



# ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 24

## bhasha

**Bhasha Research and Publication Centre,  
Vadodara  
Adivasi Academy, Tejgadh**





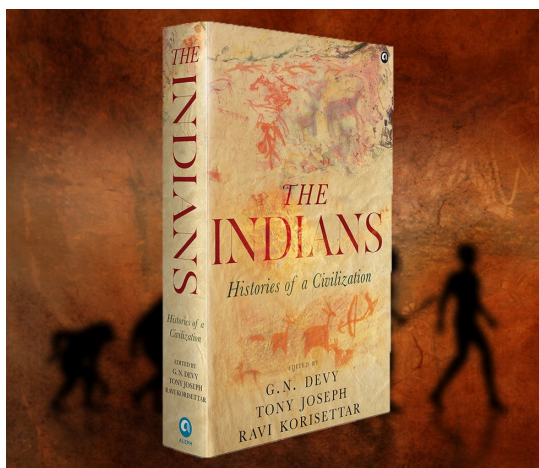
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# 01. Research and Publication

## ***The Indians: Histories of a Civilization***

Bhasha's Founder, literary critic and writer, Dr. G. N. Devy led a research on the history of 12,000 years of Indian civilisation that has resulted in the publication of the book, '***The Indians: Histories of a Civilization***'. Co-edited by scholars, G. N. Devy, Tony Joseph and Ravi Korisettar, the book has a contribution by 100+ eminent scholars in areas such as genetics, archaeology, anthropology, linguistics, philosophy and history. Guided by an eight-member Expert Committee, the volume presents a comprehensive picture of the history of South Asian civilisation including aspects such as population migrations, emergence of social organisations, evolution of the state system and the development of philosophies and languages. Published by Aleph, the book was released at a function at Vadodara on July 30, 2023 at the hands of distinguished writer and philosopher, Rahamat Tarikere.



*The Indians: Histories of a Civilization*

## ***India's Living Languages***

In 2010, Bhasha undertook the *Peoples' Linguistic Survey of India* (PLSI) under the Chairmanship of G. N. Devy and completed the survey covering all States and Union Territories of India by 2014. The survey involved 3000 individuals including community speakers, linguists, scholars and publishers. The first national language survey to be carried out in post-independent India, the *PLSI* presents 780 living languages. These include languages of Adivasis, nomads, hill, desert, plains and coastal communities. Envisioned as a 50-volume series, the Survey is being published in state-wise volumes in regional languages, Hindi and English. During the past year, the following 6 language titles were added to the series:

### ***Andhra Pradesh ki Bhashayein***

Volume Editor: A. Usha Devi,  
D. Chandrasekhar Reddy,  
Translator: Anupama Cherla,  
Dr. M. Lakshmikantam

### ***Gujarat, Diu-Daman aur Dadra Nagar Haveli ki Bhashayein***

Volume Editor: Dr. Kanji Patel,  
Translator: Dr. Kiran Singh

### ***Karnataka ki Bhashayein***

Volume Editor: Rajeshwari Mashwariah,  
H.M. Maheshwariah;  
Translator: Dr. B. Y. Lalitamba and others

### ***The Languages of Karnataka***

Volume Editors: Rajeshwari Mashwariah,  
H.M. Maheshwariah

### ***Meghalaya ki Bhashayein***

Volume Editor: Esther Syiem,  
Translators: Dr. M.P. Pandey, Dr. Shruti Pandey

### ***Tripura ki Bhashayein***

Volume Editor: Dr. Sukhendu Debbarma,  
Translator: Dr. Milan Rani Jamatia

The published titles in the PLSI series has now reached to 35 volumes and 69 titles.

## 02. *Parjanya* Lecture Series

Soon after its inception in 1996, Bhasha Centre had instituted the 'Verrier Elwin Memorial Lecture' in Vadodara. The series concluded after a set of ten lectures by eminent persons including K. G. Subramanyan, Mahasweta Devi, Rajmohan Gandhi and Shiv Viswanathan.

A decade after the closure of the 'Verrier Elwin Memorial Series' (1997-2007), Bhasha has instituted a new lecture series by the name, *Parjanya*. The lecture series marks the writer-activist Mahasweta Devi's demise in July 2016. Meaning 'rain' or 'cloud', the *Parjanya* lecture will be held during the monsoons, in July each year.



