

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sahitya Akademi Awards Presentation

Sahitya Akademi, India's Premier Literary Institution, presented Sahitya Akademi Awards to writers in 24 languages at a glittering ceremony in FICCI Golden Jubilee Auditorium in New Delhi on February 16, 2016. Dr. Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi was the Chief Guest at the function while Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented the Awards to the writers. Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi and Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi graced the presentation ceremony with welcome and concluding remarks.

In his welcome speech, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, stated that the Akademi is a home of writers and for the writers. He highlighted various details and Akademi's achievements to point out how Akademi has been rendering literary service to the nation with writers at the core. He reiterated that the Akademi will always stand by the writers of all kinds.

In his Presidential address, Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, highlighted the greatness of Indian literature in all its forms and urged the fellow nationals to give up aping colonial civilizations. He provided a number of examples to prove that even minor languages of India are much richer than the ones of Europe or America or Africa. Prof. Tiwari said it is through literature can unity be achieved and communal & dividing elements can be defeated. Prof. Tiwari said he is proud to be associated with the Akademi which is rendering selfless and yeomen literary service to the nation by preserving and propagating all the Indian literary traditions and in 24 recognized languages and also in minor languages and dialects of India.

In his speech, the Chief Guest Dr Gopi Chand Narang, eminent Urdu scholar and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, applauded Sahitya Akademi for carrying out literary service in all the 24 recognized languages and observed that Sahitya Akademi is the premier democratic literary institution that promotes writers and to the best of his knowledge no other organization does it. He highlighted the resonance across cultures, from Lao Tze, Bedil, Ghalib & opined that all espouse the same thought and principle. Dr. Narang said God has given us beautiful earth but we humans have divided it on the basis of language and religion. Language binds but also causes schisms and it divides. Dr Narang observed that it is the responsibility of the writers to unite the humanity through language and literature. Dr Narang concluded by alluding to the grey area between darkness and light with written word and unwritten language and said that writing is the grey area between darkness and light and more than the written word it is the unwritten, unspoken word that carries higher meaning.

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, read out the citations and Prof. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the Awards. Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar honored the Awardees and also thanked all the dignitaries and media friends.

#### List of Award Winners

Assamese – Kula Saikia	Manipuri – Kshetrimayum Rajen Singh
Bengali – Alok Sarkar	Marathi – Arun Khopkar
Bodo – Birendra Kumar Bodo	Nepali – Gupta Pradhan
Dogri – Dhian Singh	Odia – Bibhuti Pattanaik
English – Cyrus Mistry	Punjabi – Jaswinder Singh
Gujarati – Rasik Shah	Rajasthani – Madhu Acharya 'Ashwadi'
Hindi – Ramdarash Mishra	Sanskrit – Ram Shanker Awasthi
Kannada – K.V. Thirumalesh	Santali – Rabi Lal Tudu
Kashmiri – Basir Bhadarwahai	Sindhi – Maya Rahi
Konkani – Uday Bhembre	Tamil – Aa. Madhavan
Maithili – Man Mohan Jha	Telugu – Volga
Malayalam – K. R. Meera	Urdu - Shamim Tariq

#### Salient Features of Sahitya Akademi Award 2015

- Twenty One Men and Three Women won the Awards.
- Seven poetry collections, six collections of short stories, four novels, five collections of essays / criticism and two plays won the Award.