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Press Release

Sahitya Akademi's Translators' Meet & Abhivyakti Programmes
13 July 2024, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, organised **Translator's Meet and Abhivyakti** programmes on 13 July 2024 at the Auditorium, Sahitya Akademi's Regional Office, Opposite Kalagrama, Old Outer Ring Road, Jnanajyothi Nagar, Bengaluru – 560056.

Translator's Meet began at 10.00 a.m. Sahitya Akademi's Translation Prize 2023 winners shared their creative experiences of translating the prize-winning books. The speeches mainly described their journey as translators, nuances and sensibilities of translating the literary classics.

The Translation Prize - 2023 winners who delivered their speeches were Lakkshajyoti Gogoi Handique (Assamese), Mrinmoy Pramanick (Bengali), Ambikagiri Hajowary (Bodo), Sushma Rani (Dogri), Minal Jayantilal Dave (Gujarati), Rita Rani Paliwal (Hindi), K.K. Gangadharan (Kannada), Gulzar Ahamad Rather (Kashmiri), Sunetra Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Menaka Mallik (Maithili), P.K. Radhamani (Malayalam), Laishram Somorendro (Manipuri), Chhatraman Subba (Nepali), Bangali Nanda (Odia), Jagdish Rai Kulrian (Punjabi), Nagaratna Hegde (Sanskrit), Veer Pratap Murmu (Santali), Bhagwan Babani 'Bando' (Sindhi), Kannaiyan Daknamurthy (Tamil), Surendra Nagaraju 'Elanaaga' (Telugu), Mohammad Ahsan 'Ahsan Ayyubi' (Urdu).

Translation prize in English was a posthumous one conferred on Late Nabaneeta Dev Sen (English), Abhay Sadavarte (Marathi) and Bhanwar Lal 'Bhramar', Rajasthani translation prize winners could not attend the programme.

Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi presided over the meet. In her presidential address, she thanked all the translation prize winners who shared their creative experiences. Also, she stated that Sahitya Akademi is building cultural bridge between different languages by publishing the translations of literary masterpieces. She highlighted that the process of translation aids in developing inter-relation between two different languages. Translators are basically avid readers and demonstrate their skills in re-creating the literary classics from one language into another. The role of translators never ends. They are the cultural ambassadors of the languages.

The inaugural session of the **Abhivyakti** programme began at 2.00 p.m. in the afternoon. **Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi** delivered welcome address. He stated that Abhivyakti represents all kinds of creative and performing expressions. All forms of literature are a process of Abhivyakti. Expressions lead to newer ideas. A collective effort from humankind will help to promote literary traditions among the masses.

Dr. Manu Baligar, well-known Kannada writer and Member, General Council of Sahitya Akademi delivered his introductory remarks. He said that Abhivyakti is nothing but freedom of expression or Abhivyakti Swatantra. The primitive stages of human expressions lead to oral and written traditions. He quoted one of the Vachanas of Basavanna, a great Kannada saint poet wherein he advocated freedom of being a poet in expressing his thoughts and philosophies.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the presidential address. He informed that being a writer one cannot write if he or she does not bear compassion for others pain. Before independence, we did not have freedom but our writings upheld freedom of expression. But after getting independence, our writings became silent. Writers always respond to immediate changes and happenings, which is a part of Abhivyakti. The poetic and oral traditions of India is unique and magnanimous. One's Abhivyakti should promote human welfare.

Sri Vivek Shanbhag, eminent Kannada writer graced the occasion as the Chief-guest. In his address, he pointed out that freedom of thinking is very important is a major part of Abhivyakti or expression. Restrictions in society become an eye-opener for a poet and make him to express in the form of metaphors, images etc. The present writers have to work hard, must always engage with language, reading and contemporary knowledge. Kannada as a language has absorbed the essences of global changes. And thus I prefer to write in Kannada and love the language.

Sri Pranab Kumar Barman, Assamese Poet, Dr. H.S. Venkateshamurthy, Kannada poet and Sri Antony Barkur, Konkani poet recited their poems.

Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi delivered her concluding remarks. She said that writers collect many ideas and thoughts before expressing anything. Any literary work of art fails in its mission if it does not hold a vision or a purpose. It must carry human sensibilities and must be true to itself. Humanity always exists and propagates through our writings.

The First Session- Poets' Meet began at 4.00 p.m.. Dr. H.S. Shiva Prakash, eminent Kannada poet, writer and playwright chaired the session. The confluence of poets represented by Dr Arnab Saha (Bengali), Ms. Maithreyi Karnoor (English), Sri Devendra Mewari (Hindi), Ms. Deepadamalli (Deepa K.) (Kannada), Sri Sebastian (Malayalam), Sri R.K. Bhubon Singh (Manipuri), Sri Surya Mishra (Odia), Sri Janardana Hegde (Sanskrit), Ms. Rashmi Ramani (Sindhi), Sri B. Baskaran (Tami), Ms. Ambika Ananth (Kannada), Sri Maher Mansoor (Urdu) recited their poems and its English translation respectively.

Esteemed media houses are requested to kindly publish / telecast / broadcast the press release.

Sd/-
(K. Sreenivasarao)