



Prabha प्रभा

WHAT SAVING THE TIGER MEANS

How many of us have actually “Saved a Tiger”? And as the saying goes, “In the wilderness don’t leave anything behind except footsteps, and don’t take anything except memories.” How many of us have ever caused an uproar to save the big striped cat? Ranthambore, one of the biggest homes to the tigers in India, usually doesn’t witness human-tiger conflict. However, over the years, the fortunate increase in the population of felines has resulted in the animals occupying territories in the fringe areas of the reserve. Also, the sex ratio of tigers, which is skewed towards the males, has led to younger males wandering away from the core habitat to mark new territories. This is usually when conflicts arise if they happen to pass through human dominated landscapes. **Daulat Singh Shaktawat**, an awarded forest official, narrates the terrifying encounter with a tiger and how he almost ended up losing his life while trying to save the big cat from a mob of irate villagers.

Page 4-6

*The author has served four decades in conserving wildlife in Rajasthan. He writes exclusively for Prabha, which holds the torch to **International Tiger Day** observed on July 29.*

INSIDE



SHAPING DREAMS FROM CONCRETE

32



‘EVIL IS A LOADED WORD’

28-29

‘WE MUST TRUST EACH OTHER’

27

THE ONE WHO NURTURES LIKE A RIVER

33



INSIDE

LITERATURE BINDS PEOPLE

7



STARRY START TO ART & LITERARY JOURNEY

9

SCRIPTURES SHOW THE WAY

10

‘GIVE VITAMIN TO YOUR ZINDAGI’

15

TALES OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

16-17

मैं लगातार खुद को
चुनौतियाँ देता रहता हूँ

22

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS POETIC

30-31



Prabha
ख़ातन 02

The Foundation is going green, we seek your help



As conscious
citizens, we are
encouraging all
our associates
to discourage
the use of
plastic bottles
in all our events



MANISHA JAIN

Communications & Branding chief,
Prabha Khaitan Foundation

We are gratified with the astounding response we are receiving to our chronicle, once again. The fascinating articles that pour in every month is being applauded by our readers and associates alike. In this issue, we are offering an interesting assortment of articles that range from exclusive write-ups on conserving the big cats on the International Tiger Day to how the festival of *Guru Purnima* is a tribute to the wonderful teachers who nurture us like a river.

In a larger perspective, the pressing issue of environmental degradation continues to abound around us. The **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** is trying to do its bit to counter this issue. As conscious citizens of the community, we are encouraging all our associates to discourage the use of plastic bottles in all our events.

As always, your feedback and support has been a pivotal force behind this chronicle. You may write to us at newsletter@pkfoundation.org. We hope to have your continuous patronage and participation. Do keep sharing your invaluable thoughts and views as they are the echoes of the Foundation's renderings. To get more updates, you can now catch us on instagram at [@prabhakhaitanfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/prabhakhaitanfoundation).

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE



The Foundation offers its tribute to Mother Teresa on her birth anniversary that falls on August 26. Dr Prabha Khaitan, who mothered the Foundation, had actively supported the endeavours of Mother Teresa dedicated to the community

Happy Birthday

**PRABHA
WISHES
EHSAAS
WOMEN
BORN IN
AUGUST**



1st

Kalpana Chaudhary



5th

Nidhi Garg



12th

Anantmala Potdar



22nd

Dona Ganguly



23rd

Ina Puri

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE



neelima dalmia adhar
@neelimaadhar

#jaipurtoDelhi @FoundationPK
@ArchanaDalmia @grvthinks



WE CELEBRATE 40 SESSIONS OF KALAM JAIPUR AND RAISE A TOAST TO LITERATURE IN OUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

SNAPSHOT OF THE MONTH



Manoj Muntashir ✓
@manojmuntashir

“Leejiye, ghat gayi ye bhi ghatna...
Manoj Muntashir chale Patna..!!!”
Milye hain aaj shaam. @Kalam_North
@Kitabwali @FoundationPK @
sundeepbhutoria



DAULAT SINGH SHAKTAWAT

I was born in Deoli-Tonk (Rajasthan), neighbouring the capital city of Jaipur. For more than 37 years (excluding 3 years of forestry and wildlife training), I have served in the wildlife wing of the Forest Department, Government of Rajasthan. During my entire service, my maximum tenure served was at the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

I have been posted as a Forest Officer and was entrusted with the forest and wildlife protection, conservation being the primary task cut out for us. Between 2011 and 2017, I worked as a Research Officer where my key role was to monitor and take measures for conserving the threatened and endangered species, like the Royal Bengal Tigers and leopards.

I was presented with the opportunity of attending to, and helping resolve critical rescue operations that included among other things, tranquilising and dispersing big carnivores like tigers and panthers, which would wander into the adjoining villages of Ranthambore and Sariska Tiger Reserve. Tranquilisations outside the protected areas were always challenging due to enormous human pressure. They were, sometimes, an essential part of reducing Man-Animal conflict in crisis, but came at the risk of placing my and the team's life in the line of fire, every single time.

However, the feeling of having successfully rescued a wild life inside and outside the protected area is priceless and one which kept the nature lover in me going all these years.

One of the incidents that happened during my tenure at the Ranthambore National Park took place some nine years ago on the 20th of August 2010. A T-7 (male tiger) had strayed into a village some 40 kilometers from the district headquarters of Sawai Madhopur, home to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The village named Bhuri Pahadi is located on the periphery of the Tiger Reserve where the big cat had ended up killing a buffalo.



**'THE DAY WHEN I
ALMOST DIED
SAVING A TIGER'**

AWARDED FOREST OFFICER, **DAULAT SINGH SHAKTAWAT**, RECOUNTS HIS CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A TIGER THAT LEFT HIS FACE MUTILATED

A crowd of irate villagers had gathered around the tiger agitated over the killing of the bovine and afraid of the striped beast. The crowd had become unruly and was uncontrollable. They had started pelting stones on the tiger and had forced him to take cover in the nearby agriculture fields.

I was instructed to tranquilise the tiger in the presence of the enraged crowd to dissipate the tension and secure the tiger. However, the cacophony in the area and the aggressive behaviour of locals had irritated the tiger to a great extent. Due to dense cropping, tranquilising was not possible in the area where we stood. So, we fired crackers to distract the tiger and lead him away from the mob of villagers.

The tiger acted on instinct and moved towards the forest area but was again obstructed by the agitated crowd. We were forced by the mob to tranquilise the tiger in the middle of the field. I tried to tranquilise the beast, but due to dense shrub cover and ground vegetation it was not properly visible and kept dodging us.

The situation had become very critical. From a twig to the tiger, every living being seemed to be losing patience and not sitting tight any more. I climbed with my tranquillising team on a small mound that lay on one side of the agriculture field. From my newly acquired vantage point, I could spot the stripes on the tiger that was effectively hidden behind the standing crops. The tiger, I could sense, was also aware of our presence. After a while, he stood up and ambled towards the forest area and before long disappeared from my view.

The mob was unrelenting. It continued to pelt stones and shout at the invisible intruder. A sudden, deep-throated roar drew me to the tiger that had magically reappeared from behind



the shrubs and was right there in front of me. When it was hardly 4 to 5 feet from where I was standing, it jumped at me. Before I could even realise, I was already being mauled by the tiger. The attack was so swift that I didn't get any time to retreat.

I tried to prevent a direct attack on the face by raising my right hand in defense. The tiger caught my right hand and pawed my right shoulder in a volley of fierce jabs. I fell on the ground due to the impact of the blow. I could sense my head between the tiger canines and imagined it to be my end closing in. By that time, however, the shock had settled down and the Forest Guards accompanying me rushed to my rescue.

They came at the big cat with the *Lathis*

(sticks) and landed several blows on the animal. The sudden retaliation caught tiger off-guard. It left me as quickly it had attacked me, roared in anger and the fled away. Some of my team members chased the tiger. Many of the villagers who were until then throwing stones and shouting on top of their voices had either made their retreat or had ran away from the spot.

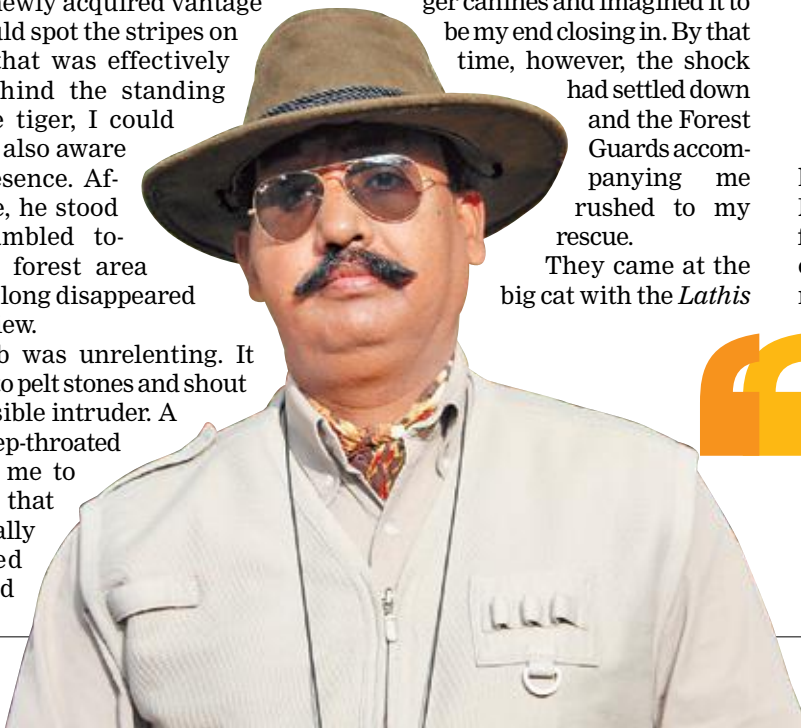
I was critically injured and felt death sneaking up on me. The attack had left me with a mauled face and I was bleeding from many places. I managed to stand up holding the torn flesh of my face with one hand. I got my horrified colleagues to understand the need to arrange units of blood corresponding to my group.

We were rushed to Sawai Madhopur and then flown to the Sawai Man Singh Hospital by an official flight sent by the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan. I lost one eye and the right side of my face completely to



The attack had left me with a mauled face and I was bleeding from several places. I managed to stand up holding the torn flesh of my face with one hand and asked by colleagues to arrange for my blood group

— Daulat Singh Shaktawat





ABOUT RANTHAMBORE

The Government of India constituted "Project Tiger" in 1973 to dedicatedly work for the conservation of the national animal "Tiger" which was on the brink of extinction. During the first year, a total of 9 forested areas were designated as Tiger Reserves. Ranthambore Tiger Reserve was one of them.

the attack by tiger. My face was almost paralysed and had to be retrofitted with three steel plates and twenty two screws before the doctors operated on me to reconstruct my face.

