

# READING CORNER

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



## CELEBRATION & JUBILATION

September marks the beginning of fairs and festivals in the publishing industry and is a particularly exciting time for all of us at the Niyogi Books for the opportunity it creates to display and showcase our grand collection of books, in a wide range of subjects. Niyogi Books won several awards during the 21st Delhi Book Fair, under the following categories: Jackets, General Books, Reference Books and Art Books in English.



### ONE FOR THE BOOKS



The UNESCO London declaration, of June 1982, *Towards a Reading Society*, states: 'Books retain their pre-eminence as the carrier of knowledge, education and cultural values in human society. They serve both national development and enrichment of individual human life. They foster better understanding between peoples and strengthen the desire for peace in the minds of men.'

While books have received some attention in the developing world, particularly after the UNESCO International Book year 1972, book development as a discipline has remained, by and large, a neglected area, partly because books are not vote catchers and also because people do not usually die of book hunger.

Therefore, books have not been integrated into national development plans, and there is no clear-cut book policy announced by most of the South Asian governments, including India, for the guidance of publishers, authors and book industry professionals. This is unfortunate and the result can be seen in a large gap between the demand and supply of essential reading materials in most of these countries.

Book development as an integral concept requires a multi-disciplinary approach at both government and book industry level. There are some areas of conflict among various components of the book industry, like payment of royalties, observance of copyright rules, terms of credit and trade discount, foreign exchange rates for imported books, channels of book distribution and such other things. Then there are areas of rivalry where competition is not always healthy, such as multinational vis-à-vis indigenous independent publishers, publication of text books by public sector, import of foreign titles competing with locally produced books and so on.

These questions need to be addressed at the highest policy-making bodies and guidelines formulated for all concerned so that book becomes an effective instrument of educational development, social growth, cultural preservation and useful communication at national and international levels.

Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee

**1st**  
**ARMS & ARMOUR AT THE JAIPUR COURT**  
The Royal Collection

**2nd**  
**UNFOLDING**  
Contemporary Indian Textiles

**2nd**  
**QUILTS OF INDIA**  
Timeless Textiles

**Certificate of Merit**  
**FORMS OF DEVOTION**  
The Spiritual in Indian Art

**THE DELHI BOOK FAIR**, which is held every year during Aug-Sept, is an eagerly awaited opportunity for publishers, booksellers, authors, translators and book-lovers of all age group, to discuss new books and examine new trends in publishing.

Two organisations closely associated with the Delhi Book fair are **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**, the premier trade promotion agency of the Govt. of India and the **Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP)**, a representative body of publishers in English, Hindi

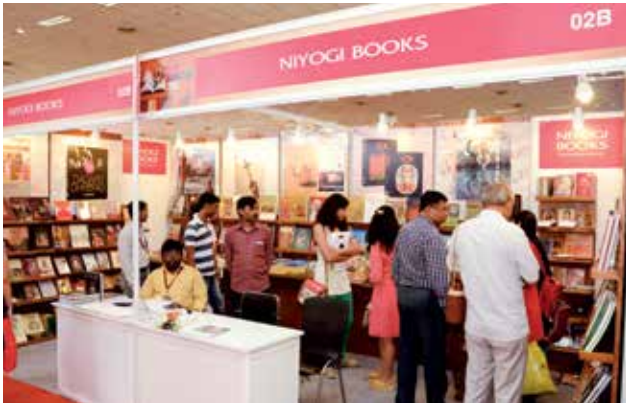
*Awards won during these festivals help us reaffirm our commitment to good publishing. It is also a great time to thank our valued readers for their continued support*



and other regional languages with its membership from all over India, representing more than 80 per cent of the publishing industry.

For nearly three and a half decades **ITPO** has been managing India's world class exhibition complex that is constantly upgraded to keep it in a high standard of readiness.

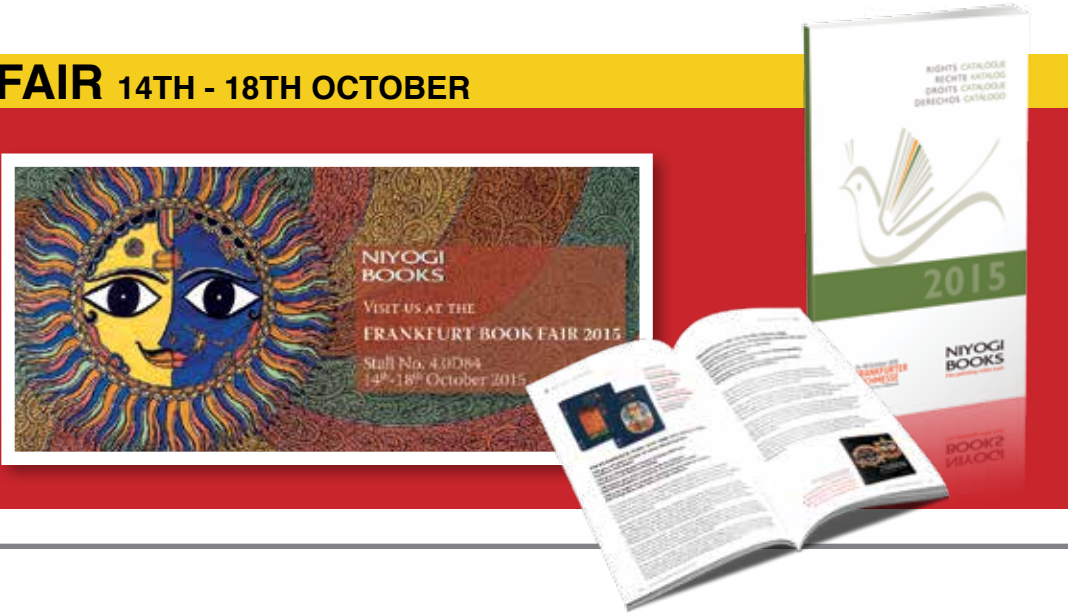
**FIP** plays a key role in promoting professional standards of publishing and gives out awards under different categories, every year during the September Delhi Book Fair.



