

10 October 2014

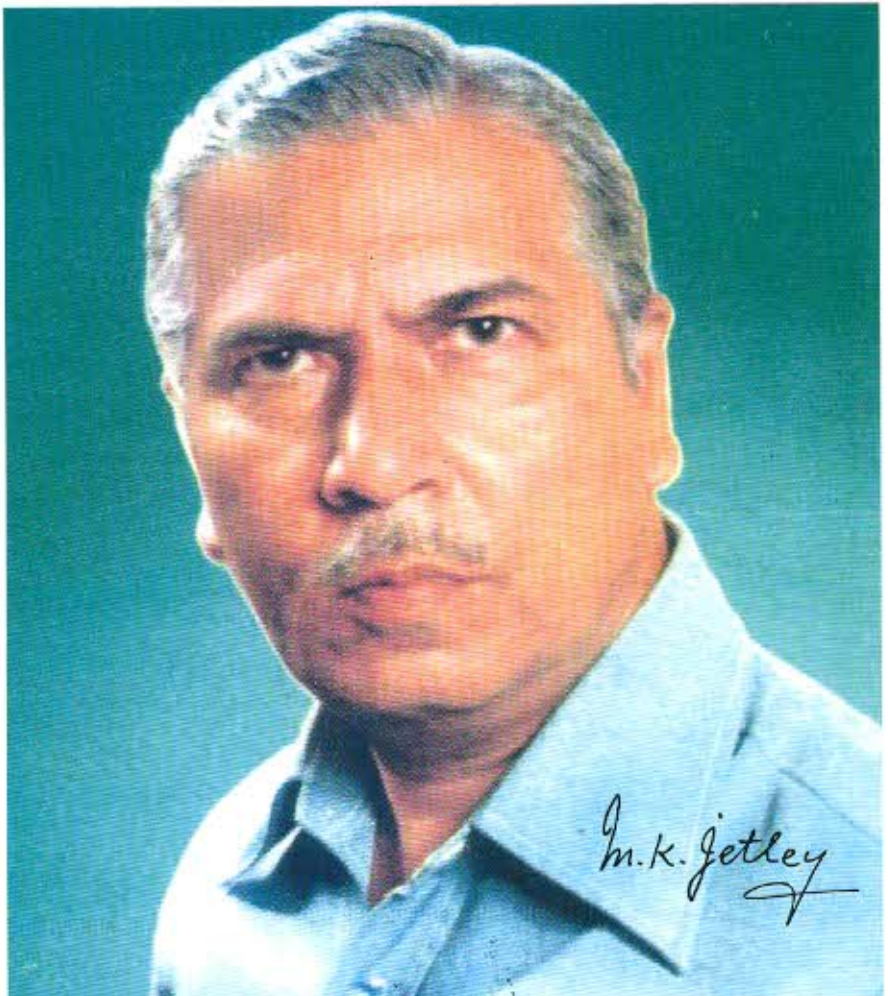


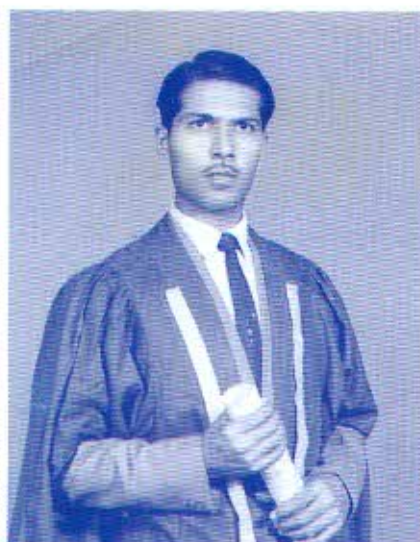
Sahitya Akademi

invites you to

meet the author

Murlidhar Jetley





The number of Sindhi scholars working in the field of Sindhi linguistics and literary research is so small in India, that it can be counted on fingers. Among them Dr Murlidhar Jetley stands at the highest level. He has been doing research in this field for the last fifty years.