After the near-fatal accident where I was on the edge of losing my life, I have spent years on treatment, which is still an ongoing process. But after a year of the incident, I took the decision to serve Ranthambore Tiger Reserve once again.

I was informed later that the tiger which had attacked me had travelled from Karauli and Bayana in Rajasthan to Mathura in the adjoining district of Uttar Pradesh. Two months after the accident, on October 10, 2010, it ended up at the Keoladeo-Ghana National Park. In February 2011, I joined the WII team. A team from the forest department at Keoladeo park in Bharatpur tranquilised the tiger, which was translocated to the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar. Now he is a resident male tiger with a new identity ST- 6 of Sariska Tiger Reserve.

In the year 2017, after my retirement, I trained the frontline staff (Forest Guard to Range Forest Officer) in monitoring and tracking the big cats, including tiger and leopards, on direction of the state government. During this course I have also worked on translocation of male tiger MT1 to Mukundra Tiger Project, the third sanctuary for the big cats in Rajasthan after Ranthambore and Sariska. During this period I have been closely associated with the tracking and monitoring of big cats, both in soft enclosures and even after the hard release, and up to the final settlement in the surroundings.

FOUNDATION FOR COEXISTENCE

Prabha Khaitan Foundation joins hands with activists and wildlife lovers to create awareness. In the month of July, the Foundation joined hands with Society for Heritage & Ecological Researches (SHER) to raise awareness on Tiger conservation to mark the International Tiger Day in Kolkata



Daulat Singh Shaktawat and Pradeep Vyas



Children performing a play



Felicitations of Daulat Singh Shaktawat



Audience at the event



Ehsaas Women of Bengaluru, Surekha Prahlad and Shruti Mittal, with Manisha Kulshreshtha and Kavita Pania



Pinky Jain, Pramod Jain & Anil Kathotia

LITERATURE BINDS PEOPLE

AUTHOR **MANISHA KULSHRESHTHA** SAYS LANGUAGE IS THE TOOL, IT'S LITERATURE THAT CONNECTS US

It turned out to be an engaging session on books, language and literature, at the **Kalam** session held in Bengaluru. Manisha Kulshreshtha, who is an acclaimed author in Hindi, acknowledged modestly that one would find the reflection of "*Prabhaji*" her *guru* in her work. Her work has been honoured by the Rajasthan Sahitya Academy and has been conferred the Geetanjali Indo – French Literary Prize Jury Award.

While conversing with Kavita Pania, she spoke of literature as the one thing that truly connects people. "Language is just a tool, it is actually literature that connects lives," she told the audience that had gathered at the Taj West End, Bengaluru. She said, "Literature is like that window that opens up other people's lives around us." "We can peer through the window of literature to look at the lives and the stories unfolding in other states," she told the audience.

The author of popular novels like *Kahani Sangraha*, *Kathputliyan*, *Kuch Bhi To Rumani Nahi*, *Mallika* and *Swapnash* was in conversation with Dr Kavita Pania – a poet, freelance writer, thinker, editor and lecturer on July 3 in Bengaluru as part of the **Kalam** series. She very shyly admitted that her brush with writing began with a love story in class X which she had submitted to the *Sarita* magazine.

Born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Manisha humbly admitted her evolution from a writer to a novelist was a result of a challenge thrown by Hindi fiction writer Rajendra Yadav.

She sadly acknowledged her struggle



Manisha Kulshreshtha in conversation with Kavita Pania

We can peer through the window of literature to look at the lives and the stories unfolding in other states of the country. It opens us up to others

— Manisha Kulshreshtha

in the world of Cinema where her novel *Kalindi* was made into a movie without her acknowledgement. She is embroiled in a battle with producers of Marathi film *Nude*, who she claims have plagiarised her story of *Kalindi*.

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

KALAM SERIES OPENED ITS INNINGS IN NAGPUR WITH CELEBRATED POET AND SONGWRITER **MANOJ MUNTASHIR** BATTING FOR THE LITERARY EVENT



Manoj Muntashir in conversation with Lokendra Singh

FROM POET'S PEN

There's nothing called bad experience



Jyoti Kapoor, Ehsaas Woman of Nagpur

He is known as the *Baahubali* of songwriters and dialogue writers in today's Bollywood. And, it was only fitting that he opened the innings for **Kalam** series hosted under the aegis of **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** in Nagpur city.

Bollywood songwriter Manoj Muntashir enthralled the audience at the inaugural **Kalam** session in Nagpur with his wit and his inimitable *andaaz* (style) of *shayari* (poetry). He was introduced by Dr Lokendra Singh with a couplet in Urdu before proceeding to ask about his pen name and now his Surname 'Muntashir'.

"Why Muntashir? Doesn't it mean scattered, disorderly, diffused," asked Singh. Muntashir chose to respond to

“Salaam karte hain raaste bhi usko jiske pairon mein chaale hote hain (There's nothing called a bad experience in life)

— Manoj Muntashir



Monica Bhagwagar, Ehsaas Woman of Nagpur



Manoj Bali, General Manager of Radisson Blu, Nagpur

the question with a *shayari*. "*Bikhar jana hai khushboo ki tarah* (I wish to be scattered around like the fragrance of a flower)," he told the audience. Speaking of Bollywood, he insisted the Mumbai film industry is a fair industry. Manoj said he believes in versatility and has been experimenting with all kinds of writing. In the course of conversation, he spoke at length how he has been trying to give a platform to the fledgling talent through his production company. While answering one of the participants during the Q&A session, he made it point to elaborate why "poets are born" and "can't be churned out of institutes".

Kalam Nagpur is in association with Lokmat, Radisson Blu Hotel Nagpur and Ehsaas women of Nagpur- Jyoti Kapoor, Monica Bhagwagar, Neeta Singh, Parveen Tuli, Priyanka Kothari

Apra Kuchhal, Manoj Muntashir, Sundeep Bhutoria with Ehsaas Women of Nagpur, Neeta Singh, Parveen Tuli, Jyoti Kapoor, Priyanka Kothari and Monica Bhagwagar



A gala dinner was hosted after the maiden **Kalam** session to mark the beginning of **Prabha Khaitan Foundation's** activities in Nagpur on July 11. The dinner was attended by the who's who of city, including songwriter **Manoj Muntashir**



Neeru Kapai with Priyanka Kothari, Ehsaas Woman of Nagpur

STARRY START TO ART & LITERARY JOURNEY



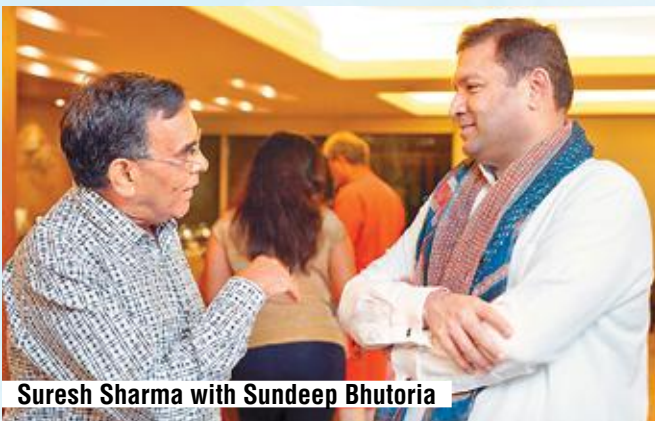
Manoj Muntashir with Kalpana Sharma and Hira Mulani



Arun Upadhaya



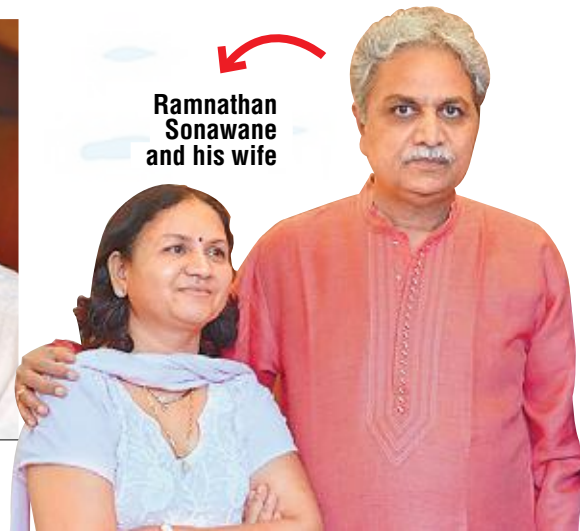
Annu Kale Chabrani



Suresh Sharma with Sundeep Bhutoria



Hemant Lodha



Ramnathan Sonawane and his wife



Shubha Vilas with Vinnie Kakkar, National Advisor, Prabha Khaitan Foundation

AUTHOR, SPEAKER, LIFESTYLE COACH AND STORYTELLER **SHUBHA VILAS** SAYS ANCIENT TEXTS CAN TELL US HOW TO LEAD OUR LIVES IN MODERN TIMES

SCRIPTURES SHOW THE WAY

An engaging discussion about the relevance of ancient texts in modern times was the highlight of **The Write Circle** session held in Jaipur on July 10.

Author Shubha Vilas shared his version of simplified tales from the ancient epics and the *Puranas*, as featured in his book *Mystical Tales For A Magical Life* in conversation with Swati Vashishtha at ITC Rajputana.

In the session, introduced by Mita Kapur, CEO of *Siyahi*, Vilas shared how he formed his myriad views on life by making observations from great texts. He spoke about adopting the middle way of approaching ancient scriptures: an approach which is neither too traditional nor too modern.

The author calls his books a mode of “enlightening entertainment”, they

procure entertainment by enlightening readers with stories from the *Puranas* and the great epics.

He quoted Kambamuni, who had said that Valmiki’s *Ramayana* is like an ocean of milk, before which he is a mere cat; the scriptures are like oceans, we can ingest only as much as our appetite suffices. “The epics are mainly *itihaas* or history, they bear the real facts, as both Vyasdev and Valmiki had written the epics, while the real events had taken place,” he added. Mementos were later presented to the author and the moderator by Vinnie Kakkar.

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*

“ Mahabharata teaches how to live your life. Ramayana teaches how to lead. Srimad-Bhagavatam teaches, how to leave the world — **Shubha Vilas**



Mita Kapur



Swati Vashishtha



Vijay Trivedi

Politics, from a journalist's eyes



Shweta Aggarwal,
Ehsaas Woman of Faridabad



Tarun Gupta

Politicians, politics and the lives of journalists were on a common stage during the **Kalam** Faridabad session held on July 13. Writer and journalist Vijay Trivedi, in conversation with Tarun Gupta, spoke about his experience with politicians in his career spanning over three decades.

The veteran journalist, who has travelled from Kashmir to Kanyakumari covering various elections across the country for various media including print, radio, television and digital, advised the audience – don't trust politicians. He added that it was especially true for journalists.

