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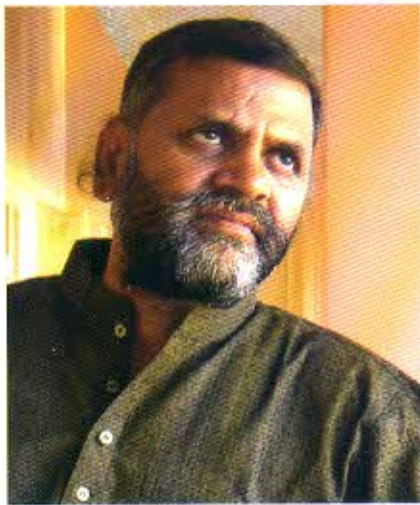


invite you to

**meet the author**

**Rajan Gavas**





**R**ajan Gavas is one of the most eminent writers in Marathi. He has contributed to Marathi literature by successfully handling various literary genres like novel, poetry, short-story and non-fictional prose also during the last four decades. A genuinely sensitive writer of typically rural background, he stands tall amongst contemporary Marathi writers of the day.

His highly active association with the devdasi movement in the border area of Karnataka and Maharashtra for a long time apparently influenced his creative writing. His keen awareness of social issues and special sensitivity

to the social problems of devdasis can clearly be witnessed in his early novels. He is also involved in various innovative educational reforms.

He broke new grounds with his early novels like *Chaundka* (1985) and *Bhandarbhog* (1989). These two novels are marked with exceptional portrayal of the agonized world of devdasis entirely unknown until then to Marathi readers. Basically, in these novels, he has depicted the inner world of exploited devdasis and the trauma of devdasi class still burning even in the 20<sup>th</sup> century India, and has critically emphasized the role of religion in controlling the devdasi women. Written in a humanistic approach, these novels mirror the social aspects of the oppressed devdasis. *Jogawa*, widely acclaimed Marathi film is the adaptation of his novels, *Chaundka* and *Bhandarbhog*.

The major concern of his writings is the changing contemporary rural culture. His novels *Dhingana*, *Kalap* and *Tanakat* deal with the changing rural life and culture. They have successfully encapsulated the inner turmoil of the educated, frustrated youth of the day. His



*Receiving State Government Award at the hands of Sri Sharad Pawar*



*Being felicitated at the hands of Yashwantrao Chavan & Vasantdada Patil*

novels express his exceptional sensibility to the rural culture of Maharashtra. These novels come up with his brilliant insights into changing social values, power relations and conflicts. His novel *Tanakat* has won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2001.

Like his novels, his short stories also are marked with his distinctive style. They are based on contemporary agrarian culture existed especially in villages. The distinctive qualities of his fiction are nativism, experimentation with themes and narrative techniques, and humanistic approach to the

deprived social classes. His exemplarily humanistic attitude towards women is explicitly reflected in his writings. He depicts the world of traditional Indian women, their predicament, and their role as binding, supporting forces of the family, and images of rebellious women.

The world in his short stories is marked with his affection for rural culture, the new tensions of the contemporary society with mesmerizing gallery of characters, typical dialects of the border region of Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

His widely acclaimed essays



*Receiving the Sahitya Akademi Award 2009 at the hands of Sri Ramakant Rath*



*Receiving Maharashtra foundation Award*

included in three collections entitled *Kachakavadya*, *Kaifiyat* and *Local to Global*, were serially published in the reputed Marathi newspapers and periodicals. This writing is a spontaneous response to the various social events happening in the surrounding area and reflects his global value-based approach. He has also written two critical books on the contribution of Bhau Padhye, distinguished Marathi Marathi fiction writer, to Marathi Literature. He has edited books on two important Marathi writers of post-60s - Bhalchandra Nemade and Ranganath Pathare.

His novels *Tanakat* and *Bandarbhog* and some short stories are translated in Kannada, Urdu, Tamil, Punjabi, Hindi and Assamese. He has worked for various prestigious literary institutions and organizations and academic bodies. He has also worked as Member, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, Maharashtra Foundation, Language Advisory Committee, Government of Maharashtra, Maharashtra State and Language Development Society. He was President of second Annabhau Sathe Sahitya Sammelan held in



*With Sri Bhalachandra Nemade & Ms Mahashoeta Devi*

2010. He is the chief editor of the journal entitled *Parivartanacha Murali*.

Gavas has always been encouraging budding writers. He has immensely contributed to the activities creating healthy atmosphere for creatively encapsulating the problems of present society in literature.

His literature mirrors socio-cultural scenario of the last four decades with changing rural culture, inevitable attack of globalization, protest in villages, and depiction of the world of the women. His multifaceted literary writing has become a milestone in Modern Marathi literature.



at *Jatamukti Devadasi movement*

## A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Collection of Poems

*Hundaka*, Parijat Publishing, Pune 1982

### Collections of Short Stories

*Reevanavayali Mungi*, Mehata Prakashan, Pune 1985

*Aapan Manasaat Jama Nahi*, Mehata Prakashan, Pune 2009

*Dhavha Ani Lakkha Un*, Lokvangamaya Gruha, Mumbai 2010  
(Rajan Gavas Selected)

### Novels

*Chaundka*, Mehta Prakashan, Pune 1985

*Bhandarbhog*, Mehta Prakashan, Pune 1989

*Dhingana*, Shrividya Prakashan, Pune 1991

*Kalap*, Shabdalya Prakashan, Shrirampur 1997

*Tanakat*, Saket Prakashan, Aurangabad 1998

*Ba-Balicha*, Popular Prakashan, Mumbai 2012

### Non-fictional prose

*Kachakavadya*, Sparsha Prakashan, Pune 2006

*Rokade Pazar*, Darya Prakashan, Pune 2009

*Kaifyat*, Sadhana Prakashan, Pune 2010

*Local to Global*, Darya Publication, Pune 2012

### Criticism

*Bhau Padhye Yanchi Katha*, Darya Prakashan, Pune 2009

*Bhau Padhye Yanchi Kadambari*, Shabdalya Prakashan, Shrirampur 2007

<i>Bhau Padhye Yanche Kathatmak Sahitya</i> , Shabdalya Prakashan, Shrirampur	2006
<i>Seema Bhagatil Marathi Boli</i> , Darya Prakashan, Pune	2012

### Edited Works

<i>Tirakspanatil Saralpana</i> (A collection of critical essays on the literature of Ranganath Pathare), Shabdalya Prakashan, Shrirampur	
<i>Changadev Chatustabaddal</i> (A collection of critical essays on the novels of Bhalchandra Nemade), Shabdalya Prakashan, Shrirampur	
<i>Marathiche Aashayayukta Adhyapan</i> , Mehata Prakashan Pune,	1992

## A CHRONOLOGY

1959	Born at Karanbali, Dist. Kolhapur, Maharashtra
1982	M. A. (Marathi) Appointed as Lecturer at Karmveer Hire College, Gargoti, Dist. Kolhapur
1985	Maharashtra Government's Award for Best Literature to <i>Chaundka</i>
1989	Maharashtra Government's V. S. Khandekar award for Best Novel to <i>Bhandarbhog</i> Maharashtra Sahitya Academi's G. L. Dhokal Award for Bhandarbhog.
1992	Sanskriti Pratisthan, New Delhi's Sanskriti Award for <i>Bhandarbhog</i>
1994	Maharashtra Government's V. S. Khandekar Award for the Best Novel to <i>Kalap</i> Ph. D.
1998	Bhairuratan Damani Award, Solapur for <i>Tanakat</i>
1999	Vikhe-Patil Award, Pravaranagar for <i>Kalap</i>
2000	Maharashtra Foundation Award for <i>Tanakat</i>
2002	Maharashtra Literary Association's Anandibai Shirke Award for <i>Reevnavayali Mungi</i>
2005-07	Worked as Reader in the Department of Marathi, Pune University
2007	Lata and Anant Labhasetvar Literary Award
2009	the Sahitya Akademi Award for <i>Tanakat</i> Production of the film <i>Jogava</i> based on his novels <i>Chaundka</i> and <i>Bhandarbhog</i>
2010	N. D. Manohar Award, Jalna Member, Board of Studies, Mauritius Member, Language Advisory Committee