GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023
SALIENT FEATURES OF SAHITYOTSAV

4215. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently organized a literature festival 'Sahityotsav';
(b) if so, the details thereof and the events organised in the said festival;
(c) the salient features of the 'Sahityotsav' festival and the status of participation by various States;
(d) the measures taken by the Government for encouraging participation in the literary field; and
(e) whether such literary festivals are being organised on a regular basis in the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM & DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G.KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Yes sir. Literature festival 'Sahityotsav' was organized by the Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous body working under M/o Culture.

(b) The festival was organized from 11 March to 16 March 2023 at Rabindra Bhawan, Firozeshah Road in New Delhi. The list of events organized in the said festival is annexed as annexure-I.

(c) The salient features of the festival are as follows:

➢ The theme of the festival was Indian Literature and Unity of Culture
➢ More than 40 programmes were held
➢ More than 400 writers, critics, poets, translators, publishers, diplomats, media personalities and eminent personalities from various walks of life participated.
➢ 5-member Kazakh delegation participated in the festival under Indo-Kazak Cultural Exchange Programme
➢ All the 24 Indian languages recognized by Sahitya Akademi were represented in the festival apart from the oral and tribal languages of India.

(d) For encouraging participation in the literary field, the Government regularly organizes literary meets, zonal, national and international literature festivals, publish literary books, organize/participate in the book fairs and also accords awards to senior writers, young writers, translators, writers of children's books etc.

(e) Yes sir, since 1985, Sahityotsav is organized annually by Sahitya Akademi. In addition, Government organizes literature festivals throughout the country at different occasions. For instance, in 2022, Unmesha, International Literature Festival, as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', was held in Shimla where more than 400 national and international writers/literature experts had participated.

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The events organized in the "Sahityotsav" Festival, 2023 are as under:

- Sahitya Akademi Awards Presentation
- Bhasha Samman Presentation in the field of Classical and Medieval Literature and unrecognized languages
- Yuva Sahiti: Rise of Young India
- Multilingual Poets' Meet
- Asmita
- North East and Southern Writers' Meet
- Multilingual Short Story Readings
- Awardees' Meet, where the award winners shared their experiences as a writer
- Panel Discussion on Diplomacy and Literature
- People and Books with Sri Sunil Kant Munjal
- Samvatsar Lecture by Justice Sri Dipak Misra, former Chief Justice of India
- North Eastern and Northern Writers' Meet
- Face to Face
- Panel Discussion on Art of Translation
- Panel Discussion on World of Letters and My Art
- Panel Discussion on Education and Creativity
- Tribal Writers' Meet
- All India Poets' Meet on the theme of "One Earth. One Family. One Future"
- Panel Discussion on Playwriting
- LGBTQ Writers' Meet
- Nari Chetna
- Meet the Author with Usha Kiran Khan
- 3-day National Seminar on Memories of Epics, Indian Independence Movement and Nation Building
- Panel Discussion on Media and Literature
- North Eastern and Western Writers' Meet
- Kathasandhi with Abdul Samad
- Panel Discussion on Digital Publishing
- Panel Discussion on Cinema and Literature
- Panel Discussion on Epics of Tribal Communities of India
- Indo-Kazakh Writers' Meet
- Spin a Tale (Story Writing Competition, Poetry Writing Competition and Drawing Competition for children)
- Panel Discussion on Indian Literature Abroad
- Panel Discussion on Literature and Women Empowerment