

Sri Sunil Gangopadhyay

President of the Sahitya Akademi is an eminent Bengali poet and fiction writer. Author of well over 200 books, he has excelled in different genres but declares poetry to be his "first love". His poems have always reflected the voice of the youth - through their moods of anger, love, despair and hope. Some of his important publications are - *Purba-Pashchim, Aranyer Din Ratri, Pratidhwandi, Shreshtha Galpo, Maha Prithibi, Kavita Sangraha, Shada Prishtha Tomar Sangay, Amar Swapna, Praner Prahari, Raja Rani, Sanatan Pathaker Chinta* and *Sei Samoy* (Novel), which won him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award. Two of his stories have been filmed by Satyajit Ray. His Awards & Honours include Saraswati Samman, Bankim Puraskar, Anand Puraskar, Vidyasagar Puraskar. A film based on his Bengali novel ***Maner Manush*** has won the award for best film in International Film Festival, held in Goa last year.

Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari

He is an eminent Hindi Poet & Critic. He holds the degree of M.A. and Ph.D. He retired as Prof. & Head of the Department of Hindi from Gorakhpur University. Presently he is the Vice-President of Sahitya Akademi and the Editor of '*Dastavez*' a literary magazine. Among the awards and honors, he received are the: Saraswati Award (twice), Sahitya Bhooshan Samman of U.P. Hindi Sansthan etc. Some of his important publications are: *Cheezon Ko Dekh Kar, Sath Chalte Hue* (Poetry), *Naye Sahitya Ka Tarkshastra, Hazari Prasad Dwivedi* (Research & criti.), *Atma Ki Dharti, Antheen Akash* (Travelogues). He has participated and contributed papers in various national and international seminars/conferences.

Sri Agrahara Krishna Murthy

Eminent Kannada poet and writer, did his Masters in Kannada. He started his career as Programme Officer at AIR (1981-1986). Later he joined Sahitya Akademi as Regional Secretary, Southern Division in 1987, to become Secretary Sahitya Akademi in 2006. A prolific writer he has contributed essays and articles on language, literature, culture etc. to various newspapers and magazines; he regularly writes columns for Dailies and Weekly magazines and was editor of Kannada Nudi, a monthly magazine. He is a recipient of several Awards and honors including Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award, Kempegowda Award and Vardhaman Prashasthipeeth Award. His publications include Novels, Folklore Studies, collection of Poetry, critical essays etc. He is also a translator into Kannada and has participated in several conferences in Germany, Sweden, France, UK, Japan, China, Belgium, Mauritius and Spain.

Sri Sheen Kaaf Nizam

He is an eminent Urdu poet and critic. He was the member of the Executive Board, General Council and Urdu Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Rajasthan Urdu Academy and Chairman of Anjuman Ta'Meere Urdu. Sri Nizam has eight collections of poetry, five books of criticism and nine edited works. Some of his important publications are: *Lamhon Ki Saleeb*, *Naad*, *Dasht Mein Dariya* (all poetry), *Tajkira Mavasir Shey*, *Lafz Dar Lafz* (all criticism) etc. He has taken part in several National and International Seminars and has visited Abu Dhabi, Qatar, France, UK, Dubai etc. He has translated poetry from different languages, edited literary magazines and won many honours and awards including Sahitya Akademi Award, Mahmud Shirani Samman from Rajasthan Urdu Akademi, Bhasha Bharati Samman and Raja Man Singh Samman, Iqbal Samman etc.

Dr. Chandrasekhar Kambar

He is a noted Kannada playwright, poet and novelist. He did his M.A. and Ph.D from Karnataka University. He teaches in the University of Chicago (USA) and Bangalore University. He was the Founder Vice-Chancellor of Kannada University, Hampi, Chairman, Karnataka Nataka Academy and National School of Drama Society, New Delhi. He has been on the Advisory Boards of the Sahitya Akademi, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Karnataka Folklore and Uakshagana Academy, Theatre Expert committee of Central Government, Bharat Bhavan, etc. His plays have been widely translated and staged in several Indian languages and also published in English. He has made 5 Feature Films and several Documentaries and composed music for 6 Feature Films, several documentaries and tele serials. His "Kaadu Kudure" entered into the Indian Panorama and won the National Award. His film "Sangeeta" won the 3rd Best Feature Film State Award in the year 1981. He has published a total of 21 Plays, 8 collections of poems, 3 novels, and 12 research books on folklore, theatre, literature and education. He is also the author of the epic poem 'Chakori'. Some of his important publications are - *Mugulu*, *Takararinavaru*, *Saavirada Neralu* (all poetry), *Bembattida Kannu*, *Narcissus*, *Rishyasringa*, *Chalesha*, *Naayi Kathe* (all plays), *Anna Tangi*, *Karimaayi*, *Singarevva mattu Aramane* (Novels and Stories) etc. He has received a number of awards and honours including - Padmashree, Sahitya Akademi Award, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Kabir Samman, K.V. Shankare Gowda Award, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya Award, Ashan Award etc. and very recently, Bharatiya Jnanpith award has also been declared for him.

