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साहित्य अकादेमी
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संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
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PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize

At a well-attended glittering ceremony in Kamani Auditorium, Sahitya Akademi presented Translation Prize to 19 distinguished translators and the Prize is for the year 2019. Eminent Hindi writer and scholar, Smt. Chitra Mudgal was the Chief Guest of the Awards presentation ceremony. Welcoming the Award winners, dignitaries and literary lovers, Dr K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, talked about the importance of translation and various roles of translation in knowledge acquisition, in uniting various social and cultural traditions. He highlighted how Sahitya Akademi has been promoting translational activities in India for the past six and a half decades. In his Presidential address, Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar, stated that it is translation that enables one to access works in any language of the world and cited the example of how his works travelled across the globe through translation. He observed that though people are used to the idea of translation through highly anglicized sensibility, the idea of translation as a collaborative, creative exercise has always existed in Indian psyche. Dr Chandrashekhar Kambar presented Award to translators in Assamese, Bengali, Dogri, English, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The Awardees in Bodo, Gujarati, Malayalam, Manipuri and Punjabi did not attend the ceremony for various reasons. Smt. Chitra Mudgal, eminent Hindi writer and scholar and Chief Guest of the ceremony, said that translators are bridges that connect the authors and readers irrespective of the region and language in which the original work is written. She stated translation is infinitely more difficult than writing and it is heart warming to see the recognition that the translators are receiving over the past two decades with change in the perception and attitude of publishers and readers. She also said it is gladdening to see youngsters learning many languages and how the knowledge of foreign languages is generating employment opportunities. Without translation our knowledge of the world would have been highly limited and all of us should salute the translators including those who are receiving the Translation Prize today. In his concluding remarks, Sri Madhav Kaushik, Vice President, Sahitya Akademi, said translators are capable of bringing to expression even the silence between words, sentences and are like missionaries who enable the various cultures to come together.

(K. Sreenivasarao)