

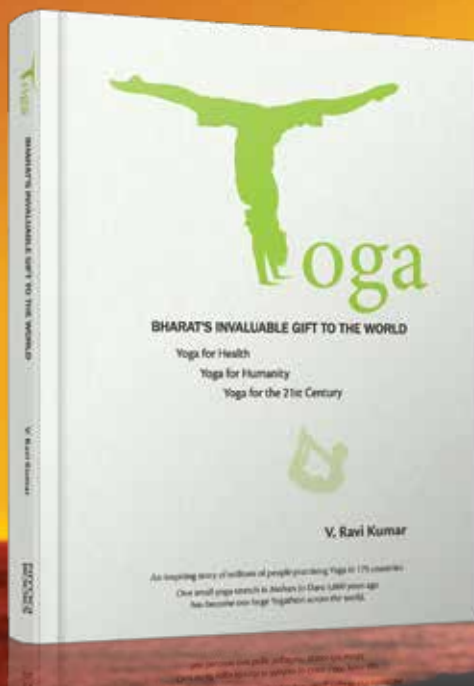
# READING CORNER

HISTORY | LITERATURE | ART | CULTURE | HERITAGE | BIOGRAPHY | TRAVELOGUE | WILDLIFE | RELIGION | SELF-HELP | FICTION | TRANSLATION

## YOGA

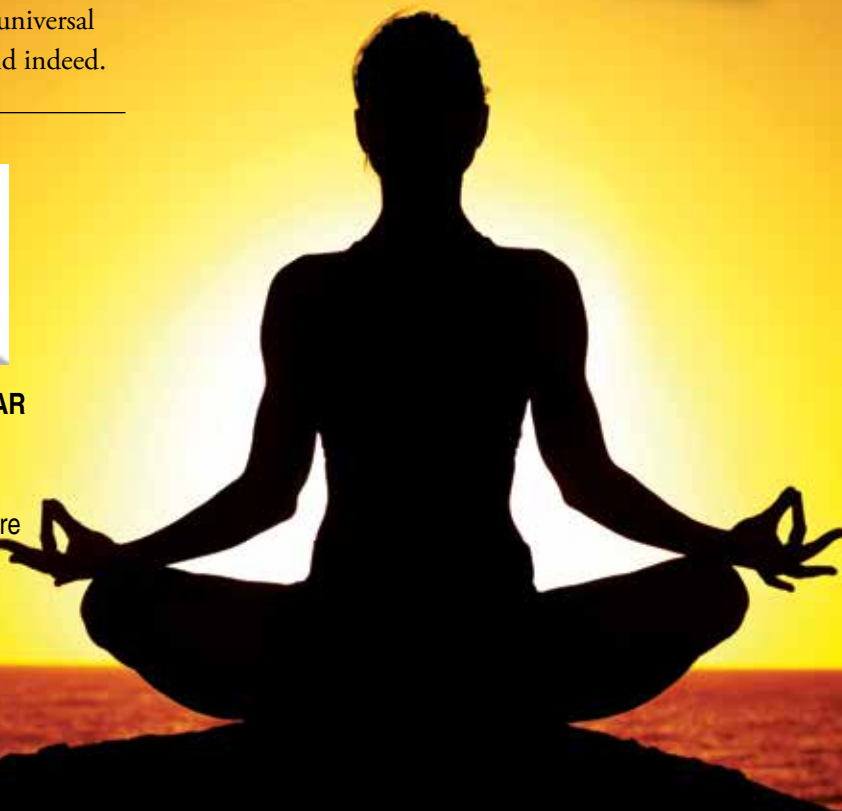
### BHARAT'S INVALUABLE GIFT TO THE WORLD

On the historic occasion of the First International Day of Yoga, on 21 June 2015, as declared by the UN General Assembly, the book traces the wide canvas of Yoga, right from its origin and antiquity to its mass appeal and acceptance that has transcended geographical, cultural, and national boundaries. The book highlights the amazing popularity of Yoga amongst all cross-sections of human society—corporates, celebrities, sportspersons, world leaders and the common populace. It subtly signifies that Yoga leads one to spiritual development by facilitating the control of the mind and senses, which gradually leads human society to universal oneness, peace and harmony; an invaluable gift to mankind indeed.



**V. RAVI KUMAR**

An engineer, author, he has conducted more than 200 Yoga camps in 40 countries.



### FOR THE WRITTEN WORD



*My never failing friends are they  
With whom I converse day by day*

The wonderful world of books is studded with such bright gems that one life is not enough to either fathom their depth or taste their variety. They can enhance our knowledge about the world, improve our understanding of self, give an insight into the psychology of others, provide us solace in our sorrow and companionship in solitude. A survey by the UNESCO has also established that the human resource potential of a society is directly proportional with its reading habit. Then should we not try all our means to keep the celestial fire of reading habit burning in every soul?

But it is easier said than done. The book industry stands at a crossroads today as people's patronage for reading dwindles, and online stores destroy the potential reader's habit of browsing and buying a book.

In this rather gloomy situation, one ray of hope can be the revival of the age-old custom of gifting a book during festive occasions. There was a time when books were a very precious item in the array of gifts chosen for the festivals like Durga Puja, Diwali, Christmas, and also ceremonies like marriages, anniversaries, and birthdays.

With another festive season approaching, from individuals to corporates, everyone will be indulging in a buying spree as per ones budget. How nice it would be if books found a humble place among all these lavish purchases.

A consumer good is just a product. But a book is an intellectual product. Our appeal to the sensitive buyer is to valorise the intellectual product in their list of purchases this festive season.

