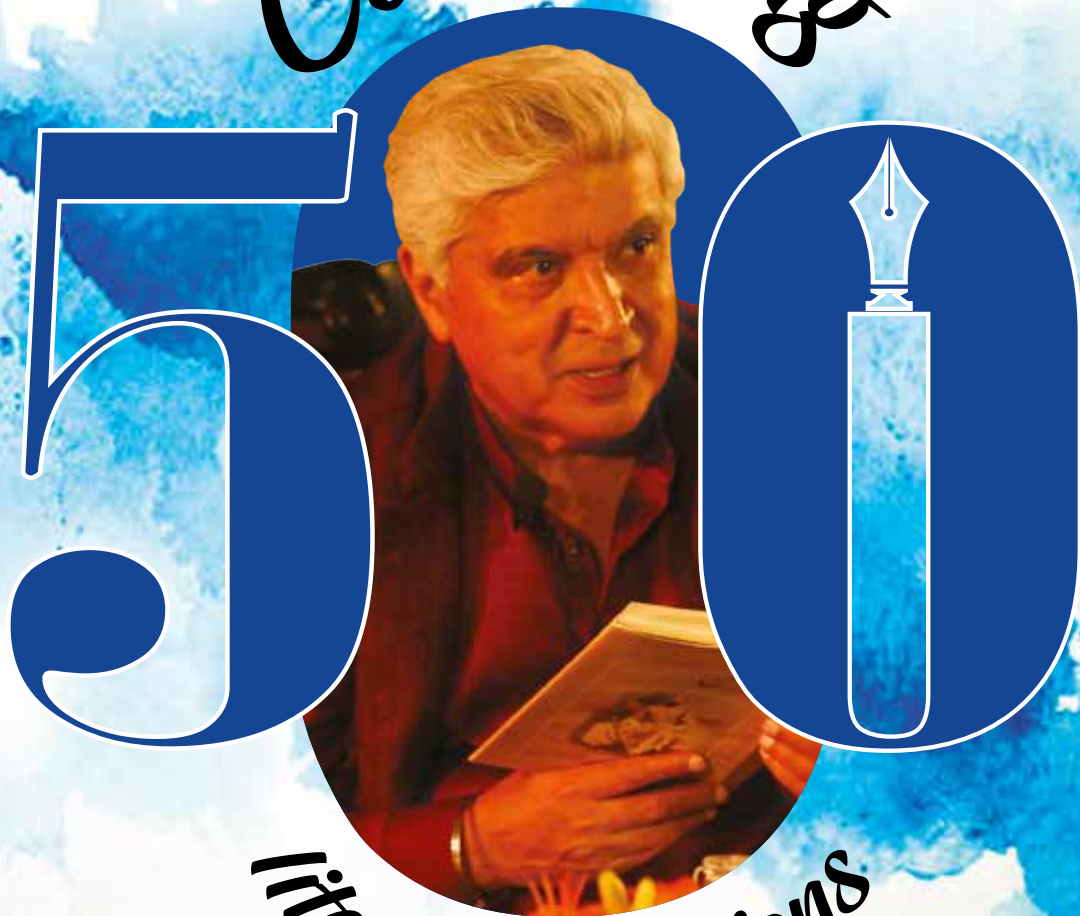


# Prabha प्रभा

The Prabha Khaitan Foundation Chronicle

ISSUE 6 | Special Edition

*Celebrating*



*literary sessions*

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प्रभा

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# Celebrating Stories and Experiences, Life and Literature



What began with baby steps into the world of words, soon turned into a league of literary sessions. We take immense joy and pride in celebrating 500 Literary Sessions of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. The journey took us into the wilderness and face-offs with the big cats, got us swaying to popular lyrics, helped us reconnect with our roots and revisit the alleys of forgotten history and mythology. Poetry was redefined, regional languages received an extra shimmer, aspirations were moulded and literature transcended to another level.

Our journey began from where the soul of Indian literature evolved — Kolkata. The Foundation's vision to promote and recognise talent from different walks of life inspired us to arrange immaculately curated literary sessions in about 30 cities across the country. Encouraged by the response in India, we forayed into the global arena with our bouquet of sessions as well. We hosted some of the greatest stalwarts from the world of words, even as we focused on creating a platform for aspiring talent. Each session carried a different flavour and spread a different essence. While some of the authors unwrapped secrets hidden in the pages of history, others took us behind the scenes of media journalism, gave us a peek into the minds behind the words that are rocking the music scene in the country today, or made us search deeper into our souls. Sessions covered topics as varied as politics, culinary expertise, spirituality, autobiographies, secrets of scripting, captivating adventures and so much more. The subject of parenthood and old age was relatable for many of our session guests. We rode a roller-coaster of emotions in our endeavour to bridge the gap between the reader and writer.

Along with regional languages, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic literature too were given a new dimension. Book racks have been set up in Kolkata, Jaipur, Raipur, Patna and Udaipur, showcasing authors we have had the privilege of hosting at our various sessions.

Our vision and objective could not have attained this eminence or popularity had it not been for the support of our patrons and the extremely dedicated team of Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Our associates all over the country have conscientiously matched our steps with equal fervour and zeal enabling us to design some of the most memorable events in the sphere of literature.

Our journey of 500 literary sessions celebrated stories and experiences. We celebrated life. And, of course, we celebrated literature. The genesis of the Foundation had been crafted to connect the world of literature to as many as possible. The continual support, good wishes and feedback is the foundation of all our endeavours and accomplishments. We look forward to many more such reasons to celebrate together in the years to follow.

**Manisha Jain**

Communications & Branding Chief,  
Prabha Khaitan Foundation



## In Their Words

One to 500: The Prabha Khaitan Foundation family shares the experience of their literary journey

Anshu Mehra (Meerut)



We are only two sessions old but our enthusiasm is no less than the veterans on the team. The literary sessions have changed the manner in which Meerut connects with like-minded book-lovers. The development has been tremendous. The little details that are put into each session have made a lot of difference to how the guests perceive them. The focus on regional language and the different target audience make me look forward to putting together more such sessions.

Parveen Tuli (Nagpur)



We are the new kids on the block but definitely not in spirit or enthusiasm. Just one session into the crusade to revive the affinity towards regional literature, this chance to meet authors and cherish literature is truly a learning experience for us. Our journey began with none other than the most happening lyricist of Bollywood, Manoj Muntashir, which was a great high for me, and I am definitely waiting to host all the other sessions in the Prabha Khaitan Foundation's bouquet.

Neeta Singh (Nagpur)



I am attracted to being around people I am in awe of and love to pick up positive traits from them. Being part of the Ehsaas team has given me this unique opportunity and helped in my personal growth. I am very much for the furtherance of regional language and look forward to lending a hand in reviving local culture and literature.

Anvita Pradhan (Patna)

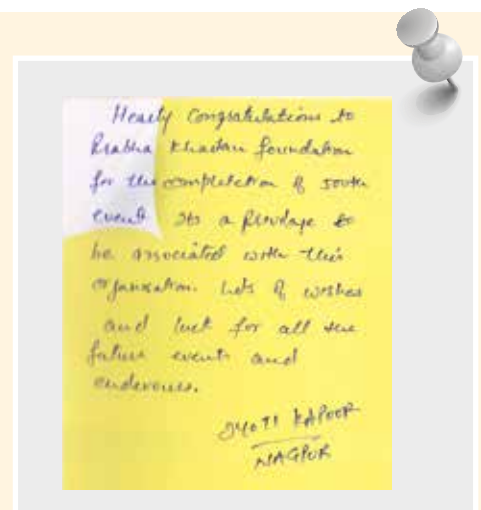


It has been such a satisfying and memorable experience being part of the journey. The people of Patna and Ranchi are enriched by the bevy of sessions being arranged by Ehsaas and Prabha Khaitan Foundation. I feel homemakers like me have found their calling in the pursuit of their love for literature and putting their organisational skills to use through it.

Jyoti Kapoor (Nagpur)



The moment Apra (Kuchhal) approached us we knew it was our calling. Being a mother, I am all the more keen on the work that we have set out to do, as today's youth need to associate with regional languages too. I am looking forward to other segments, especially Urdu and Marathi. Moving out of my familiar zone and setting out to follow my heart has given me a new impetus in life. The sessions will have a great impact, not only in the field of literature, but in the social scene as well. Mothers are calling up and asking about the next session already. This is a great way to connect young minds to their roots, too. It is a great platform to connect like-minded people.





Garima Mithal (Meerut)

I am so happy to be a part of the Ehsaas team and Prabha Khaitan Foundation. The journey has just started for us, but the connection with all other members has been instant. I feel that being a part of the project will allow me to give back to our society and city without any *swarth*. Coming aboard has opened the door to self-discovery for me. After each session, I feel '*humein haftey bhar ka sochne ka saamaan mil gaya hai*.' Interacting with different writers elevates our perspective towards life to a different level. Attending the 500 literary sessions celebration has strengthened my conviction towards the purpose.

