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सचिव  
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Secretary

साहित्य अकादेमी  
(नेशनल अकादेमी ऑफ़ लेटर्स)  
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था  
Sahitya Akademi  
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### PRESS RELEASE

The annual Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi commenced on February 12, 2018 at Rabindra Bhavan in New Delhi. Smt. Chitra Mudgal, eminent Hindi writer and scholar, inaugurated the Akademi exhibition to symbolically kick start the Festival. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, presented the achievements of the Akademi during 2017.

The General Council of Sahitya Akademi, in its 88<sup>th</sup> Meeting, elected two distinguished litterateurs of India, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar and Dr Madhav Kaushik, as President and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi. Their tenure is for the period of five years between 2018 and 2022.

On the evening of 12<sup>th</sup>, Sahitya Akademi presented annual Akademi awards to Award winners in 23 languages at a glittering ceremony at Kamani auditorium in New Delhi.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Award winners, President, Vice President, General Council Members of the Akademi, dignitaries and media personalities. He thanked and recalled the stellar service rendered by the outgoing President, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari. He observed that though these Awards would seem, prima facie, recognition for a particular work, actually these Awards are only honoring of a long and rich literary traditions from which the Award winners and their works hail.

In his Presidential address, Dr K. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi, stated that he was very happy to be participating in the Award function. He added that his primary duty is to elevate the Akademi to greater heights and he will strive to at least match the performance of Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, former President, Sahitya Akademi.

Sri Kiran Nagarkar, distinguished writer and scholar was the Chief Guest at the function heartily congratulated the Awardees and shared the details of his childhood, adult life and the process of creative writing.

Dr Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, delivered the concluding remarks. In his speech, he stressed on the need for unity and how unity – among the communities of the nation, institutions etc – is bound to deliver success. He acknowledge the contributions of Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari to the development of literature and one should learn from him and work together for the success of all writers and literature itself. A cultural performance of Kuchipudi Dance Drama followed the Award presentation.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)