

READING CORNER

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

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

Alfred Lord Tennyson

The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

CHEERS TO A NEW YEAR

2017

URDU

The Stateless Language that Lives in People’s Hearts

Urdu belongs to neither a single state nor a single community—it is a language of the people, for the people, by the people. It is ready to belong to whoever is willing to step forward and claim it.

For far too long, the doomsayers have been predicting the end of Urdu and a whole way of life that accompanied it. The Urdu–Hindi debate has divided Urdu-walas and Hindi-walas into warring champions occupying opposite ends of a Great Divide, a bit like wrestlers in a wrestling pit (*akhada*). Yet, despite the formidable odds stacked against it, Urdu has not merely survived but flourished. Yes, fewer people read it in its own script. Yes, its propagation is not tied to employment generation. Yes, the government has paid mere lip service to safeguarding its interests. Yes, many of those who nod their heads in appreciation when they hear Urdu poetry being read or recited possibly do so because it sounds pretty rather than because they fully understand the real meaning of those mellifluous words. But that is not to say that Urdu is dead, or dying. Despite the odds, Urdu has not merely survived but remained relevant. It is still the language of the heart and soul of India.

Urdu hai jis ka naam hamiin jaantein hain Daagh
Saare jahan mein dhoom hamari zaban ki hai
Hazrat Daagh Dehelvi

O Daagh, I know this language
that is called Urdu

The world is reverberating with
the sounds of our language

The Urdu poet has, more so than the prose writer, never failed to raise the level of Urdu’s popularity. Shahryar, for one, had gone on record to say that more people appreciate Urdu poetry in India than ever before. *Jaise jaise shehri tehzeeb badhrabi hai, Urdu zuban bhi badhrabi hai*, he never tired of pointing out. Scoffing those who decry the state of Urdu in the country, he believed he was optimistic about India and about Urdu. He felt the government had done what it could; it was now up to the Urdu-walas to do the rest! Till we as a people are not proud of our language, no government can ever do enough. The Indian publishing industry, with one eye on people’s interests and aspirations and another on profit margins, has been quick to gauge the popular sentiment in favour of Urdu. Even multinational publishing houses have started publishing in Urdu. Smaller players such as Blaft have brought out translations of *Jasoosi Duniya*, a cult detective series, in Urdu. While some Urdu fiction is being made available either in Devanagari or in English translations, it is Urdu poetry that holds sway over the popular imagination. It is heartening to see people across the Indian subcontinent delve into the vast treasure house that is Urdu literature to pluck something or the other up that gives expression to their deepest, most acutely felt emotions. Blogs and websites feed this interest in innovative and accessible ways. A snatch of Urdu poetry, a fragment of lost memory from a syncretic past, holds promise for the future of Urdu.

Rakshanda Jalil
An Urdu scholar, she runs *Hindustani Awaz*, an organisation devoted to the popularisation of Hindi–Urdu literature and culture.



Sankha Ghosh, the global icon of Bengali literature has been given the **jnanpith award** this year. A public intellectual, he has often voiced his opinion on critical socio-political issues and is considered the conscience keeper of Bengal. A poet and essayist, his lyrics and love poems are always informed with strong social content. Shri Ghosh is also the greatest living authority on Tagore and his writing.

Save the Dates!

It is a busy time for Niyogi Books with so many festivals, fairs and activities lined up.

7–15 January 2017

New Delhi World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan
Stall No. 71-74
Hall 10

11 January 2017

New Delhi World Book Fair.
Author’s Corner: Discourse on *Is it time for a relook in our gender policy?*, 3 to 4.30 pm.
Panelists:
Malashri Lal, Alka Pande and Vinod Pande

13 January 2017

New Delhi World Book Fair.
Author’s Corner: Discourse on *Who is responsible for the loss of Paradise?*, 5 to 6.30 pm.
Panelists: Nilosree Biswas, Irfan Nabi and Sanchit Gupta

16 January 2017

Apeejay Lit Fest,
Royal Calcutta Turf Club
Book launch of Horse Racing in India: A Royal Legacy, 12pm.
Chief Guest:
Pesi Shroff

19–23 January 2017

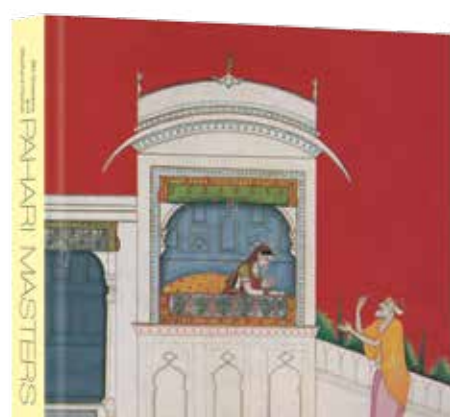
Jaipur Book Mark & Jaipur Literary Festival, Diggi Palace.
Niyogi Books’ authors—SL Bhyrappa, Rima Hooja, Hari Ram Meena, Harsha V. Dehejia, Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Reema Abbasi, Geeta Chandran, Sudha Gopalakrishnan Keki N. Daruwala and Alka Pande

25 January–5 February 2017

41st Kolkata Book Fair, Milan Mela

Climbing Northward

Travel, heritage and architecture ... India's northern region is well known for all three and Niyogi Books has an array of titles that cover these subjects.



A pioneering book of great significance. Attention is drawn to 14 Pahari Masters whose work spans 300 years. The paintings come from as many as 20 different museums and private collections. The aim is to select such works and illuminate each master's range and the thought



processes from which his art is likely to have sprung. When first published in German, this book was widely acclaimed as 'a great work'. It occupies the status of a classic, laying down the lines along which the future of studies in Indian painting is likely to proceed.

B.N. Goswamy

A distinguished art historian and a leading authority on Indian art, he is the recipient of several prestigious honours.

Eberhard Fischer

A renowned art historian and cultural anthropologist, he has been deeply involved in the craft traditions of India.

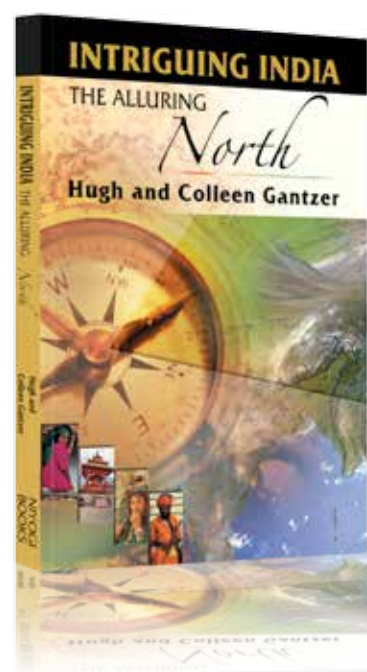


This book covers four enthralling treks through the Great Himalayan National Park in Kullu district, inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It is perhaps the first time that this unique nature reserve has been depicted in such faithful and loving detail. Other treks in the districts of Chamba, Kullu, Kangra, Lahaul and Spiti, Shimla, and Kinnaur complete a fascinating account that is spread over 20 years. *The Trails Less Travelled* is, in essence, both a celebration of wild nature and the documentation of a valuable legacy. It needs to be treasured for both these reasons.



Avay Shukla

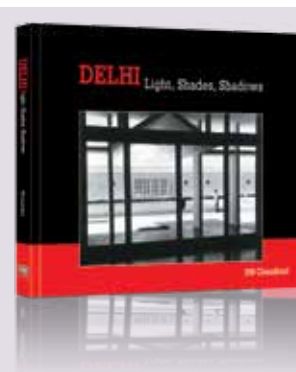
Former Indian Administrative Service officer, he is president of the **Himachal Pradesh Trekking Association** and a founding member of the **Ecotourism Society of India**.



This is not a travelogue, or a guidebook, or even a retelling of ancient folklore. It is, however, a little bit of all three. It is a conversation with two well-informed people who have travelled, and questioned, and analysed. They are convinced that every legend, every custom has grown out of a hard core of fact, a historical event whose impact was so great that it was branded into the memory of the community. It then became encased in multiple layers of myth. In *Intriguing India: The Alluring North*, while describing their experiences in their gently evocative style, the authors also uncover many fascinating gems of other, enduring, realities that glitter within our 'intriguing India'.

Hugh and Colleen Gantzer

A travel-writer-photographer duo, they have possibly visited, photographed and written about more places in India than anyone else in the long history of our land.

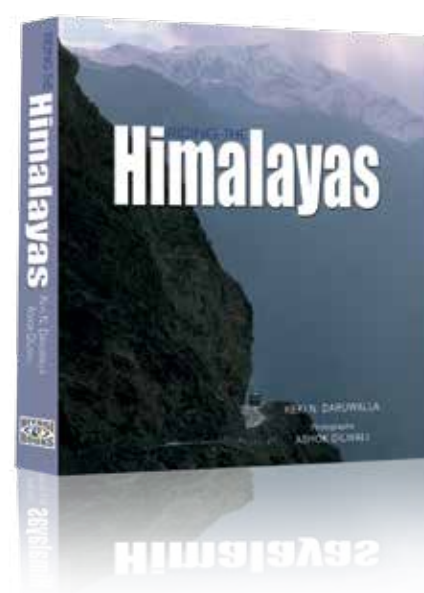


Whether it is the narrow lanes of Old Delhi, Partition and the dramatic days that followed, the river Yamuna in flood, the Delhi railway station or college life at Delhi University, *Delhi: Light, Shades, Shadows* captures the spirit of the capital city of India. Here is a book that will prove to be nostalgic for some and absolutely fascinating for others. The photographs, legends and text combine to tell the story of a Delhi that was.

New Delhi Down the Decades takes the reader through the days when iconic personalities such as Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker were working on a unique style of architecture that makes the city special. The author had his first look at the capital city in June 1942 and has watched it grow in the last seven decades from a quiet garden city into a giant metropolis.

Dhruba N Chaudhuri

He began his career with *The Statesman* in Delhi and Kolkata and has worked with leading dailies and magazines in India.



A unique travelogue—a car trek starting from the Siachin Glacier to Kibitho, the easternmost point of the Himalayas. This book has been written in memorable and luminous prose, paralleled by some of the finest photographs of the Himalayas.

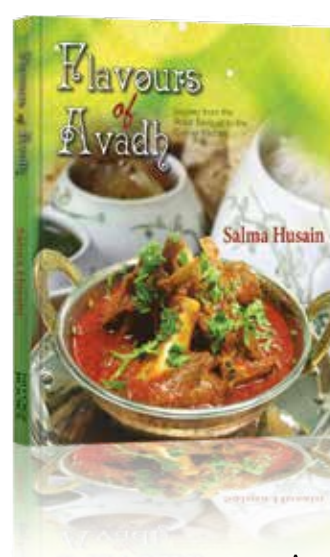
Keki N. Daruwalla

One of India's leading poets and short story writers, he won the Commonwealth Poetry Prize (for Asia) in 1987.



Ashok Dilwali

He reigns supreme in mountain photography and has won two gold medals in international photography competitions in Austria.




This book charts out a unique socio-cultural route down the decades, sketching out an exclusive regional food history, richly coloured with family anecdotes, local festivities, regional culture and dining traditions. There are more than 60 recipes collected from the elite homes and kitchens where this unique and traditional cuisine has been nurtured over centuries. Aromatic spices, exotic herbs, a rare creative energy and a romantic ideology coupled with a mix of traits and customs have produced this exclusive line of food and hospitality—the Avadh cult of cuisine.

Salma Husain


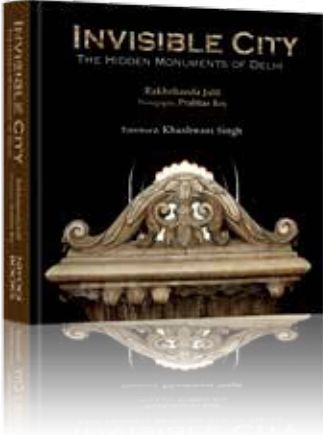
A passionate cook, food historian and Persian scholar, she has worked with the Star Celebrity Chef, Gary Rhodes, from London, for a British television serial.





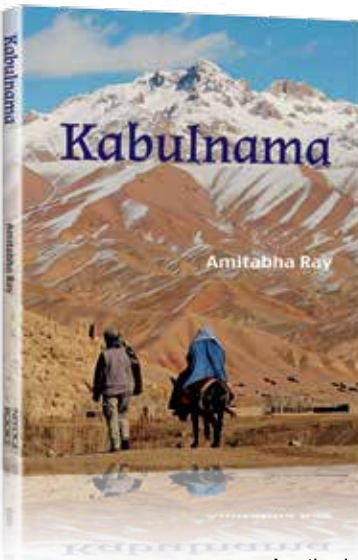
SOHINI SEN
A full-time travel writer and photographer, she has worked at *The Telegraph* and for Tata Consultancy Services.

With its fascinating subject, 414 crisp photographs, one map, and an easy, humorous writing style, this book will appeal immensely to casual tourists, serious travellers and even those keen on armchair travelling.



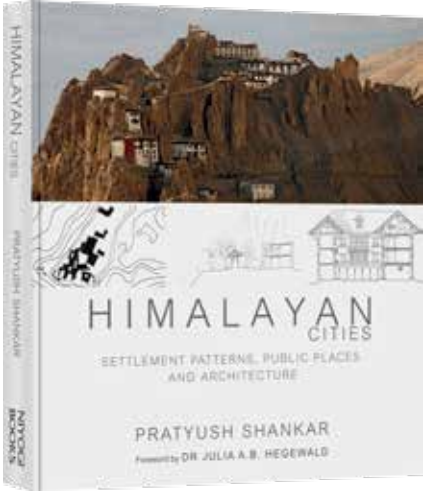
Rakhshanda Jalil
An Urdu scholar, she writes on issues of literature, culture and heritage.

Delhi is considered by many to be a notch above the other great metropolises of India. What sets it apart is the multitude of historic ruins that are almost everywhere. Every ruler down the ages wished to adorn his beloved Delhi, to leave a mark that would last and so left behind a landscape studded with jewels from the past. *Invisible City: The Hidden Monuments of Delhi* explores this other Delhi—the little-known, seldom-visited, largely unheard-of Delhi.

