

# Prabha

The Prabha Khaitan Foundation Chronicle Issue 2, June 2019



## 5 NEW CITIES IN PKF UMBRELLA

**I**n keeping with its vision of promoting art, culture and literature of India, the **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** continuously strives to expand its outreach to connect with patrons. The Foundation has had a very productive summer this year — with five new cities being added to its cultural calendar.

This summer, the Foundation has spread its wings across the country in cities of Amritsar, Meerut and Nagpur, and beyond its shores in Oxford and Birmingham. After Chandigarh in Punjab, the Foundation will set foot in Amritsar with the inaugural session of Kalam featuring author Pratyaksha Sinha.

Internationally, the Foundation will make its debut in Oxford and Birmingham through the Write Circle with author Neelima Dalmia Adhar.

As in the past, the organisation joined hands with caregivers, committed individuals and like-minded institutions to implement these cultural, educational, literary and social welfare projects in the Indian and international cities.



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*Prabha*

## *A busy summer for Prabha Khaitan Foundation*

First of all, I express my sincere gratitude for all the positive feedback and reviews that we have received for the first issue of *Prabha*. It has encouraged us to come up with the second edition of our chronicle. The entire team is grateful to our associates for appreciating our earnest efforts and for being an active part of this monthly initiative.

We had a particularly busy summer as we were busy spreading our wings and expanding all across the world, right from Meerut to Birmingham, even as the heat waves kept us all keyed up. We hope to keep up with the pace and go ahead with it. The summer vacations have kept our audiences all booked, but with the vacations now over it's time for the events to thrive with much more energy and vigour.

So, here's presenting the second edition of *Prabha*. It has details and accounts of our events that have taken place in the month of May 2019, a little throwback to our sessions last year, and the line up of the forthcoming events and activities. Feel free to convey your thoughts and write to us at [newsletter@pkfoundation.org](mailto:newsletter@pkfoundation.org).

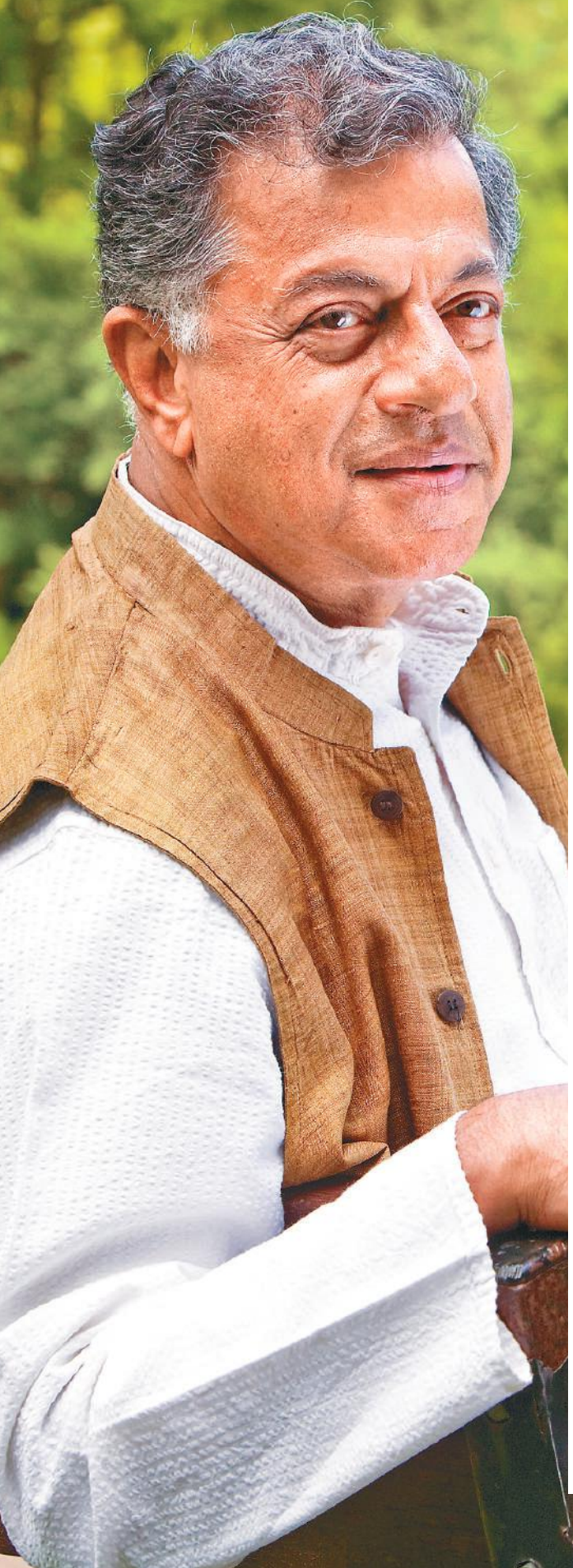
Thank you for embarking on this wonderful journey with us. Hope you have an enjoyable read.



MANISHA JAIN

Communications & Branding chief,  
Prabha Khaitan Foundation





## Ek Mulakat that never happened

**L**egendary Indian thespian Girish Karnad journeyed into the afterlife on June 10 2019. The actor and director was to grace Prabha Khaitan Foundation's event, **Ek Mulakat**, with Sangeeta Datta as the conversationalist.

*Datta's write up in his memory was published in Outlook India, excerpts of which we are reproducing in this month's newsletter.*

A foundational pillar of the Indian theatre revival, my introduction to Girish was through his plays – *Yayati* and *Tughlaq* (the latter made him a national icon). A marvellous conversationalist, he loved coming home for what he called Bengali *adda* and stayed on till late hours discussing classical music, literature and repeatedly engaging with a crucial question "What is it to be Indian? How can one be an Indian artist?"

While discussing historical plays Girish Karnad would often say, "History is alive, because it links the past to today's living moment. The historical event has long gone, but the play is right in front of you. That is always fascinating." Today, Girish passed away from the present, but will remain etched to our history for a long time to come.

When he came to live in London as Minister of Culture, Embassy of India, Girish remained true to his effusive disposition and opened up the Nehru Centre as a dynamic space for the arts.

Perhaps it was this sense of linking history to the present that inspired me to write a



**SANGEETA DATTA**

is Ehsaas Woman of London. She is a writer, filmmaker, musician and cultural commentator working between India and UK

present-day adaptation of Shakespeare's *King Lear* for my feature *Life Goes On*. And who better to play my *Lear* but Girish himself? As he slipped into the skin of my protagonist Sanjay Banerjee, we started a journey of brilliant interaction and collaboration.

A man of infinite knowledge, Girish wore his wisdom light and thus started the memorable bonding with Om Puri (who was an FTII student when he was Dean).

Girish was a towering renaissance man, a polymath, an erudite scholar, an impulsive actor, a man with a vision. For me, it has been a privilege getting to know him (as with Shyam Benegal, Shabana Azmi, Om Puri) who helped formulate our sense of arts and culture, indeed aesthetics.

In July, my film *Life Goes On* will light up the giant summer screens in Wembley Park. The curator tells me that the film was made much before its time and the younger audience must watch it again as it addresses issues of identity, migration and gender. Sharmila Tagore will be there. Perhaps Girish and Om will watch from someplace else.



Fear of terrorists could not deter Arora's

## UNDAUNTED spirit



Bhaavna Arora, Author

**B**

haavna Arora, the young, sparkling author of three bestsellers enthralled the audience at the 69th edition of **An Author's Afternoon** with her latest book *Undaunted*. This book is a tribute to Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz, who was on the hit-list of Indian Mujahiddin and was brutally murdered by the terrorists.

The three best-selling books to her credit are: *The Deliberate Sinner*, *Mistress of Honour* and *Love Bi the Way*. Before a career as an author, Arora headed a business school for a few years. The latent scribe in her could no longer be contained and she now pursues her passion full-time. A contemporary author, her books and genres are versatile. The strength of her writing is in her robust research that flows through as realistic narrative.

The audience attending the session got a glimpse of the effort that Bhaavna had undertaken to render an authentic account of Kashmir and lives of Army men deployed there. Her latest, *Undaunted*, is a prayer for young Kashmiris to introspect about who their real heroes should be.



Bharati Ray





**Bhaavna Arora in conversation with Ehsaas Woman of Kolkata, Nilisha Agarwal**

Nilisha Agarwal of Ehsaas Women Kolkata engaged Arora throughout the session with her thoughtful conversation.

Arora said, "Army is something that is looked down upon in Kashmir. So, basically the exposure you get in childhood is the one you choose to grow up with. It's either terrorism or army."

Arora said, "I really thank Prabha Khaitan Foundation for having me over. It was a great evening. There are some excellent evenings and there are exotic evenings and this was definitely the latter one. I enjoyed the intelligent audience here."

*An Author's Afternoon is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Taj Bengal, Kolkata.*

“It was very interesting. I didn't know her and didn't know about her work, but I really liked the fact that she talked about Kashmir. This is something that inspires more people. The part of Kashmir doesn't seem to be part of us, yet. Somany dichotomies, so many differences are all around.

—Oindrilla Dutta



**Army is something that is looked down upon in Kashmir. So, basically the exposure you get in childhood is the one you choose to grow up with. It's either terrorism or army**

—BHAAVNA ARORA  
Author

“Very enriching and of very different type. Really enjoyed



the person to person talk. It is a very informal though it gives an impression of a very formal event.

We felt like we were talking to the author.

—Garima Mithal,  
Ehsaas woman of Meerut

“I really enjoyed it. She is young and vivacious. The entire audience



was totally engrossed in her story, and the way she told it just carried us away. I am looking forward

to reading her book as she has pitched it so well.

—Anshu Mehra,  
Ehsaas woman of Meerut

“I have an army background. So, I could really relate



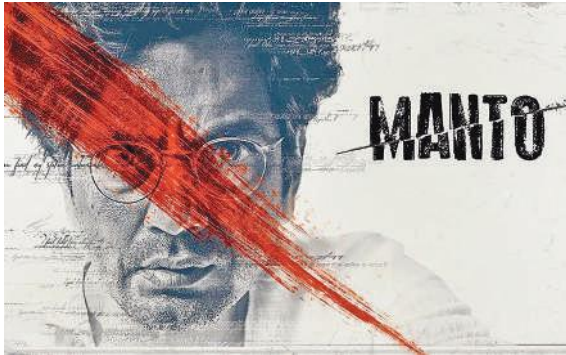
to whatever she said and the subject of her book. The subject she has taken up, writing about this martyr,

is a story that needs to be told. I am so glad she's been brave enough to do it.

—Esha Dutta,  
Ehsaas woman of Kolkata



Prabha revisits the time when actor-director **Nandita Das** and actor **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** were in Kolkata to promote their movie *Manto* and spoke about discovering the acclaimed author



## Rediscovering **MANTO**

**M**anto was Nandita Das's second film as director with Nawazuddin Siddiqui playing the lead role. The film revolved around the life and work of **Saadat Hasan Manto**, a controversial Indian-Pakistani playwright author. Here's revisiting the time when the two promoted the film in Kolkata last year. The event was held under **Chalchitra**, which provides a platform to screen films and documentaries. A screening of *Manto* was held on 13th September 2018 as part of the event at the Quest Mall in Kolkata.

Das recalled how she got to know Manto, "I discovered Manto when I watched a play in my college. In 2012, I wanted to make a film on him and started researching." She went to Lahore to know about the man behind the author. She met Manto's sister-in-law (sister of Manto's wife), who is around 75 years old. Speaking about the challenge in making a film on real person Das said, Manto died at the young age of 42 and very little material was available on him. There was no video on Manto to know of his voice but we decided to move ahead.

Siddiqui said, "Das's research on the subject made his job easy. I got a role that matches my sensibilities. In real life I am unable to speak and unable to express my thoughts. A film allows you to speak all you wanted in real life through the character." Talking about his experience of doing this film, Siddiqui said that after many years he had known someone who is completely honest in thought. "Manto's thoughts were his own. Manto wrote what he saw and always spoke the truth," he said.



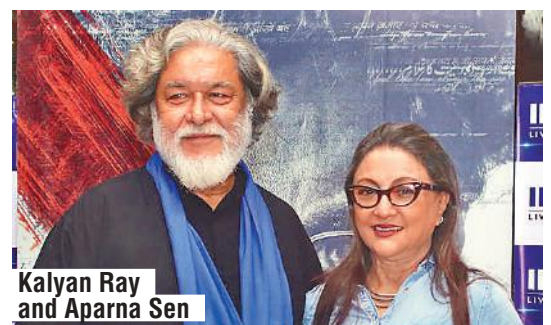
Nawazuddin Siddiqui



Nandita Das

Jaya and  
Bickram Ghosh

Goutam Ghose

Parambrata  
ChatterjeeKalyan Ray  
and Aparna Sen





Sourendro Mullick and Soumyojit Das in conversation with Hariharan

Looking back at the Ek Mulakat event in February this year when musician duo Sourendro Mullick and Soumyojit Das conversed with **Hariharan** about his singing, reality shows and more

# Reality shows have become a commercial thing: Hariharan

**T**he day's memories still seem fresh in the minds of the audience who attended the session of **Ek Mulakat** on 7th February 2019. Here's a throwback to the event featuring playback and ghazal singer Hariharan, who was in conversation with musician duo Sourendro Mullick and Soumyojit Das.

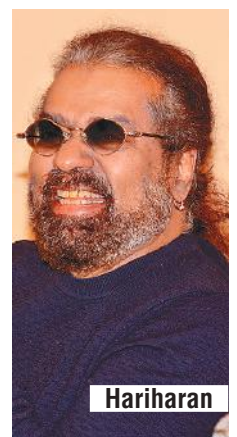
Hariharan, who was one of musical maestro AR Rehman's favourites, gave his frank opinion on reality shows. He said that reality shows have become a commercial thing. "These



Tanusree Shankar, Usha Uthup and Shamlu Dudeja



Ehsaas Women of Kolkata, Nilisha Agarwal, Malika Varma and Gouri Basu



Hariharan

days it has become a profession and some of the kids just keep doing this year after year," he added.

Hariharan also sang a few songs on this occasion, which drew applause from the audience. Playback singer Usha Uthup, who was at the event told Hariharan, "I am your big fan."

*Ek Mulakat Kolkata is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Ehsaas Women of Kolkata: Dona Ganguly, Esha Dutta, Gauri Basu, Malika Varma and Nilisha Agarwal.*



# Race Course Road

## explores the dark and hidden side of politics



Vir Sanghvi in conversation with Seema Goswami



Apra Kuchhal, Ehsaas Woman of Jaipur, felicitating Seema Goswami

**J**

ournalist duo and power couple, Seema Goswami and Vir Sanghvi, talked about Indian politics pickled with wit and humour at the 68th session of **An Author's Afternoon**.

The peak-summer literary session focused on her latest book "Race Course Road" - a political thriller, which evokes a miscellany of emotions ranging from love to hatred. The plot of her novel revolves around a murder at the Race Course Road, which is the official residence of the Prime Minister. What unfolds is a conflict between protagonists Karan Pratap Singh and Asha Devi. The story takes on a darker shade when the reader learns that the murder was actually a well-planned conspiracy. The readers would have to wait for the sequel to find how it all ends.

"Being a journalist in Delhi, one gets to pick up a little bit of political gossips

**"**

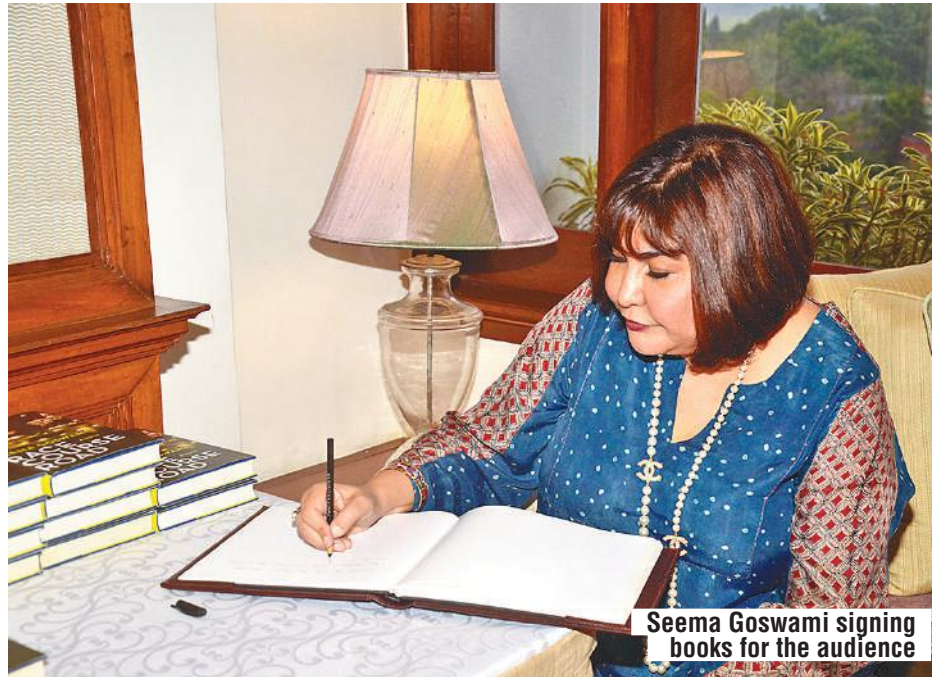
**If you are a journalist, you are privileged to meet all sorts of people and be friends with them. You have a different circle.**

**—SEEMA GOSWAMI**  
Author





**Dona Ganguly,  
Ehsaas Woman of Kolkata**



**Seema Goswami signing  
books for the audience**

and almost like an osmosis the way government works,” said Goswami on how she wrote the fictional book ‘Race Course Road’ from an insider’s perspective. Goswami voiced her views against the recent trend of jingoism in journalism and felt that the “war within the studios” is degrading the standard of reportage. She did not mince words when she spoke her mind on top politicians like VP Singh, Chandra Sekhar, Narsimha Rao, Narendra Modi and Sonia Gandhi.

“If you are a journalist, you are privileged to meet all sorts of people and be friends with them. You have a different circle. It kind of gives you an insight about how things work in this

world,” Seema Goswami said.

Goswami is a journalist, columnist and author. Her book, *Woman on Top*, written to help women in the workplace, has been translated into several Indian languages. Her latest book is a political thriller, which offers an insider’s view of Delhi’s political world based on her years of experience as a journalist. *Race Course Road* was published last year and went on to feature on several bestseller lists. She is currently working on a sequel to the *Race Course Road*.

She said, “I had a great time, it was really wonderful. It was a very engaging audience and they had such amazing questions for me. I really enjoyed myself.”

Conversation-

alist and raconteur Vir Sanghvi, spiced up the session with his trademark style peppered with witty remarks. He said, “I thought it was an extraordinary session. I’ve done many events like this but it’s very rare to find an event where the audience is so select, the audience is so well-read, where the questions are so interesting. It was really quite an illuminating and enjoyable experience.”

*An Author’s Afternoon is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Taj Bengal, Kolkata.*



**Arindam Sil**



**It’s very rare to find an event where the audience is so select, the audience is so well-read, where the questions are so interesting.**  
—VIR SANGHVI



**Esha Dutta,  
Ehsaas Woman of Kolkata**



## An author's challenges



Abha Dubey in conversation with Mamta Kalia

A

uthor Mamta Kalia, talking about the ups and downs in his/her lifetime, said that one has to struggle a lot at certain points. She added that the effect of such hardships can be seen in literature.

Kalia was in conversation with conversationalist Abha Dubey at the Kalam session held in Raipur. During the session, Kalia spoke about her love for literature and poetry. "An



Audience at the event



Welcome Speech by Harkaran Singh, General Manager of Hyatt Raipur

author has to face more challenges than a critic," she added.

The event witnessed literature enthusiasts from Raipur, Durg and Bhilai in large numbers. Raipur municipality commissioner Shiv Anant Tayal presented a memento to Kalia at the end of the event.

*Kalam Raipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Hyatt Raipur and Abhikalp Foundation.*



Gaurav Girija Shukla



**Neelima Dalmia Adhar**, who has penned *The Secret Diary of Kasturba*, spoke about her passion for writing and her life journey at the inaugural session of Kalam in Faridabad

# Gandhiji would not have been a Mahatma if Kasturba wasn't there

**S**he grew up in an atypical Marwari home with six siblings, three older and three younger, in New Delhi. She completed her Senior Cambridge from The Convent of Jesus and Mary, before attaining her Bachelor's degree in Home Science from Lady Irwin College; and a Master's in Psychology from Delhi University with a specialization in Personality. She taught Psychology for a short while at the same university to undergraduate students. Neelima has inculcated her mother's passion for both the spoken and written word and divides her time between writing and pursuing her interest in poetry, philosophy and the paranormal.

Her writings have earned her the tag of agent provocateur and perhaps, one of India's most fearless authors. When she wrote her first book, *Father Dearest: The Life and Times*



Sundeep Bhutoria



Ehsaas Woman of Faridabad, Shweta Aggarwal in conversation with Neelima Dalmia Adhar

of *RK Dalmia* in 2003, it scaled the bestseller list and she was labelled a daredevil 'family chronicler' who had exposed some fiercely guarded secrets. Her second book, a novel, *Merchants of Death* was published in 2007, which also received wide critical acclaim. It is a story that exposes the underbelly and duplicity of the perceived-to-be chaste, highly religious and overtly orthodox Marwari society. In a sense she had violated the sacred omerta and shattered that bastion of secrecy of her clan, by telling the world what everyone knows, but no one ever speaks about.

A passionate 'people-watcher', she is drawn to oddities and thrives on writing about personalities and human behaviour, from the quirky to the mysterious, to the bizarre, a subject that she does chillingly close to the bone.

In her note, she wrote,

"Faridabad, you have overwhelmed me with love and interest in my thoughts and words. The most reinvigorating session has been here. I look forward to many more."

*Kalam Faridabad is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Dainik Jagran, Books EnBeyond and Ehsaas Woman of Faridabad, Shweta Aggarwal.*

**Kasturba agar nahin hoti toh Gandhiji Mahatma nahin hote (Gandhiji would not have been Mahatma if Kasturba was not there).**

—NEELIMA DALMIA ADHAR  
Author



Ehsaas Woman of Jaipur, Apra Kuchhal with Anant Vijay





Mamta Kalia, Author

# A Little Bitterness is required in writing, says Kalia

**M**amta Kalia said, "A little bitterness is required in writing. Economical and practical problems bring bitterness in you, which becomes a part of your writing, and enriches it."

In conversation with Ehsaas Woman of Lucknow Kanak Rekha Chauhan, she said, "Excellent literature should be made part of the curriculum." Kalia said housewives are deft in running home and maintaining relations. They are around us, everywhere, so wrote the story by building characters around them. As far as contribution of Allahabad is concerned, she said, her husband Ravindra quit his job and came to Allahabad from Mumbai. She followed him to the holy town now called Prayagraj. Kalia went on to become the principal in a college, while her spouse, Ravindra, set up a printing press.

Kalia was conferred with 'Vyas Samman' by KK Birla Trust for her novel 'Dukham Sukham' along with other honours such as 'Vanmali Samman', 'Goenka Samman', 'Seeta Samman' and 'Lohia Samman'. Many of her stories, novels and plays are part of the curriculum in many universities. She has written 30 books in Hindi and two in English. She currently stays in Delhi and is a compulsive reader and passionate writer.

*Kalam Lucknow is in association with Dainik Jagran, Hyatt Regency, Lucknow Expressions and Ehsaas Women of Lucknow - Dimple Trivedi, Kanak Rekha Chauhan and Tazeen Husain.*



Ehsaas Women of Lucknow  
Dimple Trivedi and Kanak Rekha Chauhan



**A little bitterness is required in writing. Economical and practical problems bring bitterness in you, which becomes a part of your writing, and enriches it**

**MAMTA KALIA,**  
Author



Ehsaas Woman of Lucknow, Kanak Rekha Chauhan in conversation with Mamta Kalia



# JANTA STORE, AN ADDA OF VARSITY POLITICS



Col Rajesh Sinha from ITC Mughal giving the opening address



Pooja Bansal in conversation with Naveen Choudhary

**P**olitics generally takes place within parties, while outside the parties, it is a fight of policies. For example, two different parties can have separate policies on how to implement the Good and Services Tax (GST) or on any other issue, but when it comes to distribution of posts and reputation of the stakeholders, then the real politics takes place 'within the party'. This within-the-party politics uses student politics as a means to its end. It is poisonous, reveals Naveen Choudhary's political novel 'Janta Store'.

The name of the book is inspired by a popular Market in Jaipur- Janta Store. This used to be an "adda" (place of gathering of students/intellectuals) for university politics because of its proximity to the Rajasthan University. He also shared his view on the nuances of Democracy and its ever changing dynamics.

The author spoke with conversationalist Pooja Bansal about his journey into the field of

writing, how he began by writing blogs, and in no time had a number of followers. His first step towards writing a book followed the Product Differentiation technique and then other things followed.

In his book, Choudhary has mentioned how casteism and regionalism takes one in its grip when the talks on politics begin. He said, "When he contested student union election in University of Rajasthan, there used to be dispute over his surname 'Choudhary'. People would think he is of Jat community, later he would make it clear that, "this Choudhary is a Maithili Brahmin."

He gave the conversation a humorous turn by talking about the most popular Egg Shop in Jaipur located at the Janta Store - Sanjay Omelette. The owner reflects the true spirit of an entrepreneur with his name mentioned in some of the best books and journals. He exemplifies the best of humankind and those who by dedicating themselves to work they love, have become a name to reckon with.

Choudhary's book has featured on the list of Dainik Jagran Bestseller list twice. He was born in Madhubani district of Bihar, but was brought up in Jaipur. He is also a known satirist and a photographer. His articles/satire would get published in The Lallantop, Satyagrah, Khabharlive. Choudhary has been active in student politics in the University of Rajasthan, and has completed his Masters in economics. He is also an MBA in marketing and has worked with Dainik Bhaskar, Aditya Birla Group and is presently working as marketing head with the Oxford University Press.

He said, "Jis tarah se Jantantra se Jan gayab hone par bhi usse Jantantra kaha jata hai, vaise hi Janta Store bandh hone par bhi iss market ko Janta Store kaha jaata hai." (Even after people disappear from democracy, it is still called democracy, in the same way, if Janta Store is shut down, this market shall remain Janta Store).

Kalam Agra is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Dainik Jagran, ITC Mughal and Ehsaas Women of Agra- Preeti Agarwal, Shweta Bansal and Vinti Kathuria.

Ehsaas Woman of Agra Shweta Bansal giving the vote of thanks





# Manoj Shukla is my real name, reveals lyricist of BAAHUBALI



Welcome note  
by Isha Sehgal



Sarita Malik in conversation  
with Manoj Muntashir

with Sarita Malik, he said, "The series is a prequel to the two movies released so far." The storyline deals with the part of *Baahubali* not shown in either of the two films, he said.

Muntashir said, "My true name is Manoj Shukla but when I started writing, I felt I should have a pen name. One day while walking in my town, I stopped near a tea shop and started listening to *Mushiara* on radio. A poet was reciting his poem when he used a word, 'Muntashir'. It stuck in my head. I used it as my name and it has suited me pretty well since I became Manoj Muntashir."

He hails from Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. "*Main jahan pala bada hun wahan Eid ki sewai mein or Diwali ke laddoo mein, koi farak nahi* (The place when I grew up, there is no difference in the sweetness of Sewai cooked during Eid and Laddoo on Diwali)."

*Kalam Chandigarh is in association with Hyatt Regency Chandigarh and Ehsaas Women of Chandigarh - Manisha Jain and Shalu Goel.*



Sarita Malik,  
Conversationalist



There is some great news for the fans of the blockbuster film *Baahubali*. Bollywood lyricist and screenwriter, Manoj Muntashir, said a series on *Baahubali* is underway. Muntashir who has penned some soulful lyrics in movies, had written the dialogues and lyrics for the film *Baahubali: The Beginning* and its sequel. The talented writer, however, clarified that the upcoming series is not *Baahubali-3*.

Speaking at the Kalam session



Ehsaas Women of Chandigarh,  
Manisha Jain and Shalu Goel



Manoj Muntashir,  
lyricist

***Main jahan pala bada hun wahan Eid ki sewai mein or Diwali ke laddoo mein, koi farak nahi***  
(The place when I grew up, there is no difference in the sweetness of Sewai cooked during Eid and Laddoo on Diwali)."



# LITERARY JOURNEY IS LIKE A TRAIN JOURNEY: KALIA

**M**amta Kalia, renowned author and poet, believes that the literary journey is no less than any train journey. "Like in life, in a train journey, you find new companions, and some of them leave when their respective stations come," she said. "Writing is like falling in love. Even before the completion of one story, another story would strike my mind. This is because of my love for writing that stories start taking shape one after the other," said Mamta Kalia at the inaugural session of Kalam in Bilaspur.

Talking to conversationalist Satish Jaiswal, Kalia shared her literary journey. At the end of the session, the author's book – *Mamata ki kahaniyan* (Stories of Mamata) were given away to lovers of literature, who had turned up to listen to the author. Getting the author to sign copies of her books and having photographs clicked made the event memorable for the audience.

*Kalam Bilaspur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Nayi Duniya and Abhikalp Foundation.*



Satish Jaiswal in conversation with Mamta Kalia



Like in life, in a train journey, you find new companions, and some of them leave when their respective stations come... Authors who are very talented but are not active in this field are making the lustre of a diamond dull.



Audience at the event



Satish Jaiswal, Conversationalist



Mamta Kalia reading out an excerpt from her book



Gaurav Giri & Mamta Kalia





Lalita Goenka in conversation with Irshad Kamil

# Kamil paints life with his words

**Irshad Kamil** believes a professional writer is one who can write about other's wishes with his skill



Most of us have adulated Ranbir Kapoor as 'Rockstar' crooning away *Sadda Haq* to an ecstatic group of revellers in the film by the same name. Irshad Kamil, now a leading songster, was the one who introduced us to a Punjabi variant of Bollywood music without the Bhangra and Disco with his soulful lyrics that sets hearts afire.

