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Sahitya Akademi

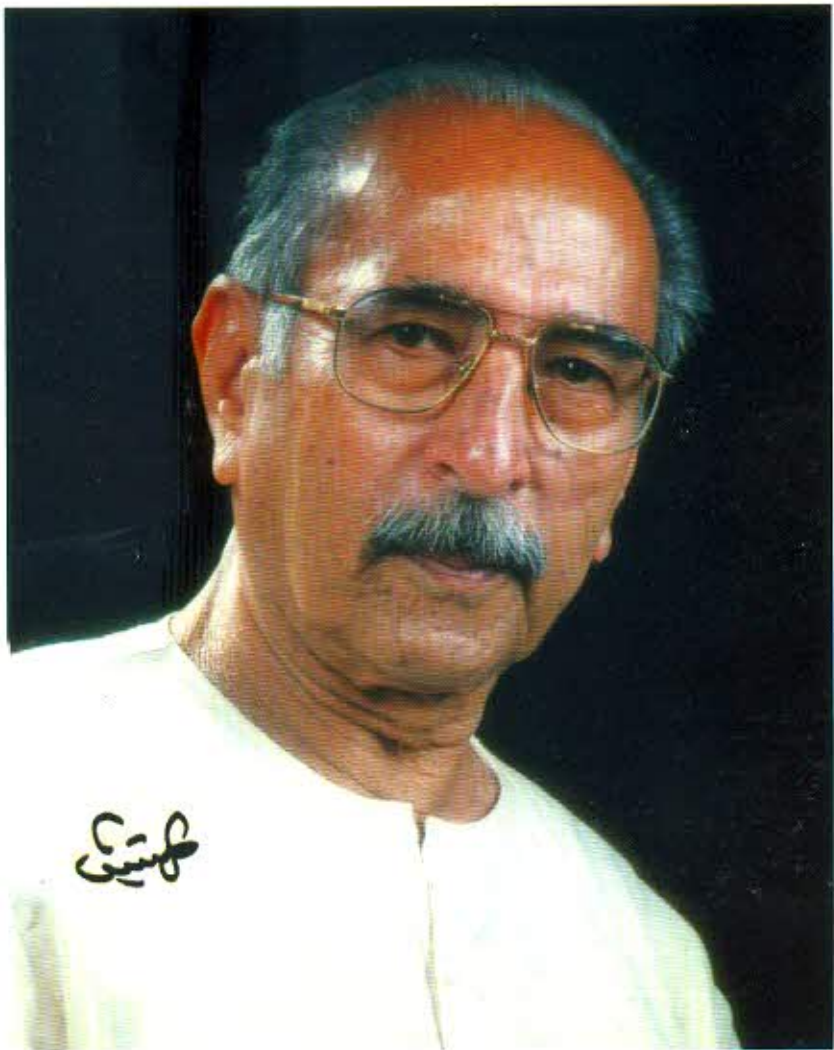


Indian Institute
of Sindhology

invite you to

meet the author

Satish Rohra



Satish Rohra is a multi-faceted personality. He is known as a keen thinker, brilliant scholar, an accomplished linguist and a writer of Sindhi language. Born in a joint middle class family in Dadu-Sindh (now in Pakistan), on 15th August 1929, he lost his father at the tender age of ten. Due to the family circumstances he left his school in the same year to supplement the family income even at this young age. Burning keenness to contribute his humble mite to the cause of the freedom struggle of India, he joined Rashtriya Seva Dal, a youth organization, and became its full time worker when he was just 17 years old.

After Partition, he migrated with his family in 1948 to Ajmer. Once his family was settled in Ajmer, he left the family to join a group of friends for the purpose of rehabilitation of Sindhi refugees who were wandering in nooks and corners of India in search of shelter and

employment. In 1950 he came to Gandhidham, on the call of old friends, to participate in the social and cultural development of Gandhidham - a dream town of Bhai Pratab; for the resettlement of Sindhis.

After abruptly discontinuing his schooling in Sindh, he appeared for the S.S.C examination of Bombay Board in 1953 and secured a first class. He did not look back thereafter. He passed Inter Arts in 1957 from the Ajmer Board bagging Gold-medal by getting first position in the board, B.A., in 1960, M.A., (Hindi) in 1962 and Ph.D. in Linguistics from Poona University in 1966. In the same year, he joined as a lecturer in Banaras Hindu University. He became a Reader in 1973 in Central Hindi Institute (C.H.I.), Agra, and was appointed as Professor in the same institute in 1983. He was deputed as a visiting professor to the University of Guyana, Guyana (S.America), by the Ministry of



Satish Rohra with his daughter - Shashi - her husband - Kishan Gurnami - younger daughter - Kiran & her son Rahul, and Yuki Hiro, son of his elder daughter - Aruna Sudha

External Affairs, Govt. of India, and was attached to the Indian Embassy in Guyana, with the status of the first secretary.

