

Mangaluru
October 10, 2015

The President
Sahitya Akademi
New Delhi.

Dear Vishwanath Prasad Tiwary-ji

It is with great pain I write this letter to you.

When M.M. Kalburgi, prominent Kannada writer, scholar and member of the general council of the Akademi was murdered, preceded by murders of other intellectuals in the country, I expected that the Akademi would take the lead in upholding the basic freedom of writers, at least by organizing seminars and workshops throughout the country and sending out a strong message of protest. But you have utterly failed even to condemn these types of heinous crimes in the country. The literary fraternity is disappointed with your wilful indifference despite voices of dissent being raised by writers across the country.

You were present when I had received the Sahitya Akademi award for my book "Prakriticho Paas" in the year 2011. You may recall Prof Namwar Singh, being the chief guest, had cautioned writers and poets against succumbing to pressure that threatened their freedom of speech and expression.

Am I wrong to presume that the Sahitya Akademi has succumbed to pressure now? We writers need an answer.

With warm regards



Melvyn Rodrigues
President, Kavita Trust
Directors Operations, Daiiworld Media Pvt Ltd
Winner of Sahitya Akademi award for 'Prakriticho Paas' in 2011

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