

READING CORNER

HISTORY | LITERATURE | ART | CULTURE | HERITAGE | BIOGRAPHY | TRAVEL | WILDLIFE | RELIGION | SELF-HELP | FICTION | TRANSLATION | CINEMA | FOOD | CHILDREN

Art... the mirror to the soul

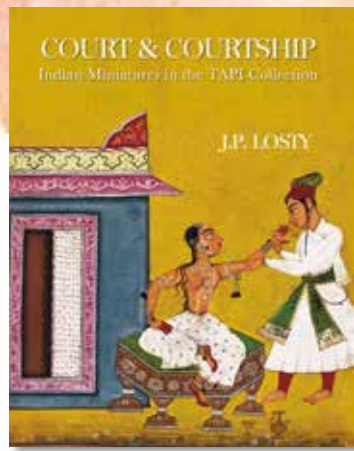
'Art is a lie that enables us to realize truth, at least the truth given to us to understand'—said the Spanish painter and sculptor, Pablo Picasso, in an interview in 1923 to a New York City periodical. Picasso was speaking of the artist's skill in convincing the viewer of the truthfulness of his creation. Well, artist or not, it does not take much to realize the importance of art in life.

Today, despite the availability of various social media platforms and accessibility to 'reality' at our fingertips, one of the greatest challenges that we face is that we are often left untouched by the world around us. We feel disconnected from the global community, the larger *us*. Constant accessibility to facts and figures can become overwhelming at times, too real for one to take in, but this is where art can make a difference.

'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.'

— Thomas Merton, *No Man is an Island*

Art does not show people what to do; yet engaging with a good work of art can connect us to our senses, to our body, mind, and soul. It can make the world *felt*. And so, for this edition of the Reading Corner, we have chosen a painting which highlights the celebration of Tij, which is celebrated during the onset of the monsoons.



The Thakurani Tij festival on the third day of the bright half of the month Shravan (July–August) in the rainy season is a festival once celebrated with great ceremony by the women of princely houses of Rajasthan.

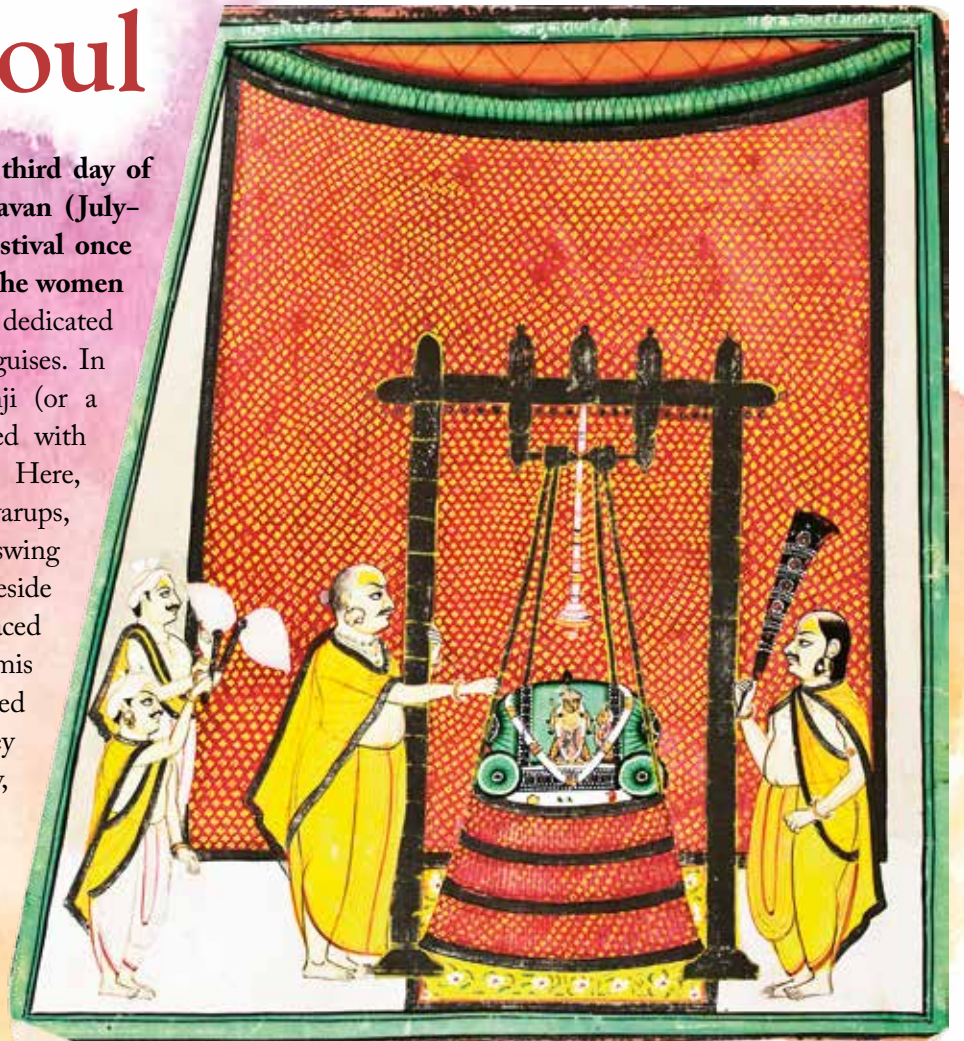
It is dedicated to the Goddess under her various guises. In Nathdwara, the image of Shrinathji (or a proxy) is placed in a swing studded with mirrors and ceremoniously swung. Here, in our painting, one of the other svarups, apparently Vitthalnathji, is in the swing with his consort Rukmini placed beside him. Cushions and bolsters are placed around them. The two Goswamis engaged in the ceremony are named as Gopeshvarji, elderly and with grey hair pulled back and tied severely, who holds the swing, and Kalyanray Narasinghji, with shaved crown, or perhaps bald, and long loose hair,

who holds the morchhal.

An enormous pichhwai of red with gold flowers, in a diaper pattern hangs behind the swing, and this pattern, is repeated in the textiles hanging beneath the swing.

The interesting and unusual asymmetrical shape of the painting seems to create a three-dimensional space for the swing.

* Extracted from the forthcoming title *Court & Courtship: Indian Miniatures in TAPI Collection* by J.P. Losty



Travel Writing in India

In literary studies, there is now an increasing awareness that travel writing constitutes important documents of culture that need to be analyzed and decoded. Travellers not only describe physical contours of places they see and record ethnographic details of people they encounter, they also reveal a great deal about themselves, their attitude, prejudices, and unspoken assumptions. While their own social and experiential backgrounds determine the angle of vision, the existing literary conventions of the genre also condition their narrative. Travel writing can no longer be seen as a transparent reflection of reality of the regions visited. It is as much a construction or interpretation as any other textual representation.

The idea of travel has always fascinated Indians as is evident from the account of places and people in our folk narratives, epics, chronicles, and plays. We can trace such elements of travelogue in the fictional accounts of the *digvijayas* in the *Mahabharata*, panoramic description of people and places in Kalidasa's *Meghdut* and other *Sandeshakavyas*, in the descriptions of holy places like in Namdeva's *Tirthayatra* in Marathi, in Vidyapati's 14th century Sanskrit work—*Bhuparikrama*, in 18th century Asamiya work—*Tripura Buranji* by Ratna Kandali, and others. The last named working is especially interesting, where envoys of King Rudra Sinha (1696 – 1714) of Assam were sent to the court of Ratnamanikya, the king of Tripura, to seek support for the proposed invasion of Bengal in 1714. These envoys who went on foot along with escorts to Tripura through

Cachar and the foothills of Mizoram have carefully recorded in the racy style of mediaeval chronicles, the landscape, habits, dresses, manners and beliefs of the people, deities and temples en route, and the intrigues for the throne, within the court of Tripura.

In Indian English Literature, we have internal celebrities, like Pico Iyer, I. Allen Sealy, Desmond Doig, Amitav Ghosh, and others. It would be fascinating to particularly map the travel writings of Amitav Ghosh, like *In an Antique Land*, *Dancing in Cambodia*, and *The Imam and the Indian*. They are like snapshots of the same subject from different angles, which may be read sequentially or shuffled about. But let me not dwell much on the well-known ones. Let me tell the readers about a couple of early travel writings in English. One of them is G. Parameshwaram Pillai's *London and Paris through Indian Spectacles*. 'GP', as he was popularly known, earned a formidable reputation as a political activist, journalist, and writer. In 1897, he visited England during the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Queen Victoria. During this trip, he contributed to the *Madras Standard*, a series of lively literary sketches of what he saw there. They were later collected in the above book and immediately translated into French, Tamil, and Malayalam. Its enduring popularity can be gauged from the fact that after umpteen editions, the book is now being offered online by the well-known British publisher, Adam Matthew Publications Ltd. The other archival item I would like to mention is a travel memoir called *The Wonders of Vilayat*, originally

written in Persian in 1784 by Mirza Sheikh I'tesamuddin and recently translated into English by Kaiser Haq. I'tesamuddin travelled to Britain in 1765–66 and wrote his memoirs 18 years later in Persian, then the language of the Indian ruling elite. What makes the book important is that he wrote the book not from the perspective of an immigrant, like Raja Rammohan Roy or Dean Mohammed who must adapt to survive, but rather of a passing visitor who needs make no concessions whatsoever.

In our *bhasa* literatures, we have Akademi Award-winning travel writers, like Annadashankar Roy (Bengali) and Bholabhai Patel (Gujarati) and others. But I would like to end by briefly touching upon another Bengali writer, Bibhutubhushan Bandopadhyay, whose geographical imaginations and imaginary geography is a unique phenomenon. How did he respond to several fundamentals of the Romantic Project of travel? His phenomenal devices were the fertility of unprogrammed and nonchalant itineraries, the suggestive magic of distance and wilderness, the excitement of tactile engagement and the equation of strangeness with authenticity. All these are charmingly evident in his juvenile masterpiece, *Chander Pahar* (*The Mountain of the Moon*).



Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee
Editorial Director, Niyogi Books

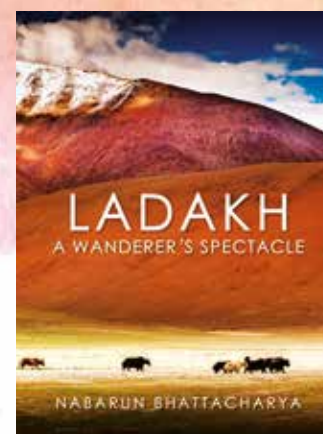
‘There was nowhere to go but everywhere, so just keep on rolling under the stars.’

— Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*

To travel is to make a journey, as Carl Thompson said, which could be epic in scale, taking the traveller to the other side of the world or across a continent, or up a mountain, or one could simply set foot beyond one’s door and encounter the otherness. However, in the wake of the current pandemic across the globe, it has become difficult even to step out of the house, even to the nearest café.

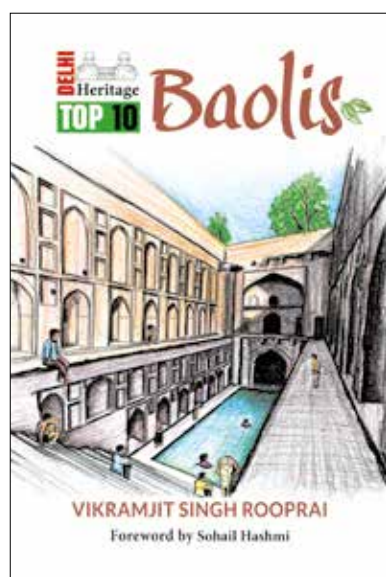
Here’s something to lift the mood—books! They have a way to make you homesick for a place you have never been to. Now, more than ever, when the world is in a stasis, wanderlusts can get their fix of travel and adventure from the comfort of their sofas or book nooks, with a cup of coffee in hand and stars in the sky.

Here is a treasure trove of books with which you can float with the Ganga, or dive into the depths of a step well, or safari into a National Park in any part of the country, or even fly off to Bhutan, and satiate the wanderlust in you!

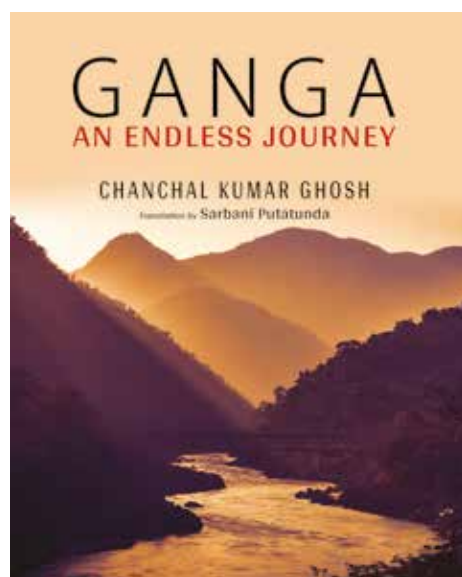


Ladakh! The name conjures up images of arid terrains, jagged peaks, and pristine lakes. Ladakh has been accorded an almost mythical status by the people who know of it, which is sometimes also referred to as Shangri-La.

In *Ladakh: A Wanderer's Spectacle*, the author has captured the various hues and topographical nuances of Ladakh's alluring and awe-inspiring landscapes. Splendid compositions and panoramas take the reader on a visual experience akin to being transported to the 'land of high passes' that is Ladakh.

