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

Meet & Interact with your favourite Children Writer - Asad Raza
Bal Sahiti (a programme of Readings)
and
Cultural programme - Azadi Ke Rang Bal Kalakaron Ke Sang

New Delhi, Friday, 18 November 2022, the eighth and concluding day of Sahitya Akademi's Book Fair *Pustakayan* highlighted two programmes - *Meet & Interact With Your Favourite Children Writer - Asad Raza* and a programme of Readings, titled *Bal Sahiti* followed by a cultural programme. The first programme with noted children's writer in Urdu, Asad Raza, started with reading one of his short stories based on Indian Parliament. Expressing his views on children literature, he said children do not have very encouraging access to children's magazines, talked about the rising cost of production of children's books and magazines and parent's lacklustre response to get their children these books in addition to school books prescribed in their syllabus. He urged the children, especially those who aspire to be a writer, to inculcate the habit of writing diary regularly.

The second programme - *Bal Sahiti* had a Reading session in which the speakers (all children writers) were - Disha Grover, Ghamandi Lal Agrawal, Rishi Raaj, Suryanath Singh, Vedmitra Shukla and Velu Saravanan who presented their poems and short stories.

In the beginning of the programme Suryanath Singh presented his story *Bhulakkad Bhulai Kaka*, Disha Grover recited some of her poems, titled - *Shabdon Ki Shararat, Mera Basta, Jisne Ye Padhai Banai, Jee Chahe Jab Maje Se* and *Machchar*. Vedmitra Shukla, another popular children writer presented his poems *Bandar Mama* and *Metro Rail*. Rishi Raj recited his story based on Captain Anuj Naiyyar who sacrificed his life for the nation in Kargil War in 1999. Velu Saravanan came up with a live performance for children. Ghamandi Lal Agrawal recited some of his poems - *Ginati, Joker, Gadha, Daant* etc. The programme was chaired by Yogendra Dutt Sharma. In his concluding remarks, he said children literature has not been given its due place that it deserves, though now the situation is improving. He also presented his poems - *Hawa Se, Gappu, Chidiya, Bandar* and a few more. The children greatly enjoyed both these sessions. Sri Anupam Tiwari, Editor (Hindi), Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the speakers with a packet of books and angvastram and also briefly introduced them in the beginning of the programme.

(K. Sreenivasarao)