



Sahitya Akademi

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meet the author

Prakash Premi





Prakash Premi is an eminent Dogri poet, critic, short story writer, satirist and scholar.

He was born on 16th August 1943 in village Kasoori, District Udhampur (J&K) into a conservative Brahmin family.

His father and uncles taught him Sanskrit and before his admission in the village primary school he knew by heart many Sanskrit stotras composed by various authors. Later he passed his matriculation from the High School in Ramnagar.

In 1965 he joined Lipton India Limited as a salesman but resigned in 1966 and entered into politics and later he joined service as a science teacher in June 1967 and was posted in Govt. High School, Basantgarh, a beautiful hill station situated in deep

Himalayas in between rivers Tawi and Ujjha. It is surrounded by snow-covered peaks of Dhar Seof and Nandan Vani. The scenic beauty of this region attracted him a lot but poverty of the people also moved him and it was here where he started composing poems on nature as well as on the life of the common people.

During this period he had enough time to study and he studied Hindi literature. Goswami Tulsī Das, Surdas, Prasad, Nirala and Dinkar influenced him greatly. He also studied Bankim Chandra Chatterji, Sharat Chandra, Premchand, Tagore, Bernard Shaw and many other writers.

In 1967, he came into contact with Desh Bandhu Dogra 'Nutan' who provided him with Marxist literature which he studied deeply. He was also influenced by Marx, Lenin and Mao-tse-Tung and he started writing progressive literature. His poems were praised by the masses.

In 1968 his family shifted to Ramnagar and in the same year he was married to Satya Sharma.

During his service as a teacher he visited almost the whole of Duggar and studied Dogri folklore and literature deeply. From the very beginning he was influenced by Sanskrit Literature



With Shri Desh Bandhu Dogra 'Nutan' and their family



With some Dogri writers at Bhaddu

and Dogri writers like Doonu Bhai Pant and K.S. Madhukar.

In 1981 he was promoted as senior master and posted in Hr. Sec. School, Bhaddu, District Kathua. There he founded Kavi Dattu Sahitya Sanstha with the help of some local writers like Romal Singh Bhadwal, Uttam Pathania, Darshan Darshi, K.K. Kerni, Krishan Singh Krishan, Shiv Dev Sushil and others. He is also the founder of Dogra-Pahari Kala Kendra, Basantgarh; Sabras Adabi Sanstha, Batote and Rachnakaar Kala Sahitya Academy, Udhampur (J&K).

During his stay at Bhaddu, he completed his magnum opus

Beddan Dharti Di in Dogri. This was awarded by the Sahitya Akademi in 1987.

After 1995 he paid his attention towards translations and translated monographs of Nirala and Dinkar from Hindi into Dogri. He also translated Mohan Singh's Dogri play *Apani Dafali Apana Raag* in Hindi and *Marhi Da Deeva*, a Panjabi novel by Dr. Gurdial Singh into Dogri which was awarded by Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize in 2010. He also translated Darshan Darshi's novel *Gaas Opera Dhart Begani* into Hindi and Desh Bandhu Dogra Nutan's Dogri novel *Unni Saw Santaleen* in Hindi (in Press). He



With family (sons, daughters-in-law, daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren)



Speaking at the Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize Ceremony

also translated Prof N. Gopi's Telugu collection of Sahitya Akademi awarded poetry *Kalini Nidra Ponivannu*.

Currently he is also translating many Sanskrit works into Dogri such as *Panchstavi*, *Bhuj Govindam* (Charpat Manjari & Duadash Panjarika), *Shiv Tandava*, *Bhawani Ashok*, *Nirvana Shataka*.

After his retirement he was re-employed on contractual basis in Govt. Women College Udhampur as Lecturer of Dogri and Sanskrit for three years successively.

In 2005 he was awarded senior fellowship by the Ministry of Culture & Tourism and completed a critical work *Dogri Sahitya ka*

Alochana-tamak Itihas in Hindi in 2007.

He had also been writing a regular humorous/satirical column for an Urdu weekly *Hari Sandesh* for about three years in early seventies under the pen name of Prabhakara Manava.

He was also nominated as a member of the Dogri Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi for two terms. Currently he is busy in translations and creative writing.

Many of his essays and critical articles have been broadcast and telecast on AIR and Doordarshan. He has also been honoured by many social and literary organisations of Duggar.



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award (1987) from Prof. B.K. Bhattacharya



Receiving JR Accession Committee Award from Dr Karan Singh, 1997

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1943 Born on 16 August at village Kasoori (Ser Manjhala) Teh. Ram Nagar, District-Udhampur, J&K.
- 1962 Matriculation from J&K University.
- 1965 Joined Lipton India Ltd. as a salesman.
- 1966 Pre-medical Exam from J&K University.
- 1967 Joined Service in J&K Education Department as a Teacher.
- 1968 Family shifted from Kasoori to Ram Nagar town, got married to Satya Sharma on 25 May. Passed Prabhakara from J&K University.
- 1971 Graduation from J&K University.
- 1974 Post-Graduation in Hindi from Jammu University.
- 1977 B.Ed. from Jammu University.
- 1979 Post-Graduation in Sanskrit, also published first collection of satirical & humorous articles named *Trumban*.
- 1984 Published short story collection *Ik Kotha Das Duar*.
- 1985 Published first epic in Dogri *Beddan Dharti Di*.
- 1987 Sahitya Akademi Award in Dogri for *Beddan Dharti Di*.
- 1995 Family shifted from Ram Nagar to Udhampur.
- 2001 Retired from Govt. Service.
- 2002- Re-employed as Lecturer in Dogri and Sanskrit in Govt. Women College, Udhampur
- 2005- Awarded Senior Fellowship in Dogri by Ministry of Culture & Tourism and Completed *Dogri Sahitya Ka Alochanatmak Itihas*.
- 2007
- 2010 Received Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize in Dogri for translating Punjabi Novel *Marhi Da Deeva*



With writers at Trishur (Kerala)



With Prof Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari
and others at Cochin (Kerala)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1979 *Trumban*, a collection of satirical and humorous articles in Dogri.
- 1984 *Ik Kotha Das Duar*, a collection of Dogri short stories.
- 1985 *Beddan Dharti Di*, epic in Dogri.
- 1992 *Lalkar*, a collection of poems in Dogri.
- 2008 *Swami Nityananda*, Biography of famous Duggar Saint Swami Nityananda Ji (Co-author).
- 2011 Monograph on *Shiv Nirmohi* published by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Language.
- 2002 Monograph on *Mahakavi Sooryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'* from Hindi into Dogri.
- 2002 Translation of monograph on *Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'* from Hindi.
- 2006 *Dehri Da Deeya*, Dogri translation of Dr. Gurdial Singh's Punjabi Novel *Marhi Da Deeva*.
- 2009 *Apani Dafali Apana Raag*, translation of Mohan Singh's award winning plays from Dogri into Hindi.
- 2013 *Samen gi De'ng Nien Souma*, Dogri translation of Telugu poems of N. Gopi's, *Kalini Nidra Ponivannu*.
- 2013 *Akash Aparichit Dhara Parai*, Hindi translation of Darshan Darshi's Dogri novel *Gaas Opara Dharat Begani*.