Widely travelled in India and abroad, Rohra has visited U.S.A, U.K., Canada, Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Caribbean countries like Guyana, Trinidad, Surinam, Barbados, etc. for lecturing on various subjects related to language, literature and culture. He has a natural gift of eloquence to hold the audience in rapt attention with his logical and analytical talks.

After his retirement from C.H.I. in 1989, he joined his friends at Adipur-Gandhidham to establish Indian Institute of Sindhology (I.I.S.), and became its Founder Director.

As a linguist, Satish explains that normal channel to acquire cultural heritage is from language to culture but in Sindhi community that process is shrinking and therefore,

there is a need to change the course of acquiring cultural heritage. He says, 'We should now proceed from vocal culture (music, drama, discourse, storytelling, etc.) to culture and from culture to language.' Satish calls it "Cultural Bypass Surgery". This theory has been amply described in his book entitled *Cultural Bypass Surgery*. His book *Sindhi Boli jee Atam Katha* ("Autobiography of Sindhi Language") is a simple narration of the history of Sindhi language from its birth to the present situation. This appeals to the readers and audience profoundly, wherever it has been presented in monologue form on the stage. It is a moving saga that touches the chords of the heart of Sindhis.

Rohra has contributed in many genres of Sindhi literature like biography, essay, literary criticism, etc. He has even penned a poetry book entitled *Tanha* having one line



With (Late) K. R. Malkani, Ram Jethmalani & Kirat Babani
at International Conference, Washington, DC.



with L. K. Advani, the then Home Minister, Govt. of India, for laying foundation stone of Indian Institute of Sindhology.

poems. His first book in Sindhi - *Bhasha ain Sindhi Bhasha* was published in 1971. To his credit are three collections of short stories, six books of essays, two books of literary criticism, three books on linguistics and a book on poetry. Besides Sindhi, he has written and edited some books in Hindi and English.

His short stories describe the complicated relationship in the backdrop of human psychology, crumbling of the social structure, the inner struggle of mind and the loneliness of man in the present times. His very famous short story "Rishto" (Relation) describes the person who feels so lonely that a simple co-traveller on a bus connects him to the world and in his absence he feels forlorn that he stands under the lamp post to find some known passer by, to feel as a part of the human society.

As a critic of literature, he

follows the method of modern criticism, analyzing the text in the light of text itself and separating literary elements from the non literary elements in the writing. His book of literary criticism, *Kavita Khan Kavita Taaeen* received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004. Besides this coveted recognition, he received the awards from Akhil Bharat Sindhi Boli ain Sahit Sabha and National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language (NCPSSL) and also many awards from other esteemed literary and cultural organizations.

At present, he is busy to give final touches to the Trilingual (Sindhi-both scripts, Hindi and English) dictionary which is to be published by US with financial assistance from NCPSSL, Ministry of HRD. This is a monumental work which will fulfill the long requirement of Sindhi community.



with his friends on a visit to Mohan Jo Daro in Sindh (2004)

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1. Tanha

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1. Tapasvi Vinoba Bhawe

Edited

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1. Teaching Hindi to the Foreigners (3-Volumes, Edited)
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2. Undahi jo Sachu
3. Airport je Raste te

Criticism

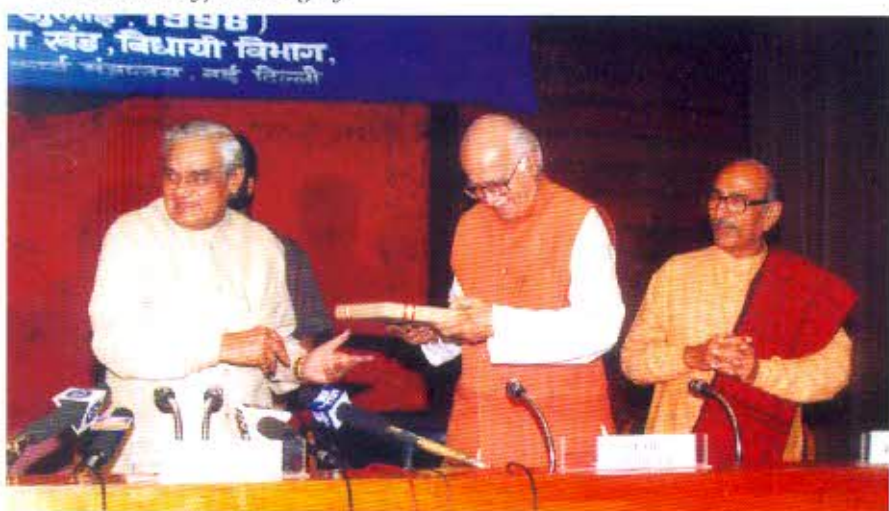
1. Kavita Khaan Kavita Taaen
2. Katha Khaan Katha Taaen

