



Sahitya Akademi

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meet the author

Rewa Prasad Dwivedi





Rewa Prasad Dwivedi as a student

Mahamahopadhyaya Prof. Rewa Prasad Dwivedi, popularly known as 'Sanatanakavi,' was born in 1935 in village Nadner, district Sihore (Madhya Pradesh). He began learning Sanskrit from his father in his childhood from the holy verses of *Vishnusahasranamam*. After completing his school education in Nadner, he came to Kashi (Varanasi) in 1950 to obtain higher education in Sanskrit under late Pt. Mahadev Shastri, a leading scholar of that time. He obtained all his degrees namely *Shastri* (Sahitya, 1953), *Acharya* (Sahitya, 1956) and M.A. (Sanskrit Literature, 1959) from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), achieving first class first rank throughout. He obtained his Ph D degree in 1965 from Ravishankar University, Raipur on Hemadri's commentary on Raghuvamsa-*Darpana*. In 1974, Rani Durgavati Vishvavidyalaya, Jabalpur conferred upon him D.Litt. (Sanskrit) degree for his works on the Alamkara and Dhvani schools of Sanskrit Poetics.

Dwivedi started his academic career as a Lecturer and then Assistant Professor of Sanskrit, M.P. Government from 1959-1970. He was Reader Sanskrit Sahitya, Faculty of Sanskrit Learning and Theology (presently Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vigyan Sankay, SVDV) at BHU from 1970-77; Professor 1977-95; Head of the Sahitya Department 1970-1990; Dean of the SVDV faculty 1979-1981, 1985-1987, 1987-1989; Emeritus Fellow, UGC during 1991-92; lifetime Emeritus Professor (Sanskrit) since 1993. He is the founder of Kalidasa Sansthan (KS), a 'Centre for Excellence in Sanskrit Poetics,' Varanasi, a non-profit charitable organization, where he devotes his

time for free education to students on rare texts of Sanskrit poetics, preservation and publication of Kalidasa Literature, and a wide range of editions and publications in Sanskrit Literature along with his younger son Dr Sadashiv Kr. Dwivedi, who is carrying the torch of excellence in Sanskrit forward from his eminent father along with his younger sister Dr Shobha Mishra, who teaches at the Dept. of Sanskrit, VSSD College, Kanpur.

Professor Dwivedi has propounded new theories in the field of Sanskrit Poetics and Dramaturgy in his treatises. The new theories in the field of Sanskrit poetics propounded by Prof. Dwivedi are (i) Alamkara is the true soul of poetry; (ii) Dhvani has no historical and logical base and is not acceptable at all; (iii) Reshaped the history of Sanskrit poetics (2005); (iv) Both the two devices differ from each other - Literature and Language; (v) The Theory: Alam bhava is the real Alamkara; (vi) Introduced the Four Dhama and Five Kalpa theory in the history of Sanskrit poetics; (vii) Working on the Dhara school of Bhoja etc. Professor Dwivedi has given support to Vedic theme of Alamkara as the soul of poetry, Rasa is included in it. Dhvani School is proved as a non-Vedic emotional slogan and he has uprooted its theories with fresh objections. In the field of poetics Prof. Dwivedi presents a fresh assessment of poetic elements and experience on new grounds in his treatise *Kavya-lamkarakarika*, published in 1977 with Sanskrit gloss and English translation.

Professor Dwivedi has written 3 epics, 21 lyrics, 2 dramas and several poems in Sanskrit. He has composed over twelve thousand Sanskrit verses in various meters and many other



Rewa Prasad Dwivedi holding his Ph D Degree



With youngest son Prof. Sadashiv Kr. Dwivedi, daughter-in-law Anamika, granddaughters Vasudha and Anuradha, and grandson Upamanyu



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Dr Birendra Kr. Bhattacharya, President, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi

poems like *Brahmastram* on the occasion of 50th Year of India's Independence in 1999; *Kutannatah*, the lyric poetry written by the poet on the present day situation in 1997. He has written three Sanskrit stories namely *Tripadi*, *Kasya Dosah & Kosau*, published in the *Sanskrit Pratibha* magazine of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Professor Dwivedi has edited for the first time complete text of Kalidasa Literature on the basis of 300 manuscripts, including those preserved in Harvard University, and critical editions published from all over the world under the title *Kalida-sagranthavali* (1976, 1986 from BHU and with Hindi translation in 2007 in two volumes from Kalidasa Sanskrit Academy, Ujjain).

Professor Dwivedi is a poet, dramatist, critic, editor and above all a deep scholar of Sanskrit poetics and dramaturgy. For his extraordinary contribution to Sanskrit literature and poetics he was honoured with 'The Certificate of Honour' (President Award) by the President of India on 15th August, 1978, a lifetime achievement award at the age of just 42. Adding to the prestige of the President Award, Prof. Dwivedi also received Sahitya Akademi Award in 1991; *Kalpavalli Puraskara* from Bharatiya Bhasa Parishad, Calcutta in 1993; *Vacaspati Puraskara* by K.K. Birla Foundation, New Delhi in 1997; *Srivani Alamkarana* by R.J. Dalmiya Shrivani Nyasa, New Delhi, in 1999 (all of these four awards for his original epic *Svatantryasambhavam*); *Visista Puraskara* from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan in 2002; *Valmiki Puraskara* from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan in 2004;

Vishva Bharati Puraskar from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan in 2005; nine different Awards on books by the Government of M.P. & U.P., including two *Mitra Puraskaras*, *Bhojapuraskara* and *Vyasapuraskara* from Govt. of M.P.; *Nana Saheb Peshwa Dharmika and Adhyatmika Puraskara*, Devadeveshvara Sansthana, Pune, 2010; *Rashtriya Sanskrit Veda Vyas Puraskara* of 2005 conferred by University Grants Commission, 2010; *Smt. Chandravati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasha Puraskara*, 2009 conferred by Shri Gyan Kalyana Datavya Nyasa, New Delhi, 2010; and *Maharsi Vedavyas Samman*, Sanskrit Academy, 2012. Professor Dwivedi has also received several honorary titles like *Mahamahadhyapaka*, 1978; *Mahamahopadhyaya*, 1999, 2003, 2009; *Abhinava-Kalidasa*, 2003; *Ratnasadasya* of Kalidas Sanskrit Academy, Ujjain, 2007; *Panditaratna*, 2008; *Shastrakalanidhi*, 2006; *Sahityaratna*, 2010; *Pragyabharati*, 2010; *Shastrarthasri*, 2012 from various renowned institutions all over the country.

On the international front, Prof. Dwivedi was the convener of the Vth World Sanskrit Conference, BHU, Varanasi, 1981. He attended the VIth World Sanskrit Conference, 1984 at Philadelphia, USA as Govt. of India delegate and VIIth World Sanskrit Conference, Leiden, Holland, 1986 as a member of the delegation of BHU; visited Nepal as a specially invited scholar, 1994; chaired two research sessions in XVth World Sanskrit Conference, 2012, New Delhi. Professor Dwivedi visited US scholars and institutions in the USA in 1996 and 2002 including Harvard University for his research.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Epics

- *Uttarasitacaritam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1968, 1975, 1990)
- *Svatantryasambhavam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1990, BHU 2000, Kalidasa Sansthan, S 2012)
- *Kumaravijayamahakavyam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2005)

Lyrics

- *Satapatram* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1987)
- *Pramathah* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1988)
- *Sriewabhadrapitham* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1988, 2003)
- *Sanskritahirakam* (BHU, 1989)
- *Sakataram* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2000)
- *Matantaram* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2001)
- *Sarabhangam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2001)
- *Sarasayya* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2002)
- *Ramaparisankhya* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2008)
- *America* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2008)
- *Hariharaবাদanakavyam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2009)
- *Ayi Nile Nadi* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2009)
- *Ratnaswarupavadanakavyam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2010)
- *Jayendrasarasvatipada-vadanakavyam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2011)

Stories

- *Tripadi* (Published in *Sanskrit Pratibha* magazine, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi)
- *Kasya Dosah* (Published in *Sanskrit Pratibha* magazine, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi)
- *Kosau* (Published in *Sanskrit Pratibha* magazine, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi)

Plays

- *Yuthika* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1976)
- *Saptarsi-Kangresam* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2000)

