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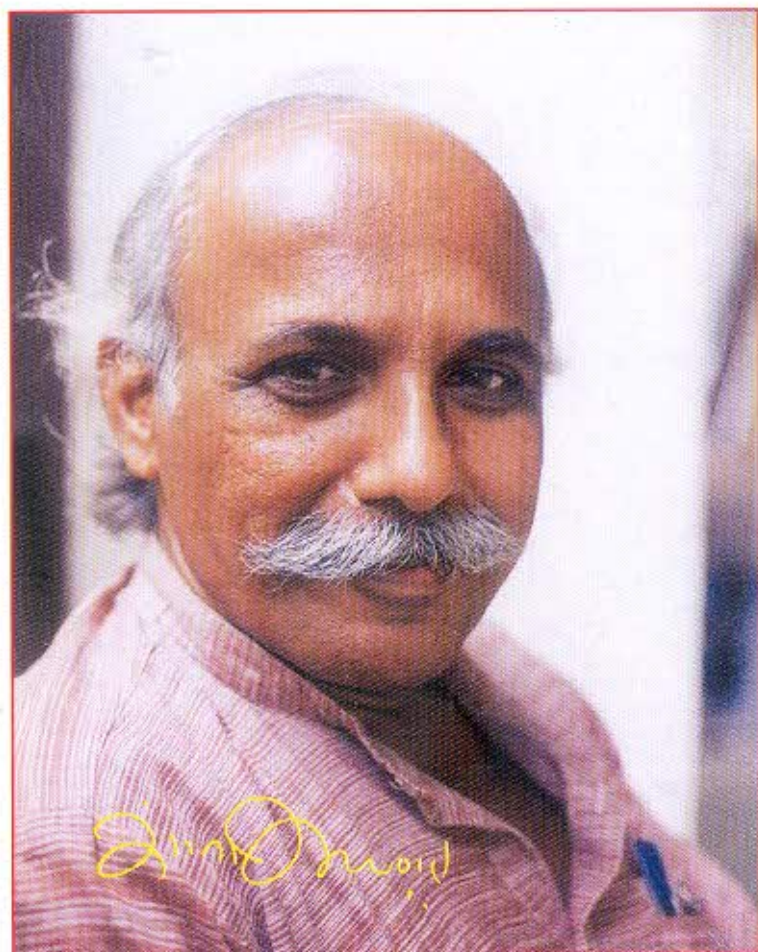
Sahitya Akademi



Amravati University

invite you to
meet the author

Rangnath Pathare





with Bhulchandra Nemade

Rangnath Pathare, a major Marathi novelist, critic and story writer of the present age, was born at Javale, in Parner Tahsil of Ahmednagar District, which is a drought-prone area of western Maharashtra. He is from a family of Maratha farmers with literally no background of literacy and literature. His father fought in the Second World War and returned to farming. However, Pathare believes that he has been strongly influenced by his mother's life and the work she did for the family in general, and for his education in particular. He had his schooling and higher education at Javale, Ahmednagar and Pune. He did M.Sc. in Physics from the Poona University. Presently, he is working as the Head, Department of Physics, at Sangamner College, Sangamner, Dist. Ahmednagar.

Javale, the small village in which Pathare was brought up, provided him with a rich cultural background. Right from his childhood, he developed a deep liking for reading, but he did not then plan to become a writer. He started his writing career rather late. His first piece of non-fictional writing was published in a Marathi periodical, *Samaj Prabhodhan Patrika*, in 1976, when he was 26. His first novel was published in 1982. Though he went on writing short stories and novels, and getting acclaim as a notable litterateur of the age, he tended to avoid sociability, especially, mixing with his contemporaries in the literary circles. His writings, however, received immediate attention and appropriation from critics and readers. The first novel,

Dive Gelele Divas (1982), was followed by a collection of short stories, *Anubhav Vikane Ahet* in 1983, and a novel, *Rath*, in 1984. The novel *Chakravyuha* (1989) and *Haaran* (1990) and *Tokdar Savaliche Vartaman* (1991) were published in a quick succession.

In August 1992 a two-day seminar on the writings of Rangnath Pathare was organized by Babasaheb Ambedkar Akademi of Satara, Maharashtra. Subsequently a book called *Tirkaspanateel Saralata*, containing the papers presented in that seminar and some more critical work on his writings edited by Rajan Gavvas was published in 1995.