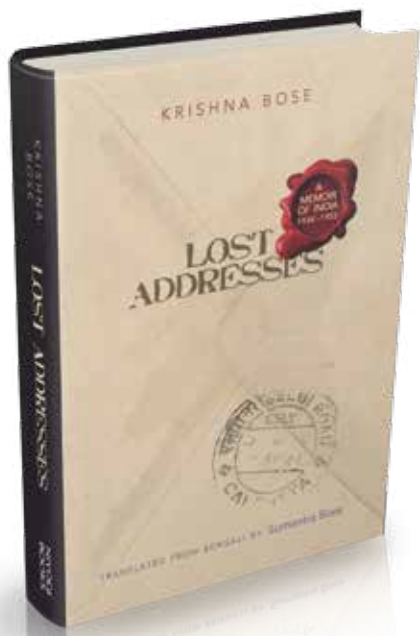
Niyogi Books won silver medal for Excellence in Display, in the English Language category

## FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR 14TH - 18TH OCTOBER

14-18 October 2015  
**FRANKFURTER BUCHMESSE**  
Guest of Honour Indonesia  
Niyogi Books will be present at the 'Global Publishing Summit'—The Frankfurt Book Fair, which sees more than 10,000 visitors come from Asia alone, is spreading a growing awareness of Asia as a hotspot in the publishing world. Please do visit us at Stall No 4.0 D84.







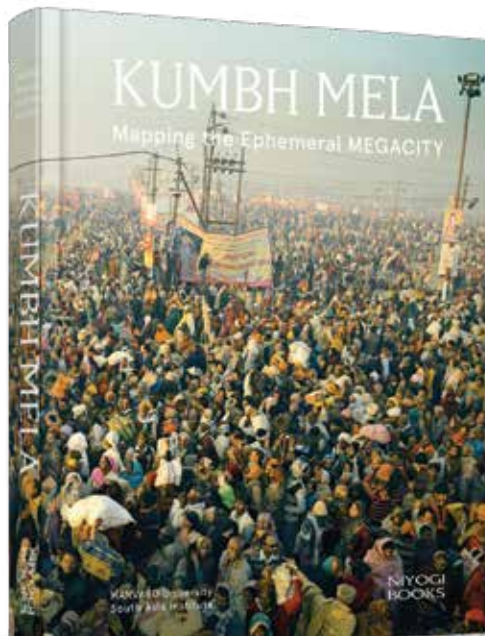
## Lost Addresses

Illustrated with old photographs, this memoir is a valuable historical record. It is the story of Krishna Bose, born Krishna Chaudhuri to East Bengali parents settled in Calcutta. In 1955 she married Sisir Kumar Bose, son of the barrister and nationalist leader Sarat Chandra Bose and nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

It vividly describes Calcutta, Bengal and India in the 1930s and 1940s. Krishna's memories of growing up are set in the social, cultural and political milieus of the time. The East Bengal heritage and the life of the Calcutta intelligentsia at its prime feature prominently, but this is no private nor provincial memoir. Krishna re-lives how she experienced World War II, the Quit India movement of 1942, the Bengal famine of 1943–44, and many more.



Author **KRISHNA BOSE** and translator **SUMANTRA BOSE**. Sumantra is the youngest of three children of Krishna and Sisir Bose. He is a Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



## KUMBH MELA

In 2013, a team from Harvard University, representing faculty from multiple disciplines, researched the large-scale event of the Kumbh Mela from its preparation to the actual celebration itself. This was the first systematic study of the Mela as a city: a planned entity, and covers issues of social inclusion, diversity, and even democracy

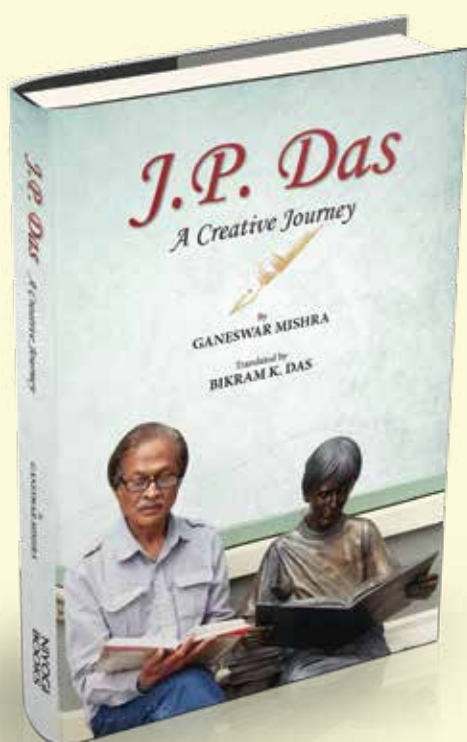
This volume presents the comprehensive research findings and includes city maps, aerial images, analytical drawings and photographs of the spectacular ephemeral mega city for the Kumbh Mela—the largest religious celebration on earth and the biggest public gathering in the world. The resulting settlement is a virtual mega city!

