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Sahitya Akademi

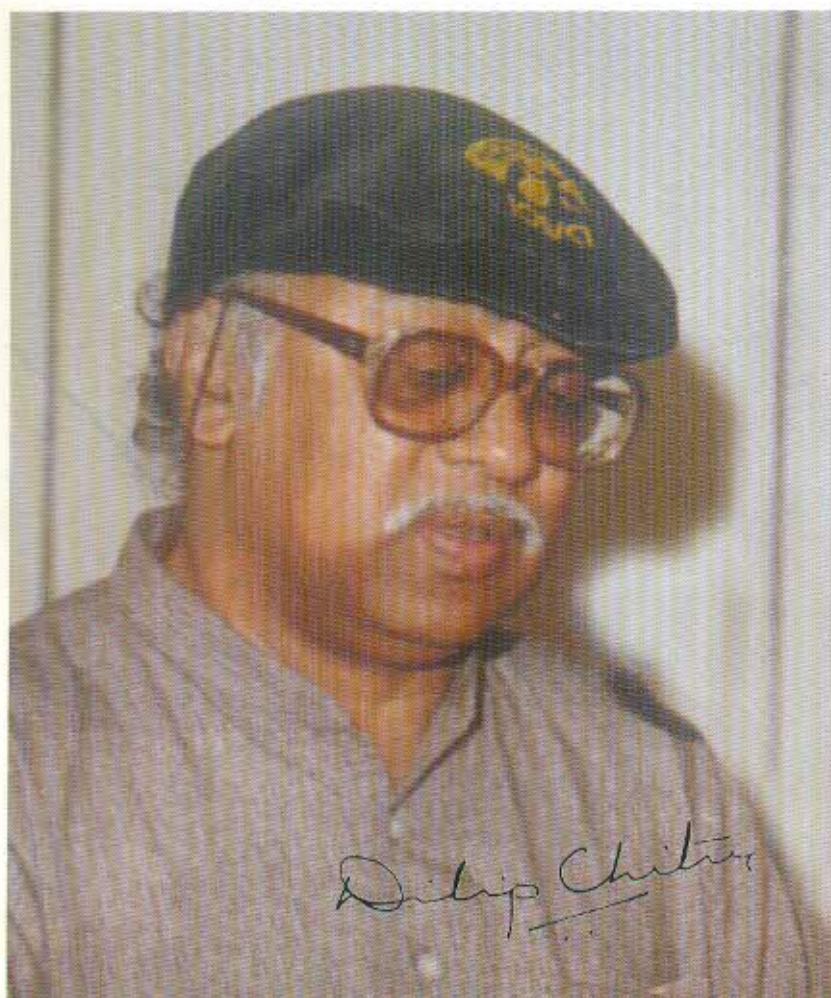


India International Centre

invite you to

meet the author

Dilip Purushottam Chitre



Dilip Purushottam Chitre, renowned bi-lingual poet (Marathi and English), short-story writer, essayist, critic, editor, translator, play-wright, film-maker and painter was born in 1938 at Vadodara to parents who were professional printers and publishers. Dilip Chitre was a child of five when his father Purushottam Atmaram Chitre launched the epoch-making Marathi literary magazine *Abhiruchi*. The Chitre family migrated to Mumbai in 1952. Dilip Chitre attended high school in Mumbai and passed out from school in 1955. He took his BA (Hons.) degree in English language and literature from the University of Bombay.

Dilip Chitre started reading and writing poetry seriously in Marathi and English in 1954. He co-founded and edited *Shabda*, the first literary journal exclusively devoted to poetry in Marathi. During the tenure of *Shabda* (1954-1960), he came into contact with front-ranking writers of Marathi literature like Arun Kolatkar, Bandu Waze, Ramesh Samartha, Bhau Padhye, Hamid Dalwai, Sadanand Rege, Vinda Karandikar, Purushottam Shivram Rege, Sharatchandra Muktibodh, C.T. Khanolkar (Arati Prabhu), Asoka Shahane and Bhalchandra Nemade.

Soon after his marriage with Vijaya, Dilip Chitre joined as a high-school teacher of English with the Government of Ethiopia and taught there for more than three years. After his return from Ethiopia, Dilip Chitre worked in a variety of positions in various fields – wrote columns and articles in newspapers and worked as copy-writer, script-writer for films, documentary film-maker, book designer, copy-editor, visualiser



With his father

and artist and also visiting faculty member.

