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साहित्य अकादेमी  
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)  
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था  
**Sahitya Akademi**  
(National Academy of Letters)  
An Autonomous Organisation of Government of India, Ministry of Culture



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1 December 2023

**PRESS RELEASE**

'Pustakayan', Sahitya Akademi's Book Fair and Children's Corner, newly established in Sahitya Akademi Library inaugurated at the hands of Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Government of India.

Cultural Performances by the artists from CCRT

The Book Fair will last till 9th December

More than 40 publishers and 50 writers/artists will take part

**New Delhi, 1 December 2023**, Sahitya Akademi's second edition of 'Pustakayan', began today with a participation of more than 40 prominent publishers under one umbrella in its premises. The 9-day long Book Fair from 1 to 9 December 2023, from 10 am to 8 pm every day will accompany several literary programmes and cultural performances witnessing a participation of more than 50 writers/artists in different languages and from various parts of the country. At the outset, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Government of India, inaugurated the Book Fair and the Children's Corner, newly established in the Sahitya Akademi Library. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the dignitaries and the august gathering, said that the main objective of organizing this Book Fair is to promote reading culture and with this underlying thought it was organized last year too. Books are the best friends; whenever one requires they are available; they help in achieving aims, give solutions and discard unwarranted stress. He emphasized that every child should build the habit of reading. Giving highlights of the nine-day programme and the newly established Children's Corner, he also informed about the phenomenal activities undertaken by the Akademi last year with approx. 675 organized programmes and 375 published books. The Chief Guest, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, the Hon'ble Minister, appreciated the efforts of the Akademi in organizing the Book Fair and creating the Children's Corner. He opined that there is absolutely no doubt as to the importance of books in one's life. In 'Amrit Kaal' every intellectual considered that the makers of Constitution were all book lovers. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was so much fond of books that he used to buy 10-15 books every day, read till early mornings and kept notes when the Constitution was being written. It was books that helped him in writing the Constitution. He further pointed out that the books have their own value even in the era of technological development. They immensely contribute in culture and character building; help in taking decisions in the right direction. Discussing about the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra', he drew attention to Sri Narendra Modi's, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, vision of developed India by the year 2047. He considered the Akademi's Book Fair as part of that vision. In his Presidential Address, Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, felt happy to observe that the Akademi is the biggest publisher of books and the only one which deals in 24 Indian languages. Underlining the prominence of books, he said that knowledge based society can only be a developed society and this knowledge is given by books. Literature orients even Science. Further, he stated that the Book Fair serves not only as an excellent platform in developing the future but also brings together the triangle made up of readers, publishers and writers. This programme gives opportunity to meet the writers and listen to their creative journey. The programme was well attended by dignitaries such as Smt. Uma Nanduri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Smt Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, besides eminent writers, scholars, publishers and school children.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by cultural performances by artists from CCRT including Odissi Solo Dance performance by Mridula Naik and a Rajasthani Group Dance.

More than 40 publishers are taking part in the Book Fair which will continue till 9 December 2023 and shall go along with several literary and cultural programmes.

Sd/-  
(K. Sreenivasarao)