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1. Bhasha ain Sindhi Bhasha
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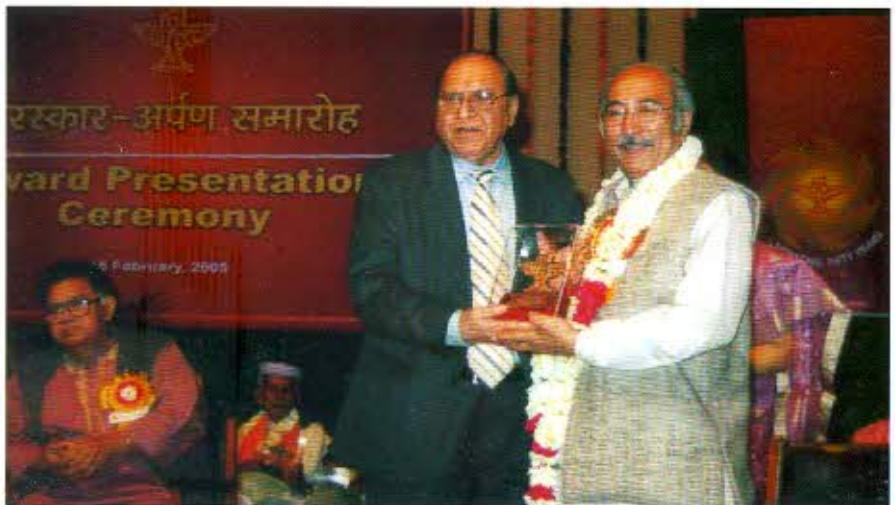
1. Bhasha Evam Hindi Bhasha
2. Hindi Prashikshan-Antar Rashtriya Paripeksh (Edited)
3. Kosh Vigyan Kosh
4. Cultural Bypass Surgery



Sri Atal Bihari Bajpai, the then Prime Minister & Sri L. K. Advani, the then Deputy Prime Minister at the ceremony of unveiling the Sindhi edition of Indian Constitution

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1929 Born in Dadu - Sindh (now in Pakistan)
- 1948 Migrated to India
- 1953 Passed SSC Exam from Bombay Board
- 1954 Married to Phoolwanti
Appointed as a Teacher in Maitri School, Adipur
- 1957 Received Gold Medal for Standing First in Inter Arts Exam of Ajmer Board
- 1960 Passed B.A., Gujarat University
- 1962 Passed M.A., Aligarh University
Joined Deccan College, Poona, Received U.G.C. Jr. Fellowship
- 1964 Passed P.G.D. in Linguistics from Deccan College, Poona
- 1966 Completed Ph. D. in Linguistics, Poona University
Joined as a Lecturer in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
- 1973 Joined as a Reader in Central Institute of Hindi (C.I.H), Agra.
- 1978 Deputed as a Visiting Professor of Hindi at Gayana University, Guyana by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Govt. of India.
- 1983 Became Professor of Applied Linguistics, in C.I.H., Agra.
- 1989 Published first book *Rishto* (Short Stories).
Retired from C.I.H., Agra.
- 1990 Joined Indian Institute of Sindhology as a Founder Director
- 2000 Award From NCPSL for best literary work
- 2002 Award for best literary contribution, from Akhil Bharat Boli & Sahit Sabha
- 2004 Received the award of Sahitya Akademi for the book of literary criticism *Kavita Khaan Kavita Taaen*.
- 2009 Received "Writer in Residency Fellowship" from Sahitya Akademi. At present Vice Chairman of Indian Institute of Sindhology Trust, Adipur.



Receiving the Sahitya Akademi Award, 2004 at the hands of Sri Gopi Chand Narang, President, Sahitya Akademi & Sri Sunil Gangopadhyay, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi in Delhi