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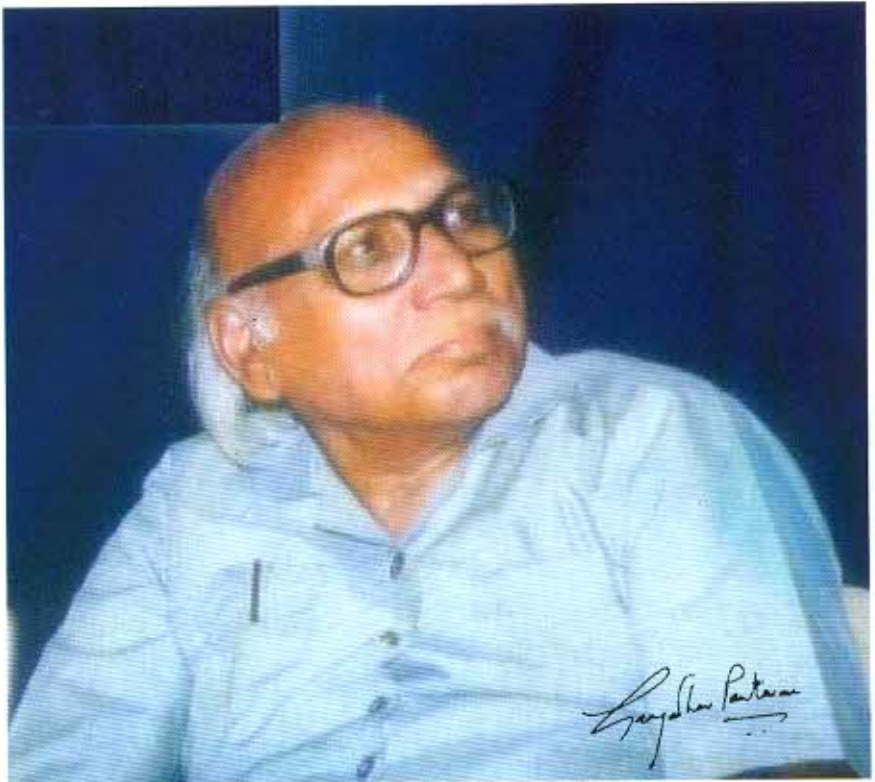


Sahitya Akademi

invites you to

meet the author

Gangadhar Pantawane





Literature that stands for humanity has neither restrictions nor limits and is immortal, it is related to those who suffer and are neglected by their society. It has the seeds of great hope and is deeply rooted in the values of transformation.

- Gangadhar Pantawane

A devout follower of the ideas of Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Gangadhar Pantawane is a versatile personality. He is a distinguished writer, democratic critic, famous teacher of the Marathi language and literature, devoted social worker and thinker.

Born on 28 June 1937 in Nagpur in Maharashtra, Pantawane began writing in his childhood. He had to suffer many hardships to continue his early education. He passed his matriculation in 1956, took B.A. (1960) and M.A. (1962) from Nagpur College, Nagpur. By this time, he had started publishing his poems, short stories and literary criticism in literary journals like *Yugavani*, *Sushama*, *Veena*, *Manohar*, *Rohini*, etc.

Pantawane began his professional career, teaching for

15 years in Milind College, Aurangabad, founded by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and later, in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad for 20 years, as Professor and Head of the Dept. of Marathi Language and Literature. While teaching, he sincerely made efforts to urge upon the students from the Dalit, tribal and backward classes, to cultivate social, literary, intellectual and research aptitudes.

In 1968, Gangadhar Pantawane started publishing a literary journal called *Asmitadarsh* in order to voice and express the realities and sufferings of the community that had remained mute for thousands of years. This was the first literary and cultural weapon of the Dalits that articulated their emotions, thoughts, aspirations and conflicts. Down the centuries, the sufferings of the Dalits, the violence, the insults and the injustice meted out to them knew no bounds. Its expression was the need of the hour. *Asmitadarsh* was ever so eagerly committed to publish the experiences that had remained hitherto unexpressed and largely ignored. Pantawane, like a guardian angel, encouraged literally hundreds of writers to write and publish their works. It is because of this platform we find today a whole class of Dalit writers in and outside Maharashtra. *Asmitadarsh* transformed Marathi Dalit literature into a widespread movement. It was made a bi-monthly in January, 1977. Today,



In conversation with Dr. Eleanor Zelliot, eminent American Scholar

it is active throughout India and the world over.

An eminent American scholar, Eleanor Zelliot says, "It is Gangadhar Pantawane, through *Asmitadarsh*, who has been making the roots of the revolutionary movement of Dalit literature strong. We must contribute our efforts to his mission."

As Editor of *Asmitadarsh*, Pantawane always welcomed progressive ideologies and enthusiastically published not only Dalit writers but also writers from other communities. He has been an editor who cherished the catholicity of literary taste successfully.

Pantawane has regularly been organizing 'Asmitadarsh Sahitya Sammelan' with the sole intention of encouraging new Dalit writers and making the people in rural areas understand Dalit literature and the philosophy of Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj. *Asmitadarsh* literary meets have

also been organized outside the State of Maharashtra. In an electrifying speech delivered at an Asmitadarsh literary meet, Pantawane professed, "Integrated society is the only solution to our socio-political and cultural problems. We cannot improve by avoiding great writers, social reformers and thinkers. Literature, especially the one that is committed to the philosophy of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, has the strength to break any kind of vicious circle."

