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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 BrahmasUtrapAtha. He has collated these manuscripts on the ancient text published with the

Sariakamimamsabhasya of SaEkaracarya as vulgate manuscript. She has authored several other books, including two bibliographies on Suddha Advaita and Kevala Advaita Vedanta. She was awarded the Emeritus Fellowship by the UGC and has a number of research articles. Dr. Bapat was Government Nominee of the Regulating Council and Executive Council of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune.

Jury: Sri Mohan Gehani, Professor (Dr) Dilip Dhondge and Sri Bhagwan Das Patel.

UNRECOGNIZED LANGUAGES

KOSHALI-SAMBALPURI (JOINT AWARD) (2017)

Dr Haldhar Nag (born 31 March 1950 at Village Ghensh, Bargarh district) is a noted writer in Koshli-Sambalpuri. He is a very fine singer of Koshli Ramkatha. Early in his life, he started composing bhajans, rasarkeli, dallkhai, sajani songs. His songs on Dandanaat was staged and played in 13 villages of his locality. He has been awarded the Ph.D degree honoris causa by several Universities. His works have been translated into Odia, Hindi and English. His works include Mahasati Urmila, Achhia, Tara Mandodari, Bacchhar, Siri Somalai, Veer Sundar Sai, Karamasani, Rasia Kavi (biography of Tulasidas), Prem Pradhan, etc. A research institute on Kosli Language and Literature founded at Ghens in Bargarh district has been named after Haladhar Nag. Dr. Nag is a recipient of Padam Shri Award from the Govt. of India.

Dr Prafulla Kumar Tripathy (born 1947) is an iconic figure in Koshli-Sambalpuri language as well as a well-known poet, writer and linguist in mainstream Odia language. His Sambalpuri Sabdkosh published by the Odisha Sahitya Academy has given a strong foundation to the Koshli language and literature. His grammatical study of Koshli-Sambalpuri language has enriched the Koshli language. His life time contribution for his mother tongue Koshli is worthy of praise in terms of creativity and critical analysis of Koshli Grammar. His publications include Sambalpuri Odia Shabdakosha, Samalkpuri Odia Vyakaran, Barna Bidhana and Bhasha Jijnasa. He has received Odia Sahitya Akademi award for his collection of Odia short stories Nija Singhasana.

Jury: Dr Mahendra Kumar Mishra, Dr Subhendu Mund and Dr Narendra Mishra.

PAITE (2017)

Sri H. Nengsong (born 2 January 1935) is an eminent writer in Paite language. He retired from IFS as Deputy Conservator of Forests and is the prominent writer among the Paite tribe and known for his works in Paite language. He has published 11 books in Paite which are well read in the society. His writings help in the growth of Paite language and its literature. His compilations consist of 05 volumes of book dealing with history of Paite individuals.

Jury: Professor R.L. Thannawai, Dr H. Kamkhenthang and Dr Tualchin Neihzial.

HARIYANVI (JOINT AWARD) (2018)

Sri Harikrishna Dwivedi (born 14 August 1944 at Village Pai, District Kaithal in Haryana) is an eminent writer in Hariyanvi. He has retired as Hindi teacher from Education Department, Haryana. He has published 10 books in Hariyanvi. Sri Dwivedi has been honoured with several awards and honours, some of them are Jankavi Mehar Singh Samman 2015, Shreshth Kriti Samman from Haryana Sahitya Akademi (twice) and Baburam Gupta Smriti Samman.

Dr (Smt.) Shamim Sharma (born 17 March 1959) is well-known writer in Hariyanvi. She has 33 years' teaching experience including 13 years as Principal. She has edited 10 volumes of Haryana Encyclopaedia sponsored by the Government of Haryana. Her published books include – *Kurushankh*, *Hastakshar* (collection of short stories), *Ajanmi Beti Ki Chitthi*, *Panchnaad* and *Jadubhara Saath* (collection of poems) and 07 more publications under common title, *Chaupal* based on Hariyanvi humor. Dr Shamim Sharma has been honoured for her pioneer work in social service with a gold medal by Mother Teresa and Vishisht Sahitya Sevi Samman.

Jury: Sri Santram Deswal, Sri Puran Chand Sharma and Sri Puran Mal Gaur.

For favour of Publication/Broadcast/Telecast.


(K. Sreenivasarao)