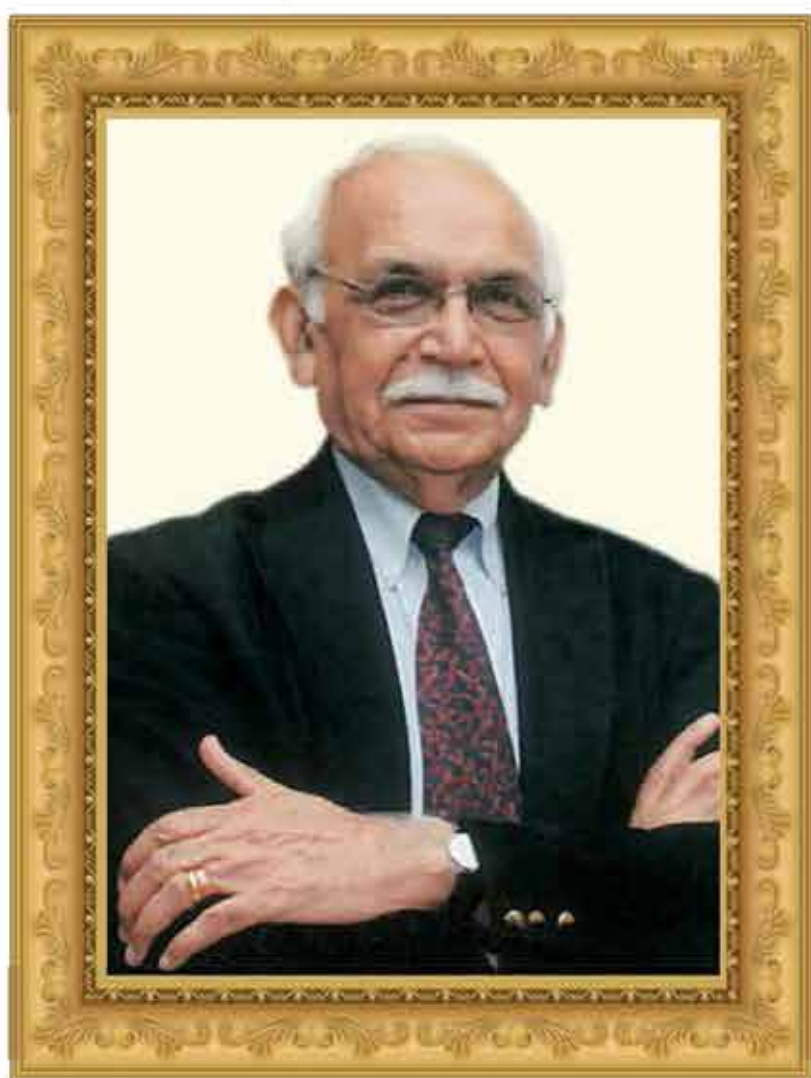


READING CORNER

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

HAVE A NOVEL NEW YEAR 2024

In Memoriam: Prof. B.N. Goswamy



It is difficult to write on Prof. B. N. Goswamy. In the last two decades, we collaborated to publish 12 of his books—like *The Great Mysore Bhagavata*, *Pahari Paintings*, *A Sacred Journey* or *Nainsukh of Guler*—all of which are enriched with Prof. Goswamy's scholarly prowess and deep insights.

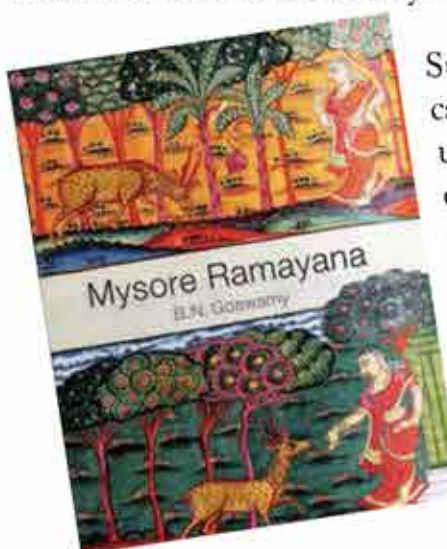
My first interaction with him happened to be in the year 2005 while working on our first book, *The Word is Sacred, Sacred is the Word*. That encounter is still fresh in my mind. In the serene and peaceful atmosphere of his home, his aura seemed to fill up the entire room. With the keen eyes of a scholar, he immediately rejected the design of the book entirely as it didn't really fit the aesthetics of the subject in hand. He guided us patiently to re-design the book and when the book was finished, we were astonished to see that what would have been a piece of rock had turned into a gemstone. That is B. N. Goswamy. His clarity and rarity polished and made finer anything or anyone he came in touch with.

That was the beginning of the 18-year long journey of our collaboration. His way of expression always seemed so

singular, never failing to amaze me. Once, I completed a book for him and met him at the IIC lawn on a crisp winter morning. After browsing through that first copy of the book for some time, he suddenly stood up and asked me to stand up as well. I was taken aback; a little worried to be honest. But when I stood up, he hugged me and said that merely shaking hands would not have done justice to such a wonderful job.

He always appeared self-assured, yet incredibly humble, never asking for any grand galas to be held for his book releases. When we would organise the launch of one of his books, his only instruction to me would be to send invites to all the scholars and art lovers in Delhi. Many a times, he took on this responsibility himself as well. He used to say, 'I always try to provide unknown information in a simple language'—which is true and we all have witnessed it in his regular column in *The Tribune*.

His knowledge of paintings, especially miniature paintings, was so vast that when he talked about them animatedly, they would etch themselves on my heart.



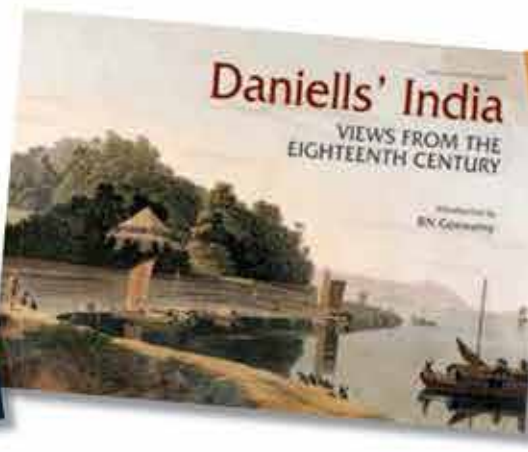
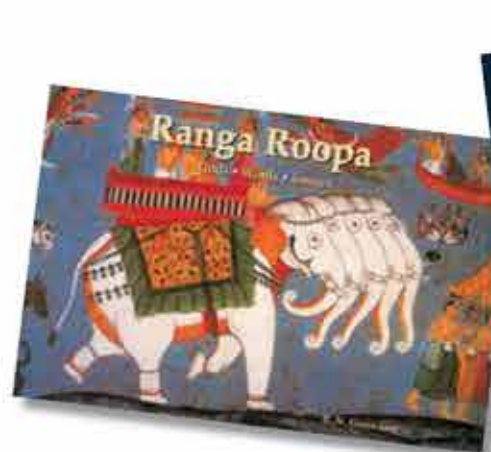
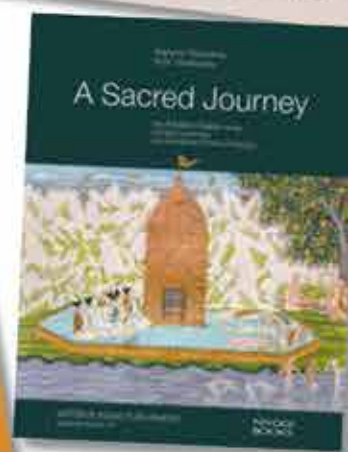
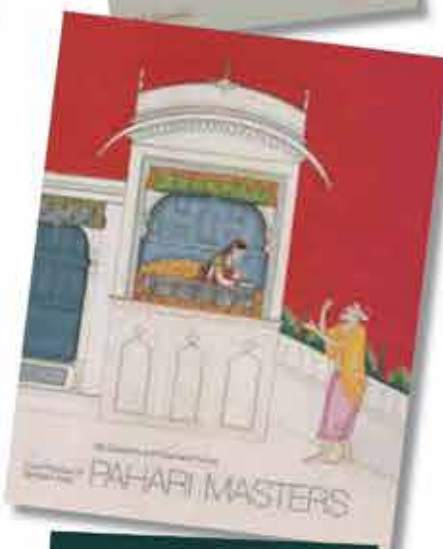
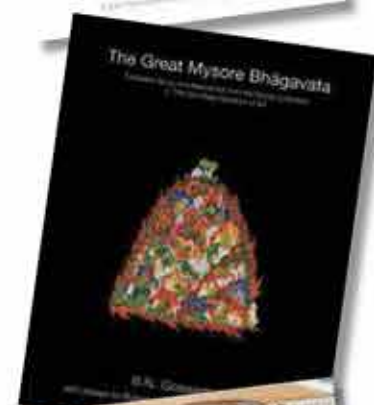
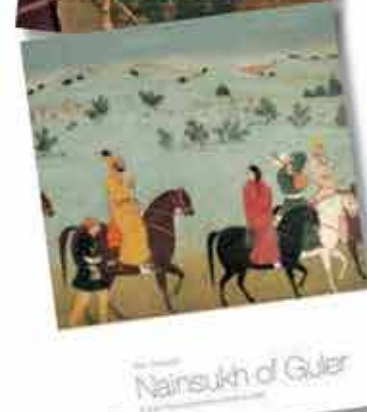
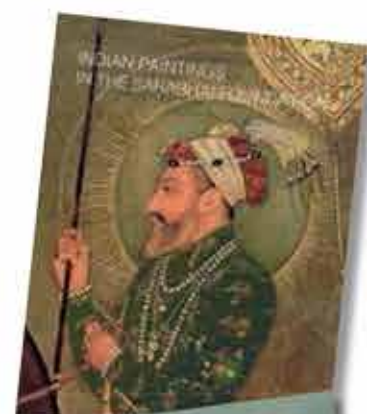
Such a towering personality can never be lost. He has left us when we were working on his next book—*Mysore Ramayana*—for which he had approved the digital copy. He was so delighted when he saw the final dummy in October last year! The book will be released very soon. He would always invite me to

lunch at his home whenever I went to Chandigarh. That day, while having a homely meal of *rotis* and vegetable curries, he said to me, 'I am always surprised by the speed and energy you work with'.

That was the last time I met him. Alas, he is not around to see the book in print. But the bond and respect we shared, nurtured over the last 18 years, will always remain. And Prof. B. N. Goswamy will keep on living amongst all of us through his works...

Bikash De Niyogi

Managing Director, Niyogi Books



Today A Reader, Tomorrow A Leader!

When it comes to giving a present to someone, we have a slew of thoughts running through our heads, and we end up in confusion. So, why not go for a gift that is both inexpensive and readily available? One of the nicest gifts through which you can convey sentiment and humour in the same way that a card can, are books, but they are so much more as well! They can help the giver say things that he/she might find difficult to say otherwise.

It is often said that the human resource potential of a country is directly proportional with the reading culture in that society. When you give books as gifts, you are also contributing to the spread of that reading culture in your society. Moreover, books are eco-friendlier than any other gifts, because they are bio degradable. Since protection of environment is the prime need of the day, you can have an impact on it by gifting a book. Other benefits of books as gifts are that they do not make you fat like chocolates, wilt and wither away like consumer goods, are one-size-fits-all and are such great investments since they may last a lifetime.

Going back in history, we find that the tradition of gift-books had a long-running hold on the Victorian imagination in the nineteenth century. These lavishly decorated books, bound in silk, leather, velvet or pictorial paperboards and finished with gilt-edged leaves comprised a lucrative publishing market that spanned the 1820-40s in England. They featured poetry, prose, short fictions and engravings by well-known writers like Wordsworth, Browning, Coleridge, Walter Scott, Mary Shelley and others. While these gift books were often dismissed by many as sentimental trifles and have long been regarded by literary historians as meriting little critical attention, in recent years they have come to be viewed as significant cultural products, signaling the trend of increasing commodification of literature.

Personally speaking, some twenty years back I launched a short story collection written by a lovely Malayali lady at Kochi Book Fair. I was travelling on my own and she got hold of me through a common friend. So, she did not have to incur any expenditure on my cost

of being present at the function. Perhaps out of gratitude, she gave me a dinner and gifted me a book by Andrew O'Hagan. The title of the book was *Be Near Me*. Is not the gift eloquent enough? Well, it is another matter that I could not remain near her, but the book is still with me as a fragrant piece of memory.

On the flip side, some forty years back I was one day rummaging through the old book shops of the College Street market in Calcutta. Suddenly I chanced upon an old favourite of mine. As I thumbed over the first page, lo and behold, there was an inscription written in my hand for an ex-girlfriend of mine. Obviously, she had got rid of the book along with her affection for me! Since then, I never write an inscription on a book page. Rather I insert a card with an inscription whenever I gift a book.

**Nirmal Kanti
Bhattacharjee**

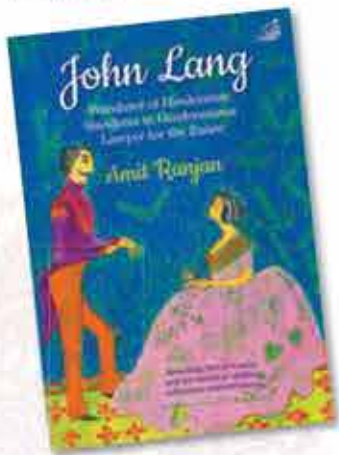
Academic, translator & author



Kitabi Karwan Recommends

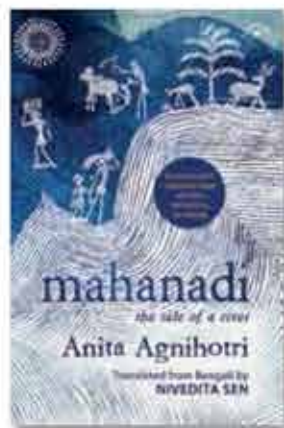
Mahanadi

In this novel, the tale of the river is entwined with that of the people through vignettes of their dynamic lives that are infused with myths, legends and archaeological anecdotes.



John Lang

John Lang (1816–1864), inebriated on John Exshaw, a cognac, eau de vie, most of his adult life, was a dogged underdog from Sydney; he spared no effort to hurt the John Company (East India Company). He lived in India from the age of 26, and was a prolific writer, journalist, and lawyer.



Siddharth Gupta



Quill & Canvas Bookstore and Art Gallery Recommends

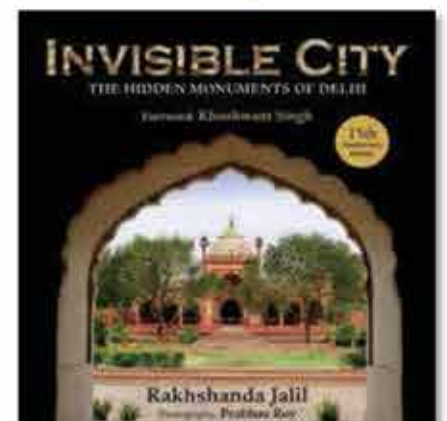
The Great Toy Debate

The Great Toy Debate is an engaging children's book about handcrafted versus assembly line production of children's toys. By showing the toys themselves having a debate, it subtly introduces children to ideas of creativity and sustainability in toy-making and how playing with toys is driven by advertising and marketing today.



Invisible City

What sets Delhi apart is the multitude of historic ruins that are a part of the city's landscape. This book explores this other Delhi—the little-known Delhi. An insight into Delhi's monuments, it takes a delightful look at the rich cultural past of India.



Quill & Canvas shared that *Invisible City* is an 'invaluable book on Delhi' while *The Great Toy Debate* is 'a very necessary book to teach children about gender equality.'

Preeto and Other Stories

This anthology traces the ways male writers in Urdu have represented women in their works. Edited and introduced by Rakshanda Jalil, the 13 stories in this collection offer multiple ways of seeing women.

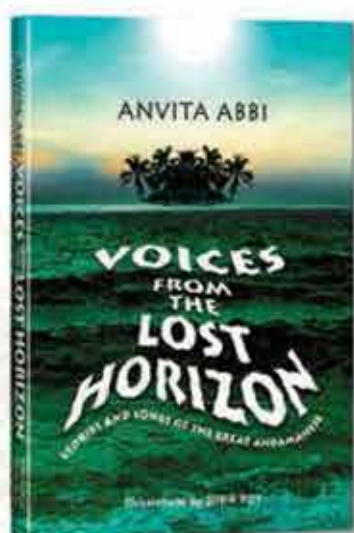


Radhika Timbadia of Champaca Bookstore believes that 'it is a delightful collection of short stories' that would intrigue both new and seasoned readers.



Champaca Bookstore Recommends

Voices From The Lost Horizon



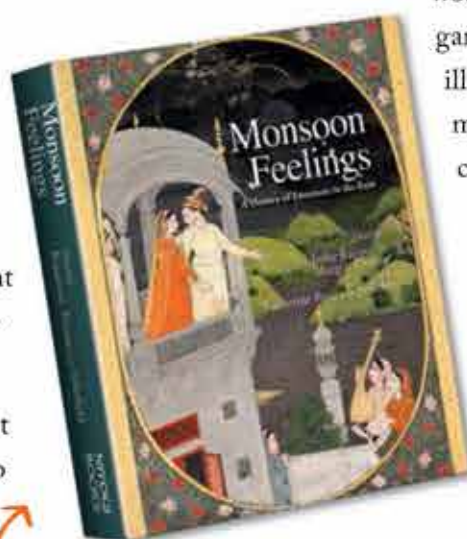
The Andaman Islands—Great Andaman, Little Andaman, and North Sentinel Islands have been home for milleniums to four tribes: the Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, and Sentinelese.