Jabbar Patel, eminent film director, in *Asmitadarsh* Silver Jubilee Literary Meet, said, "*Asmitadarsh* is the foundation of Dalit literature."

Gangadhar Pantawane is an active member of Shri Chokhamela Samaj Education Society that was founded in 1922 by a few Dalit social workers with an objective to promote education among girls from the Scheduled Castes. He also taught at there, as his contribution to help the society achieve its objectives. He has been



Felicitated by Sri M.H. Padmalkar

indefatigably working to establish live contact with people at large in urban as well as rural areas to educate the girls from Dalit and backward classes and has received tremendous response to his efforts.

For the last five years, he has been an active member of the executive committee of the People's Education Society founded by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1945 in order to provide facilities of higher education especially to the Dalits and other deprived classes. He was invited to present a paper on Dalit literature at a seminar on "Minority Problems" organized by the University of Columbia, New York, USA in 1983. In his unrelenting mission of study and research, he has travelled to several universities in the UK and Thailand.

His oeuvre includes twenty seven publications comprising literary criticism, research work, biography, life sketches, collections of articles and his various addresses. He also has

edited a number of works of literary and cultural significance. Recently, he has been elected President of the first Marathi Vishwa Sahitya Sammelan to be held in the USA.



Asmitadarsh: A Special issue (Jan-Feb-Mar., 2008) on late Baburao Bagul, distinguished Marathi writer

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Criticism

MULYAVEDHA	1972
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Research

VIDROHACHE PANI PETALE AHE	1976
DALITANCHE PRABODHAN	1978
PRABODHANACHYA DISHA	1984
VADALACHE VAMSHAJ	1987
JOURNALIST DR. BABASAHEB AMBEDKAR	1987
DALIT VAICHARIK VANGMAYA	1995

Biography

MUKNAYAK (Biography of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar)	1978
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Collections of Articles

HALAGI	1990
CHAITYA	1991
ARTH ANI ANVAYARTH	2006
VIDROHA, VIDNYAN ANI VISHVATMAKATA (Presidential Addresses)	2008

Life Sketches

SMRUTISHESHA	2002
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Edited Works

DHAMMACHARCHA	1963
VICHARYUGACHE PRANETE DR.B.R. AMBEDKAR	1981
DALIT KATHA	1980
DALIT ATMAKATHAN	1985
MAHARANCHA SANSKRUTIK ITIHAAS	1986
LOKRANGA	1987
DALIT SAHITYA: CHARCHA ANI CHINTAN	1994
LOKCHALVALICHE PRANETE M. PHULE	1996
STREE ATMAKATHAN	1990
DR.B.R.AMBEDKAR AND HIS EDITORIAL WRITINGS	1997



*With Padma Vibhushan Baba Amte at
Anand Varora*

A CHRONOLOGY

- Born in Nagpur, Maharashtra on 28 June 1937
- Matriculation in 1956, Graduation in 1960 & Post-graduation in 1962
- Editor, *Asmitadarsh* in 1968
- Bharatratna Dr.B.R. Ambedkar International Award, London (U.K.)
- Dr. Ambedkar National Award, New Delhi
- Kirloskar Centenary Award, Pune
- Phule - Ambedkar Smriti Award, Mumbai
- Acharya Atre Award
- Marathwada Gourav Award, Mumbai
- Dr. Bhalchandra Phadke Award, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune
- Muknayak Award, Pune
- Maharashtra State Literature and Culture Gaurav Vritti, Mumbai
- Rajarshi Shahu Award, Solapur
- Swami Ramanand Teerth Maharashtra Bhushan Award, Aurangabad
- Padmashri Daya Pawar Award, Mumbai
- Prof. R. B. Joshi Award, Maharashtra Sahitya Sangha, Mumbai
- Maharshi Vitthal Ramji Shinde Award, Wai, Satara
- Maharashtra State Book Award (twice)
- Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad Award, Pune (twice)
- Samajbhushan Puraskar
- Dr. Nirmalkumar Phadkule Sahityaseva Puraskar
- Invited to present a paper on 'Dalit Literature' at a seminar on "Minority Problems", the University of Columbia, New York, USA (1983)
- Visited several universities in the UK (1983)
- Study tour to Thailand (1992)
- Member, Sant Peeth Maharashtra State (1984-1987)
- Member, Marathi Shabdakosh Samiti, Maharashtra State Sahitya Sankriti Mandal (1983-1986)
- Member, Marathi Vangmaykosh Samiti, Maharashtra State Sahitya Sanskriti Mandal
- Member, Shri Chokhamela Samaj Girls' Education Soc., Nagpur (1962)
- Vice-President, Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune (1985-88)
- Founder President, Milind Sahitya Parishad, Aurangabad (1967-70)
- Member, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Centenary Committee, the Govt. of Maharashtra (1990-1992)
- Member, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Publication Committee, the Govt. of Maharashtra (1991 onwards)
- Member, Executive Committee, National Book Trust, India
- Member, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Research Institute, Aurangabad
- Member, People's Education Society, Mumbai (2002)
- Elected President of the first Marathi Vishva Sahitya Sammelan to be held in the USA (2008)