



SA.16/15/BS/PN

21 December 2016

**PRESSRELEASE**

**Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman**

Sahitya Akademi is happy to announce awarding of Bhasha Samman to two writers/scholars for their contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature, from the Northern and Southern regions for 2015 and to six scholars/writers in languages not recognized by the Akademi i.e Kurukh, Ladakhi, Halbi and Sourashtra in recognition of their contribution to these languages.

Sahitya Akademi will be conferring its Bhasha Samman on the following two writers/scholars in the field of **Classical and Medieval Literature**:

1. **Dr. Anand Prakash Dixit** in recognition of his significant contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature (Northern).
2. **Sri Nagalla Guruprasada Rao** in recognition of his significant contribution to Classical and Medieval Literature (Southern).

The Bhasha Samman will also be conferred on the following writers/scholars for their contribution in the languages not recognized by Sahitya Akademi:

1. **Dr. Nirmal Minz** receives Bhasha Samman for his valuable contribution to the enrichment of **Kurukh** language and literature.
2. **Professor Lozang Jamspal** and **Sri Gelong Thupstan Paldan** jointly receives Bhasha Samman for their valuable contribution to the enrichment of **Ladakhi** language and literature.
3. **Sri Harihar Vaishnav** has been selected for Bhasha Samman for his valuable contribution to the enrichment of **Halbi** language and literature.
4. **Dr. T. R. Damodaran** and **Smt. T.S. Saroja Sundararajan** jointly receives Bhasha Samman for their valuable contribution to the enrichment of **Sourashtra** language and literature.

Each of the Bhasha Samman carries a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-, an inscribed copper plaque and citation. In case of joint winner the Samman money will be equally shared by both the winners. The Samman will be presented to them by the President of the Sahitya Akademi at a special function to be held later.

The Bio-datas of the Bhasha Samman Awardees are given at Annexure 'A'. The names of the members of the Jury on whose recommendations the Bhasha Samman's were declared are given at Annexure 'B' attached.

We shall be highly grateful, if you kindly publish/broadcast the matter in your esteemed newspaper/channels.

  
(K. Sreenivasarao)

Encl: as above

**BIODATAS OF AWARDEES FOR THE SAHITYA AKADEMI BHASHA SAMMANS**

**Classical and Medieval Literature (North):**

**Dr. Anand Prakash Dixit** is an eminent scholar in Hindi and Sanskrit. He has made valuable contributions to the field of classical and medieval literature, especially on the tough subject of *Ras Sidhant*. Apart from this, he has worked extensively on medieval Bhakti and Riti literature. He has edited numerous manuscripts on Medieval Literature. Dr. Dixit at the age of 94 is actively involved in literary and research works.

**Classical and Medieval Literature (South):**

**Sri Nagalla Guruprasada Rao** is an eminent Telugu writer and scholar. He taught Telugu at Loyola College, Vijayawada, JKC College, Guntur etc. and retired as a Pracharya. After retirement he worked as Secretary, Siddhartha Kalaapeetham, Vijayawada for two decades. Nagalla penned over 100 essays of literary criticism and reviewed over 300 literary works – classical and modern. Some of his published works include *Salivahanudu*, *Iddaru Telgu Mahakavulu* besides others. He has been honoured with 'Sudhee Ratna' title by Yarlagadda Venkanna Charities, Chennai, felicitated by 'Tikkana Tirunalla Committee, Nellore and others. He has received awards by Vattikonda Visalakshi Cultural Trust, Guntur and Duvvuri Rami Reddy Vignana Samithi, Nellore.

**Unrecognized Language Kurukh:**

**Dr. Nirmal Minz** has made valuable contribution to the enrichment of Kurukh language and literature. He has mainstreamed the tribal languages by teaching, studying and research in Chotanagpur Tribal languages. He is the founder Principal of Grossner College. Some of his published works include – *Jharia Pandi*, *Innelanta Pairi Urubni*, Vol. I & II; *Kurukh Grammar*, *Adivasi Problems and their Permanent Solution* besides others. He is recipient of many awards and honours viz. Heerak Samman 2014 by Nagpuri Institute, Jharkhand, Adivasi Ratna 2011 by Akhil Bharatiya Mahasabha and others.

