

Sahitya Akademi announces awards in 20 languages

Anuradha Sarma Pujari, Namita Gokhale among winners

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Sahitya Akademi on Thursday announced its awards for 2021 for literary works in 20 languages.

In a statement, the National Academy of Letters said seven books of poetry, five of short stories, one each of biography, autobiography, criticism and epic poetry and two plays had won the awards, which would be presented later. The awards for works in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu would be announced later.

Namita Gokhale won the award for the English novel *Things to Leave Behind* and Anuradha Sarma Pujari for



Namita Gokhale

her Assamese work *Iyat Ekhan Aaronya Asil*.

Poets in list

Among the winners for poetry are Mwdai Gahai (Bodo), Sanjiv Verenkar (Konkani), Hrushikesh Mallick (Odia), Meethesh Nirmohi (Rajasthan), Vindeshwariprasad

Mishr 'Vinay' (Sanskrit), Arjun Chawla (Sindhi) and Gorati Venkanna (Telugu). Books of short stories by Raj Rahi (Dogri), Kiran Gurav (Marathi), Khalid Hussain (Punjabi), Niranjan Hansda (Santali) and Ambai (Tamil) are among those chosen for the awards.

A biography by D.S. Nagabhushana in Kannada, an autobiography by George Onakkoor in Malayalam, a work of criticism by Wali Mohammad Aseer Kashtawari in Kashmiri and a book of epic poetry by Chhabilal Upadhyaya in Nepali have been selected. A Bengali play by Bratya Basu and a Hindi one by Daya Prakash Sinha have been selected.