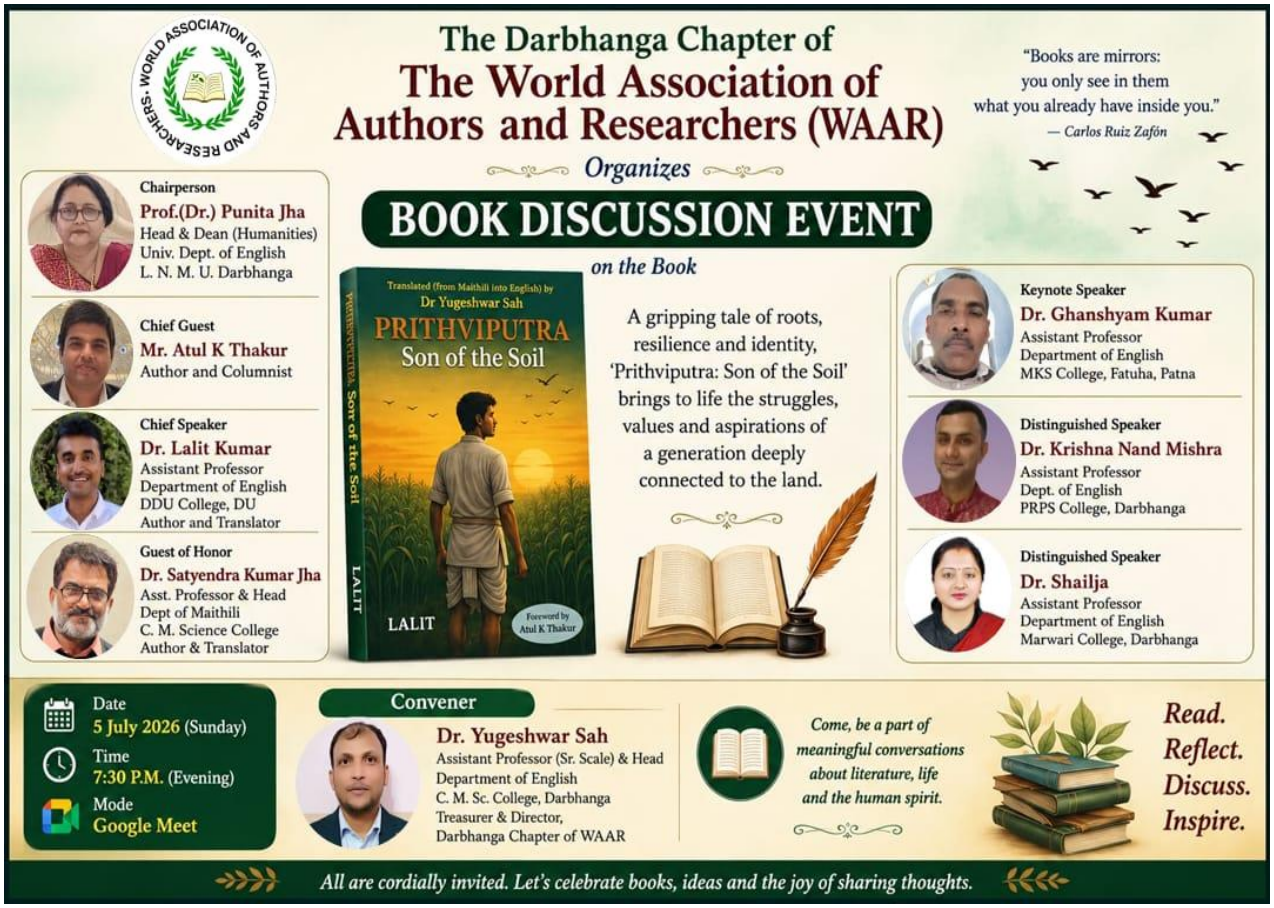
Press Release

06 July 2026

From the Soil of Mithila to the World: WAAR's Book Discussion Celebrates the Literary Journey of *Prithviputra: Son of the Soil*



The Darbhanga Chapter of the World Association of Authors and Researchers (WAAR) organized an insightful online Book Discussion Event on Sunday, 5 July 2026, through Google Meet. The discussion was based on *Prithviputra: Son of the Soil* (2025), the English translation of the acclaimed Maithili novel *Prithviputra*, originally written by **Lalit** and translated into English by **Dr. Yugeshwar Sah**. The programme commenced at 7:20 p.m. and continued until 9:45 p.m., attracting a large gathering of academicians, writers, researchers, students, and literature enthusiasts from across the country.

