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

Literary Forum
19 April 2022

Sahitya Akademi organized a **Literary Forum** programme at 5.30 p.m. today at Akademi's Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi in which three eminent writers in English - Smt. Namita Gokhale, Prof. Malashri Lal and Dr. Deepa Agarwal participated. Prof. Malashri Lal and Dr. Deepa Agarwal were in conversation with Smt. Namita Gokhale with particular reference to Smt. Gokhale's three books - *The Blind Matriarch* (contemporary fiction); *Betrayed by Hope* (Play); and *Things to Leave Behind* (Sahitya Akademi award-winning Novel).

At the outset, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi welcomed the three guest speakers with the angvastram and a packet of Sahitya Akademi publications. He briefly spoke about the narrative of the books of Namita Gokhale.

On Dr. Deepa Agarwal's asking Smt. Namita Gokhale as to what is the strong impetus that drove you to write this book, Smt. Gokhale recounted her early childhood days and thereafter the period when she used to visit different libraries in her native place, read oral histories, books of folklores and folk tales and her wish to record all these on paper so that people should also know about these rare treasure that must be preserved as heritage. She also mentioned that she grew up in Nainital and remembered her late father and said he had written *Kumaon Ka Itihas*. Prof. Malashri Lal said that there is lot of local and global in Namitaji's award-winning book, *Things to Leave Behind*. She also talked the versatility of Namita's books. Ms. Vani read some of the excerpts from this book. The discussion included observations and comments from Prof. Malashri Lal and Dr. Deepa Agarwal on her three books - *The Blind Matriarch*, which is a story of a blind old woman, *Betrayed by Hope* and *Things to Leave Behind*. Her books depicts birds speak, intuitions, relationship between man and nature, trees, rivers, mountains and nature in all its glory. The programme was moderated by Sri Rajmohan, Publication Incharge and concluded with question-answer session at the end.


(K. Sreenivasarao)