

Secret/Most Urgent

July 08, 2020

To

Dr. Chandrashekhar Kambar,
The President,
Sahitya Akademi,
New Delhi

Sub: Complaint against Dr. Vanita, Convener, Advisory Board
of Punjabi Language

Dear Sir,

An emergency meeting has been convened by the eight members of Punjabi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi including two General Council Members on 8th of July, 2020 at Ludhiana to bring to your notice the massive irregularities, corruption and misuse of official power by the Convener of Punjabi Advisory Board and resorting to nepotism and favouritism in various functions and programmes and decision making in awards as under:-

- i) It has been observed that the secrecy is not being adhered to and maintained by Dr. Vanita with respect to national awards because the information regarding the recipients of the awards is shared by the Convener to her selective well-wishers and crony friends well in advance and sometime before announcement of awards. The personal whims and desires are being imposed on the Jury Members by the Convener by misusing her official powers and by influencing the jury regarding the decision making on the core issues of awards of all categories of Punjabi language.
- ii) She did not even bother to take into confidence the Advisory Board Members from start of the year and during the previous years also. The Convener has failed to organise any special programme or event for enrichment of Punjabi language as has been done by the Advisory Board of other languages.

Dr. Maninder Singh

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- iii) With the two members of Governing Council and all other members of Advisory Board except her favourite student named Harvinder Singh, have time and again called her to achieve consensus for the future programmes for Punjabi literature, but their requests fallen of the dumb ears of the Convener.
- iv) All the Advisory Board Members except the Convener and her student feel that there is no conducive eco-system in the Advisory Board to work in coordination since the Convener has not been taking any decision to bring the conducive atmosphere of cooperation by discussing the issue democratically with all the Members of the Advisory Board.
- v) During the Covid-19 epidemic time, certain online programmes on webinar, zoom etc. are being organised by all others but surprisingly the Convener failed to organise such event/programme with the same zeal. Moreover, without any concurrence and approval of the Advisory Board on its own, she is doing messy programmes to favour her well wishers and in such a way she is buying bad name to the premier institute of literature.
- vi) She is working in a biased and mischievous manner and doing favour to a certain crony friends, who do not have any ability and capability just for the sake of certain kind of gratitudes, best known to her. Moreover, if any of the members puts any suggestion for the programmes, she rejects it in a very derogatory manner (or ignores deliberately) and never welcomes any of the suggestions.
- vii) It has been discussed in detail that the Advisory Board Members organised literary programmes by spending from their pockets and sometimes their money is not reimbursed well in time. The very glare example of Member Harmeet Singh Atwal, who organised programmes on Jagtar; 'Life and Literary Works' at Jalandhar in the month of January, 2020 and spent around Rs. 20,000/- from his pocket and so far there is no reimbursement made to him. Similarly, in another case of Dr. Baljit Kaur, Member, Advisory Board had spent from her pocket in a

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programme in June, 2018, she organised on Punjabi short stories written by Kashmiri writer at Srinagar, but still some part of payment has not been made to her despite repeated requests to the Convener.

- viii) It has also been observed that Advisory Board that the proceedings of the Advisory Board meetings are not properly recorded and put forward because the Convener used to misuse her power by after thought interpolations and insertions.
- ix) It has also been observed that with these misdeeds done by the Convener and her stooge, the interest of Punjabi literature, art and culture has been damaged to the extent of irreparability. The expectations of the Punjabi Literature World also could not be fulfilled because of the bad performance by the Convener due to her incompetence and lack of leadership and dictatorial attitude.
- x) The whole scenario emerged for the last 2 to 3 years has tarnished the grand image and reputation of the Sahitya Akademi which has been achieved with a lot of efforts by the eminent literary personalities for the last 70 years.
- xi) Hence, keeping in view the interest of the Literary world, the following members of the Advisory Members have unanimously decided that they will not work under the convenership of Dr. Vanita. It is requested that kindly immediately take some corrective measures in this regard by removing here from the Convenership within one month, otherwise the whole of these members will resign en-mass.

Thanking you,

Members Advisory
Board

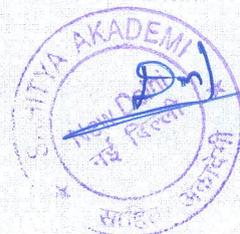
Yours sincerely, (Punjabi)

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Janaki Devi
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|-------------------------------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Deepak Manmohan Singh (General Council Member)- | | - Deepak Manmohan Singh |
| 2. Manmohan | " | - [Signature] |
| 3. Govardhan Gabbi (Member, Advisory Board) | | - [Signature] |
| 4. Dr. Satnam Singh Jassal | " | - [Signature] |
| 5. Dr. Ravi Ravinder (^{alias} DR. RAVINDER KUMAR) | " | - Ravinder Kumar |
| 6. Dr. Baljeet Kaur | " | - Baljeet Kaur |
| 7. S. Harmeet Singh Attwal | " | - [Signature] |
| 8. Jagdish Singh | " | - [Signature] |

Copy to

- i) Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- ii) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of Culture, New Delhi
- iii) Shri Anand Kumar, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi

