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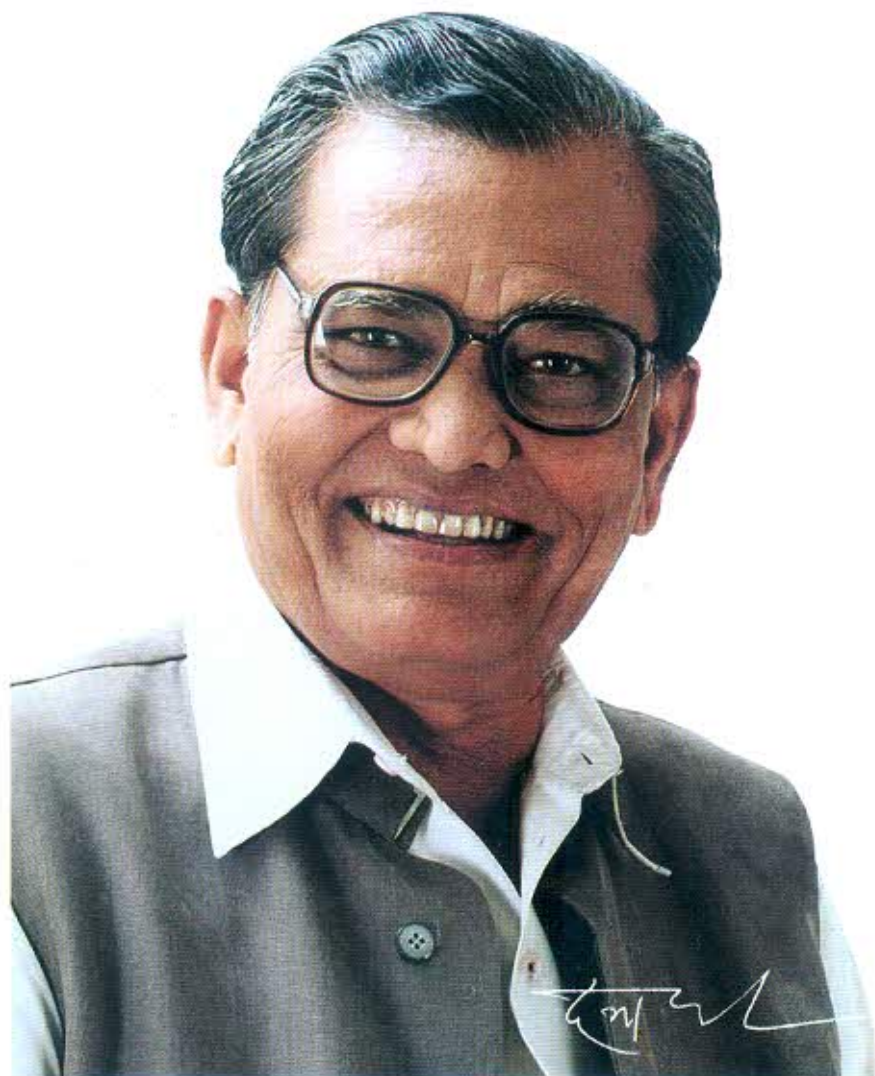


Ambedkar Akademi

invite you to

**meet the author**

**Datta Bhagat**





With Vijay Kuvalekar, Prabhakar Pangshikar & Padmakar Lathkar

**D**atta Bhagat, President of All India Marathi Natya Sammelan (2006) has had a very rich and widely recognized career in the domain of Marathi theatre and drama. To begin with, he wrote short stories but soon devoted himself to theatre and writing of one act plays. His one act play *Aavart* brought him laurels and people recognized his talents as a dramatist. A host of collections of his one act plays soon followed. Reputed critics, men of theatre and senior dramatists realized his extraordinary achievements because his full-length plays like *Ashmak*, *Khelia* were liked and successfully produced. However his play *Wata-palwata* (1986) translated into English as *Routes* and *Escape Routes* won him wide acclaim and critics praised him for his dramatic art. The play deals with three generations of a Dalit family and the changes brought about by the participation of their members in the Dalit movement. In a sense, the play began with the work of Dr. Ambedkar. Essentially a man of theatre, Prof. Datta Bhagat produced, directed and wrote for a theatre group in Nanded of which he was the pivot.

