



RAINBOW

Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy

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27TH ANNIVERSARY LITERARY AWARDS AND EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FUNCTION



Chairman Nanik Rupani, Sheriff Dr.Indu Shahani, Hindi literary awardee Sudha Arora, Scholarship Committee Chairman Nihchal Israni, Marathi literary awardee Rajan Khan, Minister Dilip Valse Patil, Sindi literary awardee Dr Vasdev Mohi, Gujarati literary awardee Dr Yashwant Trivedi, and Gujrati literary award committee chairman Dr Mohanbhai Patel.

The function was held on February 14, 2011 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber in front of a jampacked audience of over 300. Literary Awards were presented for work in four Indian languages, over 200 students were given scholarships, and Dr. Kulin Kothari, prominent Ophthalmologist, was felicitated for his outstanding humanitarian contribution to providing eye care for the disadvantaged.

Shri Dilip Valse Patil, Hon'ble Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, was the Guest of Honour, and Dr. Indu Shahani, Hon'ble Sheriff of Mumbai, the Special Guest.

Shri Nanik Rupani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, gave the Welcome Address during which he expressed

deep satisfaction that the Academy was able to consistently expand the number of scholarships it gave to the financially needy and deserving students. He particularly thanked Mr. Nihchal Israni, Chairman of the Academy's Educational Scholarships Committee, for his unstinted and generous support whereby the Academy has decided to expand the number of scholarships next year to 500.

Each literary award carried a Memento and a purse of Rs 25,000. The scholarships were generally for Rs.10000 each.

Hindi Literary Award

Shri Kisharam Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Hindi Literary Award was presented to Ms. Sudha Arora.

cont...page 3

PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ANTI-CORRUPTION MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY SHRI ANNA HAZARE.

CORRUPTION HAS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE IN ALL SPHERES OF ACTIVITY INCLUDING EDUCATION--IT IS THE POOR WHO NEED HELP THE MOST WHO SUFFER THE MOST.

CORRUPTION IS CANCER, LET US FIGHT IT TOGETHER !!!

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Warren Buffet has come and gone and Bill Gates has come for the umpteenth time to India. Mr. Buffet deciding to invest in the Indian market late and both urging Indian corporate leaders to donate for social causes is good for India. Their American-style presentation for the latter objective drew criticism from Indian philanthropists and other commentators, but they have left Indian leaders some good food for thought. Indians have been philanthropists traditionally. While some have come out recently with large donations for good causes, the philanthropic thinking is yet to catch on in a big way in modern India.

NGOs usually raise money for their own activities. Priyadarshni Academy has always been a giving entity in terms of student scholarships, promoting the arts and other activities among the youth, and recognizing national and global achievers. The Academy went one step further preceding the Buffet visit and donated a sizeable 25 lakhs to develop a library and a chemistry laboratory to benefit children of the 2007-established Sadhu Vaswani International School. Not only that, it will associate itself closely with the development of the library in the years to come by way of suggesting books for its collections and ideas to use the library as a multi-purpose knowledge centre.

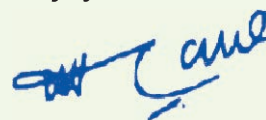
The Academy also donated for an eye camp and assured help to 30 financially needy patients to get their eyes operated to regain better sight.

The Academy is proud to be able to help in so many different ways as what it has done is only an extension of what it has done through all its 27 years.

The Academy had a rousing Literary Awards and Scholarships program during the quarter and also essayed into a new style of program under its dance project. It collaborated with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Australia to present a Bharata Natyam performance to an Indian-Australian audience. While doing so, it stepped out of the national integration rubric and entered into an international integration arena. While the Rain Gods intervened resulting in a cancellation of the second performance, the first went well. There will be two more similar events in Australia later in the year.

This issue covers details and pictures of the events outlined here.

Enjoy the issue.



Sincerely,

Corruption is Cancer, Let us fight It together !!!

cont. from page 1

A Gold Medalist from Calcutta University, writer **Ms. Sudha Arora's** forte is the short story genre. She has some 80 acclaimed short stories to her credit. Her works have been widely translated into various Indian and foreign languages (French, Polish, Czech, Japanese, Dutch, Italian, German, Taziki, and English).

Some of her stories have been adapted for television and stage by the Experimental Theatre of London, Prague, and Rome.