Discussing his book, *BJP - Kal, Aaj aur Kal*, Trivedi also shared insights on the Bharatiya Janata Party. He spoke about AB Vajpayee, LK Advani and Amit Shah-Modi eras, talking about how Shah gained the stature he enjoys in the party today.

The audience listened keenly to the conversation and savoured the nuggets of information Trivedi shared about the RSS and how it has expanded its wings to a Muslim Shakha and an Internet Shakha.

"Gone are the days when you could see a karyakarta walking on the streets; they are now seen sending information directly to millions," Trivedi said. He added that since the Congress has a ten percent voter bank, not small by any means, 2023 would be an interesting election year.

Trivedi is also the author of *Yada Yada Hi Yogi*, based on the life of Yogi Adityanath that has been a bestseller, and *Haar Nahi Manoonga, Ek Atal Jeevan Gaatha*, based on the life of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The welcome address and the vote of thanks was given by Shweta Aggarwal, **Ehsaas** Woman of Faridabad. Rohit Jain, Chairman DPS gave away the memento to the author.

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



Gone are the days when you could see a karyakarta walking on the streets; they are now seen sending information directly to millions

— Vijay Trivedi

WRITER AND LYRICIST **DEEPAK RAMOLA** TALKS OF RELATIONSHIPS, TRAVELLING AND SAYS THAT EVERY PERSON'S LIFE STORY HAS A LESSON TO GIVE

Morning notes on POETRY



Deepak Ramola in conversation with Swati Gautam

The **Kalam** audience in Kolkata were in for a scintillating session of poetry by Deepak Ramola on July 14. Relaxed like the Sunday morning when the session was held, Ramola mesmerised the audience as he recited his poetry. He reminisced his Kolkata connect as he built up the tempo for a poetic atmosphere at The Park.

A featured United Nations TED speaker, educator, writer and lyricist, Ramola has penned lyrics for films like *Manjhi* and *Wazir*. He shared a precious moment from his professional journey – meeting his idol, poet Gulzar on the very first day of his career. The lyricist-writer, who was in conversation with Swati Gautam, said, “Talent is not a gift to conserve, it is a responsibility to portray.” He recited poems like *Ek Bura Swapna*, *Do khidkiyan* and *Woh Lamha*.

Ramola spoke about the recurring themes of relationships and water in his poetry. “There is a connection. We are born out of the relationship between mountains and water. I was told by an elderly person during my travel that unexpressed sorrows pile up to



MK Singh felicitating Deepak Ramola

become mountains. Too many sorrows make a strong mountain,” he shared. “She said one should also let the sorrow flow if one finds it difficult to understand. So mountains and water have so much strength that they can give relief to people suffering from sorrows,” Ramola added.

On gathering knowledge to write about diverse subjects, he added, “We all will get knowledge simply by interacting with people. The

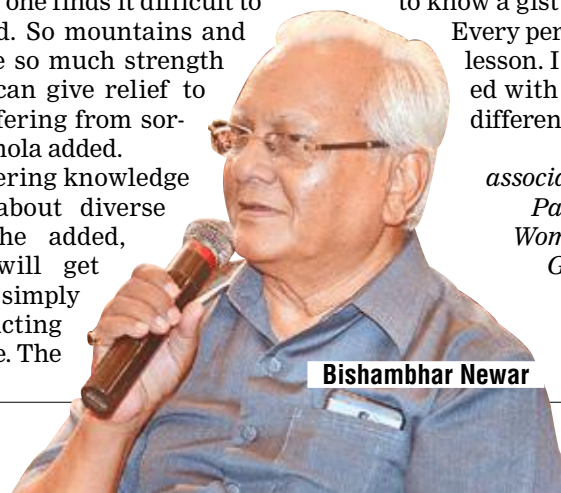
“The thing is we don’t talk about lessons from life nowadays at the dinner table. If we interact with people, we will get to know a gist of their life lessons. Every person is able to teach a lesson

— Deepak Ramola

thing is we don’t talk about lessons from life nowadays at the dinner table. If we interact with people, we will get to know a gist of their life lessons.

Every person is able to teach a lesson. I have so far interacted with people belonging to different age groups.”

Kalam Kolkata is in association with Taaza Tv, Park Hotel and Ehsaas Women of Kolkata-Dona Ganguly, Esha Dutta, Gouri Basu, Malika Varma and Nilisha Agarwal



Bishambhar Newar

AUTHOR **SUNITA KOHLI** SAYS HER MOTHER'S EVERYDAY RECIPES INSPIRED HER TO CO-AUTHOR HER BOOK ON AWADHI CUISINES

FROM LAHORE TO LUCKNOW,

A CULINARY JOURNEY



Sunita Kohli in conversation with Apurva Agrawal

An interior and furniture designer, who specialises in historical architectural restoration, Sunita Kohli mesmerised the audience at **The Write Circle** session in Raipur with her unique perspectives on life, the amazing journey of her book, and anecdotes about culinary delights from the *Lucknowi* region.

During the session held at Hyatt Hotel, Raipur, on July 15, the author and designer spoke about her book *The Lucknow Cookbook* and shared about the post-partition generation, the ingrained secular *tehzeeb* and the way of life of Lucknow and its warm people in conversation with Apurva Agarwal. “Food plays an important role in every



Harkaran Singh, General Manager of Hyatt Raipur

family and each family has its food traditions,” she said, adding, “the book is not just about Awadhi cuisine but about everyday food.” Kohli said the inspiration for writing the book came

“Lucknow has always had a vast and interesting variety of food that has belonged to different cultures and cuisines. Cooks and chefs took the best of the ideas, absorbed them into their current cuisines and made it into a uniquely Lucknowi experience

— Sunita Kohli

after an interaction with her mother, who is also its co-author, and their zeal to put down some time-tested, delectable recipes from everyday cooking.

Aanchal Garcha, **Ehsaas** Woman of Raipur, marked the formal opening of the event. The event saw the presence of prominent people of Raipur and literature enthusiasts. Ajay Singh presented mementos to Kohli, while Apurva Agrawal was presented a memento by Mrs Mohite. Guests took signed copies of Kohli’s book and appreciated the efforts of **Ehsaas Women** and **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** for bringing such insightful events to the city.

The Write Circle Raipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Hyatt Raipur and Ehsaas Women of Raipur-Aanchal Garcha, Kalpana Chaudhary, Kirti Kirdatt and Shrishti Trivedi



Ehsaas Women of Raipur — Shrishti Trivedi, Kalpana Chaudhary, Kirti Kirdatt and Aanchal Garcha

THE CHANGE BEGINS WITH OURSELVES

NAVEEN CHOUDHARY, AUTHOR OF *JANTA STORE*, SHARES HOW WE CAN BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGES IN SOCIETY

Naveen Choudhary, who was born in Bihar's Madhubani district and grew up in Jaipur, is the author of the much talked-about political novel, *Janta Store*. The novel, which explores the nexus between student and state politics, was the topic of discussion at the **Kalam Udaipur** session held on July 17.

Choudhary was in conversation with Shraddhaa Murdia, **Ehsaas** Woman of Udaipur and spoke about changing political scenarios as well as life at the Rajasthan University. While he agreed that politicians play a key role in policy-making and in the society, he insisted any change should begin with oneself. "We should bring about the change in ourselves, instead of constantly blaming politicians," he told the audience at Radisson Blu Udaipur.

Choudhary's grandmother

inspired him to write when he was just a school-going boy. His book *Janta Store*, which is based on student politics at Rajasthan University, discusses the changing dynamics of the same. The story of the novel revolves around the link between student politics and state's political equation.

Choudhary, who's a photographer and satirist, was himself active in student politics during his days at the university. He has a Masters degree in economics and is also an MBA. He is currently the marketing head of a renowned publishing house.

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



Naveen Choudhary

“ We should strive to bring about a change within ourselves instead of constantly blaming the politicians (for the state of the country)

— Naveen Choudhary



Riddhima Doshi,
Ehsaas Woman of Udaipur



Swati Agarwal,
Ehsaas Woman of Udaipur



Shraddhaa Murdia,
Ehsaas Woman of Udaipur



Garima Tiwari,
Ehsaas Woman of Bilaspur



Sanjay Alang



Lalit Kumar

‘GIVE VITAMIN TO YOUR ZINDAGI. ONE LIFE, LIVE IT’

BLOGGER AND AUTHOR **LALIT KUMAR** TELLS THE AUDIENCE TO FEED THE MIND WITH HOPE, BELIEF, COURAGE AND INSPIRATION



Gaurav Girija Shukla

Author and technical blogger, Lalit Kumar, who is followed by 20 lakh readers from across the country, feels one should lead the one life they have to the fullest. “We should live our life in whatever span of time we have been granted,” he said, addressing the audience at a session of **Kalam Bilaspur** on July 19. In conversation with Dr Sanjay Alang, the author shared the story of his struggle and subsequent success to a packed house of literature lovers.

Kumar, who is the founder of *Kavita Kosh*, shared his life story that has also been outlined in his book, *Vitamin Zindagi*. Kumar was infected with the polio virus at the age of four and had to face a lot of struggle — both professionally and socially. Explaining the title of his book, Kumar shared, “Just like the body needs vitamins, the mind needs hope, belief, courage and inspiration to survive. We often face problems, struggle and despair but to get over these, one needs *Vitamin Zindagi*,” he said.

Kumar believes that it was the society’s outlook that has made

the disabled in India pitiable. He said the entire society is disabled due because of this outlook. “We can be better individuals by accepting the disabled and considering them a part of our society,” he added. He also said that staring — at people who are unlike the majority — was a national problem. “We need to understand that disability is not a curse,” he said.

In the context of his book, Kumar said that every individual has experienced pain, which is why he wants readers to take up his book from the perspective of his struggles and success and not just look at the pain it talks about.

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



Just like the body needs vitamins, the mind needs hope, belief and inspiration to survive. We often face problems and despair. To get over these, one needs *Vitamin Zindagi*

— Lalit Kumar

At the 70th session of **An Author's Afternoon**, writer and leadership coach, **Rashmi Bansal** spoke on how to become a change agent

Inspiring tales OF YOUNG entrepreneurs



Rashmi Bansal dons many hats. As an entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker, she has a number of inspiring life-stories to share. She shared some of these tales on entrepreneurship with the guest audience at the 70th session of **An Author's Afternoon** in Kolkata on July 19. Hari Subramaniam, who was in conversation with the author, helped listeners get at the very heart of Bansal's latest book, *Shine Bright*.

A prolific author, Bansal has been writing about first-generation Indian entrepreneurs since 2008, her first book being *Stay Hungry Stay Foolish*.

She has since penned nine bestselling books that have also been translated into 12 languages.

Over the years, she started getting invitations from several companies and businesses to share 'lessons from entrepreneurs'. This planted the seed for her new book, *Shine Bright* that deals with leading entrepreneurs as "agents of change" or "intrapreneurs," as Bansal prefers to call them.

Talking about the lives of successful entrepreneurs, Bansal agreed that life partners have a very important role to play in their journey. "Of course one needs a lot of understanding from his or her spouse.



I have heard of a husband leaving his job to look after home in the US but never heard something of that sort in India

— Rashmi Bansal

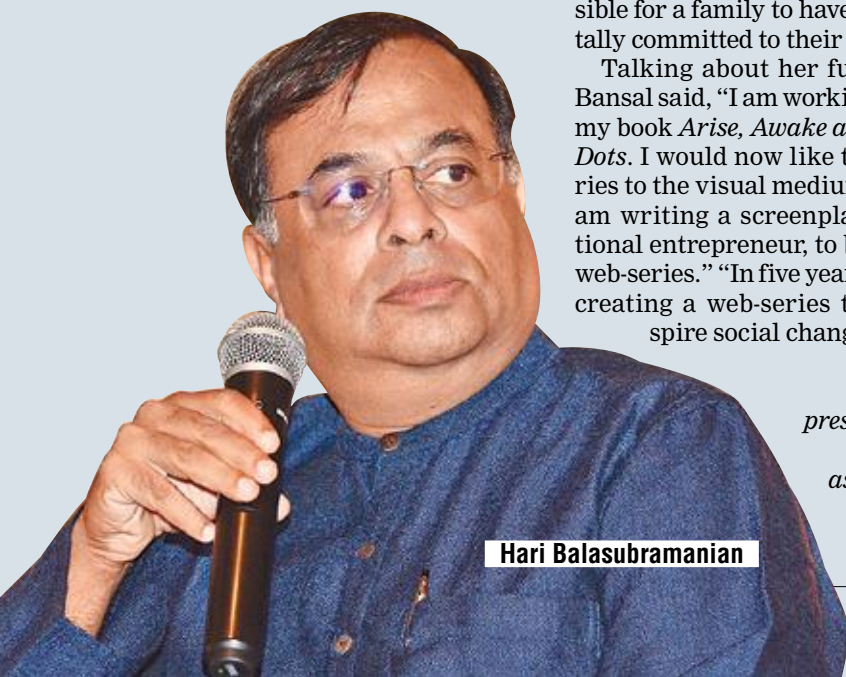
Rashmi Bansal



Audience at the event

Talking about the lives of successful entrepreneurs, Rashmi Bansal agreed that life partners have a very important role to play in their journey

“Actually, I had asked Dr (Pawan) Goenka this question. He told me that he has never been to his child’s school. Everything was handled by his wife



Hari Balasubramanian

who did it willingly and happily. But I wonder what would happen if there is a role-reversal,” Bansal asked.

In the same context, Bansal also spoke about Chitra Gupta who accepted a principal’s role in an old Delhi school, which was turned down by many. “Her husband was very supportive but I have never found out by interviewing other female leaders that they get this level of support from their husbands,” told the audience, adding, “I have heard in the US about a husband leaving his job to look after the house but never heard of something of that sort in India.”

She said, “I don’t think the trend is present in India yet, but don’t know about the next generation. It is not possible for a family to have two people totally committed to their job,” she said.

Talking about her future projects, Bansal said, “I am working on Part 2 of my book *Arise, Awake and Connect the Dots*. I would now like to take my stories to the visual medium. Currently, I am writing a screenplay about a fictional entrepreneur, to be made into a web-series.” “In five years, I see myself creating a web-series that would inspire social change,” she added.

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

“When I asked why she chose the subject, she mentioned about people who wanted to make a change in the world. It is not just going to a bank and working with millions of figures; not just going to a fizzy drinks manufacturer and making sugared water. It’s about being advocates of change that will benefit the world

— Oindrilla Dutta

“The event is very informative, very well conducted. I came to know a lot about people who have started these start-ups and done so well for themselves. They are like the unsung heroes. We need such people to pep up others. We have it in us to start something new and can be successful at any age

— Simi Gupta

“Quite impressed to hear Rashmi speak about entrepreneurship, and specially because I have also ventured on a new journey. A very very meaningful Author’s Afternoon for me

— Vidwata Mohta

PRAVEEN KUMAR JHA SPEAKS ABOUT THE STRUGGLE OF GIRMITIYAS, WHO WERE TAKEN ABROAD AS BONDED LABOURERS, AND INDIA'S MIGRANT COMMUNITY



Praveen Kumar Jha in conversation with Arun Singh

The **Kalam** session held in Patna on July 19 delved into a less talked-about subject — the life and struggle of migrant workers who ended up settling in foreign lands. Praveen Kumar Jha, a multifarious writer, conversed with Arun Singh about the Girmitiyas from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, who were taken to Mauritius, Caribbean Islands, Surinam, and the French Guinea as bonded labourers.

Jha said he understood the pain of migrants only when he moved to Norway. “The biggest migration in history was that of the Girmitiyas, but it was quickly forgotten. They did this for betterment of their lives and created their own world outside their native land. But they never got their due,” he told the audience. He shared the story of a woman who, after four days of child-birth, was given the job of breaking stones. “She would bleed, but was not shown any mercy. A British officer reported the cruelty but justice never came to the woman,” he shared.

In Mauritius, many of the Girmitiyas were from Arra, Bihar. “Today, they are politically very strong. They stuck to their culture and as a result the rituals and cuisine there is similar to that of Bihar,” Jha said. “Bob Marley was also influenced by the *sadhus* of Sangam area, who were taken to the Caribbean (British Jamaica) as bonded labourers. He copied their hairstyle and smoked *ganja*. He even named one of his son’s Rohan Marley,” Jha added.

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



Padmashree Recipient Usha Kiran Khan

BONDING
in an
ALIEN LAND



Usha Jha, Ratna Purkayastha, Tripurari Sharan, Ajit Pradhan, Praveen Kumar Jha, Anvita Pradhan, Ehsaas Woman of Patna, and Archana Tripathi

Bob Marley was also influenced by the *sadhus* of Sangam area, who were taken to the Caribbean (British Jamaica) as bonded labourers. He copied their hairstyle and smoked *ganja*. He even named one of his son’s Rohan Marley

— Praveen Kumar Jha

WRITER AND JOURNALIST
VIJAY TRIVEDI TALKS ABOUT HIS
CLOSE BRUSH WITH THE INDIAN
POLITICAL SCENARIO AT **KALAM**
SESSION IN BHUBANESWAR



Vijay Trivedi

‘A politician is friend to none’

“
One should not make the mistake of assuming that a politician can be your friend, and this holds truer for journalists

— **Vijay Trivedi**

The **Kalam** Bhubaneswar session held on July 19 saw a lively discussion on politics in the presence of veteran journalist and writer, Vijay Trivedi, who has covered various elections as part of his professional journey. In conversation with Namrata Chadha, Trivedi also spoke about his latest book, and the current crop of politicians.

Trivedi, who has an experience of covering polls and politics in general for various media like print, radio, television and digital, said, “A politician can not be friend to anyone, especially a journalist.” Trivedi has covered the general elections, state assembly elections and elections for the posts of President and Vice President in India.

He spoke about his close brush with looking at the Indian political scenario as he travelled from Kashmir to Kanyakumari for the live coverage of various polls since 1989. He also spoke about his book, *BJP - Kal, Aaj aur Kal*. Before this, he has penned two books on political leaders. These include

Yada Yada Hi Yogi, based on the life of Yogi Adityanath, and *Haar Nahi Manoo-nga, Ek Atal*



Vedula Ramalakshmi, Ehsaas Woman of Bhubaneswar

Jeevan Gaatha, based on the life of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Trivedi went on to speak about the influence of various leaders on their political party and the

scenario in the country. He spoke about Vajpayee, Advani and Amit Shah, Modi era, and how each came to the position they are known for in the BJP.

Ehsaas Woman of Bhubaneswar, Vedula Ramalakshmi welcomed the guests, while the vote of thanks was given by Nidhi Garg, **Ehsaas Woman** of Bhubaneswar. Rashmi Dhawan felicitated the author and Surendra Nath presented a memento to the conversationalist.

Kalam Bhubaneswar is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Mayfair Hotels & Resorts and Ehsaas Women of Bhubaneswar-Nidhi Garg and Vedula Ramalakshmi



Namrata Chadha



Tania Singh and Reshma Qureshi in conversation with Meghna Middha



If you are living in India, stop criticising and start taking action for the betterment

— Tania Singh

Real beauty lies in **THE HEART**

In an engaging session, **RESHMA QURESHI** and **TANIA SINGH** ask women to speak up against crimes like acid attacks



Rajat Sethi, General Manager of ITC Mughal

The Write Circle session held in Agra on July 19 took off with the inspiring thought that real beauty of a person lies within heart, not with appearance. The oft-repeated statement holds the key to happiness for Reshma Qureshi, an acid attack survivor.

Qureshi, who is an Indian model, vlogger, and anti-acid activist, shared the stage with *Make Love Not Scars* (MLNS) CEO, Tania Singh, in conversation with Meghna Middha during the session held at ITC Mughal. Qureshi, who is also the face of MLNS in India, had to face an acid attack at a young age of 17 years. She told survivors like herself to lead a normal life and to keep moving forward.

Quoting a BBC report, Singh shared that India has been witnessing around 300 cases of acid attack every year since 2013. Both of them asked women to speak up against such crimes, without fearing the perpetrators or bowing in to societal pressure.



Vinti Kathuria, Ehsaas Woman of Agra



Shweta Bansal, Ehsaas Woman of Agra

The Write Circle Agra is in association with Dainik Jagran, ITC Mughal and Ehsaas Women of Agra — Shweta Bansal and Vinti Kathuria

AT **KALAM JAIPUR**, AUTHOR AND STORYTELLER **HIMANSHU BAJPAI** TELLS US HOW ORAL TRADITIONS HAVE HELPED US APPRECIATE STORIES AS A NATION

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

A hardcore Lucknowi, writer Himanshu Bajpai was present in Jaipur on July 19 for a session of **Kalam**. Known for his book, *Kissa Kissa Lucknow*, Bajpai is a popular Dastangoi artiste as well.

The session started with him opening up about his journey, “It was through my friend Ankit Chaddha that I got associated with Dastangoi. It is said that everyone has a story... I was never into theatre, but every time Ankit asked me to, I participated in Dastangoi and performed with him,” he told the audience attending the event.

He then spoke of how death claimed his dear friend in an unfortunate accident last year. “He passed away in an accident, but his contribution can’t be overlooked,” Bajpai opened up while in conversation with Ritu Bhatia in presence of Jaipur’s literature lovers.

Having done his PhD from the Mahatma Gandhi International University, Bajpai writes about the society and culture of Lucknow. Popular for his narration of stories about Lucknow, Bajpai shared that Dastangoi, which has its roots in Persia, has had many innovations after entering the City of Nawabs.



Himanshu Bajpai



Till date, Hindus and Muslims are seen together at the *Chowk ki Holi* in Lucknow.

— Himanshu Bajpai

Bajpai speaks of India as a nation that has always acknowledged the art of story-telling. “As a nation, we have always appreciated stories. When I say stories, I’m talking about the oral tradition of story-telling,” Bajpai said. He spoke of epics like *Ramayana* and holy book *Gita*, which became popular in the oral narrative before coming out in the print versions.

He said fairy tales such as *Alif Laila*

(*Arabian Nights*) and *Hatimatai* are not of Indian origin, but movies and television series created around them went on to become hits.

Bajpai spoke highly of the Late Vijay Dan Detha who’s a highly regarded storyteller from Rajasthan.

Kalam Jaipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur Marriott Hotel and We Care



Apra Kuchhal,
Ehsaas Woman of Jaipur



Sudhir Mathur



Ritu Bhatia

मैं आगे बढ़ने के लिए लगातार खुद को चुनौतियाँ देता रहता हूँ- ललित कुमार



ललित कुमार और अरविंद माथुर



गौरव गिरिजा शुक्ला

अगर इन्सान में दृढ़ संकल्प और मजबूत इच्छाशक्ति हो तो वह हर चुनौती पर विजय प्राप्त कर सकता है। जाने-माने ब्लॉगर ललित कुमार इसका साक्षात् उदाहरण है। ललित ने अपनी विकलांगता को हरा कर उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया। आज देश ललित कुमार को मशहूर ब्लॉगर और कविताकोश के संस्थापक के रूप में जाना जाता है। हाल ही में उनकी किताब *विटामिन जिंदगी* प्रकाशित हुई है, जो तेजी से लोकप्रिय हुई है।

ललित कुमार 20 जुलाई को रायपुर में **प्रभा खेतान फाउंडेशन** के साहित्यिक कार्यक्रम **कलम** रायपुर में शामिल हुए। श्री सीमेंट द्वारा प्रस्तुत और अभिकल्प फाउंडेशन तथा होटल हयात के सहयोग से आयोजित **कलम** रायपुर की यह 41वीं कड़ी थी। इस

अवसर पर आकाशवाणी के पूर्व प्रोग्राम अधिकारी अरविंद माथुर ने *विटामिन जिंदगी* के लेखक ललित कुमार से बातचीत की।

विकलांगता के संदर्भ में बात करते हुए ललित ने कहा कि हमारा समाज विकलांग को एक बीमारी के रूप में लेता है और इसे सामान्य रूप से स्वीकार नहीं करता इसलिए विकलांग लोगों की स्थिति दयनीय बन जाती है। मुझे जब पोलियो हुआ तो अनेक परेशानियाँ शुरू हो गईं लेकिन मैं शुरू से असामान्य नहीं बल्कि असाधारण बनना चाहता था। अपनी सफलता पर ललित ने कहा कि "मुझे हमेशा अग्रसर रहने वाला जीवन चाहिए। इसलिए मैंने खुद को कभी भी कंफर्ट जोन में नहीं रहने दिया। मैं आगे बढ़ने के लिए लगातार खुद को चुनौतियाँ देता रहता हूँ। जिंदगी में सभी के परेशानियाँ आती हैं लेकिन हमें हार नहीं माननी चाहिए। जिस्म तब तक नहीं हारता जब तक आपके मन में चिंगारी बाकी है"।

हम आपको बता दें कि चार वर्ष की उम्र में पोलियो से ग्रसित होने के बाद ललित के जीवन का संघर्ष और कठिन हो गया, लेकिन ललित ने हार न मानते हुए जीवन में सफलता के नए आयाम हासिल किए। साइंस के स्टूडेंट रहते हुए ललित पढ़ाई के लिए विदेश गए और संयुक्त राष्ट्र (यूएन) में अपनी सेवाएं दीं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र की नौकरी छोड़कर

भारत आने का फैसला करने के बाद ललित अनेक रचनात्मक कार्यों में जुट गए। 2006 में *कविता कोष* की स्थापना की जिसमें आज करीब डेढ़ लाख पेज हैं जिसमें देश के अनेक हिंदी कवियों की कविताएं संग्रहित हैं।

कलम रायपुर में ललित ने अपने जीवन और सफलता पर खुलकर बात की।

ललित ने अपनी दिव्यांगता पर कहा कि जब मैंने आगे बढ़ने की सोची तो समाज ने हर बार मुझे दरकिनार किया...पर मैंने तो दृढ़ संकल्प लिया था और इसे ही लेकर मैं आगे बढ़ा।

सामाजिक विकलांगता पर चर्चा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि आज समाज ज्यादा विकलांग है, जीवन में हर तरह के किरदार और परिस्थितियाँ होती हैं आवश्यक है उसे स्वीकार करने की। अपनी सेहत के लिए और समाज की सेहत के लिए ये समझ लीजिए कि विकलांगता अभिशाप नहीं है। कुछ मंत्र ऐसे होते हैं जो हमें ग्रंथों से नहीं मिलते हमें खुद से बनाना और समझना होता है और अगर हम ऐसा कर लेते हैं तो एक दिन हमें निश्चित तौर पर सफलता मिल ही जाएगी।

अभिकल्प फाउंडेशन के संस्थापक गौरव गिरिजा शुक्ला ने सभी अतिथियों को कलम कार्यक्रम की जानकारी दी और कार्यक्रम को सफल बनाने के लिए आए हुए सभी साहित्य प्रेमियों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया। कार्यक्रम के अंत में छत्तीसगढ़ के पूर्व एडिशनल चीफ सेक्रेटरी के के चक्रवर्ती ने ललित कुमार को स्मृति चिह्न भेंट किया। आईआईटी भिलाई के निदेशक रजत मूणा ने अरविंद माथुर को स्मृति चिह्न भेंट किया।



हरकरण सिंह, जनरल मैनेजर, होटल हयात रायपुर, के साथ ललित कुमार

AUTHOR AND COLUMNIST **MAMTA KALIA** SHARES HER EXPERIENCES OF BALANCING HOME AND WORK, AND MEETING DEADLINES, AT **KALAM** LONDON



‘A writer has to record changes’



As a bilingual author who has thirty books in Hindi and two in English to her credit, Mamta Kalia strives to meet deadlines and balances her writing with her personal life at the same time. Sharing her experiences of writing columns for newspapers alongside fulfilling the responsibilities of a housewife, Kalia was in conversation with Aruna Ajitsaria at the **Kalam** London session held on July 21.

“Life is a series of inspiration and crises. Every atom blasts like a bomb if you are sensitive,” she said. “In a changing world, a writer has to record these changes,” she added. Kalia recited some of her poems, which the audience found very inspiring. Many writers, journalists, academicians and literature lovers attended the event held at the Quilon, Taj Hotel, St James Court London.

The programme started with a welcome note from Dr Padmesh Gupta, founder of UK Hindi Samiti. An initiative of **Prabha Khaitan Foundation**, the **Kalam** series in London is in association

with UK Hindi Samiti, Vani Foundation, Quilon Taj Hotel and British Council under the banner of UK-India year of Culture.

“Attending the **Kalam** session in London was creatively satisfying. I had heard about this initiative but experienced it in person in London. It was inspiring to see the deep interest in and curiosity about Hindi literature,” she added.

Kalam London is in association with Quilon, Vatayan, Vani Foundation and British Council



Audience at the session

GAURAV SOLANKI WHO WROTE THE SCREENPLAY FOR **ARTICLE 15**, SPEAKS ABOUT MORAL POLICING

WEAVING HARD-HITTING TALES



Gaurav Solanki



Parthasarathi Ray



Nidhi Garg,
Ehsaas Woman of Bhubaneswar

Screenwriter and poet Gaurav Solanki shared his life journey and experiences in the film industry in the **Ek Mulakat** session held at Bhubaneswar on July 21. In an engaging session, he spoke about writing poetry and creating the first screenplay for a film, the critically acclaimed *Article 15*. Solanki was in conversation with Parthasarathi Ray.

“Many interesting questions were asked pertaining to my writing and I could tell the audience a lot about my journey. A space for a very intimate, deep conversation, where I would surely like to return,” Solanki said, sharing his experience after the session.

While the subject of *Article 15* has also drawn criticism from many quarters for its take on caste-based politics, Solanki has in the past slammed moral policing. He spoke about being awarded the *Bharatiya Jnanpeeth’s Navlekhana Award* in 2017 for his first poetry collection, *Sau Saal Fida*, which he returned when his stories were charged with being ‘vulgar’. In the past, he criticised the idea of being awarded, which was accompanied by moral policing.

Solanki grew up in Sangaria,

“Many interesting questions were asked pertaining to my writing and I could tell the audience a lot about my journey. This happens to be a space for a very intimate, deep conversation, where I would surely like to return

— Gaurav Solanki

Rajasthan. His first story collection, *Gyarahvi A ke Ladke* has been lauded across the country. His style and content have brought freshness to Hindi poetry and fiction. He is a distinct voice in the Hindi best sellers and has also written lyrics for *Ugly*, *Daas Dev* and *Veere Di Wedding*. His screenplay for *Nisaar* got selected in Drishyam Sundance Screenwriters Lab in 2016. He is writing a political thriller to be produced as a series and a feature film.

Ek Mulakat Bhubaneswar is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Mayfair Hotels & Resorts and Ehsaas women of Bhubaneswar - Nidhi Garg and Vedula Ramalakshmi



Daulat Singh Shaktawat

DAULAT SINGH SHAKTAWAT NARRATES HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE BIG CATS AND THE STORY OF MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT

MAN VS WILD

A TRUE STORY



Kumar Shobhan,
General Manager of
Hyatt Regency, Kolkata

Kolkata audience attending the **Ek Mulakat** session on July 25 got to hear the interesting tale of a man's relationship with big cats, in the session dedicated to International Tiger Day 2019. Wildlife activist and Deputy Conservator of Forest Ranthambore, Daulat Singh Shaktawat took them through his journey as a forest conservator and narrated the incident when he was attacked by a tiger.

The author of *My Encounter with the Big Cat and Other Adventures in Ranthambore* was in conversation with wildlife activist, Dr Pradeep Vyas. Shaktawat shared the hair-raising story of the famous 'T seven' incident, where a tiger harassed by villagers panicked and attacked him. This led to him losing an eye, but undaunted by the life-endangering incident, he resumed working harder for the tiger community's safety.

The biggest challenge during his tenure was to reduce the man-animal conflict. He stressed on the importance of the coexistence of the tiger with the local community. "Educating villagers about the advantages of promoting tourism through the Reserve has brought about a significant change in the attitude of the locals towards wildlife conservation," he shared.

