

World of Awards

2009 Golden Pen of Freedom

Najam Sethi, the former Editor-in-chief of the Friday Times and Daily Times Pakistan, was presented the “2009” Golden Pen of Freedom,” the annual press freedom prize of the World Association of Newspaper and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), during the 62nd World Newspaper Congress and 16th World Editors’ Forum (WEF) held in Hyderabad.

The Golden Pen of Freedom is WAN’s annual award recognizing individuals or organisations that have made an outstanding contribution to the defense and promotions of press freedom. Established in 1961, the Golden Pen of Freedom is presented each year at the opening ceremony of the World Newspaper Congress and World Editors Forum.

2009 Sahitya Akademi Award

Poets dominated this year’s Sahitya Akademi award winners with eight of their books chosen for the honours in 24 categories of literature.

Poets Honoured were :

Praduman Singh Jindrahia (Dogri)
 Kailash Vajpeyi (Hindi)
 Jess Fernandes (Konkani)
 Raghu Leishangthem (Manipur)
 Vasant Abaji Dhake (Marathi)
 Phani Mohanty (Oriya)
 Damayanti Beshra (Shanthali)
 Puviarasu (Tamil)

Collection of Short Stories

Vaidehi (Kannada)
 Late Manmohan Jha (Maithili)
 Samiran Chhetri “Priyadarshi” (Nepali)
 Major Ratan Jangid (Rajasthani)
 Prashasya Mitra Shastri (Sanskrit)
 Anand Khemani (Sindhi)

Novelists

Dhrubajyoti Bora (Assamese)
 Late Manoranjan Lahary (Bodo)
 U.A. Khadar (Malayalam)
 Yarlagadda Laxmi Prasad (Telugu)

Books of Criticism

Sri Chaturvedi Badrinath (English)
 Shirish Panchal (Gujarati)

Mashal Sultanpuri (Kashmiri)
Abdul Kalam Qasmi (Urudu)

Prestigious Awards

Sourin Bhattacharya (Bengali) for his book of essays
Atamjit (Punjabi) for his book of plays

Basha Samman for 2008

Vishwanath Khaire and Surendranath Satapathy in the field of classical and medieval literature. This award carries of cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and an engraved copper plaque.

Mr.Murthy said the government had agreed in principle to increase the Sahitya Akademi award case prize from Rs.50,000/- to Rs. 1 lakh. He hoped this year's awardees would receive Rs.1 lakh of February16,2010 and an official notification was expected soon.

The Akademi had decided to honour authors of Children's literature from this year. The details are being worked out whether to award the book or the overall contribution of the author. But we will hand out 24 awards every year", Mr. Murthy said.

Firodia Award

Scientist Yash Pal and Project Director of Chandrayaan-1 M. Annadurai have been chosen for the H.K.Firodia awards for 2009, While Professor Yash pal has been chosen for his contribution to education and communication technology Mr, Annadurai gets the honour for his role in the moon mission,

The awards were announced by the former Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) R., Mashelkar, and Chairman of the Firodia Group Arun Firodia. Besides Dr. Maheslkar, the selection committee comprised scientists Anil Kakodhar, Vijay Bhatkar and Govind Swarup.

The Professor Yash Pal is Scientist, a committed educator and visionary science administrator who made path breaking research in astronomy, astrophysics and space technology. Mr. Annadurai has also made notable contributions such as the first ever software satellite simulator for an ISRO mission and automation of space craft operations.

The awards were instituted in 1996 in memory of H.K. Firodia, a doyen of automobile industry, are meant to applaud scientific achievements in the country and inspire the youth to pursue a career in science, Earlier recipients include A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, M.S. Swaminathan, Jayant Narlikar and Samir Brahamachari.

SIES

The awardees of 12th South Indian Education Society (SIES) are;

The former Lok Sabha Speaker, Somnath Chatterjee,
Project Director of Chandrayaan-1M. Annadurai
Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation E. Sridharan and
Sanskrit scholar Satya Vrat Shastri.

The awardees were selected for their contribution to public life, science and technology, community leadership and Sanskrit. Each award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2.5.lakh, a silver lamp, a shawl and a citation.

International Film Festival of India

The 40th International Film festival of India was held in Goa. This 11 day extravaganza is the biggest annual film event in South Asia. The international jury headed by noted Brazilian director Joao Batista de Andrade, Vic Sarin (Canada), Kenichi Okubo (Tokyo), Sarika (India) and Jean –Michel Froden (France) selected the winners from among 15 films.

Golden Peacock

The Taiwanese film “ I can’t Live Without You”(No Puedo Vivir Sin Ti) directed by Lean Dai and produced by Rita Chuang begged the prestigious Golden Peacock and cash prize of Rs. 40 Lakh at the 40th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The film is the drama of t man driven to the end of his tether by a uncaring legal and bureaucratic system when he wants to reclaim to legal possession of his daughter. The jury hailed the film for the “poetic and realistic presentation of the relationship between father and daughter”.

Silver Peacock

The silver Peacock along with cash prize of Rs. 15 Lakh for Best Director was bagged by French –South Korean film maker Ounie Lecomte for her film “A Brand New Life” (Yeo Haeng Ja), a film in which Lecomte recounts the emotional journey of a little girl abandoned by her father in a orphanage.

Special Jury Award

The Special jury Award, which consists of a Silver Peacock and Rs.15 Laks Cash, went to George Ovashvili for his Powerful but unsentimental story-telling in his film “ The Other Bank” (Gangma Napiri), a film from Georgia/Kazakhstan in which a 12years Old Georgian boy embarks on a dangerous mission to find his father behind enemy lines in the break away republic of Abkhazia.

GOPIO Community Service Award 2009

Seven eminent Indian-origin persons from across the world have been selected from the community Service Award from the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at its annual convention in New Delhi. The GOPIO Community Service Awards are given in recognition of outstanding services to the community, society and humanity. The award recipient must have a broad-based, continuing commitment to community service, public service and/or significant charitable or philanthropic contributions of benefit to the community, as reflected in a variety of activities, programs and initiatives which have served the needs of the Non-Resident Indian (NRI)/People of Indian Origin (PIO) community. The recipient must show evidence of true partnership with the NRI/PIO community.

Awardees are

Rajen Ramnath (Netherlands)
Datuk Vinod Sekhar (Malaysia)
Lachmandas Pagarani (Dubai, UAE),
Prabhakar (now living in Kerala)
Ramesh Gupta (U.S.) and
Special Awards to Dr. Jagat Motwani (U.S) and Issac John (Dubai)

Miss World 2009

In the 59th Miss World final Gibraltar's Kaiane Aldorino won the 2009 Miss world crown defeating 11 contestants from across the world which was held in Johannesburg South Africa. An HR clerk, the 22year old Miss Gibraltar brought her country the Miss World title for the first time.

Miss Mexico Perla Beltran finished second, while South Agrica's tatum Keshwar took the third place. Miss India, Pooja Chopra.
