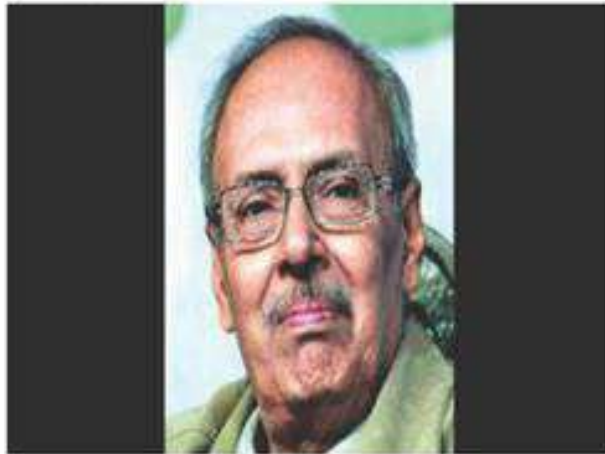


Sahitya Akademi fellowship for Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay

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KOLKATA: Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay (85) has become a fellow of the Sahitya Akademi, 33 years after he won the Sahitya Akademi award for his novel 'Manabjain'. Eight authors were selected this year for the prestigious fellowship. Ruskin Bond, M Leelavathy, Bhalchandra Nemade, Tejwant Singh Gill, Swami Rambhadracharya and Indira Parthasarathy are among the others.

The general council of Sahitya Akademi met under the chairmanship of its president Chandrashekhra Kambar on Saturday and announced the names, considered to be its highest honour for senior authors. Among writers from Bengal who had been selected fellows in the past are Subhas Mukhopadhyay and Nirendranath Chakraborty. The Bengali literary world was elated, especially because an honour like this has come to Bengal

after a long time.

Mukhopadhyay started out his literary career with a short story 'Jaltaranga' in 1959. His first novel 'Ghunpoka' was published eight years later. Among his other popular works are 'Parthibo', 'Nayan Shyama', 'Parapar', 'Durbin', 'Ekadashi O Bhoot', among others. 'Manojder Adbhut Bari' was his first novel for children.

Apart from Sahitya Akademi award, the other major awards that he won are Vidyasagar award, that was given to him in 1985 for his contributions to children's literature, and Banga Bibhushan award in 2012.

The number of Sahitya Akademi fellows at no point in time exceeds 21. In the literary world, the fellows picked up by the Akademi are touted as "immortals of Indian literature."