



RAINBOW

Newsletter of Priyadarshni Academy

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LITERARY AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS EVENT DRAWS MORE ON EVERY COUNT

Priyadarshni Academy gave literary awards in Hindi, Marathi, and Sindhi (plaque and Rs.25,000 each) and 287 scholarships (generally of Rs.10, 000 each) in front of a Standing Room Only audience of over 250 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber on February 29, 2012. In addition, three achievers in

Mr. Yagya Sharma was conferred the Shri Kisharam Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Hindi Literary Award for his contributions as a well-known writer and critic since the 1970s. Mr. Sharma is a noted satirist. His column "Khali Peeli" is published in various newspapers and magazines for the last two decades. His articles make one realize the social realities of our society. His "Sarkar



Left to Right (Shri D.V. Patil, Honorable Speaker of the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly, presents the Hindi Literary Award to Mr. Yagya Sharma & the Marathi Literary Award to Mr. Nanda Khare. Mr. Muri Manghnani, Special Guest, presents the Sindhi Literary Award to Mr. Laxman Bhatia. Others in the pictures are: Academy Chairman Mr. Nanik Rupani, Vice Chairman Mr. Nayan Patel & Guest of Honor Mr. Niraj Bajaj.

different fields were felicitated with a souvenir and a purse of Rs.10, 000 each. The number of scholarships was more than given last year and was to students from across India in the fields of engineering, IT, architecture, medicine, education, management, and the arts. A number of blind students from the National Association for the Blind and children of policemen were recipients of scholarships.

ka Ghada" was published recently and was highly acclaimed by readers and critics.

Mr. Nanda Khare was presented the Geeta Israni Memorial Marathi Literary Award. Mr. Khare has been editing a Marathi monthly "Aajcha Sudharak" for nearly 10 years. He has authored numerous Marathi publications.

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Chairman's Message



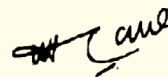
I was particularly proud of the Literary Awards and Educational Scholarships program this year, held on February 29, 2012. That is because, at one time, as late as in January, I was not sure that the program could be held, as not enough money was available for the program. I had occasion to mention this in passing to Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani, our Vice-Chairman, and he quickly

retorted that this laudable program of the Academy could not be stalled. He went on to immediately put in sufficient money to ensure that we could go ahead with the program. Soon thereafter, Mr. Nihal Israni, the Chairman of our Educational Scholarships Committee, supplemented the kitty with a generous donation and what we ended with was a bumper program during which we presented more scholarships than even last year (287 against 203, a whopping jump of 41%). The scholarships included, as last year, a number of students from the National Association for the Blind and children of the police. I am deeply grateful to both Mr. Hiranandani and Mr. Israni for their

unstinted support to the Academy. There were a number of other donors too who contributed in no small measure to our holding a highly successful event at which, apart from conferring literary awards, we also felicitated three achievers who have played important roles in society.

Our biennial Global Awards program to be held on September 19 this year is taking excellent shape. We already have six awardees confirmed and expect at least two more to be part of the event this year. Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Chairman, of the Global Awards Advisory Committee, and other distinguished members of the Committee have spread their net wide to identify the best from a number of disciplines from the far corners of the earth and invite to the event. As always, it will be an occasion worth looking forward to be part of.

After the rousing film-based Bhajan Sandhya program on Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti day, we bring to you another promising program by Sarangee Ambekar on the 27th of April at the Jai Hind College auditorium. I shall look forward to your presence there. Invitations will follow.



Nanik Rupani



ARCHANA - THE AWAKENING OF THE SOUL

🎵🎵🎵 A Musical Experience presented by SARANGEE AMBEKAR & Group 🎵🎵🎵

April 27, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
at the Jai Hind College
Auditorium

Everyone who frequents
Priyadarshni Academy

programs, particularly music lovers and the spiritually inclined would love this program. While formal invitations will be mailed when they are printed, please mark the date in your calendar to experience this musical awakening. Sarangee will present soul-stirring bhajans by the greatest saints of the 16th century including Meerabai, Sant Kabir, Surdas, Tulsidas, Brahmanand and Guru Nanak.

What sets the writings of these prophets apart from the rest is the timelessness of their wisdom. Their principles and teachings are relevant even in contemporary times and, we, as mortals of the 21st century, can benefit immensely by applying them to our lives.

