



# SAHITYA AKADEMI

## Festival of Letters

March 9, 2015

### Press Release

Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2014 were presented to 24 Award winners at a glittering ceremony held at Kamani auditorium, New Delhi on March 9, 2015. Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari presented the awards and distinguished Hindi poet and scholar, Dr Kedarnath Singh was the Chief Guest.

Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, in his welcome address, observed that though the Sahitya Akademi Award is given to a particular book in each language, it is much more than that in that it is also a recognition and celebration of rich and long cultural and linguistic traditions that each author and a book represents. Dr Sreenivasarao also enumerated how these Awards along with various other activities of the Akademi represent the core that is nothing but service to literary communities all over India. He highlighted the role of the writers in particular in the success story of Sahitya Akademi which completed 60 years of literary service in India and abroad.

Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, President, Sahitya Akademi, in his Presidential address, talked at length about the uniqueness of the writers and special place of creativity in human existence. With specific reference to Sahitya Akademi, he said the works of these Awardees are Akademi's voice. He observed that more often than not it is the writers and poets who plant the seeds of creativity, imagination and ideas into the common man

and quoted "Yeh Sahitya Hi Hai Jo Maun Ko Mukher Karta Hai, Aur Sannate Ko Shabd Deta hai." He also appealed to young writers not get distracted by power and such elements as they often kill the creativity.

Dr Kedarnath Singh, distinguished Hindi poet and scholar, who was the chief guest, talked about the diversity and richness that very set of awardees present need to be protected. While acknowledging various initiatives of the Akademi in preserving and promoting numerous languages and dialects of India and the literature contained in them, he also appealed Akademi to take initiatives to preserve and promote like-minded literature but written in other scripts like Tibetan.

Dr Chandrasekhar Kambar, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, proposed a vote of thanks.

In the morning, Akademi Exhibition was inaugurated by eminent Hindi poet and fiction writer Dr Ramdaras Mishra.

#### **Programmes - March 10, 2015**

**10.30 am:**

Writers' Meet at Rabindra Bhawan Lawns

**2.30 pm:**

Interaction of Award Winners with the media

**6.00 pm:**

Samvatsar Lecture by Ashis Nandy