"Qualities and services in reservation centres have improved a lot, betterment of understanding between wild animals and human beings, and people's response towards tiger has changed a lot. Villagers now understand that their bread and butter is dependant upon the equilibrium in wild life," he said. Having retired from Ranthambore, he chose to join World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and continues his journey of working towards raising awareness about conserving wildlife and the environment.

Ek Mulakat Kolkata is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with Hyatt Regency Kolkata and Ehsaas Women of Kolkata-Dona Ganguly, Esha Dutta, Gouri Basu, Malika Varma, Nilisha Agarwal



Tigers are so agile that before I could do anything, he leapt at me

We have lost a lot of our staff due to conflict with the locals — **Daulat Singh Shaktawat** (On conflicts across different reserves in India)



Malika Varma,
Ehsaas Woman
of Kolkata



Pradeep Vyas



Malini Awasthi in conversation with Roli Agarwal

Thumri, born of love

Under the Ek Mulakat series, Prabha Khaitan Foundation hosted popular Indian folk singer, Malini Awasthi in Jaipur on July 25. The session started with the artiste opening up about her journey into music.

The artiste, who sings in Hindi language and dialects such as Awadhi, Bundelkhandi and Bhojpuri talked about her experiences in folk and classical music while in conversation with Roli Agarwal. "To understand the soul of a country, you have to listen to its folk music. Music is an art, it is how your soul connects with it and I connected with the folk music of Awadh," she opened up.

Awasthi, who has trained under Ustad Rahat Ali Khan and Padma Vibhushan Girjia Devi, sings classical, folk and Bollywood songs. Talking about her love for Awadhi music, she said, "Awadhi is very difficult to sing and requires instruments to sing and give it the perfect feeling."



Aakriti Periwal

The artiste revealed in the session that she used to perform classical music and a few folk compositions, but when she realised that folk was where her heart lay, she decided to focus on it. "I found myself connecting better with folk music, and this decision did bring me a lot of criticism initially," shared Awasthi, who was awarded with the Padmashree in 2016. She also talked about the impact of expression in folk music.



Shekhar Sawant, General Manager of ITC Rajputana

The folk singer, who also specialises in Thumri and Kajri, opened up during the session that Thumri isn't an easy genre.

Before the session came to an end, the artiste sang a few notes, enthraling the audience with her beautiful voice. The audience was delightfully engaged and enlightened by her talks.

Ek Mulakat Jaipur is presented by Shree Cement Ltd, in association with ITC Rajputana Jaipur and Jayshree Periwal Foundation



Folk is about becoming the song itself. Every singer has to be a performer. The folk music has to be able to emote.

— Malini Awasthi

Former union minister Salman Khurshid's book "Visible Muslim, Invisible Citizen", was launched under the aegis of **Prabha Khaitan Foundation's** initiative **Kitab**. Chairperson of *We Care*, Apra Kuchhal anchored the conversation with the senior Congress leader who said that Hindus and Muslims must have faith in each other.

Khurshid said both Hinduism and Islam have very fine elements and combined together they present an ideal scenario. Speaking on the Sachar Committee, he pointed out had its recommendations been implemented, they would have spurred a secular growth. The committee recommended an inclusive policy in which the Muslims would have grown themselves but the report was dropped because it was dubbed Pro-Muslim, he said.



Niyat needs to be right whether in Islam or in any other religion

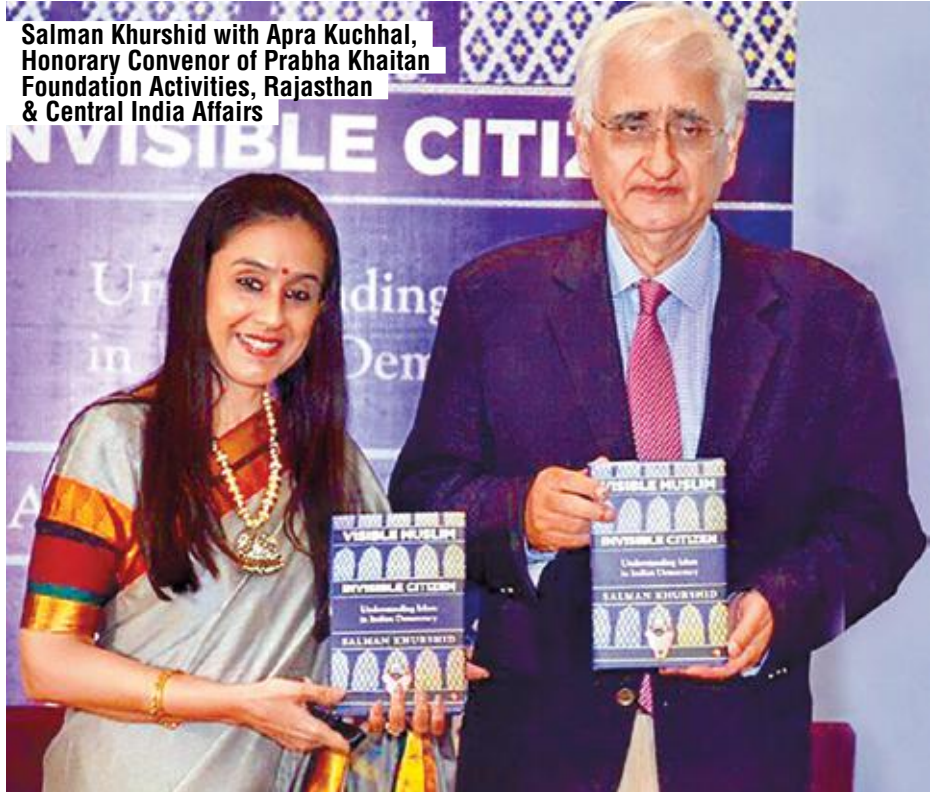
— Salman Khurshid

On the issue of Reservation, he said when it was mooted after Independence, it had a purpose. However, over the years, the Reservation system needs to be reviewed and modified. Some sections, in fact, were to be excluded with the passage of time. Increasingly, more communities and classes are demanding it. He threw light on the Triple Talaq along with the UCC. He spoke about modernity being vital to Muslims. He emphasised on *Niyat* as the most important thing in any religion.

His book was released by the author along with Apra Kuchhal, Chairman WeCare and Sudhir Mathur of Raghu Sinha Mala Mathur Charity Trust. The introductory remarks were made by Vishal Vijay and the vote of thanks given by Sudhir Mathur. Bina Kak gave away the memento.

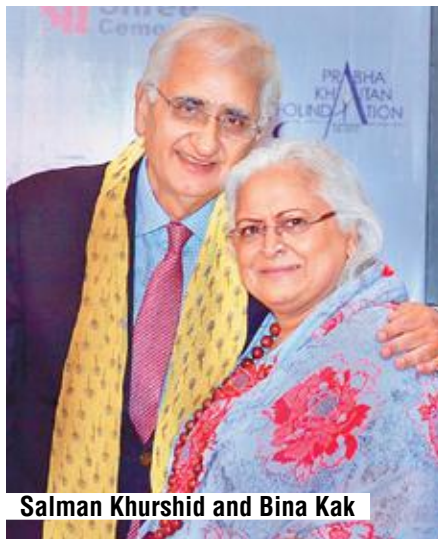
Kitab is presented by Shree Cement in association with We Care and Raghu Sinha Mala Mathur Trust

Salman Khurshid with Apra Kuchhal, Honorary Convenor of Prabha Khaitan Foundation Activities, Rajasthan & Central India Affairs



AT HIS BOOK LAUNCH IN JAIPUR, FORMER UNION MINISTER **SALMAN KHURSHID** ADVOCATES THE IDEA OF *NIYAT* (INTENT) IN ANY RELIGION

'WE MUST TRUST EACH OTHER'



Salman Khurshid and Bina Kak



Sudhir Mathur



Vishal Vijay



Amish Tripathi in conversation with Swati Agarwal, Ehsaas Woman of Mumbai



Amish Tripathi, Varsha Sheth and Malti Jain

‘EVIL IS A LOADED WORD’

AMISH TRIPATHI SPEAKS ABOUT THE WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE LEFT BEHIND BY OUR ANCESTORS AND DESCRIBES EVIL AS A LOADED WORD WHILE DISCUSSING HIS LATEST BOOK ON RAAVAN



Ketki Bhatia, Ehsaas Woman of Mumbai

Known to his readers as a crackling story-teller, whose narrative is filled with religious symbolism and profound philosophy, Amish Tripathi gave a glimpse of his characteristic style to the audience at the **Write Circle** Mumbai at ITC Grand Central Mumbai on July 26. In conversation with Swati Agarwal, **Ehsaas** Woman of Mumbai, Amish spoke about spiritual texts and the wealth of knowledge left behind by our ancestors.

“We still have a colonial hangover, but we must teach Indic texts in our education system. It’s time to take our kids

back to the roots,” he shared at the event hosted by **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** and **Ehsaas** Women of Mumbai.

Speaking about ‘evil’, Amish said it is a loaded word. “There is no exact translation for the word “evil” in Vedic Sanskrit, which is the language of our ancestors,” he said. The author’s latest book is a fast-paced character study, showcasing the complexity of Raavan, someone long considered to be a great villain. “There is a lovely Sanksrit line, which says that folk tales are often more powerful than the scriptures. That brings me to a famous North Indian folk tale, which revisits a scene, where

Raavan lay dying after he was shot in the final battle. Here, Lord Ram tells Lakshman to show him (Raavan) respect, because though he was his opponent, he respected the knowledge he had. This shows the attitude of Lord Ram,” Amish shared in the context of his latest book, *Raavan — Enemy of Aryavarta*.

“So, one should not waste time judging, but learning. I have discussed an interesting philosophy in the book — that truly successful people are those, who actually have a monster inside them. The monster is what doesn’t allow them to rest and puts fire in their belly. What differentiates successful people from great people is whether the monster controls them or they control the monster. Because great people will use their capability for the good of others, but successful people will surrender to their monsters. And that’s perhaps one way to look at Raavan,” he added.

The who’s who of Mumbai city was seen at the event. Ketki Bhatia of **Ehsaas** gave the welcome speech. The event was followed by a question and answer session moderated by Swati Agarwal. General Manager of ITC, Amit Kumar, presented memento to Amish Tripathi. Ketki Bhatia, **Ehsaas** Woman of Mumbai, marked the formal opening of the event and also concluded the session with a vote of thanks.

The Write Circle Mumbai is in association with Lokmat, ITC Grand Central and Ehsaas Women of Mumbai- Anvi Thaker, Karishma Mehta, Ketki Bhatia and Swati Agarwal



Raga Olga Dsliva, Amish Tripathi and Nicola Fenton



Haani Khorakiwala



Amit Kumar,
General Manager
of ITC Grand Central



Arvind Jolly



Gita Karnani, Munjul Kapadia & Preeti Rathi



Richa Begani



Our endeavour is to add to the cultural and literary fabric of the society by bringing people face-to-face with the think-tank and influential voices

—Swati Agarwal



An absolutely delightful conversation! Amish inspires us all to let go of our colonial hangover and look towards our own ancient texts for their tremendous wisdom and liberalism

—Ketki Bhatia

EHSAAS WOMEN COLLABORATED WITH THE BENGALURU POETRY FESTIVAL WHICH HONOURS ALL FORMS OF VERSE AND POETRY



Performance by INK Band

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS POETIC



Usually, poetry follows music but for me, poetry is the mainstay, music complements it

— Irshad Kamil

Each year, thousands attend the **Bengaluru Poetry Festival** that seeks to celebrate all things poetic – from verse to songs, and rap to versatile genres of music. This year’s edition, fourth for the festival, was held on July 20-21 when **Ehsaas Women** collaborated with the annual festival where acclaimed poets, authors and actors converged to pay tribute to the most versatile form of art and poetry.

FROM GULLY BOY TO SADHGURU

This year’s Poetry Festival took off to a rollicking start at the Taj West End, where the very first session with *Gully Boy* actor Siddhant Chaturvedi stole the show. “Poetry has gone back to the youth, thanks to social media. It’s a conversation you have with millions,” he said. At the festival, 72-year-old, author and poet, Ho-shang Merchant, who’s also an eminent voice of gay liberation in India, read out unpublished works on writing queer and his relationship with his father. *Majnu ka Tila*, a poetic performance by Hindi lyricist Raj Shekhar was another high-



Vinnie Kakkar, National Advisor, Prabha Khaitan Foundation



Sadhguru in conversation with Arundhati Subramaniam

The Bengaluru Poetry Festival focussed on *Bhasha* this year. It ended on a soulful note with a magical performance by lyricist Irshad Kamil and his INK Band. The audience lapped up the captivating session by India's first poetry band

light of the festival. The second day saw spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev talking about *'The metre and mysticism'*, followed by a session on Hindi and Urdu poetry and readings by German poet Rike Scheffler. Performances by Kannada rappers MC Bijju, Gubbi and Krazzy created a buzz at the fest.

EHSAS WOMEN FOR ART

The 2019 edition saw a blend of young and emerging poets presenting their work. This year also focused on *'Bhasha'*, with a line-up of regional language poets from Punjab, Bengal, Maharashtra and Kerala and one from Germany. As part of its association with the **Prabha Khaitan Foundation**



Babita Kathotia, Ehsaas Woman of Bengaluru, and Anil Kathotia

and **Kalam**, the fest saw two engaging sessions this year. Day 1 of the festival saw, *An evening with Kalam Ke Baahubali*, Manoj Muntashir. The festival ended on a soulful note with a performance by Irshad Kamil and INK Band. "Usually, poetry follows music but for me, poetry is the mainstay, music complements it," Hindi film lyricist Irshad Kamil said, ahead of his captivating performance with INK Band, India's first poetry band.

AN ODE TO POETRY

The Bengaluru Poetry Festival is city's only literary event dedicated to poetry. Organised by the not-for-profit Bengaluru Poetry Festival Trust,

the event has now seen four back-to-back successful years. Its founders realised that while poetry as a form of self-expression was gaining immense popularity, and Indian poets and poetry were increasingly being recognised the world over, there were limited opportunities available for poets within existing literary festival platforms. The Bengaluru Poetry Festival was born in 2016 as a platform for poets, and poetry. The fest was conceptualised by Subodh and Lakshmi co-founders of *Atta Galatta*, a Bengaluru-based bookstore with a focus on Indian, vernacular writing that is also a venue for literary, art and cultural events.



Manoj Muntashir

THIS MONTH, **PRABHA** SHARES THE JOURNEY OF **NEELAM SOLEKAR**, **EHSAAS WOMAN** OF PUNE, THE MIND BEHIND CITY'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

SHAPING DREAMS FROM CONCRETE

Ehsaas Woman of Pune, Neelam Seolekar, is the mind behind many interesting ideas that have taken the shape of multi-dimensional projects over a period of time. Her creativity and charisma, combined with a keen eye for architecture, brought her to the role of Project Head and Principal Director of the Oxford Group, a renowned construction company. She is also an equity holder with the firm.

Seolekar was instrumental in setting up *Bull-ocks*, one of the most famous fine dining restaurants and clubs of its time, besides *Manas*, a leisure and entertainment resort with restaurants,

banquets and entertainment. She studied interior design at the JJ School of Art in Mumbai. Her creativity, however, did not limit itself to architectural projects. She also had a ten-year stint in designing Indian and western outfits with shows in several countries across the globe.

Seolekar's recent projects include

The O Hotel (Pune and Goa), and *The O Golf Resort*. As managing director of the hospitality chain (*The O Group*), she was instrumental in conceptualising and executing these projects in their entirety. As the project head of the Oxford Group, she has been responsible for numerous real estate projects in Pune like Oxford Hallmark, Oxford Village, Oxford Golf Resort, Florida Estate, among others.

Seolekar has been a recipient of several awards for her inspiring work. She was bestowed with the Today's Traveller Award (2011) for her innovative concepts. On Women's Day in 2012, she received the Human Achiever's Foundation Award and was



Neelam Seolekar

A foodie and wine connoisseur, Neelam Seolekar's interests range from baking to interiors and art. She is associated with the annual event for the Concern India Foundation that works in education, health and community development in her endeavour to give back to society

given the Women's Achiever Award by the Indian Medical Association in 2013.

A foodie and wine connoisseur, Seolekar's interests range from baking to interiors and art. To give back to the society, she has been associated with the annual event for Concern India Foundation, an NGO, that works in the areas of education, health and community development.

She is also a member of various organisations like FHRAI, HRAI, an active committee member of Tiger Lilies - a women's organisation, FLO; Shaniwarwada Dance Festival Committee, besides various other organisations like FICCI and YPO Gold, among others.

Padma Awardee **Sonal Mansingh** writes exclusively on *Guru-Shishya* relationship on the occasion of Guru Purnima observed on July 16

The Master-disciple concept has existed in every civilisation for many centuries. The hierarchal flow of knowledge and skills is like a river swelling with every drop of water, rain and tributaries. The flow makes its way through valleys, gorges and difficult terrain and lends the goodness of its water for the benefit of people regardless of their ingratitude, greed, selfishness, colour, religion and other such trivial considerations. The word GURU literally means noble, expansive, vast and all-inclusive.

The disciple is called *Vidyarthi* or *Shishya*. The words indicate the purpose of life, a disciple who is to garner pearls of knowledge, skills and values from the Master, the Guru. The role of Guru is not only to teach the immediate subject at hand but to mould and fashion the student as a potter would prepare and shape a vessel into which can be poured the wisdom and knowledge of a magnificent tradition.

Dance in India has never been looked upon as mere physical activity, rather as a living experience in which the rainbow col-

THE ONE WHO NURTURES LIKE A RIVER

ours of mystical insights, poetic vision, civilisational history, philosophical concepts, music, iconography and individual interpretations merge to span the firmament of Aesthetic Experience. The body is the instrument but not the player. Therefore, it is never surprising to see an Indian dancer of the traditional genre dancing much beyond the accepted age as understood for Ballet or modern contemporary dancing. Then the dancer vanishes, only dance remains. And, this stage has been called the ultimate experience of enlightenment or SATORI, NIRVANA, ANANDA, ECSTASY.

The sum total of this wisdom takes us back to the collective wisdom of many millennia.

Dancing and singing are the shortest and easiest ways to self-knowledge. But it is the Guru who shows the way and leads on the path until the disciple has found his direction and has developed the strength to walk on



Sonal Mansingh

Kolkata and Edinburgh both boast a strong legacy of art and culture. So, calling one the other's cultural twin would not be an overstatement. To strengthen the bond, **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland, on December 5, 2018.

The pact was formally signed by the Foundation trustee Sundeep Bhutoria and the University's academic lead, Paul Holmes. Soon after, a lunch hosted to mark the collaboration on cultural exchange at Taj Bengal, Kolkata, saw representatives from both the institutions brainstorm on many subjects ranging from art, culture and exchange of ideas. According to the collaboration, the two institutions would explore possible collaborations and partnerships to promote performing arts in India and Scotland. "We are looking forward to welcoming many Indian artistes from the city and India to come and perform, and teach with us in Edinburgh. We are looking forward to sending our artists and performers from Edinburgh to visit India as part of the exchange," said Holmes.

"Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland, was declared the world's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2004. The Edinburgh City of Literature Trust can help guide Kolkata achieve this unique UNESCO status," Sundeep Bhutoria added.

It is the endeavour of the project to spread awareness of the culture and literature of both the cities on global platform and create opportunities to showcase their talents as well. **Prabha Khaitan Foundation** has collaborated with the university to jointly undertake research activities alongside various student exchange programmes that would spearhead the cultural exchange.

The pact aims to further strengthen the rich cultural heritage of both the regions. The tie-up also aims to promote activities that would support exchange of culture and literature. Under this banner, various other avenues of collaboration will be evaluated.

Formerly known as Napier University, and established in 1964 as Napier Technical College, Edinburgh Napier University is rated top in the United Kingdom for adding value to students by the Guardian University

KOLKATA'S CULTURAL TWIN, EDINBURGH



Paul Holmes and Sundeep Bhutoria



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

WITH MANY CULTURAL SIMILARITIES BETWEEN KOLKATA AND EDINBURGH, **PRABHA KHAITAN FOUNDATION'S** PACT SIGNED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR LINKING THE TWO CITIES HAS MADE THE BOND EVEN STRONGER



Goutam De, Paul Holmes, Nandita Palchoudhuri, Gouri Basu, Tanusree Shankar and Usha Uthup



We are looking forward to welcoming many Indian artistes from the city and India to come and perform, and teach with us in Edinburgh. We are looking forward to sending our artists and performers from Edinburgh to visit India as part of the exchange

—Paul Holmes

Guide 2017. The University's state-of-the-art Sighthill campus offers various Undergraduate and Postgraduate courses. It has received five stars for teaching, employability and internationalisation from the prestigious QS Stars rankings along with other prestigious awards such as The Queen's Anniversary Prize Award.

Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland, which has 19,500 students from 140 countries on its rolls, is named after renowned mathematician and philosopher John Napier. "We understand that literature and performing arts should travel side by side and as we have already spread our literary activities overseas, this memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Edinburgh Napier University is a step forward



Tanusree Shankar

for performing arts and cultural exchange between two great cultural cities of Kolkata and Edinburgh," said Sundeep Bhutoria.

Present on the occasion were Tanusree Shankar, Usha Uthup, Dona Ganguly, ICCR director Gautam De, Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre director Gouri Basu, Mallika Verma, Nandita Palchoudhuri and Nilisha Agrawal, among others.