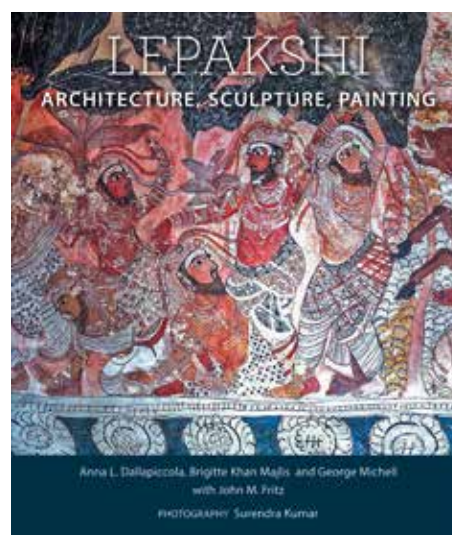


Delhi Heritage Top 10 Baolis delves into the fascinating history and the significance of the forgotten *baolis* in and around Delhi. It is an informative handbook, useful for visitors looking to explore these hidden architectural gems in the city. Details of locations, distance, and commute have also been provided for each of the *baolis*.



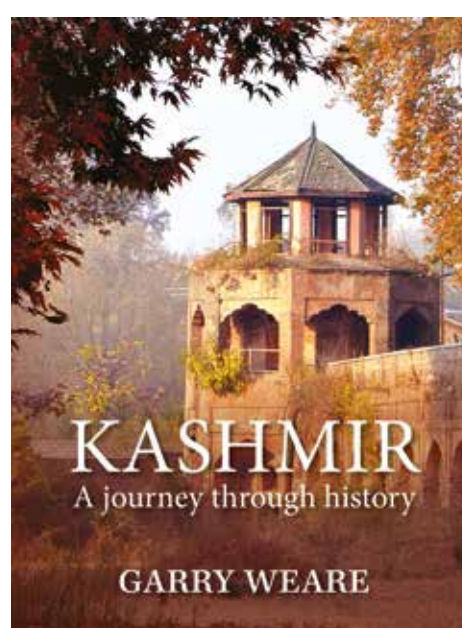
Beautifully illustrated, *Ganga, An Endless Journey*, gives a glimpse of the river that forms the cradle of the Indian civilization.

From the source of the river at Gaumukh in the Himalayas to the confluence at Gangasagar, the author has covered the length of the 2,500-km river during his epic journey across India.



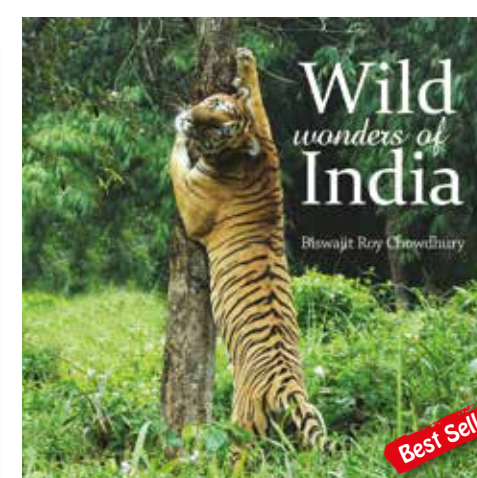
Hidden away in the remote village of Lepakshi in Andhra Pradesh, is one of the most spectacular Vijayanagara temples that, unlike many other monuments of the 16th century, has remained miraculously intact.

While Lepakshi (the temple) has long been recognized, particularly for its unique series of ceiling paintings, *Lepakshi: Architecture, Sculpture, Painting*, authored by eminent scholars, is the first to provide the monument with a comprehensive description.



Ringed by snow-capped peaks, Kashmir has drawn pilgrims, Sufis, armies, traders, travellers, and adventurers over the centuries. The place has also managed to attract central attention during various periods of history, since before the Mughal reign, to the British Raj, to 1947, and even to the present day (in particular reference to Article 370).

An ideal pick for both the armchair traveller and the history buff, this book traces Kashmir's journey—an odyssey that continues to inspire even today.

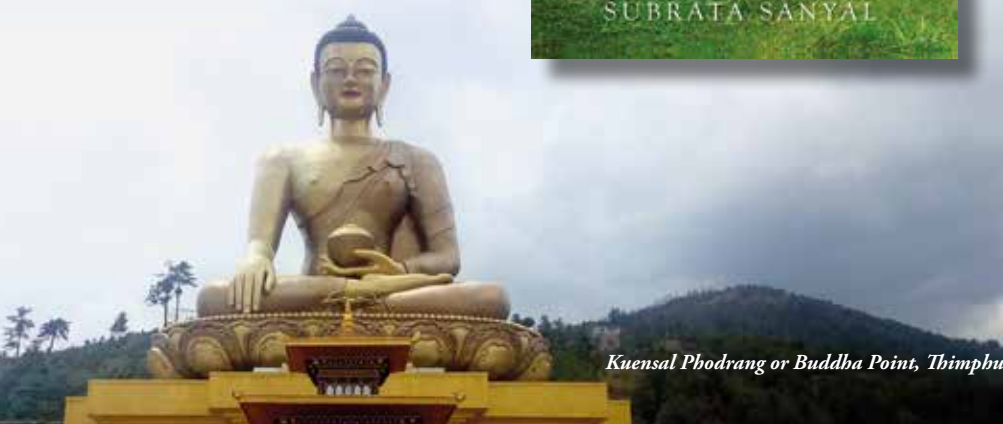


Many wild animals and birds are facing the threat of extinction. Among 19 kinds of primates, 12 are endangered, of which the most critical is the Lion-tailed Monkey.

Wild Wonders of India offers a tour through India's many-splendoured forests, their wildlife specialities, and India's precious national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and tiger reserves—all the while tackling more serious matters such as the rapidly growing list of India's endangered wildlife species.

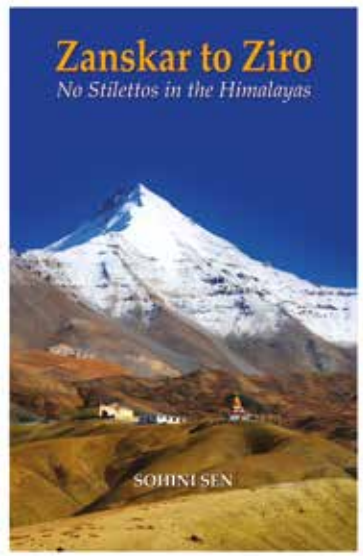
Did you know, Bhutanese manners dictate that you are to refuse food whenever it's offered to you? The tradition is to say the words 'meshu meshu' and cover your mouth with your hands. You can give in, though, after two or three offers.

The Unexplored Kingdom reveals the diverse facets of 'the Land of the Thunder Dragon' and records knowledge of the folk-life of Bhutan, preserving them for researchers and future generations.



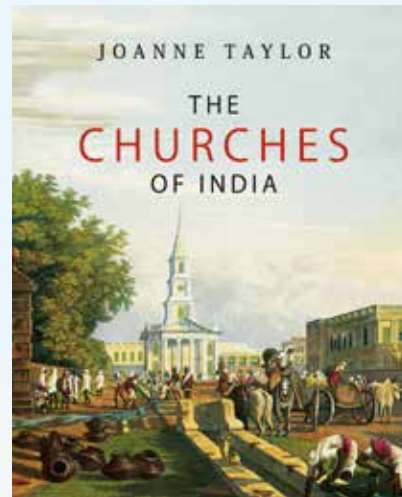
Kuensal Phodrang or Buddha Point, Thimphu





Zanskar to Ziro: No Stiletos in the Himalayas by Sohini Sen is a travelogue about two women's decade-long love affair with the Himalayas. Their 10,000-km trail stretches from the remote Zanskar Valley in Ladakh through Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Sikkim, Bengal, and Bhutan to Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh. It is the 'female gaze' that sets this book apart.

The reader can practically travel with the author to places not found on the regular tourist map and experience the glory of the Himalayas and the genteel, cultured way of life of the hill folk.

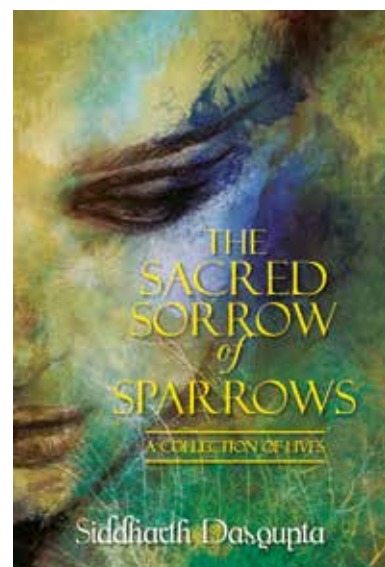


Joanne Taylor's first visit to India in 1971 left an indelible impression on her. An accomplished traveller, writer, and photographer—her book takes the reader on a fascinating journey through India to discover the history and architecture of the country's Christian churches.

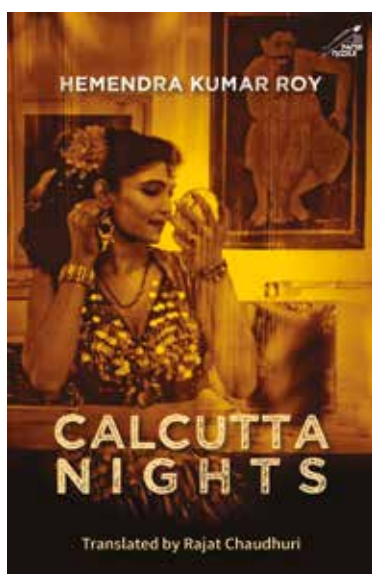
The Churches of India, complemented by over 300 photographs, is the most comprehensive work on India's churches to date. This title is one of our youngest bestsellers.



The Sacred Sorrow of Sparrows by Siddharth Dasgupta is a collection of short stories, which is universal in canvas and yet decidedly ethnic in fabric. In examining the lives of an Afghan baker, a Parsi exile, a north Indian qawwali singer, and a Lebanese mystic, amongst several others, this travel narrative moves through cities such as Lucknow, Poona, Bombay, Dubai, Tokyo, Istanbul, and Isfahan in an unusual format, not often explored in fiction.

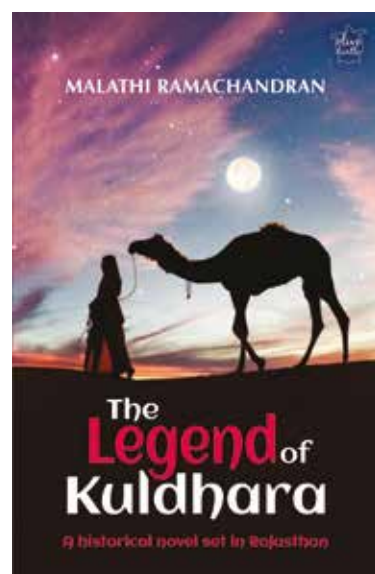


The Chapel of Saint Catherine, Goa, 1550

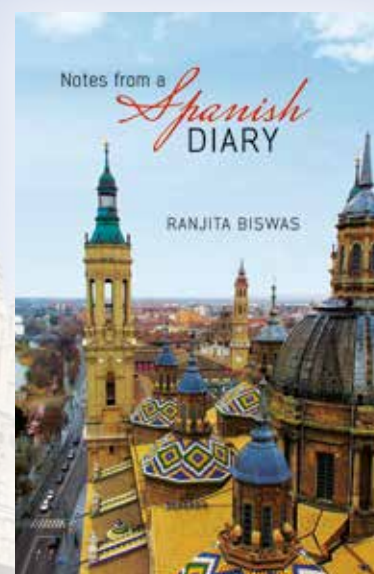


The book is a tribute to all the flaneurs of the world, who have reclaimed the city streets.

Back in the time, in colonial Calcutta, well-known writer Hemendrakumar Roy roamed the mean streets of the city and discovered some of the darkest secrets of erstwhile Calcutta.



Kuldhara is a village in the desert of Rajasthan, perched at the edge of time. Cursed and abandoned nearly two hundred years ago, it lies dreaming of its vibrant past when the streets echoed with laughter and the fields swayed green and gold. One wonders, did history really happen here? Pick your copy of *The Legend of Kuldhara* to learn about the real people there, their triumphs and tragedies—a tale that begins there, where history has no more answers...



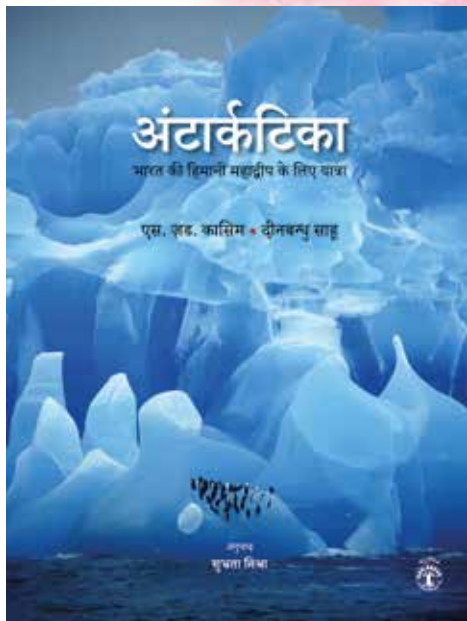
Drawing on the riveting anecdotes of a solo Indian woman traveller, *Notes from a Spanish Diary* is a personal account of discovering the aura and flavour of Spain. Munching on the local cuisine and rambling along the lanes of Spanish history and culture, Ranjita Biswas has unfolded her indomitable experiences of travelling beyond her comfort zone, making this book an excellent choice for a tourist as well as an armchair traveller.

The Snow Leopard
Photographed at Hemis National Park.

Statue of King Phillip III at Plaza Mayor, Madrid

सफ़ेद आइसलैंड

‘अंटार्कटिका’ का आकर्षण



रहस्य, रोमांच की बातें सबको लुभाती हैं। आप भी एक ऐसी रहस्यमयी भूमि के बारे में जानना चाहते हैं, जहाँ लगभग छह महीने दिन और छह महीने रात होती है। एक ऐसा सफ़ेद आइसलैंड, जहाँ न्यूनतम तापमान -89.60 डिग्री सेल्सियस तक चला जाता है। जिसकी वजह से यह दुनिया का सबसे खूबसूरत, ठंडा और दुर्गम स्थान माना जाता है।

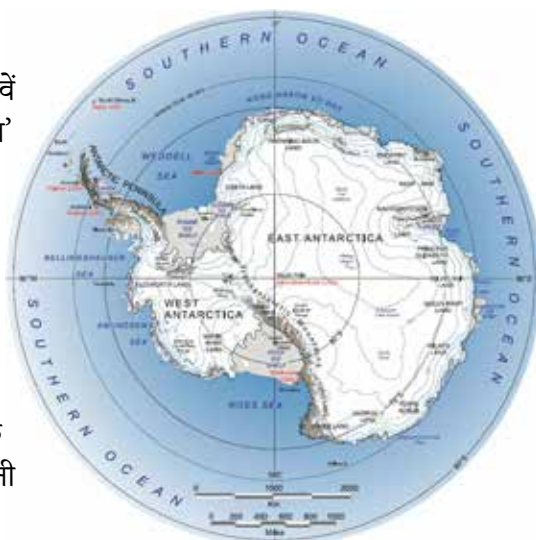
जी हाँ, हम बात कर रहे हैं, पृथ्वी के सातवें महाद्वीप ‘अंटार्कटिका’ की, जो ‘श्वेत मरुस्थल’ के नाम से प्रसिद्ध है। हिम के रूप में जमे हुए इस महाद्वीप के लिए भारत की यात्रा की पहल सन 1981 में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के कार्यकाल में हुई थी। भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों के इस साहसिक सफर और अंटार्कटिका के लिए की गई अन्य रोमांचक यात्राओं के बारे में जानने के लिए पढ़ें, ‘अंटार्कटिका: भारत की हिमानी महाद्वीप के लिए यात्रा’।

खूबसूरत नज़ारों का रोमांच

भ्रमण की कल्पना मात्र से ही क्या हमारा मन प्रफुल्लित नहीं हो उठता है? इसी को कल्पना अगर साकार होने का अवसर मिल जाए, तो कहने ही क्या! जब दुनिया लॉकडाउन के अधीन है, तब भी हम यात्रा की योजना बना सकते हैं—किताबों के माध्यम से यात्रा कर सकते हैं।

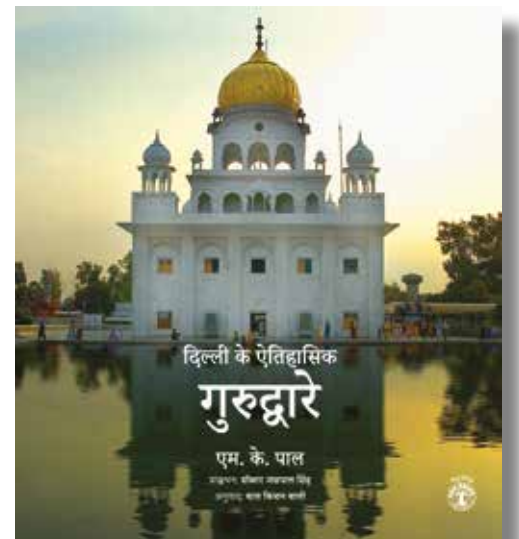
किसी की इच्छा होती है कि “काश! किसी दिन मैं भी कैलाश तक जाऊँ।” उस एकांत शिखर को देखने की लालसा, जिसने आदिकाल से ही मेरे पूर्वजों को आकर्षित किया है। कोई हिमालय पर ट्रेकिंग के लिए जाना चाहता है, तो कोई भारत के असंख्य मंदिरों, गुरुद्वारों की पावन मिट्टी को सिरमाथे लगाकर परम शांति को पाना चाहता है, तो कोई अजंता एलोरा के पत्थरों में तराशी गई मूर्तियों की भव्यता में भारतीय कला एवं संस्कृति को देखने मात्र से गौरवान्वित महसूस करता है। किसी को तरह-तरह के वन्य जीवों व जंगल के खूबसूरत नज़ारों को देखने का रोमांच होता है। ज्ञान एवं रोचकता से भरपूर हमारी ये कुछ खास पुस्तकें पढ़कर आप भी ऐसे ही रोमांच का लुत्फ़ उठा सकते हैं।

पढ़ने के पश्चात हमें niyogibooks@gmail.com में लिखकर बताएँ कि आपको यह किताबें कैसे लगीं और आप और क्या पढ़ना चाहते हैं!



इतिहास एवं संस्कृति की रोचक कहानियाँ बयाँ करते दिल्ली के ऐतिहासिक गुरुद्वारे

धर्म के साथ-साथ हमेशा से ही धार्मिक स्थलों का ऐतिहासिक महत्व भी रहा है और यही कारण है कि लोगों की रुचि इनके प्रति सदा बनी रही है। आप भी किसी वीकेंड पर धार्मिक यात्रा का मन बना रहे हैं, तो एक बार दिल्ली में बने गुरुद्वारों की ओर रुख अवश्य कर सकते हैं, जहाँ कई गुरुओं के चरण पड़ने से इन्हें पवित्र माना गया है। साथ ही, सिख धर्म और गुरुद्वारों के पीछे छिपे इतिहास एवं संस्कृति की रोचक बातें जानने के लिए पढ़ें, एम.के. पाल द्वारा लिखी गई पुस्तक ‘दिल्ली के ऐतिहासिक गुरुद्वारे’।



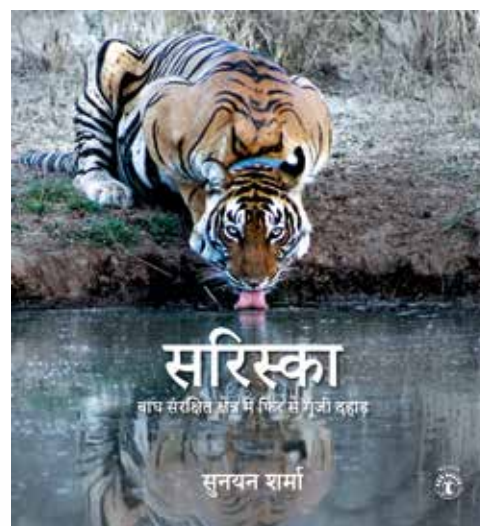
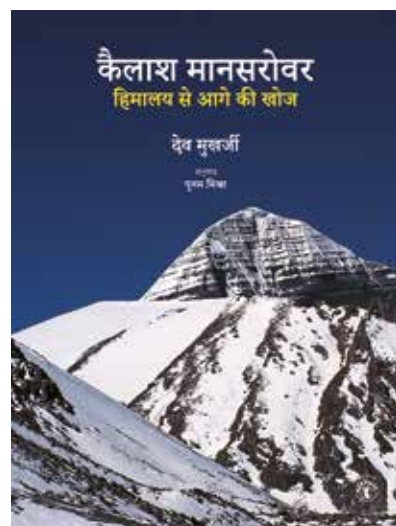
सिख धर्म के संस्थापक गुरु नानक जब 16वीं शताब्दी में दिल्ली आए तब उन्होंने अपने शिष्यों को सलाह दी कि वे संगठित होकर धर्मशालाओं का निर्माण करें, जहाँ सब प्रार्थना व धार्मिक आयोजन और सामाजिक चिंतन के लिए एकलित हो सकें। कुछ इस तरह इन गुरुद्वारों की शुरुआत हुई। ऐतिहासिक स्मारकों और तीर्थस्थलों के पीछे उनके निर्माण से जुड़ी कोई न कोई रोचक कहानी छुपी हुई होती है, ये दंतकथाएँ उन के महत्व को उजागर करती हैं और उन्हें लोकप्रिय बनाती हैं। ऐसी ही कुछ रोचक कहानियाँ छिपी हुई हैं, दिल्ली के ऐतिहासिक गुरुद्वारों में।

कैलाश मानसरोवर: हिमालय से आगे की खोज

कुछ नई एवं ज्ञानवर्द्धक चीज़ों के प्रति मानव की उत्सुकता हमेशा बनी रही है। कैलाश मानसरोवर भी उसी में से एक है। यहाँ कई ऐसे रहस्य हैं, जो धार्मिक आस्था से तो जुड़े ही हैं, साथ ही शोध का विषय भी हैं।

देवताओं और दानवों के बीच हुए समुद्र मंथन से जो विष निकला, उसका क्या नाम है? समुद्र

मंथन से निकले उस वृक्ष का क्या नाम है, जिसके फूलों में अलौकिक सुगंध थी? हिंदू मतावलंबी स्फटिक पर्वत को क्या कहते हैं? कांग रिनपोचे और हिमालय में क्या संबंध है? कैलाश मानसरोवर जाने वाले तीर्थयात्रियों की अकसर कौन-सी बीमारी से मृत्यु हो जाती है? चीनी मूल के अश्व वर्ष के समय में की गई कैलाश की परिक्रमा का महत्व क्यों माना जाता है? विश्वामित्र के अनुसार, मानसरोवर का यह नाम किसलिए पड़ा? रावण के पुत्र और शिव के प्रिय मेघनाद की मृत्यु किसके हाथों हुई? ऐसी ही अनेक सवालों का जवाब देती देब मुखर्जी द्वारा लिखित यह पुस्तक आपको पर्यटन के बारे में भी विस्तार से जानकारी देती है।

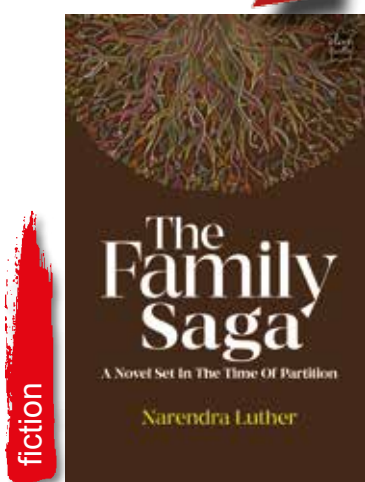


प्रकृति की वादियों में जीवन का आनंद

ग्रीष्मकाल (अप्रैल से जून) में जब तापमान 45 डिग्री तक जा पहुँचता है, तब याद आती है प्रकृति की वादियाँ, वे मनोरम स्थल, जो आँखों को ठंडक प्रदान करते हैं और जीवन के आनंद को दुगुना कर देते हैं। इन्हीं में से एक वन्य जीवों की शरणस्थली सरिस्का, एक ऐसा क्षेत्र जो अनेक छोटी-बड़ी घाटियों से भरा पड़ा है। जैव विविधता की दृष्टि से वन्य जीवों को श्रेष्ठ आवास प्रदान करने वाली इस जगह को देखने का अपना ही लुत्फ़ है। भारतवर्ष के अन्य वन्य

जीव संरक्षित क्षेत्रों की तुलना में सरिस्का में सर्वाधिक सैलानी आते हैं। तत्कालीन क्षेत्र निदेशक लेखक सुनयन शर्मा ने अपने अनुभवों का वर्णन भी इस पुस्तक में रोचक अंदाज़ में किया है।

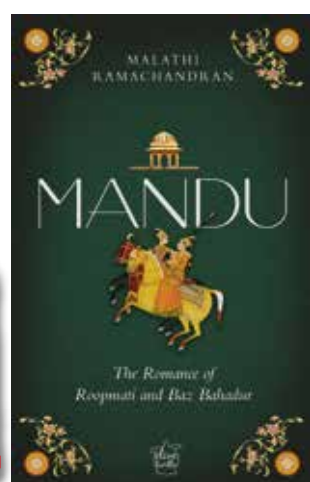




The Family Saga is the unravelling of a family from the pages of history, one which traces Partition and flies into the modern times across global borders. It is the story of Ram Lal Khanna, a self-made man, who built up his business in one generation.

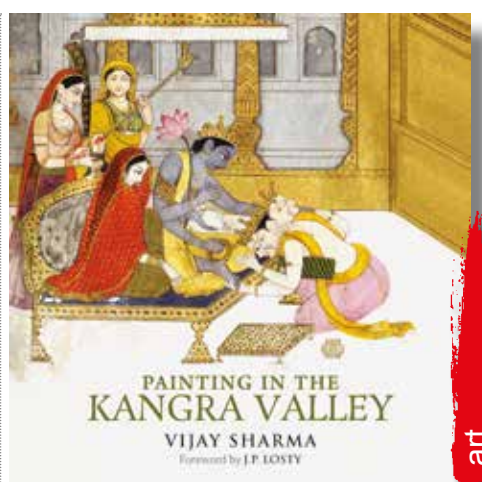
One evening, their mansion was torched, and their teenage daughter was reduced to ashes. Within weeks, they were driven across the border and given shelter in the Purana Qila refugee camp in Delhi. They began to build life brick by brick again.

From Lahore to Delhi, from Amritsar to Berkeley, the Khannas have become an embodiment of the Indians who struggled, shaped up, and established a space in this world. With his trademark optimism, Narendra Luther tells a gripping story of life.



Set in 16th century India, this is the true story of the young sultan, Baz Bahadur, and the beautiful peasant girl, Roopmati, who come together over their common love for classical music. He is a man who can have any woman, and she a woman too proud to ever be part of his harem.

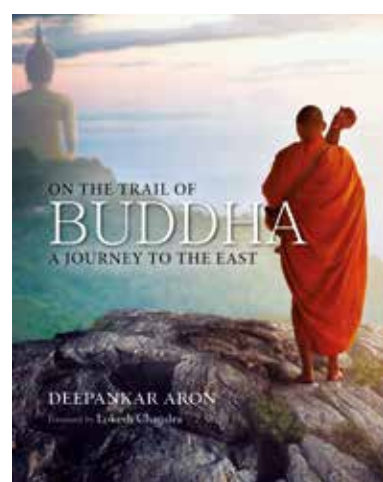
But night after night, as they sing together in the enchanting world of Mandu, the fortress city lit up with lanterns and throbbing to the beat of ghungroos and tablas, a magic begins to happen. Baz and Roopmati fall in love. Alas, far away, in Agra, the Mughal Emperor, Akbar, is planning his campaigns and Mandu has been pinned on his map as a kingdom to be captured. Will Baz be able to protect his capital, and more importantly, the woman he loves, from the enemy forces?



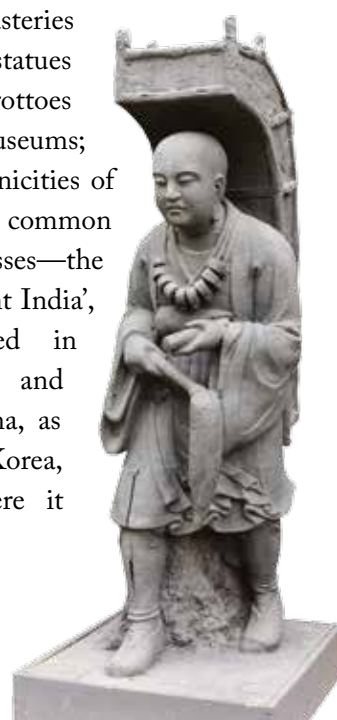
Painting in the Kangra Valley presents the painting styles of Guler and Kangra, which flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries, under the royal patronages of Raja Dalip Singh (1695–1741) of Guler and Maharaja Sansar Chand (1776–1823).

Influenced by the Bhakti movement, the artists developed a preference for Krishna as a theme and the sentiment of love as the main subject of the Guler-Kangra paintings.

Vijay Sharma's analytical approach gives new insights into the origin and development of the Guler school and the marked influence of later Mughal painting on the style of Manak and Nainsukh. This book is, therefore, a significant read for researchers as well as connoisseurs.

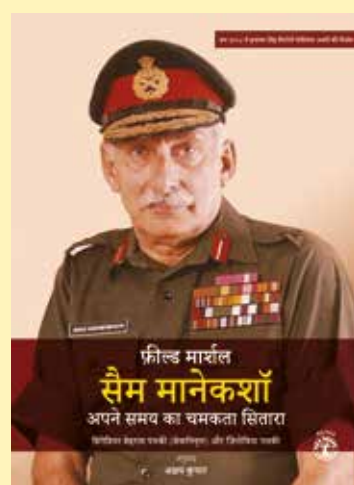


On the Trail of Buddha is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilizations. From the wandering monks of Asia to the temples and monasteries they visited; from the statues and frescoes in grottoes to those in the museums; from the diverse ethnicities of the people to their common gods and goddesses—the book explores 'ancient India', beautifully preserved in the traditions, art, and architecture of China, as also in Mongolia, Korea, and Japan, to where it spread from China.



वर्ष 1949 में लता के द्वारा गाया गया गाना, 'आएगा आनेवाला' जिसे फ़िल्म 'महल' के लिए फ़िल्माया गया था, इस गाने ने लता की अद्भुत गायन कला को एक विशेष परिचय दिया; और उन्हें लोगों ने अपनी कल्पनाओं में जगह दी। लता मंगेशकर, दुनिया के किसी भी गायक से ज़्यादा गाने वाली गायिका के रूप में प्रसिद्धि के शीर्ष पर, विराजमान होने के बावजूद, एक नितांत निजी इन्सान हैं, जिन्होंने तड़क-भड़क और चकाचौंध से हमेशा ही दूरी बनाए रखी है।

अपने खुद के शब्दों में...लता मंगेशकर, लता मंगेशकर और नसरीन मुन्नी कबीर के बीच, दिलचस्प बातचीत की वृहद श्रृंखला है, जो भारत की सबसे ज़्यादा प्रतिभासंपन्न गायिका के जीवन के तमाम पहलुओं से परिचय कराती है।



फ़्रील्ड मार्शल सैम मानेकशॉ 1969 से 1973 तक भारतीय सेना के अध्यक्ष रहे। यह किताब सैम के जीवन, व्यवहार की विशेषताओं, विनोदप्रियता, नैतिक एवं पेशेवर साहस और उन रहस्यों को चित्रित करती है, जिन्होंने उनके व्यक्तित्व को इस प्रकार गढ़ा।

घटनाओं से भरी यह किताब पढ़ने में आसान है, क्योंकि यह उनके बचपन से लेकर कीर्ति के शिखर तक पाठक को साथ लेकर चलती है। एक व्यक्तिगत जीवन गाथा के साथ राजनैतिक ताने-बाने को ऐसे बुना गया है, जो इस बात पर ज़ोर देता है कि कैसे एक बेहतरीन सैन्य रणनीतिकार ने भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप का नक्शा ही बदल दिया। यह किताब सैम के जीवन की विशिष्ट उपलब्धियों का वर्णन करती है।

'When the first baby laughed for the first time, its laugh broke into a thousand pieces, and they all went skipping about, and that was the beginning of fairies.'