*P. Sainath delivering the Parjanya Lecture*

The first *Parjanya* lecture was delivered by eminent journalist, Founder-Editor of the People's Archive of Rural India, Magsaysay and Fukuoka Grand Prize awardee, P. Sainath on 'Equality? In the Time of India' in Vadodara on July 30, 2023. Held to a full hall at the

Federation of Gujarat Industries' Auditorium, the lecture was extremely well-received.

## 03. Addressing Adivasi Issues

A new Academic Council has been constituted at the Adivasi Academy with scholars and practitioners from diverse disciplines such as cultural studies, design, education, film making, literature and social sciences. In its meeting held on August 1-2, 2023 the Council decided to take up programs with a national perspective in these domains.

### ***Breathing the Forest: Films on Adivasi Histories, Lives and Cultures***

The Council's first endeavour was curating a Film Festival titled '***Breathing the Forest: Films on Adivasi Histories, Lives and Cultures***'. The Festival was put up at the 2024 Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on January 26. The following films on Adivasi histories, lives and cultures were showcased at the Festival:

***Adivasis*** by Ramesh Gupta, 1958

***Jharkhand*** by Tapan Bose, 1994

***Kora Rajee*** (The Land of the Diggers) by Biju Toppo, 2006

***Mahua Memoirs*** by Vinod Raja, 2007

***Edpa Kana*** (Going Home) by Niranjana Kumar Kujur, 2017

***Have you seen the Arana?*** By Sunanda Bhat, 2012

***The Leopard's Tribe*** by Miriam Chandy, 2023

The film screenings were followed by a Panel Discussion on Adivasi Images: Archives, Representation and the Future that had Rahul Roy, Biju Toppo, Vinod Raja, Miriam Chandy, Niranjana Kumar Kujur, (independent documentary film makers), Rashmi Devi Sawhney (Faculty at New York University, Abu Dhabi) and Sudhir Horo (Designer and Founder, Tribal Design Forum) as discussants.

### ***Tribes in Transition***

Academic Council Member, NID alumni and Designer, Sudhir Horo, hosted a boot camp of the 'Tribal Design Forum' (TDF) at the Adivasi Academy from October 20-24, 2023. The Forum members comprise multidisciplinary designers and creative professions who collectively explore how design and other creative activities can help Adivasi communities economically, socially and culturally.



*Presentation in progress*



*Library Reference Session*

Titled '**Tribes in Transition**', the camp brought together 65 practicing Adivasi designers, artists, musicians and performers from the Munda, Kharia, Oraon, Tangkhul, Angami, Santhal, Karbi, Banjara, Bhil, Kachara and Rathwa communities from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Orissa, Karnataka,

Nagaland and Manipur. Tribal and non-tribal participants shared their cultural insights, enriching the experience. The key speakers were scholar Prof. Virginius Xaxa, typography artist Frida Larios and Designer Peter Bi'lak, all of whom provided national and global perspectives on indigenous issues. 'Tribes in Transition' underscored the transformative power of design in aiding tribal communities and fostering tribal agency, particularly in art, craft and design realms.



*Group Task*

The camp was a hub of creativity and collaboration, with film screenings, talks, field trips and presentations. Participants reflected on their practices and gained from each other, making the event a significant learning experience for all involved. As part of the camp, an exhibition on 'Tribal Heritage' was held at the Adivasi Academy's Museum, showcasing the innovative works of the participating designers and artists.

## 04. Adivasi Arts

The *Vaacha* Museum of Voice at the Adivasi Academy is one of India's largest resource centres on Adivasi languages, art and culture. The Museum has a rich digital repository of the various state Tribal Research and Training Institutes' along with a vast documentation of local tribal history, rock painting sites, arts and craft, musical instruments, traditions, rituals and festivals.



### *Pithora Ritual Art*

This year the Museum team captured the *Gamshayi* tradition among the Adivasis in Moti Amrol, Gabadiya, Palsanda and Nani Dumali villages in the Chhota Udepur district. *Gamshayi* is a sacred occasion for the Adivasi communities wherein the old figures of the village Gods are replaced with new ones. This ritual is held after a long interval of either 50 or 100 years. While preparations begin 3 months before the occasion, the rituals are held across a period of 10 days. Each and every household contributes to meet the costs and comes together to celebrate along with relatives from other villages, making it a gathering of 5000-6000 community



### *Gaamshayi Festival*

The Vaacha Museum attracts both Indian and overseas visitors that include researchers, scholars, museologists, school and university students, artists and the lay person. During the past year, the Museum had 7699 footfalls of which 100+ visitors came from overseas, 200+ from within India, 700+ from within

Gujarat, 2000 from the Chhota Udepur region and 4500+ belonged to schools and colleges.

A library is attached to the Museum having a collection of 45,000 books on Tribal Studies covering disciplines of anthropology, cultural studies, development, gender studies, history, linguistics, literature, sociology and political science. The library attracts local teachers, students and readers along with researchers and scholars. In recent years, the library has become a hub for young aspirants who come here for study and reference as they prepare for competitive examinations.

## 05. Craft as Living Heritage and Livelihood

### *Kasota*

For the past 5 years, Bhasha has been working in a dedicated manner on the 'From Farm to Fashion' program to revitalise the now dying *Kasota* handwoven fabric that was originally worn as a *langot* (loincloth) by the Adivasi communities of Chhota Udepur District. With modern wear now widespread, the *Kasota's* use is now restricted. Concerned about the inevitable death of this long textile tradition, Bhasha invited Ratan Vankar and Govind Vankar—the only two *Kasota* master weavers living in Chhota Udepur—and provided them with looms and raw material. Interns, Akshita Gangwal from the Indian Institute of Crafts and Design, Jaipur, Sonal Kumar and Surbhi Bajaj from NIFT-Jodhpur and Kalyani Prasad from NIFT-Kannur, have designed innovative apparel as

stoles, jackets, shirts and home items as cushion covers and table mats to make the weave user-friendly and marketable. This year NIFT-Kannur intern Kalyani Prasad designed a set of 10 costumes for which she received a Diploma Project Award from her institute. Due care has been taken to retain the weave's original colour and design patterns.



*Kasota Apparel*

Ratan Vankar was conferred with the prestigious Martand Singh Memorial Award in Delhi by INTACH on March 16, 2024 for his pioneering role in reviving the *Kasota* fabric. *Kasota* is also selected under the government's 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative to boost local craft.



*Ratan Vankar being awarded*

To make the *Kasota* an entirely in-house production, the yarn for the fabric is woven over *charkhas* set up at the Adivasi Academy. The plan is to promote the craft among local Adivasi women who are being imparted training. Experienced dyer, Jagada Rajappa has trained a group in natural dyeing.

The Academy has parallelly undertaken cotton cultivation for making yarn and indigo cultivation for dye extraction.

## 06. Education

### *Vasantshala Training Centre*

Since 2005, the Adivasi Academy runs the '**Vasantshala Training Centre**' on its campus for out-of-school Adivasi children between 7 and 14 years of age. The intent is to bring excluded children to age-appropriate learning levels and to re-enrol them to local government schools and *ashramshalas*. Vasantshala's distinct point is to bridge the learning gaps of such children initially through the Mother Tongue and later transition them to the school language for the difference in the home and school language is the key reason for tribal school drop-outs.

The Centre has successfully evolved as a bridge schooling programme for school push outs among Adivasi children. In 2022, Vasantshala was approved as a School by the Gujarat State Education Board for Classes I to V.

In the past academic year, the Vasantshala School has had 54 children across Class I to V. Prioritising girl education, 45 percent of the enrolled children comprised girl students (24 girls and 30 boys).



*Celebrating Environment Day*



For the first time since it started, Vasantshala School organised an Alumni Meet on November 30, 2023. Of 500+ students who have so far studied at Vasantshala, 215 past students participated in the meet. While some are pursuing higher education, several of them are now employed. Vasantshala has reshaped their future by bringing them back to school.

### **Bal Mela**

Vasantshala encourages interactive programs with other government schools. A *Bal Mela* was held on March 21, 2024 inviting children of nearby schools. In all, 662 children from the government schools of Tejgadh, Koraj, Acchala and Rozkuva villages came together at the Adivasi Academy and participated in games, story-telling, bamboo craft making and cultural performances.