Sri Surjit Patar

He is an eminent Punjabi poet and playwright. He has completed his M.A. and Ph.D in Punjabi. He was the member of the General Council and Punjabi

Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademi, Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha and Punjabi Sahitya Akademi, Ludhiana. Some of his important publications are: *Hava Vich Likhay Haraf*, *Birkh Arz Karay*, *Haneray Vich Sulagdi Varmala* etc. He has also adapted 10 plays of Lorca, Brecht, Jean Giraudaux, Moliere, Kamal Kapoor, Girish Karnad and Racine. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Saraswati Samman, Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad Panchnad Puraskar, Pash Puraskar etc. Sri Patar has represented India in the International Poetic Festival at Medellin, Columbia etc.

Ms. Shashi Deshpande

She is a well known novelist in Kannada. She is the younger daughter of famous Kannada dramatist and writer Sriranga. Ms. Deshpande has degrees in Economics and Law. She has also done a course on journalism and worked for a couple of months as a journalist for the magazine '*Onlooker*'. She has written four children's books, a number of short stories, and nine novels, besides several perceptive essays. Some of her important publications are: *The Dark Holds No Terrors, if I Die Today, Come Up and Be Dead, That Long Silence, The Intrusion and Other Stories, The Binding Vine, A Matter of Time, Small Remedies, Moving On, In the Country of Deceit, The Hidden Treasure, The Only Witness* etc. She is the recipient of Padma Shri by Government of India, Sahitya Akademi Award, Raugammal Prize, Nanjangud Tirumalamba Award etc.

A Sethumadhavan

Born at Chendamangalam, Ernakulam District in the year 1942. A graduate in Science, he worked in various Central Govt. Departments in North India, during the course of which he started writing, while he was in New Delhi. His first story was published in the *Mathrubhumi weekly* in 1967. He has written about 150 stories; 17 novels and 20 collections of stories. Many of his stories have been translated into other Indian languages. Two of his novels have been filmed. His Academy award winning novel *Atayalangal* is being published in various Indian languages. Award and honours include Sahitya Academy award (2007), Kerala Sahitya Academy award (1978 and 1982), Vayalar award (2006), Kerala State Film award for best story.

He is in the Malayalam Advisory Committee of the Sahitya Akademi. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Kerala Sahitya Academy for about three years. Widely travelled, he had visited U.S.A, U.K., Germany, Switzerland, France, Australia, Egypt, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, apart from certain other European and almost all the Gulf countries.

On the professional side, he had a long stint in the banking industry. After joining the State Bank Group as a Probationary Officer in 1968, he held

various management positions in the State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Hyderabad and Corporation Bank. He also served the South Indian Bank Ltd., as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for a period of six years. He retired from service in the year 2005.

Prabodh Parikh

An MA in Philosophy & Humanities, Mr. Parikh has held various positions including Oklahoma State University, USA, 1974, Research Assistant, 1972-1974, Head of the Department of Philosophy, Mithibai College, 2002-05. At present Faculty Incharge International Art Literature and Culture, Whistling Woods International Ltd., Director Katha Centre for film Studies, Mumbai; Has organised film festivals and workshops on film curatorial Practices, conducted discussions, lectures on cinema across various institutions. Curated International Film Festival in Delhi 2004-2006. Has been given various assignments including Visiting Faculty, Liverpool University, Visiting Fellow, University of Sorbonne, Paris etc. Mr. Parikh has been invited by several countries in the writers' delegations including Moscow, North Korea, Swedish writers' Union etc. Has published various articles on Gujarati literature is author of collections of short stories, poems etc. Has served on various National juries for selecting highest awards in literature and films.

Ms. Tarannum Riyaz

She is a noted Urdu short fiction writer, translator, critic, poet and novelist. She holds the degrees of Masters in Urdu and Masters in Education (M.Ed) from the University of Kashmir. She has worked on television and radio for several years as an Urdu news broadcaster, translator and organiser of literary and cultural programmes. She has also edited the women's sections of leading Urdu newspapers and journals in Kashmir. Tarannum Riyaz has authored more than 12 books of Fiction, Criticism, Poetry and some Translations. Some of her important publications are: *Barf Aashna Parindey, Moorti, Yimberzal, Yeh Tang Zameen, Meraa Rakhte Safar, Purani Kitaabon Ki Khusbhu, Fareb E Khitta E Gul, Chashme Naqshe Kadam* etc. She is the recipient of the Delhi Urdu Academy Fiction Award (thrice), Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy Fiction Award, Sahir Ludhyanvi Adeeb International Award, the Rasa Javedani Memorial Award etc. Her works have also been translated in several Indian and Foreign Languages. She has participated in a number of national and international conferences and seminars and is a special invitee at the SAARC Conference. She also participated in the World Urdu Conference, Islamabad and in Aman ki Asha literature festival in Karachi.

Robin S. Ngangom

A bi-lingual poet and translator who writes in English and Manipuri was born in Imphal, part of the 'Forgotten Theatre' of World War II. He teaches literature in the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and has published three books of poetry. He has won the Udaya Bharati National Award for poetry and the Katha translation prize, and his poems have appeared in the New Statesman, The literary Review, Planet : The Welsh Internationalist, Verse, Kunapipi, Kavvya Bharati, Chandrabhaga and Indian Literature. He jointly edited *Dancing Earth: An Anthology of Poetry* from Northeast India published by Penguin India, and his autobiographical essays "Poetry in the Time of Terror" has been included in an anthology published by Oxford University Press New Delhi.

Sebanti Ghosh

Born in March 1967 at Siliguri, Darjeeling has done MA and B.Ed. and is a teacher by profession. Is a regular contributor of poems and short stories in *Desh*, *Anondobajar Patrika*, *Sananda*, *krittibas*, *Samakaleen Bharatiya Sahitya* etc. in Bengali and Hindi reputed journals. Four books of poems have been published. *Furti o bishad kabya* from Ananda Publishers (2) *Phool o Sugondho* from Ananda Publishers. Her poems have been included in several reputed poetry collections, like *Desh Golden Jubilee Collection*, (1983 to 2007), *Deshkal Kobita*, edited by Nabanita Debsen (NBT), *Poroborti Sobdaboli* edited by Ramkumar Mukherjee; Translation from English to Bengali named "Kalo Australiar, Kobita" edited by Angshuman Kar. Received Travel grant from Sahitya Akademi and Senior fellowship from Ministry of Culture (New Delhi). Attended translation Workshop at Sikkim, poetry festival at Ludhiana & Kolkata also attended Seminars and Poetry Reading Session in West Bengal State University, Assam University, Silchor and Jahangir Nagar University, Dakha (Bangladesh), Jatio kobita Utsav, Dakha (Bangladesh); is the recipient of Anita Sunil kumar Basu Poschim Banga Bangla Academy Award.

Govind Mishra

Born in Atarra of UP in 1939, holds a Master's in English literature from Allahabad University. He started his career as Lecturer and served in various capacities in Indian Revenue Service of Govt. of India retiring as Chairman CBDT and Principal Secretary, Planning Commission; started writing in 1963. First novel 'Apna Chehra' was published in 1971. He has since published forty five books which include novels, story collections, travelogues, literary essays, Children's literature and a poetry collection. Recipient of Premchand Puraskar

by Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan and Best Writing Award by the Author's Guild of India. His novel 'Kohre Mein Qaid Rang' with a contemporary theme won him the Sahitya Akademi award and the novel is considered a significant contribution to Indian fiction in Hindi.

K. Sreenivasarao

Administrator. Born 20.10.1965 Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, M.A. (English); M. Phil, Car. Programme Officer, 2003-2007, Regional Secretary 2008-2009 and presently Deputy Secretary (Admn.) in Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Actively associated with various national institutions of literature and culture. Languages known English, Hindi, Marathi and Telugu; visited China and Malaysia as the co-ordinator of Indian Writers Delegation, 2006; Thailand & China, 2010 and represented Sahitya Akademi in the General Assembly meeting of Union Academique Internationale, Brussels, Belgium, 2011. Translated literary works from Marathi to English and English to Telugu etc. Translated Children's Dictionary from English to Telugu for Star Publications. Had been Jury to Sanskriti Award, Delhi and Examiner and Judge for Adult Education Competitions, Govt. of India. Has organised a number of National/International Seminars, Conferences and Poets' Meets; Has been working on three significant projects namely – Encyclopaedia of Indian Poetics, Encyclopaedia of Indian Literature and National Bibliography of Indian Literature; Recd. Delhi Telugu Akademi Award (2011), Add. Deputy Secretary (Admn.), Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi 110001, Tel. +9111-23073002 and 23386626, Mobile : +919810088423, E-mail: osdrao@gmail.com