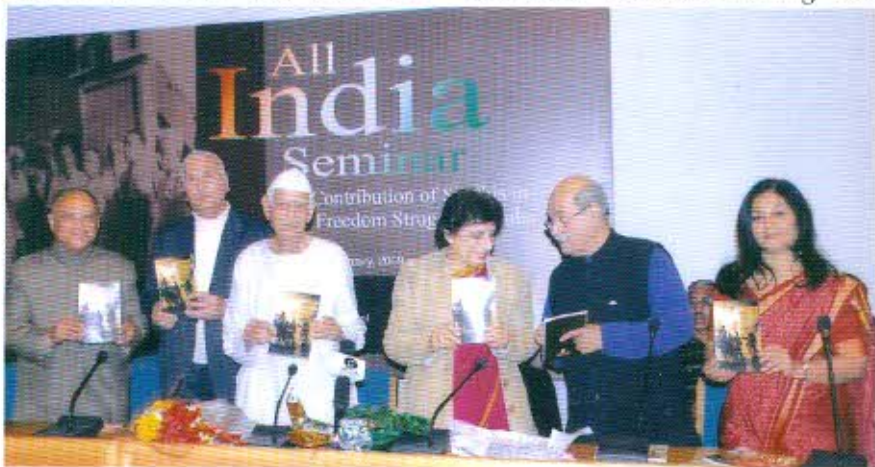
- Kanaiyalal P. Lekhwani
(Former Reader and Principal of Western Regional Language Centre, Pune)

Significantly contributing to the growth of Sindhi prose in its various branches such as essay, biographies, reminiscences, travelogues, literary history and criticism, Murlidhar Jetley is a distinguished linguist, research scholar, historian, folklorist and lexicographer.

Murlidhar Jetley was born on

7th November 1930, in Hyderabad Sindh (now in Pakistan) in a learned family of Saraswat Brahmins that was well versed in Sanskrit and knowledge of Ayurvedic medicines. His grandfather Pandit Topanlal Shevaram Jetley was a Sanskrit scholar and a *Vaidya* who had established an Ayurvedic Vidyalaya in Hyderabad Sindh where a large number of students from entire Sindh province studied the medical system. Jetley recollects that his early life was shaped under the impact of his parents and his surroundings. Besides the formal education in a Sindhi primary school, he also began studying Sanskrit and Hindi at the age of ten under the tutelage of his father Kishinchand Jetley, himself a Sanskrit scholar and historian who had had to his credit a dozen books written in Sanskrit, Hindi, Sindhi and Marathi. Around the age of twelve Murlidhar Jetley was assigned the duty of conducting a library containing selected books in Sindhi and Hindi for children. Mostly those books were biographies of national leaders, Rajput and Maratha warriors, religious classics and about patriotism. This certainly created in him an aptitude for reading which later he would develop to a great extent.

Hardly was he doing his matriculation when India got Independence and later followed the traumatic Partition. During that



All India Seminar, Sindhi Academy in 2009, with Hiro Thakur, Rochiram Thanwani, Minister Kiran Walia, C. J. Daswani, Sindhu Bhagia Mishra

period about twelve lakh Sindhi Hindus were compelled to migrate from Sindh to India. This upheaval disturbed the studies of Murlidhar, consequently he completed his matriculation successfully from Vadodara in 1949 and settle with his parents in Pune where he continued his college studies and was also got appointed as Research Fellow at Deccan College in 1961. He worked there on the project of Sindhi-English Dictionary and wrote the thesis on Morphology of Sindhi language for which he was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of Pune. Later he joined R.K. Talreja College, Ulhasnagar as lecturer in Hindi and also worked as Sub-Editor in *Hindvasi* weekly that was published from Mumbai. Thereafter he was appointed as lecturer in Sindhi at the University of Delhi in 1966. It was after his appointment at the University that doctoral and the courses like M. Lit. in comparative Indian literature were initiated. He retired from the University as Associate Professor.