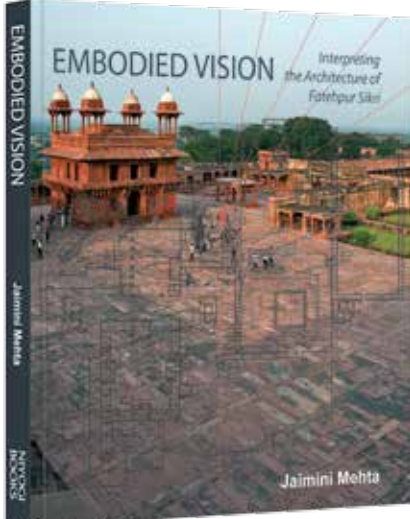


Amitabha Ray
A retired official with the Government of India, he has written many books and articles for leading journals.


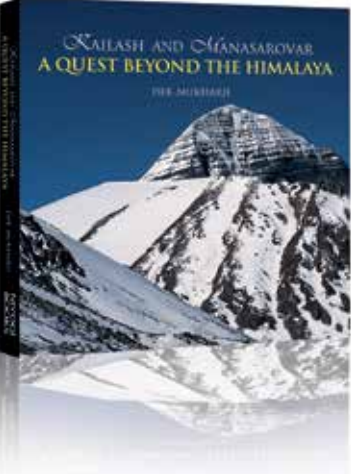
This book transports the reader to the origins of this rugged yet uniquely beautiful country, pitched against an unkind climate, civil wars and an intriguing socio-cultural backdrop. It is a rare journey along the highs and lows of the land and the times.



A book that marks the culmination of extensive documentation and research on the cities and architecture of the Himalayas. It explores the idea of settlements in different areas of the Himalayan region.


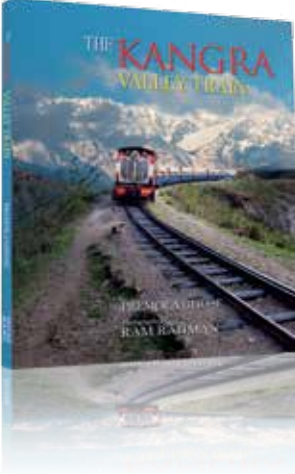


Departing from the conventional path of describing and explaining the architecture of Fatehpur Sikri, this book delves into a series of representations that the Mughal city has been subjected to.



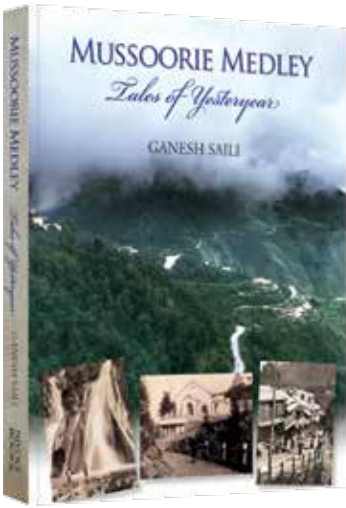
Deb Mukharji
A former Indian Foreign Service officer, he has been exploring the Himalayas for over five decades. His photographs have been published in numerous journals.

This book delves into mythology and the experience of travellers and pilgrims through the centuries to depict what Kailash has meant to them through the ages, and how its influence has permeated literature and great achievements in architecture. The text includes descriptions of the author's journeys undertaken over 21 years, along the traditional pilgrim route from India over the Lipu Pass and across Tibet. Over 200 photographs accompany the text.



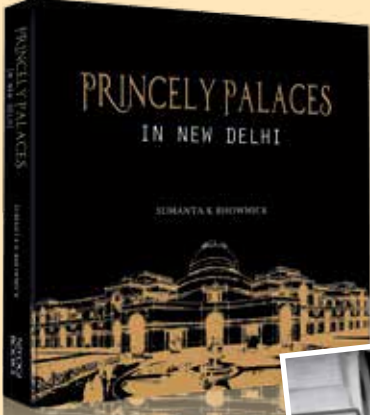


Premola Ghose
Writer, artist and illustrator, she is currently Chief, Programme Division, India International Centre.

The Kangra Valley Rail is a wonderful way to explore the rustic charms of Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. The journey from Pathankot to Joginder Nagar takes almost eight hours, following the line of the snow-clad Dhauladhar. This book is a travelogue/guide that introduces the reader to the variety one encounters from the pilgrimage sites, the forts and ruined palaces of kings immortalised by the local bards and miniature painters, people, local architecture, cuisine and the story of Himalayan tea, and the exiled world of Tibet.




A well-researched book that takes the reader down nostalgia lane to evoke the mystery and magic of times gone by. It contains delightful stories that are woven together with long years of research.



Sumanta K. Bhowmick
He works in the Parliament Secretariat and is passionate about the rich history of Delhi. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore and Emily Dickinson.

This book documents history through archival research, interviews with royalty and unpublished photographs from royal private collections. The princely palaces form an integral part of New Delhi's urban topography. Built about a century ago for purposes that may not be of relevance anymore, these palaces are relics of the past passed on to posterity, speaking of a time that was part of the continual process of knitting an unstitched destiny.



This book emphasises the need to acknowledge the beauty of Varanasi's textiles emerging out of age-old traditions and techniques.

AND THE TEESTA FLOWS...

Samita Chaudhuri • Utpal Chaudhuri
Foreword by Kunal Basu

The biography of a mountain river—the Teesta, this book traces the river’s course right from its origin in North Sikkim to its confluence with the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh. However, what lies as an undertone in this narrative is the story of a girl—Teesta, the river, her namesake—who lived to see only 13 summers. Written in the style of a diary without chronology, the book sketches the diversity of the people living by the Teesta, delineating the tales of their philosophies, their lifestyles, their livelihoods and their emotions.

Samita Chaudhuri
She teaches pharmacy at a government polytechnic college and is also a trained rock climber, an experienced high-altitude trekker and a passionate photographer.

Utpal Chaudhuri
His photographs have earned recognition both within and outside India. He is also a trained high-altitude trekker.

HISTORICAL Gurdwaras of Delhi

M.K. Pal
Foreword: Dr. Jaspal Singh

This book attempts to thread together the relevant information considered necessary to understand the importance of these shrines, located in Delhi, for the followers of Sikhism. It reveals many intriguing legends and stories associated with the making of each of these Gurdwaras that stand as reminders of the struggles and hardships faced by the Gurus in upholding their faith. It also helps in keeping the spirit of Sikhism alive in the minds and psyche of the Sikh population.

M.K. Pal
An ardent researcher in the field of arts and crafts and socio-cultural studies for more than four decades.

Dilli's RED FORT by the Yamuna

N.L. Batra

Jama Masjid

Call of the Soul

N.L. Batra

Dilli's *Red Fort by the Yamuna* presents the story of the imposing fort in red sandstone built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan. It is the fort that witnessed the historic 1945 trial of the INA soldiers and, two years later, in 1947, the unfurling of independent India's flag. The Red Fort has recorded many such watershed moments of the anti-colonial struggle and has become India's lasting symbol of Independence. On 28 June 2007, it was declared a World Heritage Site.

