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साहित्य अकादेमी
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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

Sahitya Akademi mourns the death of Prof Satya Vrat Shastri, distinguished Sanskrit scholar, Indologist, Grammarian, Poet, Writer, Translator and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, on 14 November 2021. Prof Shastri was instrumental in bringing out a number of facets of Ramayana found not only in India but across Asia. Through his writings Prof Shastri strived to unite varied cultures of India even as he in a Kane style traced the common, ancient philosophical roots to many practices, customs and rituals that permeated the Indian sub-continent. A touchstone for linguistic, literary, Indological, religious and cultural scholarship, Prof Shastri also brought various Asian cultures close to Indian traditions through his research and writings. Author of more than 50 academic and literary works, hundreds of research articles, Prof Shastri's last work was ***Ramayana in South East Asia – Vol. I Ramakien*** (Thai Ramayana), published by Sahitya Akademi in 2021. In his long and illustrious career, Prof Satya Vrat Shastri was feted with a large number of Awards and Honours, chief among which are Sahitya Akademi Award, Bhartiya Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship and Padma Bhushan among others. Prof Satya Vrat Shastri might have left his mortal coil, but his large body of work and the legacy he leaves behind will be the guiding light for many future scholars and literary lovers. Prof Shastri's demise is a personal loss for Sahitya Akademi through his association, friendship and guidance for close to half a century and his departure leaves a huge void that will be difficult to fill especially when it comes to uniting tradition and modernity. Sahitya Akademi pays heartfelt homage and tribute to this gentle genius who touched thousands of lives through his Polymathic knowledge.

(K. Sreenivasarao)