



Ministry of Culture
Government of India

डॉ. के. श्रीनिवासराव
सचिव

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



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

The second day of the International Literary Festival “Unmesh”
Gulzar and Deepti Naval also participated
“This Festival is a matter of pride for us” – Suresh Bhardwaj

Shimla 17th June 2022: Sri Gulzar and Smt. Deepti Naval were the attraction of the second day of the three-day international literary festival ‘Unmesh’. Music composer Vishal Bhardwaj was in conversation with lyricist Gulzar on the literary beauty of film songs. In this musical performance, Gulzar said that the way his songs are written depends on the medium for whom they are being written. He further said that when he writes for films or books, he has to go through a different emotional process. For writing film songs, he takes special care of the story, dialogues and music of the film. When he writes for himself, it is simply a direct expression of his feelings. Music Composer Vishal Bhardwaj sang several songs, in which Mayukh Sarkar, guitarist assisted him. Eminent actress Smt Deepti Naval read out some excerpts from her forthcoming book, *A Country Called Childhood: A Memoir* and recited her recent poems. In this book, she has written in detail about her childhood. She also shared her film life and other memories with the audience. She was accompanied by eminent journalist Ratnottama Sengupta in this conversation.

During the festival there were 25 programs devoted to discussions and writings were held. The main ones being the challenges before tribal writers, epics in unrecognized languages, first writing experiences by LGBTQ writers, author associations, medium of translation. Some of the major programs were the integration of cultures from the world, classical works of the world and Indian writings, media, literature and freedom movement, Bhakti literature in India and the folk songs of Himachal Pradesh.

In the evening there was a cultural program of Nagada Vadan, at Ridge Area, which was performed by the famous Nagada player Nathu Lal Solanki and his troupe. Dr. K Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, felicitated the Urban Development and Law Minister and MLA of the State Sri Suresh Bhardwaj and Additional Chief Secretary Finance, Himachal Pradesh Government Sri Prabodh Saxena by presenting *Angavastram* and bouquets. The Hon'ble Minister said that it was a matter of proud that the Sahitya Akademi and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India chose Shimla, Himachal Pradesh to organize this international literary festival. Welcoming all the litterateurs who visited to Shimla, he said that your thoughts will inspire the writers and the younger generation of Himachal Pradesh.

Tomorrow, 18 June 2022, will be the last day of the festival which will be concluded with 23 programmes and performance of the eminent “Dastango” Mahmood Farooqui’s *Dastan-e-Karn Aan Mahabharata*.

(K. Sreenivasarao)