

PRESS RELEASE

Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters – Day 4

Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters continued for the fourth day. The day started with the national seminar on *Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities*. Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan Eminent scholar delivered the inaugural address and talked about how great leaders like Gandhi and Nehru occupied the mental space of the masses. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In his presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted despite treading different paths and having different ideologies, Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar were united by their dream, vision for a progressive and prosperous India. Dr Krishnakumar, eminent scholar and educationist, presented major distinctions among the three great leaders and also how they went on to make modern India. Dr Manoj Das, eminent Odia writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, in his speech presented the need to have a spiritual understanding that these three doyens of modern India were the agents and drivers of change.

The day also witnessed a programme 'Purvottari' featuring eminent writers and poets from North-East and Northern regions of India. Eminent Assamese writer, Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora inaugurated the event.

Select Award winners were in conversation with the scholars of the language of Award winning work. The scholars and Award winners were:

Arun Khopkar with Kumar Ketkar
K.R. Meera with Meena T. Pillai
Kula Saikia with Stuti Goswami
K.V. Thirumalesh with Vivek Shanbag
Cyrus Mistry with Arshia Sattar
Volga with J.L. Reddy
Ramdarsh Mishra with Suresh Rituparna

People can view the live webcast of Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters by visiting http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/festival/webcast_2016.jsp