Shastras

- *Kavyalamkarakarika* (Chaukhamba, Varanasi 1977, Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 2001)
- *Natyanusasanam*, Volumes I-V (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi 1996, 2008)
- *Sahityasarirarakam* (Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi 1998)
- *Sanskrit Kavyashastra Ka Alochanatmaka Itihasa* (Kalidasa Sansthan, Varanasi, 2007)

Critical Works

- *Raghuvamsa-Darpana* by Hemadri (K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna 1973)
- *Kalidasagranthavali* (BHU 1976, 1986 & with Hindi translation by Kalidasa Sanskrit Academy, Ujjain in 2007)
- *Kavyaprakasa* of Mammata (BHU 1981)
- *Ritusanhara* of Kalidasa (Sahitya Akademi 1990)



Professor Dwivedi alongwith his wife Smt. Drupadakumari Dwivedi after receiving the Certificate of Honour (President Award) from the then President of India Dr. Neelam Sanjiv Reddy and the former Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai at the President House, New Delhi



Receiving *Srivani Alamkarana* from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister, at the Prime Minister house. Also seen are Justice Ranganath Mishra, Shri Mriduhari Dalmia, Dr Karan Singh and Shri Sanjay Dalmia

- *Raghuvamsam* of Kalidasa (Sahitya Akademi 1993)
- *Natyashastra* of Bharatmuni (Indian Institute of Advance Study, Shimla 2004)
- *Sringaraprakasha* of Bhoja (IGNCA, New Delhi 2007)
- *Kumarasambhavam* and *Raghuvamsa* (Sampurnanand Sanskrit University 2007, 2008)

Translations

- Mahimabhatta's *Iyaktiviveka* and its Commentary by Ruyyaka (Chaukhamba, Varanasi 1964 in Hindi)
- *Alamkarasarvasvam*, Ruyyaka with Alamkaravimarsini, Jayaratha (Chaukhamba, Varanasi 1971 in Hindi)
- *Abhidhavyrttamatrika* by Mukulabhatta (Chaukhamba, Varanasi 1973 in Hindi)
- *Sabdavyaparavicara* by Mammata (Chaukhamba, Varanasi 1974 in Hindi)

Monographs

- *Anandavardhana* (Hindi Grantha Academy, Bhopal 1972 in Hindi)
- *Kalidasa : Manava-Silpi Mahakavi* (Sanskrit Parishad, Sagar 1973 in Hindi)
- *Bharatiya Kavyasamiksa me Alamkarasidhanta* (Macmillan and Company, New Delhi 1981 in Hindi)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1935 • Born in Nadner village, district Sihore (Madhya Pradesh)
- 1950 • Came to Varanasi for higher education
- 1953 • Passed *Shastri* (Sahitya) examination from BHU, Varanasi
- 1956 • Passed *Acharya* (Sahitya) examination from BHU, Varanasi
- 1959 • M.A. in Sanskrit from BHU, Varanasi with a First Class First

- Started academic career in a college of M.P. Government as Lecturer
- 1964 • Published translation of Mahimabhatta's *Iyaktiviveka* and its Commentary by Ruyyaka in Hindi
- 1965 • PhD from Ravishankar University, Raipur
- 1968 • Published *Uttarasitacaritam* epic
- 1970 • Joined BHU, Varanasi as Reader in Sanskrit
- 1971 • Published translation of *Alamkarasarvasvam*, Ruyyaka with *Alamkaravimarsini*, Jayaratha in Hindi
- 1972 • Published monograph *Anandavardhana* in Hindi
- 1973 • Published critical edition of *Raghuvamsa -Darpana* by Hemadri
- Published translation of *Abhidhavyrttamatrika* by Mukulabhatta in Hindi
- Published monograph *Kalidasa : Manava-Silpi Mahakavi* in Hindi
- 1974 • Was conferred degree of D.Litt. from Rani Durgavati Vishva-vidyalaya, Jabalpur
- Published translation of *Sabdavyaparavicara* by Mammata in Hindi
- 1976 • Published critical edition of *Kalidasagranthavali*
- 1977 • Appointed Professor of Sanskrit at BHU, Varanasi
- Published *Kavyalamkarakarika* shastra with 263 verses on poetics
- 1978 • Received President of India Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit
- 1979 • Became the Dean of the Sanskrit Vidya Dharm Vigyan Sankay, BHU, Varanasi
- 1981 • Was convener of Vth World Sanskrit Conference, BHU, Varanasi

