



SA/PR/2019

31/1/2019

**Press Release**  
**Panel Discussion on Media and Literature**  
**Panel Discussion on Present Scenario of Playwriting**

**Panel Discussion on Media and Literature**

On the occasion of Festival of Letters 2019, Sahitya Akademi, organized a Panel Discussion on 'Media and Literature' at Sahitya Akademi on 1 February 2019. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, addressed the august gathering and said that in today's times authors and readers interact heavily and often shape each other's paradigms. Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi said that as someone who has worked with media like film, theatre and TV, he has always been fascinated by both the connections and the differences between the verbal and visual media. Eminent writer and journalist, Vaasanthi, chaired the discussion wherein she spoke about the decision made by literary scholars that the study in literature cannot be done while ignoring its medium of transmission. The discussant, Ravindra Tripathi, said that throughout the world, newspapers and magazines during the early phase of journalism comprised many literary genres like short-stories, fiction with reportage and profiles presented side by side. A Krishna Rao spoke about the role of Telugu literature in Telugu media and the overall impact of literature in the media. Madhusudan Anand spoke about Hindi literature and journalism which has a history of more than a 100 years. Avaniresh Awasthi said that media and literature have both encroached each other's space. Anant Vijay said that there was no problem between media and literature. He contradicted Avaniresh by saying that only a good writer can become a good journalist. Sanjay Kundan said that there is a problem between media and literature. Media works on the basis of market but literature does not.

**Panel Discussion: Present Scenario of Playwriting**

Sahitya Akademi organised a panel discussion on present scenario of playwriting as a part of the ongoing Sahityotsav. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Hindi editor, co-ordinated the programme. Dr. K. Sreenivasa Rao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, addressed the august gathering and said that the contemporary Indian drama has unearthed and produced enormous talent across the country; especially young playwrights have brought in innovation creativity in their ability to fuse technology and tradition. Dr. Ram Gopal Bajaj in his inaugural address asked how a play can be a Bengali play or Punjabi play. It is just a play written in Bengali or Punjabi. Sri Arjun Dev Charan said that a play may be written in any century but when enacted it belongs to the present. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar said the genre that appealed to him the most is drama. Beginning from being a part of his village theatre as a child, he has worked across global theatre, he said. In the panel discussion on 'Present Scenario of Playwriting', Prayag Shukla, the moderator, said that Mohan Rakesh wrote not in his language but in the language of playwriting which is different from other genres of literature. The first discussant, N. Ahanjao Meitei gave an insight on the past and the present scenario of playwriting in Manipuri language. Dharmakirti Y. Sumant, the second discussant, discussed his views about cinema, image and theatre. Comparing cinema and theatre he said that while cinema distorts the reality the latter brings light on the reality of the moment. Ajit Rai said that the present generation doesn't like traditional playwrights. Balwant Thakur spoke about the beginning of his journey into the world of theatre as an actor. Atamjit, eminent playwright, was the last discussant who started by raising a question as to how playwriting has affected the culture of Punjab.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)