

K Satchidanandan selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 1 /-/- Noted Malayalam poet and literary critic, K Satchidanandan, has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, Kerala government's highest literary honour. The award is for his contributions to Malayalam literature and poetry. Culture Affairs Minister A K Balan told reporters, announcing the award. Instituted in the name of Ezhuthachan, the father of Malayalam language, the award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a citation. Satchidanandan's literary career began with the publication of Kurukshetra, a collection of essays on poetry (1970) and Anchusoorayan, a collection of poems (1971). Since then he has published several books of poetry, criticism, plays, travelogues and translations of poetry and plays and edited several magazines like Jwala, Uttaram and Pachakkutira besides many anthologies of poetry and essays in Malayalam, English and Hindi, among others. (PTI)

Keki Daruwalla to get Tata Litfest Poet Laureate Award

NEW DELHI, NOV 1 /-/- Renowned poet and short story writer Keki Nasserwanji Daruwalla has been chosen for this year's Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate Award. "Delighted. The fact that this kind of award exists shows that people still care for poetry. All poets incidentally are not mad as people think, though the madder the poet, the better the poetry. Regrettably I hail from the non-mad variety," Daruwalla said. The award will be presented to him on November 16, the inaugural day of the 8th edition of the Tata Literature Live! at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in Mumbai. Born in Lahore, the poet has 18 books including collections of poetry, short stories and to his credit. A quintessential piece of literature by Daruwalla is often faced with anger and contempt. His writings are directed against the dull, passive Indian lifestyle and romantic illusions. "The depth and eloquence with which Keki Daruwalla writes has enamored successive generations, and his cultural footprint on our literature is undeniable. "We are humbled to host such an eminent writer at the festival and are looking forward to



hearing him speak," Anil Dharker, founder and director of Literature Live!, said. Daruwalla published his first book of poems "Under Orion" in 1970. His collection of poems titled, "The Keeper of the Dead" won him the Sahitya Akademi award in 1984. He went on to win the Commonwealth Poetry Award (Asia) in 1987 and the Padmashri in 2014. "We are pleased to honour distinguished poet Keki Daruwalla at the Tata Literature Live! Mumbai. Litfest this year for the significant contributions he has made in the field of poetry. "We hope awards such as this serve as an encouragement for young poets to follow their passion for poetry, which is amongst the most beautiful and powerful forms of human expression," Harish Bhat of the Tata Sons, said. Daruwalla, who is known for his bitter, satirical tone of poetic presentation, punctuated by poignant visual imagery, came out with his latest work, "Ancestral Affairs" in 2015. As part of the Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate Award, he will be presented with a citation, plaque, and a cash prize. Past recipients of the award include prolific poets including Gulzar (2016), Vikram Seth (2015) and Joy Goswami (2014).

Garish Karnad to receive Tata Lit Lifetime Achievement Award

MUMBAI, NOV 1 /-/- Veteran actor and playwright Garish Karnad is all set to be honoured by Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award 2017. The award will be presented to Karnad, 79, at the literature festival's annual awards ceremony which will be held on November 19 at the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Nariman Point here. The veteran actor said it is an honour for him to receive the award as a playwright. "What makes theatre such an intricate world, a febrile network of human relationships woven in words, and this is why when, at the end of it all, one is told that one has succeeded, it is such an exhilarating experience. "This is why when the Tata Literature Live! honours me as a playwright, I feel enveloped by the warmth rolling in wave after wave - from across languages, cultures, and even from bygone generations - saying to me, 'Well done!' What more could one want? This is the moment a playwright lives for," Karnad said in a statement. He critically acclaimed plays in the era of 1960s such as 'Yayati' (1961), the historical 'Tughlaq' (1964), and his three seminal works 'Hayavadana' (1971), 'Nagamandala' (1988) and 'Taledanda' (1990) have earned international praise. Karnad is also a recipient of Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards. Anil Dharker, founder-director of Literature Live!, said the organisation is thrilled to honour the veteran theatre artiste. "His work, that



marked the coming of age of modern Indian playwriting in the '60s has significantly helped shape and enhance the Indian art and literature universe. We are looking forward to having him with us at the festival," he said. Harish Bhat, brand custodian, Tata Sons called Karnad "a giant of our generation, with memorable and influential contributions as playwright, writer, actor and director". Past recipients of the Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award include legendary writers Amity Ghosh (2016), Kiran Nagarkar (2015), MT Vasudevan Nair (2014), Khushwant Singh (2013), VS Naipaul (2012) and Mahashweta Devi (2011). The festival runs from November 16-19. (PTI)