His writings such as *Linguistic Peculiarities in Sindhi*, *Sindhi Phonology*, *Critical Study of Sindhi Writing Systems*, *Structure of Bound Pronouns in Sindhi*, *The Language of Shah Jo Risalo*, *Origin and Development of Sindhi*, *Compound and Complex Words in Sindhi* have been highly appreciated in India and Sindh (Pakistan). Murlidhar Jetley is known to be the first folklorist in



with Jairamdas Doulatram, then Member Rajya Sabha

Sindhi who has compiled comprehensive dictionary of Sindhi idioms and proverbs along with Sri Santdas P. Kishnani explaining their meaning and usage. He is the first scholar in our sub-continent to present the socio-cultural and linguistic study of Sindhi idioms and proverbs in detail. Also he is the first scholar to have done the research in Sindhi linguistics and receive a Ph.D. He has undoubtedly treaded a difficult path that is generally avoided by writers.

Murlidhar Jetley was actively associated with various projects initiated by Govt. of India for the Development of Sindhi Language, Literature and Culture. He was a member of Sindhi Advisory Board (HRD Ministry) from 1975 to 1995 and Vice-Chairman of the Board for six years. He has the credit of establishing the Sindhi Academy, Delhi in July 1994. Since January, 2007 he has been its Vice-Chairman.



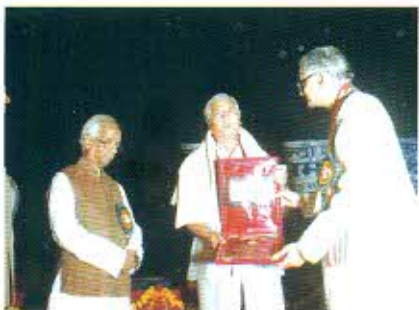
at Award Ceremony of Sindhi Academy - 2012 with Sindhu Bhagia Mishra, Vasdev Mohi, Vishu Belani, Minister Kiran Wallia, Mohan Himthani, Hariranad



At a seminar at Faizabad (U.P.)

After the appointment of Sindhu Bhagia Mishra as its Secretary in June, 2007 the Sindhi Academy commenced to take various projects for the development of Sindhi language, literature and culture. Jetley has attended four international conferences that were held in Sindh (Pakistan) and presented his remarkable research papers. He has more than 24 published books to his credit, besides hundreds of research papers published in several literary magazines in India and Sindh (Pakistan). Being an eminent educationist he has been appointed as an examiner of Ph.D. thesis at the universities in India and Sindh (Pakistan).

At present, at the age of 84, he is actively associated with literary and educational activities such as the project of compiling an *Etymological*



Receiving honour at the hands of Vishukant Shastri, then Governor, U.P.

Dictionary of Sindhi.

Jetley has been honoured and awarded prizes by several government and non-government organizations such as National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language awarded him prizes on his books in 1999 and 2009, Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan, Luknow, awarded him Sauharda Puraskar for his literary excellence in 1999, Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli ain Sahitya Sabha, Jaipur awarded him prize in 2004 for his literary contribution, Ram and Veena Buxani Foundation and Sahayoga Foundation awarded him prizes in 2007, Ram Panjwani Trust and Himatsingh Advani Foundation honoured him for literary contribution in 2010.

Scholars and critics in India and Sindh (Pakistan) have highly appreciated Jetley's contribution to the field of Sindhi linguistics and literature. Jhamu Chhugani, former director of Madhya Pradesh Sindhi Academy, regards him as "a mobile encyclopedia of Sindhi language and literature". Naaz Sanai of Hyderabad Sindh (Pakistan), referring to the book written by Jetley in Sindhi regarding the earliest Sindhi folktales in published form, clearly points it out, "it is a result of an eminent Sindhi scholar, which brings to our notice various wrong statements in the history of Sindhi literature". Hidayat Prem, Chairman of Sindhi department, University of Sindh (Pakistan) writes, "Murlidhar Jetley is a well known Sindhi scholar not only in India but he is also famous in the literary world of Sindh (Pakistan)".



