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Press Release

Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize - 2023 Presentation
12 July 2024, Bengaluru

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, presented its prestigious Translation Prize - 2023 to the winners at the ceremony held at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 12 July 2024 at Khincha Auditorium, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, No.43, Race Course Road, High Grounds, Bengaluru-560001. The award containing a casket of engraved copper-plaque and an amount of Rs.50,000/- was presented to each of the Translation Prize winners.

The Translation Prize - 2023 Winners were: Lakkshajyoti Gogoi Handique (Assamese), Mrinmoy Pramanick (Bengali), Ambikagiri Hajowary (Bodo), Sushma Rani (Dogri), Late Nabaneeta Dev Sen (English), Minal Jayantilal Dave (Gujarati), Rita Rani Paliwal (Hindi), K.K. Gangadharan (Kannada), Gulzar Ahmad Rather (Kashmiri), Sunetra Gajanan Jog (Konkani), Menaka Mallik (Maithili), P.K. Radhamani (Malayalam), Laishram Somorendro (Manipuri), Abhay Sadavarte (Marathi), Chhatraman Subba (Nepali), Bangali Nanda (Odia), Jagdish Rai Kulrian (Punjabi), Bhanwar Lal 'Bhramar' (Rajasthani), Nagaratna Hegde (Sanskrit), Veer Pratap Murmu (Santali), Bhagwan Babani 'Bando' (Sindhi), Kannaiyan Daknamurthy (Tamil), Surendra Nagaraju 'Elanaaga' (Telugu), Mohammad Ahsan 'Ahsan Ayyubi' (Urdu).

Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, Secretary, Sahitya Akademi delivered his welcome address. While welcoming the distinguished translators and the dignitaries on the dais, he expressed that India is a prime example of a country where the multilingual and multicultural societies live together. Translation plays a pivotal role in communicating knowledge from one linguistic society to the other. Translation of classics enhances literary engagement among them. Translation is central to human lives and growth of the literary and culturally active nation like India. He highlighted that Sahitya Akademi has been honouring the translators in 24 Indian languages and promoting inter-language translations. He also said that the Sahitya Akademi is deeply committed to promote translators by publishing their translations and honouring them by conferring translation prizes. The present ceremony is the 36th edition of such a fruitful endeavour.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi delivered his presidential address. He said that translators' works like missionaries. They love languages and help in recreating literary

works from other languages into their mother tongues. He reiterated the oneness of the Indian literary scenario though communicated through many languages. Translation is a difficult process as it requires thorough knowledge of the source and target languages. Translators help in building the nation by translating the creative literary works by transferring the awareness.

Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi, presented Awards to the 22 winners and congratulated them. The translation prize in English was received by the representative on behalf of late Nabaneeta Dev Sen, translation prize winner and her family members. Sri Bhanwar Lal 'Bhramar', translation prize winner in Rajasthani language could not attend the programme.

Dr.Chandrashekhhar Kambar, distinguished Kannada writer and Fellow, Sahitya Akademi graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest. In his chief-guest's address, he averred that writers represent cultures, beliefs, struggles and joy overall of their land and literature. Thus it is major challenge for a translator to capture these elements in their translations without deviating from the essence of the original text. The work of translation enables us to know the regional flavour of the soil and promotes regional harmony. This medium of translation is the need of the hour in the present global situation as there is a dire need to understand and interpret the texts across the world to know each other better in all aspects.

Prof. Kumud Sharma, Vice-President, Sahitya Akademi, delivered the concluding remarks. She said that this programme is a confluence of distinguished translators from different Indian languages. The translations reflect the changes in the literary scenarios at the national and global levels.

Esteemed media houses are requested to publish / broadcast / telecast the press release.

(K. Sreenivasarao)