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PRESS RELEASE

Sahityotsav, the **Festival of Letters** of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival will be held from 10th to 15th March 2022 in New Delhi.

Festival of Letters 2022 will be a part of the celebrations to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence. The events will have one or the other theme pertaining to Independence or Independence movement. At the Festival, there will be a special corner to display the books related to the India's Freedom Movement and other materials relevant to the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.

The Festival commences with the inauguration of Akademi Exhibition by **Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal**, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture on 10th March 2022 at 10 a.m. The Exhibition will showcase Akademi's achievements and seminal events held in the previous year.

26 young writers representing 24 Indian languages recognized by Akademi will participate in **"The Rise of Young India"** event to be held at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns from 10.30 a.m. on 10 March 2022. Yeshe Dorjee Thongchi, eminent Assamese writer, will inaugurate the Meet. On the same day, reputed publishers and authors representing different Indian languages will participate in the **"Panel Discussion on Publishing in Indian Languages"** at 2.30 pm. Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam, eminent writer will moderate the discussion while Dr Ranganath Pathare will be the Guest of Honour.

"Tribal Writers' Meet" will be held from 10 a.m. onwards on 11th March 2022 at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns with the representation of 24 tribal languages. Sri Akhone Asgar Ali Basharat, eminent Balti poet will inaugurate the Meet.

The prestigious **Sahitya Akademi Awards** will be presented on the 24 Award winners at 5.00 p.m. on 11th March 2022 and the presentation ceremony will be held at **Kamani Auditorium at Copernicus Marg**. Dr Bhalchandra Nemade, eminent Marathi poet and critic will be the Chief Guest at the Award Presentation Ceremony, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi will present the Awards.

All the 24 Award winners will assemble for the **"Writers' Meet"** at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns from 10 a.m. onwards on 12th March 2022 to share the creative process they underwent in writing their Award-winning titles. Award-winners in Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu will be in conversation with eminent scholars in those languages in the **"Face to Face"** programme from at 11.15 a.m.

On the same day, a symposium on **"Evolution of Plays in India since 1947"** will be inaugurated by Sri Bhanu Bharti, eminent theatre personality & Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi will preside at 2.30 pm.

The 3-day National seminar (13-15 March) on **"Impact of Literature on Indian Independence Movement"** will start at Akademi Auditorium on 13 March 2022 at 10.30 a.m. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, eminent Hindi writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, will inaugurate & Dr Harish Trivedi, eminent scholar, will deliver the keynote address. 42 eminent scholars from all over country will participate and present papers on various aspects of the impact of literature on Indian independence movement.

On the same day, a symposium on **"Fantasy & Science Fiction in Indian Languages since 1947"** will be inaugurated by Sri Devendra Mewari, eminent writer at 2.30 p.m. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, will confer **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**, highest literary honour in India, on **Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya** at 6.00 p.m. in the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns.

A Panel Discussion on "**Media & Literature**" will be organised at 10.30 a.m. on 14 March 2022. Sri Venudhar Reddy, Director General, All India Radio will inaugurate, Sri Vishwas Patil, eminent Marathi writer, will preside and Sri Rajendra Rao, Literary Editor at Dainik Jagran will be the Guest of Honour. On the same day, the President, Sahitya Akademi, will preside & Dr Vinod Joshi, eminent Gujarati poet will be the Guest of Honour at the "**Transgender Poets Meet**" which will commence at 2.30 p.m. **Dr Shashi Tharoor**, eminent English author and scholar will deliver the prestigious **Samvatsar Lecture** at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns at 6.00 pm on 14th March 2022.

"**Purvottari: North Eastern & Northern Writers' Meet**" which will commence at 11 a.m. on 15th March 2022. Dr Arun Kamal, eminent Hindi poet will inaugurate & Dr Dhruva Jyoti Borah, eminent Assamese writer will be the Guest of Honour. On the same day, Ms. Mamang Dai, eminent English writer, will inaugurate and Ms. Anita Agnihotri, eminent Bengali poet & writer will deliver keynote address at the symposium on "**Literature & Women Empowerment**" which will be held at 2.30 p.m.

Akademi's Book Exhibition will be held on all the days of the Festival from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and there will be special discount on select publications.

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasarao)