

A Delhi gathering comprising literature-lovers from all walks of life listened with rapt attention the nostalgic memories of a prominent translator of Russian classical literature into Hindi Prof. Madan Lal Madhu, who fulfilled 55 years of his socio-literary and cultural activities in Moscow, at a literary evening organized at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture (RCSC), New Delhi, on March 7, 2013.



The highlight of the function was the release of his memoirs, entitled “Yadoon ke Dhundle Ujale Chehre by H.E. Mr. Alexander Kadakin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to India.

In recognition to his distinguished contribution in the field of literature, in 1991, he was conferred with Padmashree, one of the highest civilian awards, by President of India H.E. Mr. R. Venkataraman, and for his immense contribution to the promotion of Indo-Russian cultural ties, in 2001, he was awarded with the Russian Order of Friendship by President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin.



Felicitating Prof. Madan Lal Madhu, the Russian Ambassador Mr. Alexander Kadakin described him as an outstanding translator, poet, journalist, renowned scholar, a multi-faceted man of unprecedented talents that allowed him to introduce volumes of Russian poetry and prose to the Indian reader. “Distinguished by his most comprehensive insight into the Russian character, Prof. Madhu belongs to a renowned cohort of translators from Russian into Hindi”, the Russian Ambassador noted. “Millions of Indian book-lovers rightly believe that Prof. Madhu personifies Russian language literature with his oeuvre comprising about a hundred translated books of Russian Classics”, he pointed out. The Ambassador stressed that the years spent in Russia made Prof. Madhu a true connoisseur of Russian national spirit as well as culture and history, describing him as “a shining symbol of selfless service to cultural affinity with our nations”.



“It is a matter of pride for India that its interest in Russian literature remains strong. The increasing number of Russian language students in Indian schools and colleges testifies to this fact” Mr. Alexander Kadakin concluded.

Making his observation over decade-long personal association with the author, Dr. Namwar Singh, Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, highly appreciated the work of Prof. Madan Lal Madhu, describing it as a historical document worthwhile for the present as well as the future generation. He referred to the author’s perception on the landmark political developments that the erstwhile Soviet Union passed through and its transition to the Russian Federation. He also lauded the relentless efforts taken by the author in the formation and activities of Hindustani Samaj, which consolidated the friendship and cooperation between the peoples of India and Russia.

With an element of sentimental note, Mr. T. N. Chaturvedi, former Governor, Karnataka and Kerala, profusely hailed the creative work undertaken by Prof. Madan Lal Madhu in the present book, spanning the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries serving as guidelines for the students of literature and history of Russia. He glorified the constant endeavour put forth by the author in learning Russian on his own after his arrival in Moscow and facilitating the translations from Russian to Hindi for Indian readership.



While monitoring and anchoring the deliberations, Mr. Brajendra Tripathi, Deputy Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, gave an illuminating account of Prof. Madan Lal Madhu which went a long way in enlightening the literary faculty of a wide Indian mass.

Presenting Prof.. Madan Lal Madhu with the Satya Srijan Shikhar Samman, Ms. Urmil Satyabhushan, President, Parichay Sahitya Parishad, dwelt upon the author's grasp of Russian language and literature and transforming the spirit to the greater benefit of Indian readers, through excellent translation work.

Speaking high of Prof.. Madan Lal Madhu's literary contributions, Mr. Anil Joshi, President of Aksharam organisation, presented him with a souvenir and certificate of merit.

Thanking those organizations and personalities felicitated him on the occasion, Padmashree Madan Lal Madhu, shared his memorable experience of nearly six decades in Moscow, and recounted his personal meetings with high-profile political leaders and heads of governments of both India and Russia there, including Nikita Khrushchev and Jawaharlal Nehru.