Their languages are known by the same name as that of the tribes. 'Great Andamanese' is a generic term representing ten languages among a family of languages that were once spoken by ten different tribes living in the north, south, and middle of the Great Andaman Islands.

Mr Rana shared that he found it praiseworthy that an incredible amount of research had been done to 'preserve the final moments of a dying culture.'



Deepak Rana



Through a series of evocative essays exploring rain-drenched worlds of poetry, songs, paintings, architecture, films, gardens, festivals, music, and medicine, this lavishly illustrated collection examines the history of monsoon feelings in South Asia from the twelfth century to the present.

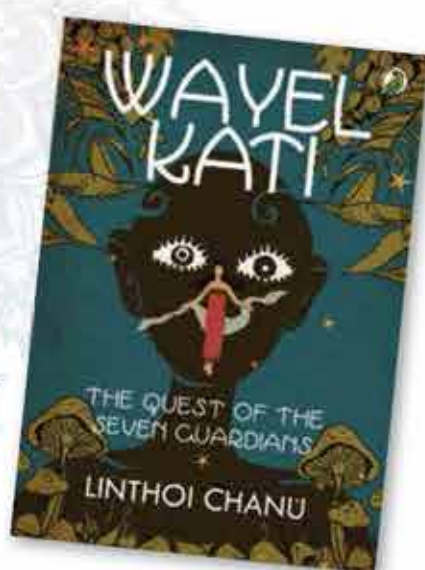
Deepak Rana of Kalampedia reveals, 'This book is my go-to place every time it rains. It taught me how, we, as a civilisation, are an inseparable part of the monsoon.'

Kalampedia Recommends

For more of his recommendations, visit kalampedia.org

Wayel Kati

Wayel Kati: The Quest of the Seven Guardians is a quest narrative—a fantasy based on the myths and folklores of Manipur. Laiba, a nine-year-old boy, and a group of seven chosen guardians seek the lost scissor of justice to restore balance to a world threatened by dark forces.

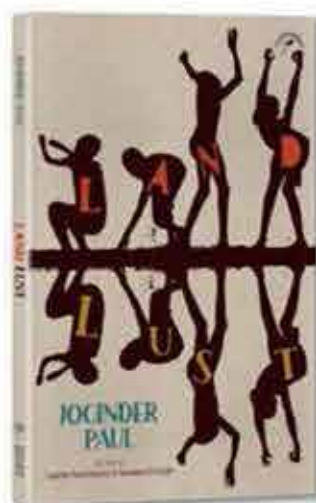


Sulagna Mondal

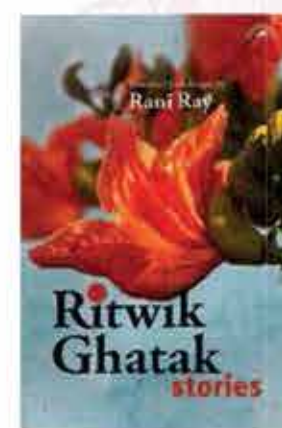
@diaryofsulagna Recommends

Walking BookFairs Recommends

Walking BookFairs



Ritwik Ghatak Stories



Though the world knows Ritwik Ghatak as a consummate filmmaker, this book reveals his creative versatility as a writer. Containing 18 of his stories within its covers, this book is an invaluable addition to the Ghatak archive as source material for any ongoing research on his works.

Land Lust

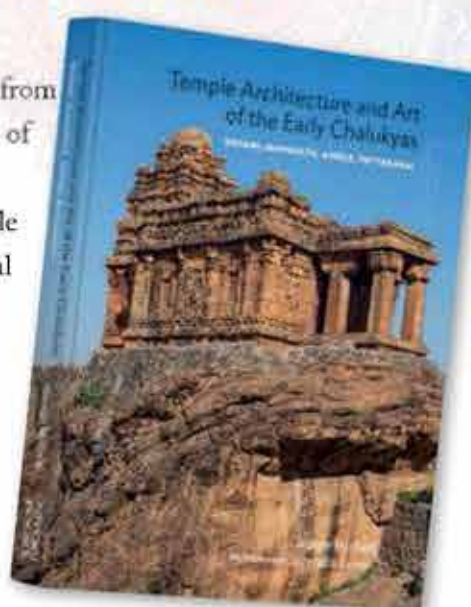
Evocative and crisp, Joginder Paul's stories in *Land Lust* offer poignant glimpses of the unequal multiracial relations in colonial Kenya. Translated from the original Urdu, they evoke insightful moments of compassion from within the harsh xenophobic environs. The characters breathe life into the paper and touch the readers not just intellectually but viscerally

Satabdi Mishra of Walking BookFairs notes, 'For lovers of literature, these stories [translated from] Bengali and Urdu are a treat. We can't recommend them enough for those readers who are looking to explore translated literature from diverse Indian writers.'

Temple Architecture and Art of the Early Chalukyas

The temples of the Early Chalukyas, dating from the 6th to 8th centuries, are unrivalled in all of India for their comparatively early date and unusually complete condition, the remarkable juxtaposition of their different constructional techniques and building styles and for the sheer beauty of their figural and decorative carvings.

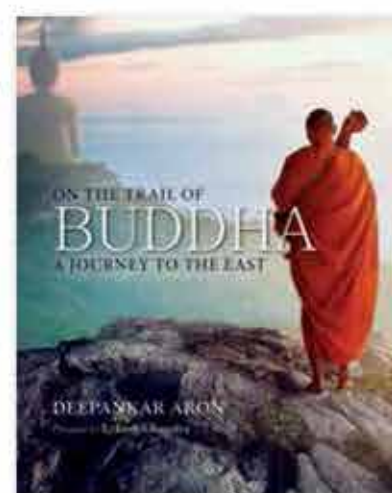
Pravin Subramanian of SwapBook shares that he found this book an exceptional 'field guide and a reference book for studying the Chalukyan landscape at Badami and thereabouts.'



