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साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

The President, Sahitya Akademi, Sri Madhav Kaushik, opined on the resignation submitted by Dr C. Radhakrishnan, noted Malayalam writer, of his membership of Sahitya Akademi's General Council, that the information in Dr Radhakrishnan's written resignation is misleading. Dr Radhakrishnan says in his resignation that he "strongly protests against this year's Sahitya Akademi Festival of Letters having been inaugurated by a Cabinet Minister of the Government of India, a person without any known credential whatsoever in literature". Sri Madhav Kaushik firmly said that this is entirely wrong, for Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Government of India, is himself a writer. He is well versed in Rajasthani and Hindi. His publications in Hindi include *Ek Safar Humsafar Ke Sath*, *Divya Path Dampatya Ka*, *Bharatiya Mulya Va Paramparaon Ko Shashakt Karnewala Kanoon*, etc. Besides, he actively participated in many programmes in the development of Rajasthani language and extended full cooperation in various capacities for recognition of Rajasthani as an Indian language in the VIIIth Schedule of the Constitution. Moreover, as Dr Radhakrishnan wrongly informs that "this is the first time such things happened in the long chequered history of Sahitya Akademi which consistently upheld its autonomy". The fact is that many a Minister, irrespective of any political parties, have participated in the Akademi's literary programmes in the past too, and which certainly in no way violates the Akademi's autonomy.

(K. Sreenivasarao)