



festival of letters

9-14 March 2015

Sahitya Akademi NEWS BULLETIN

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Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2014

Annual Sahitya Akademi Exhibition 2014 was inaugurated in a glittering ceremony by Dr Ramdaras Mishra, distinguished Hindi poet and fiction writer, at 10.00 AM on March 9, 2015 at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns, New Delhi.

Sahitya Akademi Exhibition is an annual event organized by Sahitya Akademi during Festival of Letters and the Exhibition showcases, through a series of photographs, the story of Sahitya Akademi over 60 years, seminal moments in its history, achievements, crises and iconic people who adorned the Akademi. The Exhibition is designed in such a way that a viewer can have precise and comprehensive understanding of the Akademi's objectives, work, activities and other related information at one go.

Sahitya Akademi Exhibition attracts literary connoisseurs from all over the country. This is a unique opportunity for young and aspiring writers to interact with and learn from the doyens of the literary community.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, while welcoming the Chief Guest Dr Ramdaras Mishra, President of Sahitya Akademi, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, Vice President of the Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, General Council and Executive Board Members of Sahitya Akademi and other dignitaries, briefly outlined the purpose and objective of the Akademi Exhibition. Dr Sreenivasarao also outlined in detail various achievements of Sahitya Akademi in the year 2014. He informed the audience that in 2014, Sahitya Akademi





- ◆ Organized and conducted 467 literary events across India including international literary events, regional and national seminars, translation workshops and a host of other programmes aimed at different sections of the literary community, and introduced a new programme series Bhashantara Anubhava.
- ◆ Published 569 titles covering all the 24 official languages, brought out 6 issues each of Indian Literature and Samkaleen Bhartiya Sahitya and 4 issues of Samskrita Pratibha
- ◆ Organized and participated in 186 book exhibitions and fairs across India and also at the Frankfurt World Book Fair and Sharjah Book Fair.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, welcomed the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. He spoke briefly about the Festival of Letters 2015 and appreciated the good work done by all the staff of the Akademi in 2014 and

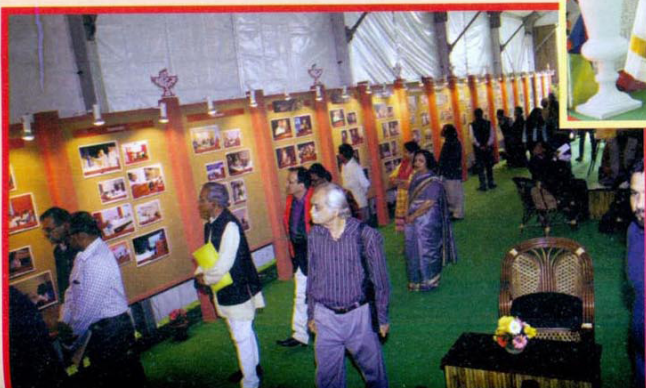
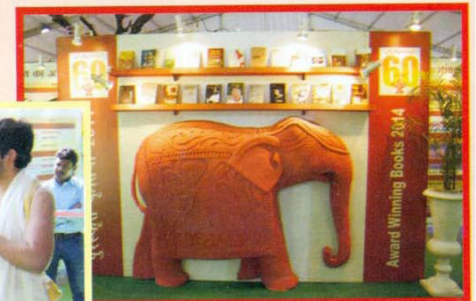
egged them on to progress further. He observed that over the past two years, production rate of the Akademi has doubled compared to previous years and said that there is always scope for improvement. He introduced Dr Ramdaras Mishra to the audience and spoke briefly about the contributions and legacy of Dr Ramdaras Mishra.

Dr Ramdaras Mishra, speaking on the occasion, said he was pleased and honoured to inaugurate the Exhibition of the Sahitya Akademi, India's premier institution of Letters. He spoke at length about Sahitya

Akademi's role in the development of literature in all the languages of India and observed that the Akademi is the only arena where 24 official languages of India interact and



gain from each other. Dr Mishra said that language is a reflection of the life which people lead and felt that though the works and efforts of the Akademi are laudable, being the Indian National Academy, it should do more and more to reach out to the villages and remote areas of the country as literature is becoming more and more city centric.





Sahitya Akademi Awards 2014

Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2014 were presented to 24 Award winners at a glittering ceremony held at Kamani auditorium, New Delhi on March 9, 2015.



Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his address welcomed Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished Hindi poet and scholar, Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, all the award winners

and audience. He observed that though the Sahitya Akademi Award is given to a particular book in each language, it is much more than that in that it is also a recognition and celebration of rich and long cultural and linguistic traditions that each author and a book represents. Dr Sreenivasarao also enumerated how these Awards along with various other activities of the Akademi represent the core that is nothing but service to literary communities all over India. He highlighted the role of the writers in particular in the success story of Sahitya Akademi which completed 60 years of literary service in India and abroad. He welcomed the writers and public to participate wholeheartedly in the entire Festival of Letters to be held in Sahitya Akademi up to March 14, 2015. Finally, he highlighted various activities and achievements in the year 2014.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya

Akademi, in his Presidential address, talked at length about the uniqueness of the writers and special place of creativity in human existence. With specific reference to Sahitya Akademi, he said the works of these A w a r d e e s a r e



Akademi's voice. He observed that more often than not it is the writers and poets who plant the seeds of creativity, imagination and ideas into the common man and quoted "Yeh Sahitya Hi Hai Jo Maun Ko Mukher Karta Hai, Aur Sannate Ko Shabd Deta hai." Even politicians were inspired by the writers and recalled how Gandhiji adopted 'Swadeshi' and 'Swabhiman' from the writing community. He appealed to young writers not get distracted by power and such elements as they often kill the creativity.

Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished Hindi poet and scholar, who was the chief guest, talked about the diversity and richness that very set of awardees present need to be protected. While acknowledging various initiatives of the Akademi in preserving and promoting numerous languages and dialects of India and the literature contained in them, he also appealed Akademi to take initiatives to preserve and promote like-minded literature but written in other scripts like Tibetan.

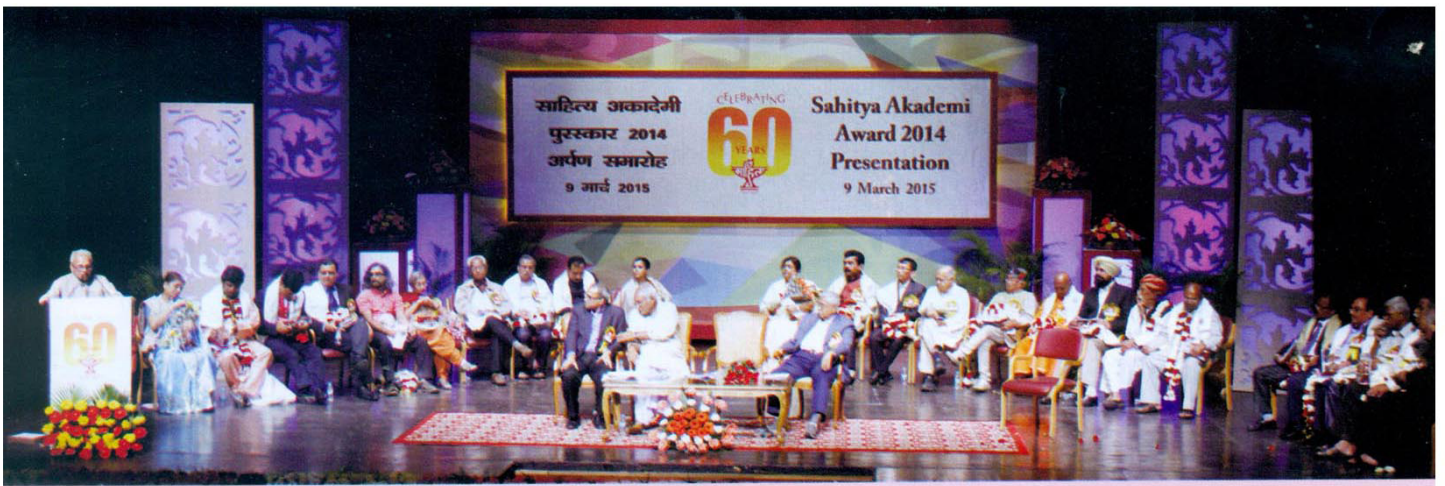
Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar proposed a vote of thanks.