The programme was gracefully anchored by Tripti Sharma, who ensured the smooth conduct of the event by introducing the distinguished guests and seamlessly coordinating the session. The programme formally began with a warm welcome address by **Muskan Thakur**, who welcomed the Chairperson, Chief Guest, keynote speaker, distinguished speakers, organizers, researchers, students, and participants. She highlighted the importance of such literary discussions in promoting regional literature and creating meaningful academic dialogue.

The first speaker, **Dr. Shailja**, introduced the audience to the publication of the book and explained its central theme of identity. She observed that *Prithviputra* establishes a profound emotional relationship between human beings and the soil, portraying the land as a nurturing mother that shapes human existence and identity. Referring to the opening chapter, she explained how the novel presents the inseparable bond between people and their land, thereby laying the emotional foundation of the narrative.

The next speaker, **Dr. Krishna Nand Mishra,** delivered an insightful lecture on translation and literary studies. He remarked that the twenty-first century is the century of knowledge, where knowledge itself has become a source of power. Encouraging readers to approach the novel through

multiple literary perspectives, including Feminist Studies, Dalit Literature, Comparative Literature, and Translation Studies, he described the translator not merely as a linguistic mediator but as a co-creator who recreates the literary experience. He pointed out that culturally significant Maithili words (such as Bhauji) should remain untranslated to preserve their cultur al flavour. He appreciated the English translation for maintaining the originality and richness of the source text while making it accessible to a wider readership.

Chief Guest, Mr. Atul K. Thakur examined the novel from the perspective of subaltern literature. He appreciated the work for presenting the voices and struggles of ordinary people whose experiences are often neglected in mainstream literary discourse. Emphasizing the democratization of knowledge, he remarked that literature survives because it reflects the realities, aspirations, and concerns of common people and gives space to marginalized sections of society.



Speaking on the challenges of literary translation, **Dr. Satyendra Kumar Jha** explained that literary translation is not merely the transfer of words from one language to another but also the faithful transmission of emotions, culture, and artistic originality. He discussed the novel's portrayal of farmers, the Zamindari system, deprived communities, social struggle, and self-identity, emphasizing that survival remains one of the central messages of the novel. He further observed that the novel's highly pictorial and imaginative narrative style makes the translator's task demanding. He also reflected upon literary criticism and the varied responses received by the book.

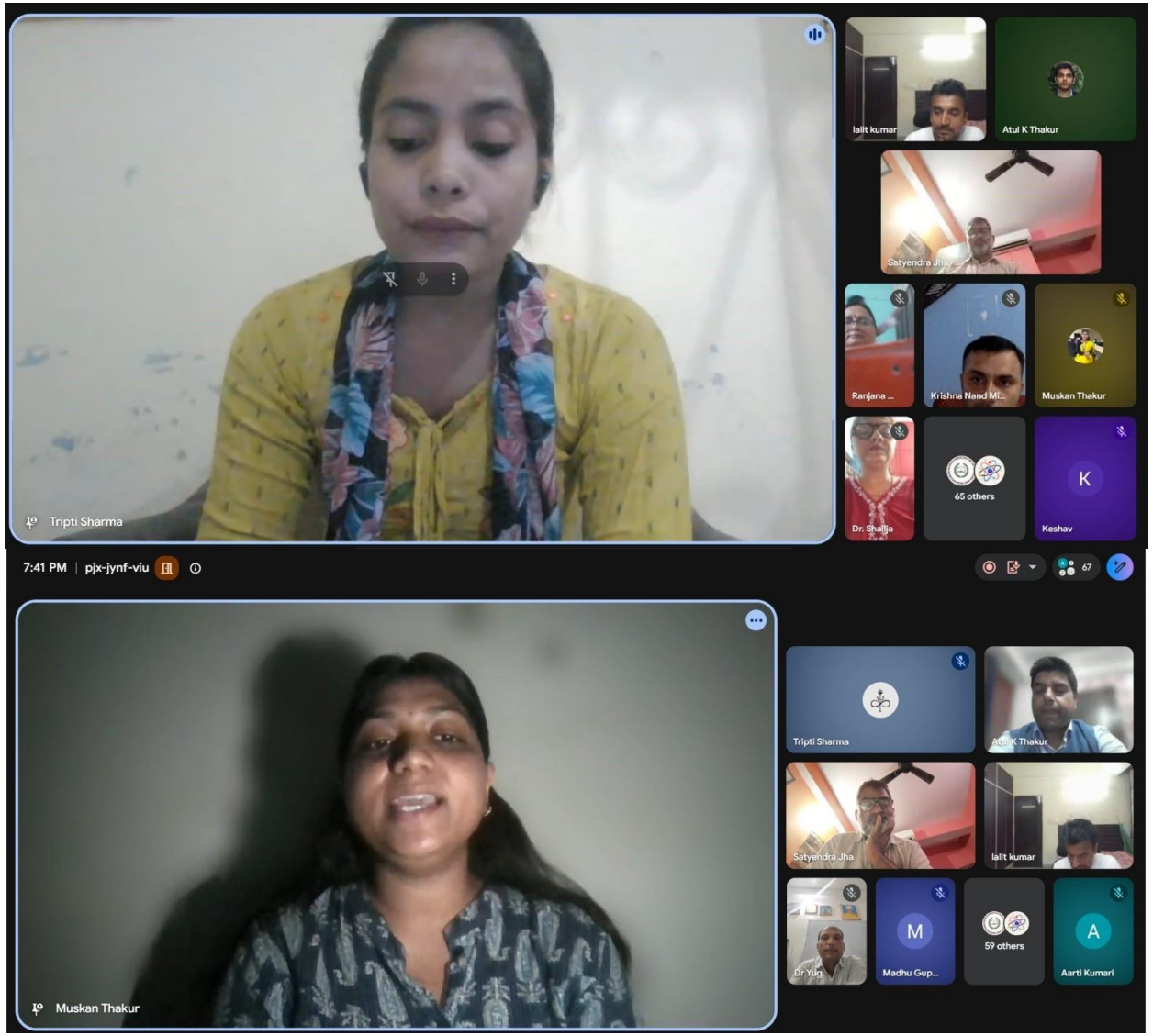
The Chief Speaker, Dr. Lalit Kumar, shared his thoughts as both the author of the novel and a scholar of Maithili literature. Stressing the need to create a wider readership for Maithili literature, he observed that regional literature possesses universal human values that deserve global recognition. Referring to eminent writers such as Nagarjuna and Premchand, he explained how realism enables literature to portray the lives of ordinary people with honesty and compassion. He discussed the representation of peasants, labourers, and marg inalized communities in the novel and highlighted social issues such as physical labour, the intimate relationship between people and land, and the evil practice of Vivah Bikau. He emphasized that the novel reflects the dignity, resilience, and struggles of rural society.



Delivering the keynote address, **Dr. Ghanshyam Kumar** presented a detailed analysis of the novel's major characters. He discussed the emotional journey of Swaroop, particularly the impact of his elder brother's death on the narrative. He praised the character of Bijli as one of the strongest and most memorable figures in the novel. Drawing comparisons with the works of Mulk Raj Anand, he highlighted the novel's realistic portrayal of marginalized communities. He also referred to a poem by Arun Kamal to illustrate the hardships of landless and economically deprived people, thereby enriching his literary interpretation.

Presiding over the programme, **Prof. Punita Jha** delivered the presidential address. She described Mithila as a historic centre of scholarship and classical Maithili literature and emphasized that translation possesses the transformative power to give voice to the voiceless by introducing regional

literature to national and international audiences. She discussed themes of caste consciousness, land reforms, tenant farmers, landless labourers, and marginalized communities reflected in the novel. Appreciating the powerful characterization of Bijli, she praised both the author and the translator for successfully presenting Maithili literature before a global readership through an excellent English translation.



The programme concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks proposed by **Rajnandani**, who expressed sincere gratitude to the Chairperson, Chief Guest, keynote speaker, distinguished speakers, organizers, and all participants for their valuable presence and contributions, which made the event successful and memorable.

The online discussion emerged as a significant literary event that celebrated the richness of Maithili literature while underscoring the vital role of translation in promoting India's regional languages and cultures. The thoughtful deliberations by eminent scholars not only deepened the audience's understanding of *Prithviputra: Son of the Soil* but also reaffirmed the importance of preserving and disseminating regional literary traditions through meaningful academic engagement. **Dr. Yugeshwar Sah** was the convenor of the programme and he coordinated it.

Prepared by:
Dr. Yugeshwar Sah, Assistant Professor of English**,** C. M. Science College, Darbhanga &
Director, Darbhanga Chapter of WAAR and Treasurer of WAAR