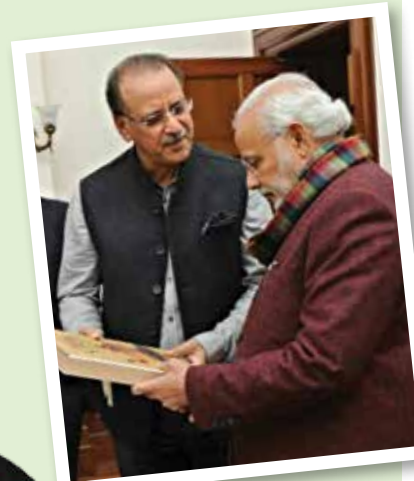
**NIRMAL KANTI BHATTACHARJEE**

## “CHAI” Wins Gourmand Award

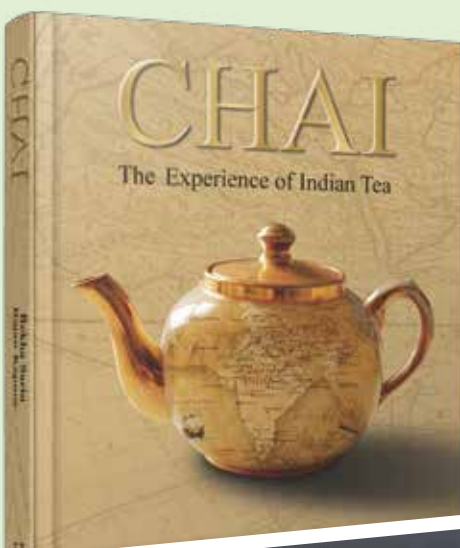
*Congratulations to Chai - The Experience of Indian Tea for winning the Best in the World Award in the category Tea Books. It is the first time India wins this category since it was created in 2008, after China, France, Spain and Thailand. Author Rekha Sarin, co-author photographer Rajan Kapoor, publisher Bikash Niyogi have created an outstanding masterpiece that is a tribute to Indian tea. The book deserves a wide circulation in India, and also outside India. Thank you for bringing this book to the World.*

**EDOUARD COINTREAU**  
Gourmand Awards President

Left: Author  
Rekha Sarin at  
the Gourmand  
Awards  
function



Above:  
Photographer-  
Author Rajan  
Kapoor  
presenting the  
book to Prime  
Minister Modi

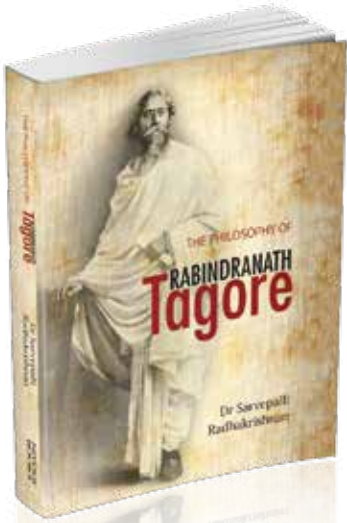


**REKHA SARIN** is a Delhi-based freelance writer for leading Indian magazines and newspapers, as well as for overseas journals.

**RAJAN KAPOOR** has been conferred with several national and international awards for photography, including the Commonwealth Photographic Award for Environment.

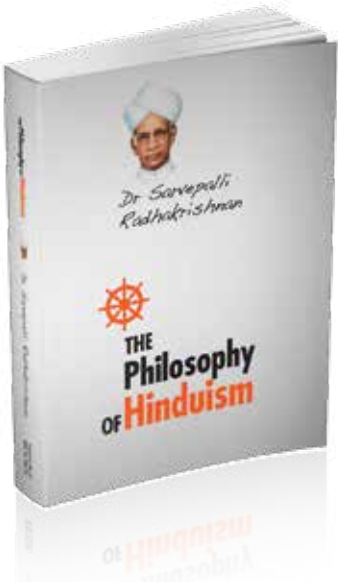






The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore

The popularity of the writings of Rabindranath Tagore shows that there is neither East nor West in the realm of spirit, and that his work meets a general want and satisfies a universal demand. What the demand is and how it is met are questions that Dr S. Radhakrishnan has tried to answer, in this book. It is the outcome and expression of the interpretation of the philosophy and message of Rabindranath Tagore.

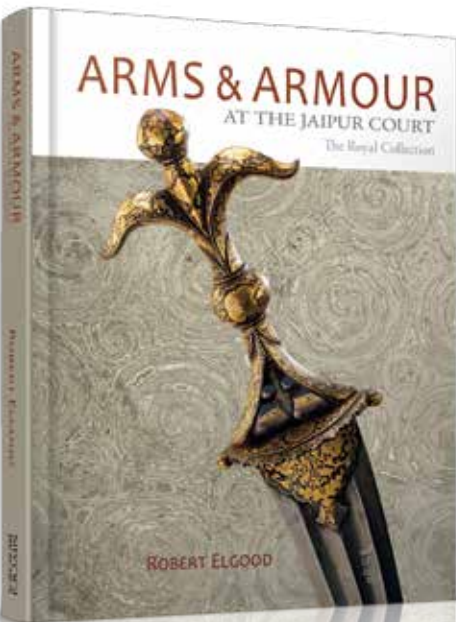


The Philosophy of Hinduism

Dr S. Radhakrishnan has explained the central tenets of Hinduism, its philosophical and spiritual doctrine, religious experience, ethical character, and traditional faiths in this book. Hinduism is a process and not a result, a growing tradition and not fixed revelation as in other faiths. He has compared Christianity, Islam and Buddhism in the light of Hinduism and stressed that the ultimate aim of these religions is the attainment of the universal self. Radhakrishnan's analysis of religions is highly intellectual and balanced and his lectures have also received a whole-hearted response in the UK. The articles in the book reflect the mind of this great philosopher.



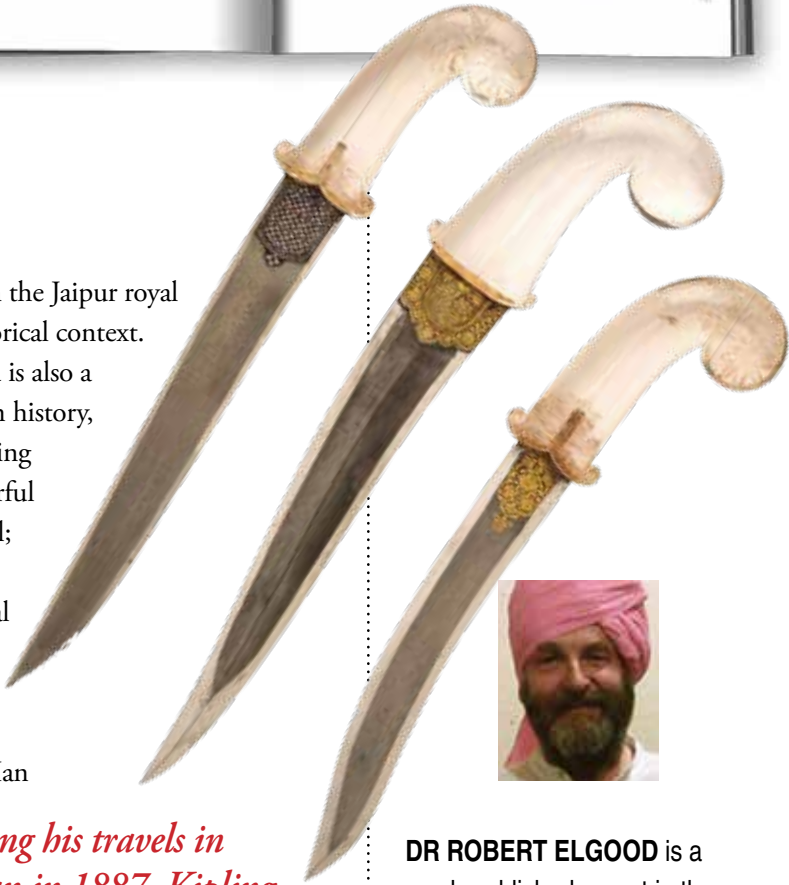
**SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN**  
One of India's most distinguished twentieth-century scholars of comparative religion and philosophy.



ARMS & ARMOUR AT THE JAIPUR COURT

The book has a selection of 186 of the most interesting arms in the Jaipur royal palace and discusses them as weapons in their social and historical context. The book breaks new ground in Indian Arms scholarship and is also a very readable account that takes in Rajput, Mughal, and British Indian history, anthropology and art history. The objects are stunning: swords belonging to the Mughal Emperors Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb; wonderful court daggers with hilts of carved rock crystal, jade, ivory, and gilt steel; ferocious tribal arms; some remarkable historic firearms and beautiful painted shields, some of which were decorated in Japan for the Mughal court. There is even a device for extracting arrows from wounds with toe-curling ancient medical remedies. Most of these arms are from the reserve collections and published for the first time.

One in a series, illustrating the collections of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, City Palace, Jaipur, the book will be essential for all museum curators, dealers, and collectors working in this field. Others in the series are *Festivals at the Jaipur Court* by Vibhuti Sachdev and *Costumes & Textiles at the Jaipur Court* by Rahul Jain.



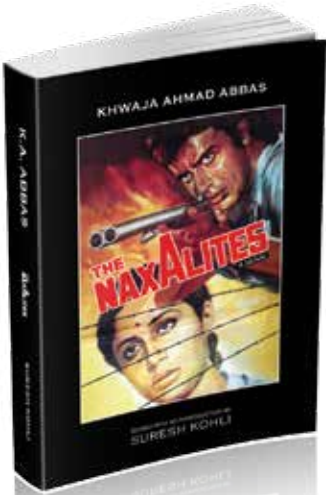
*During his travels in Rajasthan in 1887, Kipling went to Udaipur and asked at a shop: "What do you make in Udaipur?" "Swords," replied the man*

**DR ROBERT ELGOOD** is a much-published expert in the field of Arms and Armour. He has a BA in Islamic History from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London University.



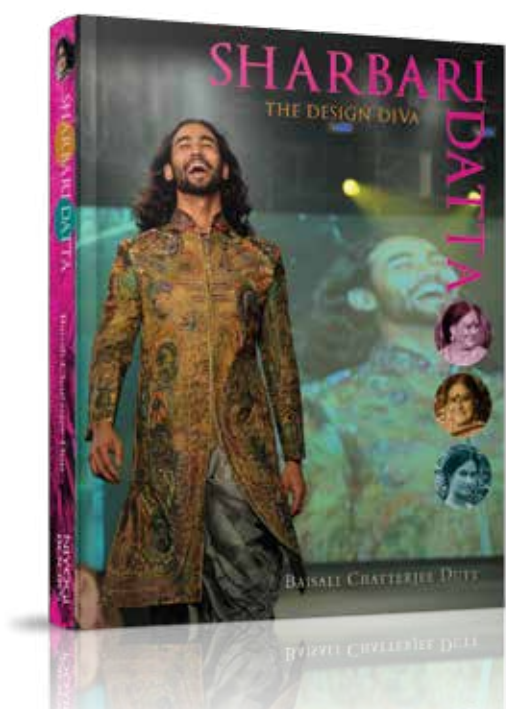
The Naxalites

A tribute to its namesake, *The Naxalites* draws inspiration from the Naxalite movement that spread like wildfire in the Calcutta of the seventies, drawing the youth into the mechanics of "Revolution". A fictionalised account of a socio-political phenomenon, the book encompasses various aspects of the Naxalite movement, offering a glimpse into the era of violence and political unrest. The book captures the essence of the struggle, for existence, of the have-nots against the oppression of the haves through life-like characters. Written in the form of a novel, the narrative with its cinematic descriptions, indeed, evokes a moving picture.



**KHWAJA AHMAD ABBAS** (1914-87) was a prolific political commentator, short story writer, novelist, scriptwriter, and a film maker who preferred to call himself a communicator.





## SHARBARI DATTA THE DESIGN DIVA

Sharbari Datta is a legend in the fashion world. She entered the arena with a specific purpose in mind—to restore the beauty of ethnic menswear to its former glory. The influence of two hundred years of British rule permeated into all parts of our life and ensured that ethnic menswear had all but disappeared from men's wardrobes, making rare appearances only during weddings and other festive occasions. And even then... what drab, lifeless colours.

Enter Sharbari Datta. The visionary. The revivalist. The game changer. She noticed the gaping hole in the ethnic wear choices for men and decided to step in and fill the gap. With her own unique touches and amazing colour palettes, she catapulted the various elements of men's ethnic wear to the forefront.

She also gave 'kantha', the traditional handicraft of rural Bengal, a glamorous facelift. She incorporated the techniques of this simple craft and elevated it to a veritable art form.

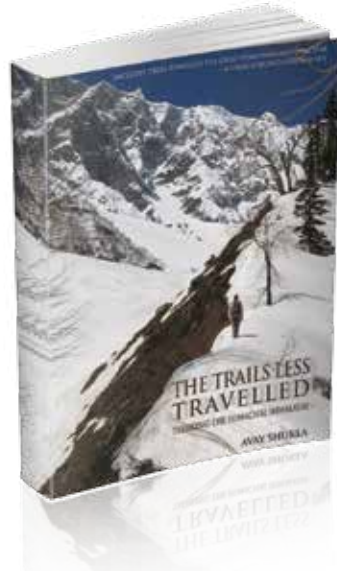
This book, replete with interviews and testimonials by Sharbari's celebrity clientele, and amply illustrated with a treasure trove of photographs, tries to capture the essence of Sharbari's designscape.



*Even I don't have  
a copyright on how  
my mind will work  
at this very minute.  
So there's no  
question of piracy.  
A designer's role  
is to set a gharana  
and expand the  
market*



**BAISALI CHATTERJEE DUTT** is a former columnist and agony aunt for one of India's leading parenting magazines.



## The Trails Less Travelled

This is a book on high-altitude trekking in the magnificent Himalayan range in Himachal Pradesh, India, and the flora and fauna that inhabit it. It is also about the life of local communities, their unique customs, mythology, the challenges of "development" in ecologically fragile landscapes, the politics of environmental conservation, and the rapid transformation overtaking these remote regions. The book covers four enthralling treks through the Great Himalayan National Park in Kullu district, inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July 2014. Eight other treks in the districts of Chamba, Kullu, Kangra, Lahaul and Spiti, Shimla, and Kinnaur complete a fascinating account spread over 20 years.

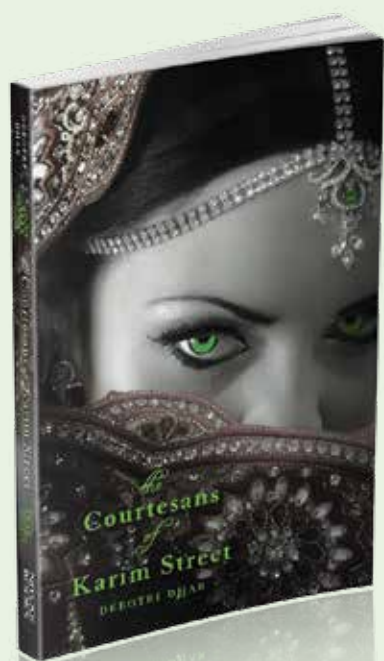


**AVAY SHUKLA** is President Himachal Pradesh Trekking Association and a founder member of the Ecotourism Society of India.

## THE COURTESANS OF KARIM STREET

*You are not a scholar. You are a whore, as your mother was before you, and your grandmother. Ask anyone on Karim Street.*

A spiteful anonymous letter. The promise of a redgold tree. And Megan Adams sets off on a ten thousand mile journey. From the scenic suburbs of Princeton and a high crime neighbourhood of Newark in USA, onwards to India, into the posh parts of New Delhi and the narrow bazaars of the old city, Megan's travel plucks her from the politics of American academia to bring her face to face with the lurking shadows of an untold past. On an entirely different journey is Naina, a young Indian woman who must navigate the stony, impenetrable divide between the old and new sides of Delhi every day. Inheritor of an ancient tradition, she can still hear – above the wail of bangle-sellers and kabadiwallahs, the smoky, guttural rasps of the newer factories, and the old city's metallic din of lathes – the music of the sarangi and the tinkling whisper of anklets. As their stories and cultures collide, a saga unfolds, of love, loss and liberation, of timeless friendships, and of impossible choices.



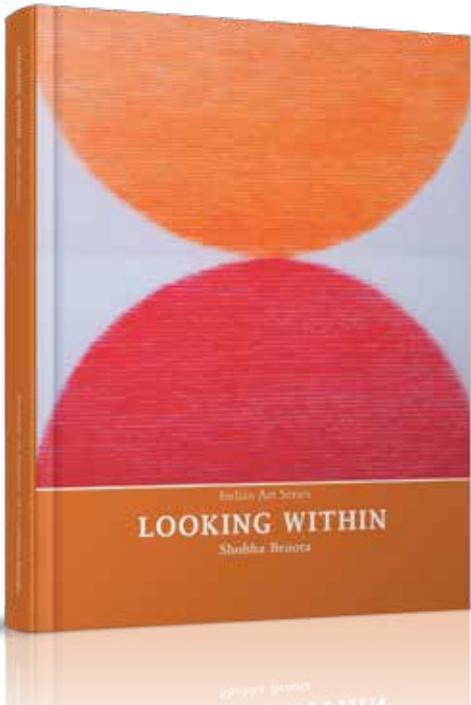
*'Lovely writing voice... flair  
for memorable characters'*

—Myla Goldberg, author of the critically acclaimed *Bee Season*, *Wickett's Remedy*, and the *False Friend*



**DEBOTRI DHAR** was educated in India, UK and the US. Fond of both fact and fiction, Debotri juggles creative writing with her day job as an academic.



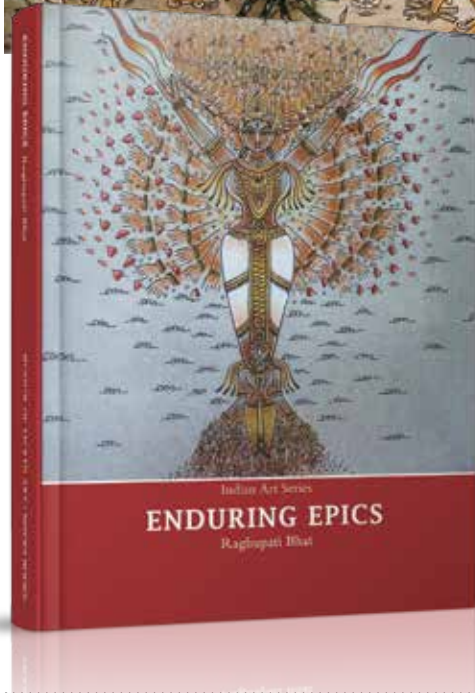


## LOOKING WITHIN

Traversing through space, entailing color and expanse, the artist's art flows in simple yet subtle etchings, as they move through the mystical world of silent visual communication and endows her work with its distinct harmony. Simple lines and shapes, concentric circles and spirals, triangles and squares, wherein light and movement emanate from the centre, are represented as numerous abstract expressions. The present collection encompasses almost the entire range of mediums that the artist works in. It features a series of dry pastels on paper, as well as acrylic and oil paintings on canvas.



Given her upbringing in a family of artists, **SHOVA BROOTA's** soul's search through art seems natural. From musician to artist cum art teacher, her creative sojourn has undergone several changes.



## ENDURING EPICS

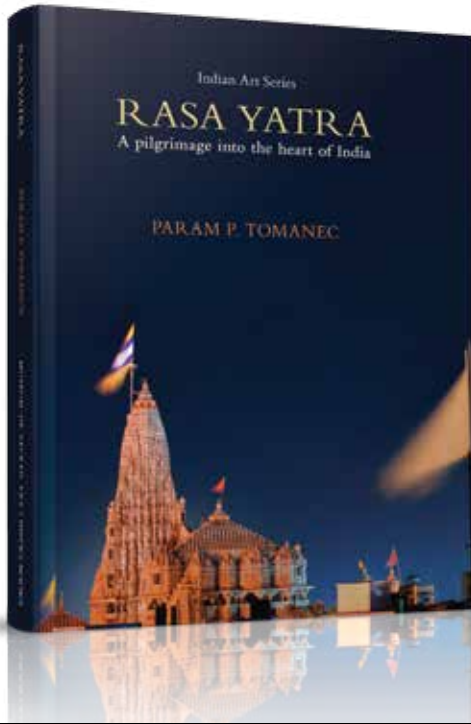
Translucent imagery in petite renderings and fine recreations of mythological narratives mark Raghupati Bhat's artscape. His vast creative repertoire includes imaginative representations of characters and episodes from literary works, such as Ramayana and Mahabharata, and an expanse of Ganjifa work (intricate paintings on small playing cards).



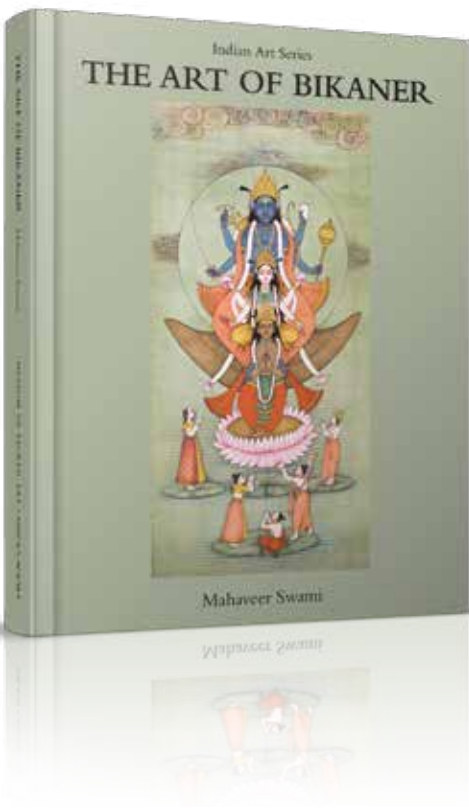
**RAGHUPATI BHAT's** interest in painting and passion for ancient Indian culture can be traced back to his early childhood. His life in the temple village of Udupi as the priest's son, and his interest in nature has also impacted his art.

## RASA YATRA A PILGRIMAGE INTO THE HEART OF INDIA

Rasa Yatra has about fifty carefully framed photographs in the collection, featuring some amazing portraits of people, pilgrims, and priests beside pristine sites, in engaging situations, or behind the scenes. The collection discovers the vibrant spiritual culture of India through the eyes of a young, talented photographer and filmmaker whose empathy for the natural environment resonate through his photo montage.



From a promising career in the commercial film and advertisement industries, **PARAM TOMANEC** embarked on a journey of rediscovery, at an early age.



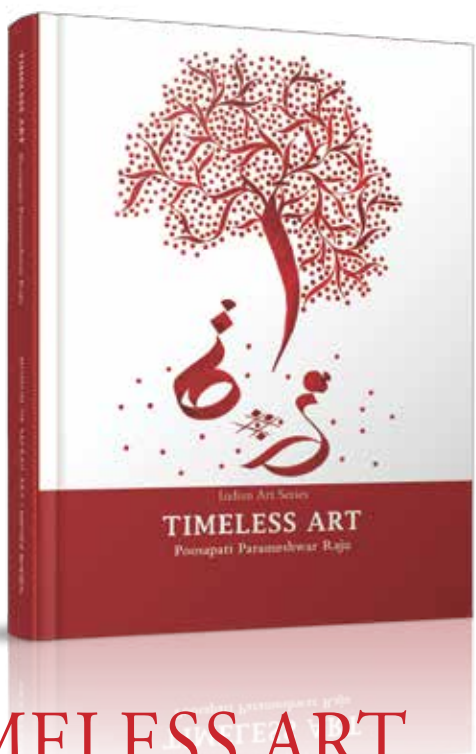
## THE ART OF BIKANER

The Art of Bikaner features about sixty paintings mostly on handmade paper and some on silk. Executed in Bikaner style, the works have clearly been impacted by Mughal traditions. The artist's observations during his sojourns to Khumbh, or at Ganga Sagar Mela, or at the famous holy Dargah shrine at Ajmer, and the sketches that were made on site, were developed into paintings later in the studio. The repertoire also encompasses twenty-four distinct avatars or godly incarnations, based on studies of Bhagwat Puran. The book brings alive the richness in the art tradition of Bikaner and offers a journey through an India, full of mystery and spirituality, through intricately delineated paintings.



Born in Bikaner, Rajasthan, **MAHAVEER SWAMI** is one of the finest traditional artists working in India today. His ethereal colours and exquisite brushwork are combined with unique inner vision and great sensitivity of the world around him.





TIMELESS ART

The legacy of finely etched script and well-versed scribes goes back to the Vedic era of ancient India when its oral traditions were transcribed into written shastras or sacred scriptures. Beginning with historic declarations in Sanskrit on stones, scriptures in Brahmi (ancient script); mythological epics in Pali on palm leaf; Islamic tradition of calligraphy; illustrated manuscript on textile and paper, and digital graphics (in a scenario of mass production)—the artist uses this evolving heritage of the written word and calligraphy as an art form to present pictorially revered Indian icons, mythology, and folk tales. Essentially based on the tradition of writing with a *kalam* (a reed pen dipped in ink for inscribing), these artistic impressions are a celebration of the art of hand-written word.



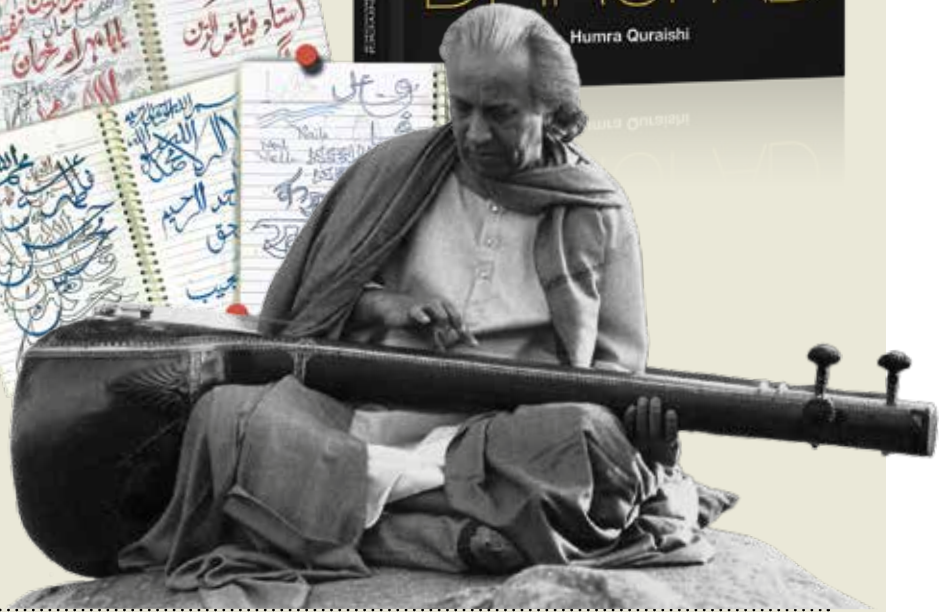
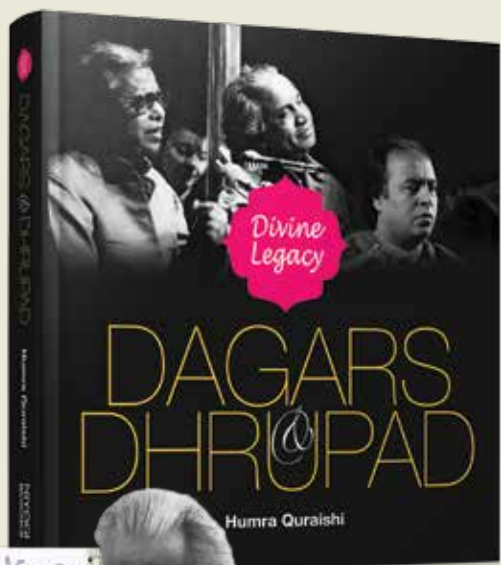
**POOSAPATI PARAMESHWAR RAJU** uses various tools and nibs, to compose his alphabets into works of fine art. He is also engaged with documentation of indigenous and contemporary pictorial processes.

DAGARS & DHRUPAD  
DIVINE LEGACY

This book traces the history of the illustrious Dagar family through 20 generations of dhrupad singers and highlights their distinctive approach to this unique form of music, which is both devotional and spiritual. Dhrupad is also one of the earliest and most dominant streams in Hindustani classical music. The book gives glimpses of the rich heritage of dhrupad that has enthralled audiences worldwide. Rare photographs make the publication all the more special.



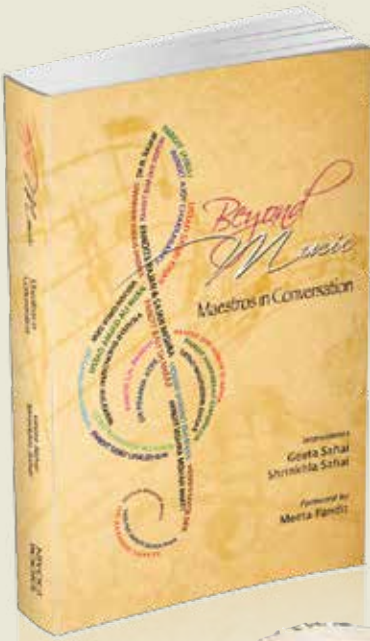
**HUMRA QURAISHI** is a Delhi-based writer-columnist-journalist. She has co-authored two books with Khushwant Singh—*The Good, The Bad and The Ridiculous* and *Absolute Khushwant*.



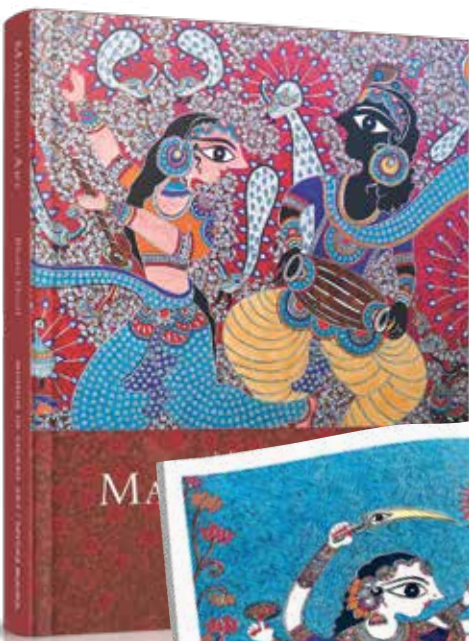
BEYOND MUSIC  
MAESTROS IN CONVERSATION

Ever wondered how late Pandit Ravi Shankar went beyond cultural boundaries to propagate Hindustani classical music and impact the global music scene? How did Ustad Amjad Ali Khan fight emotional and financial setbacks to settle into musical harmony with destiny? How did Begum Akhtar's soulful voice inspire a reluctant percussionist to dedicate his life to vocal music and emerge as the legendary Pandit Jasraj? How did late Dr Gangubai Hangal break away from the shackles of social ostracism to emerge as a legend of her times?

*Beyond Music—Maestros in Conversation* delves into candid opinions on issues, revealing thoughts on music-making and emotional sagas of some of the most accomplished, revered classical musicians.



**GEETA SAHAI** is a writer with international awards, a broadcaster and a documentary filmmaker. **SHRINKHLA SAHAI** is currently pursuing her PhD in Arts and Aesthetics.



MADHUBANI ART

Madhubani, literally meaning *madhu* (honey) and *ban* (forest), i.e., a forest of honey, is a folk art form of the Mithila region of Bihar and parts of Nepal. Its origin is believed to go back to the ancient era of the Ramayana when the town was decorated by inhabitants of the region for the wedding of Lord Rama and Sita with elaborate wall paintings and murals. The artscape appears inundated with divine deities, the sun and moon, and flora and fauna, along with features found in Buddhism, Islamic Sufism, tantric symbols and classical Hinduism. Madhubani artists today are seen to work more with brushes and acrylic paint rather than natural dyes and pigments. They now also work on paper, cloth, canvas, and wood to create art and artifacts, besides paintings on walls and floors.

**BHARTI DAYAL**, renowned Madhubani artist from Mithila, is associated with the promotion of the art form, both in India and abroad.



