

41st *Jnanpith Award* to Eminent Hindi Poet **Shri Kunwar Narayan**
and 42nd *Jnanpith Award* jointly to Eminent Konkani Poet and Author
Shri Ravindra Kelekar and Sanskrit Poet and Scholar
Shri Satya Vrat Shastri

.....**NEWS**

New Delhi: 22nd November 2008

The Jnanpith Selection Board has announced the recipients of the 41st and 42nd Jnanpith Award today in a meeting.

The 41st Jnanpith Award for the year 2005 went to the eminent Hindi poet Shri Kunwar Narayan while Shri Ravindra Kelekar, eminent Konkani author and Shri Satya Vrat Shastri, eminent Sanskrit scholar were declared joint winners of the 42nd Jnanpith Award for the year 2006

The decisions were taken in a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted scholar, writer and Jnanpith Award winner Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra. Other eminent persons in the selection board were Prof. Manager Pandey, Dr. K. Satchidanandan, Shri Dinesh Mishra, Prof. Gopi Chand Narang, Shri Vibhuti Narain Rai, Shri Keshubhai Desai and Shri Ravindra Kalia.

Born in 1927, Kunwar Narain has a stalwart presence in the field of Hindi poetry for last many decades. Associated with the 'Nayi Kavita' (New Poetry) in Hindi, Narain was one of the poets featured in *Teesra Saptak* (1959), one of the four influential anthologies of seven contemporary poets, edited by the eminent poet, Agyeya. He is described as "one of the most well-read poets in Hindi", a predominantly 'meditative' poet, "dwelling on the present through the prism of myth and history" and as a writer whose work reveals 'a twentieth century sensibility in its anguish as well as its resourcefulness'. His many accolades include the Hindustani Akademi and Sahitya Akademi awards.

Shri Ravindra Kelekar was born on March 7th, 1925 in Cuncolim in South Goa. Kelekar played a key role in the establishment of the Konkani Bhasha Mandal and is perhaps the single most important player in building the literary culture in Konkani. Some of his important creations include 'Amchi Bhas Konkaneech'; 'Shalent Konkani Kityak'; 'Bahu-bhashik Bharatant Bhashenche Samajshastra' and 'Himalayant'. Kelekar has won many prestigious awards including the Sahitya Akademi Award, Sauhard Samman and Goa Kala Academy's literary award.

Sanskrit scholar Prof. Satya Vrat Shastri is an eminent creative and critical writer. He has written three Mahakavyas of about a thousand stanzas each in Sanskrit. Some of his important creations are 'Brhattaram Bharatam'; 'Sribodhisattvacaritam'; 'Vaidika Vyakarana' and 'Sarmanyadesah Sutaram Vibhati'. Shastri has won many coveted awards, which include Sahitya Akademi Award in Sanskrit, Honour from Royal Nepal Academy, Medallion of Honour from the Catholic University, Leuven, Belgium and Panditaraja Jagannatha Padya Racana Puraskara from the Delhi Sanskrit Academy.

This is the first time that Jnanpith Award went to authors writing in Konkani and Sanskrit.

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Please feel free to contact us if you require any further detail in this regard.

Sincerely yours,



(Ravindra Kalia)
Director