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PRESS RELEASE

Sahitya Akademi joins the literary community of India in mourning the passing away of Dr C. Narayana Reddy, one of the most distinguished poets of the country. His passing away is a huge loss for the poetry lovers, literary connoisseurs and all the literary institutions of the country and an irreparable one for the Telugu poetry lovers. His poetry was always fresh, free from the clutches of any pre-determined forms, yet was relevant to all times and even common man was able to relate to them. From *Rutuchakram* to *Viswambaram* to *Gadilo Samudram* to his countless lyrics for the films which made him very popular among Telugu speaking population, his poetry soothed many a wounded heart, provided hope and light to the depressed, showcased the plight of the oppressed and demanded justice for them and also provided a plenty of food for thought through underlying philosophical musings. In his passing away, the Sahitya Akademi has lost a lifelong friend, a mentor and the guide who supported the cause of the Akademi and always provided timely advices whenever the Akademi needed one. His poetic genius won him many a laurel over the decades including Sahitya Akademi Award and Bhartiya Jnanpith and he was also conferred Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the Akademi's highest literary honour which is conferred on the immortals of Indian literature. He might have left the mortal world, but Dr C. Narayana Reddy will always remain in our hearts and our consciousness through his immortal works.


(K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary



साहित्य अकादेमी

गुना कॉम्प्लेक्स (दूसरा तल), 443 (304), अन्ना सालै, तेनामपेट, चेन्नै - 600018

तार : साहित्यकार : दूरभाष : 2435 4815, 2431 1740 टेलीफैक्स : 2431 1741

Sahitya Akademi

(National Academy of Letters)

Guna Complex Main Building, IInd Floor (Rear Side)

443 (Old No.304), Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai - 600018.

Phone : 2435 4815, 2431 1740 Telefax : 2431 1741

Email : sahytaakademichennai@gmail.com Gram : 'Sahityakar'

HOMAGE TO DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY

Sahitya Akademi expresses its deepest condolences on the sad demise of its Fellow Dr. Cingireddy Narayana Reddy, an outstanding Telugu writer, critic, poet and lyricist. He was an acknowledged authority on Telugu literature. Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, also known as 'Cinare', was born on 29 July 1931 in Hanumajipet in the present-day Telangana. He had his education in Osmania University and got his Ph.D. He served as a professor all along besides his poetic career. Dr. Reddy was a prolific writer who produced over 80 literary works including long poems, prose-plays, lyrical plays, translations and ghazals. He was a master of both Urdu and Telugu and inherited both poetic traditions.

His poetry collection 'Navvani Puvvu' (The Bashful Flower) was published in 1953. His notable works are 'Vennela Vada' (The Moonlit Town), 'Jalapatam' (Waterfall), 'Divvela Muvvalu (Candle Bells), and 'Ritu Chakram' (Cycle of Seasons). He received Sahitya Akademi Award for his poetry collection 'Mantalu Manavudu' (Flames and the Man) in 1970. Dr. Reddy's major poetic work was 'Viswambhara' (The Earth) and it received the Jnanpith Award in 1988. This depicts the journey of man through the ages and how he attains artistic, scientific and spiritual excellence. Dr. Reddy also delivered lectures on Telugu literature in Mauritius and USA. He held senior positions like Vice Chancellor, B.R. Ambedkar Open University and Vice Chancellor, P.S. Telugu University.

The Government of India honoured him with the title of Padma Shri in 1977 and Padma Bhushan in 1992. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1997. Dr. Narayana Reddy was a well-known lyricist who penned most melodious and memorable songs, more than 3000 in number. He was elected as a Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, the Akademi's highest literary honour which is conferred on the immortals of Indian literature. His creative genius spanned many fields of human endeavor. His demise is a great loss to the literary and cultural spheres of Indian literature. His poetry soothed many a wounded heart, provided hope and light to the depressed, showcased the plight of the oppressed and demanded justice for them and also provided a plenty of food for thought through underlying philosophical musings. Sahitya Akademi conveys its heartfelt condolences to the lovers of literature who are facing this tremendous loss. He will always remain in our hearts and our consciousness through his immortal works.

Sahitya Akademi convened homage meetings at its Head Office in New Delhi and its regional offices in Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru including its sub-regional office in Chennai.

In the homage meeting convened at the sub-regional office, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi read out his condolence message. Eminent Tamil writers and scholars such as Prof. K. Nachimuthu, Member, Executive Board, Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Palaniyappan, Sri Prapanjan, Sri Elangovan, Sri Veeramani, Sri Selva Pandiyan, Sri Imayam, Sri Aravindan, Prof. B. Mathivanan and all staff of the sub-regional office were present. One minute's silence was observed as homage to the great genius. As a mark of respect to the departed doyen of Indian literature, all offices of Sahitya Akademi will be closed today after the homage meetings.


(Dr. K. Sreenivasarao)
Secretary