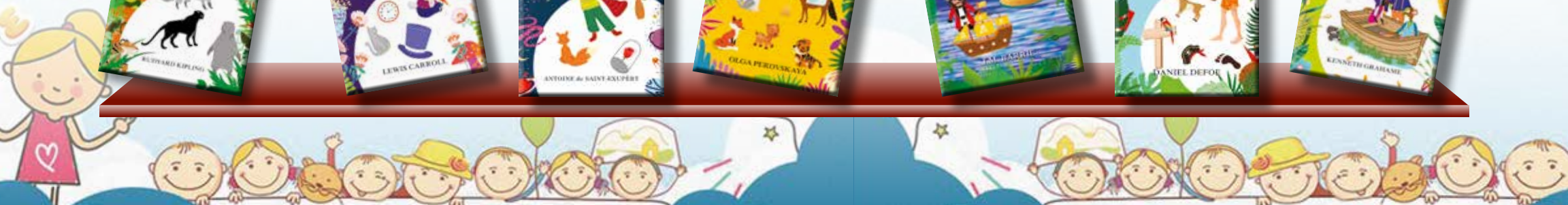
—J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Children's literature can be traced back to stories and songs, part of a broader oral tradition since before publishing existed. Did you know, *Robinson Crusoe* was one of the first novels in English literature? Fun fact: the riddles in *Alice in Wonderland*, for instance, the one like Mad Hatter asks Alice about a raven

being like a writing desk, were a reflection on the increasing abstraction that was going on in mathematics in the 19th century. Did you know, *Peter Pan* was originally conceived as a play, the first stage version of which opened in the Duke of York's Theatre, London, in 1904?



Make many more such interesting discoveries from our new collection of children's classics. Each edition includes timelines of the author's life and original year of publication that provide the literary, historical, and cultural context of the book. Take a look, pick one, and start reading!





Book launch: *Birds in Paradise* presented by Ghana Keoladeo National History Society at Bharatpur with author Sunayan Sharma standing third from the right



Book launch: *Time to Say Goodbye* at Oxford Bookstore, New Delhi. L-R: Ajay Jain, Arti Jain, Trisha De Niyogi, 'Alopi Latukefu, Barbara Carmichael (Author) and Alka Kaushik

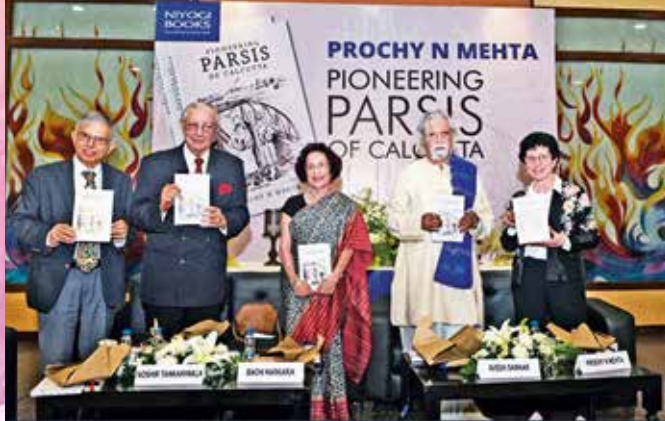
Book discussion: *Land Lust* at IIC, New Delhi. L-R: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Anvita Abbi, Sukrita Paul Kumar (Editor), Vandana R Singh (Editor) and Chandana Mitra



Book launch: *A day in the life of Mangal Taram* at Press Corner, Kolkata International Book Fair. L-R: Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri, Anita Agnihotri (Author), Someswar Bhowmik and Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee



Book launch: *Article 370* at World Book Fair 2020, Pragati Maidan. L-R: Umair Ahmed, Trisha De Niyogi, Nishtha Gautam, Sumit Dutt Majumder (Author), TCA Raghavan & Jayanta Ray Chaudhuri



Book launch: *Pioneering Parsees of Calcutta* at Olpadvala Memorial Hall, Kolkata. L-R: Sam Balsara, Noshir Tankariwala, Bachi Karkaria, Aveek Sarkar and Prochy N Mehta (Author)

Book launch: *Morarji Desai: A Profile in Courage* at IIC, New Delhi. L-R: Bikash D Niyogi, Arvindar Singh (Author), Soli Sorabjee, Sir Mark Tully and Rahul Singh



Book launch: *Flower Shower: Culture of Flowers in India* at Lalit Hotel, New Delhi. L-R: Aarti Uppal Singla, Puja Kshatriya, Bulbul Sharma, Dr Jyotsna Suri, Shovana Narayan, Alka Pandey (Author) and Trisha De Niyogi



Krishna Bose (26 December 1930 – 22 February 2020) was a noted educationist, social reformer, and one of the most respected politicians of West Bengal.

A well-known scholar and writer, Krishna Bose was the author of a number of critically acclaimed books. She and her husband were close friends of Emilie Schenkl, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's wife, and in *Emilie and Subhas*, the author chronicled one of the least-known aspects of the leader's life—his relationship with Emilie. *Lost Addresses* is Krishna's story of her childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. It vividly describes Kolkata, Bengal, and India in the 1930s and 1940s and the early years after Independence.

The world of letters is left poorer by Krishna Bose's demise. We extend our condolences to her family and pay tribute to this significant writer, whose works we have been honoured to publish.

Giriraj Kishore (8 July 1937–9 February 2020) was an eminent Indian writer and recipient of the Padma Shri (2007), Vyas Samman (2000), and Sahitya Bhushan Award (1992).

His award-winning work *Pabla Girmitiya* (2007) for which he received the Padma Shri, was published in English translation as *The Girmitiya Saga*. It depicts the journey of Gandhi as a young lawyer in South Africa, fighting on behalf of indentured labourers (*girmitiya*). Another of his important works, *Baa (Kasturba Gandhi—a bio fiction)*, highlights her contribution in Gandhi's life and recognizes her personal sacrifices and strength of conviction as the first Indian woman who voluntarily faced a jail sentence on foreign soil—in South Africa—in her fight for the basic rights for Indian women.

We pay tribute to this prolific writer and a true Gandhian, whose works we have been honoured to publish.

FORM IV

1. Place of publication	: New Delhi
2. Periodicity of publication	: Quarterly
3. Printer's name	: Bikash D Niyogi
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: D-78, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi 110 020
4. Publisher's name	: Bikash D Niyogi
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: Block D, Building No. 77, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi 110 020
5. Editor's name	: Trisha De Niyogi
Nationality	: Indian
Address	: Block D, Building No. 77, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi 110 020
6. Names and addresses of individuals who own the newspaper and partners or shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital	: Bikash D Niyogi Block D, Building No. 77, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase I, New Delhi 110 020 Email: niyogibooks@gmail.com
Shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital of the owner company:	
1. Bikash D Niyogi	
2. Mrs Tultul D Niyogi	
I, Bikash D Niyogi, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.	
Dt: 31.03.2020	
Bikash D Niyogi Signature of publisher	

IN REMEMBRANCE

To subscribe, send an email to niyogibooks@gmail.com

Stay tuned at:

www.facebook.com/niyogibooks www.twitter.com/niyogibooks www.instagram.com/niyogi_books www.youtube.com/user/NiyogiBooksVideos