

PG.48

AVIK GANGOPADHYAY

Avik Gangopadhyay, an Indian author and columnist of repute, has 22 Published Books and 9 Edited Titles in English and Bengali to his credits. His uncommon treatment and interdisciplinary approach to Aesthetics and Theories of Literature, Language and Criticism, not-so-discussed historical issues, Philosophical and religious 'ISMS,' Indological studies, Editorial endeavour in 6 books of poems and short stories – received wide and unique critical attention in India and abroad. His works on Language Death, Diaspora and Trauma Literature, The Transcreative Psyche, Demystifying the Aryan Invasion Myth have earned him appreciation from Scotland, UK, Germany, France, Canada, Singapore, USA, Bangladesh and India.

He started showing early signs of a potential author from the age of just 8 years. Innumerable poems were written in late teens. His works started seeing esteemed publications since 1996. First book was published in the year 2000. A Post-Graduate in English Language and Literature from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, he takes additional interest in Sanskrit, French and German Languages.

His interest in Indian and Western classical music initiated his association with playing sitar and keyboard. As a library lover, he enjoys scoring music and enjoys anything that touches the realm of fineness in human expressions.

His Post & Opinion-Editorials are flavoured by his interest in the fields of psychology, philosophy, history, eastern & western classical music, fine arts, ideational treasures of antiquity & postmodernism, surface in Daily Observer, Daily Mail, The Japan Times, The Connexion, Le Visage, Pembroke Observer, National Post, The Bangladesh Post & The India Observer. 51-year old Avik lives in Kolkata. His life bloomed under his Father's guidance late Prof. Manab Gangopadhyay (noted academician, litterateur, critic and philosopher) & Mother Late Sriparna Gangopadhyay (celebrated classical dancer and singer of Tagore songs). Married to Smt. Swati Gangopadhyay, a vocalist, the family awaits yet another potential bloom in Avik and Swati's son, Aaloy, a budding writer and singer.

Avik Gangopadhyay's Books

Glimpses Of Indian Languages
Love In Siesta
Literary Essays On Types, Trends And Genres
Song Offerings And Gitanjali
Diaspora And Trauma Literature
Shakespearean Scholarship And Criticism
On Re-reading John Milton's 'Paradise Lost'
Modern And Traditional Grammatical Terms
Essentials Of English Philology, Phonetics, Linguistics
Studies In Arms And The Man
Unique Essays
Sahityatatta O Samalochana Sahitya Bibartane
Anubartane
Saraswati



INFORMATION ABOUT LITERARY AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS

1. Editor's Choice Award, 2002, from Library of Poetry, USA
2. Author of Special Mention, 2017, from University of Edinburgh, UK & Scotland
3. Certificat d'honneur pour la meilleure redaction de la chronique, 2017 from Paris-Sorbonne University, France
4. Anerkennungsurkunde Wird verliehen (Certificate of Recognition) 2015, Heinrich Heine Universitat, Dusseldorf, Germany
5. CanLit Author of the Year 2018, from Indo-Canadian Literary & Cultural Confederation, Toronto, Canada
6. Jnan Saraswathi Samman, 2017, from Verada Siddhi, Peetham, India
7. Mahabhashya Award 2017, from Kashmiri Pandits' Art & Literary Circle
8. Certificate of Honor 2016, from Endangered Language Alliance, US and International Centre for Language Revitalization, New Zealand
9. Certificate of Achievement for the year 2005-2006, from Asia- Europe Foundation
10. Certificate of Appreciation 2018, Royal Rajasthan Heritage Forum, India
11. Felicitation for Contributions on Indology from Varendra Research Museum, Rajshahi, Archaeological Division, Bangladesh
12. Felicitation for Original Contribution On Death of Language, from Raad & Barendra Bhasha o Sahitya Parishad, Dhaka, Bangladesh
13. Poesis Award of Honor, one of the three Juries, 9th Rabindranath Tagore Award- International English Poetry Competition, 2020 from Xpress Publications, Poesis Online.com

ANY EXISTING ARTICLE/ COLUMN PUBLISHED ON AVIK

Book Reviews and Profiles of Avik have surfaced in The Times of India, The Hindustan Times, The Statesman, Daily Mail, The Japan Times, The Connexion, Le Visage, Pembroke Observer, National Post, The India Observer, Daily Observer (Bangladesh & France), The Bangladesh Post, Dhaka Review, Anandabazar Patrika, Boier Desh, Saptahik Bartaman, Ei Samay, Ekdin, and other leading literary columns of newspapers, e-journals and in the internet.



FULL PAGE IN FOREIGN DAILY / PRINT TABLOID

1. Diaspora, critical theories, and death of language

Ahmed Tahsin Shams gets on the cruise of Avik Gangopadhyay's expeditions

Published: Saturday, 5 March, 2016,

<https://www.observerd.com/2016/03/05/139875.php>

2. On Avik's Books: INDO-BANGLA Literary Seminar at Kolkata Press Club

<https://agproductionbd.com/indo-bangla-literary-seminar-at-kolkata-press-club/>

3. Nurture Nook Author – Avik Gangopadhyay Sep 4, 2017

<https://nurtureyourbooks.com/tag/avik-gangopadhyay/>

4. Authors interviews: My interviews with many authors Dec 27, 2017

Fiona Mcvie interviews Avik Gangopadhyay

<https://authorsinterviews.wordpress.com/2017/12/27/here-is-my-interview-with-avik-gangopadhyay/>

5. Love In Siesta by Avik Gangopadhyay

Panel discussion, book launch held in Kolkata

<https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/panel-discussion-book-launch-held-in-kolkata-3342>

6. Indo-Bangla literary seminar on Avik's Books held at Kolkata Press Club -The Asian Age

<https://dailiasianage.com/print-news/137487>

7. Indo-Bangla literary seminar on Avik's 4 Books at Kolkata Press Club

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/arts-entertainment/event/indo-bangla-literary-seminar-kolkata-press-club-1625725>

8. Dhaka Review Interview's Avik, April, 2016

Desk Editor, April 27, 2016

9. Full page from 8 Print Tabloids:



Welcome to the *The* Volume 2 Issue 1 **literature today**



CONTENT

JANUARY 2021. VOLUME -2 ISSUE -1



◆ COVER STORY- AVIK GANGOPADHYAY

◆ BOOK REVIEW

SUJATA CHATTERJEE
MANAB GANGOPADHYAY
ABHAY N SINGH
ABHISESHEK GHOSH
MURGESH PREM KUMAR
NIBEDITA DEB
MOHIT AGARWAL
M. MURTAZA
SAROJ SUDAN

◆ AUTHOR INTERVIEW

SUBRAT SAURABH
MOHINI SHARMA
INDRANIL MUKHERJEE
VIVEK KUMAR

◆ FEATURED ARTICLE- AMITAVA GHOSH

◆ BUSINESS

◆ ECONOMY

◆ EDUCATIONAL

◆ FASHION

◆ CURRENT ISSUE

Contributors



DR. RAHUL KANUNGO (M.B.B.S)

Certified in Courses on Share Market, Fundamental Analysis, Mutual funds, Business Management & Wealth Management. Author (Poetry genre)

P. 34



NEEL PREET

Author of the Books, Voice From The East (2016) & Journey With Time Place And Circumstances (2018)

P. 36



AALOY GANGOPADHYAY

A Spell Bee Wiz, writer of travelogues, poems, scholarly articles and a vocalist with 14 Studio-recorded songs. He has contributed articles for United Nations, Times NIE, Observer, Le Visage, and poems for Ankur Art and Cultural Magazine, The Mag, Literatures Light, The Literature Today and in anthologies namely, "Roobaru" and "Poems from Best Poets"; also published papers in University Grants Commission accredited Journals in esteemed colleges.

P. 3



JOSEPHINE SNEHA

Josephine Sneha. T is currently an Editor-cum-Reviewer in AJILE International Literary Journal (online). She has worked as an Assistant Professor of English for a year in Coimbatore. She is an ardent bibliophile and a published author as well. She is a University Rank holder in UG and Gold Medallist in her PG level. An active book reviewer in online platforms and a freelancing content writer as well. She has published more than 10 research papers and Her areas of interest lies in writing research papers, flat lay photography, creative writing and presenting papers. Contact snehajosie0993@gmail.com or 'readwithsneha' in Instagram for book reviews or others.

P. 38



RAYAPATI VASANTHI LAKSHMI

She is the daughter of a farmer in Andhra Pradesh. She is pursuing her B.tech final year in Andhra University. She always prefer to do something different from others. So she choosed Geo Informatics as her branch in B.tech. She is also a part time Content Writer. She always enjoy to learn new things. Her dream is to see Developed India.

P. 30



DEVKI MISHRA IS CURRENTLY

pursuing Bachelors in Economics (IInd Year) at Lady Doak College, Madurai (Tamil Nadu). Having a passion for Economics as well as English since her school days, she decided to pick up the habit of writing. Growing up in a multilingual household, she was encouraged to learn new languages and constantly update herself with current affairs. She thinks both of these subjects make her contemplate on various topics concerning the world.

P. 32



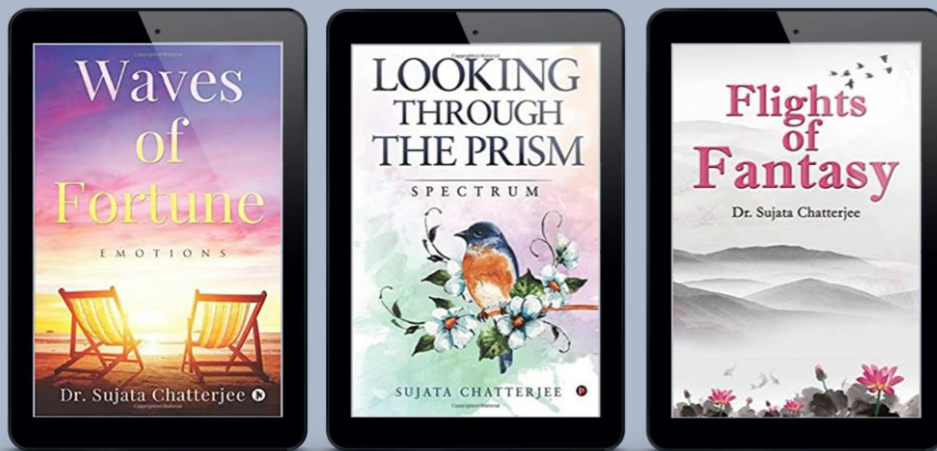
AKHILA SAROHA

Akhila Saroha, qualified to be a teacher in English inherited the love of reading from her father and grandfather. Being from literature and educated from the most prestigious institutions of India, her flair of writing developed in experienced hands and she emerged with her multi-talents in no time. Her love for literature is defined by the fact that in her free time, she takes a plunge into the world classics to enrich her knowledge and improve her skills. Apart from that, she reads newspapers regularly to stay connected with worldly issues.

P. 1

LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM SPECTRUM

BOOK REVIEW



Edgar Allen Poe has famously remarked, “Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.” This can be held true when one reads the poems of “Looking Through the Prism: Spectrum” by Sujata Chatterjee. The poems are 17 in number but give an insightful introduction in the thoughtfulness of the author and a brief yet detailed tour of the dreamy landscape that she makes the readers see through her eyes.

“
*DESTINY:
FAITH OR REASON
MEN MAY WAGE SO
MANY WARS
TO EMERGE
VICTORIOUS AGAIN
BE IN THE ETERNAL
HOME, IN THE LAND
OF THE LORD
PEACE AND
HARMONY DO REIGN.*
”

- DR. SUJATA CHATTERJEE

In a collection with a cover that invites the readers to take a plunge in the world of poetry, it gives clear suggestions of the poetry reading to be a soothing experience for the readers; Chatterjee writes poems of varying lengths and on diverse yet similar subjects. Even though her autobiographical details suggest that she is from an urban background, her heart seems to be in the lap of nature.

LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM SPECTRUM



Dr Sujata Chatterjee is a physician by profession and an author by passion. She has authored 3 books, *FLIGHTS OF FANTASY*, a collection of short stories, *LOOKING THROUGH THE PRISM*, a collection of motivational poems and another book of poems, *WAVES OF FORTUNE*, and co authored 6 more books, *SPEAK YOUR MIND*, *BROKEN BITS OF THE MOON*, *JUMBOREE JUBILATION*, *LYRICAL DEWDROPS*, *THE ROAD TAKEN*, and some others which are on the way to publication.

SHE IS THE WINNER OF SHONGHOTI SAMMANANA AWARD, TOP 100 INSPIRING AUTHORS BY THE INDIAN AWAZ TEAM, TOP 50 INFLUENTIAL AWARDS BY THE SPIRIT MANIA, AND THE WINNER OF THE NATIONAL BOOK HONOUR AWARDS.

She has also been awarded by the SWAMI VIVEKANANDA EXCELLENCE AWARD by the SEVA GUILD and the Governor of West Bengal for her contribution in English Literature. She has been honoured by the WOMAN EMPOWERMENT AWARD, by HELLO KOLKATA MEDIA HOUSE, for her contribution in Medicine and English Literature. She was a regular contributor of the column, *THE PATIENT I CAN NEVER FORGET*, in the fortnightly magazine, *THE WOMEN'S ERA*.

The poems flow "as naturally as the leaves to a tree" (as Keats would say), and the readers would feel a Wordsworthian air throughout poems like "Colours of Life," "Every Kind of a Little Thing," "Musical Notes of Nature," "Newer Horizons," and others. These poems take the readers on an imaginative tour in the unexplored landscape of nature and make them feel strongly connected to the words the poet uses.

"The Freedom" reminds the readers of Keats' "Ode to Nightingale" for a brief moment but the poet gives it her touch when she attaches the taste of freedom to it. There is a similar flavor in "The Blessed Fairy" also. "Come O Spring" seems to respond to the last few lines of Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind." Poems like these highlight the influence of the literary giants on the poet. The readers have the feeling of travelling to different corners of nature while they still hold the book in their hands.

In later poems like "Loving You," "Gateway to Memories," "Exhaustion," and others, the poet gives her work a modern touch, which suggests that despite following the footsteps of the romantics, she does not remain untouched by the contemporary lifestyle. She builds on modern themes in the romantic style which gives her work an individuality and a unique place in the literary writing of the present day. Supplementing this, the poet uses ample illustrations to beautify the text and concretize her thoughts in the readers' minds. Readers interested in reading poetry of all kinds can take "Looking Through The Prism" for reading. There would be poems not only the ones that would ignite their interest in poetry but also those that would end up being their favorites. In addition, the poet does not use any ornamented language, and her simplicity of the language makes her appeal to more readers simultaneously. Her simplicity of vocabulary makes the readers feel connected strongly with her thoughts and can easily understand what she is trying to say. Readers who intend to venture into poetry reading can also try with "Looking Through the Prism." Other than those, mature readers who have been into poetry reading for some time would also find this collection holding on to their interest.

They may feel like keeping this book on their bedside and coming back to it time and again to relax themselves and experience the soothing effects of poetry again and again. After her debut collection of short stories in "Flight of Fantasy," Chatterjee shows her artistic bent of mind through her poetry. While the debut work explores different themes of issues that confront human beings, the poetry work shows the potential she has as a writer and the vital work that can be expected from her pen.

BOOK REVIEW

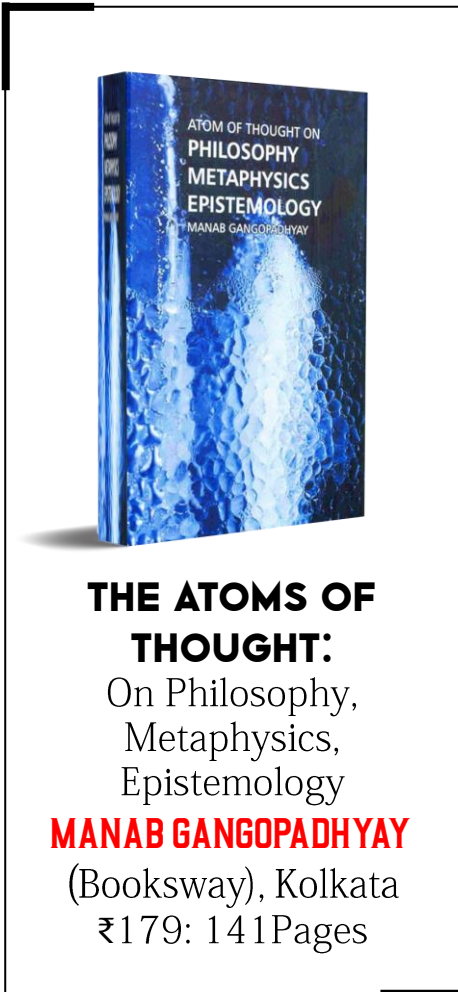
THE ATOMS OF THOUGHT

BY MANAB GANGOPADHYAY

At a time when advances in science and technology have changed our understanding of our mental and physical selves, it is easy for some to dismiss the discipline of philosophy as obsolete. But to experience a kind of intellectual ecstasy, we are also reminded of Socrates, "Beware the barrenness of a busy life." Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and philosophy begins in wonder. Thus Socrates claims that "the life which is unexamined is not worth living."

Both these posthumous volumes of The Atoms of Thought by Manab Gangopadhyay—an author of sixteen published novels, ten books on critical and philosophical literature in Bengali, three voluminous titles on philosophy, sociology and historicism in English, who started and concluded his professional career as a professor, later, Reader in Bengali Language and Literature in the Government Colleges of West Bengal, including Presidency University, Kolkata -- are essentially on what philosophy teaches people: "think critically" and "challenge your own point of view." The very titles engage on Philosophy as a discipline, which is to be studied, not for the sake of any definite answers to its questions since no definite answers can, as a rule, be known to be true, but rather for the sake of the questions themselves, through the greatness of the universe, which philosophy contemplates, the mind also is rendered great, and becomes capable of that union with the universe which constitutes its highest good.

Manab Gangopadhyay's books on critical literature, society, civilization, historicism, philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, western philosophy, seminal thoughts and thinkers and on the vast world of creative literature display his range of interest and accomplishment as an interdisciplinarian. Volume I, On Philosophy Metaphysics Epistemology intends to gather the atoms of thought, both subjective and objective, on life as a great surprise, ideas and philosophical quest of the meaning of existence, truth and god, addressed and conjectured by the great thinkers down the corridors of history, both western and Indian, critically examined by the author, flavoured by his capstone comments and refutations.



THE ATOMS OF THOUGHT:

On Philosophy,
Metaphysics,
Epistemology

MANAB GANGOPADHYAY

(Booksway), Kolkata

₹179: 141 Pages

Volume II, On Society Civilization Historicism traces the evolution of the theories on society, civilization and philosophy of history, focusing on the state of intellectual, cultural, and material development in human society, and the appearance of complex political and social institutions, of the accumulated habits, attitudes and beliefs of people that define for them their general behavior and way of life, their total set of activities, often punctuated by scholastic and empirical observations of the author.

Sharing precious moments with Bertrand Russell, M. N. Roy and Gopinath Kobiraj have blazed the innate urge for interdisciplinary studies in the life of the author. Browsing through regional, national and international journals and reviews,

I have found that Manab Gangopadhyay has been labelled as "the professor of humanities"—as both in his writings and lectures 'this professor of humanities' had been seen as a frequenter in philosophy, psychology, sociology, social psychology and philosophy of history. A rationally introspective essayist, a daring writer of critical literature, he has also been a believer in cultural aristocracy. Generally regarded a creative writer for mature readers, he explores the untrodden dark recesses of characters and surroundings by an adroit penetration into their psyche and psychological reality.

There has been a sharp distinction between the critical rationalist philosopher in him and his inborn creative artistry. The literary world of Manab Gangopadhyay is spotted by the perceptive readers endowed with a conscious psyche. Having a mind and rationale, intelligence and inculcation of intellect, eyes open enough to witness, a consciousness that knows to see and is not afraid to watch, it will not be an audacious claim that only those rational, free from the shackles of descriptive story-like narrative prejudice, are susceptible to appreciate the intricate world of literature of Manab Gangopadhyay. A bird's-eye-view on these two Volumes of The Atoms of Thought will make such proposition poignant.

Volume I, On Philosophy Metaphysics Epistemology approaches 'Knowledge' and 'Truth' from three distinct logical perspectives. We all know that "Knowledge" can refer to a theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. It can be implicit as with practical skill or expertise, or explicit as with the theoretical understanding of a subject, formal or informal, systematic or particular, whereas, "Epistemology" is the study of knowledge. This is a matter of understanding what knowledge is, and how to distinguish between cases in which someone knows something and cases in which someone does not know something; "Metaphysics" is a type of philosophy or study that uses broad concepts to help define 'reality' and our understanding of it. Metaphysics might include the study of the 'nature of the human mind', the definition and meaning of existence, or the nature of space, time, and/or causality.

THE ATOMS OF THOUGHT

The author initiated by relating the theories of Knowledges with Empirical nature of Knowledge, Psychological nature of Knowledge and Knowledge from logical side and then moved into the Metaphysical nature of 'Knowledge Act Theory' emphasising on the opinion of the Behaviourists, Object and Awareness theories of S. Alexander, Croce and Gentile. He furthers with the Neo-Idealists on Knowledge and mind also using own critical opinions on both 'Relation Theory' of Knowledge and the 'Quality Theory' of Knowledge, including the 'Act Theory' and the 'Relation Theories'. The author picks up the Relation of Knowledge to object with reference to Naive Realism and Epistemological Neo Realism, our Knowledge of the external world with the problem of Perception as a mode of knowledge. He has added a unique chapter on the problem of the Metaphysicians examining the Bradleyan notion of Primary and Secondary qualities in Appearance and Reality.

The rest of the book deals with a rare theme: the critical examinations of the philosophy of religion, faith in the Super-structural Power with a critical examination of God's theory. From the scriptures to the philosophical school of thoughts, the author brings them in and then expands the refutations.

In the first part of Volume II, On Society Civilization Historicism the author offers a detail exposition on the nature and the stages of society, society and environment, environment and life, the evolution of society with society and individual, community, associations and groups, institutions, customs, mores, social interests and attitudes, including environment and life, 'geography social life and people' adding the notions of "Culture" and "Personality" and "Heredity" and "Environment" in perspectives.

The Part II focuses the searchlight on the economic elements and the political elements of civilization, law and lawlessness, punishment and primitive freedom, the emergence of the notion of family and its function in civilization. The chapter concludes with historicism and the myth of destiny. Part III involves a rare inclusion of the discipline of Historicism. It begins with examining Oswald Spengler's theory of the culture cycle -- Spring of Culture or Childhood of Culture, Summer of Culture or Youth of Culture, Autumn of Culture or Ripe maturity of Culture, Winter of Culture or Decline and Death of Culture. Here the author also brings in art as the expression of the Style of a Culture and Cycle of a Grand Style in the art of a culture. This chapter proceeds with examining the Challenge and Response Theory of Arnold Toynbee, also referring post-modern Social Cycle Theory of P. A. Sorokin.



AUTHOR

MANAB GANGOPADHYAY



REVIEWED BY

AALOY GANGOPADHYAY

From an elaborative Foreword of the 2 Volumes of books we come know that these easy-to-read topics are in reality scripted lectures addressed to audience, not so frequenter to the world of sociology, culture, civilization, philosophy of history, mostly at Free Thinkers' Club, an intellectual repertoire, which Manab Gangopadhyay himself had established in 1958, to inculcate and rejoice nothing but "the joy of understanding," the pleasure of knowledge. Scripted in the personal pages of Diary and full-scraps personal copies on various subjects in between 1956 to 1970, these apparently simplistic renditions depict not only immense command of the author on interdisciplinary studies but the teacher in himself, who transfers knowledge germinating interest; adding graded perspectives, devoid of pedantry, one of the striking features of his other critical discourses in general. With an intention to make new ideas transmit, related to any field of discussion, to offer the first hand information or to portray a bird's eye view of the subject, the author emphasized most on the clarity of thought and rendition, to accomplish the maximum reach. The author derives genesis of the same: so easy to hear and understand but so difficult a task, leaving apart the vast world of definitions and contradictory characteristic features of the concepts. His preparations must have involved so many textual readings of the west and the east but to identify them line by line is quite a Herculean task. The author never thought of "bringing out" these drafts of lectures in form of a book; rather, his students and intimate circle of intelligentsia had planned the same.

In both of these posthumous volumes of The Atoms of Thought, prove, what has been mentioned in his available biographies, that Philosophy has been the first and last love of the Manab Gangopadhyay, a mould that did set his thinking, feeling and willing, and above all, something that has given his "Weltanschauung." In these informal lectures he used to emphasise the words of S. T. Coleridge, "In wonder all philosophy began; in wonder it ends; and admiration fills up the interspace." He believed in what he quoted from Cicero, "Philosophy, if rightly defined, is nothing but the love of wisdom."

THE PERFECT 5 A KEY TO UNLOCK

BY ABHAY N SINGH

5

ABHAY N SINGH

is an MBA. By profession, he is a trainer, motivator and writer. He is the founder of ACEL (Ambient Centre for English Language), an institute for language and personality development. He trains professional students and also, he has been connected with TV Media. He has been a part of Live TV debate shows like "Dial C for Cricket" in NEO SPORTS CHANNEL at MUMBAI. He also writes columns and journals in leading newspapers. Abhay is planning to launch some more books on topics like 'Defuse the Depression', 'Crack the Interview Trap', 'How to Be a Self-made' to name a few.



The present day time is all about the fiercely competitive people and their spirit of working hard and working smart. And as it has been said since a long time that knowledge is power, this continues to gain more relevance than earlier as the days pass.

In the light of this, knowledge is available in abundance and this makes the selection of the right source of knowledge a little difficult for the one who wants to learn and understand things. Abhay N. Singh's "The Perfect 5" is one such plethora of knowledge which is in a capsule, condensed and concentrated form.

"The Perfect 5", as the name suggests, is about perfecting the skills of a person to get through the different stages in his/her struggle to get a job. Keeping this in mind, the title seems to be very accurately thought and appropriate to the subject of the book. But, it is not just about perfecting the 5 skills but also like an overall personality development project where the readers can read and learn a lot more, improvise and improve themselves to become better than they are at present so that wherever they go to seek work or employment, they are not refused.

The author shares his insightful experience of years and learning which he has acquired by observing people and interviewing candidates on a regular basis. This makes the book a product of the author's experience and the things he talks about are not far-fetched rather they carry a practical approach and the author's pragmatic methods to learn and understand things. The book is focused on not just the basic sharing of how things work in the process of getting an employment but the author also offers valuable examples from his experience to make the things more relevant and stronger in appeal to the readers.

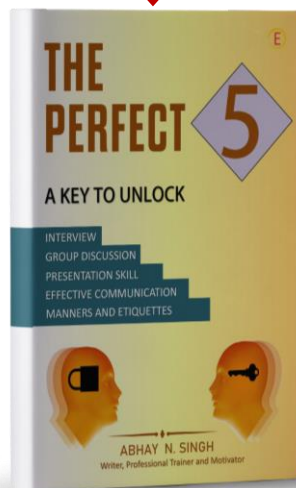
Singh focusses individually on all areas focusing on readers of all types. He designs the book in a manner which would cater to the needs of those who are starting from scratch and also those who have been in the learning phase for a long time but are still willing to learn and refine themselves to make themselves an improved version of their earlier self.

The book becomes relevant in a universal manner because the employment process is more or less the same for all organizations and the author focusses on areas where most candidates face difficulty. Whether it is the interview, communication, group discussion or even selection of the outfit to be worn, the author gives all the necessary and important details at one platform. Every candidate will find something or the other relevant to his/her need and will get to learn something new or simply upgrade himself or herself for something better.

Through simple language and detailed style of writing, the author addresses the reader directly and also points out the flaws and mistakes that many may have done at some point of time or another. This makes the book a one-time read for all and many times read for all too. He begins the book by telling the readers the purpose of writing the book and goes on to discuss the concepts he is going to talk about in the coming pages.

The readers' interest is developed in the first place as soon as they come across these words as everyone in today's time has a hunger for knowledge and everyone keeps exploring ways to learn and make themselves better so that they can make it to the finishing line and be victorious over their competitors. However, it would be better if readers read the book in installments rather than reading it all in one go as there is a lot to learn and absorb in the course of reading the book. The book is not just about reading but also imbibing the facts and information that the author shares through his valuable experience. This would only be of better benefit when the readers go through it slow and steady.

All readers who have been in the job market for some time and also those who plan to enter the job market at some time in the future may find this book useful. The readers who are already a part of the labor force can also read the book as no one knows what can be learnt from where and when it may be. The others who are past their working age can also read the book and impart the wisdom to the coming generation. Also, readers who do not have any plans in the present time but may have plans in the distant future can find this book of importance as it will prove to be an early step in grooming themselves for the competition that they would face in the coming time.



A KEY TO UNLOCK

*Interview
Group Discussion
Presentation Skill
Effective
Communication
Manners And
Etiquettes*

Shelley once wrote, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

This quote's validity can be extended to writers of prose writing, too, as the postmodern world has ample examples of authors sharing their vision of the future straightforwardly and unabashedly. An example of the presentation of reality in its starkest forms can be found in Abhishek Ghosh's book, "The Paradise Conflict." Milton may have written about a paradise that humanity lost, but he would not have thought how years later, the paradise humans have would also stand in conflict.

THE PARADISE CONFLICT

Shelley once wrote, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world."

The subject that Ghosh chooses is born out of deep introspection and after serious thought to the environmental situation that the world confronts at present. Although he takes the narrative of fiction, the ideas and facts that he shares are far from undeniable. At one level or the other, the readers subconsciously agree with all that the author writes. With a plot that does not feature too many characters, the author focuses on the pivotal issue and makes the readers ponder its criticality.

Most of the time in literature, authors tend to share their vision in a science fiction world where technology is more advanced than today, and people's lives are much better than today. This vision can be found in Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" or George Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four" or even the present-day writer like Matt Adcock in his work, "Complete Darkness." Ghosh's work takes all these factors into consideration, and in addition, he raises the fundamental but burning question of the day in the dystopian narrative and poses the problem in such a world, the future world. These are some of the critical factors that can attract mature and grown-up readers to read.

7

Abhishek Ghosh (b.1990) was born in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Grew up in Kolkata and Siliguri. A PDDM Graduate and a working professional in the Banking and Finance Sector. Latest book released, The Paradise Conflict. His first book, "Every Frame is a Painting" published by Novel Nuggets. Second book self published through Juggernaut Publishers: Love, Realization and The World of Today - A collection of Poems.

Interests in life:

READING | PHOTOGRAPHY
| TRAVELLING | BLOGGING





The *Paradise Conflict* as the work is a product of a sharp mind trying to understand what would be if the situations that occur in the novel happen in reality

In light of this, recommending the work to readers who are aware of the problems humans face and how the future would be can try reading Ghosh's work. How the present environmental issues like pollution, water shortage combined with selfish nature culminate and kindle a new kind of colonial spirit is the framework in which the entire idea of Ghosh's thoughts operates. The presence of the Civil Imperial Regime gives the work a little bend of both colonialism and imperialism in the postmodern world for reasons other than monetary.

Creating a unique stream for itself, his work creates a different ground of its own and keeps the readers in its grip because of not just its sharpness but also the construction of the plot.

Apart from this, young readers who wish to open their minds to a world that would be far from utopian can lay their hands on "*The Paradise Conflict*" without a second thought. The book's length is short, which opens the readership base to people who are not interested and length, voluminous, and bulky works but are interested in reading something that can jolt them.

8

The work is sharp, focused, and shows reality in the face of it. The language that the author uses is also carefully selected to make sure all kinds of readers can read the book and understand the depth of the matters it explores. After his debut collection of poems and short stories in *"EVERY FRAME IS A PAINTING,"* *"THE PARADISE CONFLICT"* shows the critical side of the author in a full-fledged prose work.

Due to the seriousness of the subject and the unignorable significance of the issue the author raises in his work, *"THE PARADISE CONFLICT"* may become a part of the canon in the future and worth giving time for the future readers.



THE PARADISE CONFLICT
ABHISHEK GHOSH
Novel Nuggets Publishers

₹135: 150Pages

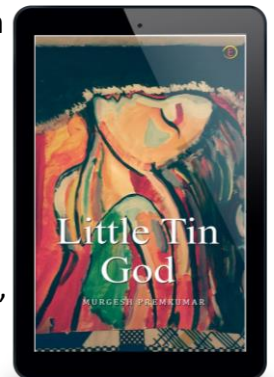
JANUARY 20, 2021 *The*
literature today

**MURGESH PREM KUMAR****AUTHOR**

LITTLE TIN GOD

A person's life is developed by the events that happen, and the people surrounding him/her. On the basis of this, they make their choices in their lives later. An example of how events in a person's life impact them is seen in Murgesh Prem Kumar's work, "Little Tin God." Through the story of the protagonist Sahana, the readers get to witness a postmodern technique of examining the psychological impact of happenings in the life of a person.

The story begins from the early stages of her life when she is a ten-year-old and develops further as she grows up from a girl to a woman. Kumar's insightfulness into the female psyche and the way they perceive things is something that the readers will notice immediately. He gives the first-person account from the eyes of young Sahana and, at the same time, also tells the readers of the thoughts that she has without conveying them directly. This is one of the aspects that becomes the salient feature of "Little Tin God."



LITTLE TIN GOD

▼ Kumar packs the work with a stream of emotions that Sahana goes through in her life from the beginning as a child and as a grown-up. He shows the psychological complexities in a smooth manner. Showing the changing she undergoes from childhood to becoming a teen, and then a woman gives an introduction to the artistic talent of Kumar and his deep understanding of the complexities of the psychology of the opposite gender, keeping in mind the intricate details.

Other essential things that the readers can notice in "Little Tin God" is how Sahana's decisions are affected by her childhood. This gives a clear indication that the childhood of a person is most instrumental when a person decides on anything. Also, the lessons that they learn in that time shape them into what they become as grown-ups. Sahana's upbringing made her strong, independent, someone who would never give up, always trying to do the right thing, who would not run away from any trouble, life across borders, harassment of a person in physical or mental

the gender divide and balance of power in a home. The other themes that the author discusses in "Little Tin God" include the importance of family, the love and care they can give, the hypocritical nature of people, the double standards of society, etc. All such themes make the work important for the contemporary situation.

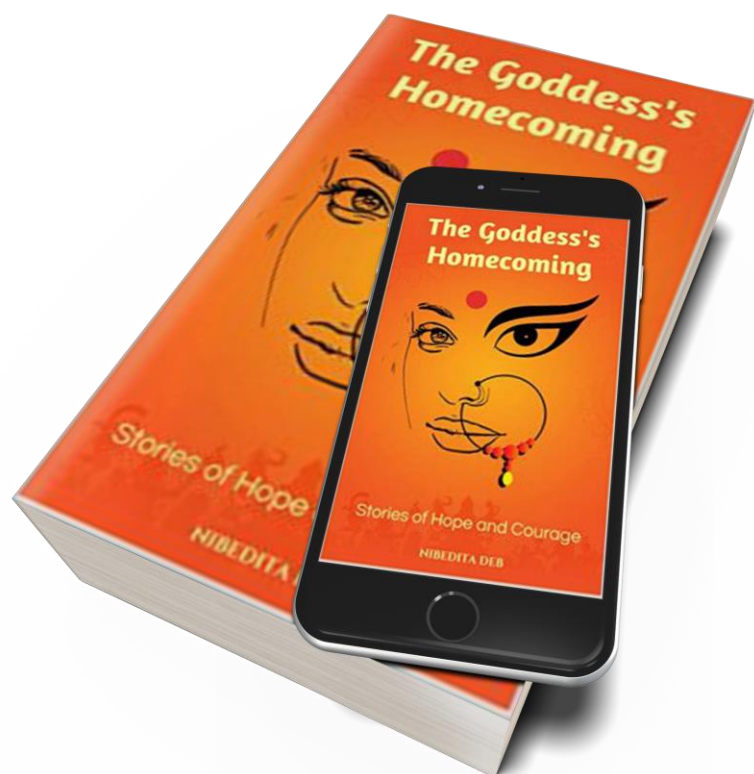
The character of Sahana is one on which Kumar has done a lot of work. He crafts her to be free from all shackles and become an individual with her own identity. The readers get to see all other people through her eyes and get to hear her thoughts. She does not manipulate anything to her convenience and lets the readers decide and incur on the basis of what they see. They see her evolve and grow as a person. They get to see her as a meek, submissive, silent girl and a strong, iron-willed woman who fights the battles of her life when the situation calls for it. This shows how Kumar builds her up and develops her into a round character.