Nilisha Agarwal (Kolkata)

Being an Ehsaas woman is like opening up to a new horizon full of like-minded people. Despite being miles and cities apart, we have bonded over a common purpose and belief. Sharing our experiences and individual learnings has strengthened our association. Each zone has done commendable work within their domain.



Kalpana Chaudhary (Raipur)



Javed Saab and I more or less belong to the same generation! The generation of dreamers who saw dreams with open eyes and idolised thoughts and people. The generation that talked about humanity and discussed the future world that we all were going to inhabit and co-exist in. His disillusionment created the angry young man and his inherently sensitive soul played with words to craft soul-stirring poetry. The penmanship is obviously in his genes as both his parents and grandfather were exemplary wordsmiths!

A day spent in his august company listening to the mesmerizing poetry was simply ethereal. His poetry does not camouflage emotions and feelings. It is forthright and simple to understand as each word touches your heart and soul!

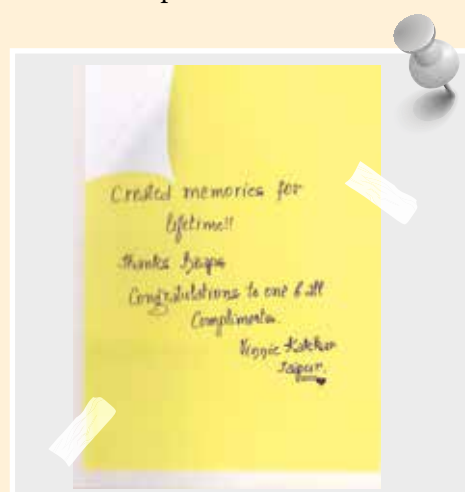
Personally it is a day which will always remain etched in my adult memory reminding me of the surreal experience that I had. Often I wonder about his sheer ability to recite poetry endlessly with zest, his resonant voice giving each nuance absolute clarity!

The day was filled with so much warmth, love, care and unforgettable camaraderie.

I am thankful to Prabha Khaitan Foundation for giving us the opportunity to meet and listen to this legendary maverick poet who is vulnerable and authoritative at the same time!

Vinnie Kakkar,  
National Advisor

On our path to empower women we choose to uphold our vast literary and cultural heritage. It is our mantra to empower women through learning and leadership. I hope that women will find our endeavor more relatable and one cluster of women will be able to inspire and influence others.



Our aim is to make literature accessible to all. The activities of the team have honed the leadership qualities in women. It is our sincerest effort to be able to reach out to the innermost levels of our nation and connect with people.

Another agenda that we have is to build an environment-conscious society. With this in mind, we strongly advocate for everyone to "Say No To Plastic." Each session we curate maintains stringent rules that enable us to follow protocols and practise decorum. The invitees are thoroughly screened and entry is by invitation only. Hence, the audience is an amalgamation of genuine lovers of literature from different walks of life. We value time and ensure that the sessions conclude within the specified time period. Our sessions have become a powerful networking platform for the word-lover as well as the wordsmith.



Dona Ganguly (Kolkata)

The work that Prabha Khaitan Foundation has set out to do will indeed be very fruitful for society. We are only 500 sessions young, and there is a lot yet to take care of. However, what we have achieved in this short span of time is indeed commendable. Ehsaas women have risen to the occasion and delivered. It is great to see everyone so enthusiastic and dedicated.

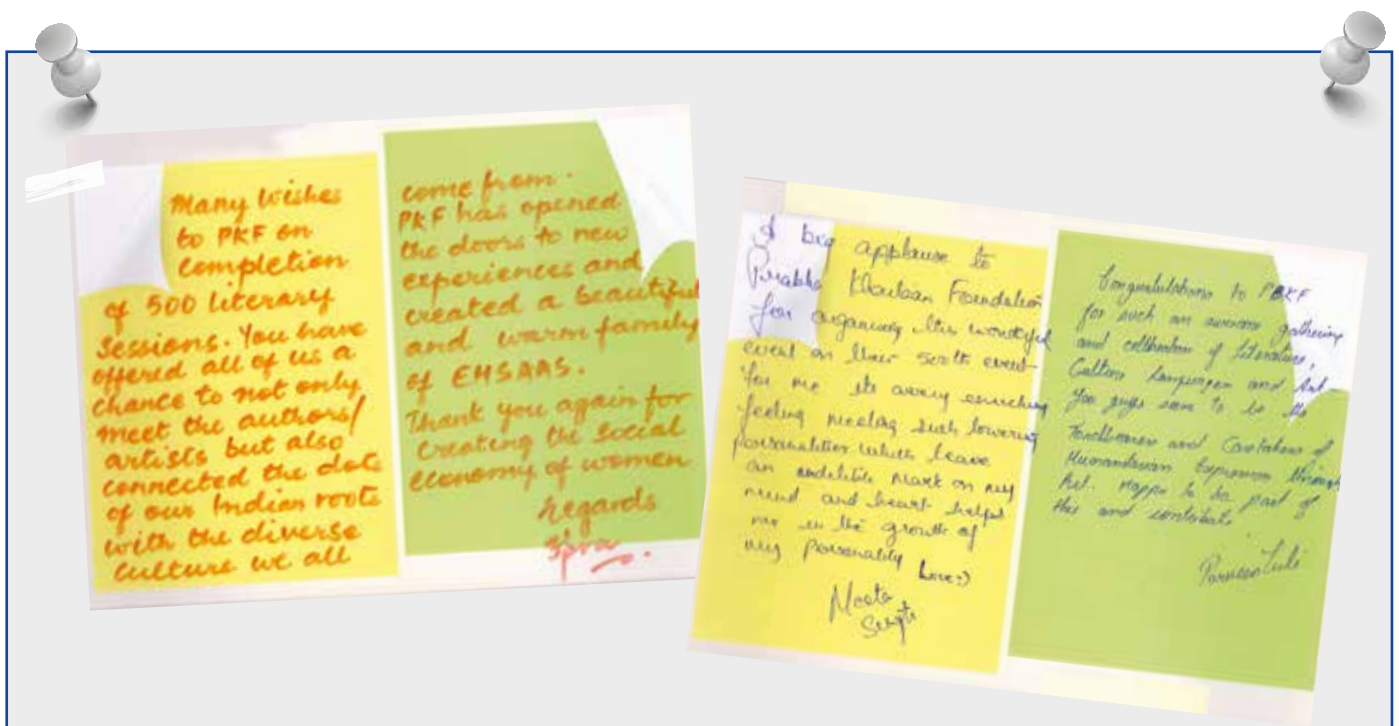
Dimple Trivedi (Lucknow)

Our work is best described as the finest work done for the women, with the women, by the women. Our tagline should definitely be 'appreciation of women organisers', as I believe that Prabha Khaitan Foundation has truly understood the soul of a woman. We have set out to spread knowledge through women's empowerment. As the popular saying goes, 'you educate one woman, you educate an entire society'. Sustenance and sustainability both are appropriately upheld by Prabha Khaitan Foundation. Our session format is very easy to follow and practise. Our home organisational skills have taken on a different dimension whilst putting the sessions together.



Vedula Ramalakshmi (Bhubaneswar)

I read a lot of literature and have my own interpretations of the words. However, when the author renders his own interpretation, the words are taken to a different level. This opportunity to be able to interact with the country's best literary craftsmen is surely inspiring. My 26 years of being in the teaching profession has seen the decline of interest in students towards the vernaculars. These sessions have given me the opportunity to invite my students to Kalam and help boost their interest and love for the regional languages. At a time, when I believe that vernacular literature has declined in impetus, sessions like Kalam and Aakhar are like a *vardaan* for literature and literature lovers."



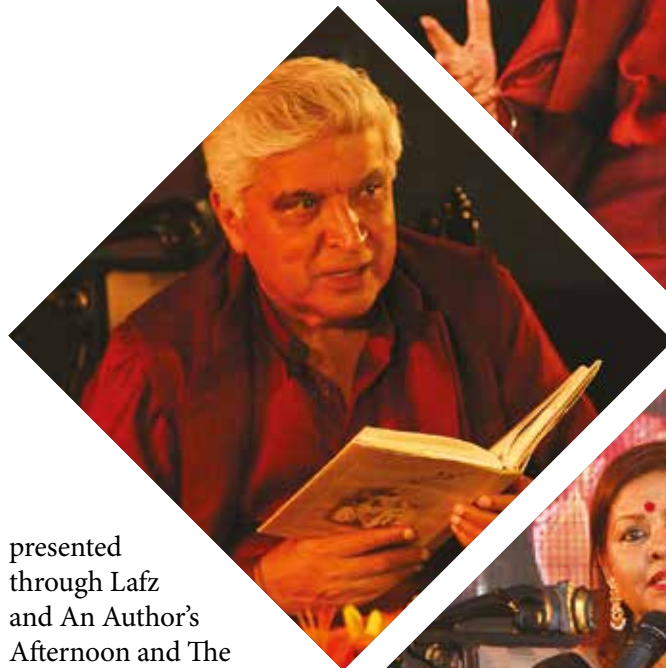
*Celebrating*  
**500**  
*literary sessions*



# An Evening of Music and Poetry

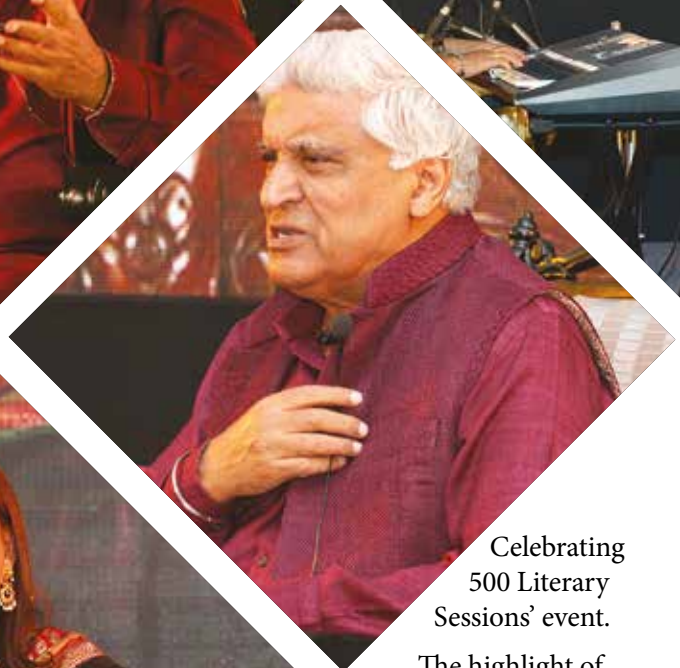
What started as a thought about promoting India's cultural and literary heritage in 2012 gained momentum and became a movement spanning about 30 cities in the country and crossing international boundaries into the United Kingdom. On August 21 and 22, it was time for Prabha Khaitan Foundation and Ehsaas: Women of India to celebrate an incredible milestone — creating five hundred events under various heads, spanning multiple languages and mediums.

While Hindi literature was celebrated in Kalam, Urdu, Arabic and Farsi literature were



presented through Lafz and An Author's Afternoon and The Write Circle provided English literature its due respect. Aakhar attempted to bring back focus on regional languages, while Kitaab gave book launches a new identity. Prabha Khaitan also hosted some special events at various literature festivals across the country.

Over two days, patrons, participants and guests from all across the country met at Taj Bengal, Kolkata, and bonded over the one common thread — their love for literature — at the 'Prabha Khaitan Foundation 500:

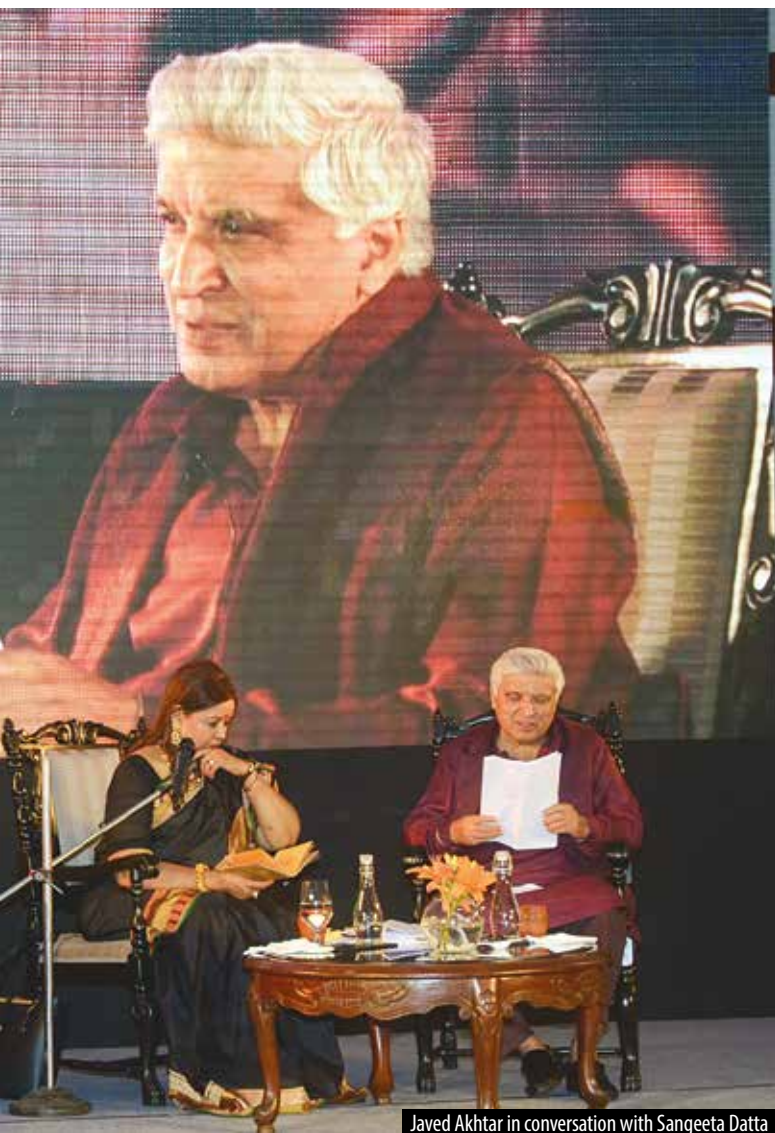


Celebrating 500 Literary Sessions' event.

The highlight of the two-day event, which included meetings to look back at the journey and chart the way forward, a dinner and more, was an evening with Javed Akhtar, poet, lyricist and screenwriter, who was in conversation with artist and filmmaker, Sangeeta Datta. Akhtar kept the audience enthralled as he wove magic through his words, not just talking about his music and poetry, but also reading some of his famous dialogues and writings.







Javed Akhtar in conversation with Sangeeta Datta



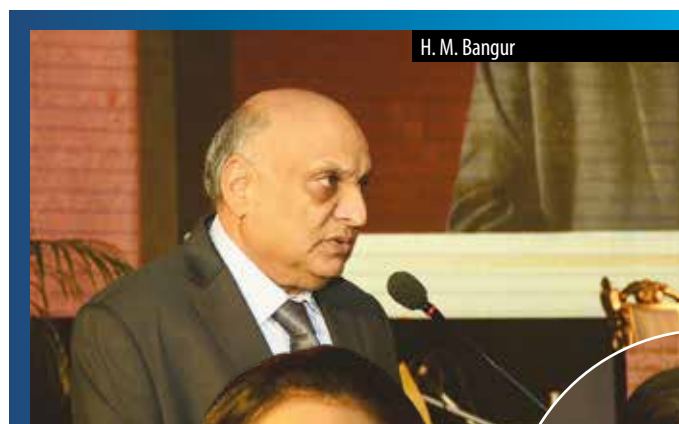
Javed Akhtar pays tribute to Rabindranath Tagore



Harsh and Madhu Neotia in the audience



(Left to right) Ina Puri, Nandita Palchoudhuri, Soumyojit Das, Sourendro Mullick and Shukla Sil



H. M. Bangur



Yatindra Mishra



Apra  
Kuchhal



Vedula Ramalakshmi



Vinnie  
Kakkur



## Tête-à-tête Over Tea



Nandita Palchoudhuri with  
Dona Ganguly — Ehsaas  
Woman of Kolkata



Oindrilla Dutt



Shrreya Pandey



Preeyam Budhia



Esha Dutta — Ehsaas Woman of Kolkata,  
and Praneet Bubber — Ehsaas Woman  
of Amritsar



Nidhi Jalan and Dr. Shilpi Malhotra



Manesha A. Agarwal



Nilisha Agarwal, Ehsaas  
Woman of Kolkata





Dimple Trivedi — Ehsaas Woman of Lucknow,



Manju Sethia



Koneenica Banerjee



Shradha Agarwal



Sreyashi Sen, and Neelima Dalmia Adhar  
— Ehsaas Woman of Delhi



Shamlu Dudeja and Sourendro Mullick



Ritu Almal



Malika Varma  
— Ehsaas  
Woman of  
Kolkata



Deepshikha Bihani, Prashant Bangur, Vivek Bihani



Shruti Mohta



H. M. Bangur and  
Vishnu Dhanuka



Bharati Ray, Renu Roy, Dr. Pranab Dasgupta, and Ina Puri — Ehsaas Woman of Gurugram





Sudipta Kundu



## CLOSED-DOOR SESSION WITH

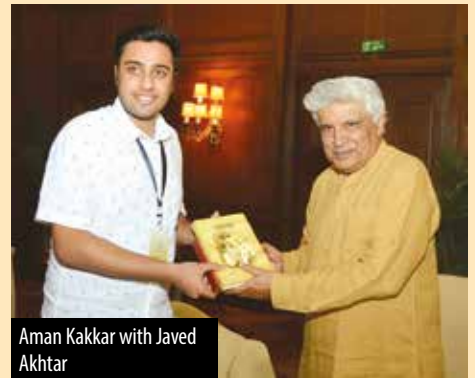
*Javed Akhtar*



Jagdeep Singh with Javed Akhtar



Nidhi Garg with Javed Akhtar



Aman Kakkar with Javed Akhtar



The audience at the closed-door session



## CHARTING THE ROAD AHEAD

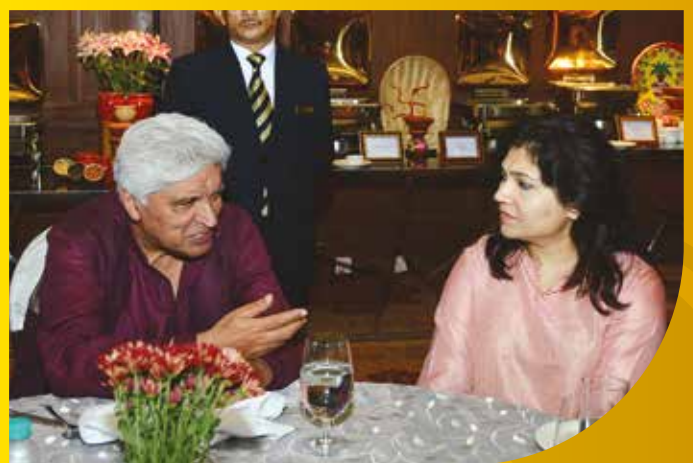
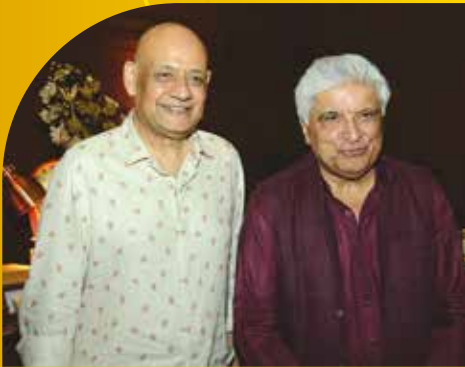


## MEETING OF MINDS





## Moods and Moments from a Celebratory Dinner







# Afternoons with Words

The summer of 2012 saw the beginning of a successful series of enchanting afternoons with authors who have a story to share. Focused on writers in English, An Author's Afternoon has become a calendar event for the literature lovers of Kolkata.



**Anupam Kher**

The sixth edition of An Author's Afternoon on January 14, 2013, featured Anupam Kher who spoke about his book *The Best Thing About You is YOU!*. He was in a conversation with Ina Puri, and discussed topics ranging from books to films to the power of failure.



**Vikram Sampath**

The founder-director of Bangalore Literature Festival, and the author of books like *Splendours of Royal Mysore: The Untold Story of the Wodeyars* and *My Name is Gauhar Jaan!*, was the guest at An Author's Afternoon session on April 21, 2014. He was in conversation with actress Arpita Chatterjee.



**Ashwin Sanghi**

Ashwin Sanghi was the star of the 25th edition of An Author's Afternoon on September 2, 2015. In his conversation with writer Jash Sen, Sanghi spoke about how he got into writing, his interest in murder mysteries and the importance of achieving a balance in telling a story.



**Seema Goswami**

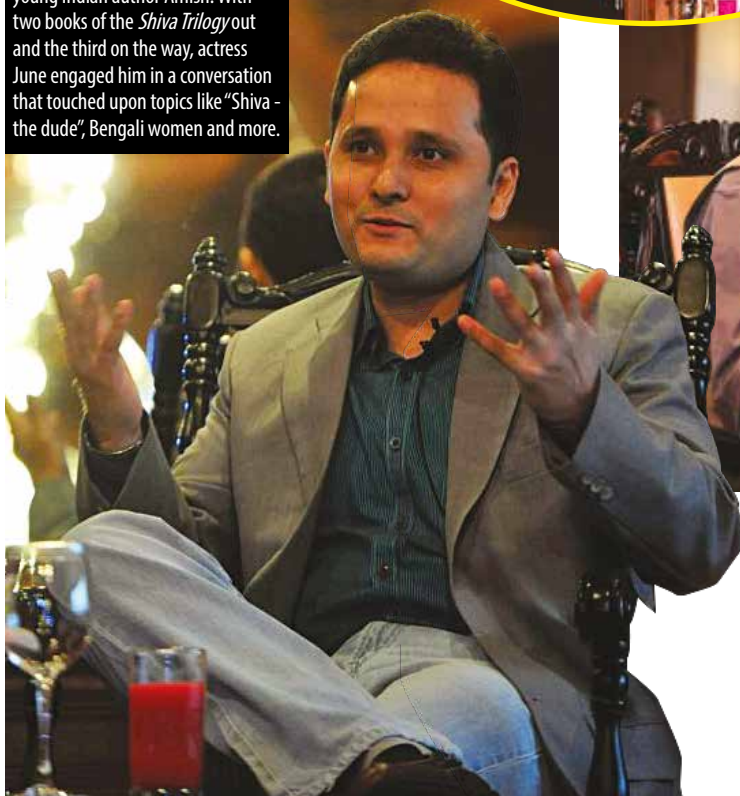
Seema Goswami and Vir Sanghvi made for a candid discussion at the 68th session of An Author's Afternoon on May 10, 2019, where they talked about Indian politics with wit and charm. The session focused on Goswami's latest book *Race Course Road*, a political thriller which evokes emotions ranging from love to hatred.

**Amish Tripathi**

On November 19, 2012, An Author's Afternoon played host to best-selling young Indian author Amish. With two books of the *Shiva Trilogy* out and the third on the way, actress June engaged him in a conversation that touched upon topics like "Shiva - the dude", Bengali women and more.

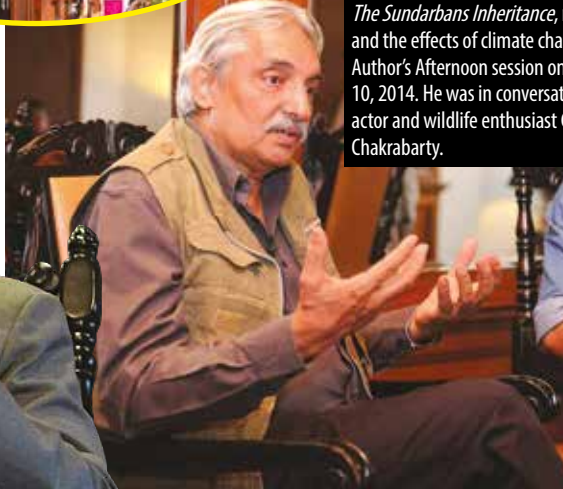
**Bittu Sahgal**

Wildlife conservationist and founder of *Sanctuary Asia* and *Cub* magazine, Bittu Sahgal, talked about his book *The Sundarbans Inheritance*, myths of man-eaters and the effects of climate change at An Author's Afternoon session on February 10, 2014. He was in conversation with actor and wildlife enthusiast Gaurav Chakrabarty.



**Anand Neelakantan**

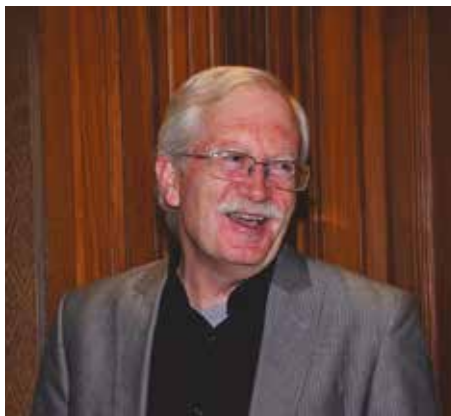
His lively presence and contagious sense of humour made Anand Neelakantan the darling of the audience at An Author's Afternoon on May 18, 2017. In conversation with Esha Chatterjee, the author shared his views and struggles as a novelist.





**David Davidar**

The 24th edition of An Author's Afternoon on August 29, 2015, hosted David Davidar who was in conversation with publisher Mandira Sen. The author of books like *The House of Blue Mangoes*, *The Solitude of Emperors*, and *Ithaca* shared his ups and downs in the literary world.

**Stephen Alter**

It was a one-man format at An Author's Afternoon on November 16, 2016, with author Stephen Alter, who used a projector and a screen to take the audience on a journey through the Himalayas — some of it through his photographs and some through anecdotes that left the audience in awe.

**Anuja Chauhan**

The 22nd session of An Author's Afternoon on June 2, 2015, was a candid discussion, high on humour, between the author Anuja Chauhan and professor Debnita Chakravarti, who moderated the session. It was a lively conversation that touched on her journey as a writer, childhood memories and her books.

**Preeti Shenoy**

Preeti Shenoy, the highest-selling woman writer in India, enchanted the audience at the 40th episode of An Author's Afternoon on January 17, 2017. She was in conversation with professor Debnita Chakravarti.

**Jeet Thayil**

The author of *Narcopolis* was the second guest at An Author's Afternoon series. Held on August 17, 2012, Thayil was in conversation with Debanjan Chakrabarti, the present director of British Council in East and Northeast India. It was a lively discussion on the DSC Prize-winner's book on Bombay, drugs and sex.

**Namita Gokhale**

Author, columnist, publisher, founder of literary festivals — Namita Gokhale wears many hats. Talking to Wiccan author Ipsita Roy Chakravarti on March 24, 2014, Gokhale discussed the bold subject matter of her books and the strange circumstances under which her novel *The Book of Shadows* came into being.

**Dr. Shashi Tharoor**

The 39th An Author's Afternoon session on December 19, 2016, saw Shashi Tharoor engaged in conversation with his son, author Kanishk Tharoor. His book, *An Era of Darkness*, a telling commentary on British colonialism in India, was the subject of the discussion. Tharoor's excellent style of presentation revived vivid memories of a bygone era which we Indians have seen through a biased prism of the West.





#### Manu S. Pillai

The 31st session of An Author's Afternoon on April 23, 2016, transported the audience to a different era. Flashes of royal politics, palace intrigue, betrayals and the onslaught of time on a moribund society were the ingredients of a riveting story of real-life happenings that came to life through the narratives of the guest, author Manu S. Pillai.



#### Sudha Murty

An Author's Afternoon on January 3, 2015, featured Sudha Murty, the chairperson of Infosys Foundation, in conversation with Malabika Sarkar, the present vice-chancellor of Ashoka University. The sharing of her real-life experiences as a teacher and a social worker left the audience very inspired.



#### Rashmi Bansal

Rashmi Bansal shared some inspiring life stories about entrepreneurship at the 70th session of An Author's Afternoon on July 19, 2019. Through her conversation with Hari Subramaniam the audience got to the very heart of Bansal's book *Shine Bright*, which was under discussion.

#### Lord Jeffrey Archer

Lord Jeffrey Archer was the guest at An Author's Afternoon session on 15 December, 2012. The session saw Archer at his dramatic best when he scolded Indians, much to the delight of the audience, for being among the most innovative people on earth. Talking about spurious copies of his books he saw being sold on the footpaths of major Indian cities, he lamented how he had one of the biggest fan bases in India yet never got the royalties!



#### Sonal Mansingh and Sujata Prasad

The 50th session of An Author's Afternoon saw author Sujata Prasad and special invitee Sonal Mansingh in conversation. Mansingh held the audience spellbound with her infectious charm, panache and wonderful style of storytelling. All credit to Prasad, who revealed the interiors of her *aapa's* thoughts in her book *Sonal Mansingh: A Life Like No Other*.



#### Kunal Basu

The author of books like *The Opium Clerk*, *The Miniaturist*, and *Racists* was the guest at An Author's Afternoon session on April 16, 2013. In conversation with actress Churni Ganguly, Basu spoke about rediscovering his love for Kolkata and his next novel (*Kalkatta*) about a gigolo, through whose eyes we discover the city we think we all know.



# Celebrating the Power of Language

Spread across 30 cities and overseas, Kalam is an initiative that aims to spread the love of vernacular literature through interactions with authors who are writing in Hindi.

## RAIPUR



Devdutt Pattanaik



Mamta Kalia

## MUMBAI



Savi Sharma



Ashwin Sanghi



JAIPUR



Amish Tripathi



Anant Vijay



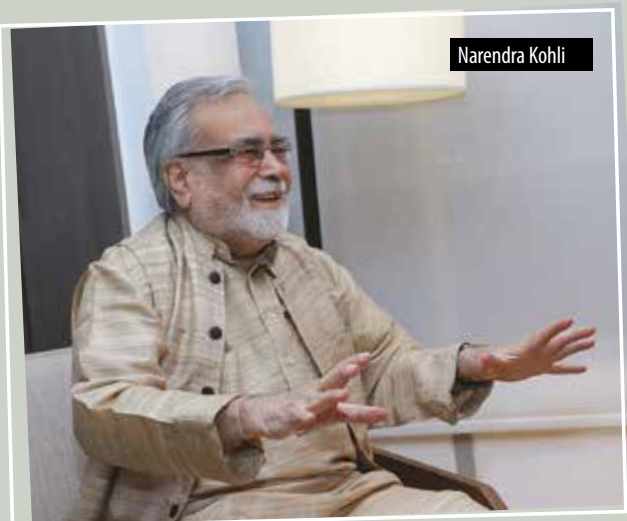
Himanshu Bajpai

GURUGRAM

KOLKATA



Nilotpal Mrinal



Narendra Kohli

## BHUBANESWAR



Bhagwandas Morwal

## MEERUT



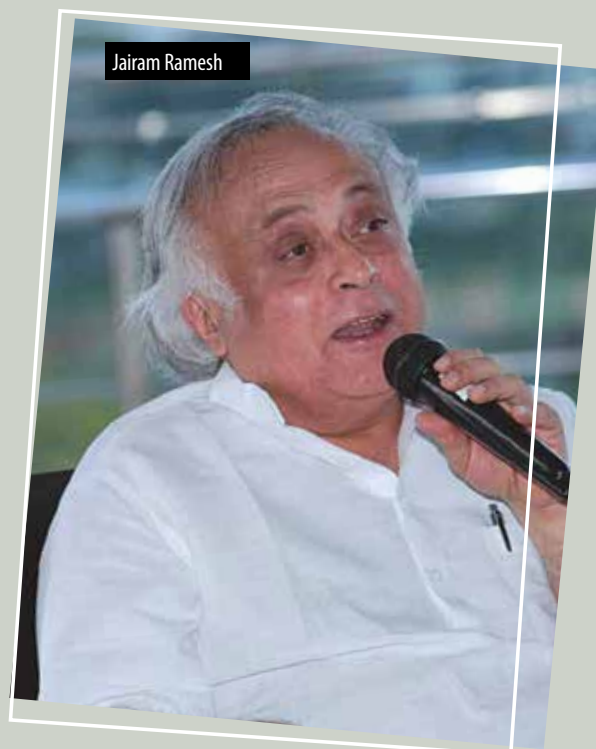
Yatindra Mishra

## PUNE



Laxmi Narayan Tripathi

## UDAIPUR



Jairam Ramesh



AJMER

Manisha Kulshrestha



RANCHI

Sujata Prasad



PATNA

Mahua Maji



AHMEDABAD

Anu Singh Chaudhary





BILASPUR



Lalit Kumar

CHANDIGARH



Ratna Vira

DELHI



Nasera Sharma

NAGPUR



Manoj Muntashir

FARIDABAD



Neelima Dalmia Adhar

HYDERABAD



Wendell Rodricks

LUCKNOW



Geeta Shree

BENGALURU



Divya Prakash Dubey



## AGRA



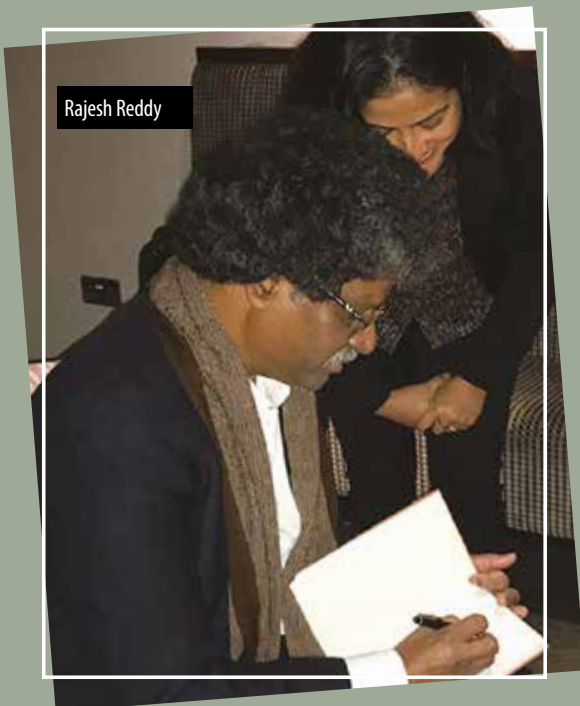
Neelima Chauhan

## AMRITSAR



Irshad Kamil

## LONDON



Rajesh Reddy

## JODHPUR



Pratyaksha Sinha

# આસ્થર

અપની ભાષા અપને લોગ



# Wording It Back to the Roots

Aakhar celebrates literature in the regional languages and provides a platform for literature lovers to connect with their roots.



Ashok Jha

PATNA



Dr. Premalata Mishra (right)



Aidan Singh Bhati (right)

UDAIPUR



Mrityunjay Kumar Singh



Saroj Singh

Krishna Kumar





JAIPUR



Bulaki Sharma (right)

Bhanwar Singh Samor (right)



Basanti Panwar

Kundan Mali



Kamla Kamlesh (right)



Dinesh Panchal

## BENGALURU

Perumal Murugan



K. R. Meera



## BHUBANESWAR



Haladhar Nag (left)  
in conversation with  
Surendra Nath



Dr. Pratibha Satpathy in  
conversation with Deba  
Prasad Dash





## Book Launches Get a New Lease of Life with Kitaab



John Zubrzycki at the launch of his book *Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns: A Magical History of India* in Bengaluru.



Salman Khurshid in conversation with Apra Kuchhal at the launch of Khurshid's book *Invisible Citizen, Visible Muslim: Understanding Islam in Indian Democracy*.



The launch of Kishan Rungta's *Stalking Tigers on Foot* in Jaipur.



Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Moon Moon Sen, Raghu Mohta and Sandip Roy at the launch of Tharoor's *The Paradoxical Prime Minister* in Kolkata.



The launch of Jasmin Waldmann's book *Change Mein* in Kolkata.



Launch of John Zubrzycki's *Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns: A Magical History of India* in Hyderabad.



The launch of Sagar S. J. B. Rana's *Singha Durbar: Rise and Fall of the Rana Regime of Nepal* in Jaipur



Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi (*not in picture*) launched Kishan Rungta's book *Stalking Tigers on Foot* in Kolkata.



Launch of John Zubrzycki's book *Jadoowallahs, Jugglers and Jinns: A Magical History of India* in Kolkata.



Sunita Kohli (*right*) in conversation with Sai Kothai during the launch of Kohli's *The Lucknow Cookbook*.



Seema Goswami (*right*) in conversation with Dr. Anita Hada at the launch of Goswami's book *Race Course Road*.

## *Special Events*



# Literature Festivals



Pavan Varma (*centre*) and Vani Tripathi Tikoo (*right*) in conversation with Rahul Mahajan for the Hindinama session at **Mountain Echoes, Bhutan**, on August 23, 2019.

(*Left to right*) **Kolkata Literature Festival** director Sujata Sen, author Aditi Maheshwari and lyricist Irshad Kamil after the session 'Ek Kali Aurat Ka Khwaab: Journey to the First Filmfare Award' at KLF on February 8, 2019.



Divya Prakash Dubey (*right*) in conversation with Gaurav Girija Shukla at **GILFIF** in **Raipur** on March 31, 2019, for the October Junction session.



A performance by INK Band at the **Bengaluru Poetry Festival** on July 21, 2019.



lafz

अपनी भाषा अपने लोग



# Literature Without Barriers

Lafz is Prabha Khaitan Foundation's most recent initiative to celebrate Urdu, Arabic and Farsi literature, culture and performing arts.

Madan Mohan Mishra at Lafz Jaipur, June 2019.



Farhat Ehsaas at Lafz Jaipur, April 2018.



Muzaffar Abdali at Lafz Jaipur, January 2019.



Salim Saleem at Lafz Jaipur, April 2018.



Shakeel Jamali at Lafz Jaipur, July 2018.



Nomaan Shaque at Lafz Jaipur, November 2018.



Professor Ateequllah at Lafz Jaipur, August 2019.



THE WRITE 



## Writing the Good Word

A cross-country platform for writers in the English language, The Write Circle strives to provide authors and audience an access to each other in an informal and engaging manner.



**Dr. Swati Lodha, Raipur**

The Write Circle on April 19, 2019 hosted Dr. Swati Lodha, in conversation with Nidhi Daga.

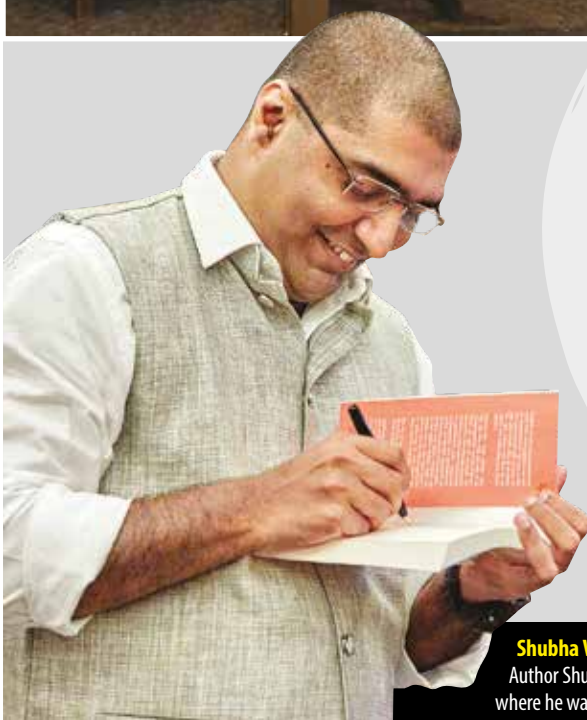
**Bhaavna Arora, Bengaluru**

The Write Circle on June 13, 2019, hosted Bhaavna Arora (right), the author of *Undaunted*, in conversation with Namita Gupta.



**Namita Devidayal, Ahmedabad**

On August 10, 2019, Namita Devidayal was in conversation with Shankar Jha about her musical journey and writing on Ustad Vilayat Khan.



**Shubha Vilas, Mumbai**

Author Shubha Vilas signs books after his session on September 11, 2018, where he was in conversation with Anvi Thakar.

**Shubhangi Swarup, Udaipur**

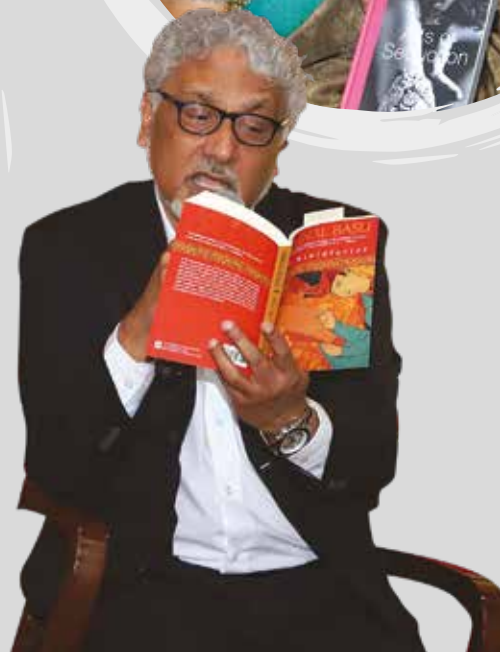
Shubhangi Swarup (left), the author of *Latitudes of Longing*, in conversation with Bhawana Detha at The Write Circle event on May 4, 2019.

**Seema Anand, Hyderabad**

Seema Anand, the author of *The Arts of Seduction*, was the guest at The Write Circle session on September 1, 2018.

**Sunita Kohli, Hyderabad**

The Write Circle on June 19, 2019, hosted Sunita Kohli in conversation with Swati Sucharita.

**Kunal Basu, Udaipur**

Author Kunal Basu reading out an excerpt from his book *The Miniaturist* at The Write Circle Session on March 11, 2019.

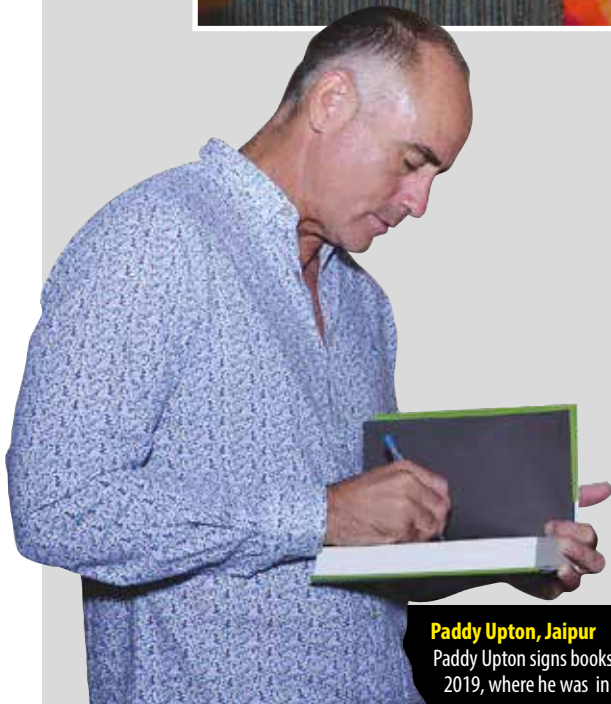


**Lady Mohini Kent Noon, Jaipur**

Mohini Kent Noon was the guest at The Write Circle session on August 6, 2016.

**Madhavi Menon, Patna**

Author Madhavi Menon (left) in conversation with Smita Chowdhary at The Write Circle session on April 5, 2019.

**Paddy Upton, Jaipur**

Paddy Upton signs books after his session on May 14, 2019, where he was in conversation with Rajan Mahan.

**Jaya Jaitly, Jaipur**

Jaya Jaitly, former Samata Party president and an expert in the traditional arts and crafts of India, was in conversation with Vaidehi Singh on December 21, 2017.

**Reshma Qureshi and Tania Singh, Agra**

The inaugural session of The Write Circle in Agra on July 19, 2019 hosted acid attack survivor Reshma Qureshi (*centre*) and Tania Singh (*left*), CEO of Make Love Not Scars, in conversation with Meghna Middha.

**Preeti Shenoy, Ahmedabad**

The first episode of The Write Circle series in Ahmedabad hosted Preeti Shenoy, author of *The Rule Breakers* and many others, in conversation with Kinjal Desai on September 28, 2018.

**Daman Singh, Jodhpur**

The inaugural session of Write Circle in Jodhpur on May 17, 2019, saw author Daman Singh in conversation with Dr. Vikas Balia about her life, her writings, her previous work, her interests and her book *Kitty's War*.

**Ashutosh Gupta, Jaipur**

Ashutosh Gupta, the author of *Hindu Rashtra* and *The Crown Prince, the Gladiator and the Hope: Battle for Change*, was the guest at The Write Circle session on April 18, 2015.



## In Their Words



Gaurav Girija Shukla (Raipur)

This is a great initiative by everyone. The consistent quality of our programmes will be the key in setting apart our sessions from the typical literary interfaces happening in our city. Raipur is waiting eagerly to experience all the other activities to be arranged by the

Ehsaas team. The work we have taken up for the empowerment of women is admirable. I hope we are able to create a platform for budding authors in the future.



Malika Varma (Kolkata)

It has been such an interesting, illustrative journey. It is just the beginning of a journey, which has established an initiative to bring together people sharing a common passion for literature, or should I say words? We have seen an amalgamation of many well-known authors,

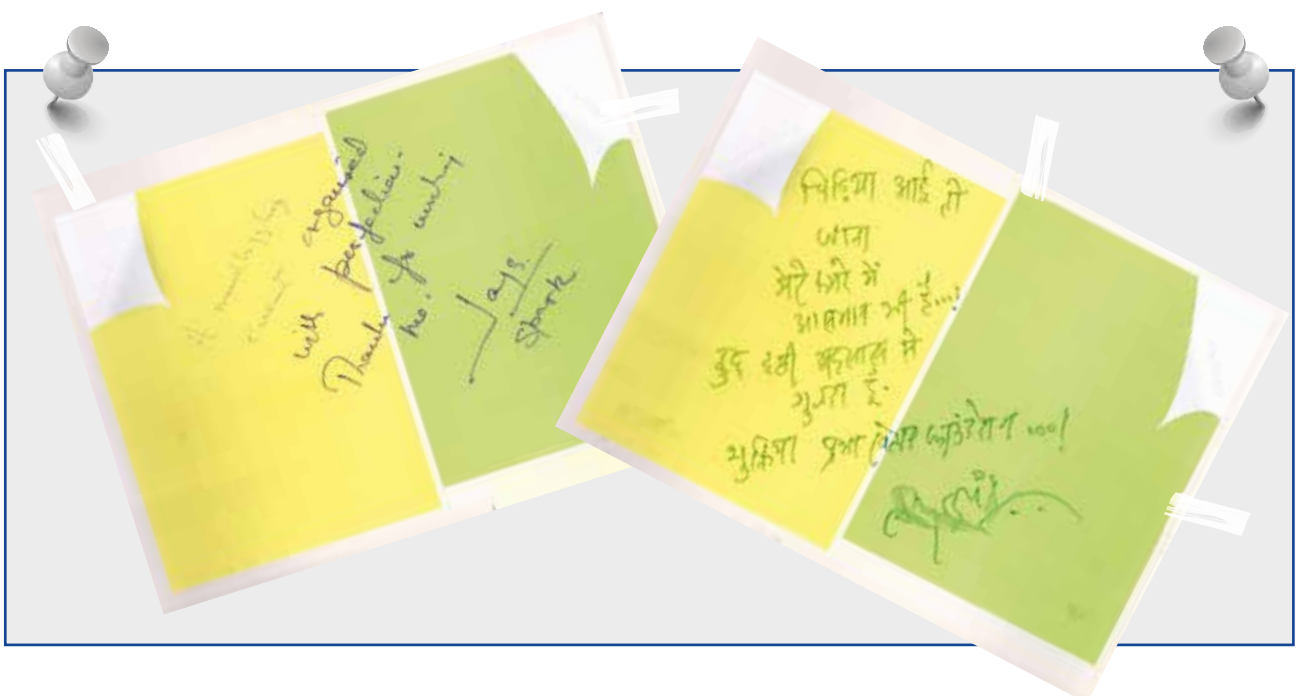
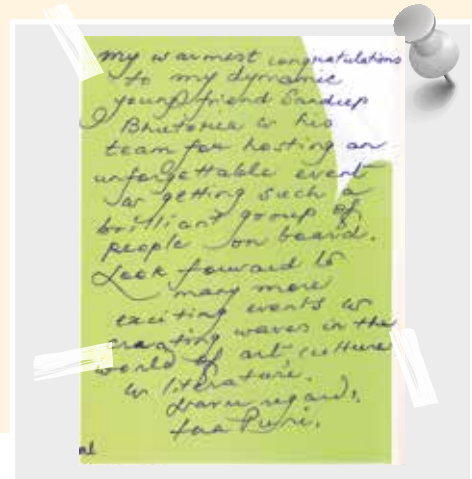
along with some very promising new talents in our sessions. The guests have spanned diverse worlds of expertise too, such as lyricists, wildlife conservationists, fashion designers, along with poets and writers, of course. Truly, language has no barriers and that shows in the enthusiasm for our sessions in the regional languages. I am awaiting the next leg of our journey with renewed zeal and vigour.

Ina Puri (Gurugram)



I will be leaving with a very positive feeling. This momentum is the sign of success for Prabha Khaitan Foundation and the Ehsaas team.

It takes immense drive and ability to put together such a campaign. In today's world, when we need hope and optimism, the work of the ladies will surely enhance bonds. Art and literature connect people, irrespective of their caste and community. It is so crucial today to be able to associate. The endeavor will surely go from strength to strength.





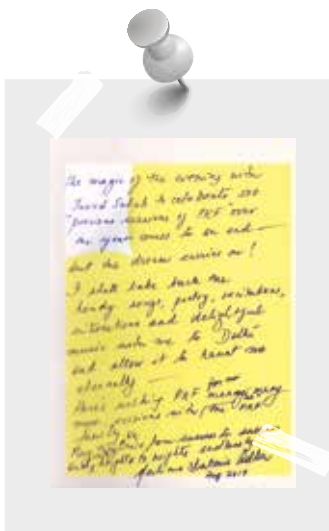
Shrishti Trivedi (Raipur)

It is indeed wonderful to see how each event is carefully curated, right from its inception to how it pans out on execution.

The Foundation has added aesthetic value not just to literature but to local art and culture as well on a national level. I feel nothing less than sheer pride in being associated with the organization as an Ehsaas woman and look forward to doing my bit with verve and adherence.

Neelima Dalmia Adhar  
(Delhi)

Absolutely phantasmagorical! It is such a special way to connect with some of the most fertile minds of the nation. Our mantra is the three 'L's — Leadership, Loyalty, Love. May we flourish and go from strength to strength.

Apra Kuchhal, Honorary Convener of Rajasthan  
and Central India Affairs

Prabha Khaitan Foundation is an innovator of various boutique events to promote literature, writing, art and culture. It has always encouraged exchange of high magnitude and prolific ideas that result in forward-looking creators of our country.

Completing 500 literary sessions is a result of the spirit and dedication of everyone who is a part of the Foundation. It is a result of constant hard work, characterised by precision and sedulous attention to detail, of Mr. Sundeep Bhutoria.

The journey of Ehsaas — an initiative of Prabha Khaitan Foundation — has been truly magical. It started with the idea of providing the same cultural platforms and opportunities to women across the length and breadth of our country and eventually abroad too. It understood the fact that women are the flag-bearers of their local culture amalgamating it into the Indian fabric of oneness.

In no time Ehsaas gained momentum, created strong synergies and became a mass movement. Today the Ehsaas women are the galvanising agents. We are creating this social economy of women who are helping each other to preserve our traditions and create an inclusive culture. In our own cities, during various events, we are up and about igniting the spark, fostering a diverse and rich Ehsaas environment.

The subject of Ehsaas is of great importance to me, not just because of my own experiences of learning and discovering but because I believe that we are in a period of time when meaningful and lasting change can be achieved.

Now and forever, Ehsaas will always reflect solidarity and togetherness. An Ehsaas woman will always admire others' beauty without questioning her own.

It's a pleasure to be associated with Prabha Khaitan Foundation. I wish them the very best always.



Nidhi Garg (Bhubaneswar)

Prabha Khaitan Foundation's initiative to design and implement literary sessions in India and abroad is indeed commendable. These events have been creating productive opportunity for authors to showcase their craft and interact with readers. On becoming an Ehsaas woman my personal perspective towards literature too has undergone a metamorphosis and now I am able to read beyond just the words. Sessions such as Kalam and Aakhar has been promoting Hindi and regional language based on the mantra of

"Apni bhasha apne log" while The Write Circle features English authors. We stand immensely motivated by the illustrious personalities hosted in Ek Mulakat. I am delighted to have been a part of the 500 literary sessions and look forward to the next 500 sessions. Meeting the other enchanting Ehsaas women for the celebrations in Kolkata was very inspiring and motivating. Their success stories and achievements has prompted me to strive harder and I thank Prabha Khaitan Foundation for giving me the opportunity to connect with people through the beautiful world of words.



Garima Tiwari (Bilaspur)

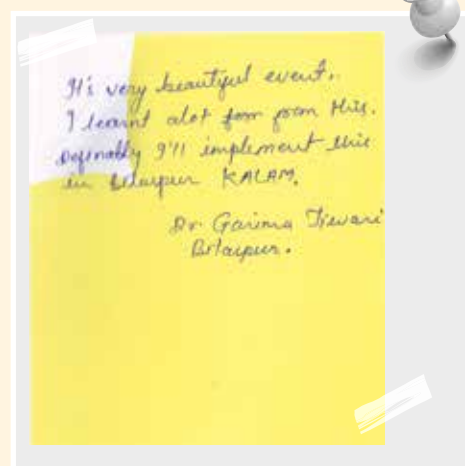


I truly appreciate the initiative on behalf of Hindi lovers.