### **Bal Mela**



### **Vasantshala batch**

To provide opportunity to Adivasi students to access educational excellence Vasantshala children are now being prepared for admission to the Navodaya Schools from Class 6. On December 25, 2023, a Guidance Camp was organized at Tejgadh by the Navodaya Vidyalaya at Chhota Udepur. The camp aimed at preparing the students for the Navodaya entrance examination.

In celebration of the 'International Year of Millets 2023', an Agriculture Fair was held at the Swaminarayan Hall at Chhota Udepur on October 28, 2023. The event included a Drawing Competition in which 20 students from Vasantshala participated. Three Vasantshala students emerged as winners and were awarded prizes.

Alisha Bhil, Vasanta Bhil, Ranjana Rathwa, Sejal Nayka, Parshu Dhana, Ketan Bhil and Viraj Rathwa, all students of Vasantshala, presented stories in Adivasi languages of Rathwi, Bhili, Nayki and Tadvi at the '*Kathakari*' (Story Telling) International Symposium, organised by the Anant International University, Ahmedabad on June 26, 2023. These stories highlighted the relationship between humans and nature, showcasing traditional wisdom in solving challenges and living in harmony. The urban audience was captivated by the narration. The event was a result of two months of dedicated work by the Vasantshala teachers and team.



### **Kathakari International Symposium**

Throughout the year, Vasantshala actively engaged its students in a variety of educational and cultural activities. These events have not only enriched their learning experience but also contributed to increasing creativity, cultural appreciation and personal growth. The dedication of the teachers and the enthusiasm of the students have made the year successful and impactful. In their final results, 7 students achieved A+ grade, 11 had A grade, 23 got B grade and 13 attained C grade.

## 07. Healthcare

For more than two decades now, the Prakriti Healthcare Centre at the Adivasi Academy has been providing primary treatment to patients in the Chhota Udepur district. Led by Dr. Kiran N. Shinglot, Director of Yog Niketan, Vadodara, who has a rich experience in rural healthcare and Dr. Jaishree Rao, who holds expertise in women's health, the Centre holds an OPD every Sunday. The clinic has a pathological laboratory with facilities to conduct basic tests and an ambulance donated by Mahindra & Mahindra for emergency care.



*OPD at Tejgadh*

This past year, the Centre offered treatment to 1800 patients (884 men, 752 women, 164 children) for skin, neurological, orthopaedic, cardiac, tuberculosis, urinary infections, sickle cell, respiratory, gastroenteritis and general complaints. Of these, 1325 were continuing patients and 475 were new cases.



*OPD in progress*

Bhasha has initiated 'Sickle Cell Testing' on a pilot basis among new entrants in the nearby colleges. Of a total of 123 tribal students tested, 9 tested positive and 27 are diagnosed as carriers. Bhasha will continue to conduct tests in nearby colleges and hold counselling sessions for those who have tested positive. This is to assess the prevalence of sickle cell among the youth so that necessary steps can be taken to prevent as well as manage the disease.

## 08. Campus Development

To reduce the recurring energy costs at the Adivasi Academy towards electricity and LPG cylinder usage in the kitchen, Bhasha sought the support of the LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation, and set up a 20 KV Solar System on its campus. This includes Solar Panels for electrification and a hybrid Cooking System. Of this, 14 KV is the electricity requirement of the campus while 6 KV is utilised in the kitchen. The solar energy generated is transferred via grid to Gujarat Electricity Board. The Solar Cooking System installed at the Academy's kitchen enables cooking for about 200 persons at time. The system contributes to environmental betterment and economising costs.



*Solar Electricity Panels*



*Solar Cooking*

## 09. The Voice of the Denotified Communities

In 2021, Bhasha brought out the Report '*Voicing the Community: A Study on the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh*'. Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the study was done by Bhasha's Trustee, Dr. Madan Meena, in collaboration with the organisations, Jan Sahas and Muskaan in Madhya Pradesh, Budhan Theatre in Gujarat and Kota Heritage Society and Gramin Shiksha Kendra in Rajasthan. The report covers the entitlement status of the Bachhada, Bedia, Gadiya Lohar, Kalbelia, Kanjar, Nat and Pardhi communities in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In order that these communities have access to the Report, Bhasha carried out a Hindi translation of the Report.

To address the issues highlighted in the report, Bhasha has subsequently taken up development activities in the three states under the program, 'I Am: Bhasha Dignity Collective'. Covering the above communities,

the program is building community leadership by creating a group of enablers including community teachers, barefoot lawyers, cultural documenter and livelihood fellows. The community is being trained in education, legal redressal, livelihood skills and creative expressions and social leadership. The intention is to strengthen the community's ability to address its issues in the historical and geographical context.

To commemorate 151 years of the 'Criminal Tribes Act' (CTA) first imposed in 1871 by the British, Bhasha organized a '*Ghumantoo Mela* (Nomad Festival)' at the Adivasi Academy on October 12, 2023. The Nomad Festival was held to celebrate and recognize the cultural heritage of these communities that is at risk of extinction. The festival showcased performances by Bharthari and Nayak Bhopa musicians from Rajasthan and Gujarat. An exhibition too was set up as part of the program, presenting the traditional crafts of the Gadiya Lohar and Salat communities from Chhota Udepur.

Another DNT *Mela* titled 'I Am' was organized at Faria village in Sawai Madhopur district on January 9, 2024 by Gramin Shiksha Kendra.

A 'Kalbelia Quilt Exhibition' was selected for the AD design show held at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai from September 15-17, 2023. Two Kalbelia women, Dali Bai and Natti Bai travelled from Bundi to participate in the exhibition. They demonstrated quilt making at the show.

These events celebrated the cultural richness of India's Adivasi and Nomadic communities as well as provided a platform for dialogue and learning. Exhibitions and performances play a crucial role in increasing the visibility and appreciation of these communities' unique contribution to India's cultural landscape.

## 10. Collaboration

Bhasha collaborated with Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), Delhi and the Aga Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), Gujarat to carry out a Livelihood Survey in Dhandoda, Vagalvada, Ghelwant, Dumali, Vijol and Vachlibhit villages of Chhota Udepur taluka and district. The survey revealed that distress migration from the district is high. Agriculture continues to remain the primary livelihood. However, since land keeps getting divided across generations within families, the yield per family does not suffice. Cattle rearing and dairy, along with seasonal labour fetches only some additional income. The educated youth moves to urban areas for jobs; however, they barely manage to subsist as they have to meet their own living expenses and send money home.



*Village Survey*

## 11. Events

### ***Samvaad Fellows Cohort Exposure Program***

The Tata Steel Foundation held the *Samvaad* Residency for its 2024 '**Samvaad Fellows Cohort Exposure Program**' at the Adivasi Academy from January 29-31, 2024. The *Samvaad* Fellowship promotes community led action research on Adivasi culture and heritage. The workshop was held to understand Heritage Mapping in the context of the individual projects undertaken by the Fellows.



*Samvaad Fellows*

### ***Farmers Nest Exhibition***

Bhasha participated in the '**Farmers Nest Exhibition**' held to promote completely organic and chemical-free produce of farmers and entrepreneurs in Vadodara on March 15, 2024. Bhasha had on display banana paper products, *Kasota* textile and local art and craft.



*Banana Paper Products on display*

# 12.

## List of Funders for FY 2023-24

### *Grantors*

- Agriculture Insurance Company of India, Delhi
- Association for India's Development, U.S.
- Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Gandhinagar
- GIVE Foundation, Bengaluru
- LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation, Mumbai
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation, U.K.
- Raza Foundation, Delhi

### *Corporates and Trusts*

<b>Name of the Donor</b>	<b>Amount (Rs.)</b>
PRB Securities Pvt. Ltd.	7,50,000
Neogen Chemicals	6,00,000
Shakun Polymers Pvt. Ltd.	5,00,000
G. H. Patel Trust	3,00,000
Kadillac Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	2,75,000
Chemcon Speciality Chemicals Ltd.	2,50,000
Medicap Healthcare Limited	2,50,000
Gulbrandsen Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	2,00,000
Krishna Daga Charitable Trust	2,00,000
Pushpavati Kantilal Charitable Trust	2,00,000
Capiq Engineering Pvt. Ltd.	1,00,000

