



UNMESHA

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Culture** and [Sahitya Akademi](#) are organizing **Unmesha**, an **International Literature Festival** in Shimla as part of [Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav](#) celebrations, with the support of the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

- With over 425 writers, poets, translators, critics and distinguished personalities from various walks of life from 15 countries including India, representing over 60 languages and 64 events, UNMESHA is the **largest literature festival in the country**.

What is Sahitya Akademi?

- The Sahitya Akademi was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12th March, 1954.
- Though it was set up by the Government, the Akademi functions as an **autonomous organisation**. It was **registered as a society** in January 1956, under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Sahitya Akademi, **India's National Academy of Letters**, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the **only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English**.
- Akademi **gives 24 awards annually** to literary works in the languages it has recognized and an equal number of awards to literary translations from and into the languages of India, both after a year-long process of scrutiny, discussion and selection.
- It also undertakes **literary exchange programmes with various countries** across the globe to promote Indian literature.
- The Sahitya Akademi **award is the second-highest literary honour** by the Government of India, after the [Jnanpith award](#).

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