Dilip Chitre has been in the forefront of avant-garde Marathi writing now for nearly four decades. His first collection of Marathi poems *Kavita*, came out in 1960. It won him great acclaim as a poet of the new sensibility. His travelogue *Sheba Raneechya Shodhat* (Voyage in his own life), a dozen of his short stories in Marathi entitled *Orpheus* and the play *Sutak* were published in the mid-1960s. During the same period he wrote a musical play, *Mithu Mithu Popat* and novellas *The Sapphire* and *Rudhiraksha*. Author of six poetical works which include *Kavita* (1960), *Kavitenantarchya Kavita* (1978) *Daha* by *Daha* (1983), *Ekoon Kavita-1* (1991), *Ekoon Kavita-2* (1995) and *Ekoon Kavita-3* (1998). Dilip Chitre has also published two short-story collections *Orpheus* (1968) and *Chaturanga* (1995) and three collections of essays *Chavya* (1982), *Tirkas Ani Chouhas* (1990) and *Shatakancha Sandhikal* (1995) and one work of literary criticism, *Punha Tukaram* (1990). *Ambulance Ride*, a long poem and *Travelling in a Cage* are two of his poetical works in English.

Chitre's poetry is well-known for its visual vocabulary, its element of fantasy, its uncompromising self-assertion, its existential vision of the human body, its urban metaphors, evocative images, dramatic contexts and its psychological depth and understanding. While being deeply rooted in the tradition of Marathi poetry, Chitre's poems also bring into full play his innovative talent and love of linguistic experimentation.

Dilip Chitre's translation activity dates back to the time of his creative writing. He started translating modern European, English and American poetry into Marathi in the 1960s and later translated Federico Garcia Lorca, Raphael Alberti, Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz, Cesar Vallejo and Ossip Mandelstam. His English translation project of *Tukaramachi Gatha* and Jnandev's *Anubhavamrut* in 1956, culminated in their publication in 1990s. His translation of Tukaram's poetry *Says Tuka* won him the Sahitya Akademi Prize for

Translation in 1994. The same year he also won the Sahitya Akademi Award for his original work, the first volume of *Ekoon Kavita*.

Punha Tukaram (Tukaram once again) is Chitre's re-evaluation of Tukaram in Marathi. His English works of criticism, 'The Inner Resonances of Anubhavamrut', 'The Poets of Vithoba' and 'Collected Poems in English' are awaiting release.

Dilip Chitre has also made a mark in script writing and film making. A full-fledged screenplay adapting a Marathi short story by Bhau Padhye for a proposed film in 1980 won him the best script award of the National Film Development Corporation. Hindi feature film *Godam* directed by him in 1983 won him the Prix Special Du Jury at the Festival Des Trois Continents at France in 1984. Presently Chitre is working on an major English feature film, 'Tukaram : The Last Keertan'.

Dilip Chitre has held several important positions like 'Nirala



Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Prof. U.R. Anantha Murthy, then President of the Sahitya Akademi, 1995

Chair of Creative Writing' in Bhopal. He has been Director, 'Vagarth' the Centre for Poetry at Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, Convener and Director, 'Valmiki World Poetry Festival', Delhi and also Editor of *New Quest*, Pune. He is a recipient of Godavarish Memorial Poetry award and Maharashtra State award for his literary works. He was Elected Fellow of the International Writing Program, University of Iowa, USA, German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Fellow, Writer-in-Residence at the Universities of Heidelberg and Bamberg in 1991-92, Emeritus Fellow of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development and the First Indira Gandhi Fellow of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts in 1996. Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Gaurav was specially awarded to him in 1999 as part of the 350th Anniversary of the Ascension of Tukaram.



Dilip Chitre with his grandson

As a writer, Dilip Chitre has toured several countries like USA, Germany, UK, France, erstwhile USSR, Ukraine, Georgia, Hungary, Hongkong, Thailand and Japan.

He is presently living in Pune with his wife, son and grandson.

