

## **Late Prof. U R Ananthamurthy - an inspiration to the Vernacular Literature Fraternity : Damodar Mauzo**

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2014

The International Centre Goa in association with Konkani Lekhak Sangh organised a programme paying tribute to Late Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy. This was held recently at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula and was attended by noted personalities from Goa's literature fraternity amongst others.

N. Shivdas, President of Konkani Lekhak Sangh introduced the evening and began the condolence meet by condemning the ugly outburst by some elements after the death of the great Late Ananthamurthy describing them as " anti-cultured and un-belonging to any civilised community".

Eminent Konkani author Damodar Mauzo described Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy as an author " who worked devotedly, fearlessly and openly for social justice. Although Prof. Ananthamurthy was in one way controversial in his work, one should take inspiration from the courage this great man had ". He also described him as an activist for the Kannada language and the one who was instrumental in changing the name of Bangalore to Bengaluru. " Late Prof. U R Ananthamurthy is an inspiration to the entire vernacular literature fraternity " concluded Mauzo and then invited others to speak.

Tanaji Halarnkar, representing Konkani on Sahithya Academy described Prof. Ananthamurthy as an author who gave a new direction to the Kannada language and one who had taken it to the international platform.

Vivek Menezes from Goa Writer's Group held up a book written by Prof. Ananthamurthy and spoke about the inspiration he got from it while studying revolutionary literature as a student. He also fondly remembered personally meeting him the extraodinary man for the first Goa Arts & Literary Festival in 2010. Prof. Ananthamurthy was the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker at the then debut festival founded by The International Centre Goa.

Ramesh Veluskar and Prakash Padgaonkar were among other authors who also came forward to express their respective message on the occasion.

N. Shivdas concluded by lauding Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy for inspiring the fraternity with his works and also for imbibing a sense of pride in one's own native tongue.