

Bal Bharati National Essay Competition Awards Function-2014

Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting organized the *Bal Bharati* Essay Competition Awards Function on 6th August 2014. The competition which aims to test the originality and creativity of children saw a record number of ten thousand entries in 2013. In order to adjudge the winners a ten member selection committee consisting of renowned people from the world of children's literature was constituted. The winners of the National Essay Competition were awarded at specially organized function at India International Centre, New Delhi.

Ms. Harshita Kushwaha, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh; Master Suryansh Manav, Delhi and Ms. Aditi Upadhyaya, Delhi were awarded first, second and third prize of Rs.5000/-, Rs.4000/- and Rs.3000/- respectively along with books. Ms. Kusum Gautam, Delhi; Ms. Thartika, Delhi; Ms. Niharika Tyagi, Haridwar, Uttar Pradesh; Ms. Arunima Phadke, Baroda, Gujarat; Ms. Khushi Aggarwal, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; Ms. Pooja Saini, Delhi; Ms. Joya Mhasale, Pune, Maharashtra; Ms. Atri Garg, Delhi; Ms. Riya Mishra, Babina, Uttar Pradesh and Ms. Shrita, Delhi were awarded with appreciation prize. The appreciation prize winners were given books as awards. The topics for the competition were *Chand Par Chhaubees Ghante*, *Zaruri Hai Kabhi Sach Kabhi Jhooth*, *Ek Phool Ki Atmakatha*, *Mowgli Mere Shahar/Gaon Main*, *Aaj Ki Taza Khabar*, *Mere Shikshak Se Kuch Sawaal*, *Mera Party Time* and *Mere Sabse Achche Adhyapak/Adhyapika*.



The ADG, Publications Division, Ms. Ira Joshi addressing the gathering

A jury of ten eminent persons from the field of children's literature adjudged these entries. The jury members were- Shri Divik Ramesh, Ms.Madhu Pant, Shri Suryanath Singh, Shri Devendra Kumar, Shri Shyam Sushil, Ms.Usha Sharma, Smt.Sunita, Ms.Masha, Smt.Vibha Joshi and Ms.Sushma Jugran.

Shri Divik Ramesh, who was the Guest of Honour, through his speech won the heart of children sprinkled with poems and stories filled with ideals. The Additional Director General, Publications Division, Ms. Ira Joshi while congratulating the children, spoke about the achievements of the Directorate and also highlighted the future plans for Publications Division. A number of eminent personalities from the field of children's literature and senior officials of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting also attended the function.



One of the winners receiving the prize from ADG, Shri Divik Ramesh is in the back ground



On this occasion Publications Division organized a Pantomime and Magic Show. The Pantomime was presented by Shri Arijit Roy, Director of Jagran, a theatre based NGO working in the field of development communication. The programme consisted of two shows, one on adopting a tree, based on the issue of reforestation and environment and the other show was on junk food. Both the shows were very educative and kept the audience enrapt all through.

The Magic Show presented by Ishamuddin Khan was another event of the day. The famous magician displayed his skills to the attentive children.

Publications Division has been organizing this Essay Competition for children since 2004. The competition is organized by the popular monthly children's magazine, *Bal Bharati* for the children up to the age of 16 years. Earlier, limited for the children of Delhi, the competition assumed a national level status in 2008. In 2013, the competition received a record ten thousand entries from all over the country. *Bal Bharati* since it began its publication in 1948 has been providing valuable content to the children in an enjoyable format at extremely affordable price. It goes on to prove that the Publications Division is committed to provide quality content to enrich and inculcate values of humanism, enquiring and scientific temper among future generations of the country.