

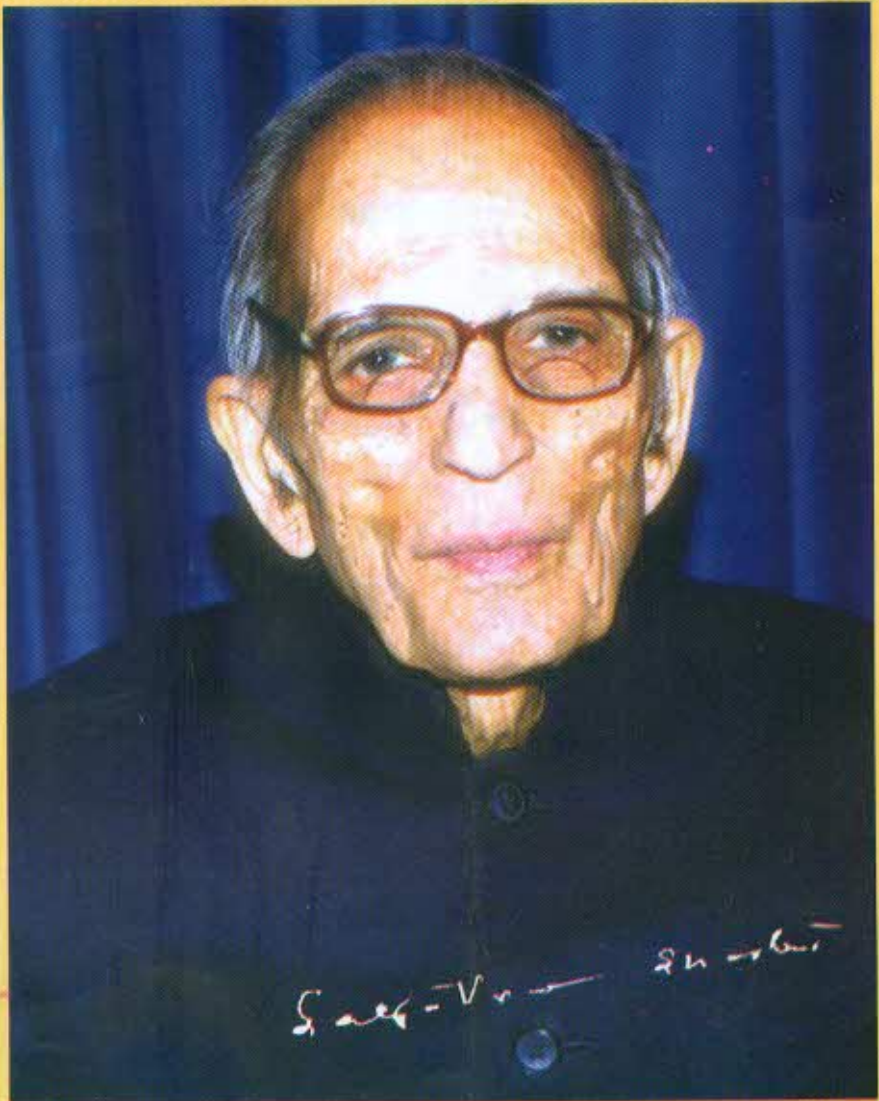


Sahitya Akademi

21 September 2012

meet the author

Satya Vrat Shastri





As a Young Graduate

Widely acclaimed as a living legend and a unique phenomenon, Dr Satya Vrat Shastri has progressively acquired the status of an icon, revered as much for his profound learning as for his disarming modesty. But for the Ācāryas of old, he is the only scholar in the history of Sanskrit learning spread over several centuries, who has broken upon the world of Indology so convincingly. Though firmly rooted in the soil of the country, he has transgressed the artificial boundaries dividing humanity into separate entities, to emerge as a global figure and a world citizen. There is hardly any university or a seat of Sanskrit learning where he has not taught or lectured or otherwise contributed to the dissemination of the ancient learning of the land. Thailand, Germany, USA, UK, Poland, Canada, Hungary, Spain, etc. make as comfortable a home for him as Delhi.

Dr Shastri represents in essence a happy blend of fascinating contradictions. He was trained as a grammarian steeped in the Pāṇinian system, but flowered into an outstanding poet of the contemporary era. And belying the oft-repeated charge that poets do not make good critics, he emerged as an eminent critic, spanning in his mighty sweep the vast domain of literature, both sacred and profane. Dr Shastri is as gifted a poet as distinguished he is as a critic. *Śakti* and *Vyutpatti* have worked out a happy fusion in him.

Dr Shastri has been instrumental in imparting new horizons to Sanskrit poetry through the vast array of creative writings that include three Mahākāvya of considerable length, four Khaṇḍakāvya, two volumes of

versified letters and a host of shorter works, refreshing and interesting in their own ways. Almost all his works are distinguished by unorthodox themes. The *Bodhisattvacaritam* (BSC) opens up new vistas in reducing to mellifluous verses some of the most elevating *avādanas* of the Bodhisattva, a soul struggling for perfect enlightenment. The *Rāmakīrti-mahākāvya* (RKM), on the other hand, makes bold to detail an alien Thai version of the Rāma-story.

Dr Shastri has made sustained forays in the history of the land and some of the neighbouring countries to make it the basis of some of his poems. The *Indirāgāndhīcaritam* (IC) makes a determined bid to grapple with one of the most turbulent periods of the recent history of India. With its theme drawn from the Sikh history, the *Śrīgurugovinda-simhacaritam* (SGGC) lends winsome variety to the historical writings in Sanskrit. The *Bṛhattaram Bhāratam* (BB) addresses itself to capture the glory of South East Asia, the Greater India. In a similar vein but with added flourishes, the *Thāideśavilāsam* (TDV) sets forth the history and culture of Thailand.

The corpus of versified letters, spread over two sizable volumes, tends to raise the trite practice of letter writing to literary heights. Intended to be mini-kāvya, they settle down as an independent branch of poetry. His contribution to the travelogue literature is solid and substantial. The *Śarmṇyadeśaḥ sutarām vibhāti* purports to be a perceptive account of the author's visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.



With Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit on receiving record marks in B.A. (Hons.) Sanskrit



With his father (Centre) and other family members

The same freshness breathes through the execution of his poems. It bears the imprint of a sober mind, well attuned to the imperatives of elegant poetry. The way he has imparted cohesion to the motley data in his comprehensive poems speaks volumes of his skill in handling the burly themes with vision and precision.

Dr Shastri's fascination for unconventional characters has led him to cast a woman—Indira Gandhi—in the mould of a *nāyaka* in the *IC*, though she is equipped with all that the theory prescribes for a hero. Guru Gobind Singh is by far the most vibrant figure evolved by the author. Even some of his subordinate characters are stout enough to match their dominant counterparts.

The flair for innovation asserts itself in equal measure in the *Dine dine yāti madīyafīvitam* as well, which, as a first diary ever written in Sanskrit, has the proud distinction of introducing a new genre to the Sanskrit literature. Though conceived as a diary, it has the credentials of a *gadya-kāvya*, and serves to establish the author as a prose writer of eminence.

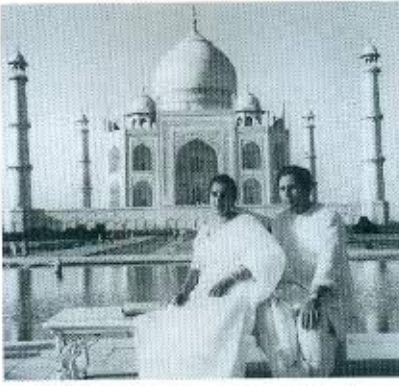
While the poet in Dr Shastri has the upper hand, the grammarian in him is also all too keen to assert himself in his writings. That alone can account for the recondite grammatical forms that figure in his writings of all hues.

Dr Shastri is one of the few poets of the contemporary era whose language retains the classical chastity

and winsome lucidity. It is marked by an effortless ease, flow and sweetness. In fact, it is the charming expression, distinct from the beaten track, Vakrokti as Bhāmaha puts it, which in his view constitutes poetry. Strengthened by suggestive import and charming expression, it assumes winsome grace and evokes wide acceptance.

Dr Shastri's *vyutpatti* too has umpteen ramifications which are convincingly reflected in the spectrum of his critical writings. Grammar and Linguistics doubtless form his *forte*, but he has equally deep insights in such diverse disciplines as Philosophy, Culture, Epics, Purāṇas and the great classical literature of Sanskrit. His *Discovery of Sanskrit Treasures* in seven volumes, which, true to its name, has unravelled the literary treasure enshrined in the ancient Sanskrit literature, bears it out beyond a shred of doubt. His sustained investigations into Kālidāsa, epitomized in *Kālidāsa in Modern Sanskrit Literature and New Experiments in Kālidāsa*, have opened up new vistas in the study of the master poet. *Studies in Sanskrit and Indian Culture in Thailand and Thāideśa Ke Brāhmaṇa* combine to provide a fascinating account of the powerful influence that the Indian culture and its repository, the Sanskrit language, have exercised on the cultural and social fabric of Thailand.

The *Rāmāyaṇa: A Linguistic Study* is by far the most outstanding critical work of Dr Shastri. It purports to be a full-fledged appraisal of the



With wife Usha at the Taj Mahal, Agra

language of the Vālmiki-*Rāmāyaṇa* in all its conceivable aspects. The appraisal is marked by such perception and depth that no study of the *Rāmāyaṇa* can be deemed to be complete without a close perusal of Dr Shastri's critique. While the ambitious plan to subject the language and poetry of the *Yogavāsistha* in a similar vein is yet to materialize, Dr Shastri, as a result of his intensive studies in the burly text, has published a series of eleven articles on its various aspects, which suffice to give a foretaste of the profundity of the forthcoming critique. *Sanskrit Writings of European Scholars* comes as a whiff of fresh air. Contrary to the general belief, the writings painstakingly collected and edited here for the first time prove it beyond cavil that quite a few of the European Indologists were/are gifted writers in Sanskrit prose and poetry as well.

Vyutpatti in Dr Shastri's case extends to the alluvial field of translation also. He has rendered a number of texts into English, Hindi and Sanskrit with the authority of a

grammarians, felicity of a linguist and warmth of a poet. Besides others, he has translated into English Nityananda Shastri's *Rāmacaritābhīratnam*, a formidable *Mahācitrakāvya*, and A. A. Macdonell's *Vedic Grammar for Students* into Hindi with amazing skill and expertise, though in view of the frustrating complexities, they do not seem to be amenable to translation at all.

Dr Shastri has contributed forewords to as many as 125 works, dealing with subjects as different as Veda and Śyēnikaśāstra, the science of hunting. With some of them running into fifteen pages, they are notable for keen perception and lucid exposition of the subject and tend to form an independent discipline. He has addedly contributed more than 150 research papers on diverse subjects to almost all the leading journals on Indology, both foreign and Indian. To cap it all, he has been a subject of seventeen theses of M.Phil., Ph.D. and D.Litt. in Indian Universities.

Awards and honours rushed to him in legion. He is recipient of seventy nine Awards, both national and international, including the prestigious Padmabhūṣaṇa. He is the only Sanskrit scholar to have been honoured with the prestigious Jñānapiṭha Award. Italy has showered on him some of the rarest honours that it has in its repertory, while the University of Torino, in a rare gesture, conferred on him Honorary Doctorate on May 3, 2012. The Academy of Mediterranean Studies, Agrigento elected him its Fellow for life.



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award in Sanskrit from H.E. Dr. Zakir Hussain, President of India, 1968



Presenting the copy of *Indirāgāndhīcaritam* to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mahākāvya

- *Śrībodhisattvacaritam* (1963, 1974)
- *Indirāgāndhīcaritam* (1976)
- *Śrīrāmākīrtimahākāvya* (1990, 1991, 1995)

Khaṇḍakāvya

- *Bṛhattaraṃ Bhāratam* (1957)
- *Śrīgurugovindasimhacaritam* (1967, 1984)
- *Śarmanyadeśaḥ sutarām vibhāti* (1976)
- *Thāideśavilāsam* (1979)

Corpus of letters

- *Patrakāvya*, Vol. I (1998)
- *Patrakāvya*, Vol. II (2008)

Diary

- *Dine Dine Yāti Madhyafīvitam* (2009)

Compilation

- *Subhāṣitasāhasrī* (2009)

Critical Works

- *Essays on Indology* (1963)
- *The Rāmāyaṇa : A Linguistic Study* (1964)
- *Studies in Sanskrit and Indian Culture in Thailand* (1982)
- *Kālidāsa in Modern Sanskrit Literature* (1991)

- *New Experiments in Kālidāsa* (1994)
- *Thāideśa Ke Brāhmaṇa* (2004)
- *Discovery of Sanskrit Treasures Vol. I - Grammar and Linguistics; Vol. II - Epics and Purāṇas; Vol. III - Classical Sanskrit Literature; Vol. IV - Modern Sanskrit Literature; Vol. V - Philosophy and Religion; Vol. VI - South East Asian Studies; Vol. VII - Society and Culture* (2005)
- *Sanskrit Studies: New Perspectives* (2008)
- *Sanskrit Writings of European Scholars* (2012)

Translation

- *Vedic Grammar for Students: A. A. Macdonell* (1971, 1987)
- *Śrībodhisattvacaritam: Satya Vrat Shastri* (1974)
- *Subhāṣitasāhasrī : Satya Vrat Shastri* (1998, 2006)
- *Rāmācaritābdhīratnam: Nityanand Shastri* (2005)

Travelogue

- *Hungary: Kitani Door Kitani Pas* (2012, in Hindi)
- *Caran Vai Madhu Vindati* (2012, in Hindi)



Receiving Viśiṣṭa Sāhitya Award of Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Academy, Lucknow from H.E. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President of India in 1988

CHRONOLOGY

- 1930 • Was born at Lahore (now in Pakistan) on 29 September
- 1942 • First poem *Ṣaḍṭuvarṇanam* published in the Sanskrit magazine *Saṃskṛtaratnākaraḥ*, Jaipur
- Passed Shastri examination from Punjab University, Lahore
- 1947 • Passed Matriculation. Got Govt. Scholarship
- 1951 • Did Graduation from G.M.N. College, Ambala Cantt. Broke all previous records in Sanskrit (Hons.)
- 1953 • Did M.A. in Sanskrit from Punjab University with a First Class First. Got University Medal.
- 1955 • Did Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
- 1957 • Joined Hans Raj College as Lecturer in Sanskrit.
- Married with Usha.
- 1959 • Moved to Kurukshetra University as Senior Lecturer in Sanskrit. Has the distinction of being the first teacher of the said University.
- Published his first *Khaṇḍakāvya*, the *Bṛhattaraṃ Bhāratam* on Greater India.
- 1959 • Moved to the University of Delhi as Lecturer in Sanskrit in its Post-Graduate Department.
- 1963 • Appointed Reader in Sanskrit at the University of Delhi.
- Published his first Sanskrit



Receiving the President of India Certificate of Honour from H.E. Shri Zail Singh, President of India, 1985

- Mahākāvya*, *Śrībodhisattvacaritam*, in fourteen cantos on Buddhist Avadānas. The *Mahākāvya* ran into second edition with Hindi translation in 1974. For years a portion of it was prescribed as text in Meerut University.
- Published *Essays on Indology*.
- 1964 • Published *The Rāmāyana—A Linguistic Study* which is the first linguistic appraisal of not only of the Vālmīki-*Rāmāyana* but also of any extant Sanskrit work.
- 1967 • Published the Sanskrit *Prabandhakāvya*, *Śrīguru-govindasimhacaritam*, the first ever biography of Guru



Receiving Chandrawati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasha Puraskara from H.E. Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhwat, Vice President of India, 2003

- Gobind Singh in Sanskrit poetry. It was re-published with Hindi translation in 1984.
- 1968 • Got the Sahitya Akademi Award on the above Prabandhakāvya.
- 1970 • Appointed Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Delhi.
- 1975 • Visited the Federal Republic of Germany as State Guest.
- Became Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi.
- 1975 • Published the travelogue *Śarmanyadeśaḥ Sutarām Vibhāti* in the form of a Śataka on a visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.
- Published the Mahākāvya in twenty-five cantos, *Indirā-gāndhīcaritam*, the first ever biography of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in Sanskrit poetry.
 - Presided over the Classical Sanskrit Section of the All India Oriental Conference, 28th Session, Dharwar.
 - Attended II World Sanskrit Conference at Torino, Italy. Presented the result of his path-breaking study on the Synonyms in Sanskrit. Subsequently visited the Federal Republic of Germany and delivered lectures in the Universities there.
- 1977 • Attended III World Sanskrit Conference at Paris, France and subsequently went to Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, Hungary and Italy for lectures.
- Joined the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.



Giving lessons in Sanskrit to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Thailand

- Thailand as Visiting Professor of Indian Studies.
- 1979 • Attended International Gītā Conference at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Delivered lectures in 14 Universities in Canada and U.S.A.
 - Visited Japan and had discussion with the Indologists there.
 - Was honoured by the Royal Nepal Academy, Kathmandu.
 - Published the Khaṇḍakāvya *Thāideśavilāsam* on the history and culture of Thailand.
 - Attended the Seminar on the Influence of Pali on Thai Language at the University of Chiangmai, Chiangmai, Thailand
- 1980 • Became the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi
- Delivered lectures in the Universities of Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan
 - Presided over the Classical Sanskrit Section II of All India



Receiving International Himadri Sanskrit Sammana of Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy from H.E. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, 2004

- Oriental Conference, 30th Session, Santiniketan.
- Presided over the concluding session of the Hinduism Section of the International Congress of Human Sciences, Winnipeg, Canada.
- 1981 • Attended the International Seminar on Pāṇini at Poona and World Sanskrit Conference at Varanasi
- 1982 • Joined the Karl Erhard University, Tübingen, Germany as Guest Professor of Sanskrit
- Published the works:
 - (i) *Thāideśa ke Brāhmaṇa* on the Brahmin community of Thailand
 - (ii) *Studies in Sanskrit and Indian Culture in Thailand*
 - Attended the First International Symposium on Sanskrit Language at Mexico.
 - Attended the Hindi-Italian Dictionary Project Committee meeting at Rome, Italy
 - Attended the International Gitā Conference at Bangkok
 - Presided over the Southeast Asian Section of the All India Oriental Conference, 31st Session, Jaipur.
- 1983 • Became Vice-Chancellor of Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, Puri, Orissa
- Was appointed National Lecturer by the U.G.C.
 - Attended XXXI International Congress of Human Sciences at Tokyo and Kyoto.
 - Presided over Section III of 31st International Congress of
- Human Sciences in Asia and North Africa, Tokyo and Kyoto.
- 1984 • Attended VI World Sanskrit Conference at Philadelphia, U.S.A.
- Was Chairman of the Plenary Session
- 1985 • Joined the Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium as Visiting Professor
- Got the Medallion of Honour from the same University
 - Got the President of India Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit
 - Was elected Fellow, International Institute of Indian Studies, Ottawa, Canada
 - Got the Shiromani Sanskrit Sahityakar Award from the Govt. of Punjab
 - Attended the First European Conference on Vedic Science, Viodrop, Holland
 - Presided over the Indian Linguistics Section of the All India Oriental Conference, 32nd Session, Ahmedabad.
- 1986 • Attended II International Rāmāyaṇa Conference at Bangkok
- 1987 • Published *Chātropayogī Vaidika Vyākaraṇa*, the Hindi translation of A.A. Macdonell's *A Vedic Grammar for Students*
- Attended VII World Sanskrit Conference at Leiden, Holland
- 1988 • Joined the Department of Religious Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada as Visiting Professor



Receiving Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Silpakorn University, Bangkok presented by Thai Princess H.R.H. Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, 1993



Receiving Padma Shri from H.E. Shri K.R. Narayanan, President of India, 1999

- Joined the Silpakorn University, Bangkok as Visiting Professor.
- Got the Viśiṣṭa Saṁskṛta Sāhitya Puraskāra from the Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Academy, Lucknow.
- Attended the International Workshop on "Health and Illness : A Comparison of the Concept in India and Europe", Venice, Italy.
- 1990 • Published *Śrīramakīrti-mahākāvya* (A Mahākāvya in Sanskrit on the Rāmakien, the Thai version of the Rāma story), Second edition, 1991, Third edition, 1995. The Mahākāvya has been translated in English, Thai, Kannada, Assamese, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu. Its translation in Gujarati is in progress. It has won ten national and international awards/honours.
- Published in the series *Kālidāsa Studies* the first volume *Kālidāsa in Modern Sanskrit Literature*
- Attended VI International Rāmāyaṇa Conference at Port Louis, Mauritius
- 1991 • Got the Gitā Ratna Puraskāra at IX International Gitā Conference, Delhi
- 1992 • Got Indira Beharay Gold Medal from Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Poona
- Attended International Rāmāyaṇa Conference at Torino, Italy and IX International Rāmāyaṇa Conference at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
- 1993 • Got Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Silpakorn University, Bangkok.
- Got Paṇḍitarāja Jagannātha Saṁskṛta-padya-racana Puraskāra from Delhi Sanskrit Academy, Delhi
- 1994 • Published under the series *Kālidāsa Studies* the second volume *New Experiments in Kālidāsa*
- Got Paṇḍitā Kshama Row Puraskāra from Row Dayal Trust, Mumbai
- Got Devavāṇi-ratna Sammāna from Devavāṇi Parishad, Delhi
- Got the Honour "Autorita Accademica Italiana Straniere," Academic Authority for Foreigners from the Govt. of Italy
- Got Honour from the Gaja Madah University, Jogjakarta, Indonesia
- 1995 • Got First All India Sammāna from Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur
- Got Vachaspati Puraskara from K.K. Birla Foundation, New Delhi
- Got Dayawati Modi Vishwa Sanskriti Sammana from Modi Kala Bharati, New Delhi
- 1997 • Got All India Kālidāsa Puraskāra from Madhya Pradesh Sanskrit Academy, Bhopal
- Got Mānasa Sammāna from Tulasi Mānasa Pratishthāna, Bhopal

- Got Royal Decoration "Most Admirable Order of the Direk Gunabhorn" from His Majesty the King of Thailand
- 1998
- Was honoured by the Govt. of Maharashtra
 - Delivered the Keynote Address at the 90th Anniversary of the Madras Sanskrit College
 - Attended the National Seminar on Secular Concepts in World Religions organized by the K.J. Somaiya Bharatiya Sanskriti Peetham and the Department of Culture, Govt. of India at Mumbai.
- 1999
- Got the degree of Mahamahopadhyaya from Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati
 - Got Padmashri from Govt. of India
 - Got Honour from Delhi Sanskrit Academy.
 - Got the degree of Vidya-vachaspati, Honoris Causa from Gurukul Mahavidyalaya, Jwalapur, Hardwar
 - Honoured by Mahamahopadhyaya Nawal Kishore Kankar Sewa Samiti, Jaipur
 - Attended the International Forum on Genuine Civilization in 21st Century at Saraburi, Thailand
 - Delivered the Keynote Address at the International Conference on Sanskrit and Related Studies, Warsaw, Poland
- 2000
- Got Kālidāsa Sammāna at Kālidāsa Samāroha at Ujjain
- Attended Indo-Hungarian Rāmāyana Conference : Role of the Solar Dynasty in the Asian and Ancient Hungarian Culture, at Budapest, Hungary. Delivered the Keynote Address
 - Attended the International Conference on the Rāmāyana at Bangkok
- 2001
- Got Doctorate Honoris Causa from the University of Oradea, Oradea, Romania
 - Was conferred Honorary Citizenship of the city of Valeca
 - Was honoured as "Outstanding Teacher and Writer" by Biblioteca Pedagogica 'I.C. Petreacu' and Biblioteca Indiana, Bucharest, Romania
 - Got Golden Prize from CESMEO, International Institute of Advanced Asian Studies, Torino, Italy
 - Attended the International Seminar for Interfaith Dialogue on Mahāvākyas in Hinduism and Christianity organized by the K.J. Somaiya Bharatiya Sanskriti Peetham, Mumbai in collaboration with the Interfaith Dialogue Centre, Sassari, the Department of Oriental Studies, University of Torino and the University of Florence, Italy
 - Attended the International Conference on Sanskrit in Southeast Asia : Harmonizing Factor of Cultures at Bangkok
 - Attended the International Seminar on the "The Artistic,



Receiving the Mahamahopadhyaya degree Honoris Causa from the Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, 1999



Receiving Doctorate Honoris Causa from University of Oradea, Oradea, Romania, 2001