Sahitya Akademi Prize For Translation 2014

Assamese	Bipul Deori	Manipuri	Ibotobi Mangang
Bengali	Binay Kumar Mahata	Marathi	M.S. Patil
Bodo	Surath Narzary	Nepali	Dambarmani Pradhan
Dogri	Yashpaul Nirmal	Odia	Rabindra Kumar Praharaj
English	Padmini Rajappa	Punjabi	Tarsem
Gujarati	(Late) Nageen G. Shah	Rajasthani	Kailash Mandela
Hindi	Phoolchand Manav	Sanskrit	Narayan Dash
Kannada	G.N. Ranganatha Rao	Sindhi	Ram Kukreja
Kashmiri	Meem Hai Zaffar	Tamil	S. Devadoss
Konkani	Pandurang K. Gaude	Telugu	R. Santha Sundari
Maithili	Ram Narayan Singh	Urdu	Ved Rahi
Malayalam	Priya A.S.		

"There are many awards in the country now and some of them carry bigger cash prizes too. But Sahitya Akademi Award is relevant and is more important because of the literary merit of the works chosen for the Award. It remains the highest literary Award in the country."

- Prof. K. Satchidanandan



Announcement of Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman

On March 9, 2015, Sahitya Akademi announced Bhasha Samman to Dr Jaspal Singh, renowned writer and scholar, in recognition of his significant contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature (Northern) and to Sri Vasant Nirgune for his valuable contribution to the enrichment of Bhili language which is not recognized by the Akademi.

Bhasha Samman carries a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/-, an inscribed copper plaque and citation. The Samman will be presented to them by the Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President of Sahitya Akademi at a special function to be held later.

Dr Jaspal Singh is an eminent diplomat, scholar, teacher and educationist. He has made unique contributions to the Medieval Punjabi literature and on the patronymic text of India's traditions of thought, Guru Granth Sahib.

Sri Vasant Nirgune is a Bhili scholar. He has worked extensively on Bheel, Gond tribes and has published many works on various aspects of the cultures of Gond, Bega, Kurku, Sahriya, Bharia and Bheel Tribes. He has also produced five short documentary films on the tribal art tradition.

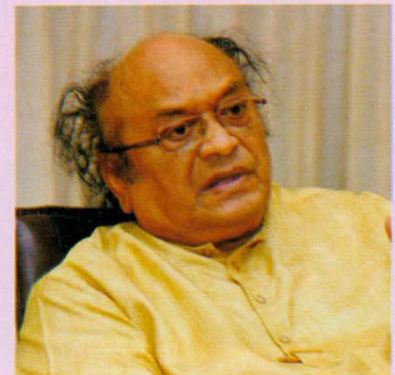
Conferment of Fellowships on Prof S.L. Bhyrappa and Dr C. Narayana Reddy



Sahitya Akademi, on March 9, 2015, conferred its highest honour of Akademi Fellowship on two doyens of modern Indian literature, Prof. S.L. Bhyrappa and Dr C. Narayana Reddy. This honour is reserved for the 'Immortals of Literature' and limited to twenty-one only at any given time.

Prof S.L. Bhyrappa is a distinguished Kannada writer and widely regarded as one of India's foremost modern day writers. He has authored 25 novels in a career spanning more than five decades besides his autobiography and five books of philosophy. Many of his works have been translated into many Indian languages and many of his works have been made into films as well. Prof Bhyrappa is the recipient of many prestigious awards including Sahitya Akademi Award, Saraswati Samman and Pampa Award among others in his long and illustrious career

Dr C. Narayana Reddy is a well-known Telugu poet and educational administrator. A prolific writer, Dr C. Narayana Reddy has numerous collections to his credit besides thousands of songs for films. His poetic work Visvambara that was translated into three other languages earned him a Jnanpith and his 1973 work Mantalu Manavudu won him Sahitya Akademi Award. Dr C. Narayana Reddy is the recipient of many prestigious awards and honours, including Padma Shri, Padma Vibhushan, Sahitya Akademi Award and Jnanpith Award among others in his long and illustrious career.



Programmes for March 10, 2015

10.30 AM	Writers' Meet	Rabindra Bhawan Lawns
2.30 PM	Open House: Interaction of Award Winners with the media	Rabindra Bhawan Lawns
6.00 PM	Samvatsar Lecture by Ashis Nandy	Rabindra Bhawan Lawns



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