The lyricist has since come a long way and manages to break the boundaries of generation gap and enter the minds and hearts of the young and elderly alike, every time he pens his thoughts. His wordplay transcends the boundaries of life, philosophy, romance, patriotism, sensuousness and Sufism, with ease. It's with the colour of simple words and deep thoughts

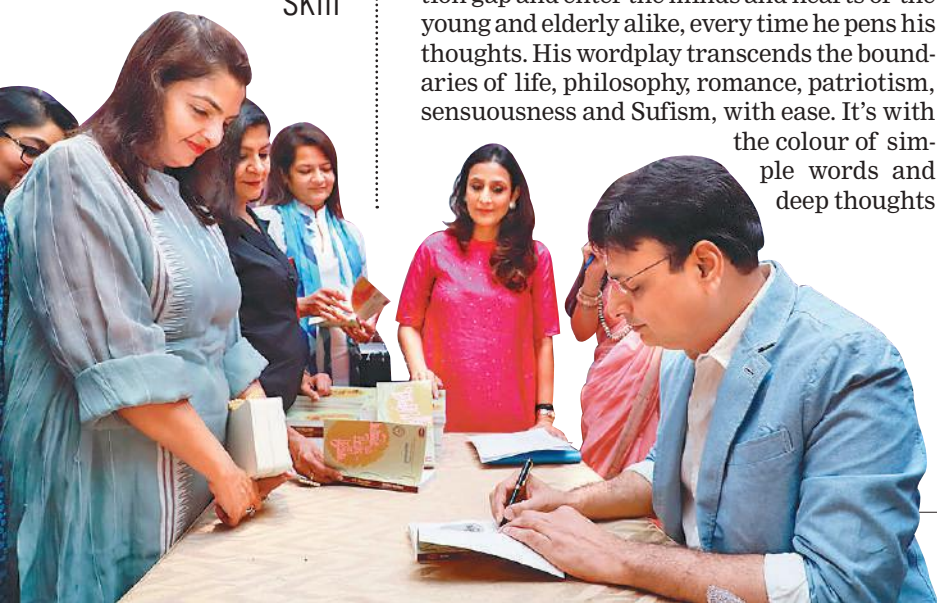

 Ehsaas Women of Bengaluru  
Surekha Prahlad, Babita Kathotia and Shruti Mittal

that Kamil so wonderfully paints the canvas of life with his writings. He has written lyrics for movies *Zero*, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *Jab Harry Met Sejal*, *Sultan*, *Tamasha*, *Highway*, *Raanjhana*, and *Jab We Met* besides *Rockstar*.

A three-time winner of Filmfare award, the lyricist has written four books - *Samkaleen Kavita*, *Bolti Deewarein*, *Ek Maheena Nazmon Ka* and *Kaali Aurat Ka Khwaab*. In conversation with Lalita Goenka, Kamil said, "A professional writer is one who can write about other's wishes with his own skill."

*Kalam Bengaluru is in association with Taj West End Bengaluru and Ehsaas women of Benglaru-Babita Kathotia, Shruti Mittal and Surekha Prahlad.*

Anil Kathotia





# Lyricists saved literature

Keeping the tradition alive by using good poetry in films, says songster **Muntashir**



Manoj Muntashir in conversation with Ehsaas Woman of Delhi, Neelima Dalmia Adhar



Manoj Muntashir signing books for the audience

**L**iterature has carved its niche till today in Indian cinema. Our predecessors expressed their creative ingenuity through the songs, poems and dialogues while laying a solid foundation for us. The new generation has no right to raise a poor building on this foundation handed down to us, said Bollywood lyricist and writer Manoj Muntashir.

Speaking about his journey in writing and the role of literature in cinema with moderator Neelima Dalmia Adhar at a session in Kalam, Muntashir admitted, "I have not written a song that does not have streaks of literature."

Reminiscing about his days of struggle, he said, "I was fond of listening to film songs since a young age. When I was in Class X, I started writing poems, songs and ghazals, which got me recognition. It was then that I decided to come to Mumbai from Allahabad University."

The poet and lyricist said he considered the likes of Sahir Ludhianvi, Gulzar and Javed Akhtar among other lyricists as his idol. These lyricists brought great literature to film songs.

He said, "I am trying to keep the tradition alive by penning poems that touch people's hearts in the films."

The select audience that had gathered from across the National Capital Region (NCR) were hooked to the conversation between Muntashir and Neelima.

*Kalam Delhi is in association with Dainik Jagran, Dineshnandini Ramkrishna Dalmia Foundation and Ehsaas Women of Delhi - Anantmala Potdar, Archana Dalmia, Karuna Goenka, Neelima Dalmia Adhar, Ratna Singh and Shazia Ilmi.*



Shazia Ilmi, Ehsaas Woman of Delhi



Manoj Muntashir with Ehsaas Women of Delhi Archana Dalmia, Shazia Ilmi, Neelima Dalmia Adhar, Karuna Goenka and Anantmala Potdar





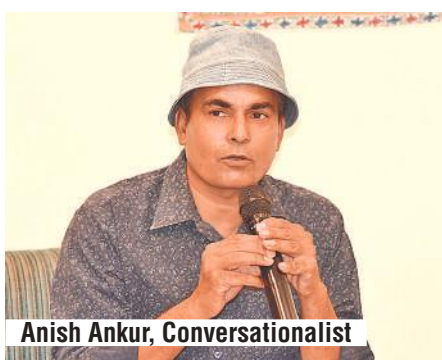
Anish Ankur in conversation with Dr Pravin Kumar

**Dr Pravin Kumar**

While writing a story, the author gets inside a character and finishes writing about its journey



Anvita Pradhan, Ehsaas Woman of Patna



Anish Ankur, Conversationalist



An audience member asking a question

# ‘It is not easy to put a story into words’

**“W**e employ all kinds of means when we wish to know the truth. But I have seen these means that we use to get to the truth can also confuse us.

In small cities, *Rangbaaz* is not born a Chocolate Hero,” best-selling author, Dr Pravin Kumar, said this in a candid conversation with Anish Ankur at **Kalam session** in Patna. He spoke about his story writing and Hindi literature while discussing his book “*Chabila Rangbaaz ka Shahar*”.

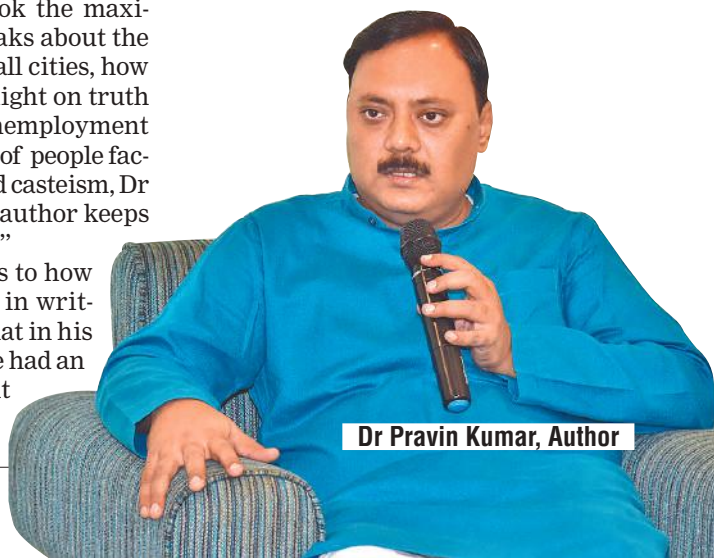
Dr Kumar told the audience that the book has four chapters – *Chabila Rangbaaz ka Shahar*, *Laden Ojha ki Hasraton*, *Naya Zafarnaama* and *Chillax! Leeladhari*. It took more than six months to write each story. *Chabila Rangbaaz ka Shahar* took the maximum time. The book speaks about the struggles of people in small cities, how people who try to throw light on truth are brutally killed, unemployment among youth, and stories of people facing financial problems and casteism, Dr Kumar said, adding, “An author keeps reading the human mind.”

Ankur asked Kumar as to how he developed an interest in writing to which he replied that in his college days, whenever he had an interesting thought about something, he would pen

it down. He said, “It is not easy to write a story, as people think. While writing a story, the author gets inside a character and finishes writing about its journey.” He said an author may have put in his best, but readers are the one who make him or her a ‘hero or zero’.

The author has graduated from the Hindu College, Delhi University. His collection of stories *Chabila Rangbaaz ka Shahar* got Dr Vijay Mohan Singh Smriti Yuva Katha Samman in 2018. The book also received the first Amar Ujala Shabd Samman in 2018. His book was declared bestseller, twice, by Dainik Jagran.

*Kalam Patna is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Dainik Jagran, Chanakya Hotels and Navras School of Performing Arts.*



Dr Pravin Kumar, Author

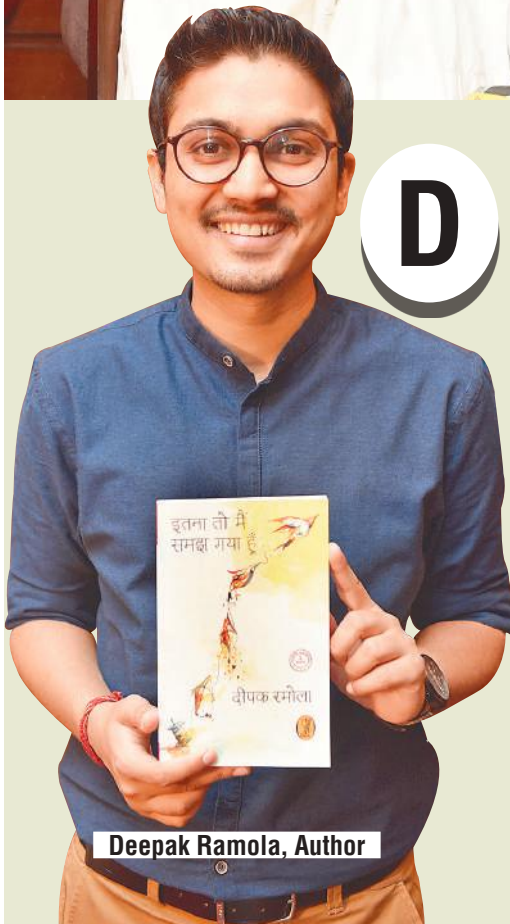


# 'Every Life teaches something'



At FUEL, life lessons are continuously collected, documented and then turned into performance activities.

Ehsaas Woman of Pune, Neelam Seolekar in conversation with Deepak Ramola



Deepak Ramola, Author

**D**eepak Ramola is a man of many talents. He is a lyricist and has written songs for Bollywood films such as *Wazir* and *Manjhi*. He has even acted in a few movies and TV serial, besides being a screenplay writer, script analyst and a poet. His interaction in Kalam session at Pune was with conversationalist Neelam Seolekar. Ramola has been working as a life skills educator since the age of 17 years all over India and serves as

a visiting lecturer at many colleges and schools in Mumbai. He founded **Project FUEL** (Forward the Understanding of Every Life Lesson), through which he began collecting life-lessons of people and then presenting them in different interactive mediums for the world to see.

*Kalam Pune is in association with The O Hotel and Ehsaas Women of Pune - Amita Munot, Neelam Seolekar and Sujata Sabnis.*



Deepak Ramola with Ehsaas Women of Pune-Sujata Sabnis, Neelam Seolekar and Amita Munot





Anurag Kirti in conversation with Arpit Vageria



Vedula Ramalakshmi,  
Ehsaas Woman of Bhubaneswar

## Other than **WRITING**, Vageria mimics & sings

**Y**oung author and television writer Arpit Vageria at Kalam session in Bhubaneswar kept the audience mesmerised with his anecdotes from his life including his first crush, his break-up and others.

Interacting with singer-writer Anurag Kirti, Vageria enthralled the people with his mimicry of Salman Khan, standup comedian Dr Mashoor Gulati and with his singing talent.

Vageria is specially known for his novel 'Be My Perfect Ending' and 'Your are My Reason to Smile'. His books are always the bestseller on Amazon. A screenwriter by profession, Vageria has written screenplays for many programmes on TV channels and award function such as 'Kanpurwale Khuranas' (script of Sunil Grover), 'India's Next Dramebaaz' (Season 2 and

3), Indian Idol-9', 'The Great Indian Laughter Challenge', IIFA Awards (Mandrid-Spain, New York and Thailand 2016-18), Zee Cine Awards and others. He has encouraged youth to write creative literature though his statements at many literature functions and at country's renowned engineering, management and public communication institutions.

Screenwriter in his note said, "From the moment I stepped in Bhubaneswar, Vidula Ma'm, Nidhi and everyone made me feel like home. Such a warm hospitality... You guys are gem. Looking forward to more such events... Would love to come here again... What you are doing for Authors and readers is brilliant. You've literally built the bridge between the two."

*Kalam Bhubaneswar is presented by Shree Cement Ltd in association with Mayfair Hotels Resort & Spa and Ehsaas Women of Bhubaneswar - Nidhi Garg and Dr Vedula Ramalakshmi.*



Nidhi Garg,  
Ehsaas Woman of Bhubaneswar



Anurag Kirti



Arpit Vageria, Author





EHSAAS WOMAN  
OF MUMBAI  
KARISHMA MEHTA



EHSAAS WOMAN  
OF MUMBAI  
SWATI AGARWAL



EHSAAS WOMAN  
OF MUMBAI  
ANVI THAKER



Mudit Jain in conversation  
with Manoj Muntashir

# KALAM & THE KALAMKAR

**W**ithin 24 hours of its publication, lyricist and dialogue writer Manoj Muntashir's first collection of poems, *Meri Fitrat Hai Mastana*, was at the first spot on Amazon in terms of the most sold books. Muntashir has written songs like *Teri Galiyan*, *Tere Sang Yara*, *Kaun Tu jhe*, *Main Phir Bhi Tumko Chahunga*, *Mere Rashke Qamar*, *Dekhste Dekhste*, etc. He has penned the dialogues for *Baahubali*. A poet of this decade, he has given a new meaning to songs in Hindi cinema. Muntashir has won many awards in the film industry and has a strong hold on Hindi literature.

Swati Agarwal marked the formal opening of Kalam. Manoj Muntashir was in conversation with Mudit Jain. He delighted everyone with his fascinating talks about *Meri Fitrat hai Mastana*. The author also shared with the audience about his upcoming books and projects.