- Published critical edition of *Kavyaprakasa* of Mammata
- Published monograph *Bharatiya Kavyasamiksa me Alamkara-siddhanta* in Hindi
- 1984 • Attended VI World Sanskrit Conference at Philadelphia, USA
- 1986 • Attended VII World Sanskrit Conference at Leiden, Holland
- 1987 • Published *Satapatram* with 115 verses on poetry
- 1988 • Published *Pramathah* with nine poems & 353 verses on atomic age
- Published *Srirewabhadrapiham* with 153 verses on the cultural beauty of Narmada valley and his native village Nadner
- 1989 • Published *Svatantrya-sambhavam* epic
- Published *Sanskritahirakam* with 560 verses on the history of Sanskrit Faculty, BHU
- 1990 • Published *Svatantrya-sambhavam* epic
- Published critical edition of *Ritusamhara* of Kalidasa
- 1991 • Received Sahitya Akademi Award for the epic *Svatantrya-sambhavam*
- 1993 • Received status of Professor Emeritus (Sanskrit)
- Received Kalpavalli Puraskara from Bharatiya Bhasa Parishad, Calcutta
- Published critical edition of *Raghuvamsam* of Kalidasa
- 1996 • Published *Natyanusasanam* sastra with 411 verses on the philosophy of dramatic art (Vol. I-V) *Natyanusasanam*, *Bharatadarsanam*, *Nastyasarirakam*, *Kalasadhidih* & *Rasabhogah*
- 1997 • Received Vachaspati Puraskara by K.K. Birla Foundation, New Delhi
- 1998 • Published *Sahityasarirarakam* shastra, new approach to the history of Sanskrit poetics
- 1999 • Received Srivani Alamkarana by R.J. Dalmiya Shrivani Nyas, New Delhi
- 2000 • Published *Sakataram* with 121 verses on the release of Nelson Mandela from prison
- 2001 • Published *Matantaram* with 111 verses on the present day situation
- Published *Sarabhangam* with 108 verses on the aesthetic life of Maharshi Sharabhanga
- 2002 • Received Visista Puraskara from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan
- 2004 • Received Valmiki Puraskara from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan
- Published critical edition of *Natyashastra* of Bharatmuni
- 2005 • Received Vishva Bhrati Puraskara from U.P. Sanskrit Sansthan
- Published *Kumaravijaya-mahakavyam* epic
- Published *Sanskrit Kavyashastra Ka Alochanatmaka Itihasa*
- 2007 • Published critical edition of *Kalidasagranthavali* with Hindi translation
- Published critical edition of *Sringaraprakasha* of Bhoja
- Published critical edition of *Kumarasambhavam* and *Raghuvamsa*
- 2008 • Published *Sarasayya*, a collection of three lyrics
- Published *Ramaparisankhya*, a collection of three lyrics
- 2009 • Published *Hariharavadana-kavyam* with 261 verses on Dharmasamrata Swami Karpatiriji
- Published *Ayi Neela Nadi* with 242 verses on Nila Nadi of Egypt, presenting the huge difference between western and Indian culture and philosophy
- 2010 • Received Nana Saheb Peshwa Dharmika and Adhyatmika Puraskara, Devadeveshvara Sansthana, Pune
- Received Rashtriya Sanskrit Veda Vyas Puraskara, 2005 conferred by University Grants Commission
- Received Smt. Chandravati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasa Puraskara, 2009 conferred by Shri Gyan Kalyana Datavya Nyas, New Delhi
- Published *Ratnaswarupa-vadanakavyam* with 307 verses on Shankaracharya Swami Swarupanand Sarasvati
- 2011 • Published *America*, a collection of three lyrics
- Published *Jayendrasarasvati-padavadanakavyam* with 12 verses on Swami Jayendra Sarasvati
- 2012 • Received Maharshi Vedavyas Samman from Sanskrit Academy
- Chaired two sessions in XV World Sanskrit Conference at New Delhi



With Prof. Daniel H.H. Ingalls of Harvard University