

Rainbow Newsletter



April - June 2018



Dear Friend:

The all-important Priyadarshni Academy's 34th Anniversary Literary Awards and Educational Scholarships Program held on March 14 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall was, as expected, a bumper affair, what with the Honorable Governor of Maharashtra, Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao, lending it considerable added prestige with his gracious presence as Chief Guest. He gave 'sanctity' to the event with some most appropriate and inspiring remarks on the need and value of the Academy's programs and the Maharashtra state's strong historical tradition of promoting the fine and performing arts and education. I was immensely gratified with the quality of the event and the turnout. It truly lived up to the Academy's very high standards.

While we were happy with the number of scholarships we gave, I was also sorry at the same time that we could not help more students, thousands of whom need such support. I am sure our program will grow in the years to come with more help from all those who have supported us generously and consistently.

Niranjana Hiranandani
Chairman

PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY'S LITERARY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS EVENT

The Academy's 34th Anniversary Literary Awards and Scholarships program was held on March 14 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall. The event with attendance of nearly 250 audience members consisting of leading literary figures, educationists, businessmen, parents, teachers, and the media, was jam-packed.

The event was graced by none other than the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao, who honored the Academy with his gracious presence as Chief Guest.

He profusely commended the Academy and its leadership on the wonderful work they are doing to make a useful and important contribution to society. The Honorable Governor spoke about the rich literary and educational traditions of Maharashtra which contributed to the cultivation of values, emphasized patriotism, and helped preserve our cultural heritage.

He referred to the pride of place India has among world languages. He opined that people who study in their own languages are more likely to pursue their educational aspirations.

He pointed out that, in the U.S., educational institutions are run successfully on corporate and other endowments. He said that it is an example which should be emulated by corporate leaders and philanthropists in India for institutions to be adequately funded to soundly support academic programs.

While hailing the Academy's literary awards program, he made two suggestions for consideration by the Academy. One was to recognize translators who, through their work, make an important contribution to integrate languages, culture, values, traditions and society. The other suggestion he made was that the Academy should recognize writers of children's literature, in order to cultivate values in children from their very young age.


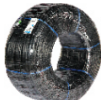



He congratulated the literary awardees and students who were beneficiaries of the Academy's program and wished them well in their future endeavors. He also applauded the donors for their contributions.



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Mr. Hiranandani welcomed the Honorable Governor and the guests and spoke about the immense contributions the Governor has made to furthering the cause of education in the state of Maharashtra.

Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, Priyadarshni Academy, expressed immense thankfulness to the Hon'ble Governor for responding to the Academy's invitation. Mr. Rupani gave the highlights of the Academy. He had a request to make to the Governor. As students are being charged 18% GST on professional courses not recognised by the Universities, he requested the Hon'ble Governor to take up the issue with the higher authorities. As these courses can provide good employment opportunities to the students, no GST should be charged on fees for special courses, he added.

Literary awards for work in the Hindi, Sindhi and Gujarati languages were presented to Mr. Hastimal Hasti, Ms. Maya Rahi and Dr. Pravin Darji respectively for their outstanding contributions to writings and teaching in these languages. Dr. Narendra Jadhav, a leading light in the literary world of Maharashtra, was selected for the Balasaheb Thackeray Marathi literary award. Because Dr. Jadhav was unwell, he could not attend the ceremony. He will be presented the award next year.

Mr. Hastimal Hasti, Hindi literary awardee, was born in Aamet, Rajasthan.

He is a well-known poet who has written five collections of poetry. One of Mr. Hasti's gazals "naye parindon ko udane men vakt toh lagata hai" was sung by the great, Mr. Jagjit Singh.

The Gujarati literary award winner was Padma Shri Dr. Pravin Darji who is a prolific writer in the world of Gujarati literature. He has covered the entire gamut of written literature - poetry, creative essays, literary criticism, research methodology, editing, translating, et al. He has engaged himself in creative writing since the year 1962 and has always believed in dwelling on something new and uncommon. He has 131 books to his credit.

His selected works have been prescribed in schools as textbooks by the textbook boards of Gujarat and Maharashtra. His creative works form a part of the curriculum at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels of several universities in Gujarat and Mumbai.

The Government of India awarded him the Padma Shri in 2011 for his noteworthy contributions to the field of literature and education.

Ms. Maya Rahi, Sindhi literary awardee, is a writer who has made a significant contribution to promoting Sindhi literature over a phenomenal 60 years. She was born in Quetta, Baluchistan.

She received awards for Muhabat Jo Mee Hun and Dhaal from the National Council for Promotion of Sindhi Language and a Sahitya Academy Award for Mahingi Murk.

Each literary award carried a purse of ₹25,000/- and a plaque.

