

April - June 2017



Dear Friend:

The Academy had a truly outstanding Literary Awards and Scholarships program this year. It was marked by the Academy presenting scholarships to 380 students which was an achievement from several points of view. It was indeed a record number, in the 33 years of the Academy, and stood out a mile from the 212 we gave out last year. The money raised and given out too was by far a record. The event saw a record-breaking number of attendees and there was no standing room left in the hall.

I am indeed proud of this feat. We have been working on a goal of providing scholarships to a thousand students. The way the momentum leapfrogged this year, it seems that it won't be too far before we attain this goal. I want to take this opportunity to specially thank each and every one of the donors who made this achievement possible. I also thank Mumbai University Vice Chancellor Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh, and Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta, Actor and Social Activist, for being kind enough to associate with us again as Chief Guest and Guest of Honor respectively.

The literary awardees too were of the highest caliber. This Rainbow issue focuses on this important event. I am sure you will enjoy going through it.

Niranjan Hiranandani

Literary Awards and Scholarships Program Sets Milestones

Priyadarshni Academy's 33rd Anniversary Literary Awards and Scholarship Program, held on March 21, 2017 at the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, was a record-breaking event. The Academy presented scholarships to as many as 380 students. It is a record in the annals of the Academy's 33-year history. The total amount of scholarships given and the number who attended the event too were a record for this program. Scholarships were given in the fields of Engineering / B.Ed. / Medicine / IT / Architecture / Management, etc. Rs.20,000 each was given to ten medical students and the rest received Rs.10,000 each.

Awards were given for impressive contributions to Hindi, Gujarati and Sindhi literature. The literary awardees were Mr. Akshay Jain (for Hindi literature), Mrs. Kaajal Oza Vaidya (for Gujarati literature) and Prof. (Mrs.) Meena Gope Rupchandani (for Sindhi literature). In addition, Mr. Nihchal Israni, Founder Director, Nihchal Israni Foundation, and Chairman, Blue Cross Laboratories Private Limited, was felicitated for his noble contributions in the field of education and healthcare, and the huge

support he has extended for many years to Priyadarshni Academy.

Priyadarshni Academy extends its grateful thanks to each and every one of the donors who gave generously and made the event possible.

Mumbai University Vice Chancellor Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh served as the Chief Guest and Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta was the Guest of Honor. Both expressed happiness at being associated with the Academy and praised it for making excellent contributions to society. In his address, Dr. Deshmukh spoke about the current educational scenario and about Mumbai University's future plans to expand educational opportunities and make them more meaningful. Ms. Mehta spoke about an issue of grave concern to human beings - the excessive use of plastics which is endangering humanity. She urged that everyone should curb the use of plastics and emphasized the need for creating greater awareness of its dangers. Academy Chairman Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani welcomed the guests. Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, in his address,





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reiterated the Academy's goal of providing 1000 scholarships annually. This year's 380 scholarships were a huge jump from last year's 212. The Academy is well-poised to march towards its 1000-scholarship goal. Ms. Reena Rupani anchored the event successfully. Mr. R. K. Vishwanathan, Advisor, proposed a Vote of Thanks.

Photo Gallery



Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta, Guest of Honour, lighting the lamp. Next to Ms. Mehta are Dr. Mohanbhai Patel, Chairman, Gujarati Literary Awards Committee, Mr. Nihchal Israni and Mr. Nanik Rupani. Behind them are Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani and Mr. Chander Manghnani, Treasurer, Priyadarshni Academy



giving the welcome address



Mr. Nanik Rupani, Chairman Emeritus, Priyadarshni Academy, addressing the audience



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Prof. (Mrs.) Meena Gope Rupchandani receiving Laxmi-Nari Pohani Sindhi Literary Award from Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh



Mr. Akshay Jain receiving Shri Kisharam Lekhraj Rupani Memorial Hindi Literary Award from Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh





Mrs. Kaajal Oza Vaidya receiving Smt. Chandaben Mohanbhai Patel Gujarati Literary Award from Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh



Mr. Nihchal Israni, Founder Director, Nihchal Israni Foundation, and Chairman, Blue Cross Laboratories Private Limited, receiving felicitation plaque from Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh



Mr. Nihchal Israni, Founder Director, Nihchal Israni Foundation, presenting Geeta Israni Scholarship to Ms. Mayuri Mahadev Khandare studying Biomedical Engg. in Vidyalankar Institute of Technology, Wadala



Mrs. Suman Ramesh Tulsiani, Trustee, Suman Ramesh Tulsiani Charitable Trust, presenting Suman Ramesh Tulsiani Scholarship to Mr. Anilkumar Mangabhai Makvana studying M. B. B. S. in Government Medical College, Surat



Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Chairman, Priyadarshni Academy, presenting Dr. L. H. Hirananadani Scholarship to Ms. Aarushi Shah studying B. Sc. (Life Sciences) in Jai Hind College, Churchgate



Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Chief Guest, addressing the audience







Mr. Rupani felicitating Dada J. P. Vaswani at the 'World Peace & Harmony through Interfaith Dialogue' Conference on April 28, 2017 at Birla Matushri Sabhagar



Mr. Rupani, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Mr. Rahul Karad, Vice President, MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, Pune, and Mr. Darshak Hathi, International Director, Art of Living International Centre, at a session on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at NSCI

Priyadarshni Academy has received certification from Tata Institute of Social Sciences empaneling the academy with the national CSR HUB. This makes the academy, a thirty-three year old, well established, internationally recognized NGO, an eminently eligible institution for partnerships by corporates looking for institutions to meet their CSR-related goals and receive tax benefits under 80G.

Please contact **Mr. R. K. Vishwanathan, Advisor,** Priyadarshni Academy, at 2287 3456 or via priyadarshniacademy@gmail.com for details.

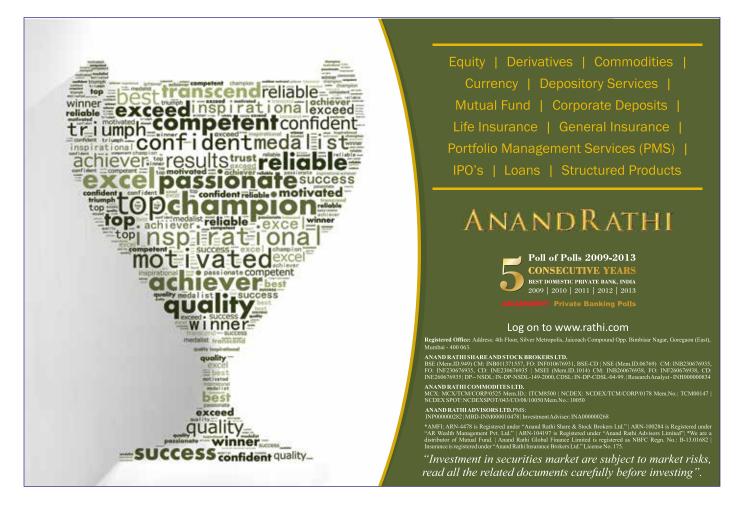


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