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सचिव
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Secretary

साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)
An Autonomous Organisation of Government of India, Ministry of Culture



SA.16/14/

13 March 2022

PRESS RELEASE

The Festival of Letters 2022 continued for the 4th day and on 13 March 2022, the first day of the three-day National Seminar on “Impact of Literature on Indian Freedom Movement” & “Symposium on Fantasy and Science Fiction in Indian Languages Since 1947” were organized at the Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi.

In the inaugural session of the Seminar, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and elaborated on the topics that are going to be discussed in the three-day Seminar. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the uniqueness of Indian independence movement and how various types of literature influenced the movement. In his inaugural address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, eminent Hindi poet and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, talked about various streams of the movement and capturing of them by the poets across the country, especially in Hindi and allied languages. In his Keynote address, Dr Harish Trivedi, eminent writer, scholar, critic and translator, highlighted literary portrayals of the struggle, streams of movement and eventual independence and how these portrayals have been translated and taken to various regions and languages across the sub-continent and how that helped the movement itself. In his concluding remarks, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the depth and strength of the literary capturing of the movement in various languages and how they impacted the masses and movement. In the first session devoted to “Nationalist Literature and the Idea of Freedom” and chaired by Sri Nand Kishore Acharya, three eminent scholars, Dr Vellikkeel Raghavan, Sri Kapil Kumar and Dr M. A. Alwar, presented their papers highlighting how the literature instilled the idea of freedom in masses. In the second session devoted to “Indian Literature and Emerging India” and chaired by Sri Damodar Mauzo, three eminent scholars, Prof Rana Nayar, Dr Dhananjay Singh and Dr Jaydeep Sarangi, presented their papers on how the Indian literature in various languages spurred young people to take up to the movement and is still continuing to inspire youth of the country to take up literature in a serious way. In the third session devoted to “The Role of Translation in Independence Movement” and chaired by Dr Chandrakant Patil, three eminent scholars, Dr Rakshanda Jalil, Sri Damodar Khadse and Dr Jiwan Namdung, presented their papers on how translation united varied communities of India and helped in the movement.

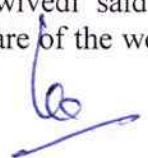
In the inaugural session of Symposium on “Fantasy and Science Fiction in Indian Languages Since 1947,” Dr K. Sreenivasarao, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke briefly about the development and growth of speculative fiction and science fiction in all the languages of the country since independence. In his inaugural address, Sri Devendra Mewari, eminent Hindi writer, talked about how fantasy fiction took wings in the first decades after independence and also traced the contemporary speculative fiction in Hindi and allied languages. In the first session of the Symposium chaired by Dr Mohammad Zaman Azurdah, eminent Kashmiri critic and scholar, six

eminent writers of fantasy and science fiction, presented their papers on the development and current status of science fiction in their languages.

In the evening, Sahitya Akademi conferred its highest honour - Sahitya Akademi Fellowship - upon Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya, distinguished Sanskrit poet, writer, philosopher and spiritual leader at a splendid function, on the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns. The function was part of the Akademi's Festival of Letters 2022. The Fellowship Presentation function was followed by the Samvad programme at which eminent scholars - Sri Ramakant Shukla and Sri Ramsalahi Dwivedi - spoke of Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya's life and works. Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra, Convener, Sanskrit Advisory Board, chaired the Samvad programme.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the audience and dignitaries. He read out the citation made on Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya, on this occasion. Prof. Chandrashekhhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, heartily congratulated Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya and formally conferred the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship upon him offering the Fellowship plaque.

In his acceptance speech, Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya said that there is a difference between Purana and Kavya that we need to understand well. He added that there is everything old in Purana whereas there is everything novel and delightful in Kavya. He further said that he has written four epics. There was no Geet Mahakavya in Sanskrit, so he created the ones and began the tradition of this new genre in Sanskrit. Conferring its Fellowship upon him, Sahitya Akademi has added to his responsibilities. He also informed about his new writings, the publication of which is in the offing. Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, making concluding remarks, said that in conferring its highest honour - the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship - on such a rare scholar and litterateur, it is, in fact, Sahitya Akademi that is being honoured. At the Samvad programme, Prof. Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra said that Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya has taken the shastras to the common people which is indeed a very significant contribution of the Jagadguru. Sri Ramakant Shukla said that the Jagadguru has continued the great familial legacy of propagating Indian philosophy across the globe. Sri Ramsalahi Dwivedi said that Jagadguru's perspective to look at shastras belongs deeply to the welfare of the world.


(Dr K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary