
SAARC LITERARY AWARD 2014

Noted Urdu writer, critic and poet, Dr. Tarannum Riyaz has been awarded the prestigious SAARC Literary Award 2014. The award was presented to her at The Diggi Palace Jaipur during SAARC Sufi festival held in October 2014. The function was attended by dignitaries, ambassadors, eminent delegates, scholars, authors and writers from India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal and Srilanka.

The award which is given to an eminent writer from amongst the eight SAARC countries, was presented to Dr. Tarannum Riyaz by former Prime Minister of the Govt. of Tibet in Exile, Prof. Samdhong Rimpoche.

She is the first Urdu writer in India to receive this award.

Dr. Tarannum Riyaz is a Senior Fellow with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. She holds a degree of Ph. D in Education from University of Kashmir and has been associated with teaching and broadcasting.

Dr. Tarannum Riyaz has authored more than 15 books of Fiction, Criticism and Poetry. Her latest novel, *Barf Aashna Parindey* (The Birds of the Snows) which was widely acclaimed in literary circles, has been translated into three languages and its Hindi version was released on this occasion.

Dr. Tarannum Riyaz is recipient of several awards including the Delhi Urdu Academy State Award for Fiction, the Jammu and Kashmir State Award for best book of Fiction, the UP Urdu Academy Best Book Award and the Sahir Ludhianvi Aadeb International Award.

Dr. Tarannum Riyaz has been a member of Sahitya Akademy Governing Council, Urdu Advisory Board, Birla Foundation Saraswati Samman Award Committee and Ghalib Academy New Delhi. She is also the Secretary, Poetry Club of India and Member Governing Council Poetry Society India. Speaking to the media from Jaipur, Dr. Tarannum Riyaz said "I feel honoured to have received this award and I can confidently say that I share this sentiment with all the patrons and readers of Urdu literature in all of South Asia including my valley of Kashmir."

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