



SA.16/14

17 February 2017

PRESS RELEASE

The Annual Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi will be held from 21-26 February 2017 at Rabindra Bhavan, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi. This is the time when the Akademi gives away its annual awards for creative writing and holds its Annual Exhibition, the Samvatsar Lecture, a National Seminar on a topic of literary importance etc. The theme for this year's Festival is *Folklore and Oral Literature of India*.

- The Festival will be held from 21-26 February 2017.
- More than 200 writers/scholars from different parts of the country representing various languages are taking part in this year's festival.
- The Festival begins with the inauguration of Akademi's Exhibition by Prof. Satyavrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit Scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi.
- The Akademi is introducing a new programme this year – Seminar on Protecting Mother Tongues. Coincidentally 21 February (inaugural day of the festival) is also celebrated as International Mother Tongue Day. A number of literary personalities like Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra, Prof. S.L. Bhyrappa, Dr. Dhruba Jyoti Borah, Prof. Indra Nath Choudhuri, Prof. Udaya Narayana Singh will take part.
- The Akademi Award Presentation function will be held on 22 February 2017 at Kamani Auditorium. Prof. Jayant V. Narlikar, eminent Physicist and Marathi writer will be the chief guest.
- This year's Samvatsar Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Ramachandra Guha, eminent Scholar and Historian on "The Craft of Historical Biography" on 23 February.
- Meet the Author with Ms. Rupa Bajwa, eminent Indian-English writer on 22 February and Kavi Anuvadak with Dr. Kedarnath Singh and Prof. Harish Trivedi on 23 February.
- Yuva Sahiti: The New Harvest on 23 February with young writers from 24 different Indian languages. Dr. B. Jeyamohan, eminent Tamil writer will be inaugurating the programme and Sri Gorati Venkanna, eminent Telugu poet will be the Guest of Honour.
- Seminar on Folklore: Tellings and Retellings from 24-26 February. The seminar will be inaugurating by Prof. Manoj Das, eminent Odia writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, Dr. Tabish Khair, distinguished English writer will be the guest of honour and Dr. Jawaharlal Handoo, eminent folklorist will deliver the keynote address.



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- Purvottari: North East and Northern Writers' Meet on 24 February – writers from Northern and North Eastern languages are invited. The programme will be inaugurated by Prof. Robin Ngangom, eminent English poet.
- Tribal Writers' Meet on 25 February where writers from more than 20 tribal languages are invited.
- Spin A Tale: Children's Activities on 25 February – inauguration by Ms. Rashmi Narzary, eminent children writer followed by a Magic Show by Sri B. Kamesh, based on literature. Story and poetry writing competition for children in two age groups (8-12 & 13-17).
- National Seminar on Translation as Retelling on 26 February, will be inaugurated by Prof. Sitanshu Yashaschandra and Keynote address by Prof. Sumanyu Satpathy.
- Symposium on Unwritten Languages of India on 26 February.
- Cultural Programmes in the evening like Lai Haraoba, Mao and Kabui Dance by Jawaharlal Manipur Dance Academy, Imphal, Baul Songs by Raja Hasan, Bharatanatyam by Sandhya Purecha, Kutch Music by Kala Varso Trust etc.
- A number of eminent writers/scholars like: Pratibha Ray, Anisur Rahman, Chandraprakash Deval, H.S. Shivaprakash, Bhalchandra Nemade, Mini Krishnan, Antara Dev Sen, Bodhisatva, Sukrita Paul Kumar, Dilip Jhaveri, Uma Vasudev, Jancy James, Rakhshanda Jalil, Avadhesh Singh, H.C. Boralingaiah, Anvita Abbi, Rana Nayar are taking part.

(K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary