

Animal sacrifices can distress people: Indira Goswami

New Delhi - Jnanpith award-winning writer Indira Goswami has said animal sacrifices at open places - including temples - have an adverse influence on people, particularly children.

Speaking at the launch of her translated Assamese novel 'The Man from Chinnamasta' here Friday evening, Goswami said the main purpose of writing the book was to oppose the practice of buffalo sacrifice at the ancient Kamakhya temple in Assam.

The book, published by Katha, was launched by K. Jayakumar, secretary, department of culture. Prashant Goswami, the translator of the book, was also present.

It delineates the horror and cruelty of animal sacrifice. 'The Man from Chinnamasta' is among 60 books that Katha will carry to the Frankfurt Book Fair next month where India is a special guest.

'I believe in divine power but rituals do not appeal to me,' said Goswami, a professor of Assamese in the department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies at Delhi University.

The Kamakhya temple is considered to be the greatest shrine of mystic Shaktism, one of the main religions of Assam during the medieval period.

'The Man from Chinnamasta' is a powerful portrayal of disquiet, suffering and shocked conscience related to a sensitive religious subject, but Goswami is able to startle the reader with her reasonable and thoughtful analysis of the topic.

Born in an orthodox family in Assam, Goswami rose to fame with her stories and novels, most of which showcase human pathos.

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