As Muntashir spoke about his struggle in Bollywood, the enthusiastic audience asked ques-

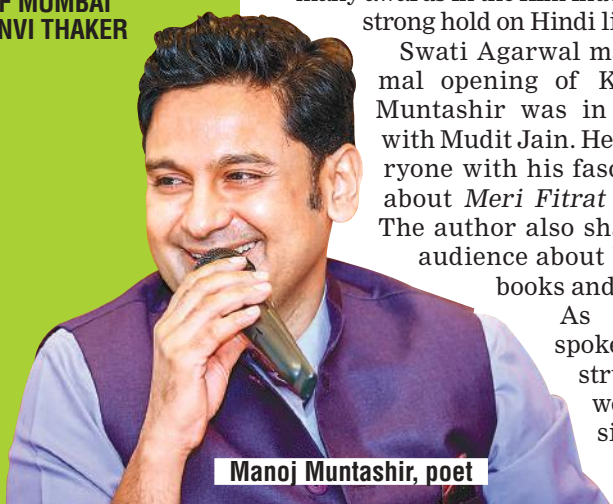
tions on his favourite part of the story, characters and upcoming projects.

In his address, Muntashir said, "In olden days, people used to worship the pen and paper. In the new era, Prabha Khaitan Foundation has carried forward this tradition. They have launched a campaign to present the Kalam (Pen) and Kalamkar (author) before the world with complete honour and respect, which is commendable. Sundeep Bhutoria and his team is like an angel for the writing fraternity and I will pray that the name and fame of 'Kalam' grows."

Prominent people of Mumbai and literature enthusiasts attended the event.

Amit Kumar gave a vote of thanks, while Anvi Thaker presented a memento to Muntashir. Each guest was given a signed copy of Muntashir.

*Kalam Mumbai is held in association with ITC Grand Central and Ehsaas Women of Mumbai - Anvi Thaker, Karishma Mehta, Ketki Bhatia and Swati Agarwal.*



Manoj Muntashir, poet



Vote of thanks by  
Amit Kumar,  
GM of ITC  
Grand Central



**Paddy Upton**, speaker and mental coach, believes that the knowledge of what needs to be done sits in the collective, and should come from the inputs of everyone in the group



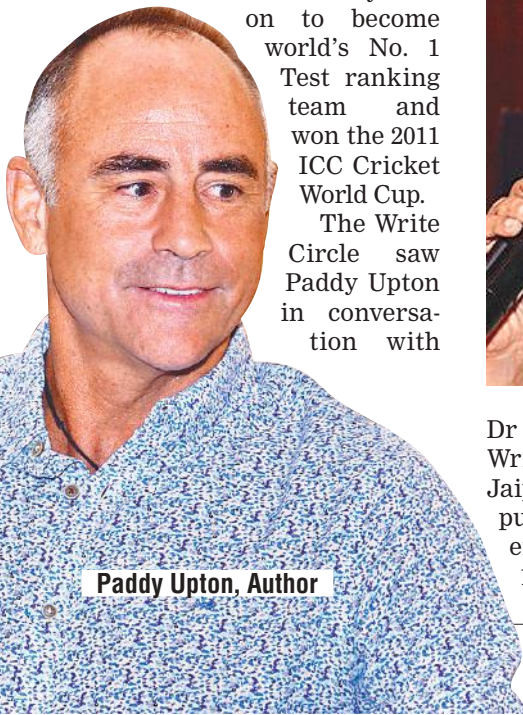
Rajan Mahan in conversation with Paddy Upton

## Cricket was life-changing experience: Upton

**P**addy Upton, a celebrated fitness trainer and mental coach to cricketers across world, said his cricket journey was not just about the sport but about life itself, and it has been a life-changing experience for him.

Paddy is an acclaimed speaker, a university professor, and mental coach to professional athletes from ten countries and eleven different sports. He was the first full-time fitness trainer in international cricket and served as the mental conditioning and strategic leadership coach of the Indian cricket team when they went on to become world's No. 1 Test ranking team and won the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup.

The Write Circle saw Paddy Upton in conversation with



Paddy Upton, Author



Mita Kapur

Dr Rajan Mahan. This episode of the Write Circle marked the re-launch of Jaipur chapter of this series. Mita Kapur, CEO Siyahi, introduced the audience to the event that took place on 14th May 2019 at the ITC Rajputana,

Jaipur. The session focused on his book, *The Barefoot Coach: Life Changing Insights from Coaching the World's Best Cricketers*.

Dr Mahan, a professor of Journalism, began the conversation by introducing Paddy as being not just an enthusiastic sports coach, but also very innovative in his approach. In Upton's words, "All of us are born with talents, and we should be grateful for whatever talents we are gifted with." His first step in coaching was to make himself see all the players, not as cricketers but as human beings, with their different paths and journeys that had led them together. He said, "Today, it is no longer possible to be the expert in any field, there is always somebody who knows more and that's Siri".

Upton believes that the knowledge of what needs to be done sits in the collective, and should come from the inputs of everyone in the group. He spoke about his first interaction with the Indian cricket team, and how fruitfully this concept has paid off since then.

This discussion was followed by a question and answer session where Upton graciously took to all the questions by the audience. In the end, Sudhir Mathur presented memento to him.

*The Write Circle Jaipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with ITC Rajputana, Siyahi, Spagia Foundation and Ehsaas Women of Jaipur-Apra Kuchhal, Kulsum Malik and Sunita Shekhawat.*





**Daman Singh, Author**

# MATHS TAUGHT ME TO BE CLEAR AND OBJECTIVE

An author of four books, **Daman Singh**, daughter of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, speaks about her latest book, *Kitty's War*

**D**aman Singh, Daughter of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, shared about her life, her writings, her previous work and her interests in conversation with Dr Vikas Balia. Daman has published three novels - *Nine by Nine* in 2008, *The Sacred Grove* in 2010, and *Kitty's War* in 2018. She also wrote a biography of her parents, titled *Strictly Personal: Manmohan & Gursharan*.

Prabha Khaitan Foundation & Ehsaas Women of Jodhpur hosted the first session of Write Circle with Daman Singh at Hotel Taj Hari Mahal Palace, Jodhpur. Write Circle is a series to promote English Writings. Shelja Singh from Ehsaas Women of Jodhpur delivered the welcome address.

Talking about her novel 'Kitty's War', she said the novel is about an Anglo Indian woman during the freedom struggle in India at the time of World War-II. She explained how mathematics, which she studied as an undergraduate, taught her to be clear, objective and logical, while rural management taught her to inquire into social and economic aspects that were fundamentals of real-world issues.

*The Write Circle Jodhpur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Taj Hari Mahal and Ehsaas Women of Jodhpur - Preeti Mehta, Shelja Singh and Sushma Niraj Sethia.*



**Conversationalist, Dr Vikas Balia**



**Ehsaas Woman of Jodhpur, Shelja Singh**



**Ehsaas Woman of Jodhpur, Sushma Niraj Sethia**



**Devendra Singh Ratnawat presenting a memento to Daman Singh**



Author **Shubanghi Swarup** tells conversationalist **Bhawana Detha** about her experiences in writing

# ‘My life changed with writing’

**M**y life has changed with writing. When I started writing -- from the beginning till the completion of the book -- I felt many changes happening in myself,” said author Shubhangi Swarup shared her experiences in writing.

Swarup was talking to conversationalist Bhawana Detha at Write Circle Udaipur. For her debut novel, *Latitudes of Longing* that is based on nature, she travelled from Ladakh to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. She gathered experiences from every part of the country during her travels, weaving the same into her book through words.

Swarup said, “Earlier I had faith, now I have faith by virtue of experience.” She also mentioned that freedom of speech and expression is threatened in most of our neighbouring countries.

*Latitudes of Longing* was released in August 2018 and was immediately

shortlisted for the JCB Prize for literature. It also won the Tata Lit Live prize for debut fiction. It is now a best-seller and will be published by Penguin Random House worldwide in May 2020, along with translations in many foreign languages like French, Turkish and Taiwanese.

She has worked as a print journalist, Virtual Reality journalist and educationist in the past. She was awarded the Charles Pick Fellowship for Creative Writing by the University of East Anglia and has won two national Laadli media awards for gender sensitivity in journalism.

*Write Circle Udaipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Radisson Blu and Ehsaas Women of Udaipur - Kanika Agarwal, Mumal Bhandari, Riddhima Doshi, Shraddhaa Murdia, Shubh Singhvi and Swati Agarwal.*



Bhawana Detha, Conversationalist



**Earlier I had faith, now I have faith by virtue of experience. When I started writing, from the beginning till the completion of the book, I felt many changes happening in myself.**



Shubhangi Swarup and Bhawana Detha with Ehsaas Women of Udaipur, Riddhima Doshi and Swati Agarwal



Shubhangi Swarup, Author



This special section of our newsletter is dedicated to an **Ehsaas Woman of the Month**. **Shruti Mittal** is in focus this month



Shruti Mittal is a Business Management Graduate who's actively involved in family business. As the Chairperson of FICCI FLO Bangalore Chapter, she believes in creating space for everyone and is a strong advocate of peaceful co-existence.

She is a multi-tasking woman and juggles her time between work, her children, commitments at home and social engagements. As a mother, she dotes on her two daughters who have stepped inside the world of young adults. "My teen daughters top my list of priorities and are a source of endless joy!" She says her eyes brimming with excitement.

Her hobbies include reading, travelling and cooking. Mittal loves spending time with children and volunteers at the NGOs. She works with them and gives back to the society that has blessed her with a privileged life. She is also a self-styled Event co-coordinator for a variety of occasions and events. She is a gregarious and outgoing person and loves meeting new people and indulging in new experiences.

Her mantra in life is for symbiotic growth. "I truly believe that we constantly need to step out of our comfort zone to grow and evolve. Live and let live is my policy in life!" She said.

## MY DAUGHTERS TOP MY LIST OF PRIORITIES



**PRABHA**  
WISHES EHSAA  
WOMEN BORN IN  
JUNE A VERY  
**HAPPY B'DAY!**



2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunita Shekhawat



6<sup>th</sup>  
Ketki Bhatia



7<sup>th</sup>  
Sujata Sabnis



16<sup>th</sup>  
Preeti Mehta



22<sup>nd</sup>  
Sushma N Sethia



# WHEN KIDS TURNED GUARDIANS OF SAPPLINGS

Looking back at the initiative where the Foundation joined hands with Spagia Foundation to help save the environment



Vinnie and Saurabh Kakkar with Sundeep Bhutoria at ITC Rajputana last year

**F**rom carrying their own metal straws that replace plastic ones at restaurants and takeaway joints, using bamboo toothbrushes, to installing special nozzles that use less water in kitchens and bathrooms, conscious citizens believe these small changes in their lifestyle can go a long way toward saving the environment and reducing various kinds of pollution.

This month, as the world celebrated *Environment Day*, **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** dedicated its activities to create awareness about the environment we live in. The foundation has conducted drives to sensitive patrons, citizens and young children, in particular, to work towards creating a greener earth.

As a part of the campaign last year,



Vinnie Kakkar and Jayshree Periwal take part in the drive held last year

children were given saplings to plant within the premises of ITC Rajputana in Jaipur. The drive was organised by **Go Green, Sustainable Development Goals, Prabha Khaitan Foundation, ITC Rajputana Hotel and Spagia Foundation.**

Organisations associated with art, culture, industry, literature, theatre,

development sector and social activities took part in this event. Each organisation and their representative planted a sapling to return to nature what it gives us in abundance: care. Participating children are made guardians of the plants after the drive.

A large number of volunteers and organisations take part in the event every year. These are: Rajasthan Forum, We Care, Grass Root Media Foundation, Mala Mathur Memorial Trust, Rangmastane, Peoples Media Theatre, Darshak, Jaipur Citizen Forum, Help In Suffering, Roop Rang Kala Sanskar, Shruti Mandal, Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators (RATO), Harar, Hotel Hilton Jaipur, Hotel Taj Jai Mahal Palace, Jayshree Periwal Foundation, Federation of Rajasthan Handicraft Exporters (FORHEX) and IIHA, among others.







# 13 acres of serenity in heart of city

Spread over 13 acres of lush greenery, it is a home away from home offering an unmatched space for solitude and for spending quality time with your loved ones for a truly memorable experience



**Ian Dubier**  
incumbent GM of Taj Krishna



**K Mohanchandran**  
Outgoing GM of Taj Krishna, Hyderabad

**T**aj Krishna, is the ideal destination for travellers to the city of Nizams, located in **Banjara Hills**, a central location in Hyderabad, The hotel offers easy access to both the old city of Hyderabad and its modern twin city Secunderabad, making it a perfect choice for both business and leisure travellers.

Prabha Khaitan Foundation hosts the Kalam and Write Circle at Taj Krishna, which lies in the centre of 13 acres of serene greenery. The calm waters of Hussain Sagar Lake are in the immediate neighbourhood. Shopping for luxury brands has never been easier with a range of options (Montblanc, Canali, Bang & Olufsen, Lladro, Tod's, Burberry

and Ermenegildo Zegna) in within the hotel.

For gastronomical delights, step inside the restaurants where our chefs indulge you with delicious recipes. Authentic speciality restaurants include *Golden Dragon*, the chain of Chinese restaurants from Taj offering the best of Sichuan and Cantonese delicacies. *Firdaus* takes to you the North West Frontier province. *Encounters*, the 24-hour All Day Diner serves up an interesting medley of Continental, Mediterranean and Indian fare.

*The Seasons Bar and Lounge* provide the perfect setting to unwind and relax. Enjoy the high tea offered at the lounge or experiment with the drinks served up by our award-winning bartender. For quick makeovers during your stay, explore the HQ Salon; or rejuvenate yourself at our Jacuzzi by the pool. Taj Krishna is the ideal location for you to make moments you hold dear memorable. The sprawling lawns and spaces offer an unmatched proposition that you will not find elsewhere.

## The very best of Nizami hospitality

- Authentic speciality restaurants
- 13 acres of greenery in Banjara Hills, Hyderabad
- Open-air and closed banqueting spaces
- Best of luxury brands under one roof



## IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

GUEST	EVENT
Pratyaksha Sinha	Kalam Amritsar
Manoj Muntashir	Kalam Ahmedabad
Farhat Shahzad	Kalam Patna
Kundan Mali	Aakhar Jaipur
Adam Burakowski	Ek Mulakat Jaipur
Haladhar Nag	Aakhar Bhubaneswar
Irshad Kamil	Kalam Jodhpur
Bhaavna Arora	The Write Circle Bengaluru
Arun Kamal	Kalam Ranchi
Sunita Kohli	The Write Circle Hyderabad, Kitaab Book Launch Bengaluru
Neelima Dalmia Adhar	The Write Circle Oxford & Birmingham
Yatindra Mishra	Kalam Gurugram & Meerut
Naveen Choudhary	Kalam Ajmer
Madan Mohan Danish	Lafz Jaipur



Pratyaksha Sinha



Manoj Muntashir



Farhat Shahzad



Kundan Mali



Adam Burakowski



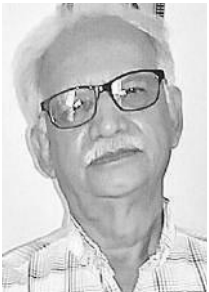
Haladhar Nag



Irshad Kamil



Bhaavna Arora



Arun Kamal



Sunita Kohli



Neelima Dalmia  
Adhar



Yatindra Mishra



Naveen Choudhary



Madan Mohan  
Danish

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