On the Trail of Buddha

On the Trail of Buddha—A Journey to the East is a unique sojourn in search of the spiritual, philosophical, and cultural linkages that bind India to the East Asian civilisations. The book explores the 'ancient India', beautifully preserved in the traditions, art, and architecture of China, as also in Mongolia, Korea, and Japan, to where it spread from China.

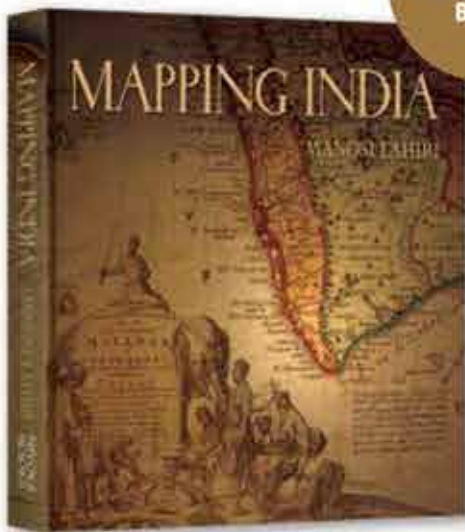
Pravin Subramanian of SwapBook opined that 'Deepankar Aron's book offers a fresh perspective, Indian in this case into the Buddhist lore and culture situated along the Asian Crescent and dwells upon the Indian influence on Buddhism in these places.'



SWAPBOOK! SwapBook Recommends

4 | BESTSELLERS WE RECOMMEND

FOR THE
GEOGRAPHY
BUFFS



Mapping India

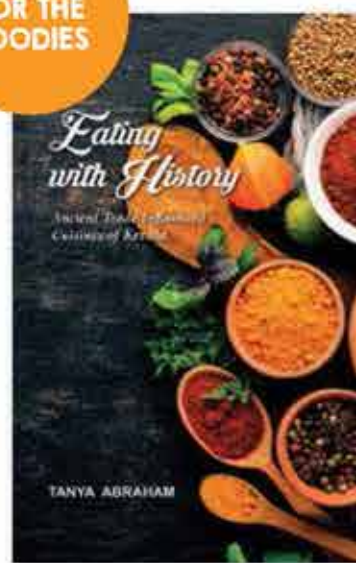
This book presents an overview of important maps that eloquently reflect the changing social and political fortunes of India. These maps speak of the commercial interests and wars that led to the colonisation of India.

Eating With History

Eating With History: Ancient Trade Influenced Cuisines of Kerala

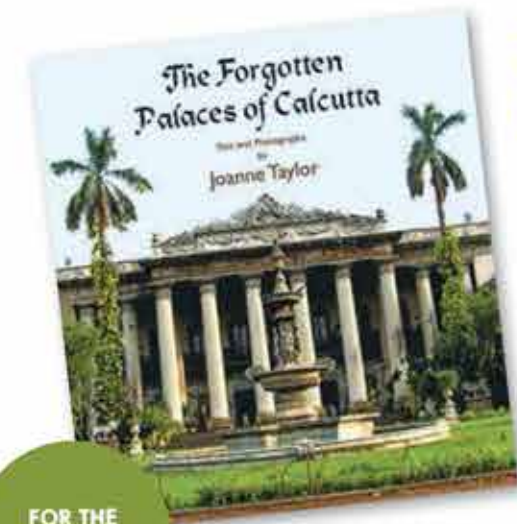
is an invaluable compendium of a culinary tradition and variety of food recipes that evolved out of Kerala's kitchens. The food trail is extensive and as varied as it can get.

FOR THE
FOODIES



The Forgotten Palaces of Calcutta

A discovery of the old areas of the city, where heritage houses and history fill every crowded lane and secret courtyard. This book is an important contribution to the architectural history of both Calcutta and India.



FOR THE
BUDDING
ARCHITECTS

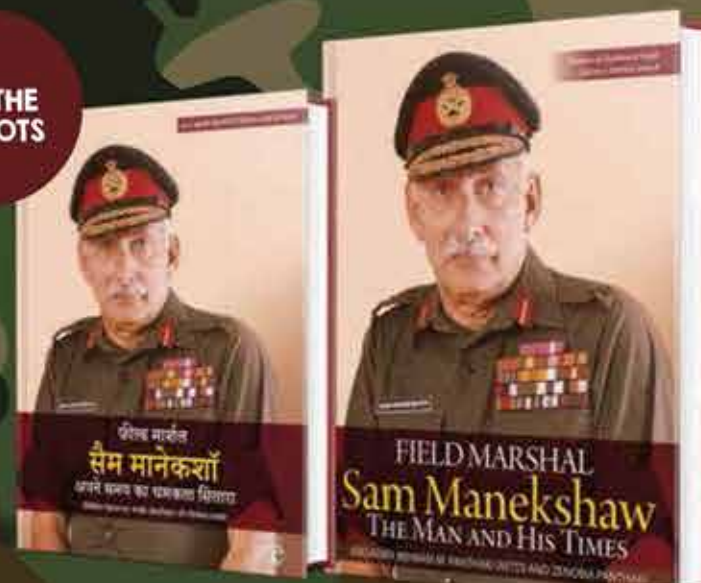
The MAN, the LEADER, the FIELD MARSHAL!

NOW ON SILVER SCREEN

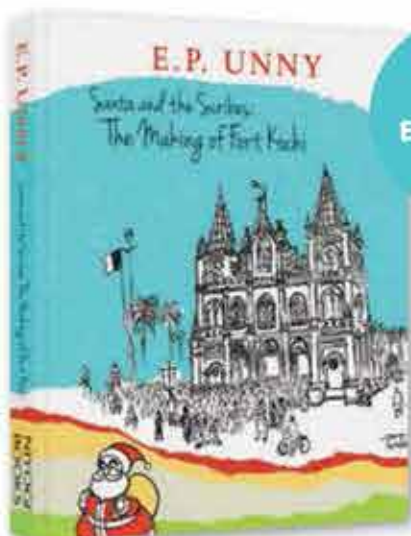
Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was the Chief of the Indian Army from 1969 to 1973. This book presents a unique insight into his thinking and his style of dealing with a spectrum of situations from the sublime to the mundane. Above all, it portrays his humility, his honesty and his respect for men in uniform, regardless of rank. The book is anecdotal and an easy read as it walks you through his life from childhood to the pinnacle of glory. The political canvas, woven lightly into this very personal story, highlights how a brilliant military strategist shaped the destiny of the Indian subcontinent. Family photographs, copies of citations, handwritten notes and personal correspondence make this book a treasure to read and acquire.

FOR THE
PATRIOTS



The first ever look at Kochi as the smallest Asian hub of so much European attention—a proto global village. Captured in this book are delightful sketches and a commentary that helps you navigate you as you walk across half-a-millennium in half-a-day.



FOR THE
EXPLORERS

Santa and the Scribes

Chikankari

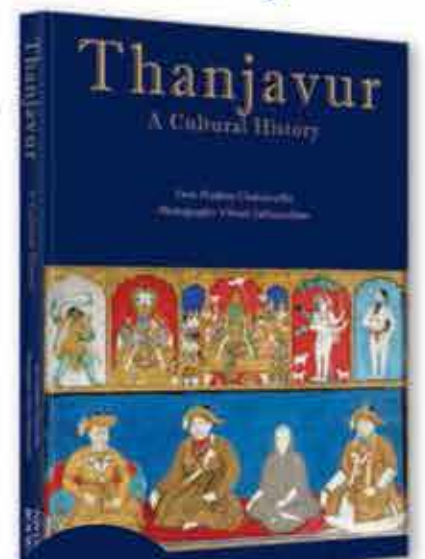


FOR THE
FASHIONISTAS

This beautifully illustrated book brings to life the history of this unique craft tradition, describing the range of costumes, the inspirations behind its motifs, the elaborate production process, and the bewildering array of stitches that raised this craft to a truly exceptional art form.



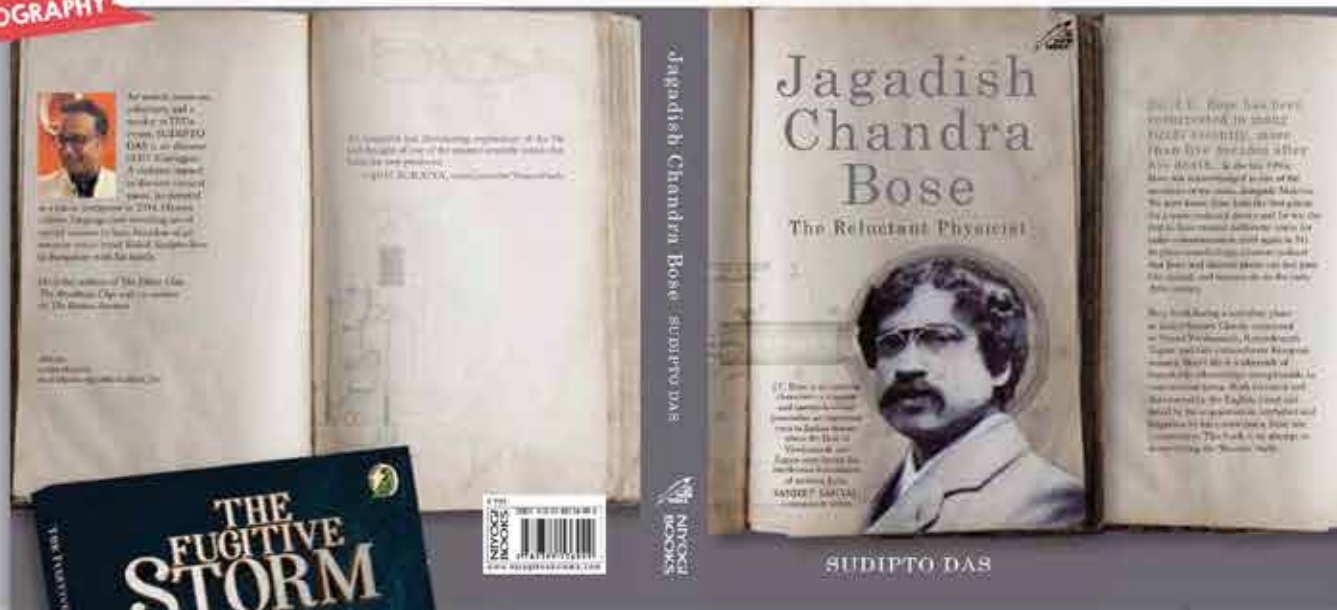
Thanjavur



FOR THE
HISTORY BUFFS

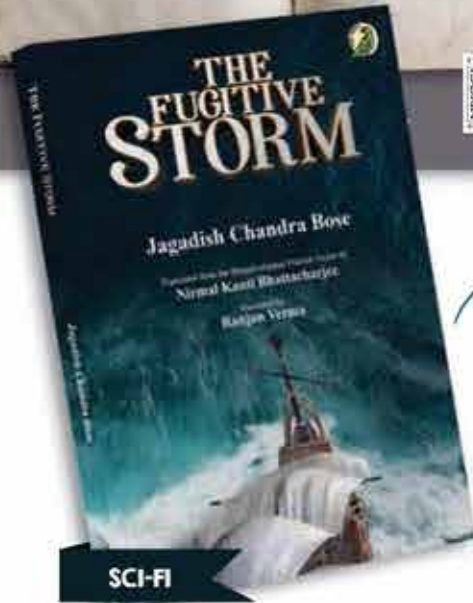
A fascinating study of the cultural history of Thanjavur starting from the time when the Rajarajeswaram temple was built. The book weaves a rich tapestry of the cultural heritage of the Chola Empire. It was on the longlist of the Vodafone Crossword Book Award 2010.

BIOGRAPHY



An in-depth biography of J.C. Bose, a scientific pioneer in India, who conducted research in physics and biology and achieved results that still have implications in science and technology today. The book sheds light on his life, relationships and scientific contributions, providing a fascinating insight into a modern Indian genius. Both favoured and disfavoured by the English, loved and hated by his acquaintances, mythified and forgotten by his countrymen, Bose was a contronym. This book is an attempt at demystifying the 'Boseian' myth.