Sarangee will evoke a pious sentiment in Surdas' 'He Govind Rakho Sharan', will depict the maternal love that Kaushalya feels for young Lord Rama in Tulsidas' 'Thumak Chalat

Rachandra', celebrate Meerabai's devotion for Lord Krishna in 'Koi Kachu Kahe Man Laga', highlight the merits of undying perseverance in Kabir's 'Lagan Bina Lage Na Nirmohi' and end the concert with Guru Nanak's 'Painyya Lago Naam Lakha Dijo Re'.

Sarangee was trained in Hindustani classical vocal music under the able tutelage of Smt. Manik Bhide and Dr. Mrs. Ashwini Bhide-Deshpande for over 15 years. She has performed at various classical, devotional and theme-based concerts across the country. A winner of the prestigious Hindustani classical vocal competition organized by All India Radio, she has also won coveted music scholarships of the Government of India. She has had the privilege of giving vocal accompaniment to eminent Kathak exponent, Pt. Birju Maharaj and others.

Sarangee has an M.A. in Music from Pune University. She has also won first prize in light classical vocal competitions and performed in a number of youth festivals.

She is associated with L&T since the last three years to train employees in music.

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(Contd...)

Mr. Laxman Bhatia was conferred the Laxmi-Nari Pohani Sindhi Literary Award for his overall contribution to Sindhi literature. His autobiography "Wahi Khate ja Panna" has received critical appreciation in literary circles in India and Pakistan. Mr. Bhatia goes by the pen name Komal.

Padmashree Kranti Shah, Founder, Director, & Managing Trustee of Yuvak Biradari, Dr. Binny Sareen, Manager, Public Relations & Mass Media, Global Hospital & Research Centre, and Mrs. Kaajal Chandiramani, Singer, were felicitated for their achievements.

In his welcome speech, Mr. Rupani thanked the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honor, and the Special Guest for their close and continuing association with Priyadarshni Academy for many years. Mr. Rupani emphasized that "we are able to give 287 scholarships even when there is an economic downturn, thanks to Mr. Hiranandani, Mr. Israni, and other donors."

The Chairmen of the Hindi and Gujarati Literary Awards Committees, Mr. Vishwanath Sachdev, and Dr. Mohanbhai Patel respectively, addressed the audience. In the absence of Dr. Ramdas Phutane, the Marathi Literary Awards Committee Chairman, Mr. Dinkar Dayal, who has been closely associated with Priyadarshni Academy since its early years, spoke.

Mr. Sachdev praised Mr. Rupani for introducing awards to literary personalities who contribute to Indian society through their writings. Mr. Dinkar Gangal spoke about Mr. Khare who writes in different genres and is fascinated by science-based subjects, 'Evolution of Man' being his famous work. Mr. Gangal added that Mr. Khare is already well-known in

Marathi circles, but that the literary award would considerably help enhance his reputation in Mumbai's literary circles.

Shri Dilip Valse Patil, Honorable Speaker of the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly, and previously Minister for Higher and Technical Education and Medical Education in the government of Maharashtra, admired Priyadarshni Academy for its ability to host events, award people periodically, and empower talented students with scholarships. He praised Mr. Rupani and his team for their 28 years of sheer dedication to the academy's activities and their selfless contribution to society.

Mr. Patil congratulated all the literary awardees, the students who won scholarships and those felicitated. He said that to select the right awardees, organize programs of this nature and get sufficient audiences to participate in them is no mean achievement.

He said that education has undergone a tremendous change and expansion, but that the literacy level in the country is still low. However, India's progress has been good. Indian education needs trained and qualified teachers. Students must be allowed to choose what they like, so that they can excel in them. He cited the example of the Bajaj family which permitted its members to choose the fields of their liking.

Mr. Niraj Bajaj Chairman & Managing Director of Mukand Ltd, a Harvardian and recipient of the Arjuna Award, India's highest sports honor, for his accomplishments as Captain and three-time all-India Champion of Indian Table Tennis, was the Guest of Honor. Mr. Bajaj appreciated and envied the activities conducted by Priyadarshni Academy and the full house. He averred that Mr. Rupani's life is an example to show that anything is possible in life. He

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spoke of his passion and determination. He categorically stated that India's future lies in education.

Mr. Murij Manghnani, Chairman, Intra Group of Companies, Dubai, and who was the founder member of the Indian High School and Indian Sports Club in Dubai, and who is connected with various literary/cultural and social organizations, was the Special Guest.