**Unrecognized Language Ladakhi:**

**Prof. Lozang Jamspal** is an eminent Ladakhi writer and scholar. Biography of Lama *Tshulkrims Nyima*, *Classical Tibetan Grammar*, *The Range of the Bodhisattva*, *Hindi-Tibetan Dictionary* are some of the publications to his credit besides many others. He is Professor in Classical Tibetan Language, Philosophy and Literature, International Buddhist College, Thailand. He is founder of Monastic School of Tibetan Studies, Ladakh.

**Sri Gelong Thupstan Paldan** is an eminent Ladakhi writer and scholar. Has published a number of books which includes *Yide Shadpa*, *Chhags Rabs Nat don Kun Tsang*, *Lzosgar*, *Jive Chorten*, *Ladakha*, *Tinda*, *Bongbui Kanal* besides others. Four co-authored books are also to his credit. He is recipient of several awards and honours which includes Lifetime Achievement Award and Best Book Award by J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Best Play Script Award by State Academy etc.

### **Unrecognized Language Halbi:**

**Sri Harihar Vaishnav** is a well-known creative writer in Halbi language and a dedicated researcher of Halbi Folklore and Culture. His seminal work on *Lakshmi Jagar* in English, Halbi and Hindi has disseminated in regional and national sphere. His works include *Bastar ki Maukhik Kathayen*, *Mohbhang*, *Raja aur Bel Kanya*, *Baster ke Teej Tyohar*, *Bastar ka Lok Sahitya*, *Andhkar ka Desh* besides many others. A number of edited works are also to his credit. He is recipient of Kavi Umesh Sharma Samman, Aanchalik Sahityakar Samman and others.

### **Unrecognized Language Sourashtra:**

**Dr. T.R. Damodaran** is an eminent writer and scholar in Sourashtra. He has authored *Life and Contribution of Venkataraman Bhagavathar*, *Sourashtra Sulikhni*, *Tamil – English – Sourashtra Dictionary* besides others. He has four edited and four co-edited books as also some published works - *Astho*, *Sourashtra Tatta*, *Saint Natanagopal*, *Sourashtra Viyasar* to his credit.

**Smt. T.S. Saroja Sundararajan** is an eminent Sourashtra scholar, translator and writer. She is a resourceful scholar and has attended several conferences, seminars and workshops relating to the growth of Sourashtra Language, Script, Literature and Culture. She a good translator of works of Tamil literature and also Sanskrit into Sourashtra language. Some of her publications include *Devi Mahatmyam* and *Yogendurun Monnu Singaru Laatun* etc. She has a mastery over *Bhagvad Gita* (Sanskrit and Sourashtra), *Lalita Sahasranamam*, *Soundrya Lahari*, *Kanakadhara Stotram*, *Kanda Shashti Kavasam*, *Sourashtra Jagadguru Shri Natanagopala Nayaki and Keerthans* etc.

**LIST OF JURY MEMBERS FOR THE SAHITYA AKADEMI BHASHA SAMMANS**

**LANGUAGE**

**JURY MEMBERS**

**CML (Northern)**

Prof. Ramji Tiwari  
Dr. Satyavrat Shastri  
Dr. Jaspal Singh

**CML (Southern)**

Sri Sa. Kandasamy  
Prof. Veeresh Badiger  
Dr. Salaka Raghunatha Sarma

**Kurukh**

Fr. Albinus Minz  
Dr. Shanti Khalkho  
Dr. Karma Oraon

**Ladakhi**

Sri Nawang Tsering Shakspo  
Dr. Jamyang Gailson  
Sri Nawang Gytso

**Halbi**

Sri Vasant Nirgune  
Smt. Shakuntala Tarar  
Sri Mahendra Mishra

**Sourashtra**

Dr. Rajesh Makwana  
Sri T.D.Eswaramoorthy  
Sri K.R. Sethuraman