This is a forum that will bind together all age groups, and readers with diverse tastes in literature. I

feel that the flow of literature seems to have stagnated, and arranging such exclusive sessions that are totally different from the conservative prototypes has altered people's perception of literary interaction. Being invited to our sessions

has become a status symbol in Raipur. I am extremely proud to be associated with such distinguished personalities from all over India.



Praneet Bubber (Amritsar)



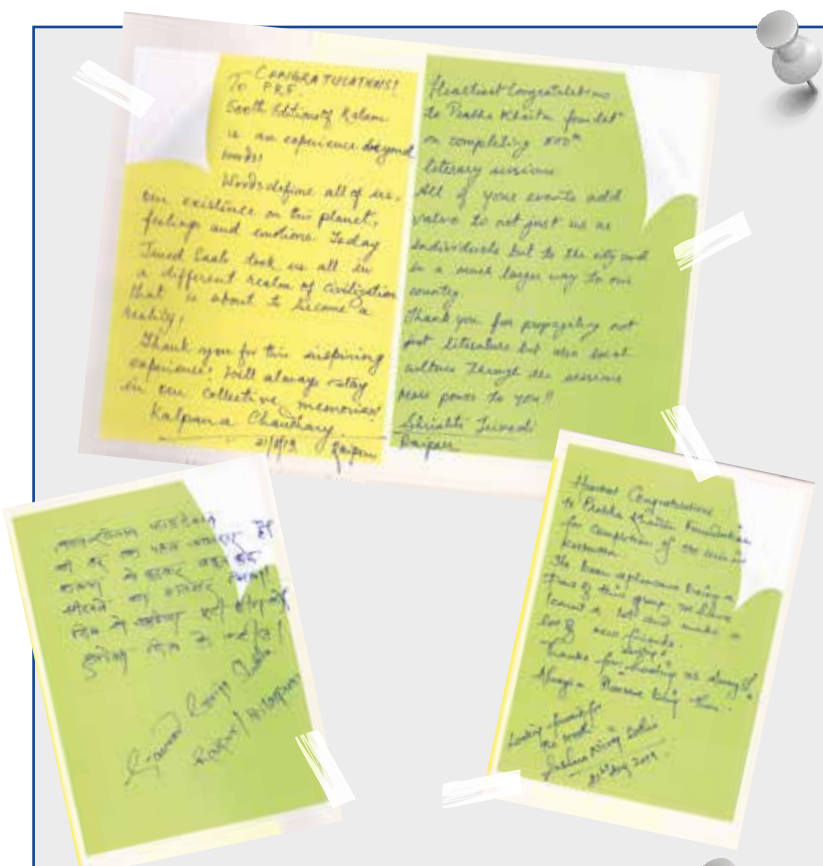
For the progress of a nation

it is very important  
to instil a sense of  
pride and loyalty.

Pride comes from awareness and recognition of one's own culture and

heritage. Civilisation will always be recognised and defined by its culture. That is the foundation of one's identity.

Once you have a firm understanding of your culture it gives you roots. It is that opportunity, to be able to reconcile and reconnect with our roots, that Prabha Khaitan Foundation is trying to build. I am extremely happy to be a part of this endeavor.

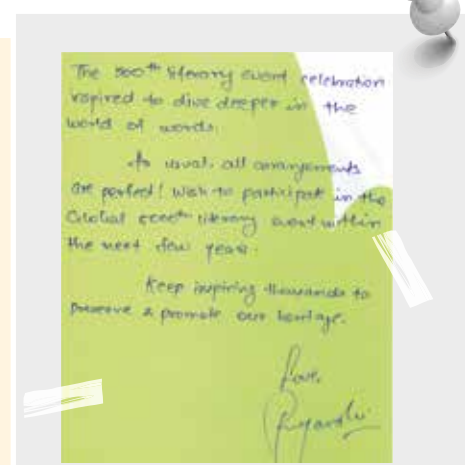


Priyanshi Patel (Ahmedabad)



I am so thrilled to be here and meeting other members of the Ehsaas family. My love for reading drew me to the concept of reaching out to people through books. It's a unique way to associate with books and interact with authors. Conducting the sessions in small groups has allowed us to maintain exclusivity.

I believe the bouquet of literary activities that has been lined up by Prabha Khaitan Foundation will definitely create a strong movement across the nation, especially with respect to elevating the regional languages.

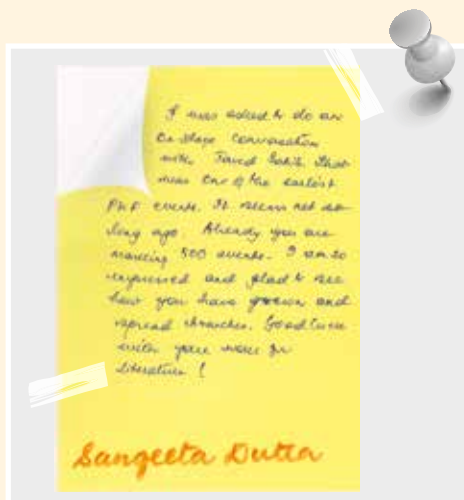




Sangeeta Datta (London)

First of all, this platform is bringing together, and giving networking opportunities to, women from different

cities. I am also happy that it is not focused only in the Metros, but also other cities and small towns where such literary meets and events are rare or impossible to have access to. This accessibility that Prabha Khaitan Foundation has provided is unique and wonderful. I am very happy to be a part of this project as the London Ehsaas Woman link and have already activated a group of people there who will be part of our activities. We have initiated a

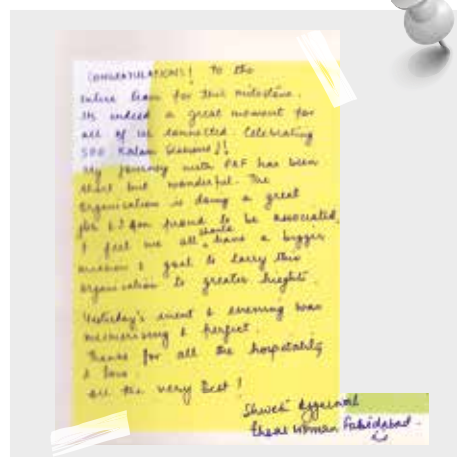


few events in London, such as, Sundeeep Bhutoria's talk on the tigers and Nandita Das' talk on her film *Manto*, which was very popular at the London School of Economics. This networking will also help us in identifying new talents and writers and enable us to create productive opportunities for them. I especially enjoy working with girls and it's been a pleasure meeting all these amazing people here. Marking the journey of 500 literary sessions was a great celebratory event. It was even more special for me because I made a presentation of *Anant* – my Tagore translations — as well as for my conversation with Javed saab, which is always very rewarding.



Shweta Aggarwal (Faridabad)

I believe being on board the Ehsaas team will allow me to give back to society through literature. Women's empowerment is our priority and we hope that by spreading the love for words, we will be able to help bring them out of darkness. It makes me so proud to be a part of such a strong woman-dominated platform.



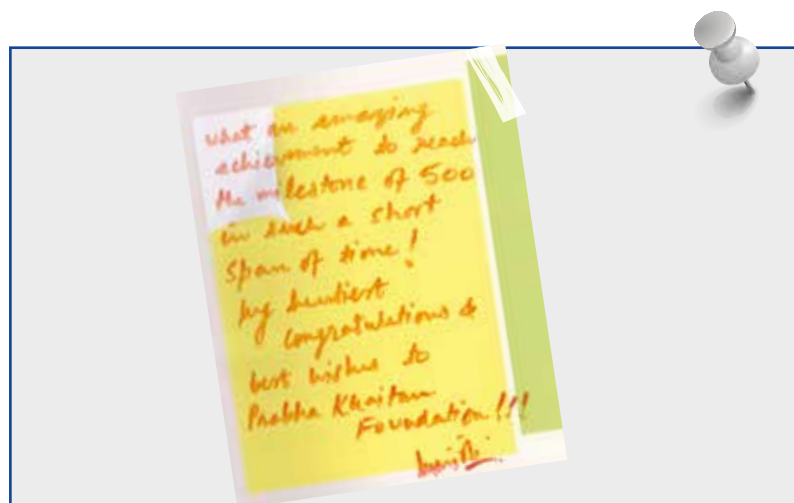
Yatindra Mishra (Ayodhya)

I look forward to more sessions in Ayodhya. The work done by the Foundation has been tremendously commendable.



Archana Dalmia (Delhi)

What a mesmerizing evening! It was absolutely fabulous, meeting so many like-minded people on a common platform, working towards the same purpose and sharing the same zeal and enthusiasm. Every event seems to be better than the previous one. I am looking forward to all the future sessions.







## REACH US AT

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

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