

डॉ. के. श्रीनिवासराव
सचिव
Dr. K. Sreenivasarao
Secretary

साहित्य अकादेमी
(राष्ट्रीय साहित्य संस्थान)
संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की स्वायत्तशासी संस्था
Sahitya Akademi
(National Academy of Letters)
An Autonomous Organisation of Government of India,
Ministry of Culture



SA.16/14/

26 December 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Sri M. T. Vasudevan Nair, eminent Writer and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi passes away

It is with immense sadness and grief that Sahitya Akademi received the news of passing away of distinguished Malayalam writer, scholar, director and Fellow of Sahitya Akademi yesterday, 25 December 2024. Highly versatile writer who left indelible mark in the field of cinema also, MT, as he was fondly called, influenced generations of writers through his timeless creations. One of the Masters of Post-independence Indian Literature, Sri Vasudevan Nair, discovered and promoted many young writers for decades. In a literary career spanning seven decades, Sri Vasudevan Nair wrote prolifically and most of his novels and stories were bestsellers and also won critical acclaim. He had a long stint with Malayalam cinema as a screenplay writer and director and contributed in rich vein. He won Sahitya Akademi Award for his *Kaalam* but it is *Randamoozham*, which retells the story of the Mahabharata from the point of view of Bhimasena, is widely credited as his masterpiece. In his illustrious career, Sri M. T. Vasudevan Nair won many prestigious awards and honours including Padma Bhushan, Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, Sahitya Akademi Award and Jnanpith Award, among others. Sahitya Akademi joins thousands of literary connoisseurs in mourning his death and pays utmost respect to Sri M. T. Vasudevan Nair for his selfless and extraordinary service to Indian Literature. As a mark of respect to the departed writer, Sahitya Akademi organized condolence meetings at all the offices of the Akademi at 2 p.m. on 26 December 2024 and the offices remained closed after that.

(K. Sreenivasarao)