

Abstract

Title: Role of Literary Festivals in the Distribution and Reception of Literature in India

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Ensuring the reach of written literature to the farthest people hasn't been for various practical reasons a mission of the litterateur-publisher fraternity; though it is in the interest of both. Events focused on individual authors/poets have been happening since quite some time. But, it's only in the last two-three decades that events covering innumerable authors and publishers have started happening across the world. Poets and authors from various parts of the world assemble at one point (a city – big or small) to share and read from their writing directly to a lot of people who may or may not be interested in their writing. Such a congregation of poets and authors is often termed as literary (literature/ poetry/ reading/ writer's etc.) festival.

India which has the second largest population in the world, and for obvious reasons prides itself with a distinct diversity and wealth of literature, still has a huge population which is not engaged in the appreciation of literature. Nevertheless it has a critical mass which produces, appreciates and consumes literature. In such a country nearly sixty literary festivals are held every year across the length and breadth of its vastness. Among them, just to name one, is the Jaipur Literary Festival which is probably the largest, yet 'free and open to all' festival. In such a situation, literary festivals assume an important role in the distribution and reception of literature.

This paper proposal is intended to appraise the role of literary festivals in the distribution and reception of literature in India. In doing so, the paper does not wish to present an empirical picture; it would rather put the exiting voices on this topic into a perspective and draw a critical analysis whereby literary festivals may also be called glocal places of literature.

About the Author: Chandrika Kumar (M.Phil.) is an Assistant Professor of German at Doon University, Dehradun. He studied German language, literature and philosophy at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is working on his doctoral thesis. His areas of interest are German Literature of the period around 1800, Contemporary German Literature, Comparative Literature and Genre Studies.