Renowned author, musician, columnist & TEDx speaker

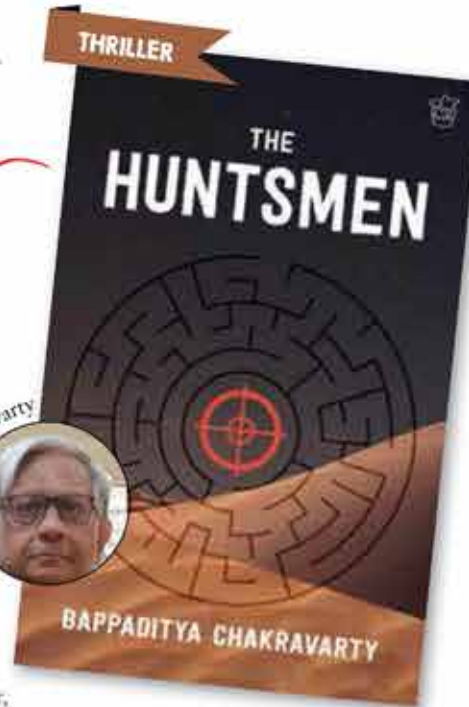


Not only a trailblazing scientist, but also a consummate writer, Bose gifted India one of its first science fiction stories: *The Fugitive Storm*, originally in Bengali, about a terrible storm that threatens the city of Kolkata, only to disappear mysteriously. The author reveals that he is the only one to know the secret to the storm's sudden disappearance—a bottle of magical hair oil called Kuntal Kesari!



Eminent teacher, scholar, translator & professional wordsmith

Rudra Sengupta, a special agent of the Indian Government is doing everything in his control to foil the plans of criminal mastermind Radovsevic. When innocent people's lives are embroiled in a quest to rescue the findings of a geologist gone missing, Rudra and his compatriots must hurry before tragedy strikes.



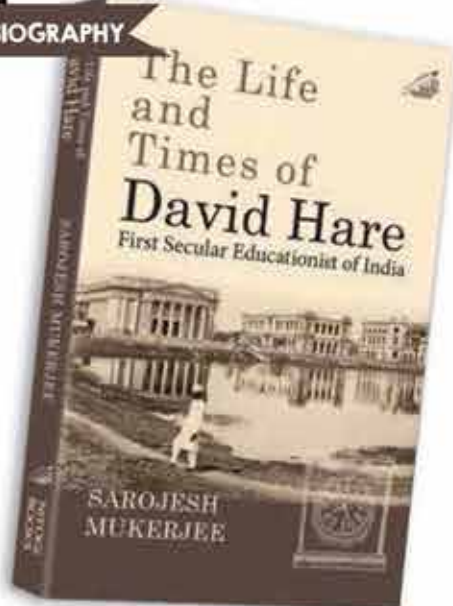
Renowned author, educationist & expat who has travelled around the world for two decades



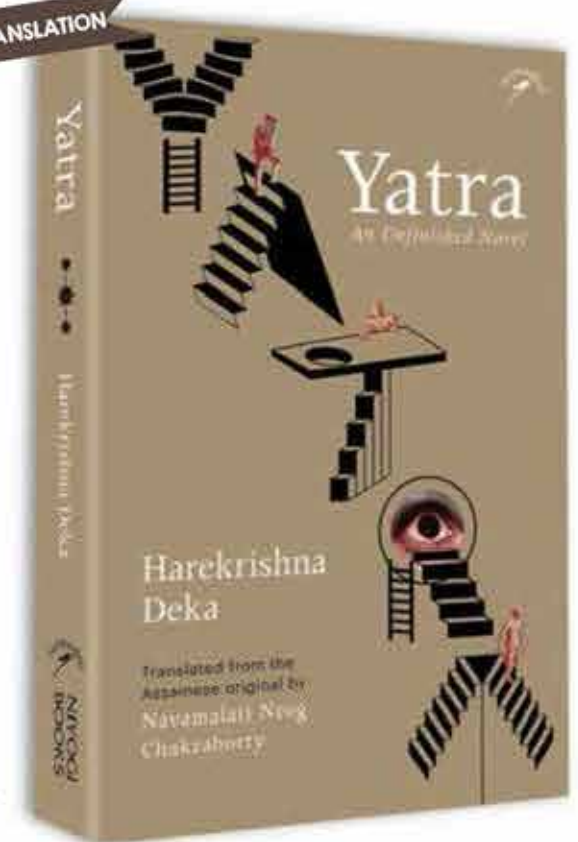
Distinguished author, founder of The Cambridge School, Calcutta & dog lover

David Hare arrived in Calcutta in 1801 to make a living as a watchmaker but remained in the city, having dedicated his life to the cause of upliftment of Indians through modern education. Several leading institutions of the city, founded and nurtured by him, contributed significantly to the Bengal Renaissance and continue to prosper today. This is the remarkable story of one of the rare personages of the colonial era who worked for the sole benefit of his adopted country without any expectation of reward or even, recognition.

BIOGRAPHY



TRANSLATION



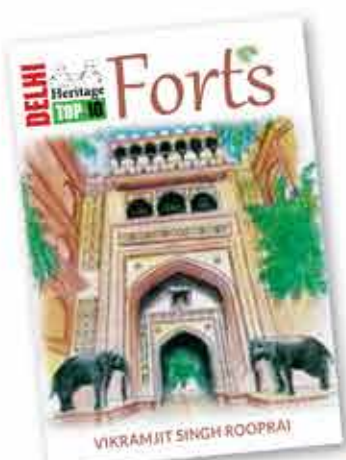
The unnamed writer in *Yatra* is invited to look into a tribal community, preserved in set ways, by a mysterious traveler through letters, and the writer finds himself inexplicably drawn into this whirlwind. Along with two sympathetic co-travelers, he explores creative impulses, human psyche and expectations, and the need for justice for all.

