



Sahitya Akademi
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

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PRESS RELEASE

Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, participated in the Guadalajara International Book Fair at Guadalajara, Mexico. The Fair was organized from 30 November 2019 to 8 December 2019.

India was the Guest of Honour country in the 2019 edition of the Fair and it was for the first time an Asian country was made a Guest of Honour country in the history of the Fair. The National Book Trust, India was the Indian nodal agency for the Fair.

For the fair the Akademi sent a 4 member delegation, Sri Madhav Kaushik, eminent poet and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, Dr BalvantraiShantilal Jani, eminent Gujarati writer and scholar, Ms. Mamang Dai, eminent writer and scholar and Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi.

The delegation participated in a number of events during the Fair. In the first reading programme by the Indian authors, Dr K. Sreenivasarao welcomed and introduced the Indian authors, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Ms. Mamang Dai and Prof Makarand Paranjape, eminent writer and Director, IAS and in the second reading programme, Dr BalvantraiShantilal Jani, Sri LeeladharJagoori, eminent poet and Ms. Manujla Rana participated. In both the programmes, the Indian authors read from their works.

In the panel discussion on **Beyond Guest Country: Institutionalizing India-Mexico Publishing Ties**, eminent author and Director, Nehru Centre, London, Sri Amish Tripathi, delivered the keynote address, while Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Sri Santiago Ruy Sanchez, David Unger and Ms. Shrimati Das, Director, Gurudev Tagore Cultural Centre, Mexico deliberated on the topic. Dr Sreenivasarao highlighting the disparity in the scenario, stated that a well-structured roadmap is the need of the hour and provided few suggestions and the Mexican side too provided some concrete ideas.

In the programme, **Writing: Passion or Profession**, Ms. Mamang Dai, Sri Arup Kumar Dutta and Sri Amish Tripathi participated. In the panel discussion on **Bilingualism, Tri-lingualism and Multilingualism: What it means to be a writer in India**, that was moderated by Prof Makarand Paranjape, Indian authors, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Sri LeeladharJagoori and Sri Yogendra Nath Sharma participated. The programme brought out the multilingual nature of Indian cultural milieu.

In the **Symposium on Indo-Mexican Literature: Opportunities and Challenges**, Dr K. Sreenivasarao and Dr BalvantraiShantilal Jani talked about various challenges of translating Spanish literature into multiple Indian languages directly and also about exciting opportunities the collaboration on the anvil vis a vis Indo-Mexican literature.

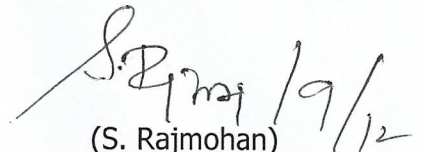
In the programme **Why Do I Write?** that was moderated by Ms. Shrimati Das, three Indian authors, Ms. Mamang Dai, Prof Makarand Paranjape and Ms. Manujla Rana participated and presented their ideas on why do they write.

In the programme, **Translation: Uniting the cultures**, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Ms. Mamang Dai and Sri LeeladharJagoori, highlighted various functions of translation, the importance and value of translation in a multilingual society like India and how translations unite various cultures.

In the programme, **My Literary Inspirations**, that was moderated by Dr BalvantraiShantilal Jani, Sri Mahdavi Kaushik talked about how literary productions and authors get inspired and also about his literary inspirations.

In the programme, **Freedom and Challenges in Literature**, that was moderated by Ms. Manjula Rana, two Indian authors, Ms. Mamang Dai and Prof Makarand Paranjape, discussed how the idea of freedom is depicted in various literatures and also about how free authors can be both in terms of expression and from the very works they create.

The Akademi delegation also held dialogues with several Spanish translators and authors.


(S. Rajmohan)
Deputy Secretary