Directors of ICCR and EZCC Goutam De and Gouri Basu, respectively, along with others assured their support. The collaboration was an outcome of a trip to UK in September 2018 where the Foundation team met with Universities and Non-Resident Indian (NRI) organisations in UK to explore possible collaborations and partnerships to spread the activities of the Foundation in the UK.



Dona Ganguly, Ehsaas Woman of Kolkata



Society over CHILDHOOD?

This month's issue of Prabha speaks Against Child Marriages, a practice that is still prevalent in rural areas of the country

As we raise our daughters in protected environments — catering to each of their whims and fancies as if they were princesses — some are thrown into domestic drudgery at a tender age, not too far from where we live. Whether we choose to look at it or not, that world is the same as ours. We may boast ours to be a progressing society, but child marriages are still prevalent in India. The trend affects not only daughters, but sons as well.

At an age where they should be learning to add up numbers and reading about the world, boys and girls in some parts of our country are made to marry — resulting in impaired physical, emotional and mental growth. This further results in increased infant and maternal mortality rates, in addition to gender discrimination, illiteracy and malnutrition.

According to UNICEF, nearly half the brides in India are married as children. The organisation states that nationally, child marriage incidence has gone down — from 54 per cent in 1992-93 to 27 per cent in 2016 — but the pace of change remains slow, especially for girls in the age group 15-18 years, particularly in rural areas.

As Prabha dedicated itself to the cause of speaking up against child marriage this month, Priyanshi Patel, Ehsaas Woman of Ahmedabad wrote a heartfelt poem describing the emotions of a child bride. Artist Sudipta Kundu created a special painting for the cause to go with the theme for this month.

TINY EYES AND A BLEEDING HEART



PRIYANSHI PATEL

The writer is **Ehsaas Woman** of Ahmedabad and founder of Olixir Gourmet Oils, founder trustee of Karma Foundation and Member Product Director for Entrepreneurs Organisation

My tiny eyes dreamt to fly and reach the stars!
The star alignment predicted otherwise.

My grades gave definition to flying colours!
The kitchen demanded I perfect them in curries.

My goals were set to practice law to change the country!
The family goals were to uphold stifling traditions.

My friends said this pretty face will break a thousand hearts!
The society asked me to cover up and hide behind the cursed veil!

My desire was to live and marry a man of my choice!
The culture compelled me to choose convenience over companionship.

My being refused loudly of marrying against will!
The normalcy silently spoke volumes.

My attempts at escaping from the situation failed!
The system had greater success.

My plea to spare my childhood went unheard!
The pheras bound me for this and seven more lives.

My eyes shed tears to stop the cruelty.
The customs required blood be shed.

My bleeding heart and body wanted to scream in pain!
But the statistics screamed of the nation's success in battling this ill!

My growing body had life growing within!
The doctors suggested only one to grow fully first.

My girl child brought me the greatest joy!
The blessing was only a burden to the rest.

My purpose became to bear a male!
The shame without one was too damning to tell!

My girls were treated poorly with their fate sealed!
The posters said save, raise and educate daughters.

My willingness grew to free myself and my girls!
The policies assured wholehearted support.

My desperate calls and visits all went around in circles!
The authorities discussed and passed the case around.

My husband's family decided to take action as words reached them.
The monitoring cells somehow didn't hear the problem.

My family burned my already burnt body!
The case was closed as an accident on the file.

My story is the tale of a million girls!
But the numbers still show a sharp decline in child marriages.



Croatia where old meets new

Croatia lies bordering the Dalmatian coast and has the most well-preserved cities in this part of the world — narrow lanes situated amidst magnificent churches and palaces, which never fail to amaze the traveller.

My first stop Zagreb, like all Croatian cities, boasts impressive architecture and a quaint old quarter dotted with cafes, bars and restaurants. My next stop: the Plitvice National Park, one of the best preserved national parks in Croatia. The lakes and surrounding areas included in the national park in 1949 are listed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites. It is a valley situated between high forested mountains in which lie, one below another, a string of sixteen beautiful lakes of crystal blue and green waters. Fed by small streams and brooks, they spill into each other in 92 foaming cascades and thundering waterfalls.

My travel continued from Plitvice to Zadar, a small seaside town famed for the Sea Organ, which is set by the waterfront and thrills passersby

with mystical music that seems to emanate from the blue waters. Split is Croatia's fun seaside holiday spot. The sea promenade overlooking crystal blue waters and the stunning Dalmatian coastline are a treat to the eyes. The old walls of the city that once were home to a palace turn into a marketplace selling souvenirs, including an assortment of soaps and perfume cloth sachets made from the lavender flower, abundant in this region.

Hvar is similar to Split in structure but has its own unique charm. My final stop was Croatia's most famous city - Dubrovnik. It gained its iconic status as the location for the TV series, *Game of Thrones*. Its magnificent walls enclose a citadel that transports you to another era. The line of shops, restaurants and bars bring you back to the present.

June offers the perfect window for travellers to visit Croatia as in July-August it get overcrowded with tourists. The juxtaposition of the old and new is what defines this amazing country — a must visit!



**Esha Dutta,
Ehsaas Woman
of Kolkata**



साहित्य में प्रवेश का सबसे सुलभ माध्यम है

“वि

चारों की क्रांति को कविता सर्व सुलभ साधन बनाती है। कविता में जो अद्वितीय गुण है, वह किसी में नहीं। यही कारण है कि साहित्य में प्रवेश करने का सबसे सुलभ माध्यम कविता है। अपनी अभिव्यक्ति को कम से कम शब्दों में बयां करने का सबसे सशक्त माध्यम कविता है।” भोजपुरी एवं हिंदी भाषा के ख्यातनाम कवि डॉ नारायण झा ने एक कार्यक्रम के दौरान कविता का महत्व और मर्म इस प्रकार समझाया।

प्रभा खेतान फाउंडेशन, मसि इंक और श्री सिमेंट के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में पटना के बिहार इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन सभागार में 24 जुलाई 2018 को साहित्यिक परिचर्चा कार्यक्रम आखर का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में डॉ नारायण झा, प्रणव नार्मदेय, पद्मश्री उषा किरण खान, हषिकेश सुलभ, कथाकार अशोक, आराधना प्रधान, उषा झा, रंजन झा, रजनीश प्रियदर्शी, प्रियंका मिश्रा, उदित आर्यन, आनंद कुमार जैसे प्रख्यात कवि एवं लेखक शामिल हुए।

डॉ नारायण ने मैथिली कविता के विकास यात्रा पर कहा कि मैथिली कविता के क्रमिक विकास में बाबा नागार्जुन का सबसे अहम योगदान रहा है। सबसे पहले मैथिली कविता में विरोध का स्वर यात्री जी (बाबा नागार्जुन) ले आए। उसके बाद राजकमल चौधरी ने इसे विद्रोह तक पहुंचाया। वर्तमान लेखक हरे कृष्ण झा ने इस परंपरा से आगे बढ़कर अपनी कविता के माध्यम से विध्वंस की बात की।

उन्होंने कहा कि बाबा नागार्जुन और उनकी रचनाओं से मैं बहुत प्रभावित हूँ। उनकी रचनाओं में सामाजिक सरोकार जुड़ा होता था।

परिचर्चा के दौरान कवि नारायण ने अपने साहित्यिक सफर को याद करते हुए कहा कि “हम घर घुरि रहल छि”

कविता

डॉ नारायण ने मैथिली कविता के विकास यात्रा पर कहा कि मैथिली कविता के क्रमिक विकास में बाबा नागार्जुन का सबसे अहम योगदान रहा है।



कवि प्रणव और नारायण झा

मेरी पहली कविता संग्रह है। इसमें सावन की हरियाली की बात की है। जिसमें जीवन की बात प्रमुख रूप से केंद्रित है। समय के साथ हमारी कविता में भी बदलाव आया और इसके बाद हमारी कविताएं आत्म आलोचना पर केंद्रित हैं। नारायण ने अपनी सुजाता सीरीज कविता के बारे में कहा कि इस कविता सीरीज में कुल 42 कविताएं हैं, जिनके माध्यम से हमने मिथिलाचल की स्त्रियों की मनादेशां बयां की है। हमने मिथिलाचल की स्त्रियों की दशा, दुर्दशा और मनोदशा का चित्रण किया है। “तनगव सुतारी कविता के सम्बंध में उन्होंने कहा कि इस रचना में हमने बच्चे और

प्रकृति का मार्मिक चित्रण किया है।

युवा कवि प्रणव नार्मदेय ने कहा कि कुणाल मिश्र जन चेतना के कवि हैं, केदार कानन आशक्ति के कवि हैं और इस तरह मैथिली कविता का कैनवास बहुत बड़ा है। उन्होंने कहा कि हिंदी के कवि राधामोहन सिंह से बात करते हुए बाबा नागार्जुन ने कहा था कि ‘पीढ़ा घिसता है तो पीढ़ी बनती है’। कविता में वाद के प्रभाव पर बात करते हुए कहते हैं कि ब्रॉड आइडिया का ये सब प्रभाव है। इसके बाद अपनी कथा दिया और बाती व चूड़ी पर बात की जिसमें उन्होंने स्त्री वेदना का चित्रण किया है।



आराधना प्रधान

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

GUEST	EVENT
Daulat Singh Shaktawat	The Write Circle Jodhpur
Pankaj Dubey	Kalam Ranchi
Manoj Muntashir	Kalam Gurugram, Meerut, Patna
Basanti Panwar	Aakhar Jaipur
Namita Devidayal	The Write Circle Ahmedabad
Arpit Vageria	Kalam Chandigarh, Pune
Sandeep Bhushan	An Author's Afternoon Kolkata
Salman Khurshid	Kitaab Book Launch Kolkata
Deepak Ramola	Kalam Hyderabad
Pratyaksha Sinha	Kalam Agra
Seema Goswami	Kitaab Book Launch Jaipur
Himanshu Bajpai	Kalam Delhi
Swati Lodha	The Write Circle Bengaluru
Narendra Kohli	Kalam Lucknow
Laxmi Prasad Pant	Kalam Bhubaneswar
Vikram Sampath	Kitaab Book Launch Bengaluru
Prof Ateequllah	Lafz Jaipur



Daulat S Shaktawat



Pankaj Dubey



Manoj Muntashir



Basanti Panwar



Namita Devidayal



Arpit Vageria



Sandeep Bhushan



Salman Khurshid



Deepak Ramola



Pratyaksha Sinha



Seema Goswami



Himanshu Bajpai



Swati Lodha



Narendra Kohli



Laxmi Prasad Pant



Vikram Sampath



Prof. Ateequllah

REACH US AT

Address: 1A Camac Court 25B Camac Street Kolkata - 700 016 West Bengal India

✉ newsletter@pkfoundation.org 🌐 FoundationPK 📘 PrabhaKhaitanFoundation

📄 View the digital version of the newsletter at: pkfoundation.org/newsletter

For private circulation only