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Sahitya Akademi

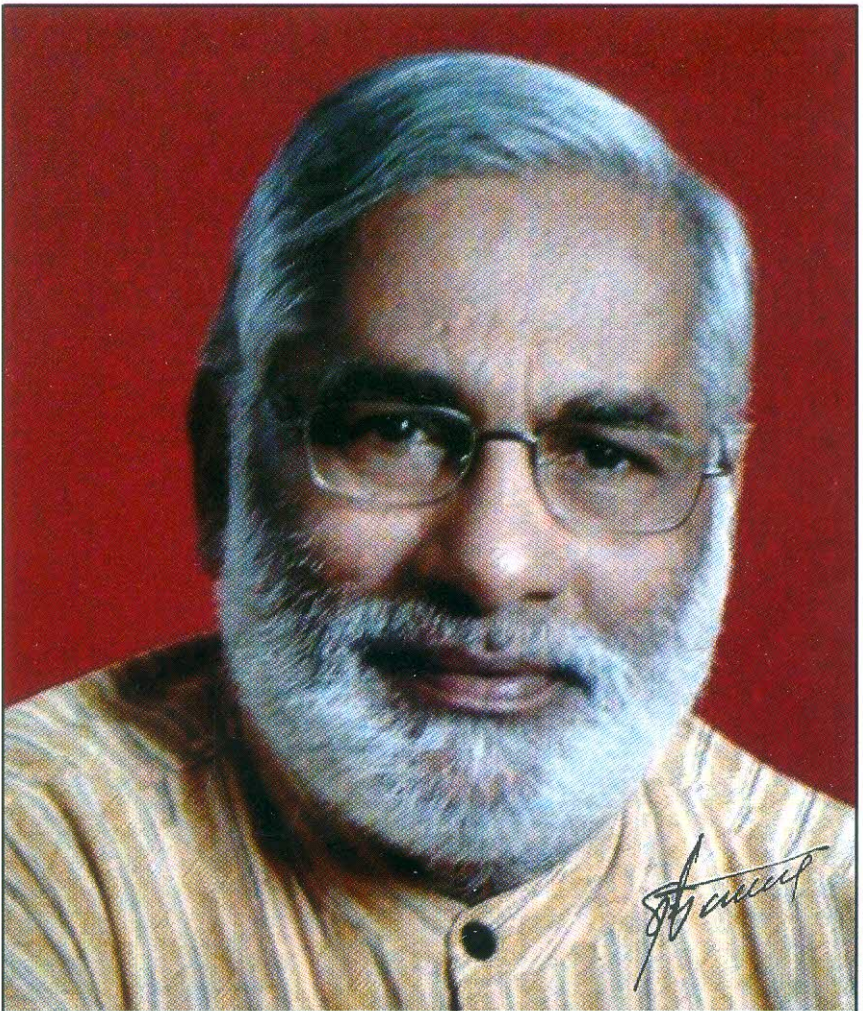


Goa University
Dept of Konkani

invite you to

meet the author

N. Shivdas





Very few writers opt for multifaceted and multipurpose activities including ones for social equality and social justice, besides their creative writing. Such writer-activists apparently disparage social inequality, injustice, cast and class hierarchy, and cherish and practice humanism. Goa is one of the young regions of India which was liberated in 1961, and the new generations before and after the Liberation equally experienced the onslaught of ruling as well as feudal upper class, mainly in the prevalent society that was based mainly on cast and class hierarchy.

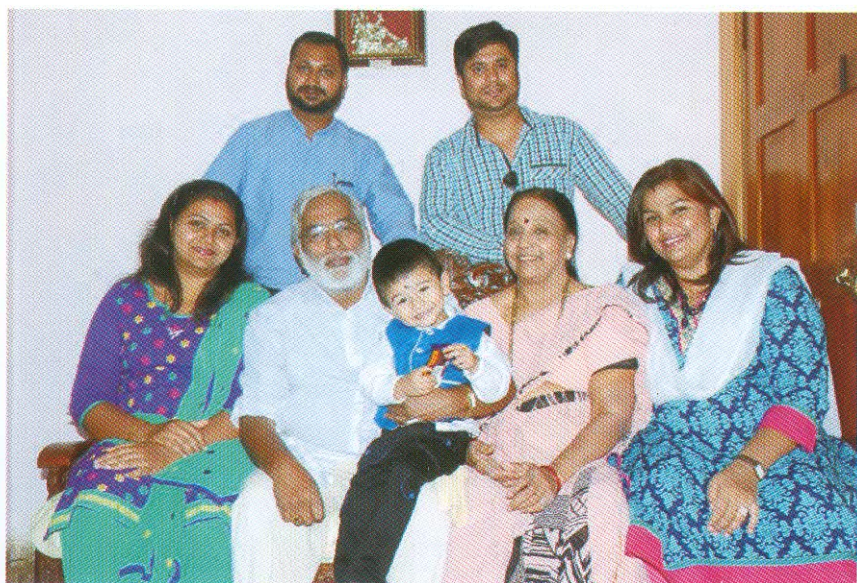
Although born 12 years after the Liberation of Goa, N. Shivdas' alias Shivdas Sonu Naik, keen observation and deep social understanding made him clearly visualize and understand the prevailing social conditions and predicament of the communities he was surrounded by. He could very

well realize that having suffered socially and politically once at the hands of Portuguese rulers, the day to day life of the common, poor and downtrodden classes of Goan society was now equally horrible at the helm of upper classes or landlords of feudal attitude who were succeeded in snatching away everything that was possessed from the beginning in the right of the son of the soil. It was in this social environment that young N. Shivdas, who would later become one of the most distinguished writers in Konkani, began to find his own language and style of writing that transcended social hierarchy and injustice with an aim to do good to people around.

Born on 17 March 1949, to farmer parents at Nageshi Bandoda, Ponda in Goa, N. Shivdas unfortunately lost his father - Sonu Subha Naik - at a very tender age, and grew up under the wings of his mother - Shantabai - who was expecting Shivdas' younger sister, needed to work hard to run the family. Began writing while still a schoolboy, N. Shivdas' early education also included some Portuguese and Marathi. He completed his matriculation from Almeida High School, Ponda, Goa. As his mother was not in a position to afford his higher education, his relentless striving for a job began which ended when he joined as government primary teacher. This helped him assist his mother financially to support the family.



participated in a play at his school



with his family

His first short story was published in *Pornol* Diwali issue edited by Suhas Dalal, and the next short story "Ant Eke Zinnecho" in *Novem Goyem* edited by Gurunath Kelekar. Both the short stories brought Shivdas a lot of appreciation and encouragement to enthusiastically take himself to creative writing, and he did not look back. He even began to try his hand at different genres of literature. Having written several short stories, Shivdas participated in annual short story writing competitions organized then by *Rashtramat*, celebrated local Marathi daily that dynamically encouraged Konkani writers as its editor - Chandrakant Keni - was a prolific short story writer in Konkani.

The village where Shivdas was born and brought up was gifted with affluence of nature. He always had around him green hill peaks, bitter nut gardens, rivers, lakes, streams and waterfalls, and lush green-golden fields along side big Goan Hindu temples where festivals and religious fervour prevailed throughout the year. Local folks - farmers, temple servants, musicians and all sorts of rural characters - enriched Shivdas' worldview, and he never failed to depict and describe everything around him with deep social understanding and fertile imagination. He roamed

around hills, jungles, fields, and even worked in village fields, and these experiences seemed to have formed the core of number of his short stories. It was a custom, as it were, then to write in Marathi and speak local Konkani, and the primary education either in Marathi or Portuguese. But it was Konkani, Shivdas' mother tongue that made his creative expression free and brilliant. Shivdas brilliantly employed his genuinely fresh narrative techniques in his prose writing and successfully used the idioms and phrases in local tongue. Although he began his literary endeavour with poetry, he settled with the genre of short story later, and he is indeed in his element in writing short stories. His short stories have their roots in the people, mundane life, environment of his village. His short stories such as "Gallsari" and "Posko" were considered as the best short stories for the first and second prizes continuously for three years. The short stories were later included in the school and university syllabus. *Gallsari*, his collection of short stories published by Ixttagot Prakashan in 1983, brought him his first literary award given by Goa Kala Academy and Konkani Bhasha Mandal. *Maharukh*, the second collection of short stories in 1999, brought him the next ones, the prestigious T.M. Pai



being honored by Sri Ramesh Tawadkar, then Sports Minister of Goa

foundation literary award, and the Janaganga Puraskar. "Naklami" and "Garbadan", two of his long stories were published in book forms.

Asmita Prakashan, Margao, Goa, a renowned organization worked for the standard Konkani literature published his third collection of short stories - *Bhangarsall*, which won him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2005. The book had received award by the Goa Kala Academy as well. Along with second edition of *Gallsari*, Rudra Publication, Panjim, Goa published his yet another collection of short stories - *Shivakatha* in 2014.

Shivdas wrote enthusiastically for the children also. His novellette for children - *Babu* - was selected as best book in Konkani for children by NCERT in 1999.

His enriched worldview, sharpened tools for prose writing, imagination,

research orientation ultimately lead him to take himself to write a novel like *Oh Babush* depicting the local issues such as social tendency for achieving progress at the cost of local environment and destruction of land for mining and industries, in the state of Goa. The name of the protagonist of the novel "Babush" is a local popular name for a young boy who fights against the odd, challenging the dons and goons, in local power politics. *Oh, Babush*, is, as Shivdas rightly puts it, a novel for only young minds of Goa. *Mhazan* his another novel, is based on the local happenings during the Portuguese regime. The plot of the novel revolves around a young village boy, whose mother is a devdasi or a servant of God, also called 'bhavin' who bore an illegitimate son out of extra marital relationship and the boy finds it impossible to write his actual father's name. In reality, the head of the temple committee - the great mahajan -



with Narayan Surve, distinguished Marathi poet



Receiving the Sahitya Akademi Award at the hands of Prof. Gopi Chand Narang

himself is the real father of the boy and this boy is helplessly striven to know his real father. The boy fights until he discovers his biological father, the mahajan. The much discussed novel now has also been translated in Marathi and has been published by Anuband Prakashan, Pune.

N. Shivdas' oeuvre includes 24 publications, besides his recent Konkani translation of the original Gujarati *Bhavyatra*, poetry by Sri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India, and *Mantra aani Her Katha*, selected short stories of Premchand from Hindi which was published by Sahitya Akademi. N. Shivdas, a devoted social activist

actively participated, at his early age, in political, social movement. During opinion poll in 1967 he was very active in the agitation which had begun in order to oppose the merging Goa region into Maharashtra. He had joined the cultural troop, in his school days, called Jai Gomantak Kalapathak under the leadership late Sri Ulhas Buyao who was a great singer at that time, and thereafter in Konkani Porjecho Avaz (KPA), a people's organization to strive for Goa's official language - Konkani.

He was the pioneer of social movement called Deville Khuil Kara meant for opening the temples for all Hindus as the few major temple



with Sri Sunil Gangopadhyaya at Sahitya Akademi Award function

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Plays

1. *Pissari* 1979
2. *Foreign Zavoi* 1983
3. *Bundd* 1985
4. *God God Kanni Shali zale ranni* 2010

Short Story

1. *Gallsari* 1981
2. *Naklami* 1995
3. *Maharukh* 1999
4. *Bhangarsall* 2003
5. *Shivkatha* 2015

Children Literature

1. *Babu* 1983
2. *Zhoro Zalo Mahasagar* 1995
3. *Hanv Panchavi pass* 2007

Essay

1. *Latta Mandvichea* 2011
2. *Dharmayan* 2012

Novels

1. *Bhagdadd* (in Marathi) 2006

2. *Oh Babush* 2014
3. *Mhazan* 2015

Poetry

1. *Sarth Dukharth* 2011
2. *Bhavyatra* - Konkani Translation of *Bhavyatra* Gujarati poems by Sri Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India 2017

General

1. *Pahala Senani* (Hindi translation of *Bandd* play) 1995
1. *Devilla Khuli Karat mhullear kitem?* 2002
2. *Devilla Khuli Karat* 2002
3. *Mantra ani Herkathar* (Konkani Translation) 2014
3. *Hindu Mhazan* (Marathi translation) 2016
4. *Ganapathi story* - Ballad form in praise of Lord Ganesh (History) 2016



being felicitated by Sri Pratapsingh Rane, then Chief Minister of Goa

managements in the state of Goa till date have banned the non brahamin Hindus their rightful entry to the temples for any religious rites.

A writer of eminence and devout social activist, Shivdas wrote vividly for local as well as national press on various significant issues. Former

President of Goa Konkani Academy, founder President of Konkani Lekhak Sangh, N. Shivdas was recently honored by the All India Konkani Parishad selecting him to preside over the 23rd Session of All India Konkani Sahitya Sammelan held recently in New Delhi.

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1949 - 17th March at Nageshim Bandoda, Ponda, Goa
- 1967 - Joined Jai Gomajak Kala Pathak
- 1970 - Passed Matriculation of Pune Board
- 1971 - Joined School as Teacher.
- 1975 - Graduated in English Literature from Bombay (now Mumbai) University
- 1974 - Kala Academy's best script writer award
- 1980 - Married to Rajani Salkar.
- 1983 - Kala Academy Literary award for short story collection Gallsari
- 1987 - Joined KPA for Goa's official language agitation.
- 1987 - Founded Konkani Lekhak Sangh and became its President.
- 1999 - Children Literature award by NCERT, New Delhi.
- 2003 - Elected as Vice President of Goa Konkani Academy (Two Terms)
- 2004 - Member of Sahitya Akademi's Konkani Advisory Board
- 2003 - T.M. Pai Foundation Award for *Maharukh*
- 2003 - Kala Academy Literary Award for *Bhangarsall*
- 2005 - The Sahitya Akademi Award for *Bhangarsall*
- 2007 - State Reward for culture excellence.
- 2007 - Tuka Mhane Sahitya Puraskar for Marathi novel *Bhagdad*
- 2012 - Goa Government nominated as President of Goa Konkani Academy.
- 2009 - Global Goan Conference Honored in Muscat.
- 2010 - Goan Cultural Centre Honored in Kuwait.
- 2014 - Goa Cultural award for Literature.
- 2015 - Re elected as President of Konkani Lekhak Sangh for the third term.
- 2017 - Presided over the 23rd session of All India Konkani Sahitya Sammelan held in New Delhi