There is so much more to the Jama Masjid than the edifice itself, as revealed in *Jama Masjid: Call of the Soul*. It is not just a place of worship or an architectural marvel or a historic monument. Its arches and domes, minars and minarets, gates and cloisters, all narrate stories of days gone by. This is a book where time and tradition come together to weave a historic tale.

N.L. Batra
A civil engineer with an AMIE degree, he has been closely associated with monuments in India for over four decades.

Tracing Marco Polo's Journey

The Silk Route

Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia

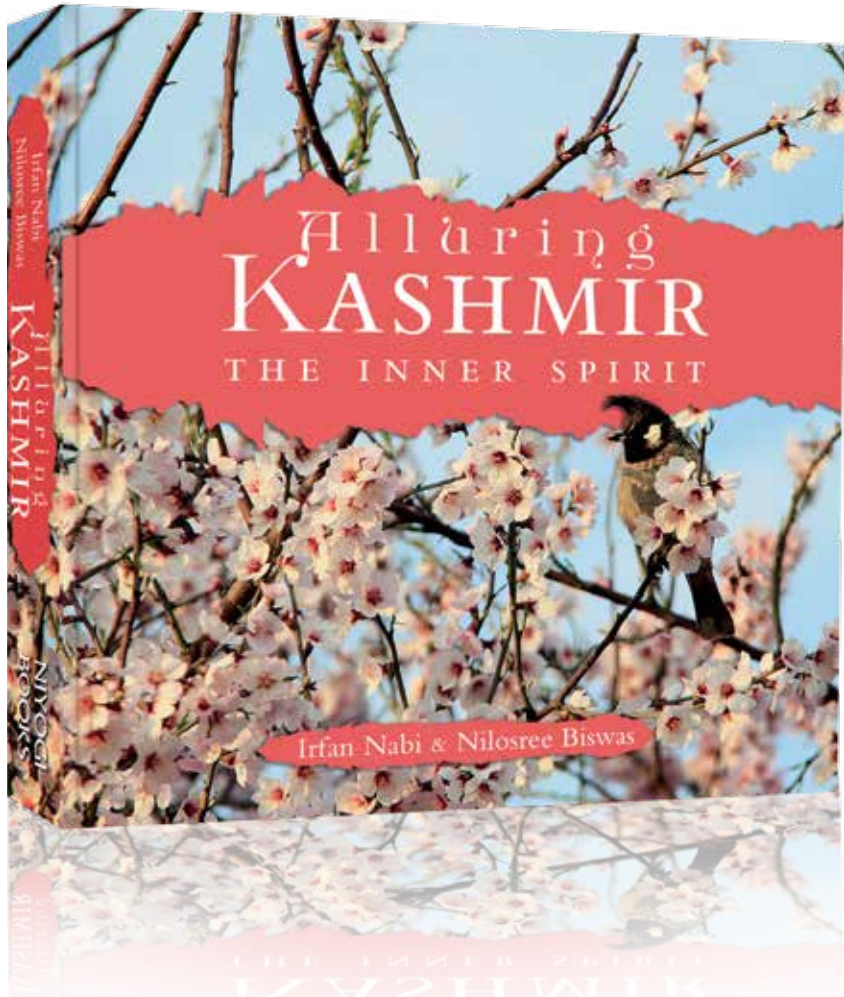
This book takes the reader on a fascinating adventure, following Major Ahluwalia and his team members through their exciting expedition of 1994. *Tracing Marco Polo's Journey* is a vivid account of an adventurous trip through cities as exotic as Bukhara, Samarkand, Andhijan, Xian, Yarkand, Kashgar and Lhasa; lush oases such as Hotan and Turfan; the grand Gobi and Taklamakan Deserts; ancient monuments and mosques; winding up finally at the monasteries in the magnificent Himalayas. It is a first-hand account of a two-month trip marked with both challenges and fun. The accompanying photographs bring the story alive.

Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia
He has made immense contribution in the fields of adventure, sports, environment, disability and social work.

HIGHER THAN EVEREST

MEMOIR OF A MOUNTAINEER

Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia



Kashmir is a distinct region yet to be explored fully. The authors ‘tell’ human stories against an awe-inspiring, natural backdrop. Their compelling and magical pictorial journey with the reader through the Valley—celebrating the ethereal beauty and the cultural diversity of this land as well as marking the shades of change and transition—has been painted with the lesser-known colours, layers and textures that lie beyond the known dimensions of Kashmir. Breathtaking photographs in varying shades and angles supported by well-researched, relevant text are the tools that communicate to the reader a classical Kashmir. This unique travel book presents a Kashmir with its inherent rich culture and exotic landscapes set against unfamiliar facts, fables and space, and the intimate aspects of daily life and its treasured moments. The reader becomes a part of a thriving society waiting to match steps with the rest of the world despite huge challenges.



In conversation with the authors of *Alluring Kashmir: The Inner Spirit*

Nilosree Biswas

Filmmaker, traveller and food enthusiast, her documentary, *Broken Memory Shining Dust* was an official selection at the 65th Cannes International Film Festival and is now a part of library collections at Harvard and Columbia Universities, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and the permanent archives of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (Oscar Library).



Irfan Nabi

He believes that images build stories. His photographs have been exhibited at ‘Picturing Asia’ at the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden, The Netherlands and ‘Food: Our Global Kitchen’ at the National Geographic Museum in Washington DC. He remains connected with film-making, scriptwriting and still imaging and recently made a public service film on pedestrian rights in Mumbai.

Q Nilosree, what led you to write this book?

A I have been travelling to Kashmir for my documentaries for over a decade now. The many trips that I undertook helped me to soak up the essence of the place. I realised that there were far too many aspects of Kashmir that I was drawn to and thus films were not the outcome for each of them. This book is my attempt to include a larger image of Kashmir for all who love the place but may not be interested in knowing Kashmir only through the film reel.

Q Did you collaborate with Irfan Nabi right from the start?

A During the pre-production of my documentary *Broken Memory Shining Dust* I had briefly interacted with Irfan while trying to find some complicated leads. I liked his take on Kashmir and its layered nuances and had expressed an interest to extend my work to other formats. That is when I thought that Irfan and I could collaborate on a book on Kashmir.

Q Describe one momentous incident or event in the course of your work.

A My visits to Kashmir brought me in close contact with many, both locals and visitors, like me. In these encounters I remember this elderly Japanese couple who had deeply bonded with Kashmir over the purchase of a carpet decades ago, which later had become more than a mere buy. It was absolutely amazing to see how people connected with a faraway land, left their comfort zone (Japan in this case) and ventured out in search of a long lost ‘friend’—the carpet seller from Kashmir!

Q Irfan, what made you write this book?

A Being born in Kashmir and having grown up there, I have always been interested in the daily lives of people, the strong cultural aspects of this region and wanted many times to document them. The famed landscape was never my primary trigger for the book.

Q Taking into account the hazardous terrain and the constraints of the weather and the season, how did you plan and schedule your travel and meetings with your respondents?

A The ever-changing scenario and unpredictable weather is certainly a challenge here but being persistent and determined to photograph unique moments from most parts of Kashmir, over a period of three years, was an enriching experience. After a brief discussion with the locals and explaining the concept of the book, these strangers-turned-friends were happy to share snippets of their lives, without which photographing the images for the book would have been quite impossible.

Q You had most of your photographs for the book ready since it’s been a hobby. Were you looking for an author?

A Photography may have started as a hobby much before the start of the book but it has progressed gradually into a profession by now. I was based outside India most of the last decade; hence none of the photographs in this book are from the archives. Each of the photographs has been shot since 2013 right till the completion of the book a few months ago. Nilosree and I had discussed the possibility of working together on a Kashmir project more than once; thus when the opportunity to produce this book arose, Nilosree’s involvement was a valueable addition to the images as an author.

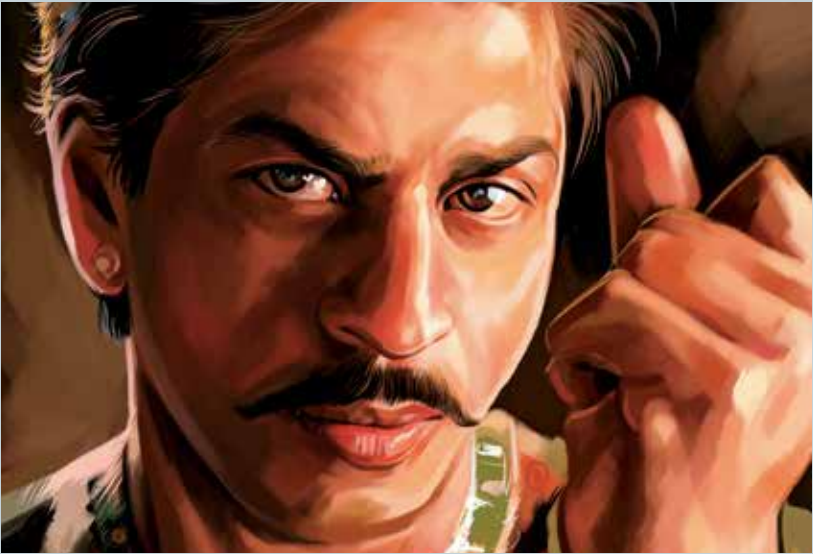
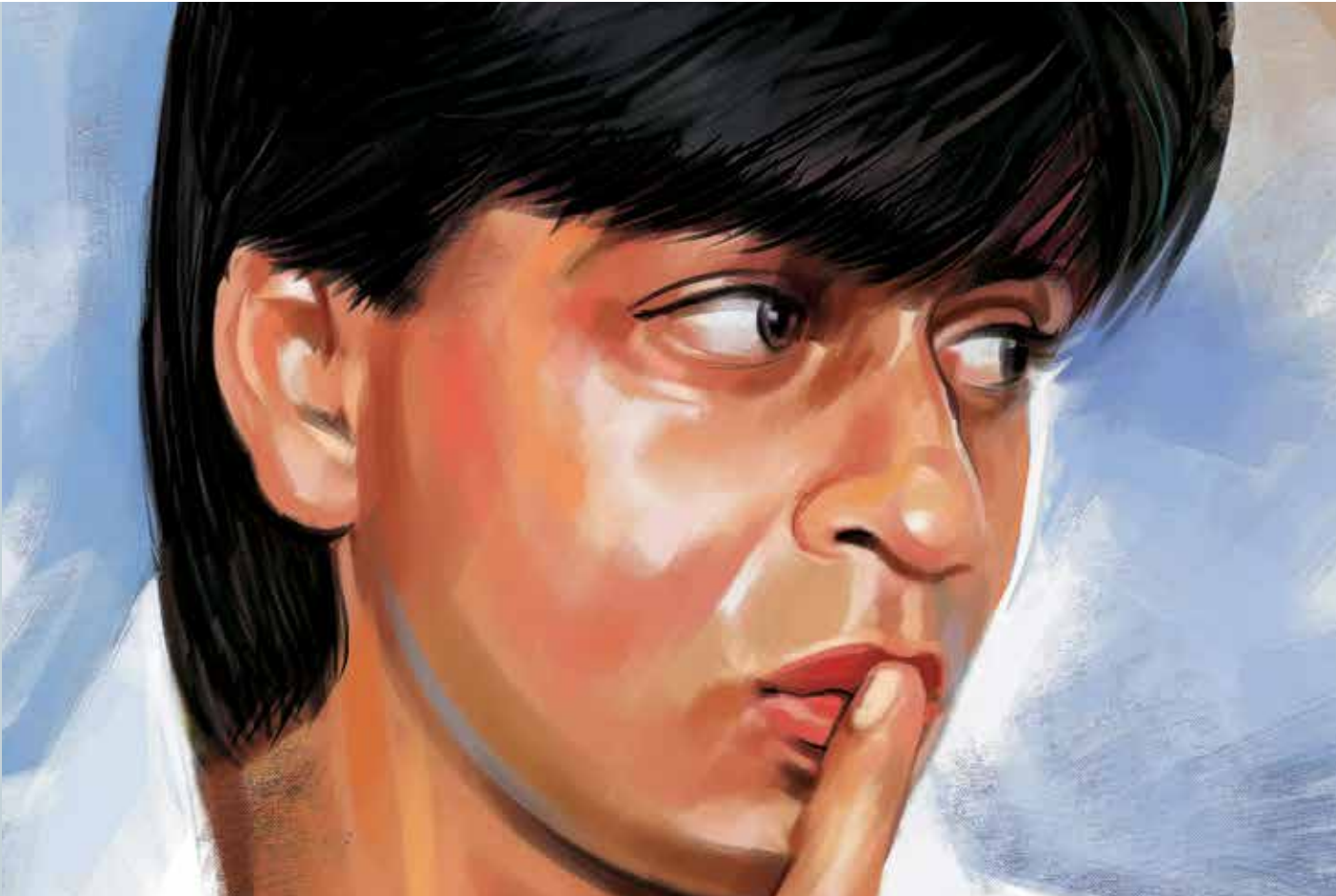
Q The Valley has been rocked by unrest, mob frenzy, police action, discontent. How did you approach the people to reach the inner spirit?

A The turmoil in the Valley started when I was a teenager. Since then, nearly three decades have passed. Through these many challenging and distressing phases, one thing has remained a constant, which is the resilience of the people who, despite the most crippling situations, carry on with life, giving it their best. This book is an attempt to admire the inner spirit and strength of people, which is a constant feature in their lives.

Q Describe one momentous incident or event in the course of your work.

A For the chapter on music, I had the privilege of meeting and spending two to three days with the late Ghulam Qadir Langoo. The spells of conversation with him and his son about music and Kashmir will stay with me for long; the highlight of the conversations being the recital of some of his famous songs by the centurion music maestro. Absolutely mesmerising!