Ms. Arora has authored eight short story collections and a novel. Her collection '*Yuddhaviram*' won a special award from Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan in 1978. She received the Bharat Nirman Literature Award in 2008.

Marathi Literary Award

Geeta Israni Memorial Marathi Literary Award was presented to Mr. Rajan Khan for his latest novel RAS ANAURAS (Akshar Prakashan, Mumbai, 2010). Mr. Khan is a prolific writer of novels, short stories, and a journalist and editor for a number of magazines and publications. His other important works are SCREEN TEST, KAFAR, YATIM, EK LEKHAK KHARCH JALA, KASAK, SAHYA SARE ASE CHALOO AAHE, PIDDHI, and AJAB GAJAB JAGANE WAGANE. He has also written for the theater and cinema. Some of his stories have been translated in Hindi, English and Kannada. Mr. Rajan Khan has received numerous awards for his work as a novelist, story writer, playwright, and script writer including the Maharashtra Government Award, the Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad Award, the Jaywant Dalvi Award, the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Patrakar Parishad Award, the P. L. Deshpande Smruti Rajyastari Natyamahotsav, et al. He is the President of a number of literary and cultural organizations and a noted social activist.

Sindhi Literary Award

Laxmi-Nari Pohani Sindhi Literary Award was presented to Mr. Vasdev Mohi. Mr. Mohi is a prominent Sindhi writer. He was a Lecturer and Head of the Department of English at the Indian High School, Dubai. Mr. Mohi has a number of publications to his credit, including poetry collections, and publications in Gujarati and Hindi.

He has also contributed to the Handbook of

Post-partition Sindhi Ghazals. He has won the Sahitya Akademy Award (1999) for Barf Jo Thahyal; Kishinchand Bewas Award, Gujarat Sahitya Akademy (1995) for Mankoo; Narayan Shyam Award for Best Mumbai (1997); the Sindhi Sahitya Academy, Gujarat State Translation Prize for Antural (2010), and NCPSP'S (HRD Ministry, New Delhi) Sahitkar Sanman Life Time Achievement Award (2010).

Mr. Mohi has led a Writers' Delegation to China arranged by Sahitya Akademy, New Delhi.

Gujarati Literary Award

Smt. Chandaben Mohanbhai Patel Gujarati Literary Award was presented to Dr. Yashwant Trivedi. Dr. Trivedi has published 126 books mainly on literature, criticism, politics, creative writing, philosophy, and religion. He has won 13 awards and prizes. They include the Sur Singar Samsad's National Award for Post Independence Poetry, Soviet Land Nehru Award, five Sahitya Akademy Prizes, Gujarati Sahitya Parishad Award, 1st Prize in Kavilok, Best Laureate Award for Enriching Indian Literature, Sheriff Dr. Mohanbhai Patel Saraswati Sanman Award, and Life Time Achievement Award from Human Society of India. He has 31 years' post-graduate and M. Phil. teaching experience.

Educational Scholarship

Priyadarshni Academy presented scholarships to 202 meritorious and needy students from the field of Education,



A blind student receiving the scholarship from Sheriff Dr. Indu Shahani. Minister Dilip Valse Patil and Chairman Rupani.

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Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Information Technology, and Management. Scholarships were also presented to children of police officers and children with special needs.

Dr. Kulin Kothari, Prominent Ophthalmologist, Chairman & Medical Director, Bombay City Eye Institute & Research Centre & Managing Trustee, Vision Foundation of India, was



Dr. Kulin Kothari, Ophthalmologist, getting felicitated by Minister Shri Dilip Valse Patil while Mr. Rupani is on the right.

felicitated at the function for his yeoman medical service to humanity in the field of eye care. Both organizations, founded by Dr. Kothari, are closely affiliated and do charitable work in the field of eye care. The former is the most comprehensive eye care institute in Western India and is staffed by specialists in every field of ophthalmology and fully equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic and surgical equipment. It renders services in keeping with the highest international norms, practices and standards and is a centre of repute for training eye surgeons.

Shri Dilip Valse Patil, in his speech, emphasized the need to reduce the rate of school dropouts. He urged that institutions should provide more and more vocational training, as he argued that the work place in India lacks personnel with application skills. In her address, Dr. Indu Shahani encouraged the youth to involve themselves as change makers for a "Better India". She urged the educated youth to channelise their energies to bring out a desirable change in the lives of the underprivileged. She gave examples with pride of three of her own students who were bringing about significant such changes. She also hoped that the Academy in the near future would be able to give scholarships to everyone who applied, which would be possible if more philanthropists supported the academy.