- 2002
- Attended the International Seminar on Buddhism in Global Perspective at K.J. Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies, Mumbai
 - Attended National Seminar on "Myths in Contemporary Indian Literature, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
 - Attended Public Conversations on Meramorphic and Cosmogonic Myths at Venice, Italy
 - Attended the International Conference on "East and West : Different Theories and Medical Science" at CESMEO, International Institute of Advanced Asian Studies, Torino, Italy. Gave Inaugural Presentation on "Suffering : How Indian Thinkers Look at it."
- 2003
- Was Honoured by all India Oriental Conference, 43rd Session, Puri.
 - Got Shrimati Chandrawati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasha Puraskara, Jñāna Kalyāṇa Dātavya Nyāsa, New Delhi
 - Got Vedāṅga Puraskāra from Maharshi Sandipani Vedavidya Pratishthan, Ujjain.
 - Got Āchārya Umasvāmi Puraskāra from Kundakunda Bharati, New Delhi
- 2004
- Got First International Himadri Uttaranchal Sanskrit Sammana from Uttaranchal Sanskrit Academy, Hardwar
- 2005
- Published English translation of *Śrīrāmacarītābdhīratnam* (A Citrakāvya) of Nityanand Shastri
 - Published under his General Editorship the work *Sanskrit Words in Southeast Asian Languages*



Receiving Golden Prize from the CESMEO, the International Institute for Advanced Asian Studies, Torino, Italy, 2001



Receiving Jnanpith Award from H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, the Guest-of-Honour at Jnanpith Award Ceremony, 2009

- Published the book *Discovery of Sanskrit Treasures* in seven volumes. *Vol. I* - Grammar and Linguistics; *Vol. II* - Epics and Purānas; *Vol. III* - Classical Sanskrit Literature; *Vol. IV* - Modern Sanskrit Literature; *Vol. V* - Philosophy and Religion; *Vol. VI* - South East Asian Studies; *Vol. VII* - Society and Culture
- 2006 • Got. Dr. Shashibhanu Vidyalankar Rashtriya Puraskara, Dr. Shashibhanu Vidyalankar Dharmartha Trust, Hardwar
- Published *Subhāṣitasāhasrī* (A collection of a thousand Subhāṣitas, wise sayings, with Hindi and English, translations.)
- 2007 • Was conferred the degree of Vachaspati (D. Litt.) Honoris Causa by Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi
- Elected Fellow of the Academy of Mediterranean Studies, Aggrigento, Italy
- 2008 • Got Life Time Achievement Award 'Vidyānikāra' from Purbanchal Academy of Oriental Studies, Kolkata
- Got Sardar Patel International Award from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Foundation, New Delhi
- Published *Patrakāvya* (A collection of letters in Sanskrit), Vol. II
- Got Jnanpith Award, Bharatiya Jnanpith, N. Delhi
- Published the book *Sanskrit Studies: New Perspectives*
- 2009 • Was Conferred degree of D. Litt. Honoris Causa by Deccan College Post-Graduate & Research Institute, Pune



Receiving Padma Bhushan from H.E. Mrs. Pratibha Patil, President of India, 2010



Teaching a class at the Peking University, 2011

- Published *Dine Dine Yāti Madiyajīvitam* (the first ever diary in Sanskrit)
 - Got Anuvadashri Puraskara from Bharatiya Anuvada Parishad, New Delhi
 - Got Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award from the South Indian Education Society, Mumbai
 - Got Vishva Bharati Puraskara, Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sansthan, Lucknow
 - Got Padma Bhushan from Govt. of India
 - Got Distinguished Alumnus Award from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
 - Was General President of the All India Oriental Conference, 45th Session, Tirupati
 - Got Sanskrit Kaustubha Sammana from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Delhi Kendra
 - Got Mahamana Malaviya Smriti Alankarana Puraskara, Mahamana Mission, Varanasi
- 2011
- Got Maharshi Vālmiki Puraskara from Delhi Sanskrit Academy, Delhi
 - Got Dr. Gangadhar Bhatta Smriti Sammana from Rajaganga Charitabe Trust, Jaipur
 - Got Bhāratiratnam Sammāna from Lokabhasha Prachar Samiti, Bhubaneswar
- 2012
- Got Saptarshi Sammāna from Sandipani Vidya Niketana, Porbunder, Gujarat
 - Got Swami Brahmananda Memorial Vyasashree Award from Maharshi Vyasadeva National Research Institute, Rourkela, Odisha
 - Published the books :
 (i) *Hungary-Kitani Dur Kitani Pas* (ii) *Sanskrit Writings of European Scholars* (iii) *Caran Vai Madhu Vindati* (An account of cultural travels across the world)
 - Conferred Doctorate Honoris Causa by the University of Torino, Torino, Italy



Receiving Honorary Doctorate from the University of Torino, Italy, 2012