



## INAUGURATION OF AKADEMI EXHIBITION 2016

### TODAY'S EVENTS

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
PROTECTING MOTHER TONGUES  
(Contd.)**

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

**MEET THE AUTHOR  
WITH RUPA BAJWA**

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 2.30 p.m.

**RECEPTION TO SAHITYA AKADEMI  
AWARDS 2016 WINNERS**

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 4.00 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF SAHITYA  
AKADEMI AWARDS**

Kamani Auditorium, 5.30 p.m.

**ASHTANAYIKA,  
A BHARATANATYAM PERFORMANCE  
BY SANDHYA PURECHA**

Kamani Auditorium, 7.30 p.m.



Sahitya Akademi's annual Festival of Letters kick-started with the inauguration of the Akademi Exhibition 2016. The Exhibition, showcasing glimpses of Akademi's activities and achievements in 2016, was inaugurated by Prof. Satyavrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns in New Delhi. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed Prof Shastri, the office bearers of the Akademi, members of Akademi's Executive Board and General Council, literary lovers and the staff. He outlined Akademi's activities and achievements, launch of new programmes and seminal events of 2016. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, thanked Prof Satyavrat Shastri for inaugurating the Akademi Exhibition and talked about Sahitya Akademi's contributions for the development of literature in 24 recognized languages. In his inaugural speech, Prof. Satyavrat Shastri said that he had a very long association with Sahitya Akademi. India is a vast country with several languages but literature can be written in any language. Language does not matter. He said Shabda and Artha as equally significant – There is nothing without Shabdha or sound in entire world. Shabda is Brahma, Anadi. Music is Nada Brahma. Shabda is related with Artha or meaning. There is power in Shabdha to express Artha or meaning. Authors and poets, create their own world and create literature of extraordinary merit.

## Presentation of Bhasha Samman 2015

Sahitya Akademi conferred its Bhasha Samman on four distinguished scholars, Thupstan Paldan & Lozang Jamspal (Ladakhi), Harihar Vaishnav (Halbi) and Nirmal Minz (Kurukh), for their outstanding contributions to these languages at a glittering ceremony in Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 21 February 2017. Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Award winners and spoke at length about the linguistic diversity of the Indian sub-continent and richness and depth of language clusters of Indian sub-continent. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari,





President, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the strength that varied languages offer to cultural traditions and the necessity to preserve and promote languages, especially those that are endangered.

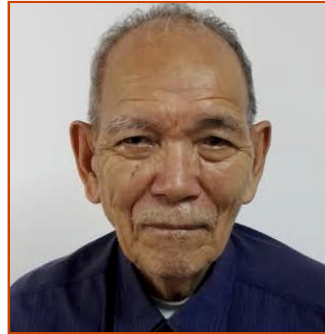
Dr Tiwari stated that in the era of globalization, variety and niche traditions and literature are diminishing. It is our duty to respect the writers of bhasha literature and the failure to do that is failing our languages. Sri Harihar Viashnav could not participate in the ceremony due to indisposition. After the conferment of the samman, the three awardees talked about their experiences in preserving and promoting unrecognized languages and shared commonalities found in all the languages.



## Bhasha Samman 2015 Awardees



**Thupstan Paldan** is an eminent Ladakhi scholar and writer. For over four decades he has been contributing in varied ways for the preservation and promotion of Ladakhi language and literature.



**Lozang Jamspal** is a distinguished Ladakhi, Sanskrit and Tibetan scholar, writer and academician. For over five decades he has been propagating classics and masterpieces of Ladakhi literature.



**Harihar Vaishnav** is an outstanding Halbi scholar, researcher, writer and translator. For over three decades, he has been preserving promoting Halbi folk art forms and literature besides translating them into mainstream languages.



**Nirmal Minz** is an eminent Kurukh scholar, writer and academician. He has been instrumental and a major force in teaching of Chotanagpur tribal languages in colleges. He has been outstanding in his contributions to the promotion of Kurukh.

## Bhasha Samman 2015 Awarded Languages

### Halbi

The Halba or Halbi is a tribal community found mostly in the Central India. Halba rebellion (1774-1779) by Halbi community against Marathas and British forces is one of the major rebellions in Indian history. This community derives its name from the word 'Hal' to mean plough and they have been traditionally farmers and landlords. Their language Halbi has strong influences from Hindi, Chhattisgarhi, Odia and Marathi. Over half a million people speak the language and is often used as a trade language.





## Ladakhi

The Ladakhi language, also called Bhoti, is the predominant language in the Leh district of Ladakh, India. Ladakhi is a Tibetic language, but is not mutually intelligible with Standard Tibetan. Ladakhi culture is similar to Tibetan culture but over a period of time many local customs, mores, beliefs and practices have become part of Ladakhi culture. High status accorded to women in Ladakhi society distinguishes it from other communities.

## Kurukh

Kurukh is a Dravidian language spoken predominantly by Oraon and Kisan tribes in Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Kurukh communities have traditionally been agrarian communities. Kurukh is written in Devanagari and Tolong Siki. Since the literacy rate of the tribes is low, most of the literature in this language remains oral and despite there being about two million speakers, Kurukh has been classified as an endangered language.

## Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2016 Announced

Sahitya Akademi announced winners of its Translation Prize for the year 2016 in 22 languages. The names of winners of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize in English and Malayalam will be announced later.

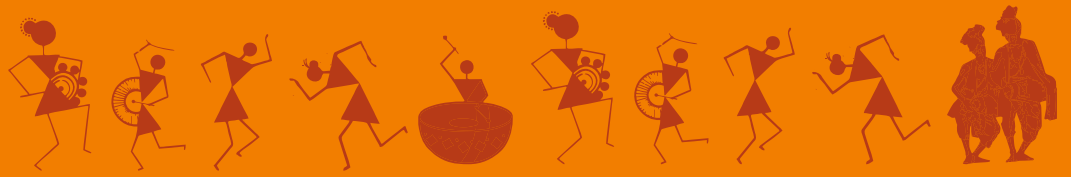
### The list of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize 2016:

Language	Translator	Language	Translator
Assamese	Tapeswar Sarmah	Marathi	Milind Champanerkar
Bengali	Gita Chaudhuri	Nepali	Gyanbahadur Chhetri
Bodo	Birhas Giri Basumatary	Odia	Monalisa Jena
Dogri	Krishan Sharma	Punjabi	Amarjeet Kaunke
Gujarati	Vasant Parikh	Rajasthani	Ravi Purohit
Hindi	P. Jayaraman	Sanskrit	Rani Sadasiva Murty
Kannada	O.L. Nagabhushanswamy	Santali	Ganesh Thakur Hansda
Kashmiri	Qazi Hilal Delnavi	Sindhi	Mohan Gehani
Konkani	Meena Kakodkar	Tamil	Poornachandran
Maithili	Rewati Mishra	Telugu	Tankasala Ashok
Manipuri	Anita Ningombam	Urdu	Haqqani-al Qasmi

## National Seminar on Protecting Mother Tongues

To commemorate International Mother Tongue Day, Sahitya Akademi organized a two-day national seminar on 'Protecting Mother Tongues' at Rabindra Bhavan Lawns on 21 February 2017. In the inaugural session, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the participants and audience and spoke about the perils of not practicing one's mother tongue. He also highlighted advantages of mother tongue over acquired language. In his inaugural address, Prof S.L. Bhyrappa, eminent Kannada writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi advocated changes in pedagogical systems in the light of threat to native languages in the contemporary educational sphere and stressed the importance of mother tongues. He observed that many languages are on the verge of extinction and with the loss of those languages will go away a large body of indigenous knowledge systems. In his keynote address, Dhruvajyoti Bora said mother tongues and regional languages are the soul of India. The very idea of freedom percolated through the mother tongue. The President of Sahitya Akademi Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, in his presidential address, reiterated the importance of the mother tongue especially in the field of creative writing. The concluding





remarks were delivered by Prof. Chandrashekhra Kambar, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi who said that the role of mother tongue is getting more and more marginalized. To reverse the situation the mother tongue should be brought to the centre of the educational system. In the first session chaired by Dr Sitakant Mahapatra, eminent Odia poet and scholar, three eminent scholars, Prof Udaya Narayana Singh, Prof Mishal Sultanpuri and Prof Palash Baran presented their papers.



Prof Udaya Narayana Singh highlighted the causes and reasons of “killing” of the native languages. He blamed colonization, globalization, urbanization, genocide, natural disasters and 30 more causes for it. Prof. Mishal Sultanpuri talked about the historical importance and the background of the International Mother Tongue day which falls every year on 21st February. He said that this day which was proposed as a consequence of a language movement which began in Dhaka. He said languages provide a bank of memories and leaders and educationists all over the world from Aristotle to Mahatma Gandhi were in favor of imparting education through the mother tongue. He regretted that fact that Kashmiri and Dogri and other different languages in Jammu and Kashmir are under threat because of mainly globalization and commercialization. In his paper, Prof. Palash Baran Pal stated that it is unfortunate that even the educated people in Bengal prefer Hindi as well as English over their own mother tongue Bengali. He felt that there should be free trade of movies and books between Bengal and Bangladesh. In his concluding speech, Dr Sitakant Mahapatra said that Sahitya Akademi has immensely promoted the cause of mother tongues by giving annual awards in 24 languages, Bhasha Samman, award in Children’s literature and prize for translation in 24 Languages. He mentioned that Odisha has the biggest Pothe or palm-leaf library. He said that the objective should be to develop regional languages libraries in all states.

## CULTURAL PROGRAMME

# Kutch Folk Music



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