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साहित्य अकादेमी  
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)  
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

**All India Multilingual Poets' Meet, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti  
2 October, 2018**

Sahitya Akademi organized All India Multilingual Poets' Meet, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October, 2018 at the Akademi premises in New Delhi. Eminent poets representing 24 languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi participated in the programme. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and stated that Mahatma Gandhi took the cultural heritage and the philosophy of the land to the common masses and served as a spokesman not just of one country but of humanity as a whole." He further emphasized that not only Gandhi's speeches but his writings too impacted millions who joined the freedom movement at his exhortation. His writings covered almost every aspect of India society, politics and culture and he commented on every important subject relevant to human knowledge and action. In his introductory remarks, Sri K. Satchidanandan, eminent Malayalam writer stated that Gandhi is one who believes not in commands from above, but in dialogue among equals. The precondition for any dialogue is equality and acceptance of the other, and the readiness to be convinced and transformed by reasoned argument. He further expressed that "Gandhi's idea of truth is as something to be sought, rather than already known and arbitrary and hence pre-empts the use of violence." Smt. Padma Sachdev, Guest of honour and eminent Dogri writer said that the greatest contribution of Mahatma Gandhi was women empowerment and as a result women are excelling in almost all walks of life today. Due to his encouragement women took a significant role in freedom movement of India. She also recited her poem on Gandhiji. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi said that Gandhiji was a very special person and today he stands as a cleansing influence on us. Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi he said that "This is indeed a special day for us all in the country." He stated that the way of understanding this man and the manner in which he influenced generations of people across time and global spaces. In his valedictory remarks, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the greatness of Gandhi. He said that he was such a promising and high level of eternal qualities which can be experienced in any part of the country. Sharing his experience regarding his visit to Johannesburg, he said that for the first time he saw the influence of his personality. On this occasion a booklet containing information and poems of participating poets was released. In the three sessions of poetry recitations chaired by Sri Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Arjun Dev Charan and Sheen Kaaf Nizam respectively, eminent poets like Jivan Narah (Assamese), Rashmi Choudhary (Bodo), Dharendra Mehta (Gujarati), Ganga Prasad Vimal (Hindi), Jayant Kaikini (Kannada), Wilson Kateel (Konkani), Ajit Azad (Maithili), Rajkumar Bhubonsana (Manipuri), Chandrakant Patil (Marathi), Satrugna Pandab (Odia), Abhiraj Rajendra Mishra (Sanskrit), Vimmi Sadarangani (Sindhi), Kopparthi Venkata Ramana (Telugu), Vanita (Pujnabi) and Buddhinath Mishra (Hindi) recited their poems and interacted with other participants and audience. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor, Sahitya Akademi proposed a vote of thanks.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)