### **Individual Donors**

<b>Name of the Donor</b>	<b>Amount (Rs.)</b>
Surekha Devi	5,00,000
Ganesh Devy	3,75,000
Om Damani	2,70,000
Aditya Sondhi	2,00,000
Ramesh Kancholia	2,00,000
Nisha Grover	1,00,000
Bhaskaran Raman	50,000
Bipinkumar V. Chemburkar	50,000
Narayan Rangaraj	50,000
Sunita Sarawagi	50,000
Rushabh Mehta	50,000
Gulam Mohammed Sheikh	30,000
Krishna Padmaja	10,000
Mukheshkumar N. Chavda	7,500
N.V. Joshi	7,500
Ashish Khurange	7,000
Daya Shankar Sikar	5,100

<b>Name of the Donor</b>	<b>Amount (Rs.)</b>
Akshay	5,000
Priyadarshini Jadhav	5,000
Rekha Chaudhari	5,000
Rozemary Hedge	5,000
Neha Bagree	1,100
Beena Kanani	1,000
Dhyaneswari Pimpale	500

**Bhasha Research and Publication Centre is most grateful to all its donors and grantors for their trust, good-will and support.**

# 13.

## Bhasha's Governance

### *Bhasha's Founders*

Bhasha was founded by a small group of educationists and socially committed individuals who had a vision and commitment towards the Adivasi cause. Our Founders are:

#### **Dr. G. N. Devy**

Distinguished literary critic and thinker; currently Professor of Eminence and Director of the Centre for Civilisation Studies at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai; Chief Editor of *People's Linguistic Survey of India*; a Padmashri, Prince Claus and Linguapax Awardee

#### **Ms. Nisha Grover**

Managing Trustee, Akshar Trust for the Hearing Impaired

#### **Dr. Ravikant Joshi**

Urban Management and Urban Financial Management Expert

#### **Ms. Sandhya Gajjar**

Trustee of Navrachana Education Society and Art Critic

#### **Prof. Surekha Devi**

Former Head, Department of Chemistry, The M. S. University of Baroda

### *Bhasha's Present Board of Trustees comprises the following members:*

#### **Ms. Nisha Grover, Managing Trustee**

Managing Trustee, Akshar Trust for the Hearing Impaired

#### **Shri Pranav Joshi, Secretary**

Design Consultant

#### **Prof. Om Damani, Treasurer**

Faculty, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT, Mumbai

#### **Dr. Madan Lal Meena, Director, Adivasi Academy**

Artist and Researcher

**Shri Biren Bhuta**

Founder, Disom-The Leadership School

**Shri Pushparaj Deshpande**

Director, Samruddha Bharat Foundation

**Dr. Rashmi Sawhney**

Associate Professor, School of Arts and Humanities, New York University, Abu Dhabi

**Ms. Rekha Chaudhari**

Social worker

***Bhasha's Adivasi Academy is governed by an Advisory Board presently comprising:***

**Ms. Aditi Mehta (Retd. IAS), Udaipur**

Former Jt. Secretary to Govt. of India, Jt. Secretary in PMO, Department of Women and Child Welfare and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India

**Prof. Banani Chakravarty**

Associate Professor at Gauhati University, Assam

**Dr. Madan Meena**

Artist and folklore researcher

Director, Adivasi Academy and Trustee, Bhasha Centre

**Prof. Ruhi Gala, Vadodara**

Academician and practicing architect

**Ms. Sandhya Gajjar, Vadodara**

Trustee of Navrachana Education Society and Art Critic

**Shri Tobdan, Lahul-Spiti**

Cultural researcher, Author of *Ancient Lahaul and Himalaya*, *Mahakappina the King of Kuluta* and *the Kinnaras of the Himalaya*

**Shri Uttam Parmar, Surat**

Educationist and Managing Trustee of Kim Education Society and Sadhana Kutir Hospital



***The Academic Council of the Adivasi Academy contributes to interdisciplinary action research and programmes. Its members are:***