One of Assam's best-known writers & recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, 1987

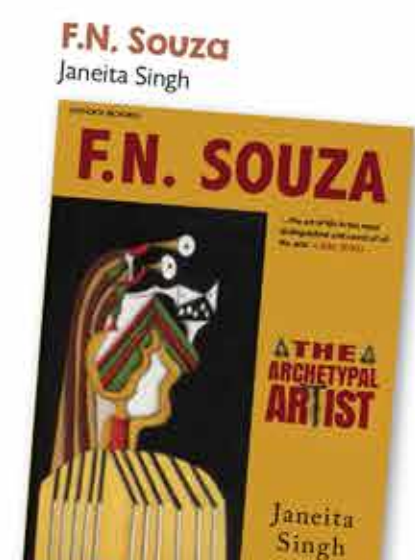
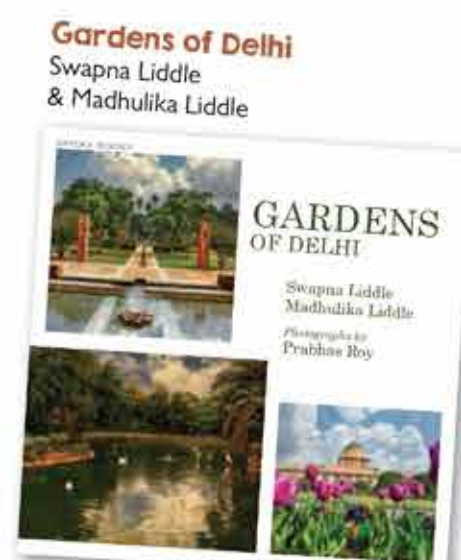


Esteemed professor, poet & translator

FORTHCOMING



Delhi Heritage Top 10 Forts
Vikramjit Singh Rooprai

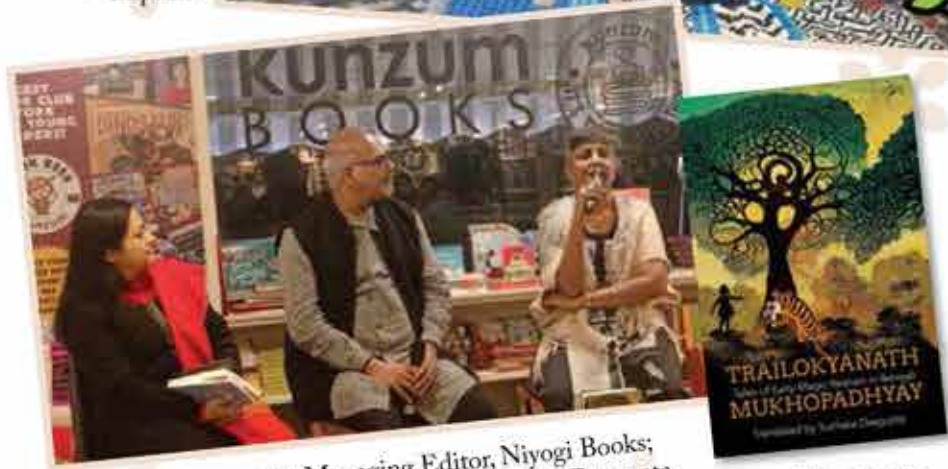


LAUNCHED

L-R: Kavya Saxena, Social Entrepreneur; Biman Nath, astrophysicist; Usha, author; Linthoi Chanu, author; Sadaf Hussain, chef & author; and Subodh Sankar, Co-founder, Atta Galatta, Bengaluru, launching the Perky Parrot imprint.



L-R: Shreya Duggal, illustrator; Pranab Kumar Singh, translator; Ira Saxena, child psychologist; Prof. Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharya, translator; Mistunee Chowdhury, illustrator; Swati Roy, Founder, Eureka Bookstore; and Trisha De Niyogi, COO, Niyogi Books, launching the Perky Parrot imprint at Eureka Bookstore, GK2, New Delhi.



L-R: K.E. Priyamvada, Managing Editor, Niyogi Books; Niladri R. Chatterjee, academician; and Sucheta Dasgupta, journalist & translator of the book at the launch of *Trailokyanath Mukhopadhyay: Tales of Early Magic Realism in Bengali* at Kunzum Books, GK2, New Delhi.



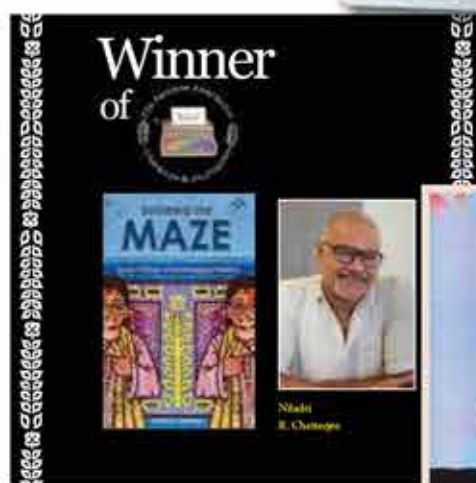
R-L: Patrick Lyons, author of *Masala and Murder*, in conversation with Trisha De Niyogi, COO, Niyogi Books, at Kunzum Books, GK2, New Delhi.



Author & educationist VR Devika receiving the Laadli Award for Gender Sensitivity 2023 in the English Non-Fiction category for her monograph on Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy.



L-R: Author of the book, Lakshmi Kannan; Anisur Rahman, critic & translator; eminent author Mridula Garg; Malashri Lal, Convenor, Sahitya Akademi; and Payal Nagpal, academic, at a book discussion on *Guilt Trip and Other Stories* at IIC, New Delhi.



Author & translator Niladri R. Chatterjee receiving the Rainbow Awards for Literature & Journalism 2023 in the 'Fiction' category.



Chef Sadaf Hussain (right) & Author Vani Tripathi Tikoo at Bookaroo Lit Fest 2023 at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi



Visit us at the
International Kolkata Book Fair 2024
18-31 January, 2024
12 noon-8 pm

And also at the
New Delhi World Book Fair 2024
10 February-18 February

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

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