

Smt. Dr. Naheed Abidi is an eminent Sanskrit scholar from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. She is amongst a rare few Indian muslim women Sanskrit scholars and even rarer with the accolades, awards and books to her name. She joined National Commission of Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI), MoHRD, Govt. of India as an appointed member in 2016. She is a Padma Sri (Literature) awardee and has been conferred with the Yash Bharti sammaan for her services to Sanskrit literature & philosophy. She is also a member of the CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification) and CAGE (Central Advisory Board for Education), an apex advisory body of the Government of India in education.

Born in 1961, Dr. Abidi completed her Masters in Arts (Sanskrit) from K.B. Degree College and Ph.D. from Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (then Kashi Vidyapith) with topic 'Vaidik Sanhitaon me Ashwinon ka Swaroop'. She has completed her D.Litt. from Lucknow University. Before joining NCMEI, she has held office as a Member of Executive Council (Chancellor Nominee) for Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi for two consecutive terms from 2007-09 & 2009-2011. She has been a member of the selection committee for Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain.

She has worked as visiting professor in various Central and State Universities and Post Graduate Colleges such as MMV (BHU), Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith (MGKVP) etc. for more than 22 years. Her first book was published in 2008 and was titled *Sanskrit Sahitya Mein Rahim*, which is a rather rare account of Sanskrit leanings of the renowned poet, Abdul Rahim Khan-e-Khana otherwise famous for poetry in Braj and Persian. This was followed by *Devalayasya Deepah*, a faithful Sanskrit adaptation of *Chiragh-e-Dair*, a *Masnavi* composed in adulation of the city of Benaras (now Varanasi) in Persian by world renown poet, Mirza Ghalib during his visit to the city. All these books have been published by Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi. A Sanskrit adaptation of *Majma-ul-Bahrain* (confluence of the two seas) by Dara Shikoh is in works. The book is primarily devoted to a revelation of the mystical and pluralistic affinities between Sufic and Vedantic speculation. It explores the diversity of religions and a unity of Islam and Hinduism and other religions. She has been actively promoting Sanskrit education among muslim girls and boys and providing academic assistance to them for free of cost, promoting linguistic harmony.

She has received many awards and accolades for her contribution to Sanskrit literature & philosophy, notable amongs them are: the Late Smt. Chandrawati Joshi Sanskrit Bhasha Puraskar 2015 awarded by Gyan Kalyan Datavya Nyas, 6 Raisina Road, New Delhi; Janani Jagriti Darshan Samman by Ramayanam Trust, Ayodhya, U.P.; Vikram Kalidas Puraskar by Kalidas Samiti, Government of M.P.; Dara Shikoh Sammaan & Yuva Pratibha Sammaan by Akhil Bhartiya Vidwat Parishad, Varanasi. She has papers published in about two dozen National and International Publications. She has participated and presented in more than 20 National and International Seminars and Conferences.

Dr. Abidi is committed towards the mission of the commission to safeguard rights of minority institutions as promised in the Indian constitution.