The Kumbh Mela deploys its own roads, pontoon bridges as well as tents serving as residences and venues for spiritual meetings, and social infrastructure such as hospitals, sanitation outlets and vaccination clinics—all replicating the functions of an actual city. The pop-up settlement seamlessly serves up to 7 million people who gather for 55 days and an additional flux of 10 to 20 million people who come for 24-hour cycles on the six main bathing dates.

*The fluid nature of the territory it is grounded in and the grid as a structuring device are interesting to study*

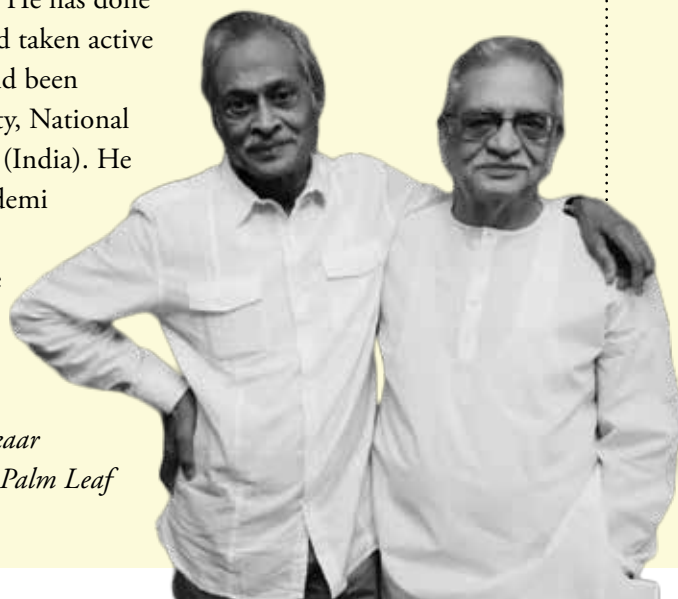


**RAHUL MEHROTRA** is a practising architect and educator and teaches at Harvard University. **FELIPE VERA** is the director of the Center for Ecology, Landscape and Urbanism at the DesignLab of Universidad Adolfo Ibañez in Chile.



## J.P. DAS: A CREATIVE JOURNEY

Jagannath Prasad (J.P.) Das has dominated the Odia literary scene for over 40 years. A former assistant professor in Allahabad University, he joined the IAS and worked in the Odisha and Central Governments. He has done paintings, acted on stage and in films, and taken active part in social and cultural movements, and been associated with the Children's Film Society, National School of Drama, and the Poetry Society (India). He has been honoured with the Sahitya Akademi award, and the Saraswati Samman by K.K. Birla Foundation. His literary oeuvre comprises poetry, plays, short stories, novels, essays, and children's poems. His research into Odishan art includes publication of *Puri Paintings: The Chitrakaar and His Work* and *Chitrapothi: Illustrated Palm Leaf Manuscripts from Orissa*.



**GANESWAR MISHRA** is an author and translator who has published both fiction and nonfiction and has also edited several texts in Odia and English. He has won several awards and distinctions.



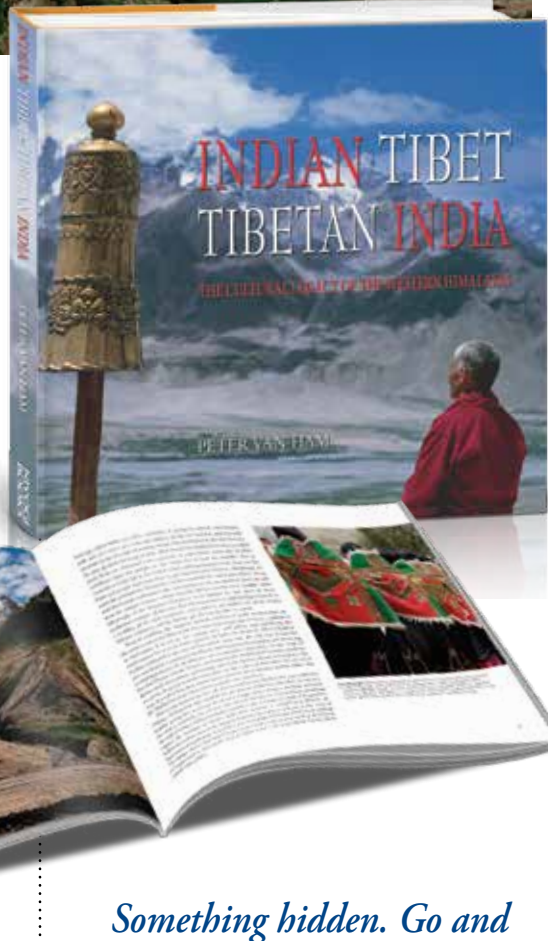


## INDIAN TIBET, TIBETAN INDIA

This is a meticulously researched and brilliantly photographed book giving a detailed textual and pictorial documentation of the entire Western Himalayan region with special emphasis on the Indo-Tibetan and early Indian culture, Buddhist art and ethnicity of the region and people.

Inspired by the first cultural expedition into the Western Himalayas by August Hermann Francke in 1909, which resulted in the region's denomination as 'Indian Tibet', the author Peter van Ham travelled for years in the long inaccessible Indo-Tibetan border regions after they were opened to the public in the beginning of the 1990s. In secluded and remote high-altitude valleys of breathtaking grandeur, he documented some of the last refuges of Tibetan and early Indian culture and photographed people and the unique testimonies of their art, religion and architecture.

With the aid of rare archival and contemporary textual and visual materials, the author draws a comprehensive picture of the fascinating history of the exploration of the present Indian border region.

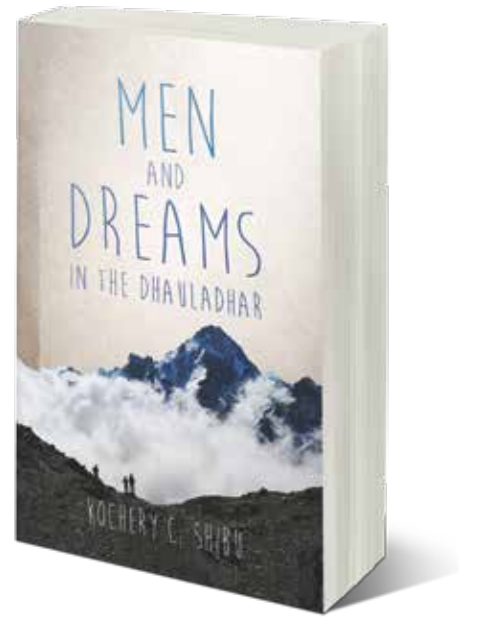


*Something hidden. Go and find it. Go and look behind the Ranges—Something lost behind the Ranges. Lost and waiting for you. Go!*

— The Explorer; Rudyard Kipling



**PETER VAN HAM** is an expert on Himalayan cultures and has written extensively on India's many border regions. He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic and the Royal Geographical Societies, London, and the Explorers Club, New York.



## Men and Dreams in the Dhauladhar

Three people brought together by fate—Nanda, an engineer from Kerala, at the dam construction site, hiding from his past, from the law, torn between the love of his dear ones and the traditional kalari code of revenge; Khusru, a boy displaced from his native village in Kashmir, a gambit in the terror plot threatening to blow up the dam, working as a labourer at the site; Rekha, a Kathak dancer by heart, a doctor by profession, who arrives at the campsite as the consort of Khusru. They throng the campsite like moths to a flame—some escape untouched, successful; some, miss a step, and perish. Like an eternal spectator the mighty Dhauladhar watches, as men risk life and limb in a quest to fulfill their dreams and aspirations.



**KOCHERY C SHIBU**, born in Kochi is a retired naval officer who works as a consultant in hydroelectric power projects.

## LADAKH: A PHOTO TRAVELOGUE

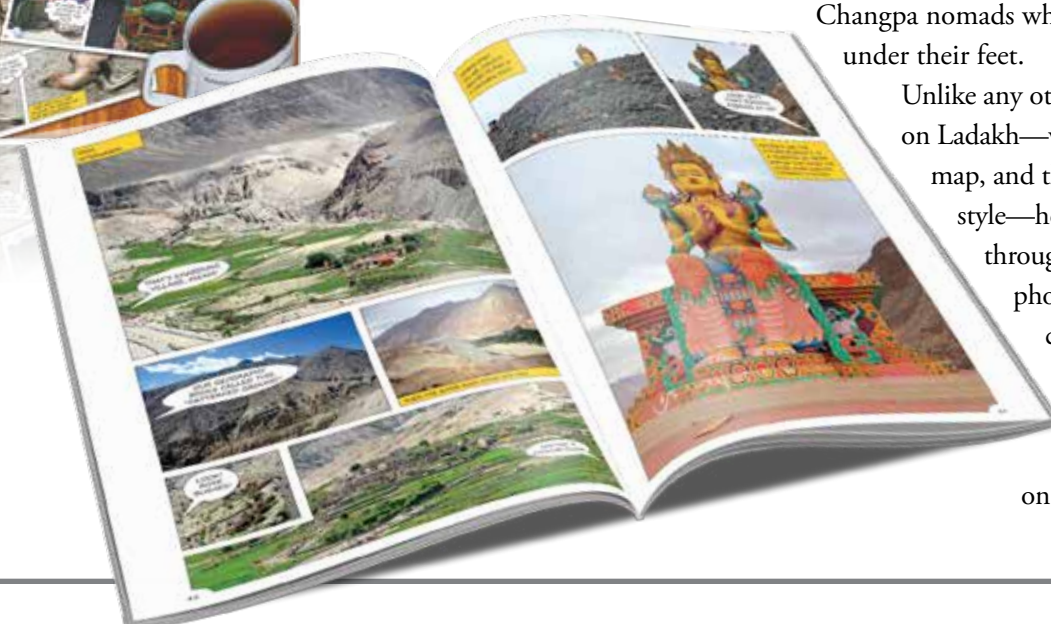
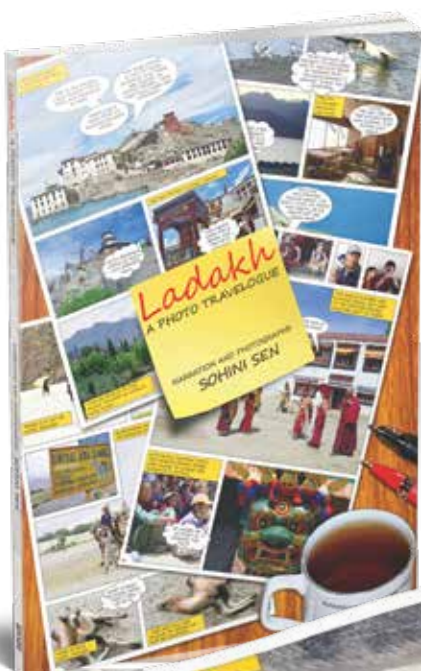
Two lady travellers arrive in Leh one local summer morning. In the course of their journey through Ladakh, they learn about the war between 'Nanak Lama' and a demon, and watch masked lamas in a comic interlude amid serious rituals at the Phyang Monastery festival. En route to Nubra Valley via Khardung Pass, the travellers meet animals with an identity crisis, and a donkey who will never lend its owner an ear again. In the valley, a 32-metre tall statue of Maitreya Buddha shares the limelight with double-humped camels. The journeys to Pangong Lake and Tso Moriri have quite a few highpoints including an adventurous stay in a tent and a peek into the lives of Changpa nomads who do not let the grass grow under their feet.

Unlike any other book so far published on Ladakh—with 414 crisp photos, one map, and the easy, humorous writing style—here is a travel story told through high-resolution colour photographs laid out in a comic-strip format that will appeal immensely to casual tourists, serious travellers, even those keen on armchair travelling.

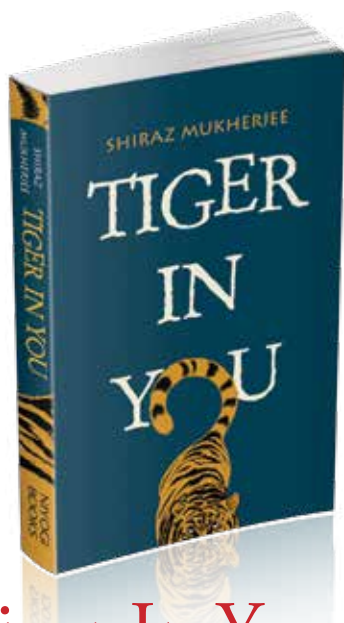
*No amount of text can ever capture the enchantment of Ladakh. One needs to see it to believe it*



**SOHINI SEN**, formerly associated with *The Telegraph* and the *Financial Chronicle* newspapers, is a full-time travel writer and photographer, who now, instead of chasing deadlines, is chased by camera-shy yaks.







## Tiger In You

This is the story of self-realisation of five musician friends—Rahul, Imran, Jessy, Keya, British-born Hazel, and the swashbuckling Bhombol—all fresh graduates from college, deep in the mudflats of the Sunderbans.

Here, amidst the serpentine rivers, islands, and its mangroves, the friends are left enchanted with its tapestry of beauty and silence. They are equally moved by the locals and their hapless living condition—their abject poverty, their inhuman hardships, and their undying human spirit to survive and improve their lot.

A journey that begins as a joyride, replete with music and thrill, however, turns out to be much more for the friends. The book weaves picturesque vignettes of their escapades, which present wonderful intriguing opportunities for transformation for each one of them as they discover love amidst poverty, valour despite grief, and the eternal triumph of the human spirit. This book is about that awakening within them, reminiscent of the majestic power and roar of a Royal Bengal Tiger.



**SHIRAZ MUKHERJEE** was a first-division football player who also trained in theatre as an actor, writer, and director. A commerce graduate, he later shifted to Mumbai to become a filmmaker.

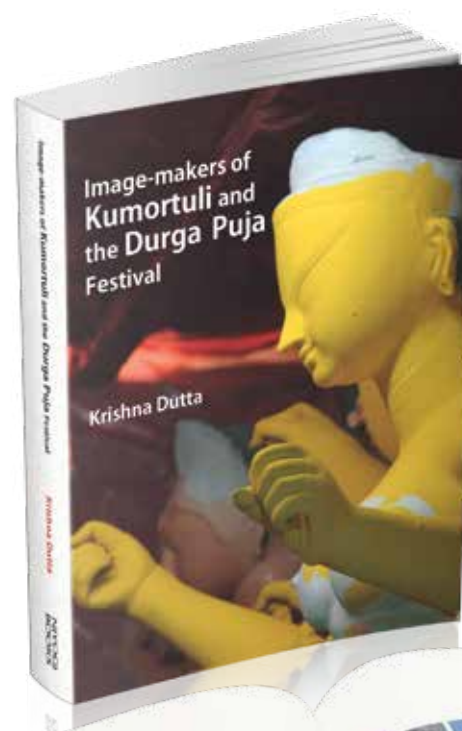


## KUMORTULI

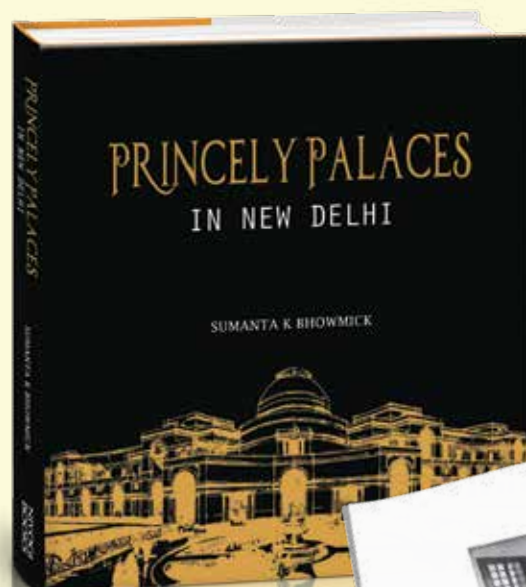
This book is a tribute to the image-makers of Kumortuli, as well as a social and cultural account of Durga Puja—the most important religious festival of Bengal. The potter community of Kolkata, the *kumors* as they are colloquially known, are more than what the name suggests—they are artists. Tangible images of deities that form the crux of Hindu worship, find shape in the hands of these artisans, who, with sheer dedication to the craft, have kept the tradition alive for generations.

