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PRESS RELEASE

Young Writers' Meet

Sahitya Akademi organized a Young Writers' Meet on 31 October 2019 at Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi in which budding writers representing north Indian languages participated.

At the outset, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Sri Asghar Wajahat, eminent writer, playwright and scholar, and Dr Aziz Hajini, Convenor of Sahitya Akademi's Kashmiri Advisory Board. In his welcome address, Dr K. Sreenivasarao mentioned that young people are the wealth of any nation on this earth, and their contributions make them the assets of all civilizations. He also mentioned the various initiatives the Akademi has taken to promote young writers, like the Navodaya, Yuva Sahiti and travel grants amongst many others.

Delivering the Introductory Remarks, Dr Aziz Hajini said that one should never forget one's mother tongue and that although it is quite popular to cater to the market's literary demands, it is rare to find a literary creation which is relevant in all ages. Sri Asghar Wajahat applauded Sahitya Akademi's efforts to organize such events for the young writers and providing them a platform where they can present their works. He congratulated the participants and wished them luck for their future. The inaugural session also saw a poetry reading by Ms Nikita Parik (English) and a short story reading by Dr Amiya Bindu (Hindi).

The first session, which was dedicated to poetry readings, was chaired by Sri Chander Bhan Khayal, eminent Urdu poet, journalist and literary critic. Poems were read by Sri Gopal Singh (Dogri), Dr Gaurav Pandey (Hindi), Ms Shamima Tabassum (Kashmiri) and Dr Anushree Rathore (Rajasthani). The second and last session, devoted to short story readings was chaired by Sri Avtar Krishan Rehbar, eminent Kashmiri writer. Sri Rehbar enunciated how we have cut off our roots by neglecting important Indian languages like Sanskrit. Stories were presented by Ms Kuntala Sengupta (English), Sri Gurmeet Arif (Punjabi), Dr Rajkumar Mishra (Sanskrit) and Dr Shahnaz Rahman (Urdu).


(K. Sreenivasarao)