

5 October 1998



Sahitya Akademi



Karnataka Konkani  
Sahitya Academy

invite you to

**meet the author**

**B.V. Baliga**





Receiving Award

A popular epithet of B.V. Baliga is Balo Konkani Kalo (Baliga is Konkani's bud). Though framed to achieve alliterative and rhythmic ends, the epithet perhaps symbolises the quintessence of Baliga's contributions to Konkani language, literature and journalism. Baliga exudes fragrance through his contributions made during a long span of more than half a century.

Bantwal Vasudeva Baliga, born on August 13, 1918 at Mangalore, was very brilliant in studies since his childhood. Unfortunately he could not pursue education beyond Intermediate for want of support. But he firmly continued to make his identity in various capacities — as accounts assistant, bank manager, business representative and officer in an insurance company.

His inclination towards literature and drama, evinced since school days could practically flourish when he entered into journalism in 1941. After a rigorous training under V.S. Kudva and Kudpi Vasudeva Shenoy Baliga took over an editorship of a Konkani monthly *Panchkadayi* in 1967 and continued till 1992. He not only propagated Konkani language through this magazine, but tried his level best to decently organise the disintegrated Saraswast Samaj. Working relentlessly as a Karma-Yogi he could prove himself a niche in the field of journalism. It also earned him a place of love and gratitude in the hearts of thousands of readers. In spite of lack of human resources and



with his wife Shantha

financial constraints Baliga stood like a rock for which posterity would undoubtedly remember him as *Mogara Kalo* and also as one of the Morning Stars of Konkani literary renaissance in Karnataka in post independence era.

Being influenced immensely by *Srimad Bhagavadgita*, he rendered it into Konkani in 1984. Other worthy translations by Baliga include Sri Shankara's *Bhagavandam* and G.D. Madgulkar's *Geet Ramayana*.

Through his writings, he enriched Konkani usages. The vast and varied forms of Konkani writing which he edited and which runs into more than 15000 pages in print is a veritable source of literary wealth.

### Honours/Felicitations

1. All-India Konkani Sahitya Parishad
2. Konkani Academy, Goa-Fellowship
3. Konkani Bhasha Mandal, Mumbai
4. Kerala Konkani Academy, Cochin
5. Kannada Sahitya Parishad, Mangalore
6. Dr. TMA Pai Foundation, Manipal
7. 'Parab', Mangalore
8. Press Club, Mangalore
9. Republic Day Function (1989)

Inaugurating a seminar