Bhagat's plays show a very subtle understanding of the

reality of caste relations in our society. His plays portray the pain and suffering of the lowliest of the low and present a variety of Dalit problems with imagination and rare acumen. It is true that he has been recognized as a distinct Dalit voice in modern Dalit theatre. But such an assessment would be blind to his immense contribution to Marathi drama and theatre as a whole. The naturalist theatre and drama in Marathi for a long time belonged to the upper castes and the middle class. Prof. Bhagat makes creative use of these conventions and brilliantly explodes them from within. He brings a set of original themes that the traditional drama cannot sustain. Thus he gives Marathi drama and its performance a new turn that makes our society aware of the complexities of human relations dominated by caste considerations. His contributions have proved pathbreaking.

Datta Bhagat has also written significant criticism from time to time. He has written on the Dalit movement, Dalit literature and on Marathi literature as a whole. His criticism is characterized by painstakingly amassed evidence, reason and sobriety of judgement. He is not only a writer of great distinction but also an activist for social causes that appeal to his mind.



Being felicitated during a book release function

and heart. He has deep faith in Buddhist philosophy and happens to be a keen student of Buddhism.

Datta Bhagat was honoured as an ideal teacher in 1997 by the

Government of Maharashtra. A very powerful and persuasive speaker, he earned wide reputation as a teacher and awards and honours came to him automatically.

## A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Short Stories

HOLI 1973  
Maharashtra Govt. Publication

KAYAPALAT 1974  
Maharashtra Govt. Publication

### Plays

AAVART AANI ITAR 1978  
EKANKIKA  
Sharda Prakashan, Nanded

CHAKRAVYUVHA AANI 1980  
ITAR EKANKIKA  
Sharda Prakashan, Nanded

### Drama

ASHMAK 1985  
Sambodhi Prakashan

KHELIA 1986  
Continental Prakashan, Pune

VATA PALWATA 1986  
Continental Prakashan, Pune

### Criticism

DISHA AANI 1992  
DISHANTAR  
Abhay Prakashan, Nanded

WANGMAYEEN 1993  
PRAVAHA  
Y.C.M.M.V. Nasik

NILI VATCHAL 2001  
Pratima Prakashan, Pune

NATAK EK WANGMAYA 2002  
PRAKAR  
Y.C.M.M.V. Nasik

### Edited Works

NANDED : EK SHODH  
Nanded District Information  
Centre

SRI SHIVPRABHA CHARITRA  
Pratima Prakashan, Pune

NARHAR KURUNDKARANCHE  
SAHITYA  
Indrayani Prakashan, Pune

### Translations

SAAT SHIKHARE 1982  
Kashmiri Short stories by  
Akhtar Mohiuddin  
Sahitya Akademi

KALANKEE  
Drama by Laxminarayan Lal

MULATO  
Drama by Langston Hughes

### Others

NARHAR 1994  
KURUNDKARANCHYA  
LEKHANACHI SUCHI  
Sangat Prakashan, Nanded

VIJAYI VISHWA 2001  
TIRANGA PYAARA  
Sambhavi Prakashan, Aurangabad

JATAK 2005  
Kailash Prakashan, Aurangabad

## A CHRONOLOGY

- 1945 Born on 13 June 1945
- 1974 First short story published
- 1978 Natya Darpan Puraskar
- 1982-87 President, Narhar Kurundkar Library, Nanded
- 1986 Elected President, Akhil Bharatiya Dalit Natya Sammelan, Ambejogai
- 1995 Principal, Peoples' College, Nanded
- 1995-97 Chief Editor, *Gyantirth* magazine of Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada University
- 1997 Joined Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, in the Deptt. of Marathi. Retired in 2005 Honoured as an 'Ideal Teacher' by Govt. of Maharashtra
- 1998 Member, Marathi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi, till 2002
- 2000 Dalit Mitra Puraskar by Govt. of Maharashtra
- 2002 Lekhan Gaurav award from Vinayakrao Charthankar Pratishthan, Selu
- Awarded Bhalchandra Phadke Grathakar Gaurav, by Maharashtra Sahitya Parishad, Pune
- 2003 Maharashtra Foundation Award  
'Samaj Ratna Award from Samata Pratishthan, Nanded
- 2006 Elected President, All India Marathi Natya Sammelan, Nanded



*Honouring Chief Minister, Maharashtra, at 87th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Sammelan*