

## PROFILE: DR. VIKRAM SAMPATH

Bangalore based writer/historian, **Dr. Vikram Sampath** is the best-selling author of three acclaimed books: *Splendours of Royal Mysore: the Untold Story of the Wodeyars* on the Mysore royal family; *"My Name Is Gauhar Jaan: The Life and Times of a Musician"*- the biography of India's first recording superstar Gauhar Jaan of Calcutta and *"Voice of the Veena: S Balachander - A Biography"* the story of eminent veena maestro late Dr. S Balachander. Vikram was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi's first Yuva Puraskar** in English literature in 2012 and the **ARSC International Award for Excellence in Historical research in New York** in 2011 for his book on Gauhar Jaan. The book has also been translated into Hindi, Bengali, Marathi and Punjabi; adapted to theatre as a play *"Gauhar"* by **Lillette Dubey** and is now slated to be adapted to a Bollywood film by **Ashutosh Gowariker**. Vikram was among the 4 writers and artists to be selected by the Former Honourable President of India Shri Pranab Mukherjee as a **Writer-in-Residence**, to stay at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan** for 2 weeks, in 2015. His forthcoming project is a two-part biography of the renowned freedom fighter **Veer Savarkar**.

He has been a Visiting faculty of music and history at the University of Queensland, Australia and a Visiting Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin. Vikram has been part of several Government Committees--the Central Government's I&B Ministry Committee on Archives for AIR & DD, Central Sangeet Natak Akademi, Jayaprakash Narayan Centre for Excellence in Humanities, Karnataka Tourism Vision Group, Karnataka Knowledge Commission, FICCI's Creative Industries & Art-Culture Committee, and represents India in the UNESCO body, ISME (International Society for Music Education). He is currently chosen as one of the young leaders for the Aspen Global Leadership Programme and also represented India at the Australia-India Youth Dialogue.

He is an engineer/mathematician from BITS-Pilani, an MBA (Finance) from SP Jain, Mumbai and a PhD in History and Music from the University of Queensland.

He is also a trained Carnatic vocalist trained under several eminent gurus such as Smt. Bombay Jayashri and Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, and writes regularly for newspapers and magazines.

In 2011 Vikram established the **Archive of Indian Music**, India's first digital sound archive for vintage recordings of the country. He is the Founder-Director of the **Bangalore Literature Festival**, India's second largest literature festival after Jaipur, founded in 2012. He is the Founder-Director of the **Bangalore International Folk Festival** organized in association with the Times of India group that brought together the best of Indian and international folk artists on one platform and curated the first **Indic Thoughts Festival** in Goa in December 2017.

Vikram has worked with several corporates such as GE Money, Citibank and Hewlett Packard, the Government of India's Ministry of Culture where he headed the **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** in South India and as Director of the Symbiosis School of Media and Communication, Bangalore. He currently heads the Art and Culture Channel Division of the Velankani Group to create rich, segmented content about Indian culture and heritage.