



SA/37/PR/2018

11.6.2018

PRESS-RELEASE
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL (11-15 JUNE 2018)

Sahitya Akademi has a unique project on archives of films related to Indian writers and their writings. The archives are meant to collect and preserve precious material connected with the eminent writers in different Indian languages. The Akademi produces video documentaries on these Indian writers which attempt to document their images, voices, the momentous events that moulded their lives and vision and the contemporary response to the creative achievements.

Under this project, the Akademi is organizing a 5-day *Documentary Film Festival* from 11 to 15 June 2018 in its 1st Floor Auditorium at Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi. Dr Satya Vrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar & Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, inaugurated the event. Underlining the importance of visual mode of narrating life journeys of persons eminent in various fields, and who made great contributions, Dr Shastri said that since the ancient times, the visual mode has been more interesting and popular compared to what is transmitted through audio modes. Human beings are curious creatures. They express keen interest in knowing man and nature deeply and closely. That is why documentaries made on various subjects are recognized as an authentic source of information. As regards the literary field, the documentaries related to the life and works of these writers produced by the Akademi will surely benefit the present as well as the future generations.

On the first day of the Film Festival, documentaries on Satya Vrat Shastri (directed by Ms Neelofer Shama) and Ramdarash Mishra (directed by Ms Rakhi Thakur) were shown. Sri Ramdarash Mishra also interacted with the audience present on the occasion. On 12 June, films on Namvar Singh, eminent Hindi critic and Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, well-known Urdu writers would be shown. Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam would be present for an interaction with the audience.

Documentaries on Dogri writer, Padma Sachdev, Marathi writer Mahesh Elkunchwar, Urdu critic and writer Gopi Chand Narang, Govind Mishra, eminent Hindi writer, Bengali writer Nabaneeta Deb Sen and Keki N. Daruwalla, well-known English poet, will also be shown during the programme till 15 June 2018. Smt. Padma Sachdev, Sri Govind Mishra and Sri Keki N. Daruwalla would be present for an interaction with the audience on the days when documentaries on them are scheduled to be shown. These documentaries are also available for sale, the price of 27 minutes' documentary is ₹100/- and 60 minutes' documentary is ₹150/- only.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience. In his welcome speech, he said that if the new generation could generate some interest in literature being written today, the Akademi's efforts in bringing out these documentaries would very much fulfill its objective. He also felicitated Dr Satya Vrat Shastri and Sri Ramdarash Mishra with book packets. The programme was well-attended by the literary lovers of Delhi.

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasarao)