



2016

साहित्योत्सव festival of letters

15-20 February 2016



SAHITYA AKADEMI *Newsletter*

Daily News Bulletin

Wednesday, 17 February 2016

Sahitya Akademi Awards Presentation

Sahitya Akademi, India's Premier Literary Institution, presented Sahitya Akademi Awards to writers in 24 languages at a glittering ceremony in FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium in New Delhi on February 16, 2016. Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi was the Chief Guest at the function while Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented the Awards to the writers. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, eminent playwright and Vice President of Sahitya Akademi and Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi also attended the presentation ceremony.



In his welcome speech, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, stated that the Akademi is a home of writers and for the writers. He highlighted various details and Akademi's achievements to point out how Akademi has been rendering literary service to the nation with writers at the core. He reiterated that the Akademi will always stand by the writers of all kinds.



In his Presidential address, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the greatness of Indian literature in all its forms and urged the fellow nationals to give up aping colonial civilizations. He provided a number of examples to prove that even minor languages of India are much richer than the ones of Europe or America or Africa. Dr Tiwari said it is through literature can unity be achieved and communal & dividing elements can be defeated. Dr Tiwari said he is proud to be associated with the Akademi which is rendering selfless and yeomen literary service to the nation by preserving and propagating all the Indian literary traditions and in 24 recognized languages and also in minor languages and dialects of India.



Today's Programme

Writers' Meet : Award winning writers' will share their experiences ● **Yuva Sahiti** : Young Writers' Festival
Samvatsar Lecture : Dr Chandrasekhar Dharmadhikari



In his speech, the Chief Guest Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, applauded Sahitya Akademi for carrying out literary service in all the 24 recognized languages and observed that Sahitya Akademi is the premier democratic literary institution that promotes writers and to the best of his knowledge no other organization does it. He highlighted the resonance across cultures, from Lao Tze, Bedil, Ghalib & opined that all espouse the same thought and principle. Dr Narang said God has given us beautiful earth but we humans have divided it on the basis of language and religion. Language binds but also causes schisms and it divides. Dr Narang observed that it is the responsibility of the writers to unite the humanity through language and literature. Dr Narang concluded by alluding to the grey area between darkness and light with written word and unwritten language and said that writing is the grey area between darkness and

light and more than the written word it is the unwritten, unspoken word that carries higher meaning.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, read out the citations and Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the Awards. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar honored the Awardees and also thanked all the dignitaries and media friends.



List of Award Winners

Assamese	Kula Saikia	Kashmiri	Basir Bhadarwahi	Punjabi	Jaswinder Singh
Bengali	Alok Sarkar	Konkani	Uday Bhembre	Rajasthani	Madhu Acharya 'Ashawadi'
Bodo	Birendra Kumar Bodo	Maithili	Man Mohan Jha	Sanskrit	Ram Shanker Awasthi
Dogri	Dhian Singh	Malayalam	K. R. Meera	Santali	Rabi Lal Tudu
English	Cyrus Mistry	Manipuri	Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh	Sindhi	Maya Rahi
Gujarati	Rasik Shah	Marathi	Arun Khopkar	Tamil	Aa. Madhavan
Hindi	Ramdaras Mishra	Nepali	Gupta Pradhan	Telugu	Volga
Kannada	K.V. Thirumalesh	Odia	Bibhuti Pattanaik	Urdu	Shamim Tariq

Salient Features of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015

- Twenty one Men and Three Women won the Awards.
- Seven poetry collections, six collections of short stories, four novels, five collections of essays / criticism and two plays won the Award.

Sahitya Akademi Announces Conferment of Fellowships

Sahitya Akademi announced on February 15, 2016 that it will confer Sahitya Akademi Fellowships, its highest honor on two distinguished litterateurs of India, **Prof Gurdial Singh** and **Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty**. Exact date of conferment will be announced later. Sahitya Akademi Fellowships are normally bestowed on best of the best immortals of Indian literature with the rider that at any given point of time the number of Sahitya Akademi Fellows shall not exceed twenty-one.

Prof. Gurdial Singh is an eminent Punjabi writer and novelist. He was born on 10 January 1933 in Bhaini Fateh. He started his literary carer in 1957 with a short story "Bhaganwale" which was published in *Panj Darya*. He rose to popularity with the publication of his novel *Marhi Da Deeva* in 1964 and later in 1989 a film based on the novel also came out. He has 37 publications to his credit which include ten novels, eleven collections of short stories, three plays, two prose works and nine books for children. He has also translated more than 30 works into Punjabi. He is the recipient of various prestigious award and honors such as Padma Shri, Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award, Shiromani Sahitkar Award, Punjab Sahitya Akademi Award among others.

Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty is an eminent Bengali poet. Born in 1924, Sri Chakravarty pursued journalism to begin with and was the editor of the children's fortnightly *Anandamela*. Chakravarty is one of the distinguished 'modern' poets of Bengal. Felicity of expression and perspicacity of diction are among the main traits of his compositions distinguishing him from the rest of his tribe. His principal works include *Nil Nirjan*, *Andhakar Baranda*, *Kolkatar Jish*, *Shreshtha Kavita* and *Ulanga Raja*. He was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for *Ulanga Raja*. He is also an eminent translator and has translated a number of children's works and poetry into Bengali.



Interaction of Award Winners with Media



Winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015 met and interacted with the representatives of various media houses at 11 a.m. on February 16, 2016 ahead of the Award Presentation ceremony in the evening.

The session was moderated by Amar Nath 'Amar' and Rafiq Masoodi. Earlier Ms. Gitanjali Chatterjee, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and Sri Kumar Anupam, Editor of Hindi at Sahitya Akademi, introduced the Awardees.

The interaction started with Rafiq Masoodi asking the Awardees about the future of literature in the face of dwindling reading habits and vanishing sales of books, especially literary books. The Awardees led by Volga responded saying that future of literature should not be viewed from the urban mindset but also should take into account enormous interest in books, reading and literature in the villages across India.

Sri Arun Khopkar said writers should come forward and embrace technology for electronic books have many advantages. He also agreed with fellow awardees on the interest for books and reading in the villages and pointed out strong Dalit current sweeping the villages of Maharashtra to substantiate that. Maya Rahi, Award Winner in Sindhi opined that writers and educationists should use technology to their advantage and also for the betterment of writers' community.

Kula Saikia, Award Winner in Assamese continued the discussion and observed that while the reading is a social habit and books can be gifted but e-books score over print versions because of their portability and web-access. He also did not agree that reading habits and publishing sector is in the wane. According to him the opposite holds true.

Sri Dhian Singh, Award Winner in Dogri, observed that writers should not write from parochial motives and should have broad mindedness and he urged the fellow writers to maintain high standards.

Veteran writer Sri Ramdaras Mishra observed that newspapers are no longer the carriers of literature as they used to be in the past. Sri Cyrus Mistry, Award Winner in English, while replying to a question from media whether writer is a social reformer by design or default, observed that writer writes for his own satisfaction rather than with any other goal in mind. Sri Arun Khopkar felt that a writer has to engage with his medium and intentions do not matter.





Cultural Programme

Following the Awards presentation ceremony, an act of Raas Lila was performed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy. Vasant Raas, which is one of the most beautiful of Raas Lilas and celebrated normally on Chaitra Purnima was enacted. The dance depicting the eternal love of Radha and Krishna was performed with grace by the troupe as divinity and fragrance of Godhead filled the air. Costumes, rich in texture and color, coupled with the grandeur of the act itself – gopis searching and wailing the vanished Krishna and the joy and holi color spread upon uniting with the Lord made the performance a truly memorable one.



SCHEDULE OF FESTIVAL OF LETTERS 2016

18 February 2016 (Thursday)

Face-to-Face (Awardees in conversation with eminent authors/scholars)

Purvottari : North East and Northern Writers' Meet

National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru : Continuities and Discontinuities

Cultural Programme : Presentation of Qawwali by Nizami Brothers

19 February 2016 (Friday)

Symposium on Unwritten Languages of India

National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru : Continuities and

Cultural Programme : Performance of 'Kathakali'

20 February 2016 (Saturday)

Seminar on Translational Consciousness and Literary Traditions in India

National Seminar on Gandhi, Ambedkar, Nehru : Continuities and

Spin-a-Tale : Children Activities

Book Exhibition : 10 am to 7 pm daily at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns



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