

21 March 2024



Ministry of Culture  
Government of India

invite you to

**meet the author**

**Tukaram Rama Shet**





**T**ukaram Rama Shet, Goa's very own writer and poet, hails from the village of Volvoi in North Goa. In spite of a very humble beginning of Tukaram Shet's family, education was of a paramount importance in their lives. For better education, Tukaram Shet left his village Volvoi, and moved to Betim, near Panjim where he obtained Post Graduation degree. He made Panaji and later, entire Goa his Karmbhumi to contribute to Konkani language, literature, and education. In the process he shot to limelight as eminent Konkani writer. As a writer he has many facets to his personality. Besides being a poet, Tukaram Shet is an important short

story writer and an essayist as well. He has specially contributed to children's literature and to the field of education.

Writing became his passion during his younger days way back in the early 1972 when he used to write poems and one-act plays. He was motivated when his poems were published in the daily Rashtramat and his plays were broadcast on All India Radio, Panjim. After completing his BA in Economics and MA in Marathi literature, Tukaram worked for the Telecom Department. However, his first love has always been Konkani and especially taking the language to the children in a simple and lively way.

As a Konkani writer, and poet Tukaram Rama Shet, has published the first issue of Shabdul as its editor in 1978. Further his contribution to Konkani language and culture is the publication of Konkani Times that he edited for more than three decades and encouraged several young writers. His highly remarkable work is the production of music for children that marks the revival of traditional Konkani folk culture.

Tukaram was also associated with movement for official language status of Konkani and an executive



*Receiving Sahitya Akademi Award from Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari, the then President of Sahitya Akademi*



*With Family*

of the Konkani Bhasha Mandal and in-charge of the KBM office in Panjim. He also served as an executive and general council member of Goa Konkani Academy, Panjim, as well as Chairman and founder member of Balgeet Niketan and Mitra Jagat, Betim. He was also the Executive Chairman of the 15th all India Konkani Literary conference held in 2001.

If today, children can be heard singing poems in Konkani and reciting stories in the mother tongue, then Tukaram Shet has a role to play in bringing about this dedication to Konkani. He revived traditional Konkani children's songs, play songs, stories, etc. and even composed new nursery songs and rhymes, children's songs, action songs, play songs, children's stories, etc. He organized Balmelas in many schools in Goa. He founded Balgeet Niketan in 1987 which produced literary, cultural and educational resources, books, audio cassettes, CDs and conducted training to KG and Anganwadi teachers and also conducted trainings related to patriotic songs and environmental songs to school teachers. Various children's songs produced by Balgeet Niketan are available on Youtube and environmental songs are also broadcast on AIR Panaji.

It can be very well said that he is one of the major voices of modern Konkani literature. His novel titled Pakhlo is a significant contribution to the genre. The much loved novel has been translated into many other Indian languages like Maithili, Punjabi and Hindi, etc. owing to its appeal. The novel published in 1978 is considered as a milestone. Manohar Rai Sardesai says, the novel is a remarkable work in many ways. It is both psychological and social novel. Pakhalo is Konkani word for the European or white-skinned. Born because of sexual abuse by a Portuguese soldier, young, fair-skinned and fair-haired Vithu is nicknamed Pakhlo. He is scorned, ill-treated and at times even tortured. Neither Christian nor Hindu society accepts him as its own. He remains to outcast, uncared for, unwanted sections of the society. A series of misfortunes befall him. The short stories included in his collection are Dhartarecho Spars hand Bhuiimdevi which based on various winds of changes taking place in the rural and urban area and it's impact on human life. It carries the agony, suffering, sensitivity, emotions, and other struggles of human life and therefore represents the entire community. His poems depict deeper perception of the finer facts of life. The poetry





*Receiving Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar  
from Madhav Kaushik, the President of Sahitya Akademi*

collection Karunayan has the background of global pandemic Covid 19. The situation faced by the human race during that period of time is presented therein in verse form. The poetry has the ambit of time too. Considering the depth and extensiveness of the subject it reflects the signs of erudite poems. Similarly, the warmth of experience and integrity of the poet heightens the effect. The poet and critic of repute Madhav Borkar says 'I experienced the overwhelmed condition of mind while reading Karunayan. The experience that renders life restless has been worded there. The poems therein give the mind a kind of stability.'

Navi Jaag (New Awakening) is a piece of literature that makes fun of human behaviour. In his work, Sangathe has given an evidence that there could be nuances in man's behaviour as well as the whole of times, weather strait or absurd. 'It is a poetry that tries to find the meaning of thoughts and life. There is contemplation in it, says Gurunath Kelekar. On the other facet Madhav Borkar says that he had a different kind of experience while reading both volumes. There is a fine coordination of purport, language and style.

In the collection of literary essays

called Manmotayam the exponent of powerful thoughts of life exhibits his deep instincts. The themes of most of the essays are very delicate and the author has handled them carefully using powerful, yet simple metaphors. The imageries he has created are quite refreshing and new. This interesting collection of essays offer fresh perspective to common occurrences and events. The author has created the entire Konkani world in front of his readers.

Tukaram Shet was earlier awarded Sahitya Akademi Award ten years



*With Wife*

back for his collection of literary essays in Konkani Manmotayam in 2013.

