



24th August, 2014

Board of Advisers

- Prof. R.K. Agnihotri, Rajasthan
Formerly Dept. of Linguistics, Delhi University
- Sri G. S. Asiwai, Madhya Pradesh
Senior Trade Union Leader
- Dr. P.M. Bhargava, Andhra Pradesh
Founder-Director, CCMB, Hyderabad
- Dr. Vasanthi V. Devi, Tamil Nadu
Ex-Vice Chancellor & President, KALVI, Chennai
- Dr. Hiren Gohain, Assam
Poet & Literary Critic
- Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar, Gujarat
Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Vidyapeeth
- Sri Devanooru Mahadeva, Karnataka
Writer & Activist for Social Justice
- Sri Kedarnath Pandey, Bihar
Gen.Secy., Bihar Madhaymik Shikshak Sangh
- Dr. G. G. Parikh, Maharashtra
Yusuf Meharally Centre, Mumbai
- Prof. N. D. Patil, Maharashtra
Educationist and activist
- Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, Delhi
Economist & Professor Emeritus, JNU
- Prof. Ram Puniyani, Maharashtra
Writer & Social Activist
- Prof. K. Chakradhar Rao, Andhra Pradesh
Osmania University
- Dr. B. D. Sharma, Delhi
Bharat Jan Andolan
- Sri S. P. Shukla, Uttarakhand
Ex-Secretary, Govt. of India
- Prof. Jagmohan Singh, Punjab
Senior Civil Liberties Activist
- Sri Shatrughan Pd. Singh, Bihar
President, Bihar Madhaymik Shikshak.Sangh
- Sri Bhai Vaidya, Maharashtra
President, Akhil Bharat Samajvadi Adhyapak Sabha
- Prof. Rooprekha Verma, Uttar Pradesh
Ex-Vice Chancellor, Lucknow University

Obituary: U.R. Anantamurthy

The doyen of Kannada literature, Jnanpith and Padma award winner, and one of India's best known public intellectuals, U.R. Ananthamurthy passed away on 22nd August 2014. His death is an incalculable loss for the public domain. He was a towering figure committed to the socialist political tradition with a moral integrity grounded in great personal courage and conviction. Despite failing health and prolonged illness, he never acquiesced quietly in a political turn of events that he felt strongly about and which he believed called for an unambiguous response. Recently he had been in the headlines for his comment that he could not live in a country in which Narendra Modi was the prime minister. His forthright comment reduced his political opponents to the pitiful condition of having to send him a one-way ticket to Pakistan, revealing both their pettiness and their inability to brook any opposition.

His famed novel 'Samskara', later converted into a film, was an unsparing critique of brahminism and caste oppression, and Ananthamurthy remained true to his concern for social justice throughout his life. He continued to support various social movements in defence of people's rights and their liberties.

In paying homage to him, the AIFRTE would like to draw attention to his commitment to taking a public stand on important pedagogical issues.

He stood firmly in support of the Common School System as the cornerstone of an egalitarian national system of education.

He advocated, along with the best pedagogical theorists, the importance of the mother tongue as the medium of education.

He led a demonstration in July, 2006 in Bengaluru to oppose the Centre's abdication of its constitutional obligation to the state governments for passing a Right to Education Act. Under pressure of such public protests, the Central government had to reverse its initial position.

He opposed the Karnataka government's attempt to outsource the SCERT and its tasks to the Azim Premji Foundation, established and supported by corporate funds. His open resistance played a big role in the government's retracting from its earlier position.

AIFRTE salutes U.R. Ananthamurthy, an icon who epitomised the best values of India's literary and social traditions – pluralism, social justice and moral conscience.

Members of the Presidium:

- Dr. Meher Engineer, W.Bengal *Chairperson, AIFRTE, Ex-President, IASS*
- Prof. Wasi Ahmed, Bihar, *Ex-Jt Secretary, AIFUCTO*
- Sri Prabhakar Arade, Maharashtra, *President, AIFETO*
- Prof. G. Haragopal, Andhra Pradesh, *National Fellow, ICSSR*
- Prof. Madhu Prasad, Delhi, *Ex-Faculty, DU, Spokes Person AIFRTE*
- Prof. Anil Sadgopal, Madhya Pradesh, *Ex-Dean, CIE, Delhi University*
- Prof. K. M. Shrimali, Delhi, *Dept. of History, Delhi University*
- Dr. Anand Teltumbde, W. Bengal, IIT, Kharagpur

Contacts:

Organising Secretary: Sri D. Ramesh Patnaik, Mob: 09440980396, 040-23305266; Email: drameshptk@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ms. Guddi S.L., Mob: 09869059860; Email: kgaswadesi1947@gmail.com

Office Secretary: Dr. Vikram S. Amarawat, Mob: 08128293711; Email: vsamarawat@gmail.com