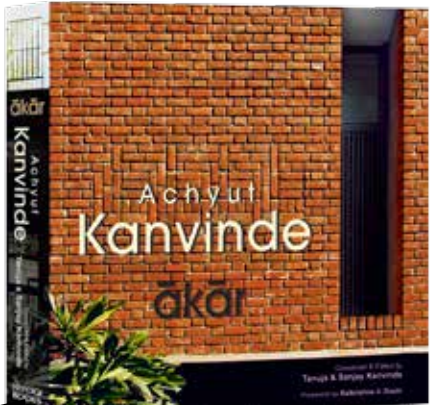




A collection of 30 essays from directors who have worked closely with India's biggest and the most successful super star, Shah Rukh Khan. These stories offer an intimate and honest picture of Shah Rukh the actor and how he became SRK the icon. *SRK: 25 Years of a Life* looks at Shah Rukh through the eyes of the directors who transformed him into unforgettable characters in every film. A deeply personal and professional account of SRK, the actor and what makes him a living legend. The design of the book is inspired by Bollywood hand-painted film posters. These iconic portraits transform paint into living, breathing characters from SRK's movies.



Samar Khan
A journalist and film-maker, he has had a 20-year journey in the world of media and entertainment. He has directed the critically acclaimed film, *Shaurya* and the documentary, *Living with a Super Star*.



A monograph on the life and works of Achyut Kanvinde, one of the pioneers of modern architecture in India with a professional career spanning five decades. Celebrated as the father of campus planning in the country, some of Kanvinde's better-known projects include the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur; National Dairy Development Board Campus, Anand; National Institute of Bank Management and National Insurance Academy, Pune; and the ISKCON Temple in Delhi.

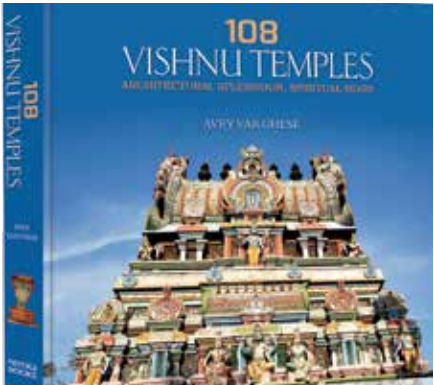


Sanjay Kanvinde
An architect and urban designer by training, with over 40 years experience. He is currently President, Institute of Urban Designers, India.

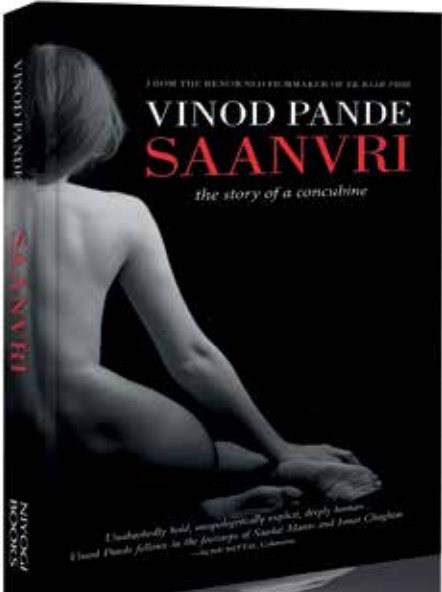


Tanuja B.K.
She has 35 years of work experience and is a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Architects, and has been involved in academics as a visiting faculty.

A pictorial journey into ancient architecture and the art of temple construction and sculpture with interesting trivia about 106 Vishnu temples across the length and breadth of India. A devout Vaishnavite is expected to complete a pilgrimage of these sites to gain access to the two temples in the mystical realm. These temples are collectively known as the 108 Divya Desams among Vaishnavites, more particularly Vaishnavites from South India, and are distributed across India—84 in Tamil Nadu; 11 in Kerala; two in Andhra Pradesh; eight in North India and one in Nepal. Laden with historic, religious and architectural eminence, these temples often remained concealed in the folds of history.



Avey Varghese
He completed his Engineering from Bengaluru where he worked for over a decade in the ITES. In early 2011, he discovered his innate veiled love for photography.

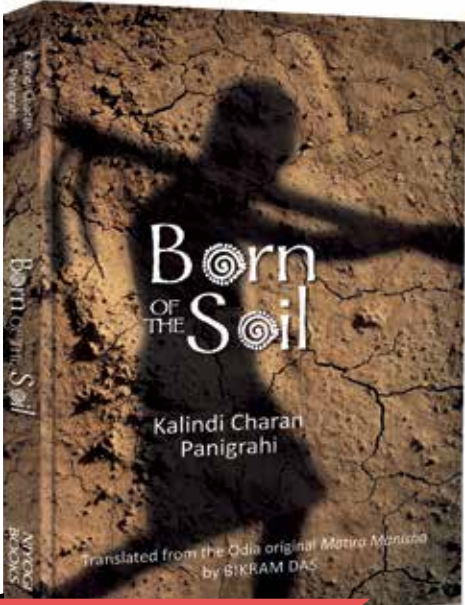


Based on facts, this is a tale about decadence in high palaces of power; the story of a woman who learns to use the wanton carnality in men, both as a means of material gratification and a weapon for ascendancy, in a society that uses and abuses her. It is also about the three most important people in her life, all of whom use her with impunity—the one she wed, the one she loved and the one she chose to manipulate.

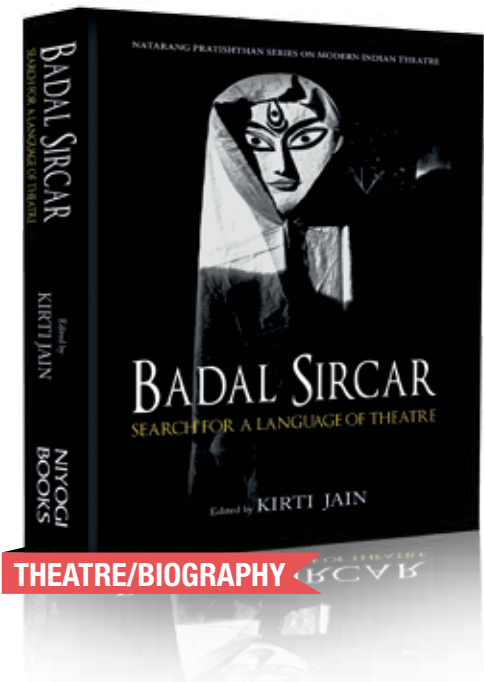


Vinod Pande
A film-maker and writer, he has made several documentaries, headed a TV network and managed an advertising agency in London.

Born of the Soil is one of those uncommon artistic creations which prove that good art does not have to be convoluted or obscure. The novel's enduring appeal lies in its very starkness. The book is remarkable not only for its depiction of enduring human values but also for its realistic portrayal of the culture of rural Odisha. The language of the novel is a bold attempt at capturing the idiom of the people whose life it presents. The original text, *Matira Manisha*, lies close to the hearts of Odia society, and has been made into an award-winning Odia film by Mrinal Sen.



Kalindi Charan Panigrahi
The author tried his hand at multiple genres besides poetry—novel, short story, drama, biography and essay. His fame, however, rests chiefly on the slender novel, *Matira Manisha*, written in 1934.