Speaking about Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya award winning novel, Jaann published in 2017 Tukaram Shet says, "The book is divided into ten chapters which follows the life of Subodh as he grows close to nature. Each chapter delves into one aspect of nature like the village life, rain, winds, hills, and fields. By the end of the book, Subodh realizes the importance of nature and how we are a part of nature too. The most beautiful example is the metamorphosis of a butterfly."

Tukaram Shet is also the award winner of the Rang-Ixtt Children's

Award, GS Amonkar Excellence Award, Kala Academy Goa Literary Award, Konkani Bhasha Mandal's Patrakarita Puraskar, Goa Konkani Academy Award and Dr TMA Pai Foundation, Manipal Appreciation Award.

His latest book titled Chitpaak Phulaam is now available. He is also working on his new book of poetry Mahanagar.

His long journey as a poet and writer of various genres, especially of children's literature, is matter of pride for the state of Goa as well as the country.

## A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

<i>Pakhalo</i> (Novel)	1978,	2011
<i>Dhartarecho Sparsh</i> (Collection of Konkani stories)		2007
<i>Manmалlob</i> (Poetry book)		2008
<i>Manmotyam</i> (Literary essays)		2009
<i>Bhuidevi</i> (Stories)		2016
<i>Sangat</i> (Literary essays)		2019
<i>Navi Jaag</i> (Literary essays)		2019
<i>Karunayan</i> (Poetry book)		2021
<i>Aadiule</i> (Poetry book)		2022
<i>Chitpak Phulaam</i> (Essays)		2023

### Children's literature

<i>Jaann</i> (novel)		2017
<i>Paryavarán Geetam</i>		2006
<i>Phulaangan</i>		2016
<i>Pipushim</i>		2016
<i>Goemchi Balgeetam-1</i> ...		2000
<i>Goemchi Balgeetam-2</i> ...		2000

### Educational books

<i>Ballangan</i> ...		1992
<i>Geetbharati-1</i> ...		2004
<i>Geetbharati-2</i> ...		2004

### Audio Cassette / CDs (1990 - 2013)

<i>Goemchi Balgeetam</i>	
<i>Konkani Balgeetam</i>	
<i>Shevnya pillo ghoterantlo</i> - Lullabies	
<i>Soimsangati</i> - Environmental songs	
<i>Jai Bharata</i> - Patriotic songs	
<i>Goem mhajem gaita</i> - Patriotic songs	

### Konkani magazines edited

<i>Shabdul</i> (1978 to 1980)
<i>Konkan Times</i> (1980 to 2012)
"Konkani" annual of KBM (1984 - 85) as executive editor

## A CHRONOLOGY

31/07/1952	:	Birth at Volvoi, Goa
09/03/1976	:	Joined the service of Telecom Department at Goa
1978	:	Passed B.A. with specialization in economics
1978	:	Published first issue of Konkani literary magazine 'Shabdul' as editor (1978 -80)
05/07/1979	:	Married to Ms. Hira Phadte
1980	:	Started Konkan Times Publication and 'Konkan Times' Konkani magazine as editor and founder (1980 -2012)

- 1980 : Yearly essay competition in Konkani was started from 1980 - 2012.
- 1981 : Received Kala Academy, Goa Award for the Novel 'Phakhalo'
- 1981 : Passed M.A. Degree in Marathi Language and Literature
- 1982 : Worked as member of executive council of Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Goa and In-charge of KBM office, Panaji for two terms.
- 1984 : Executive editor of 'Konkani' annual of Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Goa at Margao
- 1984-87 : Participated in movement of official language status of Konkani in Goa.
- 1985 : Started to organize seminars on folklore, literature, Konkani education, music etc on behalf of Konkani Times
- 1986 : Founded Balgeet Niketan for revival of traditional literature and for children education and also to produce cultural and educational resources.
- 1995 : Acting as President of Mitra Jagat, Betim, association for environment awareness programmes for school children.
- 1997 : Member of executive committee of Goa Konkani Akademi.
- 01/06/1998 : Left Telecom Department Service.
- 2001 : Executive chairman of 15th All India Konkani Literary Conference, Porvorim, Goa.
- 2004 : Received Rang Ixtt, Children Award for development of Konkani literature and elementary education.
- 2006 : Received Patrakarita Puraskar from Konkani Bhasha Mandal
- 2007 : Goa Konkani Academy Award for 'Dhartarecho Sparsh' as the best story book
- 2008 : Dr. T.M.A Pai Foundation, Manipal Appreciation Award for Literature
- 2008 : Konkani Bhasha Mandal Literary Award
- 2008 : Kala Academy Goa State literary award for 'Dhartarecho Sparsh'
- 2009-13 : Produced 6 audio CDs of Konkani children songs and patriotic songs on behalf of Balgeet Niketan.
- 2010 : G.S. Amonkar Excellence award for contribution of children education and Konkani literature.
- 2012 : Participated in National Symposium of poets 2012 at Kolkota organized by D.G.AIR Delhi.
- 2013 : Awarded Sahitya Akademi Award for "Manmotayam", literary essays in Konkani.
- 2019 : Awarded Lt. Ramnath S. Matha Bal Sahitya Puraskar by Konkani Kala Sahitya Kendra Curchorem.
- 2023 : Awarded Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023 by Sahitya Akademi for 'Jaann' (Novel)
- 2023 : Awarded the Goa State Cultural Award for literature 2023-24.