Pathare is aptly described as the writer of the Deccan Plateau by a well-known Marathi playwright and critic Go. Pu. Deshpande. He represents a generation that has witnessed major upheavals in the rural and semi-urban socio-cultural life of Maharashtra. Themes of his major works, including some short stories, reflect these changes in the life of the then upcoming educated youth of the rural and semi-urban Maharashtra. This shift of focus from the urban elite-class-life was naturally accompanied by some significant changes in his writing style. Concentrating almost exclusively on the fictional mode of writing, he experimented extensively with the narrative form, and style. Especially, his short stories are well known for such fluidity of style. Thus, he was able to depict the dialectical relationship between the inner world and the outer social reality, to introduce the 'stream of consciousness' technique in a new light and to experiment with indirect speech, free direct speech and so on. He writes in a uniquely satirical tone, which comprises his unique contribution to humour and characterization in Marathi literature. His writings show the necessarily social nature of human reality and various intricacies of social interaction.

They show his commitment to an understanding of social reality.

His voluminous novel *Tamrapat* shows a huge canvas of social, political, economic and cultural changes almost over half-a-century, from the 1942 movement to the peak of the progress of the co-operative movement in the eighties. *Tamrapat* (1994) claimed many awards at the state level, and was finally felicitated with Sahitya Akademi award in 1999. Two more important novels, *Dukkhache Shwapad* (1995) and *Namushkeech Swagat* (1999) have also received wide acclamation. In *Namushkeech Swagat*, Pathare highlights the point of view of a Third World writer, expressing his concern about liberalization, privatization and globalisation, and their effect on the world in general, and the masses of Third World countries in particular. He has very strong social commitments and is closely associated with social activities. For Pathare, writing is the only way to express himself freely. It is the medium through which he can put his concerns in a text. In recent times, he has also been expressing his social and literary concerns, which are inseparable, in various seminars, workshops, public lectures and so on.

Over eighty of his stories have been published, some of which have been translated into Urdu, Hindi, English and Kannada. He has also been

consistently writing critical essays; two collections of which have been published – *Satvachi Bhasha* (1996) and *Astheche Prashna* (2000).

In September 2001 he visited France as a member of the delegation of Indian writers on the invitation of the Govt. of France. Pathare has been honoured with several awards for literature, besides Sahitya Akademi Award, including four Maharashtra State literary awards, Maharashtra Foundation Award, Padmashri Vikhe Patil Award, Damani Award and Priyadarshani Award. He has participated in many literary and social workshops at state and national levels.

Pathare is an ardent supporter of the cause of the common people and is keenly concerned about social harmony and togetherness of the people of the Indian subcontinent. In the recent past he has worked on the life and works of Shankar Guha-Niyogi, a social reformer and a trade union leader with a Naxalite background who changed the general attitude towards the life of the unorganized workers and the masses of the Chhattisgarh region and fought for their cause till his assassination in 1991. Pathare was awarded with a fellowship for this work by the Maharashtra Foundation. Besides literature, his interests include social work, sports and travel.



with fellow writers and others at a literary function

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Novels

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Vishwamohini, Pune 1982
- RATH
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- CHAKRAVYUHA
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Majestic, Mumbai 1990
- TOKDAR SAVALICHE
VARTAMAN
Majestic, Mumbai 1991
- TAMRAPAT
Majestic, Mumbai 1994
- DUKKHACHE SHWAPAD
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 1995
- NAMUSHKICHE SWAGAT
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 1999

Short stories

- ANUBHAV VIKANE AHET
Vishwamohini, Pune 1983
- SPASHTAVAKTEPANACHE
PRAYOG
Saket, Aurangabad 1992
- ISHWAR MRUTATMYAS
SHANTI DEVO
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 1996
- GABHYATEEL PRAKASH
Majestic, Mumbai 1998
- CHITRAMAYA CHATKOR
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 2000
- TEEVRAKOMAL DUKKHACHE
PRAKARAN
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 2000

Literary criticism

- SATVACHI BHASHA
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 1997
- AASTHECHE PRASHNA
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur 2000

Translation

- KAVEECHE AKHERCHE DIVAS
ANI NIRAGAS IRENDIRA
Shabdhalaya, Shrirampur
2000

Translations of Pathare's works

- In Kannada
- DUKKHACHE SHWAPAD
Tr. By Chandrakant Pokale - In press
- In Hindi
- TAMRAPAT
Tr. By Sunita Paranjape In press
Rajkamal Prakashan, Delhi

CHRONOLOGY

- 1950 Born at Javale, Tahsil
Parner, Dist. Ahmednagar
- 1973 M.Sc. Physics from the Uni-
versity of Poona, and started
working as a lecturer in
Physics at Sangamner
College, Sangamner.
- 1977 First work of fiction, a short
story, was published in
Satyakatha
- 1982 First novel, *Dive Gelele Di-
vas*, was published
- 1992 A two-day seminar on
Rangnath Pathare's writings
was held at Satara, orga-
nized by Dr. Ambedkar
Akademi
- 1999 Sahitya Akademi Award for
the novel *Tamrapat*
- 2001 Visited France as a member
of the delegation of Indian
writers