She lives in a world which is full of selfish people or the ones who do not care about her. These people surround her throughout her life but, her vibrance, hopefulness, and aura of personality are what helps her win the hearts of the readers and develop an instant, long-lasting connection with them. This the reason that no matter what decisions she makes and the steps she takes, everything seems justified, and even if she makes mistakes, they only make her character more human and realistic. "Little Tin God" is a book that all kinds of readers can try reading and will have different viewpoints on the complexities of the characters Kumar has built. Amidst these intricacies, they will also witness the plot development managed by the author at a comfortable speed with pauses to share the viewpoints of the characters. Some readers may finish the book in one sitting, while some may go on to read it in a few sittings.

But the impact would be the same in both cases. The language that the author chooses is also where the readers would feel at home. Although, at some places, they may find new words that would help in updating their vocabulary, which is one of the important benefits of reading. The author keeps the structure of the novel not too tight nor too loose, and the readers do not lose focus of the plot even for once. Sahana's life may be the cenosure, but the other inherent themes related to her or others ornament the fragment of the text in a fluid and impactful manner in "Little Tin God."

THE GODDESS'S HOMECOMING

Book Review



About the Author:
Nibedita Deb hails from the City of Joy. She is a two-time gold medal awardee - first from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and then from Institute of Rural Management, Anand (IRMA). She is the recipient of Sir Ratan Tata Trust Scholarship (2013) and All India Reynold's Scholarship (2003). In 2017, she founded Curioven, a boutique content development agency, and was adjudged as a winner at the National Leadership Awards 2020 in 'Women Entrepreneurs' category for her outstanding work. She has been trained in Rabindra Sangeet and Hindustani Classical Music, and loves to discuss art, music, movies, innovation, and books.

11

THE GODDESS'S HOMECOMING BY NIBEDITA DEB

"The Goddess's Homecoming" features stories of ordinary women of different backgrounds, which may be from villages to cities. But the one thing common for all of them is their love of the Durga Puja festival. The stories that Deb writes are short, and the action is swift, but they explore a variety of themes. These include the position of women in society, the importance of motherhood, the role of a woman in the household, the issue of drugs and other malpractices in youth, women, and prostitution, and children borne by that, and many others that affect women in one way or the other. There is also the presence of the concept of seasonal development in the first story, "Shoshti: The Sixth Element." The author has interestingly titled the stories too, beginning with the number six going on to ten.

The readers who are unfamiliar with the famous festival of Durga Puja in West Bengal can find not just the flavour but the feeling of the atmosphere in the state at this time. They can get to understand the enthusiasm which people have and how well they celebrate it with equal zeal. To add to that, she keeps the language clear, simple, and close to the understanding of all kinds of readers. This makes sure that "The Goddess's Homecoming" remains open to reading for all readers. The ones who like the genre of short story writing are bound to enjoy Deb's work and may want to read more from her pen. At the same time, the readers who are more into voluminous texts would also find this work holding to their interest owing to the manner in which it is written.

Deb keeps the stories short, crisp, and focussed. The development of the plot is swift, and simultaneously, the readers get to hear the internal thoughts and feelings that the characters have. Whether it is about living with another wife of the husband or searching for a disappeared family member or realizing their true potential or anything, the readers get to listen and comprehend the personalities of the women too. Although the author has chosen the framework of short story writing, she still manages to develop her characters and show different shades of their personalities. The readers would observe this feature very soon when they start reading "The Goddess's Homecoming."

The subject of women in literature has been in the limelight for a long time. Yet, most of those portrayals were of women by men.

In Indian literature, there are only a handful of women who have entered the realm of writing and expressed women in the closest manner possible. Dealing with the psychological intricacies and the innate details of their personalities has been done only by a few women writers. New writing in this category is Nibedita Deb's in her collection of short stories, "The Goddess's Homecoming: Stories of Hope and Courage."

The title may say one thing or the other. Still, the cover illustration clarifies to the readers the fact that this may seem an ordinary work on the surface. Yet, on closer examination, there are layers of meanings attached and a variety of themes that the author explores. There is the image of a face, which is half that of a woman and the other being of the Goddess. This indicates that all women are an incarnation of the Goddess Durga and the subtitle further clears the air, and the readers get ready to read something that is not just strong but equally powerful.

As the author tells the readers in the "About the book" section of "The Goddess's Homecoming" that the work is "an anthology of short stories set against the backdrop of the most important festival of the Bengali community- Durga Puja," every story bears the flavour of festivities and the situations in human lives in that light. Every story that Deb writes features women who work in their respective roles in a time when Durga Puja is round the corner. These women are powerful figures who can be representatives of women struggling everyday fulfill their responsibilities, whether they are household or financial or taking care of children or working outside to take care of the family or anything as the situation calls for.

Unlock Shackles

Let her Fly

13

Basically hailing from Punjab, Mrs Saroj Sudan is an Educationist by profession. She has a strong belief that life must be led constructively without any full stop, at all ages and at all stages of existence. She post-graduated in English and completed her M.Ed. from Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan. Pursuing her passion for attaining knowledge, she also completed her M.A. in Hindi from Punjab University, Chandigarh.



SAROJ SUDAN

She has held various prestigious positions during her career in the field of Education spanning 38 years, such as: Faculty for Teaching English at B.P.S.M. Women's University, Khanpur Kalan, Haryana P.G.T. at Army School, Colaba (Mumbai)

Principal, Guru Nanak English School, Colaba (Mumbai)

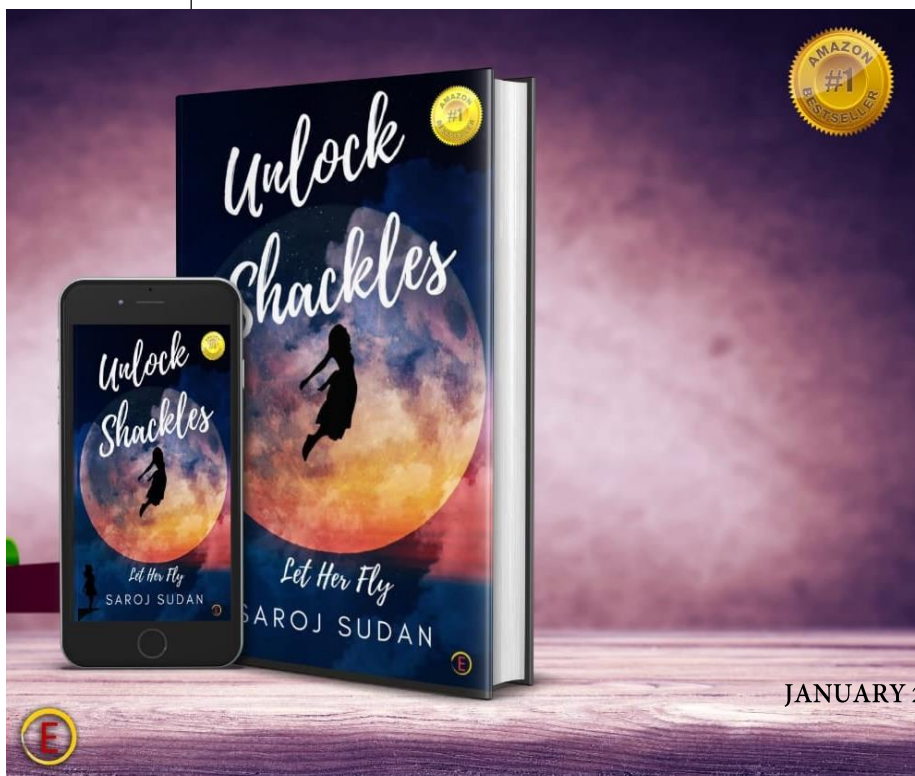
As a Principal, she was honoured with the coveted 'Active Principal Award' and 'Ideal Principal Award' by Akhil Bharti Vikas Kendra (Aurangabad) and Kala Bharti Child Institute, respectively. She was felicitated with a citation by the American India Foundation for her contribution in making their 'Digital Equalizer Programme for Technology Adoption in Education' a great success. She has won numerous laurels for having written many unpublished plays and dramas that have been enacted at various school and college stages."

Eversince women have entered the sphere of literary writing; they have tried to showcase what women feel in a real sense. They have shown how patriarchy has held them in its grip for generations and continues to do so in some manner or the other. These efforts by women make readers read, and people hear the same story from the other side; instead of his-story, now there is her-story. Indian literary writing has seen a lesser number of women writers in comparison to the male writers. After writers like Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, Ismat Chughtai, Mahasweta Devi, Amrita Pritam, and a handful of others, Saroj Sudan would be remembered for her ground-breaking work, "Unlock Shackles: Let Her Fly." The work in itself is a masterpiece as a debut work and displays the author's maturity and understanding due to her experience and wisdom.

The author has chosen the title, "Unlock Shackles" wisely and the cover of the book is equally attractive. The readers get the feeling that there is a sense of fighting all odds, never giving up, and breaking free of all that can stop a person from doing what they want. As the blurb reveals, the story revolves around a mother-daughter duo Sarla and Pallavi, who are more symbolic of the womenhood fighting for the wrong that has happened with them. Pallavi's father is a thorough incarnation of patriarchy and the atrocities and abuses it has inflicted upon women for generations. The fight of these women like heroes is a part of the fragment of the framework that Sudan shares with the readers. They are jolted by the fact that Sarla and Pallavi could be found in any household in not just India, but any part of the world as patriarchy is omnipresent. Sarla and Pallavi could be any mother daughter pair who are suffering the same fate as the characters. This is one of the few facts that makes "Unlock Shackles" a strongly relevant work in the social context. The other additional factors that contribute to its importance as a social novel include the position of women in the society, the patriarchal hold and control of them, the education of women, the support, love, and nurturing any child needs, and the fact that intelligence is not based on gender.

These are just a few themes that the readers can easily find in the book. There would be more when examined closely. In addition to all this, there are the characters of Sarla, Pallavi, her aunt, Sudha, her father, Virendra Singh, and other minor characters who give their share of contributions in the development of Sarla and Pallavi as vital, exuberant and characters who come across not as puppets in the hands of patriarchy but assertive individuals who have their own will, the spirit to fight and the aggressiveness and hunger for equality in every sphere of their lives. Sudan's characters have the fire to break free of all that would stop them or hinder their path to reach where they have been dreaming to. This is the incarnation of the modern-day women who would not restrain herself from voicing what she thinks and feels. That is what makes the subject of "Unlock Shackles" fit to stand the test of time and also remain universally relevant for this time or the times ahead.

Simultaneously, there is a plot that moves with an adequate speed with the presence of enough action to keep the readers engaged in the book and the content it has. The length of the book is also maintained according to an average reader. It is neither too short and indeed not too long. All these factors combine and make the book worth a reader's time and hold on to their interest and keep it sustained throughout their reading journey. Even though "Unlock Shackles" is all about women by a woman for women, the character of Deepak stretches the canvas of the novel further and does not let it remain restricted to women and their lives.



Therefore, it can be said that the work can be read not just by women but men too. Readers who are grown-ups would find this work catching their interest instantly, while younger readers may try reading a mature work as it portrays reality in the closest manner. This book would do the wonder of opening their eyes to the mostly unseen and unspoken reality in a stark way.

After the onset of the waves of feminism, women have broken all the rules and regulations set by the male folk, which held them back. They have written a lot of flagship killer work, but there is still a long way to go, and this message is given loud and clear by the author Saroj Sudan in "Unlock Shackles: Let Her Fly."

LIFE – SYMPHONY'

LIFE-SYMPHONY is the mirror of psycho-socio-philosophy through which light is cast on various complex issues prevalent in society, keeping Indian culture in its orbit. It is a non-fictional book divided into 26 chapters.

BY- MOHIT AGARWAL

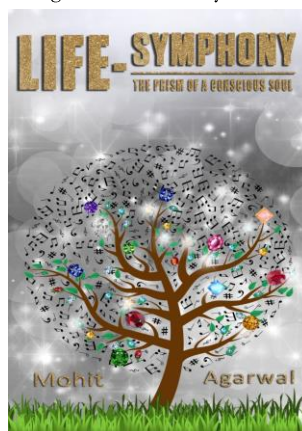


15

It is indeed a notion that has been running since the vigorous usage of Information and Technology has overtaken the world that younger generation lack brains and values! This is merely an injected myth by some brains striving hard to suffice the generation gap they faced. When anything is asked the voices logically, they are shut coining them arrogant. It is a high time to question. This generation of youth is in the questioning mode of the illusionary beliefs that have been injected into the psyches in the name of religion or traditions. This book by Mohit Agarwal roots down to the starting point of a man's thinking.

This book, Life-Symphony talks about various topics that are part of everyone's life, but frequently being taken for granted or just believed blindly. In the chapter Wisdom, author Mohit talks about the power of knowledge, conscious data gaining, perseverance, hard work and self-discipline to achieve success.

With amole examples from all fraternities, including movie actors the explanation he narrated ignites a thought of self-discovery.



LIFE-SYMPHONY

The Prism Of A Conscious Soul

MOHIT AGARWAL

Evincepub Publishing

₹175: 216Pages

BOOK REVIEW

Likewise, the chapter parenting and the contents in it are so appealing that it does down to the point that there is a difference between raising children and merely becoming parents. Also, the author pointed the importance of being transparent and communicative with the teenage and young adults in the family, giving them a lending shoulder of help and courage in times if extreme help, be it physical or mental stress. With amole examples from all fraternities, including movie actors the explanation he narrated ignites a thought of self-discovery.

Likewise, the chapter parenting and the contents in it are so appealing that it does down to the point that there is a difference between raising children and merely becoming parents. Also, the author pointed the importance of being transparent and communicative with the teenage and young adults in the family, giving them a lending shoulder of help and courage in times if extreme help, be it physical or mental stress. In other chapters like Education and Language, he explains that being educated is not getting degrees and restricting the knowledge to books, but apply the knowledge gained from the books in real life and become practical. Suppose if one is asked to read about a car engine, having the technical information in mind and seeing the entire motor working at a mechanic shop gives a great insight. This is what is lacking in the present education system and the author hopes that this will change soon.

In the further chapters, the author has arguable pains to inculcate and imbibe real sense in seeing the world to make it more accessible and adaptable for the people to live in harmony.

The book, Life – Symphony gives a vivid picture of India, its practices since ages that were developed for the well being of human lives and the forgotten elite values from our epics due to many invasions are incredibly explained in the book.

Bikhre Sapne

BOOK REVIEW

“This is a story of Raajan of Shivpur village. Raajan is brought up and educated by toilings of his poor widow mother Rukmini. A leopard kills her husband while he was cutting wood in the forest. She now runs here and there in search of livelihood and knocks at Ananadpur Haveli of a Landlord. The landlord does not offer him an honourable way for alleviating hunger and poverty, but instead tries to trap and bargain her beautiful and shapely body.”

By **M. MURTAZA**

Among the variety of books being written by the Indian writers of the present day, the books dealing the social causes are relatively less in number.

M. Murtaza's book, "Bikhre Sapne" is one of those scarce books in literary writing that hails not just social relevance but has the flavours of satirical commentary by the observant author now and then. A reader who has an interest in reading books that form the heart and soul of the different social structures that exist from the times of independence till the present day would find this book holding on to their interests instantly. The book's blurb does not give many spoilers and only states details of the initial stages while the main plotline is kept as a surprise for the readers, which they would only know on reading. From the title, "Bikhre Sapne" the readers get the feeling of this book is far from the utopian world and would present the reality on the face of it. But what that would be, they would not know. Divided into 19 chapters of not very long lengths, Murtaza's work explores the life of Rajan from his infancy to his attaining adulthood and becoming worldly-wise. In the midst of this, the author explores a variety of themes and social issues, which range from the position of women in society, the discrimination on the basis of caste, the resultant effects on people, pervading colonialism in the absence of colonizers, the self-centric nature of human beings and the mania politics and political motives can create. Readers can easily trace these themes here and there, and the usage of satirical tone makes "Bikhre Sapne" a book to be read repeatedly.

The characters of Murtaza's work are unique and real. They have internal conflicts and dilemmas and face the world with this contradiction only to agree to the ways of the world, voluntarily or involuntarily. The shifts of narrative show this internal conversation more transparently and make the readers understand their thoughts and viewpoints more closely.

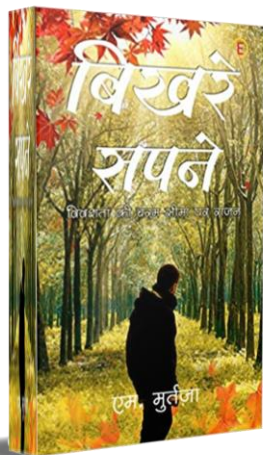
Rajan is a representative of many who continues to be oppressed in the name of caste, and even when they try to make a better life for themselves, the stigma continues to get the better out of them. Murtaza does not reveal the exact time of year in which the work is set, and the readers only conjecture it being in the pre-independence time or even before. It is only later that the readers understand that this story could be the story of any household of the present day in the remotest corners of a country where the constitution states no differentiation would be in the name of caste, but the reality is contrary.

Rukmani represents women being double oppressed because of being from the lower caste and the untouchable. Her struggle could be the story of any woman, whether she belongs to a rural or an urban area. Her life dominates the text until one point, while later Rajan's also becomes the central focus alongside. The usage of Hindi as a medium of expression gives "Bikhre Sapne" a little more Indianness than an English version would. Alongside, it makes the readers reminisce "The Untouchable" by Mulk Raj Anand;

JANUARY 20, 2021 *The*

literature today

however, the only common factor is the central theme. The other content is Murtaza's own creation. From a social standpoint, aware readers would draw connections with Premchand's work here and there. The author's satirical tone in the content highlighted in bold at certain places gives the book a Dickensian overtone. The readers who are interested in reading Hindi literature, which has both social and political relevance, would find "Bikhre Sapne" catching their fascination and provoking their ability to think and introspect. Therefore, the book becomes a recommended one for all of them.



Author
M. Murtaza
Book Title
Bikhre Sapne
Pages 212

17

Author M. Murtaza was born on 7th July' 1949 in Diwan Bagh, Deo, Aurangabad, Bihar (India). Diwan Bagh was founded by his ancestral grandfathers who were "Diwan" or "Divan" in the powerful Court of Kings of Deo Fort. M. Murtaza topped all his school examinations and was admitted to Bihar College of Engineering (BCE, Patna) (Now NIT, Patna) in Electrical Engineering in 1968 Batch.



Due to some compelling circumstances, he unfortunately couldn't complete his B.E. degree. M. Murtaza penned his first thoughtful, scylla and charybdis Hindi novel "Ankur" at the young age of 36 years in 1985. Ankur was based on contemporary socio-economic problems. Next year in 1986, he completed his second Hindi Novel "Azadi Ka Darpan" which was a thriller, passionate and detective book. Due to his interests in literature and journalism, he joined Milli Ittehad, an Urdu Newspaper published from Jamia Nagar, New Delhi during 1993-96 as Sub-Editor. Going through many ups and downs in life, he tended towards spiritualism and authored theological books like "Gosha E Noor" (Urdu 2002), "Roshni ka Minaar" (Hindi 2003), "Tasawwuf" (Urdu 2010) and historical one - "Baagh ki khooshbu" (Urdu) in 2019. M. Murtaza wrote another Hindi thriller novel "Anuradha" (January 2020) and very recently has come "Bikhare Sapane" in September 2020 ---- an enamouring one on the horns of dilemma, disappointment, failure and extreme pains in life. His books reflect refined blends of Hindi, Urdu and English words which readers are fascinated to. His scene detailing is marvellous. Several articles of the Author have been published in National Newspapers and Magazines like Milli Ittehad, Afkaar, Pindaar, Avadh Pushpanjali and Rahguzar in India. The Author has also been awarded for his literary works.

The circumstances in the life of a person are significant in contributing to and shaping their personality. These circumstances have the potential to change the thinking, perception, and nature of anyone. M. Murtaza, in his work, "Anuradha," attempts to show this effect by the depiction of the life of the protagonist Dhiraj transforming into Seth Dharmdas. Through an engaging and gripping narrative, he does this by showing the life of the character on the canvas of the text.

The cover of the book depicts two people walking in the rainy season and going together, perhaps to the same destination. From the beginning, Murtaza creates the aura of calmness and silence amidst the activities of nature. He has the readers with him and adds a spark to their curiosity altogether. After that, he introduces readers to the main action of the book. The readers are hooked to the narrative from the initial stages itself. As the text develops and unfolds, they remain interested and engaged throughout. The author keeps the plot of the book specific and clear. He does not give unnecessary diversions, which could otherwise make the readers lose interest. This becomes one of the reasons for the readers to remain interested throughout as the plot develops and unveils the story. Simultaneously, he keeps the action grow at a sufficient pace, which does not let the readers get distracted or bored. They remain ready for the next event or twist that the author has to offer.

Murtaza discusses the themes of the position of women and violence against them, how they suffer, and how the people associated with them suffer. Through the character of Dhiraj, "Anuradha" becomes an eye-opener for the readers and conveys the state of mind a male can have and how situations can impact his life. The portrayal of women reacting differently to their circumstances is also something that the readers can notice. Anuradha and Sandhya face the same situations but how they respond and behave later is worth seeing. This also highlights the author's understanding of not just the female psychology but the overall understanding of humans and how different their nature can be. The transformation of Dhiraj to Seth Dharmdas and Sandhya to Rani is the author's way of showing the changing of circumstances bringing a change in the personality of a person. These two characters could be representatives of anyone going through similar circumstances.

Murtaza opts to keep the language friendly to the understanding of the readers.

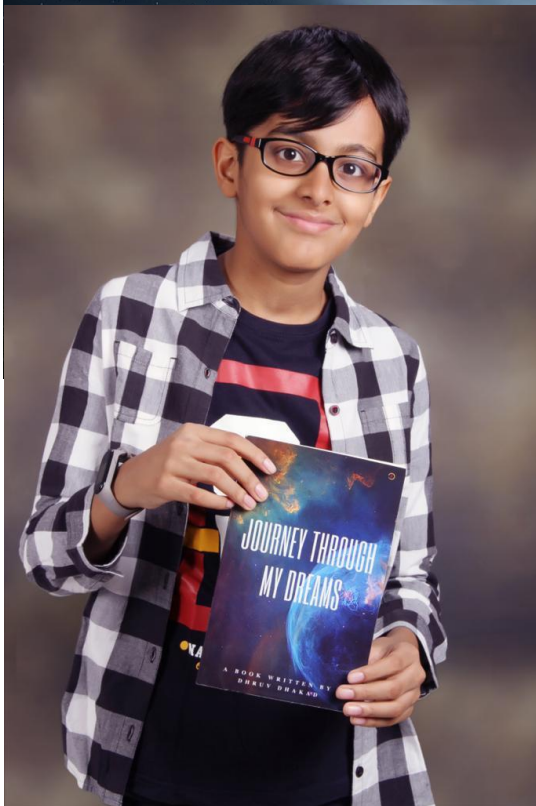
It is interesting to note how he creates an interesting amalgamation of Hindi, English, and Urdu. Although the dominant language is Hindi, the text has flavours of Urdu and English too. At the same time, he builds up strong and individualistic characters who appear to speak for themselves. The author may have given them individual qualities, but as the plot progresses, they break free of the author's control and appear much more robust and close to life. There are a total of 17 chapters in "Anuradha." But, the manner in which Murtaza writes makes the readers visit a different universe, and the impact of the reading remains long after they have finished the book. It makes the readers think, and they do not remain mere mute spectators of the action happening.

There is an air of Indianness throughout the "Anuradha," which is perhaps because of the language that the author chooses and the themes that he explores. An Indian reader would feel interested in reading from the beginning itself. "Anuradha" is likely to become a reading of interest for the mature readers who look for reality-based content which is handled with equal maturity.

The depth and sensitivity of the subjects is something that a grown-up reader can comprehend. After his debut work "Ankur," and other books like "Gosha E Noor," "Raoshni kaa Minaar," "Tasawwuf," "Baagh ki khooshbu," and numerous articles, "Anuradha" displays the maturity and poise of an experienced writer. There is maturity, sensitivity, the understanding to handle delicate subjects, the true depiction of the reality of life and human nature and also, the accuracy of showing the different emotions a human has. Although, younger readers can also try reading and understanding the author's ideas which, they would realize to quite an extent.

Author
M. Murtaza
Book Title
Anuradha
Pages
184

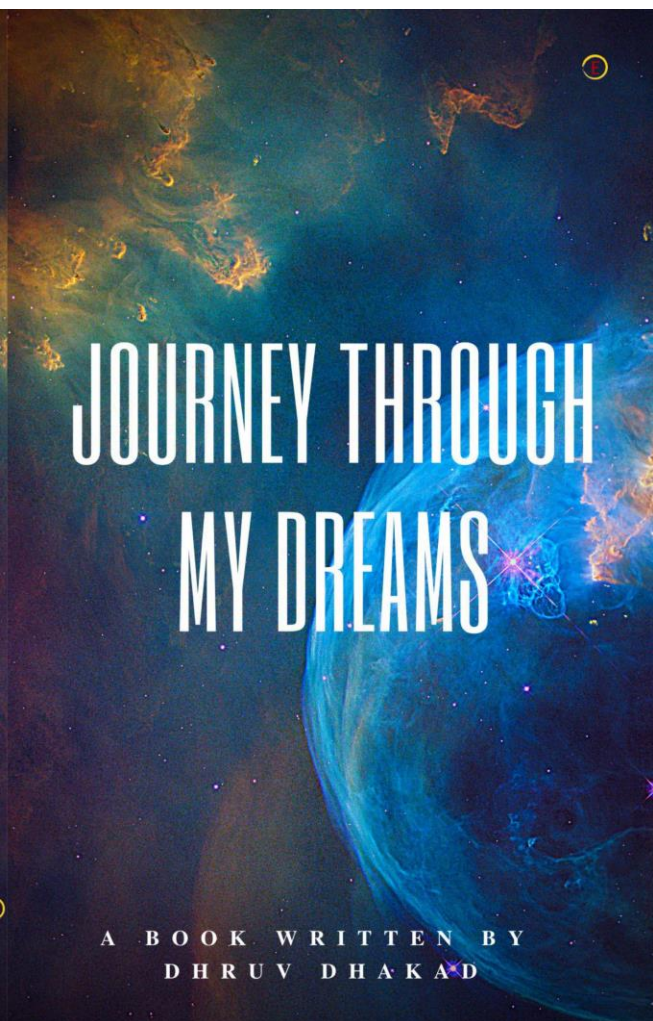




Journey Through My Dreams

BY DHURUV DHAKAD

Master Dhruv Dhakad is a young writer of 11 years of age who wants to live in a world where Fiction and Fantasies Co-Exist. He is currently in Grade 6 in The Shishukunj International School Indore. He's been applauded in school for writing Fiction stories. At Short age he is said to be Dreamer in his School since he always has the knack to write stories on Fiction and Adventure. He started writing his first book at the age of 10. He wants to travel world to create experience to enhance his books. He has participated in Scholastic Write India Programmed and Selected in 20 Budding Writers among 500 Odd Candidates. He has been appreciated by EX-Vice Chancellor of DAVV Indore for his writing skills. When he's not writing and studying School Books, you can find him watching and playing cricket and he is fond of reading books, watching television and talking with his friends



Every person, old and young, enjoys adventures and adventure stories due to their unexplored facets and the thrill of the unknown. This thrill of the unknown has found ample expression in literary writing and continues to find more through the words of imaginative and expressive authors. One example of such expression can also be seen in Dhruv Dhakad's book, "Journey Through My Dreams." The title suggests the work being about the author's journey, where he explores the unknown and the experiences he gets in this journey. But, the actual content of Dhakad's work is quite different from what the readers may have perceived. It is somewhat different as it is more of a sequence of action packed adventures and stories that the author's characters share through their encounters. These encounters make them come together and work together to get through the circumstances they face and the situations they confront.

The book's cover indicates that it would be taking the readers to a different universe altogether, which is part and parcel of Dhakad's imagination. Herein, he features stories with youngsters as central characters where they are either on an adventure or adventure finds them eventually.

JANUARY 20, 2021 *The*
literature today

They carry the air of thrill and experience, which keeps the readers in tune with the stories from the beginning. The grown-up readers may be reminded of their younger days when they would also explore the world with their friends in the same way. At the same time, the stories carry the theme of friendship, unity, and standing by each other at all times in good or bad situations.

Dhakad's stories create a universe as Enid Blyton did with his "Famous Five," however, the universe here is different as the characters keep changing, but the common element remains the adventure part. The readers would find a variety of characters and situations being featured in "Journey Through My Dreams." These include mythical, imagined, fragmented, all kinds of situations that the readers may have thought of. Some stories that the readers would enjoy include "The Invisibility Serum," "The Treasure Search," "The World Inside the Book," "The Legendary Blue Gem," and many others. All these stories introduce the readers to the universe of Dhakad's dreams and give their imaginative abilities an adventurous spin altogether. The manner in which he tickles the imagination of the readers is observable and commendable. The readers get an unforgettable reading experience coming from the eyes of a young author.

The author packs every story with a bunch of adventures that unaware characters share, and the stories explore their struggle to sail through the prevailing circumstances and emerge victorious in the end. The young readers would enjoy "Journey Through My Dreams" for the fascination they invoke and the heights to which their imagination can be pushed. In addition, he uses a language that all readers can enjoy. Young readers would enjoy these stories being read to them at their bedtime or any other time. The other feature of having a large number of characters throughout the book also brings the readers closer to Dhakad's dream world. The readers would find characters with whom they can relate and identify. Since the genre is short stories, the characters do not find much space to develop and evolve. Due to this factor, they remain in their positions and explore situations as they come their way.

"Journey Through My Dreams" is recommended for all those readers who are fond of short stories or those who want to have a refreshing experience in reading. They would find characters exploring treasure secrets, fighting zombies, getting invisible, and exploring the consequences or exploring the legends surrounding gems. This book can also be taken by those who wish to initiate themselves in the world of reading or want to explore the genre of short story writing. They would not be disappointed for sure.

TheLiteratureToday.Com The Homepage For India S Most Influential

20

THE LITERATURE TODAY

AN ULTIMATE DESTINATION FOR LITERATURE

The literature today, founded in 2018, is known for literary articles and book reviews. We at The Literature Today are a group of critics, reviewers and editors who look forward to bring the best content to our readers. We have the best collection of articles on book reviews, author stories and literary criticism. Visit our official website to explore more.

The
literature today

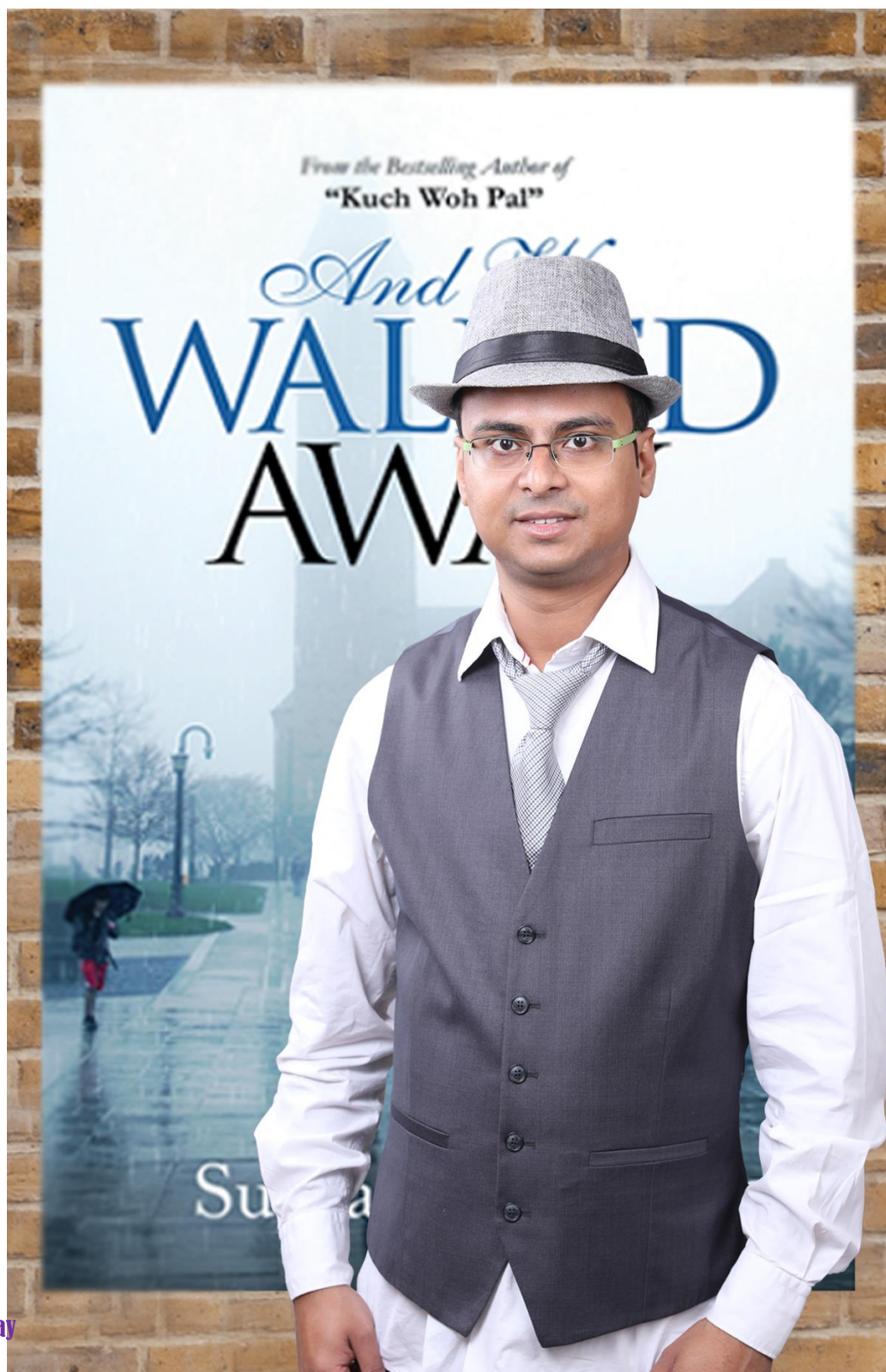
INTERVIEW

100 Inspiring Authors of India Awards , Author of the Year & Best Fiction (Romance) Awards 2020

BY SUBRAT SAURABH

Subrat Saurabh is an Indian writer, poet and blogger from Bengaluru. He launched his book titled **Kuch Woh Pal**, a collection of Hindi poems, in October 2017. He launched another book **And We Walked Away** in 2018. He is a popular word juggler under the pen name **ChickenBiryani** on social media. He is proficient in writing witty one-liners, a skill he employs on Twitter and Facebook using his penname.

