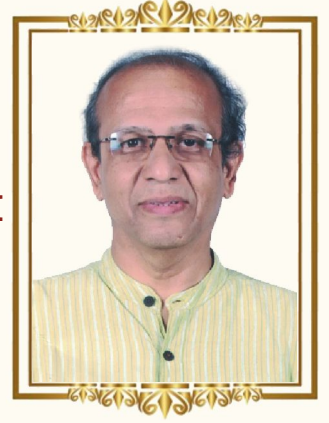




SHATAVADHANI DR. R. GANESH



Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh is a master of *Avadhana*, a classical art form unique to India, which involves solving a variety of poetic challenges with verses composed extempore, without any aids like pen and paper. It tests creativity and scholarship to the extreme and exhibits the performer's ability to multitask and think laterally. Credited with reviving the art form in Kannada, he has performed more than 1,300 *Ashatavadhanas* and 5 *Shatavadhanas* till date, primarily in Kannada and Sanskrit. He has performed in all formats of the art, introduced several novel components and inspired a crop of young performers to keep alive this ancient art form.

2. Born on 4th December, 1962, in Kolar, Karnataka, Dr. R. Ganesh holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, a master's degree each in Materials Science and Metallurgy and Sanskrit and a D.Litt. in Kannada. He is a polymath specializing in poetics, prosody, literature, philosophy and classical arts, and has a nuanced understanding of the Indian cultural heritage. Kannada, Sanskrit, Prakrit, Pali, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Greek, Latin and Italian are among the languages he knows. He has taught and worked at prestigious institutions such as NIMHANS, IGNSA and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

3. Apart from enriching literature, Dr. R. Ganesh has made a lasting contribution to the fields of music, dance and theatre. He has conceptualized novel art forms such as (1) *Kavya-Chitra-Gita-Nrtya*, a confluence of poetry, painting, music and dance and (2) *Ekavyakti-Yakshagana*, a genre of solo classical dance having its roots in *Yakshagana*, a traditional theatrical art form of Karnataka. He has given a sound aesthetic framework to such aspects of the art as costumes, movements, themes and music. He has similarly conceived *Ekavyakti-Talamaddale*, a verbal art form in which an artist puts on the role of a character and presents various episodes as soliloquies. Some of these have been performed over a thousand times in India and abroad. He has reconstructed the *Purvaranga* of *Natyashastra* and directed the production of Sanskrit plays on this basis. Further, he has introduced the concept of *Ashta-nayakas* to traditional dance and theatre and conceptualized a programme to sensitize the laity on classical Indian music.

4. Dr. R. Ganesh is also a prolific author, having more than seventy books to his credit. He has written poems, plays, monographs, biographies, literary essays, analytical papers and scholarly treatises in Kannada, Sanskrit and English. Aside from authoring independent works, he has edited and translated several books. A much-sought-after speaker, he discourses on various aspects of the Indian cultural heritage. More than 15,000 hours of his lectures in Kannada are available online. In addition to delivering public talks, he conducts several study circles with a small group of serious-minded people. In these sessions, he discusses a variety of texts—both ancient and modern—in detail. Through his original findings, he has contributed significantly to literary aesthetics and prosody.

5. Dr. R. Ganesh has been conferred numerous awards and honours which include: Honorary Doctorate by Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi; Rajyotsava Award by Government of Karnataka; Sahitya Akademi Translation Award and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman by the President of India.