Durga Puja, on the other hand, is not only the major religious festival of Bengal but has also evolved into a cultural extravaganza. From the point of view of sheer vastness and magnitude of organisational mobilisation, it is comparable only to the global impact of Christmas.

Through vivid photographs and absorbing text, the book captures Kolkata's spirit of artistic creativity and spiritual ecstasy, embodied in these ephemeral constructs of clay, straw and bamboo. It also sensitively documents Bengal's unique and most enduring cultural heritage of image worship.



An expatriate Bengali, **KRISHNA DUTTA**, born in Calcutta and educated in India and the UK, specialises in the history and culture of Bengal and has published works as an author and translator.



## PRINCELY PALACES

Rajas and maharajas from all over the British Indian Empire congregated in Delhi to attend the great Delhi Durbar of 1911. A new capital city was born—New Delhi. Soon after, the princely states came up with elaborate palaces in the 'new' imperial capital—Hyderabad House, Baroda House, Jaipur House, Bikaner House, Patiala House, to name a few.

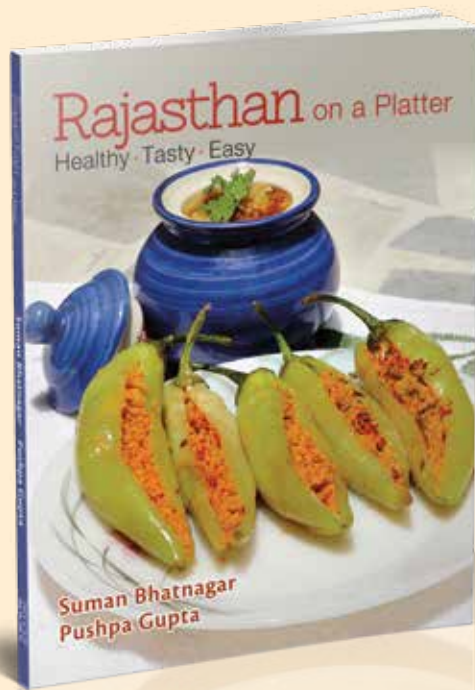
*Princely Palaces in New Delhi*, delineates the story behind the story, documenting history through archival research, interviews with royalty and unpublished photographs from royal private collections. These princely palaces form an integral part of New Delhi's urban topography. Built about a century ago for purposes that may not be relevant anymore, these palaces are the relics of the past, passed on to posterity, speaking of a time that was part of the continual process of knitting an unstitched destiny. Here is a colourful procession in full regalia, uniformed men guarding the palaces, fluttering flags of myriad hues—slip into a time-warped till you encounter the modern New Delhi.

*Many palaces were requisitioned by the government during the Second World War, the symmetry of their design destroyed in the process*



**SUMANTA K BHOWMICK** works in the Parliament since 1996 and is fascinated by the spirit of Delhi, past and present.



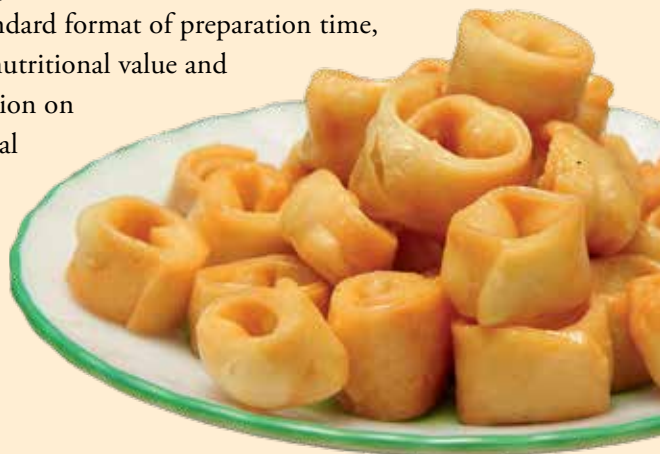


## RAJASTHAN ON A PLATTER

This offers a wide, select and unique variety of traditional and tasty but simple homemade recipes. It transfers homegrown knowledge to the young generation and caters to multicultural readership. Each recipe has been combined with supplementary food items to present the concept of a tasty, wholesome and nutritious meal. They focus on a fast-changing society where 'snacking' is replacing full sit-down meals and 'finger food' and 'quick bites' fulfill the purpose of a light dinner. The dishes add plenty of nutritive value to the diet and cater to the eating habits and fast lifestyle of the multi-tasking generation.

The select recipes are grouped in five categories—cereals, pulses, vegetables, non-vegetarian dishes and special dishes for festivals.

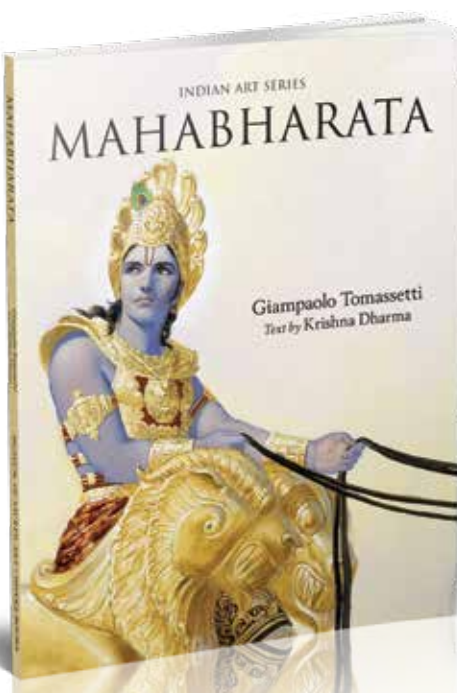
Each recipe follows a standard format of preparation time, cooking time, ingredients, nutritional value and its variations, with information on the recommended nutritional allowances for different body types, lifestyles, age groups and genders. Nutritive values of the recipes based on research and reference have been minutely calculated.



*This book recommends nutritional allowances for different body types, lifestyles, age groups and genders*



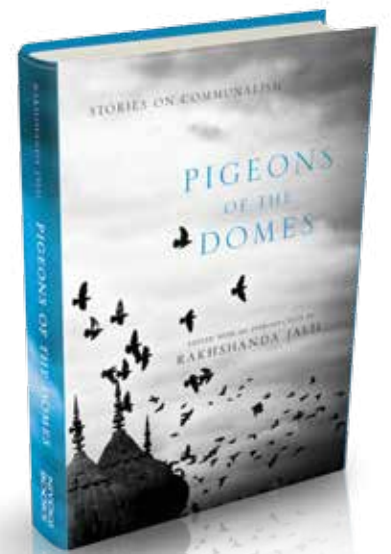
**SUMAN BHATNAGAR** has been associated with teaching, research and extension at College of Home Science, Udaipur, for 39 years. **PUSHPA GUPTA** has been the head of the department and Dean of College of Home Science, Udaipur.



## MAHABHARATA

In this book the epic *Mahabharata*, eulogised and worshipped by devotees worldwide, takes centre stage in the artist's current creative repertoire. The artist's paintings, mostly in large size and bold colours, engage with the phenomenal Sanskrit epic of ancient India. As the title suggests it is a *mahan* (great) narration about *bharatbaraga* (descendants of Bharat/India), inscribed a millennia ago by Rishi Vyāsadeva, around 400 BCE. Over the centuries, it has been revised and interpolated in attempts to unravel its historical or compositional layers and

continues to be engagingly mysterious. Lined with European and Italian Renaissance influences, together with Indian decorative elements and a spiritual ethos, the elaborately drawn and brightly coloured suite articulates the great heroic epic, which is essentially about *dharma* (moral law). The intrigues, struggles, and morals underlined in the spiritual narrative are replayed in amazing dramatic imagery in this body of work by artist Giampaolo Tomassetti, also known as Jnananjana Dasa.



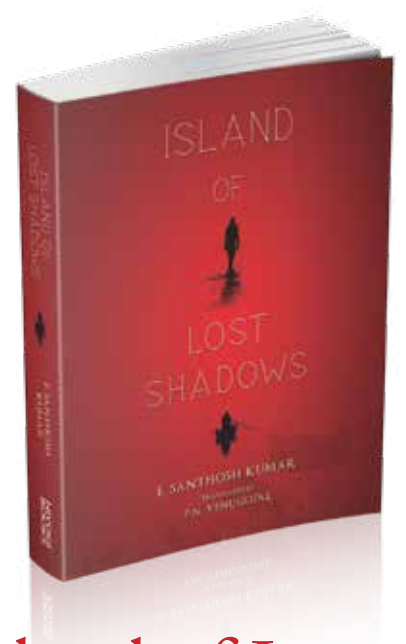
## Pigeons of the Domes

Sixty years after the communal violence of the Partition, once again the fabric of secular India is being challenged and contested.

The *Pigeons of the Domes* is a collection of stories that present us with cameos of conflict and fear and also offer us vignettes of hope and resolution—a collection that is both timely and important.



**RAKSHANDA JALIL** is a writer, critic and literary historian. She has edited three collections of short stories and eight works of translation.



## Island of Lost Shadows

The *Island of Lost Shadows* is a story of intrigue, nerve-wracking tension and suspense, raising questions relevant in the present-day context of terrorism and sedition in the guise of revolution and social change. The author brings to life the troubled times of the seventies. A compelling tale that keeps the readers engrossed till the last page.



**E SANTHOSH KUMAR** has won Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for the best short story collection in 2006 and for the best novel in 2012.



## SNIPPETS



***Seducing the Rain God***, a collection of 14 translated short stories, originally written in Bishnupriya Manipuri and authored by Smriti Kumar Sinha, was launched at the Vivekananda Kendriya Institute of Culture, Guwahati, on 5 July 2015. Chief Guest for the evening was Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhury, Tezpur University; Guest of Honour was Mr Manoj Kumar Goswami, Editor-in-Chief of DY 365 and Special Guest was Mr Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee.

Left to right: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Smriti Kumar Sinha, Amarjyoti Choudhury, Manoj Kumar Goswami



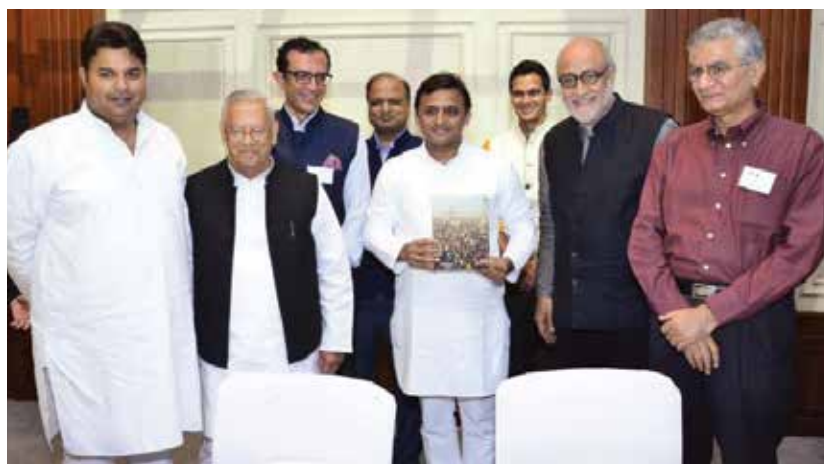
***Dagars & Dhruvad: Divine Legacy*** by Humra Quraishi, was launched at the Multi-purpose Hall of the India International Centre, New Delhi on 5 August 2015, in the august presence of Dr Karan Singh and Shri Pramod Jain, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture. After a very entertaining conversation between the author and Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, the brimming audience was enthralled with a recital by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar.

Left to right: Humra Quraishi, Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar, Karan Singh, Pramod Jain, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee

***The Courtesans of Karim Street*** by Debotri Dhar was launched at the Oxford Book Store, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 7 August 2015, in the august presence of Dr S.Y. Quraishi and Shri Pavan Kr Varma. The book was also launched in Kolkata Oxford Book Store by fashion diva Sharbari Datta, on 21 August 2015, receiving an enthusiastic response.



Left to right: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Sharbari Datta, Debotri Dhar



***Kumbh Mela: Mapping the Ephemeral City*** edited by Rahul Mehrotra and Felipe Vera and published by Niyogi Books jointly with Harvard University—South Asia Institute was launched at The Oberoi Hotel on 17 August 2015. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Akhilesh Yadav graced the occasion and launched the book.

Akhilesh Yadav (Centre), with Rahul Mehrotra to his right

***Fall Winter Collections*** by Koral Dasgupta was launched at Title Waves Book Store, Bandra, Mumbai on 11 July 2015, in the presence of veteran actor Joy Sengupta; film critic and journalist Bhawana Somaaya and fine-art consultant and Founding Director of *Art India* magazine, Anupa Mehta.



Third from left: Koral Dasgupta with Bhavna Somaaya, Anupa Mehta, Joy Sengupta

***Sariska: The Tiger Reserve Roars Again*** by Sunayan Sharma, after a successful launch at Jaipur, was launched again in Delhi on 4 September 2015, at the WWF India Auditorium, New Delhi. The book was launched by Mr V.P. Singh, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Secretary General and CEO, WWF, Mr Ravi Singh. The guests spoke on their personal experience and was in conversation with the members in the audience.



Left to right: Sunayan Sharma, V. P. Singh, Ravi Singh

***Unfolding: Contemporary Indian Textiles*** by Maggie Baxter was successfully launched on 9 September 2015, at the residence of Australian High Commissioner by Deputy High Commissioner Chris Elstoft, in the august presence of artists, designers and other invited guests.



Left to right: Maggie Baxter, Chris Elstoft, Bikash Niyogi

Krishna Bose's ***Lost Addresses: A Memoir of India, 1934-1935***, was launched on 26 September 2015, at Sarat Bose Hall, Netaji Bhawan, Kolkata. The main guests for the evening were Swapna Chakravorty, distinguished professor, Presidency University and Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Vice Chancellor Ashoka University. Moon Moon Sen, actor and MP, launched the book.



Left to right: Sumantra Bose, Moon Moon Sen, Krishna Bose, Swapna Chakravorty and Rudrangshu Mukherjee

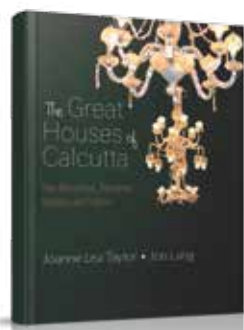
## REST IN PEACE



**Ganeswar Mishra**  
Sadly Missed,  
Lovingly Remembered

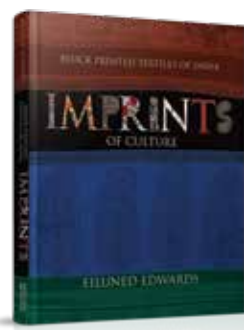
## FORTHCOMING BOOKS

HERITAGE



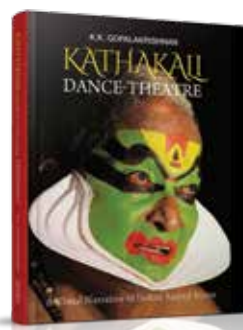
**The Great Houses of Calcutta** by Joanne Lea Taylor and Jon Lang explores great families of Kolkata, during the Raj

TEXTILE



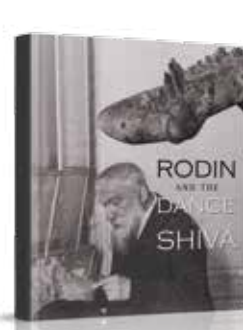
**Block Printed Textiles of India** by Eiluned Edwards tracks the evolution of this ancient craft into a global fashion symbol

DANCE



**Kathakali** by K.K. Gopalakrishnan places this 400-year-old art in its historical, social and caste context

ART



**Rodin and the Dance of Shiva** by Katia Legeret brings new perspectives, both French and Indian

PHOTOGRAPHY



**Khajuraho** by Raghu Rai, explores the space where the erotic co-exists with the divine, through photographs

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6 West 18th St., Suite 4B,  
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