

8 July 2011

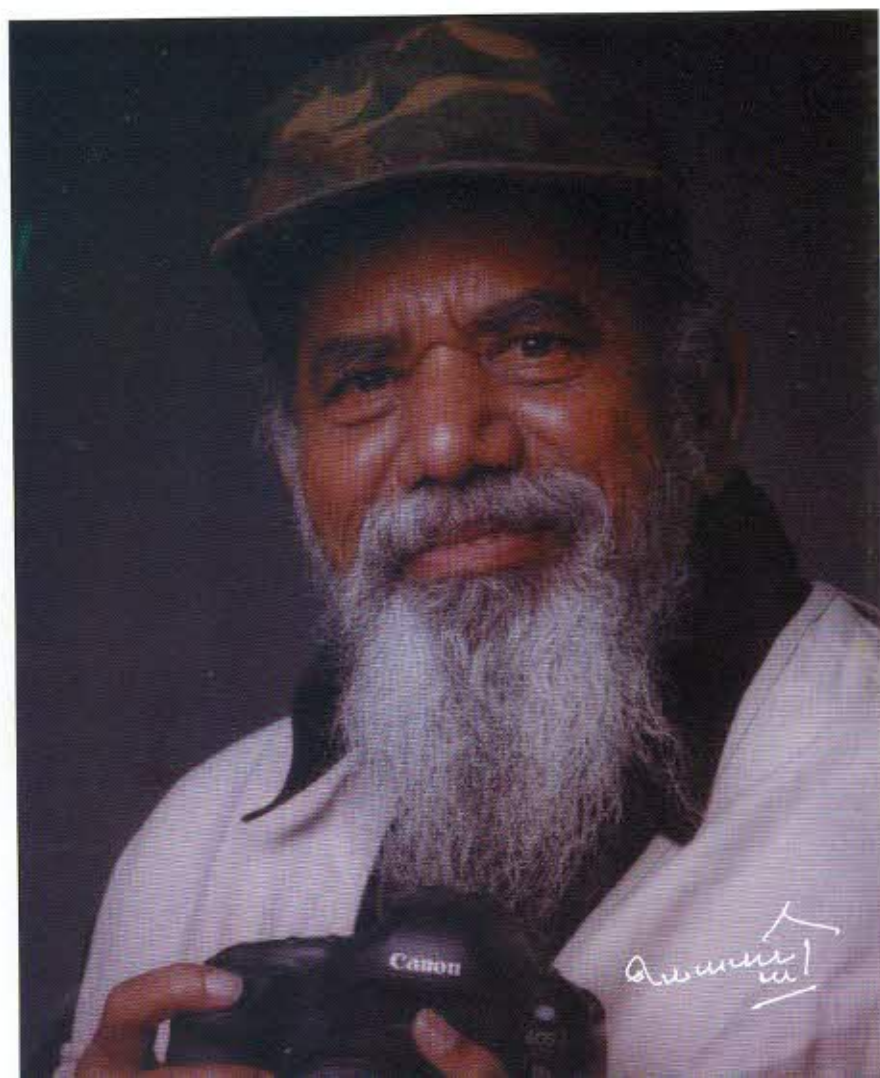


Sahitya Akademi

invites you to

meet the author

Maruti Chitampalli





Corbett was a hunter, a 'shikaree', and looks at the jungle from the standpoint of a killer. Of course, he loves the jungle, but that relationship is different from that of mine. I have never killed an animal in my life. How can I kill myself?

-Maruti Chitampalli

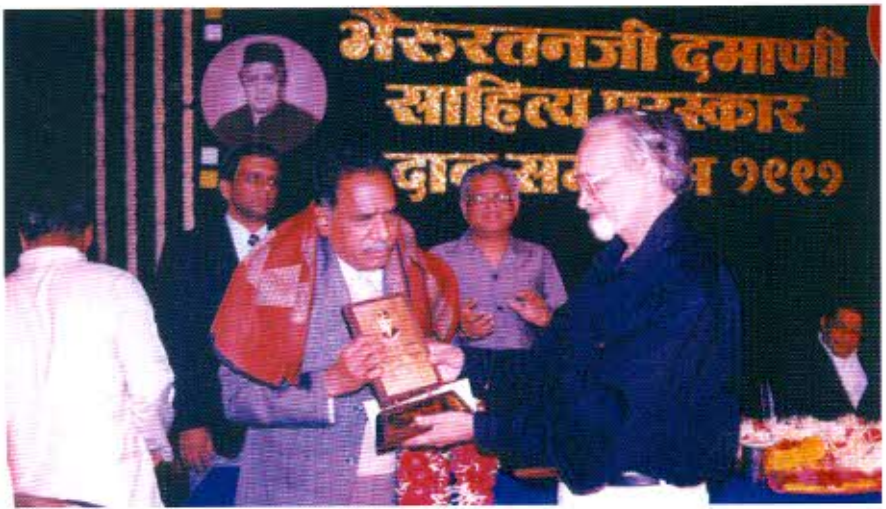
Maruti Chitampalli, the writer who has successfully achieved an impregnable oneness with the forest, his first love, certainly has an ability to transform the act of writing on forest life into a spiritual

experience. Born on 5 November 1932, in Solapur, Chitampalli completed his education from Dayanand College, Solapur, and studied the forest and forest life from Coimbatore Forest College, Bangalore (now Bengaluru), New Delhi, Kanha Rashtriya Udyan, Madhya Pradesh, Dehradun, etc. He also sought traditional education of Sanskrit literature from Yadnyeshwarshastri Kasture, Pt. Gajananshastri Joshi, Parashuramshastri Bhatkhande, Vaidya V.P. Dhamankarshastri. Taking up a government job, he retired as the state's deputy chief conservator of forests, after a 36 year career.

A vibrant and warm writer in him includes the charms of a mystic, inventiveness of a researcher, innocence of a child, yearning of a sage, curiosity and patience of a passionate bird-watcher, and confidence and amiability of a wild-life expert. In the company of Narahar Kurundkar, distinguished



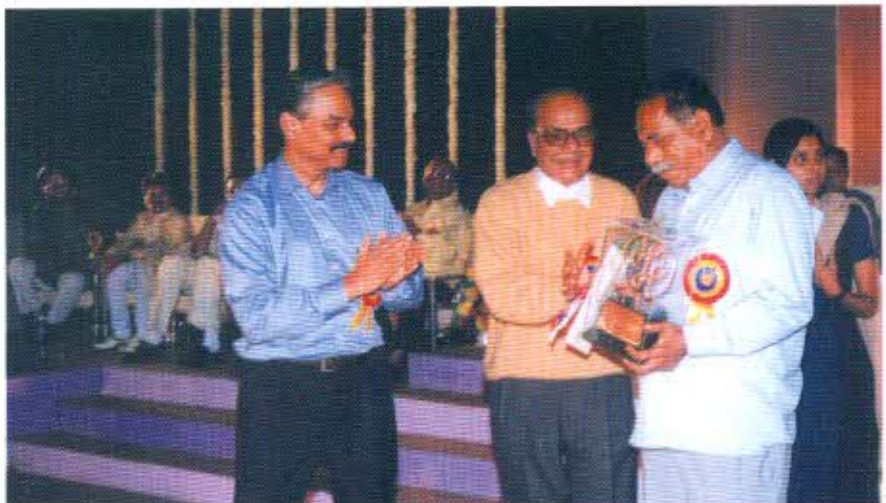
With Kusumagraj at the Pakshi-Mitra Sammelan held in Nashik



Receiving the Bhairuratan Damani Sahitya Award 1991 from Vijay Tendulkar

Marathi critic and scholar, Yadnyeshwarshastri Kasture, G.N. Dandekar, Vyankatesh Madgulkar his literary expression blossomed and got chiseled with several new dimensions. J. Krishnamurthy's philosophy and the famed painter Almelkar have also been deep influences on him that helped him shape his socio-cultural mind. Ms. Asha Savadekar, noted Marathi critic, saying that Chitampalli is a "Nature Mystic", rightly pointed it out that the forests,

birds, trees, and plants taught him a sort of detachment and awaiting patiently the genuine moment that he had been longing for so long. These qualities enabled him to write his exceptionally brilliant autobiography - a vanopanishad in a true sense. His literature is a rare blend of fact and imagination, even his rigorously completed *Pakshi Kosh* (Encyclopaedia of Birds) is not an exception to this observation as it reads like a fictional work. His elegance of



Receiving Maharashtra Foundation Sahitya Gaurav Award from R. G. Jadhav.



Receiving Venu Menon Life-time Achievement Award.
from Nirmala Deshpande, Maneka Gandhi.

diction and style makes his readers experience that the forest is coming alive in its entirety.

Maruti Chitampalli spent his lifetime in the forest. Every nook and corner of the forest life has an independent identity for him, and in turn, an untrodden way to fall in love with the nature at each moment.

He says about his creative writing, "It was only after listening to the songs of birds and seeing the trees growing I

could find expression for my experiences that were mute and existed in my unconscious mind until then."

Chitampalli's oeuvre includes 21 significant books, besides various remarkable articles on wild-life published in several magazines in Marathi and Hindi as well. His indefatigable contribution to the Karnala Bird sanctuary, Nagzira Sanctuary, Melghat Tiger Project is highly remarkable.



With Dr. Salim Ali and Prakash Gole

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A CHRONOLOGY

- 1932 Born in Solapur on 5th November.
- 1955 I. Sc.
- 1960 Training in Forestry & Wildlife, Forestry College, Coimbatore
Sanskrit Bhashabhidy, Tilak Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Pune
- 1978 Training in Wildlife Biology, Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore
- 1984 Maharashtra State Government Award for the Best Literary
work *Jangalache Dene*
- 1987 President 1st Maharashtra Pakshi Mitra Sammelan, Nashik
- 1990 Retired as Deputy Conservator of Forests, Maharashtra State
Forests
- 1991 Maharashtra State Government Award for the Best Literary
Work *Ranwata*
Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Nagpur Award for *Jangalache Dene*
Bhairuratan Damani Literary Award for *Ranwata*
Mrunmayi Literary Award *Ranwata*
Fie Foundation, Echalkaranji Pratishthan Award
- 1994 Maharashtra State Government Award for the Best Literary
Work *Ratwa*
- 1996 Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Vidnyan Parishad and Marathi
Vidnyan Mahasangh Award Scroll of Honour for
contribution to literature in Natural Sciences
- 1999 Sahitya Vachaspati (equivalent to D. Lit.) Awarded by
Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, Nagpur.
- 2000 President 57th Audumbar Sahitya Sammelan, Audumbar
President 51st Vidarbha Sahitya Sammelan, Umardhed
- 2003 Shiv-Girija Pratishthan Award for *Pakshi Kosh*
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- 2004 Maharashtra Seva Sangh – S. L. Gadre Matoshri Award
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- 2005 Smita Patil Award by Manan Mandir, Nagpur
- 2006 Indira Sant Award for *Chakvachandan*
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- 2007 Venu Menon Animal Allies Foundation's Venu Menon Life
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- 2008 Nagbhushan Award Foundation's Nagbhushan Award
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