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This year's Rajyotsava award winners at the award presentation ceremony on Monday at the Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bangalore.

DH photo by P. Samsa

## 36 honoured with Rajyotsava awards

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Thirty-six eminent personalities from 16 different fields have been selected for this year's Kannada Rajyotsava awards, notable among whom are Gowrishha Kaikini, Sindhuvali Anantha Murthy, S.G. Vasudev, E.R. Sethuram, R.N. Jayagopal and H. Sharath Chandra.

The list which was earlier finalised by a five-member team headed by Jnanpith award winning nonagenarian litterateur K. Shivaram Karanth, was released to the press here, today, by Minister of State for Kannada and Culture H. Vishwanath. The list reads as follows:

**Literature:** Gowrishha Kaikini, Dr. Shantinath Desai, Dr. Srinivasa Havanur, and B.R. Narayan (translation).

**Education:** Prof. M. Shadakshara Swamy and Dr. S. Rame Gowda.

**Music:** R.R. Keshava Murthy, H.T. Naganna, M.S. Ramaiah, U.S. Krishna Rao, Ganapathi Bhatta Hasanagi, Kalu Sherigar and Jayalakshmi Alva.

**Fine arts:** S.G. Vasudev and D.P. Narayana Bhatta.

**Drama:** Sindhuvali Anantha Murthy.

**Sanskrit:** Ramachandra Shastry Suri and N. Ranganatha Sharma.

**Folk arts and vakshagana:** B.R.

Devendrappa, Kadatoka Manjunatha Bhagawatha, Perla Krishna Bhatta, Sharanappa Bhutera, and Fakeerappa Gudisagara.

**Journalism:** E.R. Sethuram and Narasimha Rao.

**Science:** Dr. H. Sharath Chandra and S.S. Katagi Hallimatha.

**Social service:** N. Mallappa and V.P. Deenadayalu Naidu.

**Sports:** C.S. Poonacha (hockey).

**Konkani folk music:** Eric Ozario.

**Medicine:** Dr. V.S. Metgud and Dr. Mehboob Khan.

**Library:** K.S. Deshpande.

**Gamaka:** B.S.S. Kaushik.

**Films:** R.N. Jayagopal.

The awards are to be presented at Ravindra Kalakshetra, Bangalore at 5 p.m. tomorrow, by Chief Minister M. Veerappa Moily. Rajyotsava Awards were first given in 1966, when ten distinguished persons were honoured. The Janata Party which came to power at the Centre in 1977 put an end to the practice of conferring such honours. As a result, there were no awards given for the years 1977 to 1980. The practice was again revived and the number of recipients touched an all-time high of 175 last year during Mr. S. Bangarappa's regime.

However, the present government has decided to restrict the number to coincide with the number of years since the linguistic division of states in 1956. This being the 37th Rajyotsava, the number of recipients should have been 37, but by the time this decision was taken, the selection committee had finalised a list of 36 persons, Mr. Vishwanath said.

He claimed this was the first time the selection was devoid of political interference. The selection team comprised Dr. Shivaram Karanth, Dr. H. Narasimhaiah (former Bangalore University vice-chancellor), Legislator Idinabba, Mr. Koti (former bureaucrat), and veteran musician Titte Krishna Iyengar.

Setting a trend, the government has decided to dispense with presenting cash awards but will instead give 20 grams of 22-carat gold and a shawl to each of the 36 winners, who include two women - Jayalakshmi Alva and Fakeerappa Gudisagara.

The list covers 11 of the 20 districts in the State, but Mr. Vishwanath denied the only criteria for selection for the honour were the contribution of the recipients to their chosen field and seniority and that no extraneous factors influenced the choice. Respective deputy commissioners will ensure that the 36 personalities were brought for tomorrow's award function.