His contribution to the world of words has bagged him three prestigious awards **"100 Inspiring Authors of India Awards 2018"**, **"Author of the Year 2019"** & **"Best Fiction (Romance) Awards 2020"** for his books.



Subrat Saurabh is from Muzaffarpur, Bihar. He completed his schooling from DAV JVM Shayamli, Ranchi, and pursued his engineering from KLESCET, Belgaum. An engineer by profession, Subrat is currently working as a Principal Consultant in Wipro Ltd. and lives in Bangalore with his wife Poonam and his daughter Sejal.

QUESTIONNAIRES:

Q: First of all, Big Congratulations to you on your book, “And We Walked Away” you’ve achieved something remarkably huge! What responses are you getting from this book of yours? Please share your experience about this book.

Thank you for your wishes and thanks for giving me an opportunity to interact with you regarding my books. I am delighted and satisfied with the kind of response I have received for my book “And We Walked Away”. I feel the most important things about a fiction book are that readers should connect the story. So far whatever review I have received in last 2 years, it’s really satisfactory and readers are able to connect. They have started interacting with me over emails and social media posts. They even want to know more about the Abhimanyu and Naina. It is good to get appreciation for the efforts which I have put to write down this book. Gradually, I am getting a confidence that I am able to make a reader base for myself.

Q: Your book has a very ‘Emotional and Romantic Plot’ so what inspired you to write these stories? Are these based upon any personal experiences of yours?

No, it’s not an autobiography. I am a keen observer of characters around me and love to build a story around the characters based on their behaviour. Yes, the book is an emotional roller coaster of a romantic drama. The book is stuffed with enough emotions to take you back to your college days. The story discusses various life lessons like friendship, love, care, jealousy etc.

Q: You have given an exciting title to your Novel, which is undoubtedly very catchy as well as thought provoking, so what made you go for this title for your book?

The climax of the story lies in the title of the book. Title is intriguing and will keep changing it’s meaning at every fold of the story.

It is open for interpretation and keep you hooked till the last page to get you realised if it’s “And We Walked Away together” or “And We Walked Away from each other”. You need to read to know the suspense.

Q: Your stories are indeed heart-touching, covering so many aspects of life such as love, friendship, jealousy, care and relentless persuasion. So, while writing these stories, what was your mind-set?
When I was writing this book, I always wanted to keep it different from other typical love stories where you will easily find the interactions like Babu Shona. I always wanted to write a love story which don’t concentrate on love and love, it also showcases an important aspect that many of the today’s generation neglect when fall in love, that is the people around you and different kind of relationship like friendship, grandfather – grandson, father – son etc.

Q: On your Wikipedia Page one can see that your first book was a poetry collection in Hindi while this book, “And We Walked Away” is a romantic novel in English. Both your books are in different languages too; So, what was the impetus behind this work of yours?

Yes, you are right. Hindi is my mother tongue and that’s why I am probably more comfortable writing in hindi. “Kuch Woh Pal” is the name of my debut book which is a collection of hindi poetries and some of them are from my diary which I have written during my boarding school days or college days. I have never planned to write “Kuch Woh Pal”, it just happened. However, I have written “And We Walked Away” as I always wanted to write this kind of story which should talks about family values in love affair and romance.

Q: While reading your book, one can detect that your stories have some powerful emotions inside them, which is impressive too thus, would you please care to explain the overall theme of your book!

This book talks about love and friendship and talks about the strong bond with parents and grandparents. A package where plot revolves around the early 2000s, when social media wasn’t a thing yet, and connecting to someone was not so easy. The suspense at the end of the book is the backbone of the plot, which goes very well with the book’s title. The book is written in simple language and hence anybody can relate well with the story line, which helps to recall the college days. It’s not the typical love story where the parents are not happy with the relationship, or couples don’t like each other just because they already had a bad experience with love in the past or have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Plot is different.

Q: Subrat your writing seemed to be really impeccable and you were bold with the stories in your book, which is really appreciable. Therefore, could you please tell us about some of those writers, who had inspired you and whom you follow!

I am personally very much inspired by Savi Sharma, Bhaavna Arora, Sudha Murty, Mark Manson and Ajay K Pandey.

Q: Is there any message which you would like to convey to your readers? Or any piece of advice, which you would like to give to the readers out there!

Once a female reader from Kolkatta was very much upset with me after reading the book. She has actually taken an effort to contact me on Facebook page because she was not happy the way I have portrayed the character of Naina in the book. She felt so much connected with the book that she felt very bad about Naina and was actually angry on me. I just have to say only one thing to all my readers that please consider a fiction book as a fiction only and don’t get involved with the character. We have all sorts of characters around us and writer get inspired from them only.

Q: Th Thank you so much for answering all the questions. All the very best to you for future and your book too!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me this opportunity and thanks to my all readers for being with me.

INTERVIEW

"EVERY DAMN THING THAT LEAVES YOU FASCINATED AND HAS YOU WONDERING MAKES POETRY!"

BY MOHINI SHARMA



The Author, **Mohini Sharma** is a 17-year-old teenager (as of 5th August 2020) born on 23rd October 2002 in the state of Haryana. She currently lives with her parents and younger brother in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, and India. Mohini is currently in 12th grade and is pursuing Sciences from Convent of Jesus and Mary, Chelsea, Shimla.

She received a silver medal for school rank 2 in National Cyber Olympiad in the year 2012-13; one bronze medal for school rank 3 in National Cyber Olympiad and another bronze medal for school rank 3 in National Science Olympiad, both in the year 2013-14 and a silver medal for school rank 2 in International Mathematics Olympiad, all of the above being held by Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF).

Her areas of interest are writing, reading, painting and travelling.

Mohini aspires to become a successful writer and generally writes poetry and fiction in the Romance genre. Find her on Instagram here: @__.mohini

Interview Background: Author MOHINI SHARMA, whose Book, "JOVIAL SOMBRE" which got published worldwide by *Puffins Publishers Private Limited* on Friday, 23rd of October 2020, has been interviewed by **NEEL PREET**, who is Amazon India 4th BEST-SELLING Author, a Literary Editor, Columnist and Book Reviewer.

Questionnaires:

Q: First of all, Big Congratulations to you Miss Mohini on your debut book, "JOVIAL SOMBRE" well, you've achieved something remarkably huge at a very young age! So, what're your expectations from this book of yours? Please share your experience about this book.

Firstly, thanks a lot Neel. Now, since it's my debut book, I don't expect much, though I hope that the audience likes and connects with my poetry. Speaking about my experience of writing this book, the book was totally unplanned. I never planned to write a book. I just wrote poems and I was just going through all my poems one day and while reading the poems, it felt as if I was reading a story through poems. So this book just happened.

Q: I've read your book and I genuinely feel that it's a wonderful collection of "Romantic & Emotional Poems" so my next question to you is that what inspired you to write these poems? What was the impetus behind this work of yours?

What inspired me was basically experience and some of the thoughts stuck in my subconscious mind that I couldn't speak or talk to someone about. And I desperately needed to let go of some things. So that desperation to let it all out led to me writing poems and then gradually this book.

Q: You have given an interesting title to your Poetry-Collection Book, which is undoubtedly very catchy too; so, what made you go for this particular title for your book?

My poetry is about love. And love, just like anything else in this world, has its own highs and lows. And the title of my book is JOVIAL SOMBRE where Jovial means happy and Sombre means sad. Now, since my book is a journey of love and joy and agony, the name chosen was JOVIAL SOMBRE.

Q: While reading your book, I sensed that your poems are conveying some message and if so, then could you please discuss that with your readers. Every Every form of literature conveys some kind of message. Now the message that I want to convey through my poems is that loving someone is beautiful. But love is not always vanilla ice-creams and chocolate candies. Sometimes love tastes like the hot wasabi and other times it might taste like red wine. And we need to remember that vanilla, wasabi, wine or anything else; all the parts have their own significance and we gotta cherish all of it.

Q: These days a lot of young writers are coming out with their books but only a few of them come out with 'Poetry' which I believe is a bold step so, my next question to you is that why did you choose Poetry to express yourself? And why not Short-Stories when that too could have served the purpose?

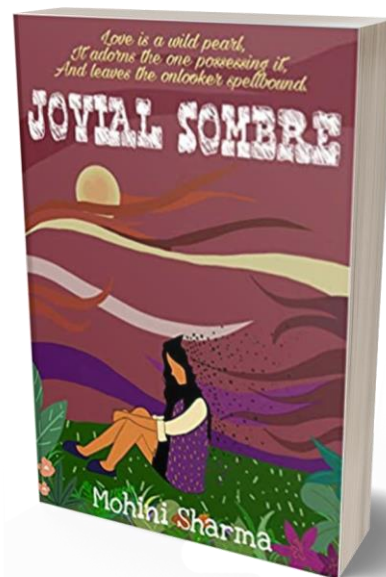
Poetry is subtle. And I feel that subtlety gives the readers a lot of space for imagination. So that's a plus point of poetry and the exact motive of me going for poems.

Q: Your poems had some really strong emotions and stories inside them, which had greatly impressed me and thus I would like you to explain the overall theme of your book!

Like I've already mentioned so many times about love and happiness and the agony; if we compile all of it and try to come to a conclusion so basically the main theme revolves around the plot twists and the transitions that occur not only in the journey of my book, but also in the journey of life.

Q: Miss Mohini, your writing seemed to be really impeccable and you were bold with your poems in your book, which I really appreciate. Therefore, I want you to tell us about some of those writers, who had inspired you and whom you follow!

Some of the poets which I really appreciate and admire are William Shakespeare, Atticus, Robert Frost and Rupri Kaur.



Q: Is there any message which you would like to convey to your readers? Or any piece of advice, which you would like to give to the readers out there!

Yes, of-course. The only message that I'd like to convey to my readers is that be good humans and love. I love everyone because the universe is made of love and I feel that love is the strongest of all emotions. It has the power to hold everything together or tear everything apart.

Q: Are there any other books being worked by you? Please let us know about your future projects.

Yes, I'm currently working on a novel named "THE FALL OF 2019", which is in the romance and young adult genre. It is likely to release by October 2021.

Q: Thank you so much for answering all my questions. All the very best to you for the future and your book too! Thank you so much.

THE AUTHOR, INDRANIL MUKHERJEE IS A SOFTWARE PROFESSIONAL TURNED NOVELIST.

The Author, Indranil Mukherjee, is a software professional turned novelist. After working for more than a quarter-century along with colleagues across the globe, he has plunged full-time to pursuing his passion, writing. He has published three books till now, *Re-Kill*, a novelette; *The Station Master*, a collection of ten short stories based on real-life experiences of the eponymous Station Master, followed by a novel, titled *Off the Pages*, which is close to his heart and part-dedicated to his idol and favourite author, PG Wodehouse. All three books are available worldwide with online retailers like Amazon.

QUESTIONNAIRES:

Q: First of all, Big Congratulations to you on all three of your wonderful books, you've achieved something remarkably huge! What responses are you getting from these books of yours? Please share your experience about being an established Author.

Thank you for those kind words. The response for all my three books is quite encouraging. I'm especially gratified when readers pick up the others after reading one. "*Re-Kill*" remained #1 for several weeks. It's amazing to hear a reader wanting to read more of the characters in "*Off the Pages*". I'm humbled by a senior ex-Indian Railway officer's comments for "*The Station Master*": 'It should be compulsory reading for all serving and aspiring railway employees particularly the Assistant Station Masters and Station Masters.'

It's kind of you to call me an established author. I think there's a long way to go yet.

Writing is a lonely endeavour. While you'll have beta readers, the writing is by yourself, needing self-motivation and discipline. I am enjoying doing something I have always wanted to do. I hope the readers' love continues to pour as generously!

Q: Your book, "*Re-Kill: When An Assassin's Professional Pride Is Hurt*" is truly an incredible Crime, Thriller & Mystery Novel; So what was your mind-set while constructing the plot of a novel of this genre?

I didn't have a plot when I started writing this long ago, just pictured a typical frenetic scene at the Howrah station with a sort of controlled chaos in progress, along with a dash of humour. Then it languished unattended until 2007 when I chanced upon the incomplete manuscript.

