

17 November 2000



Sahitya Akademi

&

Goa Konkani Akademi

invite you to
meet the author

P. G. Kamath





P.G. Kamath, a scholar in several languages, is well known in the fields of literature, education and Indian philosophy. He is also a renowned and versatile translator. Born in 1926 as the eldest son of Sri. Padmanabha Kamath and Smt. Puthammammal at Turavur - Kerala, Sri. Kamath inherited a keen interest and talent in the fields of music and drama. He was active in both from his early youth. His parents had great faith in him and they gave him university education facing much difficulty and making many sacrifices on their part. He graduated in Science and took to teaching. He won distinction in teaching of English at the BT examination and received the prestigious *Nagoji Rao Gold Medal* in 1949. Later, he took his M.A. in Hindi from the Banaras Hindu University. During that time he also studied Pali, Prakrit and the Apabhramsas. Even as school boy he had studied Sanskrit at the Sanskrit Pathsala of the Turavur T. D. Temple.

Sri. Kamath entered Kerala Government Service as a trained graduate teacher and after a long and sincere

service of over 33 years in various capacities, retired as Hindi Education Officer in 1981. In that capacity, as well as in the capacity of Principal of Ramavarmapuram Hindi Training Institute, he did yeomen service to the cause of Hindi education by reorganising Hindi teaching in Kerala with a new series of Text books, Teachers' Hand books and a series of short term refresher courses for teachers. He introduced modern techniques of evaluation in Hindi. To commemorate his contributions in the field, his colleagues and friends founded the *P. G. Kamath Puraskar Nidhi* solely with their voluntary initiative. It is out of this that the twin awards for the two top rankers of the Hindi training course are being given annually.

Though attracted to literature at an early age, Sri. Kamath chose to be a reader for many years, devoting the better part of his time to Science, Mathematics and Languages in education. In 1972, he won a Central Government award for his work *Anya Bhasha Sikshan* in Hindi.

A voracious reader of books of all kinds linguistic or otherwise he later on concentrated in bringing out outstanding translations of many eminent works. Besides works of Science, he has books of literary criticism in translation like *Sahitya Marmam*, fiction of Edgar Allan Poe and Wilkie Collins; Philosophical works like *Ek Avatarika Bhagavadgitek*, *Eternal values Vol.I* by Swami Ranganathananda, *Dharma-*

padam and *Jnanapana* ; Children's literature like *Bacchon ka Sansar* and outstanding novels like *Maila Anchal* to his credit. He, with the held of his wife translated *Panjiyum Noolum* from Tamil. He has also translated a good many stories from Konkani into Hindi and Malayalam.

The first editorial work that he did was a book in Konkani on Rashttrakavi *Manjishwar Govinda Pai*, the famous Kannada poet, brought out in 1983, the birth centenary of the poet. Aptly titled *Shraddhanjali*, it maintains to this day its uniqueness. Since then, his editorial talent has been evidenced by many works. He also edited *Divti* the Konkani periodical of Kerala Konkani Academy, since its inception. The latest addition to this category was *Sravan* the Konkani folk poem edited with detailed notes, meanings and explanations in English. Albeit a small volume in size, its depth and expanse prompted

reviewers to quote the age old Konkani saying *Moorthy Sani tariy Keerthi hodi!* (Small in frame great in fame).

Ever since the launching of *Divti* in 1984, Sri. Kamath, as its editor, has devoted much of his time and talent for shaping a virile prose style in Konkani. He did this with appreciable success through its crisp editorials as also with articles on a variety of subjects. Thus was born his first original and solid work in Konkani. *Lipi - Ek Shastriya Chintan* is a beautiful combination of language, logic and science, with touches of philosophy too. A select part of this was done in English for a handout distributed at the All India Konkani Parishad at Ramanathim, Goa. His essays, articles and papers deal with a variety of subjects like grammar, linguistics, literature, folk art etc. He has also presented scholarly papers on a variety of subjects at many State and National level Seminars and workshops.



Being honoured by Prof.R.K.Rao at the All India Konkani Parishad -
Ramanathim, Goa



Addressing a meeting

Since 1984, as a president of Kerala Konkani Academy too, Sri. Kamath has been devoting his time and talent for enriching and vitalizing Konkani language and literature. In 1985, he headed a ten-day lingua-cultural tour of Goa by bus. It was a unique, unforgettable journey for each and every participant. Through the years, authors have been keen to seek his preface for their works. Be it a work of prose or poetry, Sri. Kamath's preface is always sure to be scholarly, unique in approach, and befitting in all respects.

In the realm of poetry, he made his presence felt with his very first modern work, titled *Olokh*. It has since been reproduced in many periodicals and anthologies. Its approach and reach were such that, it so moved some youth to surge forward and embrace the poet soon after the poetry session at Kepem, Goa in 1985. Its English translation appeared in *Goa Today* in 1987 with a footnote by the Editor and a poet, Sri. Waman Sardessai.

The Haiku type mini poems of Sri. Kamath titled *Povllim* also attained fame during the decades. Unlike the distinct

and substantial body of his longer poems, many of the *Povllim* reflect the essence of his own philosophy.

Though similar in size, his *Neeti Kavya* are different in content as revealed by the title itself. They are a class by themselves.

But the latter day long poems of Sri. Kamath reveal how sincerely and deeply he is longing for a better tomorrow for the world. The suppressed anger and the hurt of being made a witness to all of today's foolishness, wickedness and viciousness of modern man surges forth through his poems again and again. Such poems always are very invasive. They laugh at, ridicule, and rebuke all ills in the hope that there would come about a change for the better.

Sri. Kamath has recently been using such time as available in between other engagements, for the preparation of a meticulous volume on the History of Konkani and the Konkani-speaking people of Kerala. No doubt it will bear the stamp of his sincerity, logic and scientific outlook when published. He now likes to treat the beaten path, but takes a line of his own.

A Select Bibliography

Essays and Papers

- LIPI- EK SHASTRIYA CHINTAN
(Konkani) 1986
- SOME THOUGHTS ON
SPELLING SYSTEM OF
KONKANI in Nagri Script
(English) 1989
- KONKANICHER MALAYAL-
AMACHO PRABHAV
(Konkani) 1993
- SRUJANASHEEL SAHITYA-
KHATIR LOKVED
(Konkani) 1994
- KERALANTULEM SAMAK-
ALEENA SAHTIYA
(Konkani) 1995
- GODDE RAMAYANACHEM
SAHITYIK MOOLYA
(Konkani) 1996
- KONKANI SUDHA LEKHAN
(Konkani) 1999

Edited Works

- SHRADDHANJALI
(Konkani) 1983
in collaboration with Payyanur Ramesh Pai
- MHANIYAM SORU
(Konkani) 1985
in collaboration with Payyanur Ramesh Pai
- SANDHYA VANDANADI
(Malyalam) 1987
- DIVTI (Konkani) 1984-99
- KULADEVATHA PRANAMAM
(Malyalam) 1994
- SRAVON (English) 1996

Translations into Konkani

- EK AVATARIKA BHAGAV-
ADGITEK
Swami Ranganatha-nanda

Translations into Malayalam

- MAILA ANCHAL
Phanishwarnath Renu
- SAHITYA MARMAM
Hazari Prasad Dwivedi
- PANIYUM NOOLUM
From Tamil

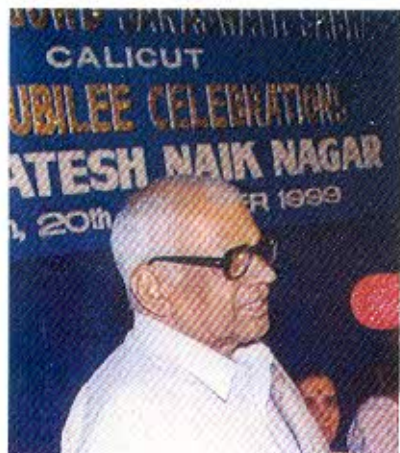
- DETECTIVE DUPIN
Edgar Allan Poe
- CHANDRA KANTHI
Wilkie Collins
- MARUNNA SAMOOHATHINA-
VASYAMAYA SASWATHA
MOOLYANGAL
Swami Ranganathananda
- DHARMAPADAM
Sri, Buddha

Translations into Hindi

- BACCHON KA SANSAR
Dr. R. V. Pandit

Poetry Collections

- POVLLIM (1982-1999)
Konkani Janata
- OLOKH (1983)
- SASAAR
Ritu (1985)
- NAMAROOP; MAYAJAAL
Divti (1994)
- BUDVANT JA ABOVAREECH
Sahitya Sankalan (1995)
- NEETI KAVYA (1998)
Sunaparant
- LAGAN (1999)
Kavyodayan



Reading a paper at Calicut

A Chronology

- 1926 Birth at Turavur, Kerala
- 1943 Acted in Chandrasah Natak in Konkani as hero
- 1946 Graduated in Science
- 1946 Teacher at T. D. Highschool Turavur
- 1949 Nagoji Rao gold medal for distinction in B. T. Examination
- 1949 Married Smt. Lalitna Bai
- 1949 Joined Govt. service as Graduate Teacher
- 1956 Post graduation in Hindi at Benaras Hindu University
- 1964 Assistant Educational Officer in Kerala Service.
- 1968 Head Master – Govt. High School
- 1969 Principal, Ramavarma Puram Hindi Training Institute, Thrissur
- 1972 *Anya Bhasha Sikshan* Award from Central Government
- 1979 District Educational Officer
- 1981 Retired as Hindi Education Officer of Kerala
- 1982 P.G.Kamath Akshaya Nidhi and Awards instituted
- 1984 President of Kerala Konkani Academy
- 1984 Editor of *Divti*
- 1985 Headed the lingua-cultural tour of Goa
- 1990 Honoured by All India Konkani Parishad, Goa
- 1998 Member, Konkani Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi
- 1998 Member, Advisory Council, School for Konkani studies



Receiving 'Anya Bhasha Shikshan' Award from D. P. Yadav, Union Dy. Minister for Education