sangam House season closed at the end of January and it would appear that we went out with a real bang, this time. Our reading at the Crossword Bookstore on January 25th was very well attended and got a lot of press coverage (attached). More than that, all the writers present had a very good time. As always, dinner thereafter was at Koshy's, the Bangalore restaurant most frequented by the artistic community. Including friends and other well-wishers, there were 25 of us at dinner that night and we occupied an entire side of the restaurant!

It's been an eventful season -- we changed locations from Adi Shakti in Pondicherry to Nrityagram, the dance village just outside Bangalore (pics attached). The ArtsLab, where the writers lived and worked, was a warm and welcoming space. The local village bar, frequented by some of our more intrepid residents, inspired at least one long and wistful poem but we're sure it's going to show up in many more works over the years.

It's also been a season of new partnerships, most notably with our new hosts, Nrityagram. We have also joined hands with Toto Funds the Arts (TFA), a local trust that works with young people in the arts. TFA organises literary readings every month in the city and over the last eight years, has been giving out annual awards for creative writing, music and photography. The large audience at our January 25th reading had much to do with our collaboration with TFA for that event. We're looking forward to a long and mutually enriching relationship with them. Most immediately, Sangam House and TFA are organising a Bangalore city literary weekend in February 2012 which will bring together Sangam House residents, local alumni and other Bangalore city writers in a series of readings, discussions and small performances. We're also partnering with the Kannada literary journal, Deshakaala, to make this weekend as inclusive as possible and to expand our outreach activities beyond the English writing and reading community.

In other good news, we have secured funding for a Hindi writer for the 2012 season. Many, many thanks to our private donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) for that. Additionally, we are now in a position to invite a Kannada writer to Sangam House -- this is crucial because Kannada is the language of the state in which we are now located. Hopefully, we'll soon have dedicated funds to support the selected writer. We're particularly

pleased to be able to include more and more Indian languages at Sangam House since the support of literary cultures outside dominant languages has been one of our motivations all along.

Sangam House has also made it's first literary film, thanks to DW! Sangam House supported a multi-lingual poetry workshop organised by the German Book Office (New Delhi) and Pro Helvetia. Poets from India, Germany and Switzerland worked together for a week and then show-cased their work at the Prakriti Poetry Festival in Chennai in December. DW's film documents the process as well as the performances. The documentary can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Typically, we take time off between the annual seasons, using that time for fund-raising and other development business. But this year, we've secured funds from the Danish Arts Council to host a specially curated two-week residency in the month of August. The tiny coastal town of Tranquebar on India's eastern coast was the first Danish colony on the sub-continent established in 1620. Missionaries soon followed traders and in 1712, two priests, Bartholomaeus Ziegenbalg and Heinrich Pluetschau, published their Tamil translation of the Bible at the local printing press. In order to celebrate the 300th anniversary of print in India, we are bringing together 10 Danish and Indian writers in Tranquebar -- we'll ask them to contribute a short work created during those 2 weeks for a special edition anthology of writing.

As you can see, Sangam House is growing, in numbers as well as in projects. This has been made possible by all of you -- thank you for keeping the faith. We trust that you will continue to support Sangam House this year.

Warm wishes and many thanks from all of us
Arshia and DW