

डॉ. के. श्रीनिवासराव
सचिव
Dr. K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary

साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)



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PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2022

New Delhi, Thursday, 9 November 2022, Sahitya Akademi presented its Bal Sahitya Puraskar for the year 2022 at a glittering ceremony at 5.00 p.m. today held at Triveni Auditorium, New Delhi to 23 children writers in various Indian languages from across the country. The names of the awardees are – Rothindranath Goswami (Assamese), Shyamalkanti Das (Bengali), Pratima Nandi Narzaree (Bodo), Balwan Singh Jamoria (Dogri), Sudha Murty (English), Rakshababen P. Dave (Gujarati), Surya Nath Singh (Hindi), Vijayashree Halady (Kannada), Tukaram Rama Shet (Konkani), Akshay Anand 'Sunny' (Maithili), Priya A.S. (Malayalam), Dilip Nongmaithem (Manipuri), Eknath Avhad (Marathi), Madhusudan Bistha (Nepali), Jugal Kishor Sarangi (Odia), Gurmeet Karyalvi (Punjabi), Kiran Badal (Rajasthani), Radhavallabh Tripathi (Sanskrit), Mansingh Manjhi (Santali), Dholan Rahi (Sindhi), K. Udayasankar (Tamil), D.K. Chaduvula Babu (Telugu) and Late Mateen Achalpur (Urdu). No award was declared in Kashmiri language.

At the outset, in his welcome address, Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi said that children's literature is very crucial for their growth. Children are vital assets to society. We must provide them right texts of reading material and energise and encourage them to explore new worlds. They are seeds of gigantic trees of future. Children's books enhance their vocabulary and inculcate them into balanced personality. There is no better educator for children than books. Children writers have to struggle a lot to find publishers who are ready to publish their books, it is high time that publishers should come forward and encourage and promote children literature, he further said.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi speaking on the occasion said that he would like to congratulate all these award-winning writers who have contributed to children's literature and have not only succeeded in creating a huge readership but also nurturing and promoting more writers to write children's literature. There was a time when we used to look down upon children's literature and thought that it was childish, that is why it was not given much attention. Now we understand that the more work we do for children's literature, the less it is. He expressed his views that tomorrow belongs to children's literature and Sahitya Akademi is taking all possible steps for its all round growth. He added that children of India are divided into two parts - one who hails from cities and urban areas and the others from small and remote villages. You cannot compare them. But these writers fill in that gap by producing children's literature which treat them at par."

Prof. Harish Trivedi, eminent scholar and writers in English, who was the Chief Guest at the award presentation ceremony, began by saying that he grew up in a kind of family where children's books were not bought because they couldn't afford it. As a child he knew that there were only books no 'children's books'. These days, stories for children are being read out by parents from books. He emphasised the collaborative effort that goes into the creation of stories between adults and children. He added that all adults tend to underestimate the knowledge and intelligence of children and patronise them. But adults, he observed, keep getting surprised by children – by their wisdom, by their imagination, by their curiosity, especially in modern times.

Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi in her concluding remarks congratulated all the award winners and said that honouring children's writers at today's gracious award presentation ceremony was not just honouring these writers, it was a felicitation for a long tradition of writing for children in India. These are the writers who understood the importance of children writing and took it forward to next generation. They also inspire many readers and writers to write for children. Creating children literature is not easy, it's a big challenge, particularly, in the changing society and children writers must write to give new direction to children. The award carries an amount of Rs.50,000/- and a plaque.

(K. Sreenivasarao)