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PRESS NOTE

Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2017 & 2018

Sahitya Akademi has announced the Bhasha Sammans to the below writers/scholars in recognition of their significant contributions in the field of Classical and Medieval Literature and also in Unrecognized Languages.

Each Bhasha Samman carries a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000/-, an inscribed copper plaque and citation. The Samman will be presented to the Awardees by the President of Sahitya Akademi at a special function which will be held on a later date.

The brief bio-datas of the Bhasha Samman Awardees are given below:

CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

NORTH (2017)

Dr Yogendra Nath Sharma 'Arun' (born 7 June 1941) is an eminent poet and writer in Hindi. He retired as Principal with 35 years' teaching experience. He has 24 publications including 04 collections of children poetry. He has unique Research work in *Jain Ramakatha* entitled *Swayambhu Avam Tulsi Ke Naripatra: Tulnatmak Anusheelan*. Dr. Arun has received various honours and awards like - Kavya Ratna Award, Geet Ratnakar Award, Sahitya Shri Award among others.

Jury: Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, Sri Sudhish Pachouri and Prof. Sharda Sharma.

SOUTH (2017)

Sri G. Venkatasubbiah (born 23 August 1913 at Ganjam Village, Srirangapatna in Mandya District) is an eminent Kannada writer, grammarian, editor, lexicographer and critic who has compiled 10 dictionaries and authored a dictionary entitled *Klishtapada Kosha*, a dictionary of complex Kannada words, 04 seminal works on dictionary science in Kannada, edited over 60 books, published 04 children's books, 08 translations and several papers. Sri G. Venkatasubbiah has been decorated with several awards and honours that include Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award, Rajyothsava Award, Shivaram Karanth Award, Press Academy Special Award, Aryabhatta Award, K. M. Munshi Award, Honorary Doctorate from Rani Chennamma University, Pampa Award and Padmashri from the Government of India in 2017.

Jury: Dr C. Rajendran, Prof. Ravva Srihari and Sri Basavaraj Kalgudi.

EASTERN (2018)

Dr Gaganendra Nath Dash (born, 25 November 1940) is an eminent scholar and writer in Odia. He has 30 years of teaching experience in different positions and retired as the Head of the Department of Linguistics, Berhampur University. He had a seminal role in preparing a classified and comprehensive bibliography, entitled *Orissa*. His works on the role of the priests of Jagannath temple in medieval Odisha was quite influential and brought much acclaim. He has worked on various research projects, namely, Harvard-Bhubaneswar Project and Orissa Research Project I & II which aimed at a long-term fieldwork oriented ethnographic study of urbanization and socio-cultural changes in Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

Jury: Professor Sunil Kumar Dutta, Dr Pradipta Kumar Panda and Prof. Jyotsna Chattopadhyay.

WESTERN (2018)

Dr Shailaja Bapat is an eminent writer in Marathi. She has written a voluminous work entitled, *A Critical Study of the Brahmasutras* in three volumes. The author has provided the variant readings of the Sutras. The findings of the variant readings are based on the manuscripts of the BAdarAya/Ea's BrahmasUtrapaAtha. He has collated these manuscripts on the ancient text published with the