Mr. Murli Adnani, Academy Co-Chairman, proposed a Vote of Thanks.

PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY ORGANIZES EYE CAMP IN COLLABORATION WITH VISION FOUNDATION OF INDIA

Priyadarshni Academy, in collaboration with Vision Foundation of India, organized a highly successful Eye Camp on March 12. One hundred and twenty eight patients were examined in the camp by eye specialists and 30 patients were identified for surgery. These patients will be operated over a period of a month. The operations are sponsored by Priyadarshni Academy.



A patient being examined at the vision foundation during the eye check up camp.

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Jai Hind College & Priyadarshni Academy Join Hands to Celebrate Sindhi Culture



Chairman Nanik Rupani presenting a memento to Shri L.K Advani, To the right of Shri Advani are Prof Shivdasani and Principal Dr Kirti Narain of Jai Hind College

The Sindhi Circle of Jai Hind College in association with Priyadarshni Academy, organised its annual function on Saturday, February 12, in the College auditorium. A dance-ballet, 'ZAAL...Kadahn Zer, Kadahn Zabar!', depicting the various facets of a woman's life, was staged by the famous danseuse, Ms Anila Sunder, and her troupe.

Shri L. K. Advani, Chairperson, BJP Parliamentary Party, and former Deputy Prime Minister of India, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address.

Prof. N. W. Shivdasani, President of the Sindhi Circle, gave the Presidential address during which he pointed out that Jai Hind College had been offering Sindhi as a subject right from its inception. He elaborated that the aim of the Sindhi Circle is to preserve and promote Sindhi language, culture, and heritage and that the dance ballet depicted Sindhi culture in all its richness.



Dancer Anila Sunder and a member of her troupe in action.

Department of Sindhi–University of Mumbai organizes International Seminar on “Global Sindhis and World Peace”



Mr. Rupani was a Guest of Honour at an international seminar on “Global Sindhis & World Peace” held at the University of Mumbai, Kalina Campus, on March 28. The seminar was organized by the Dept. of Sindhi of the University.

Dr. Rajan Welukar, Vice Chancellor, inaugurated the seminar and delivered the presidential address. Mr. Rupani shared his views on the subject during a formal address.

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FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF 'RUPANI HOSTEL' IN MEMORY OF KISHARAM LEKHRAJ RUPANI AND RADHA KISHARAM RUPANI



Mr. Pratapsingh Rane unveiling the plaque of the Rupani Hostel with Mr. Chhabria on the right and Mr. Rupani to his right.

In the none-too-distant future, a state-of-the-art 'Rupani Hostel' for girls will come up in the premises of FINOLEX ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY (FAMT), a world-class institution located in Ratnagiri in Maharashtra. Named in memory of Priyadarshni Academy Chairman Nanik Rupani's parents, the Foundation stone for the Hostel was laid by Mr. Pratapsingh Rane, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Goa, and former Chief Minister of that State, and Chief Guest, at a ceremony held on March 5 at FAMT.


The proposed Rupani Hostel will be for 150 girls in a space of 2200 sq. metres. The Hostel will have separate Mess Block, Common Room, Computer Centre, etc. Tree plantation was made at the hands of Mr. Rane, Mr. Rupani and Mr. Chhabria. Many students, parents, faculty, staff, and other invited dignitaries were present in large number.

The programme started with introductory and welcome address by Dr K L Asanare who also enlightened the august gathering about the handsome donation by Mr. Rupani for the proposed Hostel. Mr. Chhabria felicitated the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor with a bouquet and a

shawl. In his address, he talked about the opportunities available to budding engineers and the philosophy of Finolex towards corporate social responsibility. Mr. Rupani, Guest of Honour, praised FAMT for its culture, exceptionally clean environment, academic facilities, and the dedication of its teachers and staff. He also advised students of FAMT to derive benefit from the student scholarships awarded by Priyadarshni Academy every year.

Mr. Rane, Chief Guest of Function, praised Mr. Chhabria and Mr. Rupani for their contribution and commitment to social development through various projects, especially in a backward and neglected region like Konkan. He expressed the hope that Ratnagiri would be known as an educational hub in addition to it being known for its alphonso mangoes.

