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PRESS RELEASE
Sahitya Akademi Fellowship Announced

New Delhi, 18 September 2021, The Sahitya Akademi selected Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay (Bengali), Sri Ruskin Bond (English), Sri Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi), Ms. M. Leelavathy (Malayalam), Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade (Marathi), Dr. Tejwant Singh Gill (Punjabi), Sri Swami Rambhadracharya (Sanskrit), Sri Indira Parthasarthy (Tamil) as its Fellows today. The General Council of Sahitya Akademi, which met under the Chairmanship of Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar, President, Sahitya Akademi announced its highest honour, the Fellowship. The Fellowship carries a copper plaque and a shawl, which is presented in a special function. As per the Constitution of the Sahitya Akademi, literary persons of outstanding merits are selected as Fellows of the Akademi, provided that the number of such Fellows shall at no point of time exceed 21.

Sri Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay

He is a major Bengali novelist and short story writer. He began his career as a teacher and later took up productive journalistic career with the prestigious Ananda Bazar Patrika Group. As a creative writer, he has a wide readership and had innumerable novels and short story collections to his credit including serialized novels for children, adventure stories and science fiction. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Ananda Puraskar (Twice), Vidyasagar Puraskar, Saratchandra Media, Bhaulka Puraskar etc.

Sri Ruskin Bond

He is an eminent Indian English author. He wrote his first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, the semi-autobiographical story of the orphaned Anglo-Indian boy Rusty and *Vagrants in the Valley*, as its sequel. Since then he has written over three hundred short stories, essays and novels and more than 30 books for children besides several other works. His interest in the paranormal led him to write popular titles such as *Ghost Stories from the Raj*, *A Season of Ghosts*, *A Face in the Dark and other Hauntings*. Many of his works have been adapted into feature films and TV serials as well as included in the school curriculum in India. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan by the Government of India among others.

Sri Vinod Kumar Shukla

He is an eminent Hindi writer. His first poetry collection *Lagbhag Jai Hind* was published in 1971 and since then he has around 20 published books to his credit including poetry collections, novels, and short stories collections. His works have been translated into different Indian as well as foreign languages. His works have been adapted into various feature films as well as stage plays, which won national and international accolades. He was the Writer in Residence at Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha and member of the General Council of Sahitya Akademi. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Shikhar Samman of Madhya Pradesh Government, Hindi Gaurav Samman, Raja Puraskar, Rashtriya Maithilisharan Gupta Samman among others.

Smt. M. Leelavathy

She is an eminent Malayalam writer, literary critic, and educationist. She started her teaching career in 1949 as a lecturer at St. Mary's College, Thrissur and after taught at various colleges retired as Principal from Government Brennen College, Thalassery. She also served as a visiting professor at University of Calicut. She has more than 60 published books to her credit, which included books on literary criticism, essays collections, translations etc. During her long literary career, she won many prestigious awards and honours like Padma Shri by President of India, Sahitya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahitya Academy Award, Vallathol Award, Basheer Award, Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, Guptan Nair Memorial Award and many more.

Dr. Bhalchandra Nemade

He is an eminent Marathi writer. He has around 15 published books to his credit in different genres like novels, poetry collections and criticism. He taught English, Marathi, and comparative literature at various universities including the School of Oriental and African Studies at London. He is one of the pioneers of Little magazine movement in Maharashtra. He is the recipient of Padma Shri by the Government of India, Sahitya Akademi Award, Jnanpith Award, H.N. Apte Award, Yashwantrao Chavan Award, R.S. Joag Award etc. He has retired from Mumbai University's Gurudeo Tagore Chair for comparative literature studies and presently working as Sohirobanath Ambiyé chair, Department of Marathi, Goa University.

Dr. Tejwant Singh Gill

He is an eminent Punjabi writer and scholar. With Ph.D on the Comparative study of WB Yeats and TS Eliot, he served as Professor of English in GNDU Amritsar. In English and Punjabi, he has 25 books to his credit. His critical books deal with all trends, styles and forms marking Punjabi literature. He has translated works of Punjabi poetry, drama and fiction into English and Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude* into Punjabi. Some of his articles have appeared in Spanish translation. He has won prestigious awards for his writings in Punjabi and English.

Sri Swami Rambhadracharya

He is an eminent Indian spiritual leader, educator, Sanskrit scholar, philosopher and Katha artist. He has been blind since the age of two months, had no formal education till the age of 17 years. He can speak 22 languages and is a spontaneous poet and writer in Sanskrit, Hindi, Awadhi, Maithili, and several other languages. He has authored more than 100 books and 50 papers including four epic poems, Hindi commentaries on Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas and Hanuman Chalisa, a Sanskrit commentary in verse on the Ashtadhyayi, and Sanskrit commentaries on the Prasthanatrayi scriptures. He is one of four incumbent Jagadguru Ramanandacharya and has held this title since 1988. He is the founder and head of Tulsi Peeth, a religious and social service institution and the founder and lifelong chancellor of the Jagadguru Rambhadracharya Handicapped University in Chitrakoot. He is regarded as one of the greatest authorities on Tulsidas in India. He has a number of published books to his credit including audio and video material. He is the recipient of a number of awards including five gold medals at All India Sanskrit Conference, Sahitya Akademi Award, Vishishta Puraskar, President's Certificate of Honours, Vachaspati Award, Tulasi Award, Dev Bhumi Award among others.

Sri Indira Parthasarathy

He is an eminent Tamil writer, scholar and cultural historian. He has more than 40 published books to his credit including plays, novels, collection of short stories and anthologies of novellas. He was the founder Director of the School of Performing Arts, Pondicherry University and the visiting scholar at various Canadian universities. He was the Senior Fellow of Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the member of Expert panel, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Trustee, National Book Trust India. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Shri by the Government of India, Saraswati Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Tamil Nadu Government Award, Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award among others.



(K. Sreenivasarao)