



## **Press Release**

**Online discussion organized by Sahitya Akademi titled Reading Literature: New Directions**

**Anant Vijay: Writers should ensure that their works celebrate and express the hopes and aspirations of the young**

**Balendu Sharma 'Dadheech' - Digital media democratise the production and dissemination of literature**

**New Delhi, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2021;** On the occasion of the celebration of the National Book Week, a symposium titled Reading Literature: New Directions was organized by Sahitya Akademi. Anant Vijay, Eminent journalist; Sanjay Dwivedi, Director IIMC; Balendu Sharma 'Dadheech', senior technology professional; Pankaj Chaturvedi, editor and writer of books for children; participated in the discussion held on a virtual platform. Anupam Tiwari, Hindi editor, Sahitya Akademi, and the convenor of the symposium, read out the welcome address written by K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. Dr. Rao emphasised the role the new media can play in promoting the habit of reading among the young and would enable them to explore new worlds of experience. Rajesh Kumar Vyas expressed the view that it would be wrong to say that new technologies have made textbooks available on a wider scale. However, in his opinion, it would be wrong to say that this has reduced reading habits of the people. Commenting on the tendency to present a few books as best-sellers in the social media, he observed that in the world of books, the good ones ultimately prevail. Therefore, such ways of promoting books lead nowhere. Sri Sanjay Dwivedi said that books bring us hope in times of crisis; therefore, they will never lose their relevance. He added that efforts should be made to extend access to books. He also stressed the need for strengthening and improving libraries.

Balendu Sharma 'Dadheech' remarked that new technologies have led to the rise of a new readership and new ways of reading. Referring to figures relating internet and mobile phones, he stated that even lay readers have found access to the world of literature, which for its part has expanded, too. Digital media have democratised literature and made it possible for literature to cross national frontiers. Focussing on children's literature, Pankaj Chaturvedi remarked that these days, children are no strangers to technology, therefore, there is need to provide them with new kind of exciting reading experience. Smt. Gitashree said that along with children's literature emphasis should be laid on popularising and enriching non-fiction genres. She further observed that writers should work towards creating a new readership. In Anant Vijay's view, writer's work should display variety and diversity and avoid being driven by an agenda. He further added writers should ensure that their works celebrate and express the hopes and aspirations of the young.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)