CREATIVE WORLD

Govt should ensure films on 'artistic reality' get made: Sanskrit filmmaker

GUWAHATI, NOV 1 /-/- G Prabha, writer-director of the Sanskrit movie 'Ishti', feels it is the duty of the government to ensure films based on "artistic reality", which do not catch the fancy of producers, get made and released in theatres. The director of the first Sanskrit film on a social theme, said films made merely for the sake of entertainment and pleasure cannot sustain. "Films based on artistic reality may not get producers and commercial success. In that case it is the duty of other sources like governments and film societies to come forward and ensure such films are made and released in theatres for an audience interested in good cinema," he said at the first Guwahati International Film Festival here. The former Sanskrit professor said films cannot be judged on commercial success alone, as cinema is a powerful medium bringing together people from different walks of life, and is an art form with an universal language. "According to me, art is not an industry alone. It is a part of intellectual creative consciousness and I am not ready to compromise with art," he said.

Released in 2015, 'Ishti' is only the fourth Sanskrit film to be made in the country, after 'Adi Shankaracharya' and 'Bhagavad Gita', both directed by G V Iyer, and 'Prayasnam' by Vinod Mankara, based on the 17th century poet-scholar Unnayi Warrier.



"There has been, however, not a single Sanskrit film that explores social realities of Indian lives. My film portrayed patriarchal practices prevalent among the Nambudoori Brahmins of Kerala in the 1940s," Prabha said. The film had run into trouble with the Kerala Brahman Sabha filing a case against the filmmaker and Censor Board for hurting sentiments of the community. The case is still pending. "It has created problems, no doubt, as the film cannot be released in theatres, though it is being screened at film festivals. But it is not a figment of my imagination, but a part of reality that existed in the early part of the last century," he said. Prabha believes that modern subjects can be portrayed through the medium of Sanskrit, and he is planning another film in the language next year. He, however, said the task would not be easy as it is very difficult to find producers and distributors. "Sanskrit is not state-specific but is a language of the entire country. All other languages have a platform but in all these years, only four films have been made in Sanskrit. I hope there is a change in the future," he added. (PTI)

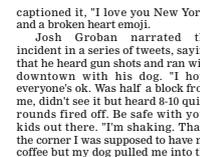
Christina Aguilera to honour Whitney Houston at the AMAs

LOS ANGELES, NOV 1 /-/- Pop singer Christina Aguilera will pay tributes to music icon Whitney Houston on the 25th anniversary of her first featured film "The Bodyguard" at this year's American Music Awards. The 36-year-old singer will honour Houston, who made her contribution in the field of music and cinema as her performance will also include the songs from the 1992 movie in which she starred opposite Kevin Costner, reported Billboard. Aguilera said she was deeply grateful to receive the opportunity to honour her idol, Houston. "I am honoured and humbled to be asked to participate in such a special tribute to a timeless soundtrack that has been a huge inspiration not only in my own personal life and career, but to countless aspiring singers - touching music lovers worldwide and influencing the history of music itself. "To be honouring the one and only, Whitney Houston, is a blessing and I am grateful to celebrate the spirit of her songs and legend that lives on." While Houston's estate recalled that the late singer had said in 2001 that Aguilera sang the best version of her song "Run to You", "It is with great appreciation and honor that she is returning to participate on the American Music Awards with a special tribute honoring the 25th anniversary of 'The Bodyguard'". Whitney said that Christina is without a doubt one of the best voices she enjoyed in this generation of music, "their statement of soul". Houston won 22 AMAs in her legendary music career spanning nearly three decades. She passed away at the age of 48 in February 2012. The AMAs air November 19 from the Microsoft Theatre. (PTI)

Priyanka, Swift, Josh Groban mourn Manhattan attack



LOS ANGELES, NOV 1 /-/- Priyanka Chopra, Taylor Swift, Josh Groban and Ryan Seacrest are among the celebrities who have condemned the attack in New York's Lower Manhattan. At least eight people were killed and 11 other injured in the area after a gunman in a truck ploughed through a busy bike path, an incident the US termed as an "act of terrorism". Priyanka praising the city, her new home, for its grit on Twitter and shared that the attack took place "five blocks" away from where she lives. "NYC... As resilient as ever. I love you. My condolences to everyone affected by this tragedy. "This happened five blocks from me. As I drive back home from work, I see sirens remind me that this is the state of the world," the "Quantico" star tweeted. Taylor Swift shared a photo of a sunset on her Instagram Story and captioned it, "I love you New York" and a broken heart emoji.