While addressing the audience after receiving the award, Mr. Yagya Sharma narrated a poem about a tree which focuses on survival in spite of all the obstacles it faces.

Mr. Kranti Shah reminded the audience that this year is the 150th anniversary celebrations of Rabindra Nath Tagore and 'Jana Gan Mana' shatabdi. He

urged that everyone should read Rabindranth Tagore's 'Geetanjali' and learn and draw inspiration from it. He appreciated the presence of so many blind students in the audience who were given scholarships.

Dr. Binny Sarin pointed out the importance of spirituality and values in today's society. She narrated a poem during her response.

Ms. Chandiramani regaled the audience by mellifluously singing a few lines from a Sindhi song, 'Sindhi meri maa hai'.

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

The program ended with the singing of the national anthem.



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Few photos of the Function



Shri Dilip Valse Pati lights the lamp while Mr. Nayan Patel, Mr. Muri Manghni, Mr. Murli Adnani, Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Mr. Nanik Rupani, & Mr. Niraj Bajaj await their turn.



Padmashree Kranti Shah, Founder, Director and Managing Trustee of Yuvak Biradari, being felicitated by Shri Dilip Valse Patil for his outstanding contribution to Social & Youth Welfare.



Dr. Binny Sareen, Manager Public Relations & Mass Media, Global Hospital & Research Centre, being felicitated by Mr. Niraj Bajaj for her outstanding contribution to Spirituality



Mrs. Kaajal Chandiramani, Singer, being felicitated by Shri Dilip Valse Patil for her outstanding contribution to Sindhi Music & Art.



Mr. Niraj Bajaj gives a scholarship to a partially blind student.



Mr. Rupani (Extreme Right), Ms. Harsha Hinduja (Third from Right), Ms. Dadi Janki (Middle) Administration Head of Brahma Kumaris at the Future of Power Dialogue Group held at the JW Marriott Hotel

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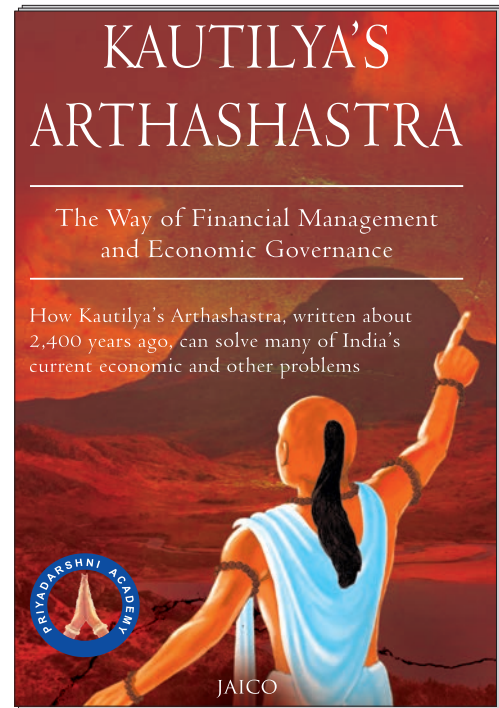
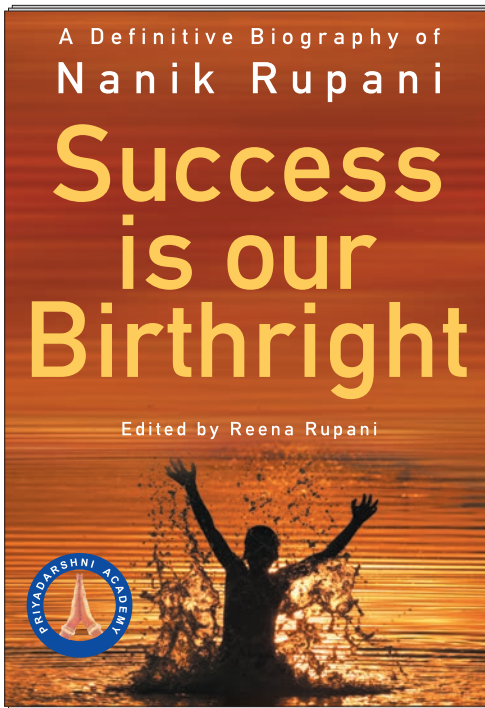


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