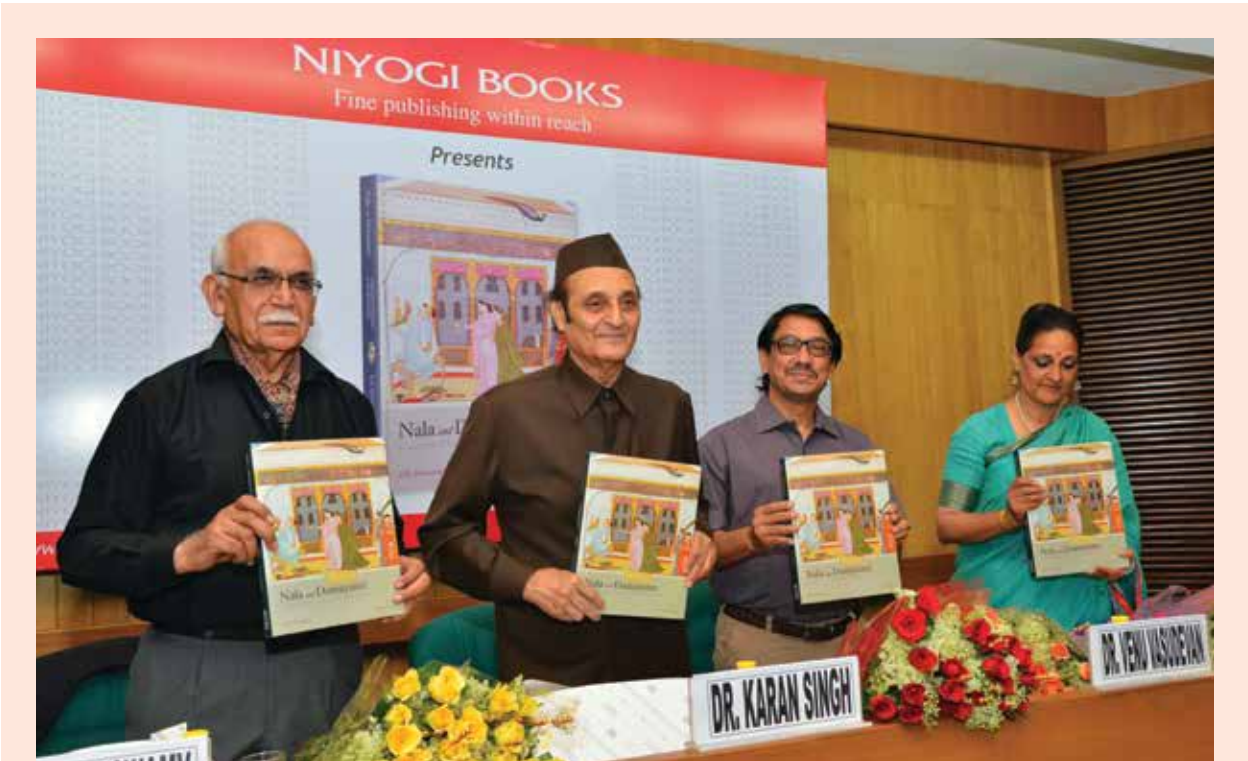
About MOSA

The Museum of Sacred Art—MOSA, Belgium, opened in 2009, with a dedicated focus on the traditional and living arts of India revolving around the theme of devotion. Set within the campus of a beautiful nineteenth-century chateau in the Belgian Ardennes, it has now expanded its brief to include contemporary Indian art across different spiritual traditions and faiths.

Funded primarily by Martin Gurchich, its founding director, the MOSA collection has been diligently built during his various visits to India over the years. The museum patronises and provides platform for exposure of Indian art in the West.



SNIPPETS



*Nala and Damayanti* was launched at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre on May 9, 2015, in the august presence of Dr Karan Singh, who has also written the foreword of the book, and Dr Venu Vasudevan, Director General, National Museum. After the initial introduction by the editor and welcoming of the guests by Dr Jyotsna Singh, Dr Karan Singh was requested to say a few words. He shared his experiences on the Amar Mahal Museum, Jammu, his acquisition

Left to right: Prof. B.N. Goswamy, Dr Karan Singh, Dr Venu Vasudevan and Dr Jyotsna Singh

of the paintings, and the genesis of the book. Dr Vasudevan formally released the book. After the book release and a photo shoot Dr Vasudevan spoke a few words which was



followed by an audio visual presentation with a commentary by Prof. B.N. Goswamy on *Light as Breeze, Coloured like a Rainbow: Paintings of the Nala Damayanti Series*.

The event wound up with a Vote of Thanks by Publisher Mr Bikash Niyogi.



*Sariska: The Tiger Reserve Roars Again*, a book authored on first-hand experience by Sunayan Sharma, was released at the Taj Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur, on 30 April, 2015. Published by Niyogi Books and sponsored by Siyahi, the book was launched by Chief Guest Justice S.S. Kothari, Honourable Lokayukt, Rajasthan followed by a one-to-one conversation with the author and Ex-Chief Wildlife Warden Rajasthan, Mr R.N. Mehrotra.

FORTHCOMING BOOKS

TRAVELOGUE

**Ladakh**  
by **Sohini Sen** is a travel story told through high-resolution colour photographs in a comic-strip format.

FICTION

**Men and Dreams**  
by **Kochery C. Shibu** is a heart-wrenching story of human struggle against the forces of nature.

FICTION

**Pigeons of the Dome**  
edited by **Rakhshanda Jalil** is a collection of short stories depicting the various hues of communalism.

FICTION

**A Harvest of Ecstasy**  
by **Mathew Attokaran** is a heart-warming story of the prestigious Kollegal family in Northern Kerala.

FICTION

**Lost Addresses**  
by **Krishna Bose** is a riveting account of Calcutta, Bengal and India, between the mid-1930s and mid-1950s.

TRAVEL

**Indian Tibet, Tibetan India**  
by **Peter van Ham** is a well-researched and-photographed documentation of the Western Himalayan region.

CRAFT

**Costumes & Textiles**  
by **Rahul Jain** is a comprehensive book on costume and textiles at the Jaipur Court.

RELIGION ARCHITECTURE CITY PLANNING

**Kumbh Mela**, edited by **Rahul Mehrotra & Felipe Vera**, is a detailed research that includes city maps, aerial images, and analytical drawings of the Mega City of Kumbh Mela.

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