**Shri P Sainath, Chair**

Eminent journalist and writer, Founder of the Peoples Archive of Rural India (PARI) and Magsaysay awardee. Author of *Everybody Loves a Good Drought* and *The Last Heroes: Foot Soldiers of Indian Freedom*

**Ms. Aditi Mehta**

Chairperson of Advisory Board of the Adivasi Academy; Retd. IAS (Rajasthan cadre)

**Dr. Aditya Sondhi**

Senior Advocate practising before the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Karnataka, has served as Additional Advocate General for Karnataka

**Ms. Ekta Mittal**

Filmmaker and co-Founder of *Maara*, a media arts organisation in Bangalore; works in community media, public art and activism with a focus on migrant workers. Films include *Birha (Absence)*, *In Transience and Distance*

**Dr. Harvinder Negi**

Presently Assistant Professor of English and Linguistics at GLA University, Mathura; Contributor to the Himachal Pradesh volume of the *Peoples Linguistic Survey of India*

**Prof. Kanji Patel**

Eminent Gujarati writer and poet, Editor of the Gujarat volume of the *Peoples Linguistic Survey of India*, Former Director of Adivasi Academy

**Ms. Niharika Gupta**

Has worked with Sahapedia and Tibetan House in Delhi; presently with India International Centre, New Delhi

**Dr. Nishaant Choksi**

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Gandhinagar

**Ms. Nisha Grover**

Managing Trustee, Bhasha Centre

**Dr. Madan Meena**

Hon. Director, Adivasi Academy

**Prof. Om Damani**

Trustee, Bhasha Centre

**Prof. Rahmath Tarikere**

Eminent award-winning Kannada writer and critic

**Dr. Rashmi Devi Sawhney**

Cultural theorist and Associate Arts Professor at New York University, Abu Dhabi; author of *The Vanishing Point: Moving Images After Video*; a Trustee of Bhasha Centre

**Mr. Rohan Shivkumar**

Architect, Urban Designer and Dean of the Kamla Raheja School of Architecture, Mumbai; has worked on the Churchgate Revival Project, the UDRI Tourist District project, and undertaken studies on slum rehabilitation and open space regulations in Mumbai. Is one of the Editors of *Project Cinema City*

**Ms. Sandhya Gajjar**

Trustee of Navrachana Education Society and Art Critic, among the Founding Trustees of Bhasha Centre

**Ms. Shweta Bhattad**

Visual, performance artist and farmer. Founder of the Gram Art Project Collective

**Mr. Sudhir Horo**

NID Alumni, Designer and Founder of the Tribal Design Forum

**Ms. Subasri Krishnan**

Filmmaker and head of the Media Lab at the Indian Institute for Human Settlement (IIHS). Films include *This or That Particular Person*, *What the Fields Remember*, *Sikhirni Mwsanai* (Dance of the Butterfly)

**Prof. Sundar Sarukkai**

Philosopher of science; Founder of Barefoot Philosophers; Author of *Translating the World: Science and Language*, *Philosophy of Symmetry*, *Indian Philosophy and Philosophy of Science*, *What is Science?*, *JRD Tata and the Ethics of Philanthropy*

**Ms. Swati Dandekar**

Documentary filmmaker; Head of the Film Programme at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology; Founder Trustee of Vikalp, Bengaluru. Films include *Water and a City* and *Neeli Raag* (True Blue).

**Dr. Tanuja Kothial**

Historian and academic; presently Professor at Ambedkar University, New Delhi

**Mr. Uttam Parmar**

Educationist, social worker and well-known Gujarati writer

**Mr. Venkat Srinivasan**

Director of Archives at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR) in Bengaluru. Prior to this, he was a research engineer at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, Stanford University.

**Shri Vinod Raja**

Alumni of Film and Television Institute of India, Part of Grass Roots Media film collective. Films include *Toli Chinuka*, *The Bee*, *The Bear and the Kuruba* and *Mahua Memoirs*

**Prof. Y. S. Alone**

Professor of Visual Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Author of *Early Western Indian Buddhist Caves: Forms and Patronage*

**Annual Report 2023-24**  
**Layout and Design by Soma Dutta**



# bhasha

*Centre of Excellence, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India*

**Bhasha Research and Publication Centre**

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