



साहित्य अकादेमी
Sahitya Akademi
Rabindra Bhavan
New Delhi

SA.16/14/

21 February 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Sahityotsav, Sahitya Akademi's Annual **Festival of Letters**, began with the inauguration of Sahitya Akademi Exhibition at the Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi on February 21, 2016.

The Exhibition was inaugurated by the distinguished Sanskrit Scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Prof Satyavrat Shastri. Prof Shastri recalled his long association with the Akademi and talked at length about the greatness of Indian literature. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the President, Vice President and Secretary of Sahitya Akademi in addition to the members of the Executive Board and General Council of Sahitya Akademi and staff. The theme and focus of 2017 Festival of Letters is Folk and Oral literature.

To commemorate International Mother Tongue Day, the Akademi organized a national seminar on '**Protecting Mother Tongues.**' Prof S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi inaugurated the seminar, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, chaired the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the speakers, writers and scholars participating in the seminar while Dr Dhruva Jyoti Borah, distinguished Assamese writer, delivered the keynote address. The speakers talked about the necessity to protect the mother tongues of India which are under threat due to the sweeping impact of globalization and outlined various means to restore the status of mother tongues of the country and methods to revitalize those near extinction.

Sahitya Akademi also announced winners of its Translation Prize for the year 2016 in 22 languages.

Sahitya Akademi conferred its **Bhasha Samman** on four distinguished scholars, Thupstan Paldan & Lozang Jamspal (Ladakhi), Harihar Vaishnav (Halbi) and Nirmal Minz (Kurukh), for their outstanding contributions to these languages.

In the evening, Kutch folk music was performed by Kala Varso Trust.

Sahitya Akademi Awards will be presented tomorrow, 22nd February at 5.30 p.m. in the Kamani Auditorium, 1 Copernicus Marg, New Delhi. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi will present the Awards while Dr Jayant Vishnu Narlikar, distinguished physicist and eminent Marathi writer will be the Chief Guest. The 22nd February 2017 events also feature **Meet the Author** programme with eminent Indian-English writer Ms. Rupa Bajwa and **Bharatanatyam** performance by the celebrated dancer Ms. Sandhya Purecha

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary