



साहित्योत्सव Festival of Letters

24 - 29 February 2020

Daily News Bulletin

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Sahitya Akademi Exhibition



Every year during annual Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, an exhibition is organised showcasing glimpses of Sahitya Akademi's activities and achievements during the previous year.

The Akademi Exhibition 2019 during the Festival of Letters 2020 will be inaugurated by Smt. Mannu Bhandari, eminent Hindi fiction writer and playwright. She is the recipient of several awards including Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan Award, Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad Award, Kala-Kunj Samman, Bhartiya Sanskrit Sansad Katha Samaroh Award, Bihar Rashtrabhasha Parishad Award, Rajasthan Sangeet Natak Academy Award, Maharashtra Rajya Hindi Sahitya Academy Award and Shalaka Samman of Delhi Hindi Academy amongst others.

Presentation of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019



Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2019 will be given away at the hands of Prof. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Gulzar will be the chief guest of the Awards Presentation Ceremony.

Gulzar is an Oscar-winning Indian film director, lyricist, screenwriter, producer, poet and author. He started his career with music director S.D. Burman as a lyricist in 1963. Gulzar primarily writes in Urdu and Punjabi. In April 2013, Gulzar was appointed as the Chancellor of the Assam University. He is the recipient of several awards including Padma Bhushan, Sahitya Akademi Award, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Filmfare Award (21 times), Grammy Award and National Film Award (5 times).

Festival of Letters

Sahitya Akademi takes its love for literature and literary activities across the nation. For celebrating Indian literature, and following its rich tradition, the Akademi has introduced all-inclusive programmes of great variety during its week-long Festival of Letters 2020 which is scheduled to be held from 24 to 29 February, and is dedicated to preservation of environment this year. The Festival will begin with the inauguration of the Akademi Exhibition by Smt. Mannu Bhandari, eminent Hindi writer. Glimpses of Sahitya Akademi's various activities in connection with publications and programmes across the country and abroad in 2019 will be displayed at the Exhibition.

Sahitya Akademi Awards will be given away to the writers in 24 Indian languages by Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi. Sri Gulzar, distinguished poet, fiction writer and director, will be the Chief Guest at the function. The Award-winning writers will speak at the Writers' Meet about their life and works. The Akademi's hallmark—the Samvatsar Lecture—will also be part of the Festival. This year Sri Pranab Mukherjee, eminent thinker and Former President of India, has kindly agreed to deliver the Lecture on the topic "The Enduring Legacy of Arthashastra".

The Award-winning writers will be in conversation with the Media which is an innovative and distinctive programme of the Festival. A three-day All India Tribal Writers' Conference, a day-long Purvottari—a North-Eastern and Northern Writers' Meet—four Panel Discussions on the Present Scenario of Playwriting, Art of Translation: Cultural Responsibility, Media and Literature: Information and

Sensibility, and Publishing in India will be the major features of the festival, and Face to Face where conversational sessions will include eminent writers/scholars talking to a select Award winning writers is another attractive feature. The Festival will also have All India LGBTQ Poets' Meet which will be inaugurated by Prof. Hoshang Merchant, eminent poet in English. Dr S.L. Bhyrappa, distinguished Kannada writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi, will inaugurate the three-day Seminar on "Regionality, Environment and Literature". Besides, a daylong programme specially chalked out for young writers—New Harvest—will also be organised. Spin-a-Tale—a programme for children, and Cultural Programmes such as Shrikrishna Parijat: a traditional folk-musical drama, Taal Vadya Kacheri: an ensemble of Indian Percussion Instruments, Dastangoi by Sri Mahmood Farooqui, celebrated writer, director and performer will be held on the alternate evenings. The entire week offers a rich literary experience, celebrating Indian literature with almost 250 eminent writers from across the country!

TODAY'S
EVENTS

Inauguration of Akademi Exhibition

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 10.00 a.m.

All India Tribal Writers' Conference

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 2.30 p.m.

Cultural Programme: Shri Krishna Parijat: Traditional Folk Musical Drama

Rabindra Bhavan Lawns, 6.00 p.m.



Winners of Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019

Assamese

Joyasree Goswami Mahanta is an eminent Assamese fiction writer, poet, and translator. Her award-winning book *Chanakya* is a historical novel revolving around the life of Chanakya, distinguished ancient economist, diplomat, expert in state craft and advisor to the king. The novel has an engrossing plot and structure, a lively narrative technique, and offers scholarly insights into the historical socio-cultural and political milieu of those times.



Bengali

Chinmoy Guha is a distinguished Bengali essayist, translator, and a scholar of French language and literature. His Award-winning book *Ghumer Darja Thele* is a collection of essays in Bengali reflecting on world literature and art. The essays reconnect us with the glorious heritage of creativity, dealing with poets, painters, novelists, scholars and philosophers of an astonishing range. The book is distinctive also for its exquisitely lyrical prose, and exceptional for its profound philosophic base and authenticity.



Bodo

Phukan Ch. Basumatary is a noted Bodo poet, critic and an essayist. His Award-winning book *Akhai Athumniphrai* is a collection of Bodo poems exploring Bodo nationalism, contemporary social crisis, and love for nature and ecology. Rich in the use of apt similes, metaphors and symbols, the poems reveal the realistic facets of Bodo society and culture torn apart by the feeling of loss of identity. The poems in this collection are admirable for their thought, language, form and worldview.



Dogri

Late Om Sharma 'Jandriari' was an eminent writer in Dogri. His Award-winning book *Bandralta Darpan* is a collection of 14 articles in Dogri. The articles brilliantly reflect upon the cultural, social and religious milieu of Dudu, Ramnagar and Udhampur. Some of the articles in the book also emphasize the contribution of local writers to the development of Dogri language and literature, and establish the writer's deep concern for the development of the language. All the 14 articles in the book bespeak the versatility of subjects and profundity of knowledge, and offer genuinely fresh insights into history and cultural heritage.



English

Shashi Tharoor is a distinguished writer, critic, and thinker in English. His Award-winning book *An Era of Darkness* offers a radical re-evaluation of British rule in India, making the readers look at the entire historical and cultural legacy of the colonial era in a new light, blasting the conventional myths of the Empire as a civilizing force. Elaborating highly on the colonial exploitation by the British in India and refuting arguments that defend British rule, the author makes a fundamental attempt to decolonize the Indian mind.



Gujarati

Ratilal Borisagar is an eminent Gujarati humourist, critic and editor. His Award-winning book *Mojma Rehvu Re* is a collection of 28 humorous essays in Gujarati narrating individual and social work-a-day experiences with subtle humour. Humour in these essays avoids bitterness of satire, and cordially conjoins refined sensibility, fertile imagination and lighter irrelevancies, and never fails to admire humanity.



Hindi

Nand Kishore Acharya is a distinguished Hindi poet, playwright, critic and translator. His Award-winning book *Chheelate Hue Apne Ko* is a collection of Hindi poems epitomizing the Indian modernity where consciousness and creativity are configured in a genuinely new form. The poems in the collection are the immaculate expression of self-realization, love and human warmth. With an exceptional metaphysical leap, the poet offers an incredible depth to his love for life and acceptance of the inevitability of death.



Kannada

Vijaya is an eminent Kannada writer, playwright, journalist, and activist for women's empowerment. Her Award-winning book *Kudi Esaru* is an autobiography narrating a brave, strong willed woman's fight against male dominated society. The book traces the author's life till the day she decided to live alone after facing all kinds of physical and mental abuses by orthodox society.



Kashmiri

Ab. Ahad Hajini is an eminent Kashmiri fiction writer and translator. His Award-winning book *Akh Yaad Akh Qayamat* is a collection of Kashmiri short stories. Deeply rooted in Kashmiri ethos, the short stories successfully mirror the overall social and cultural environment and revolve around human relationships and values with distinctive sensitivity.



Konkani

Neelba A. Khandekar is a noted Konkani poet and playwright. His Award-winning book *The Words* is a collection of poems in Konkani strongly voicing resistance against social injustice and discrimination. Remarkable for their blending of reason and imagination, the poems are suggestive in nature and compact in expression. The poems are also towering for their exclusive imagery, deep understanding of contemporary social complexities, and are unique in their content, form and rhythm.



Maithili

Kumar Manish Arvind is a noted Maithili poet and writer. His Award-winning book *Jingik Oriakon Karait* is a collection of Maithili poems encapsulating several themes ranging from struggles in personal life to social evils to conservation of Mother Nature and the necessity of a distinctive harmony between mankind and the planet. The poems also make the reader resonate with the mind of a conservationist and a survivor. The poet's style is fluid and rhythmic, and the language lucid and communicative so as to reach out to the common reader.



Malayalam

V. Madhusoodanan Nair is an eminent Malayalam poet, writer and critic. His Award-winning book *Achan Piranna Veedu* is a collection of 14 poems, three of which are long ones. The poems are exceptionally remarkable for their originality of expression, genuine sensibility that acts as a link between tradition and modernity. The poet's creative upswing takes the mundane to the metaphysical and establishes the poet's deep concern about the drastic and destructive changes in human nature that lead to elimination of social consciousness, universal love, and nature.



Manipuri

Beryl Thanga is the pen name of Laishram Biramangol Singh who is a noted Manipuri poet and fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Ei Amadi Adungeigi Eethat* is a Manipuri novel portraying an old man's reminiscences of an island village once adorned with natural beauty and simple life but now devastated by environmental degradation. The novel manages at once meticulously and imaginatively to mix thought and emotion and has originality, an ingenious concept and skilful narrative technique.



Marathi

Anuradha Patil is a distinguished Marathi poet. Her Award-winning book *Kadachit Ajunahi* is a collection of poems in Marathi pointing out how the poet's being is assailed by the forces of history, reality and modernity. Displaying the journey of unbroken relationship of the stages following the process of experience and creativity, the poems go on widening their world. Transcending the personal and reaching a level that is at once impersonal and therefore universal, the poems articulate symbolically the haplessness of feminine psyche.



Nepali

Solon Karthak is an eminent writer in Nepali. His Award-winning book *Biswa Euta Pallo Gaon* is a fascinating travelogue revealing the author's passion for travel and catholicity of interests. The book, a collection of domestic and international travel-tales of the author, is a scintillating attempt to connect the global with the local. The author's tremendous curiosity, chiselled intellect and fertile imagination make the world the village next to his own. The world around the author comes alive because of his lively and lucid style.



Odia

Tarun Kanti Mishra is a distinguished Odia fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Bhaswati* is a collection of 14 short stories in Odia, meandering through varied themes ranging from love, hope, dream, despair, death to salvation. The short stories are unique not only for their intensity and poetic style, but also for their surreal and mystic content. The author has successfully portrayed his characters and the world they live in, and ably made each of the short stories a complete world in itself.



Punjabi

Kirpal Kazak is an eminent Punjabi fiction writer, playwright, and researcher. His Award-winning book *Ant-heen* is a collection of short stories in Punjabi focusing on the work-a-day agrarian problems, and complexities arising in the deprived segments of society. The short stories in the collection are open ended and artistically deal with mundane reality employing a high degree of fictional imagination coupled with philosophical thought.



Rajasthani

Ramswroop Kisan is a noted Rajasthani fiction writer, poet and translator. His Award-winning book *Bareek Baat* is a collection of short stories in Rajasthani. The short stories, representing typical consciousness of Rajasthani literature, relevantly mark the duel between folk culture and modernity, and go on to establish new literary canons. The writer's experimental, unorthodox storytelling art, apt characterization, offbeat sensibility, and brilliant use of metaphorical language have made the stories outstanding.



Sanskrit

Penna Madhusudan is an eminent Sanskrit poet, playwright, scholar and translator. His Award-winning book *Prajnachakshusham* is an epic poem in Sanskrit depicting the life and spiritual philosophy of the extraordinary scholarly saint from Maharashtra—Gulabrao Maharaj. The saint was blind and in his short life he rigorously meditated on grammar, logic, poetry, prosody, medicine, scripts, philosophy, music, folklore, education, and recorded his views in about 134 works. The epic poem, intensely unfolding the biography and philosophical thoughts of the saint, is in 850 verses. Written in a lucid language, following the traditional methods, synchronizing sound and sense, the poem is a spontaneous overture to an overwhelming spiritual experience.



Santali

Kali Charan Hembram is an eminent Santali fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Sisirjali* is a collection of short stories portraying the social, cultural and religious life of Santals belonging to different social strata in a simple, lively language, and an innovative narrative technique. The short stories are rich in dealing with several contemporary themes related to the life of Santals.



Sindhi

Ishwar Moorjani is an eminent Sindhi fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Jeejal* is a collection of Sindhi short stories expressing environmental concerns, love for nature, and also giving genuinely fresh insights into human relationships with great sensitivity. The short stories indeed accomplish the ability to illuminate the inner being of the reader.



Tamil

Cho. Dharman (S. Dharmaraj) is an eminent Tamil fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Sool* is a Tamil novel depicting the livelihood of the rural people, living in the Urulaikudi village, who depend on the local body - Kanmai - for water supply. The novel precisely emphasizes the author's deep environmental concern. The novel, truly vocal of environmental issues and protesting mismanagement, speaks practically of the state of water management and agrarian problems from the times of Independence till date. The novel is also unique in the dramatization of situations, characterization and writing style.



Telugu

Bandi Narayana Swamy is an eminent Telugu fiction writer. His Award-winning book *Sapthabhoomi* is a historical novel in Telugu depicting the social, economic, cultural, political ethos of the 18th century Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. The novel portrays 18th century rural upheavals, particularly the ones in the lives of the downtrodden – also their customs, beliefs, religious activities and superstitions. The novel is unique in portraying the regional history of Ananthapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh, the felicitous use of the 18th century Telugu language, and a multitude of dark shades in history.



Urdu

Shafey Kidwai is an eminent Urdu critic and translator. His Award-winning book *Sawanah Sir Syed: Ek Bazdeed* is a brilliant critical treatise that seeks to analyze all the biographies of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, distinguished Islamic reformist, scholar and philosopher of nineteenth century British India, written in English, Urdu and other regional languages. The author also keenly tries to keep the record straight and impeccable as far as Sir Syed's biographical details and literary accomplishments are concerned, and takes pains to debunk some of the myths surrounding Sir Syed's work and intellectual position.





Sahitya Akademi Book Exhibition

Sahitya Akademi so far published around 7000 titles in 24 Indian languages. During the Festival of Letters the Akademi is organising book exhibition of its publications, and offers special discount of 25% on the subscription of Akademi's literary journals: *Indian Literature*, *Samkaleen Bharatiya Sahitya* and *Sanskrita Pratibha*, and upto 75% discount on the Akademi publications.



Programmes of Festival of Letters 2020

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | VENUE |
|------------------|------------|--|----------------------------|
| 24 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Inauguration of Akademi Exhibition | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 24 February 2020 | 2.30 p.m. | All India Tribal Writers' Conference | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 24 February 2020 | 6.00 p.m. | Cultural Programme: Traditional Folk Musical Drama | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 25 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | All India Tribal Writers' Conference (contd...) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 25 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Purvottari (North-Eastern and Northern Writers' Meet) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 25 February 2020 | 11.00 a.m. | Media Interaction with the Awardees | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 25 February 2020 | 5.30 p.m. | Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019 Presentation | Kamani Auditorium |
| 26 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Writers' Meet (Award Winning Writers will share their creative experiences) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 26 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | All India Tribal Writers' Conference (cont...) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 26 February 2020 | 2.30 p.m. | Panel Discussion on Present Scenario of Playwriting | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 26 February 2020 | 6.00 p.m. | Samvatsar Lecture (by Sri Pranab Mukherjee, Eminent Thinker and Former President of India) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 27 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Face to Face (Select Award Winners in Conversation with Eminent Writers/Scholars) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 27 February 2020 | 10.30 a.m. | National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature | Sahitya Akademi Auditorium |
| 27 February 2020 | 2.00 p.m. | All India LGBTQ Poets' Meet | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 27 February 2020 | 6.00 p.m. | Cultural Programme: Ensemble of Indian Percussion Instruments | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 28 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (cont...) | Sahitya Akademi Auditorium |
| 28 February 2020 | 10.30 a.m. | Panel Discussion on Art of Translation: Cultural Responsibility | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 28 February 2020 | 2.30 p.m. | Panel Discussion on Media and Literature: Information and Sensibility | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 28 February 2020 | 6.00 p.m. | Dastangoi by Mahmood Farooqui | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 29 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | National Seminar on Regionality, Environment and Literature (cont...) | Sahitya Akademi Auditorium |
| 29 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Spin-a-Tale (Programme for Children) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 29 February 2020 | 10.00 a.m. | Panel Discussion on Publishing in India | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |
| 29 February 2020 | 10.30 a.m. | New Harvest (All India Young Writers' Meet) | Rabindra Bhavan Lawns |

