

February 20, 2016

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters – Day 6**

The annual Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi continued for the sixth day at the Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi on February 20, 2016.

The day started with a national level seminar on Translational Consciousness and Indian Literary Traditions at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns. Prof Indra Nath Choudhuri, distinguished Hindi scholar and former Secretary of Sahitya Akademi was the Chief Guest of the Seminar. Prof Choudhuri stated that India is a translation area. He wondered why no single critical text specifying the art or science of translation parallel to expert treatises in other fields and felt that maybe the exclusive attitude of Indians with regard to language and privilege of the speakers and their master narrative was responsible for this lacuna. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the translation activity that is inherent in the social fabric of India. He pointed in a multilingual society like India where language changes every 100 kms, it is impossible to conceive of a life without translation of one kind or the other. Crude or refined, translation always existed and was on use on a day to day basis in India. Dr Awadesh Kumar Singh, eminent Hindi scholar, delivered keynote address on various translational streams in India, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about translating cultural components of a language into another and highlighted traditional view points on translating / transporting cultural consciousness of one region into another.

The day also witnessed the continuation of the national seminar on “Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru: Continuities and Discontinuities,” for the third day. Prof Shivaprakash, Sri Purushottam Agrawal and Sri Nand Kishore chaired various sessions devoted to ‘Minority and Majority,’ ‘Culture and Education’ and ‘Religion and Democracy.’ The seminar was well attended by the faculty, research scholars and students of the educational institutions of Delhi.

Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters concluded with the last day devoted to Children and Children's Literature at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 20, 2016. Spin-A-Tale, a programme for children with cultural events, competitions for children was organized. Prizes were distributed to the winners of competitions by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.