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INAUGURATION OF PRIYADARSHNI ACADEMY'S LIBRARY AND CHEMISTRY LABORATORY AT SADHU VASWANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Chief Guest and Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner Ahmad Javed inaugurated Priyadarshni Academy's Library at the Sadhu Vaswani International School in Sanpada, Navi Mumbai, at a function held on March 25, 2011. Guest of Honor and Mumbai Sheriff Dr. Indu Shahani inaugurated the Priyadarshni Academy Chemistry Laboratory the same day. Prior to these openings, the Honourable Guests inaugurated the auditorium where the children of the school organized and presented a special entertainment program. Both the guests spoke about the importance of the growing young population of India in the nation's development and encouraged the children present to do their very best to take the country forward. Mr. Javed also urged the children to respect traffic rules and invited them to his office whenever they faced difficulties which came under his purview. Chairman Rupani of the Academy spoke in the same vein and handed over a cheque for Rs.25 lakhs to Mr. Ram Mirchandani, Trustee & Member of the Managing Committee, SVM, Mumbai, who presented souvenirs to Mr. Javed, Dr. Nichani, Mr. Rupani and Mr. Vishwanathan, Academy's Advisor. Ms. Manju Nichani, Secretary of Sadhu Vaswani Mission (SVM), Mumbai, welcomed the guests and thanked Mr. Rupani for the Academy's kind gesture and largesse.

Priyadarshni Academy had decided to help the School establish a modern well-stocked library and a Chemistry Laboratory. The School has a library currently, but plans to build a new one which should be

ready with modern facilities, a large collection, computerized inventories and book bank, etc., by late next year. The School providing quality education with world-class infrastructure and facilities, was completed in 2006 and formally inaugurated on January 7, 2007.

Several members of SVM and the School and officials of Priyadarshni Academy graced the event.



Mr Ahmad Javed, Navi Mumbai Police Commissioner, inaugurating Priyadarshni Academy Library at Sadhu Vaswani International School, to his left: Secretary Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Ms Manju Nichani, Sheriff, Dr. Indu Shahani and Chairman Nanik Rupani.

Priyadarshni Academy participates in Charity Mela

The Academy participated in a Charity Mela which was organized by the Breach Candy Club on February 26 in the Club premises. 28 NGOs participated in the event. The Academy set up a stall and displayed information about its history and activities as well as books that it has published. The occasion provided a good opportunity to build its image.

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Skies Play Holi at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan- Priyadarshni Academy Celebrations in Darling Harbour



Classical Dancer Ms. Nandini Krishna performing at the Holi Mohotsav organised by Bhartiya Vidhya Bhavan and Priyadarshni Academy at Darling Harbour, Australia.

Talented Bharata Natyam danseuse Nandini Krishna presented a well-received performance at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhaven-Priyadarshni Acaemy Holi Festival in Darling Harbour, Australia, on March 19. The festival, to be continued on the 20th had to be cancelled as the rain Gods intervened. In her 19th program, Nandini commenced proceedings with an item in praise of Lord Ganesha and followed it up with a piece in praise of Parvati, and a Meera Bhajan to commemorate the festival of Holi with Lord Krishna, which the song describes. The Rath Yatra of Iskcon, also part of the Mahotsav, passed in procession during the Meera Bhajan number, in happy coincidence. The Bhajan was specially composed for the event by well known musician-composer-singer, Shri P. S. Krishnamurthy.

Rains affected attendance quite a bit, but there were still over 300 who witnessed and appreciated the dance event. The crowds, which had started to increase, were dispersed due to the downpour. The rains, however, offered a respite at the time of 'Havan' by Iskcon devotees on the open stage to symbolize the fire ceremony of Holi. It rained through the night of the 19th, and the open air venue was slushy leading to the cancellation of the celebrations on the 20th, particularly as it was too risky to use the sound equipment outdoors.

Priyadarshni Academy is thankful to Mr. Gambir Watts, President, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Australia, and his

team for collaborating with Priyadarshni Academy on the first such event. More are in store. Priyadarshni Academy is set to pursue two more events this year and will always be scouting to do similar events the world over that will enhance understanding of Indian culture to audiences abroad, both Indian and foreign.



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