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

In Marathi

Poetry

- Kavita*. Bombay. Mouj
Prakashan, 1960
- Kavitenantarchya Kavita*.
Aurangabad. Vacha
Prakashan, 1978
- Daha by Daha*. Bombay. Prass
Prakashan, 1983
- Ekoon Kavita-1*. Bombay.
Popular Prakashan, 1991
- Ekoon Kavita-2*. Bombay.
Popular Prakashan, 1995
- Ekoon Kavita-3*. Bombay.
Popular Prakashan, 1998

Fiction

- Chaturang*, 1995
- Orpheus*. Aurangabad. Saketh
Prakashan, 1988

The Sapphire (Novella)

Rudhiraksha (Novella)

Play

- Mithu Mithu Popat ani Sutak*.
Aurangabad. Shaketh
Prakashan, 1989

Essays

- Chavya*. Bombay. Prass
Prakashan, 1982
- Tirkas ani Choukas*. Bombay.
Lokvangmayagrah, 1990

Literary Criticism

- Punha Tukaram*. Pune.
Sharatchandra Krishna
Belvalkar, 1990

Travelogue

- Sheba Raneecha Shodhat*, 1970

In English

Fiction

Travelling in a Cage. Bombay.

Clearing House, 1988

Ambulance Ride. Bombay.

Kavita Savprakashath, 1972

Edited Works

An Anthology of Marathi Poetry

1945-1965. Bombay. Nirmal

Sadanand Publishers, 1967

Tender Ironies : A Tribute to

Lothar Lutze. New Delhi.

Manohar Publishing House,

1990

Translations

In Hindi

Dilip Chitre ki Kavithayen.

Delhi. Rajkamal Paper-

backs, 1987

In English

Says Tuka: Selected Poetry of

Tukaram. New Delhi.

Penguin Books, 1991

Anubhavamrut: The Immortal

Experience of Being. New

Delhi. Sahitya Akademi,

1996

Marathi Poetry (English transla-
tion)

English Poetry (Translation from
Marathi)

Anthology of Marathi Poetry

(English translation)

Marathi Devotional Poetry

(English translation)

Marathi Sant Poetry (English

translation)

Medieval Marathi Poetry

(English translation)

Select Filmography/

Videography

Godam (Produced and directed),

Feature film in Hindi.

National Film Development

Corporation, 1983

Vijeta (Story and screen play),

Feature Film in Hindi

Anantayatra (Theme poem)

Hindi Feature Film

Video film on *Narayan Surve*,

New Delhi, Sahitya

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Films on Poets : Shamsher

Bahadur Singh, Shakti

Chattopadhyaya, Kunwar

Narain, Srikant Verma, and

K. Satchidanandan. Bhopal.

Bharat Bhavan

Bombay: Geliebte Moloch, Co-

written & co-directed with

Henning Stegmuller for

Second German Television

(1996)



With Lothar Lutze, Indologist from Germany and Shamsher Bahadur Singh. 1993

A CHRONOLOGY

1938	Born at Vadodara in Gujarat		Des Trois Continents at Nantes, France.
1954	Co-founded and edited <i>Shabda</i>	1987	Invited to deliver the third Ajneya Memorial Lecture at the South-Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg, Germany.
1959	B.A. from University of Bombay		
1960	Married Vijaya; Started teaching; first collection of Marathi poems <i>Kavita</i> published.	1991-92	German Academic Exchange (DAAD) Fellowship as Writer-in-Residence at the University of Heidelberg and Bamberg.
1968	<i>Mithu Mithu Popatani Satak</i> (Plays) written		
1975	Elected Fellow of the International Writing Program, University of Iowa, USA.	1994	Sahitya Akademi Award; Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize
1978	<i>Kavitenantarchya Kavita</i> published	1996	Emeritus Fellowship of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development; Indira Gandhi Fellowship; Invited at World Poetry Congress at Maebashi, Japan.
1980	Visited USSR, Hungary, Federal Republic of Germany and France.		
1982	Best Script award of NFDC for <i>Godam</i>		
1983	Elected Director of 'Vagarth', Archive and Centre for Indian Poetry at Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal.	1999	Awarded Shri Sant Tukaram Maharaj Gaurav Puraskar.
1984	Received Award Prix Special Du Jury for <i>Godam</i> at the Festival	2000	Member, International Jury for the Internationals Literaturfestival, Berlin.



In one of the Sahitya Akademi seminars: G.C. Narang, Dilip Chitre, Ramakanta Rath, Ashok Vajpayee, Subas Mukhopadhyay and K. Satchidanandan