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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था

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PRESS RELEASE

**The world's Largest Literature Festival 2024 organized by Sahitya Akademi begins tomorrow
Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal will inaugurate
More than 1000 writers and scholar will participate in the 6-day festival**

New Delhi, Monday, 10 March 2024, Sahitya Akademi, the National Academy of Letters, is completing its 70 years this year. To make this occasion memorable, the Festival of Letters celebrated every year by the Akademi is being held this time as the world's largest literature festival, which will be inaugurated on 11 March 2024 by Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Government of India.

More than 1100 renowned writers and scholars are participating in more than 190 sessions in this literary festival being organized from 11 to 16 March 2024 at Rabindra Bhawan Complex, 35, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001. More than 175 languages of the country will also be represented in it. The festival will begin with the exhibition of the major activities of the Akademi throughout the year, which will be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture, Sri Arjun Ram Meghwal at 10.00 a.m. Various programmes including Multilingual short storyreading, North-Eastern writers' Meet, Multilingual Poets' Meet, Yuva Sahiti and LGBTQ Writers' Meet, besides Panel Discussion on Bhakti Literature of India, will be held in the Auditoriums built in the name of Indian saints, from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Subjects like theatre as a medium of cultural expression, ideology and literature, issues related to translation of children's literature in India, literature and women empowerment, technology and literature etc. will be discussed. Some of the important writers participating in this festival are - Asghar Wajahat, Arjun Deo Charan, Surya Prasad Dixit, Navtej Sarna, Bratya Basu, Ashok Chakradhar, Waman Kendre, Sandhya Purecha, Bhanu Bharati, Oscar Pujol, Kumar Tuhin, Tapan Bandyopadhyay, Paro Anand, Sujata Prasad, Varsha Das, Yatindra Mishra and many more.

The highlight of the literary festival will be the presentation ceremony of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023, which will be held on March 12 at 5.30 p.m. in the Kamani Auditorium. The Chief Guest of this award presentation ceremony will be renowned Odia writer, Pratibha Rai. The prestigious Samvatsar, lecture will be delivered by the renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar on March 13 at 6.30 p.m. at the Meghdoot Open Theatre. On March 11, Fellows of the Sahitya Akademi will also be felicitated. The topic of this year's national seminar is - Post-Independence Indian Literature. Apart from this, important programmes like All India Differently Abled Writers' Meet, Birth Tercentenary Seminar on Mir Taqi Mir, a Symposium on the Life and Works of Gopi Chand Narang will also be organized. Painting competitions, literary quizzes and many other competitions are also being organized for Delhi and NCR children. More than 1000 children are expected to participate. Under the cultural programmes, Bharatnatyam by Rajashree Warriar, a special program 'Kasturi' to pay tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Santwani Gayan by Mahesha Ram and Group, and the play 'Samrat Ashok' written by Dayaprakash Sinha will also be staged.

Some important writers and scholars of Hindi and various Indian languages participating in this literary festival are - S.L. Bhyrappa, Chandrashekhhar Kambar, Paul Zacharia, Abid Surti, K. Satchidanandan, Chitra Mudgal, Mridula Garg, K. Enoch, Mamang Dai, H.S. Shivaprakash, Sachin Ketkar, Namita Gokhale, Kula Saikia, Y.D. Thongchi, Malashri Lal, Kapil Kapoor, Arundhati Subramaniam, Rakhshanda Jalil, Rana Nayar, Varsha Das, Sudha Seshayyan, Udaya Narayana Singh, Arun Khopkar, Sheen Kaaf Nizam etc. Hon'ble Governors of three states - Sri Arif Mohammed Khan (Kerala), Sri Biswabhusan Harichandan (Chhattisgarh), Sri C.V. Ananda Bose (West Bengal) will also grace the occasion by their illuminating participation.

(K. Sreenivasarao)