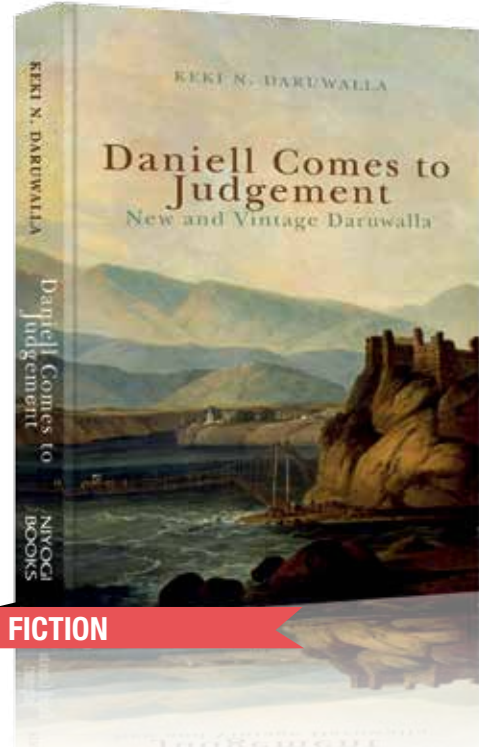
THEATRE/BIOGRAPHY

Badal Sircar was one of the most significant modern playwrights of post Independence India. He stands out for his innovativeness and the sheer range of his plays in terms of subjects, forms and styles. He is probably the most translated and staged Indian playwright of the last century. This book, through memoirs, interviews, essays, dialogues, reviews and notes by directors, traces the life and theatre of this iconic but lonely figure, from different viewpoints, piecing together his relentless creative journey of more than six decades.



Edited by Kirti Jain
Former Director, NSD, she is a theatre director and pedagogue and has contributed articles to books and journals on theatre, including entries in *The Oxford Companion to Theatre*.

A collection of short stories with the new having been written especially for this book in a span of less than two months and the perennial favourites still relevant in today's changed times. The author can straddle myth and reality with ease and finesse, breathe life into metaphors, coalesce fact and fancy and still sound fascinatingly credible, with his patent black humour well in place. The collection includes stories where fantasy and myth transport one to the pre-language, pre-script, era; to amphibious trains and an island of birds. 'Bars', for instance, is a commentary on the forces of intolerance straining the social fabric.



FICTION

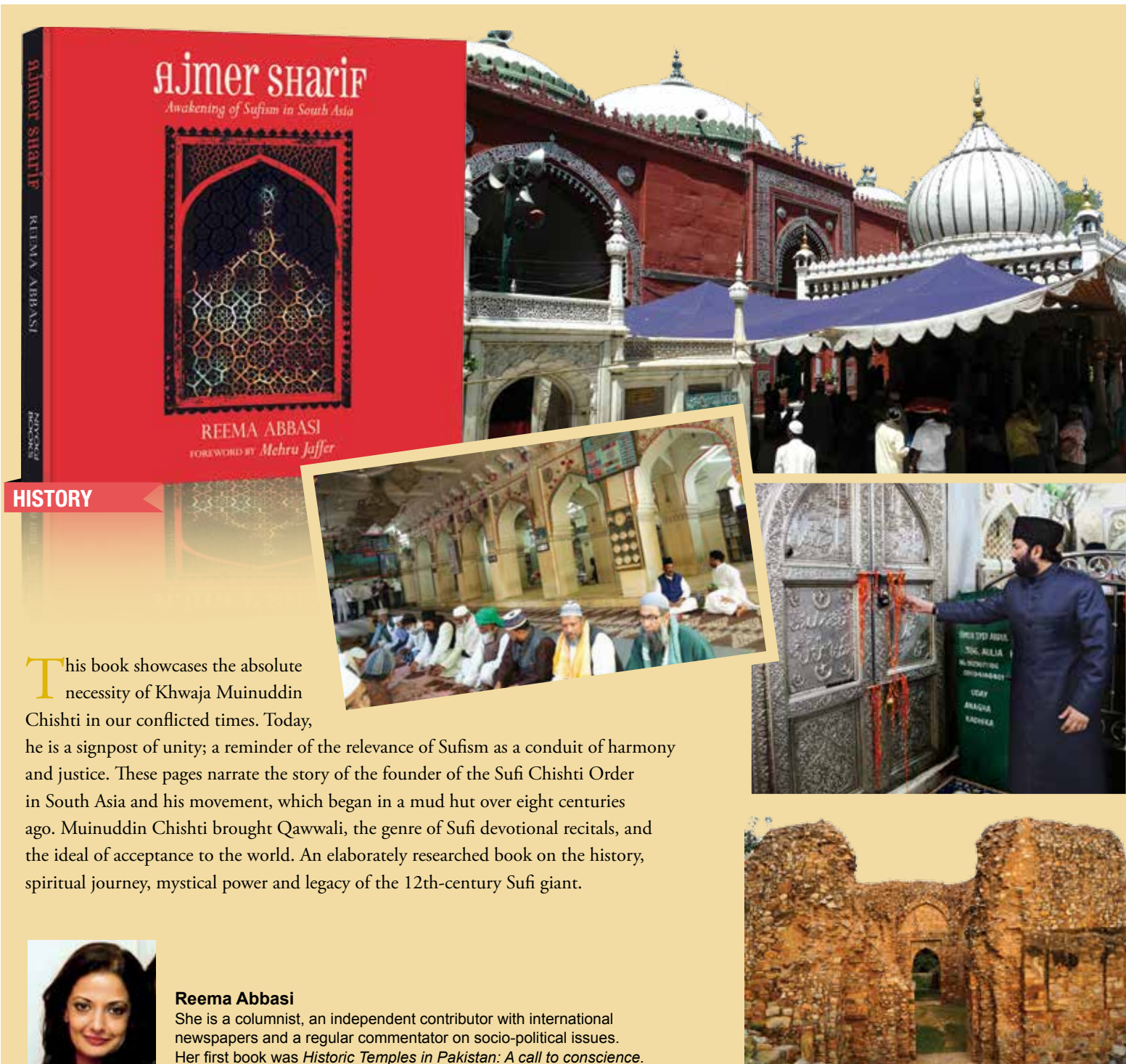
Keki N. Daruwalla
A career bureaucrat with the Central Government, he has been a Member of the National Commission for Minorities. A poet and writer, he spent a year in Oxford as a Queen Elizabeth House Fellow.



ART

Reverse glass painting is a fascinating yet comparatively unknown facet of Indian art that flourished in the mid-19th century. Painted by Chinese and Indian artists, these 'exotic' paintings in luminous colours were much favoured by royal patrons, and also by prosperous landowners and city merchants in colonial India. The themes ranged from portraits of rulers, their families, nobles, dancers and courtesans, to landscapes and a wide variety of religious subjects drawn from the Puranas and the epics. In this book, over a 100 colour images highlight the rare gems of reverse glass painting from numerous private collections in India.