Josh Groban narrated the incident in a series of tweets, saying that he heard gun shots and ran with downtown with his dog. "I hope everyone's ok. Was half a block from me, didn't see it but heard 8-10 quick rounds fired off. Be safe with your kids out there. "I'm shaking. That's the corner I was supposed to have my coffee but my dog pulled me into the park half a block away 10 min before shooting. "Devastated for the victims and their families tonight and inspired by the spirit of this city. Sirens and trick or treaters everywhere," he tweeted. Zoe Saldana wrote, "My heart is broken. Sending prayers to all the victims whose lives were taken today in NYC." Host Ryan Seacrest condemned the attack, calling it a "cowardly act." "My heart goes out to



those who have lost loved ones today in NYC," he wrote. "This is a terrible day. Families will be mourning their loved ones tonight. This is an action is the worst of mankind," wrote Patricia Arquette. Comedian Billy Eichner retweeted a news article and wrote, "That's my high school in the picture. This is sad and horrifying. Sending love to everyone there." Singer Sam Smith tweeted, "New York. My heart is with you always and forever. Devastating news. My soul and heart is with the victims and there loved ones. Horrific." The incident that took place in Manhattan, the most densely populated of New York City's 5 boroughs, has sent shocking waves across the country. The suspect, a 29-year-old man, was shot in the stomach before being taken into custody. (PTI)

Odisha to renovate Bezbaroa's house, convert it into a memorial

DHANESHWAR, NOV 1 /-/- Odisha government today announced it will renovate the house of the doyen of Assamese literature Lakhminath Bezbaroa at Sambalpur and turn it into a memorial. The announcement in this regard was made by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik after Assam's Cultural Affairs Minister Naba Kumar Doley and Media Adviser to Assam Chief Minister, Hrishikesh Goswami met him at the secretariat here. Patnaik said the people of Odisha feel proud of Bezbaroa. The Assamese writer had spent over two decades of his life between 1917 and 1937 in Sambalpur town. The Odisha chief minister said the state government will bear all expenditure towards renovation of Bezbaroa's abandoned house. INTAC will execute the renovation work, he said. Odisha Culture and Tourism minister Ashok Chandra Panda, who was present at the meeting, said that the state government will initially allocate Rs 50 lakh for renovation works and it may spend more if required. Assam Cultural Affairs minister thanked the Odisha government for its cooperation. Yesterday, the Assamese delegation visited the house of Bezbaroa at the Nelson Mandela Chowk in Sambalpur days after Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's request to his Odisha counterpart Naveen Patnaik regarding him not to demolish Bezbaroa's house. They had also called on the District Collector of Sambalpur Samarth Verma, to discuss about conserving the property of Bezbaroa at Sambalpur. There was a plan to demolish two buildings of Bezbaroa at Chowk. Born in 1864, Bezbaroa was a celebrated pioneer of modern Assamese literature and one of the literary stalwarts of the Jonaki Era, the age of romanticism in Assamese literature. (PTI)

Empowering business minds to pursue purpose

KHARAGPUR, NOV 1 /-/- IIT Kharagpur will host the campus round of the world's foremost business model competition, the Hult Prize on 5th November 2017. Hult Prize is an annual competition organized by the Clinton Global Initiative and Hult International Business School, and aims to identify and launch the most compelling social business ideas—start-up enterprises that tackle grave issues faced by millions all over the world. The 2018's challenge is "Harnessing the power of energy to transform the lives of 10 million people by 2025". The winners will receive USD 1 million in seed capital, as well as mentorship and advice from the international business community. Last year teams from IIT KGP had qualified for the Shanghai and London Regional Finals. According

to Shashwat Gangwal, the campus director for Hult Prize at IIT Kharagpur, Kharagpur community has always been enthusiastic about the opportunity that Hult's international platform offers, and this year the entire organizing team has put in their best to bring on world-class mentors including Mr Nagaraja Prakasham (Acumen), Mr Ajay Muttreja, Mr Mohammad Saif (EY) and more, to help KGP teams win the competition. Through leveraging human capital, knowledge and a support from the international community, Hult Prize has helped launch social enterprises that have helped change lives of millions all over and has grown on to become the world's largest student movement for social good. (EOIC)

officers and staff attended to witness the drama. Divisional Cultural Association of Kharagpur Division staged the skit spreading the message of Corruption Free India. (EOIC)

SER to create awareness against corruption

KOLKATA, NOV 1 /-/- South Eastern Railway is observing vigilance awareness week from 30.10.17 to 4.11.17 all over the railway. As a part of this, a skit in form of a short street drama titled "Swachh Yodgan" was performed at Howrah station, New Complex, this afternoon (11.2017) with the theme: "Our Vision: Corruption Free India." A large number of passengers assembled at Howrah Station witnessed the skit depicting against corruption and malpractices in Railway reservations, railway recruitments and other spheres of official works. Smt. Jaya Verma Sinha, Sr Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer, South Eastern Railway along with other senior



officers and staff attended to witness the drama. Divisional Cultural Association of Kharagpur Division staged the skit spreading the message of Corruption Free India. (EOIC)