

SAHITYA AKADEMI
NEW DELHI

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PRESS RELEASE

Sahitya Akademi Fellowship Announced

New Delhi, 16 February 2016, The Sahitya Akademi selected two distinguished litterateurs of India, Dr. Gurdial Singh and Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty as its Fellows today. The General Council of Sahitya Akademi, which met under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi announced its highest honour to them. The Fellowship carries a copper plaque and a shawl, which is presented in a special function. As per the Constitution of the Sahitya Akademi, literary persons of outstanding merits are selected as Fellows of the Akademi, provided that the number of such Fellows shall at no point of time exceed 21.

Prof Gurdial Singh is an eminent Punjabi writer and novelist. He was born on 10 January 1933 in Bhaini Fatehh. He started his literary career in 1957 with a short story *Bhaganwale* which was published in Panj Daya. He rose to popularity with the publication of his novel *Marhi Da Deeva* in 1964 and later in 1989 a film based on the novel also came out. He has 37 publications to his credit which include ten novels, eleven collections of short stories, three plays, two prose works and nine books for children. He has also translated more than 30 works into Punjabi. He is the recipient of various prestigious award and honors such as Padma Shri, Jnanpith Award, Sahitya Akademi Award, Shiromani Sahitkar Award, Punjab Sahitya Akademi Award among others.

Sri Nirendranath Chakravarty is an eminent Bengali poet. Born in 1924, Sri Chakravarty pursued journalism to begin with and was the editor of children's fortnightly Anandamela. He is one of the distinguished 'modern' poets of Bengal. Felicity of expression and perspicacity of diction are among the main traits of his compositions, distinguishing him from the rest of his tribe. His principal works include *Nil Nirjan*, *Andhakar Baranda*, *Kolkatar Jish*, *Shreshtha Kavita* and *Ulanga Raja*. He was the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award for *Ulanga Raja*. He is also an eminent translator and has translated a number of children's works and poetry into Bengali.