Receiving honour at the hands of Ramansingh, then C M, Chhatisgarh

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sindhi Bhasha Ka Samkshipta Vyakaran	1957
Meghdoot of Kalidas	1981
Sindhi Sahitya Jo Itihas (Second revised in 2006)	1972
Hotchand Mulchand Gurbaxani (Seminar papers)	1983
Lalchand Amardinomal Jagtiani (Life & Works in Sindhi)	1985
Availi Shaya Thiyala Sindhi	1986
Loka Kahaniyoon Sindhua Joon Laharoon	1989
Jethmal Parasram Gulrajani (Life & Works in Sindhi)	1990
Shah Jo Risalo (Hik Abhyas)	1992
Sindhi Pahaka ain Muhavara (Hik Abhyas)	1993
Bolio Jo Sirishto ain Likavata	1999
Sindhi Shabda Maharani	1999
Sindhi Sahitya Ji Jhalak	2000
Sindhi Dhwani Vigyan (Sindhi Phonology)	2000
Bharatiya Sahitya Kosh	1981
Bharatiya Kahavat Kosh	1983
Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature	1987
Comparative Indian Literature (Two essays)	
Hindi-Sindhi and Hindi-Sindhi-English Dictionaries	
Sindhi Bhasha Vyakaran Evam Prayoga (Hindi)	1997
Sindhi Bhagat (Hindi)	1999
Sindhi Sahitya Ke Vividh Ayam (Hindi)	2002
Lalchand Amardinomal Jagtiani (Jivan Charitra Ain Choond Rachnaon)	2008

Research Projects

Etymological Dictionary of Sindhi

Historical Development of Sindhi Language and Literature



at Sadhu Bela, Sukkar Sindh (1986)



*with his family (wife Sarala sitting),
Standing - Renu (Daughter in Law),
Sudhir (Son), Shivangi (Grand Daughter)*

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1930 Born on November 7th in Hyderabad, Sindh (now in Pakistan)
- 1947 Student in Matriculation class in N.H. Academy, Hyderabad. Migrated to India and temporarily stayed in Jodhpur
- 1948 Joined Sindh Hindu High School in Vadodara
- 1949 Passed Secondary School Certificate Examination. Joined S.P. College for further studies and worked as a part-time teacher in Navin Hind High School
- 1954 B.A. (Sanskrit-Hindi) from University of Pune
- 1959 M.A. (Hindi-Sanskrit) from University of Pune
- 1960 Joined Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute as Research Fellow in Sindhi Linguistics Department to compile Sindhi-English Dictionary
- 1961 M.A. (Linguistics), University of Pune, and worked on the structure of Sindhi Language for Ph.D. degree
- 1965 Awarded Ph.D. degree in Linguistics, University of Pune. Thesis on 'Morphology of Sindhi Language'. During the years 1964-65 worked as Lecturer in Hindi in R.K. Talreja College, Ulhasnagar and a part-time sub-editor in *Hindvasi*, Sindhi weekly, published from Mumbai.
- 1966 Joined Department of Modern Indian Languages, University of Delhi on 9th February as a Lecturer in Sindhi. Retired as Associate Professor (Reader). Member of Sindhi Advisory Committee for two terms of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
- 1975 Member of Sindhi Advisory Board, Ministry of H.R.D. from 1975 to 1995. Was Vice-Chairman of Board for six years
- 1986 Attended Shah Latif International Conference in Sukkur, Sindh. Thereafter, attended such international conference in Sindh in 1989, 1996 and 2014
- 1994 Established Sindhi Academy, Delhi, in July. Was Hon. Founder Secretary
- 2007 Vice-Chairman, Sindhi Academy Delhi, since January



with Sheikh Ayaz and others in Karachi