



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

डॉ. के. श्रीनिवासराव  
सचिव

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao  
Secretary



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

## Press release

On the launch of International Literary Festival "Unmesha: The Festival of Expression", Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Government of India, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Minister of Education, Language and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh Shri Govind Singh and Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, were present on the occasion.

6 June 2022: The colorful launch of the International Literary Festival Unmesh took place today in the main auditorium of Gaiety Heritage Complex. Honorable Minister of State for Culture, Government of India Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Govind Singh, Minister of Education, Language and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh were the chief guests of this function and Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya was present as the special guest. This international literary festival was inaugurated with a colorful accompaniment to the folk music of Himachal, traditional Indian drumming and conch sound. Honorable Union Minister of State Arjun Ram Meghwal in his inaugural address said that on the occasion of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**, we have chosen Shimla 'first' for this big event which represent our Indian culture. There are plans to organize at other places in the country as well. Hon'ble Minister for Language and Culture of Himachal Pradesh, Govind Singh said that Shimla is "Devbhoomi" and we feel proud in organizing the first International Literature Festival here. We warmly welcome all the guests from all over the country and abroad and hope that all of you will always remember our hospitality.

Jagadguru Ramanandacharya Swami Rambhadracharya, while explaining in detail the literature, stated that literature stems for the country's culture and the literary creations of the society reflect the culture and the Dharma of the time and land. The first lady of Himachal Pradesh and former Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Hon'ble Ram Naik, former Governor, Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Uma Nanduri, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, First Secretary, Sri R.D. Nazim, Himachal Pradesh, were also present in the program.

Today, altogether 20 programmes were organized at six different places in the festival. Today's main attraction was the discussion on literature and cinema, which was presided over by the eminent director, writer and lyricist Gulzar. In this session, Atul Tiwari, Goutam Ghose, Ratnottama Sengupta and Vishal Bhardwaj participated. The challenges facing LGBTQ writers were also discussed in another session, chaired by Hoshang Merchant. Today's other main attractions were Krishna Kaaliya, dance drama by Sonal Mansingh and melodious performance of Taal Badya Kacheri by Jai Bhaskar.

It is to be known that more than 425 writers, scholars, translators, filmmakers, from 15 countries including India, in this international literary festival,

Journalists and artists are participating, representing 60 languages in 64 events.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)