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Press Release

All India Tribal Writers' Meet

9-10 August 2022, Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, Kolkata

Yesterday, All India Tribal Writers' Meet was organized by Sahitya Akademi, on the occasion of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at the Sahitya Akademi Auditorium, 4, D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700025. The meet was inaugurated by Professor Damayanti Beshra, eminent Santali writer and Padmashree awardee. Sri Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, Sri Madan Mohan Soren, Sri Laxman Gaikwad, Dr K. Sreenivasarao and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Sessions with discussions, poetry reading and short story reading were organized.

Today, on the second day, the title of the fourth session was "Writings by Women in Indian Indigenous Languages". In the session, noted writers and scholars like Ms Pushpa Gavit, Ms Vandana Tete, Ms Chukey Bhutiya and Ms Dhanya Vengachery presented papers with Ms Ushakiran Atram in the chair. Ms Chukey Bhutiya spoke on the lack of translation of Adivasi writings. She spoke in detail about the life and works of major North Eastern tribal writers of India. Ms Pushpa Gavit spoke on the literary writings on the women writers belonging to the tribes of Maharashtra. Ms Dhanya Vengachery spoke on the marginalization of tribal culture. She referred to important women tribal writers of Kerala. She also spoke on the encroachment of tribal lands as well as other resources. Ms Vandana Tete spoke on the traditional knowledge systems of tribals which helped them in times of natural disasters. She regretted the fact the many tribals are abandoning their traditional culture and embracing the mainstream dominant cultures now-a-days. Ms Ushakiran Atram, while speaking from the chair, focused on the tribal folk literature as well as different types of songs for different types of life-events. She informed the audience that in Adivasi society, derogatory words are not used while referring to the women. She threw light on the difference between tribal culture and other mainstream dominant cultures. In the fifth session, Roshan Ramdas Jambu (Korku), Lanbon Kabui (Kabui), Ananda Gopal Hansda (Mahali), Salomi Ekka (Mundari), Shanti Moyee Chiran (Garó), Sajjad Ali Shujaat (Purgi) and Altaf Salim Tadavi (Tadavi) read out poems in Hindi/English translations with Vasamalli K. (Toda) in the chair. In the sixth session, papers were presented on the topic of "Preservation and Development of Indian Indigenous Languages" by noted scholars like Sri Wichamdinbo and Ms Jaincy John with Ms Damayanti Beshra in the chair. Sri Wichamdinbo spoke on the notions of preservation, documentation, maintenance and revitalization. He stressed on the importance of grammarians and collectors of indigeneous texts. Ms Jaincy John spoke on the tribal languages of Kerala. She focused on the cultural performance of the tribals of Kerala. She opined that usage of tribal languages should be increased. Sri Roshan Chaudhari (Chaudhari) and Sri Subodh Hansdah spoke on the occasion as well. They also informed the audience of their experiences in this regard. In the seventh session, noted poets like Paominson Khongsai (Khongsai), K. Lalnunzama (Mizo), Dhaniram Tisso (Karbi), Satyajit Toto (Toto) and Rajeshwari (Hakkipikki) read out poems in Hindi/English translations with Gosa Painter (Pawari) in the chair. On both of the days, Sahitya Akademi books were exhibited and were available for sale.

We request you to kindly publish the matter through your esteemed media.


(Dr Devendra Kumar Devesh)