Anna L. Dallapiccola
Professor of Indian Art at the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University and, later, Honorary Professor at Edinburgh University, she is currently researching the art of the Vijayanagara successor states and the Virabhadra temple at Lepakshi.

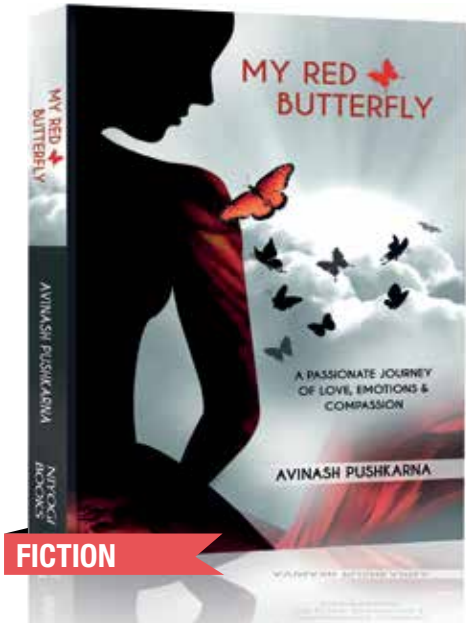


HISTORY

This book showcases the absolute necessity of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti in our conflicted times. Today, he is a signpost of unity; a reminder of the relevance of Sufism as a conduit of harmony and justice. These pages narrate the story of the founder of the Sufi Chishti Order in South Asia and his movement, which began in a mud hut over eight centuries ago. Muinuddin Chishti brought Qawwali, the genre of Sufi devotional recitals, and the ideal of acceptance to the world. An elaborately researched book on the history, spiritual journey, mystical power and legacy of the 12th-century Sufi giant.



Reema Abbasi
She is a columnist, an independent contributor with international newspapers and a regular commentator on socio-political issues. Her first book was *Historic Temples in Pakistan: A call to conscience*.



FICTION

A tale that is modest yet sublime of unparalleled love and romance. It could be of any one of us; of required or unrequired love; successful or torn apart. An enchanting story of an innocent boy Rohit, struck by Cupid when barely 16, with aspirations to be a doctor and win his love. Set during the late seventies and early eighties, it takes you across many states in India and the ups and downs of Rohit's journey of life and the people who influence him and shape his life. It is a story of hope, aspirations, deep filial bonds and unadulterated cords of friendship.



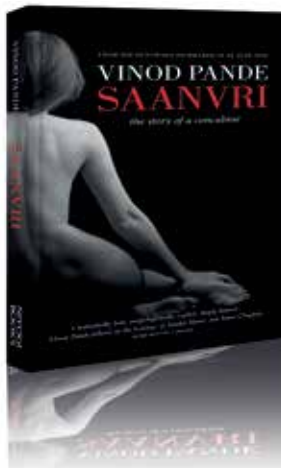
Avinash Pushkarna
A graduate in Zoology (Honours) and in Law, he joined the Government of India in 1986.

CLIPPINGS

Saanvri: The Story of a Concubine



Left to Right: Joy Sengupta, Vinod Pande, Mahesh Bhatt and Bikash D. Niyogi at the launch of the book, Title Waves bookstore, Mumbai.



Badal Sircar: Search for a Language of Theatre

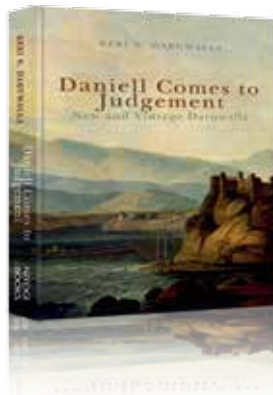


Left to Right: Samik Bandyopadhyay, Kirti Jain and Tultul De Niyogi releasing the book, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi.

Daniell Comes to Judgement: New and Vintage Daruwalla



Left to Right: Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Umi Sinha, Eleanor Hooker, Trisha De Niyogi and Keki N. Daruwalla releasing the book at TATA Live Fest, Mumbai.



SRK: 25 Years of a Life



Left to Right: Nitin Srivastava, Piyush Pandey, Sonali Kokra, Shah Rukh Khan, Samar Khan and Bikash D. Niyogi at the book launch, Taj Lands End, Mumbai.

Princely Palaces in New Delhi



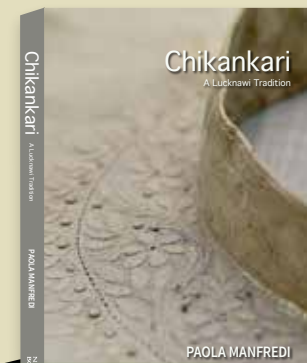
Sumanta K. Bhowmick presents his book to the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Also present on the occasion were Trisha De Niyogi, Outreach Officer, Niyogi Books (third from right) and the author's family members.

Niyogi Books' Authors at 'Delhi Walk Festival: Heritage Walks'



(left) Sumanta K. Bhowmick (standing in the centre), a speaker at the Festival; (right) During a walk led by Rakhshanda Jalil.

FORTHCOMING TITLES

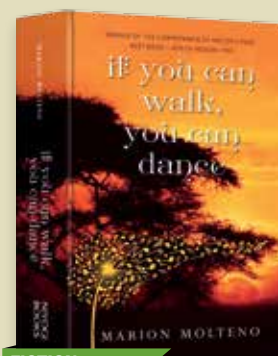


CRAFT

CHIKANKARI: A LUCKNAWI TRADITION Paola Manfredi

Chikankari is one of the finest traditional embroideries of India, a symbol of Lucknowi culture and the elegant courts of the nawabs of Awadh. Its exquisite craftsmanship has sustained the tradition to

this day, through changing patronage and market trends. This beautifully illustrated book showcases unknown gems from personal and public collections and brings to life the history of this unique craft tradition. Combining scholarly approach and design interactions, the author has worked with craftspeople and their traditional skills to promote the excellence of South Asian craftsmanship.



FICTION

IF YOU CAN WALK, YOU CAN DANCE Marion Molteno

Jennie de Villiers, an idealistic and politically engaged student, suddenly has to flee her native South Africa with a boyfriend whom she no longer loves—only to be stranded as an exile in neighbouring Swaziland. Fending

for herself in a new culture, she discovers new ways of living and a kind of music that moves her deeply. Lyrically written, extremely engrossing and deeply moving, this book exemplifies the thought—‘the personal is political’. The author was a senior adviser in Save the Children and has travelled extensively in Asia and Africa. She has written four novels and a collection of short stories. Proficient in Hindi and Urdu, She has also revised an English translation of the couplets of Mirza Ghalib.



FICTION

THE SACRED SORROW OF SPARROWS Siddharth Dasgupta

Through 10 stories and 10 main protagonists, this book paints a portrait of the universal emotion that strikes the deepest and lingers the longest—sorrow. A nuanced narrative of the eternal human existence, this collection embraces light, laughter, hope,

and that silently pulsating craving called love, delivering a communal meditation on mortal failings and human persistence. The author's fiction is infused with travel details, imbued in lyricism and magic realism, and enriched by a meditative touch.

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Kodansha Europe Ltd.
40 Stockwell Street, Greenwich, London SE10 8EX, U.K.
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