186 scholarships to deserving and financially needy students pursuing different fields of study were also presented. Most of the scholarships were for ₹20,000 and ₹10,000. For the first time, Priyadarshni Academy gave scholarships to two students of social work, with a view to sensitize the youth to the needs of the society.

The literary awardees thanked the Academy and spoke about the contribution it is making by giving awards in different languages without regional biases. Sindhi awardee, Ms. Maya Rahi, said that she is proud to receive the award. She stated that "when Sindhis came to new India post-partition, they suffered a lot of hardships. But when Sindhis have an institution like Priyadarshni Academy, we don't need any other help."

Mr. Rahul Karad, Vice President, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, said that the Academy is contributing to the networking of the minds and hearts of people from different regional cultures, through its literary and scholarships programs. He cited the example of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, noted scientist, who is currently the Chairman of Priyadarshni Academy's Global Awards Advisory Committee. Dr. Mashelkar studied under street lights with a scholarship from the Tatas with only his poor mother to support him. He has now become a Director in one of the Tata companies. He suggested that Priyadarshni Academy track those achievers and students who received awards and scholarships who have now become important contributors to society and have them speak from this same forum to inspire others.

Mrs. Shilpa Karia, psychologist, also addressed the audience.

The program ended with Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Former Sheriff of Mumbai, and Chairman of the Gujarati Literary Awards Committee, providing a summary and proposing a Vote of Thanks.

Photo Gallery



Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, lighting the lamp



Ms. Maya Rahi receiving Laxmi-Nari Pohani Sindhi Literary Award



Chairman Niranjan Hiranandani presenting a bouquet to the Honourable Governor of Maharashtra, Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao. Others in the picture from left to right are Ms. Nayantara Jain, Member, Priyadarshni Academy's Educational Scholarships Committee & President, IMC Ladies' Wing; Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Member, Priyadarshni Academy's Global Awards Advisory Committee; Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, Priyadarshni Academy; Ms. Shilpa Karia, Founder, BFIT Training Centre; and Mr. Rahul Karad, Vice President, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions



Dr. Pravin Darji receiving Smt. Chandaben Mohanbhai Patel Gujarati Literary Award



A visually impaired student receiving the scholarship cheque from Ms. Shilpa Karia



Mr. Hastimal Hasti receiving Shri Kisharam Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Hindi Literary Award



Shri CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, presenting a scholarship cheque



SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED

A. K. Balwa Charitable Trust Scholarship

Bhagwandas Peraj Memorial Scholarship
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Devi Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Scholarship

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Dr. L. H. Hiranandani Scholarship

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Dr. Mashelkar to be Judge for Queen Elizabeth Prize in Engineering



Dr. Mashelkar will be in the eminent panel of judges, which will decide on the prize that is considered to be equivalent to Nobel Prize in Engineering, namely, the most prestigious Queen Elizabeth Prize in Engineering.

The prize of one million pounds (approx ₹ 9 crores 23 lakh) is given biannually to a global game changing engineering innovation.

The inaugural prize in 2013 had gone to the inventors of the Internet, Browser and World Wide Web, who received the award at the hands of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

PUBLICATIONS

(AVAILABLE FROM CROSSWORD/JAICO OUTLETS AND
PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY)

	₹
Kautilya's Arthashastra: The Way of Financial Management and Economic Governance,	
Jaico Publishing House and Priyadarshni Academy, 2014, paperback (in English)	299
Hindi translation (2014)	175
Tamil translation (2014)	199
Marathi translation (2013)	175
Gujarati translation (2013)	195
Kannada translation (2013)	150
Telugu translation (2013)	199
Farzi translation (e-publication)	\$ 6
Das, Govinda - Voice Your Choice: Ethics from Epics	
(a collection of thought provoking articles that distill the mature wisdom of Mahabharata and Ramayana to assist one in empowering the inner voice), White Woods Publishing House, in association with Priyadarshni Academy, 2014, paperback	125
Vilas, Subha - Ramayana: The Game of Life – Rise of the Sun Prince, Book 1	
(a book that decodes the teachings of the verses from the first chapter of Ramayana and discovers their relevance to day-to-day life struggles), Jaico Publishing House, 2014, paperback	250
Patil, Shivraj V. – The Dasbodh of Ramdas Swami, Guru of Shri Shivaji Maharaj,	
Vol. I, 2008, hardback	1000
Vol. II, 2008, hardback	1000
Patil, Shivraj V. - Shrimad Bhagavad Geeta, 2007, hardback	500
Rupani, Reena, ed. - Success is our Birthright: A Definitive Biography of	
Nanik Rupani, Ameya Inspiring Books, 2006, hardback	395
Priyadarshni Academy, paperback,	250
Animation format	30
Association of Adolescent and Child Care in India – Teen Tips,	
Priyadarshni Academy, paperback	150
Association of Adolescent and Child Care in India – FAQs for Parents of Teenagers,	
Priyadarshni Academy, paperback	250

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