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Sahitya Akademi

(National Academy of Letters)

REGIONAL OFFICE

Press Release

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Celebration of "International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples"

Sahitya Akademi, on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is celebrating "International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples" through a poets' meet where 75 poets from 75 Indian tribal languages will read out their poems. The programme is being organized online on 9-11 August 2021 through youtube channel.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region. He informed the audience of the UNESCO theme of 2021 which is "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract." He spoke of the adivasis as the bearers of the original tradition and culture of the soil. Language is the carrier of feelings and thoughts that's why the Adivasi poetry is chosen for celebration, he opined. Guest of Honour of the programme Dr R. Ramesh Arya, eminent scholar on Banjara language, inaugurated the programme. He stressed on the fact the the Adivasi life is based on the principle of simple and common life style. Most of its literature is in oral form. It is deeply indebted to nature and closely associated with nature as well. In his speech from the chair, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar focused on the ambivalent relationship between the forest and the city from the very beginning of the civilization. He also referred to earliest studies on the Indian tribal culture by the British. Tribal culture is in its essence antique. Unsophistication is the mark of its authenticity. But tribals all over the world are being affected by the modernity, he opined. In his concluding remarks, Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi spoke on the simpleness of the Advasi people. He also stressed on the straightforward way of thinking of Adivasi people. He also read out one of his poems entitled "Adivasi" In the poetry reading session, noted poets like Sri Sunil Gaikawad (Bhili), Sri Chaitram Nag (Duruwa), Ms. Kumuda B. (Hakkipikki), Ms Streamlet Dkhar (Khasi) and Sri Khenpo Konchok Rigzen (Ladakhi) read their poems with Hindi/English translation. The vote of thanks of the inaugural session was delivered by Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh, Regional Secretary, Sahitya Akademi Eastern Region.

The first session of the programme was chaired by eminent Bodo poet Dr Anil Kumar Bodo, Convener, Bodo Advisory Board. In the session, noted tribal poets like Sri Ch. Sote Aimol (Aimol), Sri Yeshe Namgyal Bhutia (Bhutia), Sri Shivkumar Pandey (Halbi), Sri Lanbon Kabui (Kabui), Ms Heera Meena (Meeni), Ms Sonal Rathvi (Rathvi), Sri Dorji Lunpo (Monpa) and Sri Mahemud Ahmad Tadavi (Tadvi) read their poems in original as well as in Hindi/English translation.


(Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh)
Regional Secretary



