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साहित्य अकादेमी
(नेशनल अकादमी ऑफ़ लेटर्स)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

World Poetry Day Celebrations

“Only poetry can mend the ruptures of our civilization and address our anxieties”

- Dr Sitakant Mahapatra

Sahitya Akademi organized an All India Poetry Festival to commemorate World Poetry Day on 21 March 2018 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. Eminent poets representing 24 languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi participated in the programme. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and talked about the uniqueness of poetry in all languages, Indian poetic traditions, relevance of poetry in the twenty first century and Sahitya Akademi's initiatives to promote poetry in all languages of the country including tribal languages. In his inaugural address, Dr Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Odia Poet and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, stated that the world needs poetry as much as poetry needs the world since only poetry can mend the rupture of our civilization and address our anxieties. He talked about the values of poetic traditions and observed that in these dark times poetry should assert its traditional freedom and resist the prevailing debasement of languages which troubles all who care for genuine poetry. Dr Nabaneeta Dev Sen, eminent Bengali writer and scholar, who was the Guest of Honour, talked about impact poetry makes on the poets and readers. She shared several anecdotes, recited her own poetry and shared the role poetry played in her life. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the bonding or unifying nature of poetry. He stated that in a multilingual society like India with a large number of languages and cultural traditions, poetry played and plays a huge role in uniting them transcending all the barriers. In his concluding remarks, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the wisdom imparting nature of poetry and observed that poetry can also be a means for self-realization. In the three sessions of poetry recitations and chaired by Sri S.G. Siddharamaiah, Sri Prabodh Parikh and Smt. Pratibha Satpathy, eminent poets representing various languages recited their poems and interacted with other participants and audience.


(K. Sreenivasarao)