



SAHITYAAKADEMI

Festival of Letters

March 11, 2015

Press Release

Festival of Letters 2015 continued for the third day at RabindraBhawan complex on March 11, 2015. Day three started with the second edition of the Face to Face programme in which five Award winning writers, Ms.ArupaKalita (Assamese), Ramesh Chandra Shah (Hindi), Jayant Vishnu Narlikar (Marathi), Jaswinder (Punjabi) and RachaplemChandrasekhara Reddy (Telugu) were in conversation with eminent scholars of their language. They spoke about their life, creative writing, society and challenges ahead in their conversations with scholars.

The second programme of the day, YuvaSahiti: Young Writers' Meet, was inaugurated by distinguished Hindi writer and scholar, Prof Giriraj Kishore. Smt. ChitraMudgal was the chief guest. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President and Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, SahityaAkademi also spoke. In all eighteen young poets recited their poems and three young fiction writers read out their recent stories in this day long programme.

Inaugurating the meet, Prof Giriraj Kishore, who has more than 40 titles to his credit and has been decorated with many prestigious awards in his long and illustrious career, talked about the value of youth writings for a country.

He appealed to young writers not to be merely selfish and work hard and hard for

higher ideals and nation, for the benefit of many is the real benefit. He recalled the role of and ideals with which the founding fathers established the Akademi 60 years ago and felt that not only the institution but writers also should play a bigger role in keeping alive the spirit. He appealed to the President of SahityaAkademi to create and operate a TV channel given that almost all the electronic media in all the languages of India have neglected literature and it is the duty of SahityaAkademi, being India's premiere institution of Letters. He lamented the decline in the standards of literature across the country and observed that SahityaAkademi should put in more effort to improve the situation.

In the evening there was a Bharatanatyam classical dance performance by eminent dancer, Ms.GeetaChandran.

Programmes - March 12, 2015

10.00 am:

Symposium on Unwritten Languages of India, at RabindraBhawan Lawns

11.00 am:

National Seminar on *The Region and The Nation in Indian Fiction*, at Akademi Auditorium

6.00 pm:

Foundation Day Lecture by Sri S. L. Bhyrappa, at RabindraBhawan Lawns