Kozhikode: Spiritual guru Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev, who has been awarded the Padma Vibhushan this year, said that revolting against an elected government soon after it came to power is against the spirit of democracy.

“Do not underestimate the power of democracy. Once people elect somebody just bow down to that person and give him four or five years,” he said.

Asking the person to step down the next day is not a right move in democracy, Sadhguru added. “There are thousands of loopholes in the democratic process, but if you destroy the system what we will get may be worse than this,” he said.

Shashi Kumar expressed the concern over the increasing religiosity in the public sphere and clout commanded by new age gurus who define a new cult of spirituality.

People in India had an organic concept of religion but it is being changed by the gurus who are catering to the middle class and upper middle class. These market-branded, corporatized gurus are creating confusion among the people, he said. Actor Manju Warrier also participated in the discussions after Shashi Kumar’s sessions. Earlier, writer Paul Zachariah inaugurated the festival. A Pradeep, Kumar, MLA, Dr V Venu, principal secretary, tourism and others spoke.

An interactive session between Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan with writer M Mukundan will be the highlight Kerala Literature Festival on Saturday.

A major attraction of the festival is the exhibition of the political cartoons of O V Vijayan.

Around 300 writers including Ramila Thapar, Ramachandra Guha, Sudhir Kakkar, Shashi Tharoor, M T Vasudevan Nair, T Padmanabhan, N S Madhavan, Sethu and others will take part in the festival.