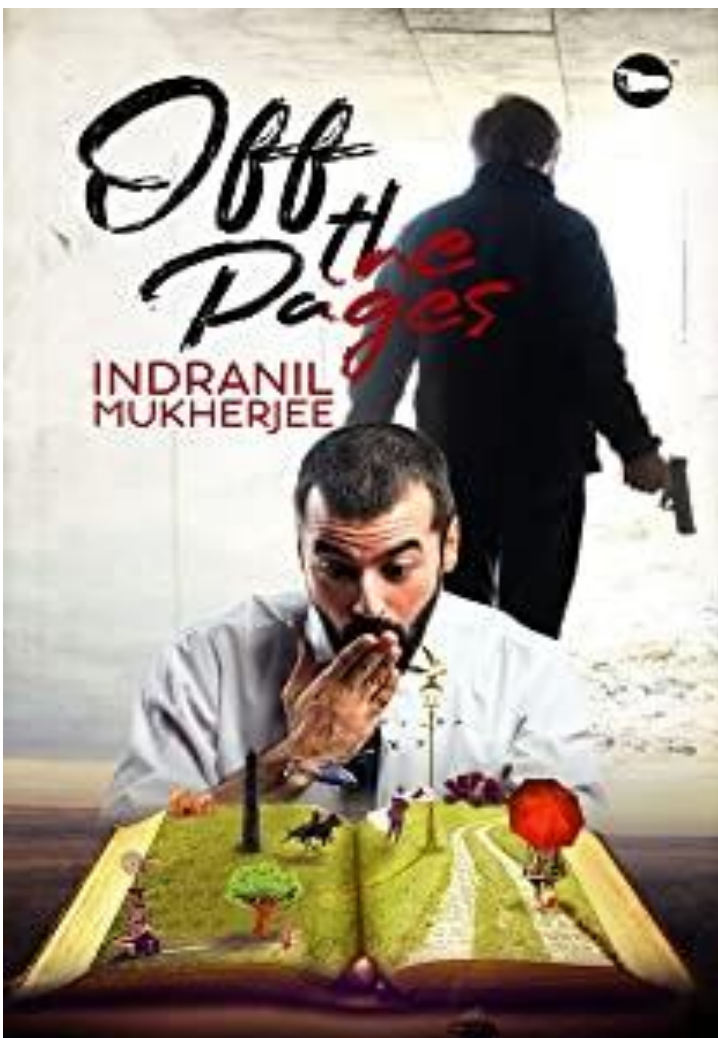


Readers of whodunits will know of 'closed room mysteries'. I'm fond of those, especially those crafted by masters like Doyle and Christie. I wanted a variation on that, to write from an egotistic killer-for-hire's perspective with four- or five- different points-of-view intertwined. The final bit was that this killer-for-hire had failed in his latest assignment which he discovers when he is confronted by the very man he had supposedly killed that day, as a co-passenger in the train. So there you have it. The uncommon point-of-view of an egotistic antagonist. His failed assignment, his hubris, close proximity to his target, time constraint, difficulty in disposing of any weapon, and the constant danger of discovery. Essentially, I wanted to tell a story that was set within a popular sub-category but treated differently, with twists, and a rotating point-of-view structuring.

Q: You have given an exciting title to your Mystery & Thriller Novel, "*Re-Kill*" which is undoubtedly very catchy as well as thought-provoking, so what made you go for this title for your book? Considering the storyline I had initially titled it '*Professional Pride*'. While appropriate, it didn't convey what the story was about before someone read it. When publishing, I picked a snappier title that hinted at what the story was about. What would an egotistic killer-for-hire do when he fails? As a conscientious professional, he tries again. *Re-Kill*.

Q: Your story collection book, “The Station Master” is based upon the real-life experiences of a particular person, so what inspired you to go deep into these stories and turn them into a Short-Story Collection Book?

The station master character, Manab Banerjee, is based on the real-life Manas Banerjee, now retired. He is my brother-in-law, and while visiting him a few years ago, he narrated a couple of incidents that blew my mind (they form the first two stories in the book). I told him right away that those stories couldn't just remain as anecdotes to be recounted occasionally but that they deserved a wider audience.



I collected information from him, delineating his career, timeline, locations he was posted in, even the seasons for the stories, the roles of the various railway personnel, technical details of both machinery and operations to lend verisimilitude.

Indian Railways is quite an integral part of our lives. But we know startlingly little of the hows and whys, or at least I did. I was amazed as I researched it. Like Arthur Hailey, I wanted to say much about the institution itself, almost making it a character. There were two broad decisions I took then: one, I wouldn't write a biographical account with the stories as mere incidents in it; they had to be the focus. And, two, the stories had to be narrated true to life. As happens in life, some stories end without a satisfying closure, or in one case, with even misdirected punishment. Real life. Not every thread ties up neatly, does it?

Q: Your latest book, “Off The Pages” is a Crime-Fictional Novel along with some great characterization too in the book, so what inspired you to write this book?

A thought triggered this novel of humour-action: what if a character of a book comes to life, stepping off its pages? What's the motivation? A detective in a crime series, Tej Singh, is fed up with his violent life. Just like Sherlock Holmes had Professor Moriarty as his mortal enemy, this character too has one, Gomes, to torment him. Having had enough, he confronts his creator, author Dev Narayan. Now, Dev aspires to writing 'meaningful' literature and such pulp fiction he considers beneath himself. Moreover, all the violence, skulduggery, and coincidences fatigue him, and he writes a romance series as a sort of catharsis.

Dev struggles to believe Tej who drops two bombshells: end his violence-filled days and fix his love-life with a beautiful girl from Dev's romance series!

How Dev deals with these, and the stream of characters jumping off the pages of his two series of books form the rest of the story. It is fuelled by manic energy, impossible situations, frenetic action, and quirky characters out to turn Dev's placid life into a perfect maelstrom.

This novel is dedicated in part to my idol and ideal PG Wodehouse. While it will be preposterously presumptuous to aspire to his standards, you may find some points of familiarity inspired by the maestro's sublime prose.

Q: You've published three books within a short span of time, so what is your motivation behind working on your books, back to back and what does writing mean to you?



My first three books came out in quick succession as my manuscripts were works-in-progress already. “Re-Kill” and “The Station Master” came out in October 2018. I launched “Off the Pages” on Amazon KDP in February 2019. A publisher later republished it as a paperback in India in February 2020.

Writing for me is a passion. I experiment with different genres: crime, real-life stories, humour, even sci-fi, slice of life narratives, and more. The idea is to tell stories, tell 'em well, entertain, amuse, and maybe even elevate!

Q: Sir, your writing seems to be really impeccable and you were bold with the stories in all of your books, which is really appreciable. Therefore, could you please tell us about some of those writers, who had inspired you and whom you follow!

I read quite a bit and have been one for more than forty years. Michael Crichton, Ken Follett, Amitav Ghosh, Arthur C. Clarke, and many, many more are staple.

My schoolteacher introduced me to Wodehouse, starting my lifelong love for an artist who could make English do calisthenics, crafting sentences of the lightest, crispest prose that delivered with exquisite precision. His humour is gentle though rapier sharp, his expressions in an orbit off any other!

I owe many authors who have undoubtedly shaped my language, narration style, character development, plotting, pacing, twists and turns, and such like. Some of them have had more influence, like Wodehouse, than others. But it is undeniable that every author has contributed to my becoming one today.

Q: Is there any message which you would like to convey to your readers? Or any piece of advice, which you would like to give to the readers out there!

Every reader is precious. Their love strengthens the writer's storytelling. Personally, I have believed in reading everything I could find and have discovered gems that I'd have missed had I stuck to the same genre or author. So read more authors, try different genres. You are certain to find treasures.

I urge readers to sample three full stories I have published on my Facebook page, Open Window – Fresh Stories.

Q: Are there any other books you are working on now? Please let us know about your future projects.

My next is now a work-in-progress, tentatively titled “A Thousand Cuts” and deals with terrorism. Some terrific material has been entrusted to me by a retired Special Forces officer around which I have crafted this novel. It'll be sweeping in scope and tantalizing in probabilities.

Q: Thank you so much for answering all the questions. All the very best to you for future and your books too!

Thank you for giving me this great opportunity. And thanks to the readers for showing their love, encouragement, cheering me on with words and gestures.

OFF THE PAGES

Story of the Storyteller

The Author, Vivek Kumar, 41, is a writer and director. He has published four works of fiction (2 Novels, 1 Novella & 1 short story collection), directed one short film (Kafka & I, 2017), and one documentary film (I Pravit The Adivasi GOD, 2020). His focus is on applying a human lens to historical and cultural narratives. He lives in Mumbai, India.

QUESTIONNAIRES:

Q: First of all, Big Congratulations to you on all three of your wonderful books, you've achieved something remarkably huge! What responses are you getting from these books of yours? Please share your experience about being an established Author.

All the books are of different genres, so the reader base is also diverse. The response is encouraging, but the best response is when a reader emails to say that the book meant something personal to him/her. I have received a handful of such emails till now, and each one remains special.

Q: Your book, "To Catch A Butterfly" is truly an incredible piece of writing with an amazing plot; So what was your mind-set while constructing this novel's plot? It is a message-driven book, so the plot was constructed to aid in carrying forward the message.

It's all just a fishbowl you are sleeping inside and when you wake up it will be gone.

-The Cloaked Man



▲ As time changes, human beings generally tend to look back at their yesteryears with a feeling of nostalgia. This feeling looms large and makes the readers feel the same emotion at their personal levels too. Vivek Kumar, in his book, "The Fishbowl: Story of the Storyteller," evokes the same sentiment and appeals powerfully to all readers, young or old. The young readers get to have a flavor of the aesthetic aspect of the earlier times while grown-up readers reminisce their younger years.

Q: You have given a fascinating title to your Novel, "To Catch A Butterfly" which is undoubtedly very catchy as well as thought-provoking, so what made you go for this title for your book?

It is a variation to the name of my short story collection 'To Catch A Smile'.

Q: Your Contemporary Fiction Novel, "Love, Me And Bullshit: One Man's Dream, Others' Nightmare" seems to be digging deep into a man's wish as well as the insecurities so can you please throw some more light on this book of yours!

The novel is around my experiences in a management college. It represents the phase where one has to make choices, each one of which requires sacrifices and your choices in turn end-up defining the individual. Interestingly, it was initially titled, "The Many Me", but it was later changed to, "Love, Me & Bullshit!" to suit the market.

JANUARY 20, 2021

The
literature today

Q: Your latest book, “The Fishbowl: Story Of The Storyteller” is a wonderful fiction novel with a brilliant plot; So what inspired you to write this book?

It is a story of stories. There are over 80 episodes in “The Fishbowl”, each complete by itself, but as a series, it makes one single story of growing up in boarding school and the world that gets created therein. When I first thought about writing a book, I had thought of writing down a handful of these stories. But once I wrote them down, more stories occurred and eventually a theme developed. In a way, it started as independent but connected stories which grew into a full-fledged novel.

Q: You’ve published three books within a short span of time, so what is your motivation behind working on your books, back to back and what does writing mean to you?

Writing brings peace, joy and a sense of meaning. It helps me sort my own thoughts and ideas, bringing peace and clarity. The creative part of it, the imaginative, metaphorical aspects bring joy. While the completion of the work, gives a sense of meaning to the efforts. But I believe a book is always incomplete till the readers become part of it. And that is the part I look forward to most.

Q: Sir, your writing seemed to be impeccable and you were bold with the stories in all of your books, which is really appreciable. Therefore, could you please tell us about some of those writers, who had inspired you and whom you follow!

While I can not call any as inspiration, there indeed have been writers or books that I hugely admired atleast at some point of time, and they may have left an impression. The Alchemist (Paulo Coelho), Narcissus & Goldmund (Herman Hesse), Catcher in the Rye (J.D. Salinger) and some stories of Franz Kafka, I can recollect as being hugely fascinated with at some point or other.



Q: It'll be a treat for your readers if you could please deliver them something about constructing the plots in your books? Also, would you like to give any piece of advice on writing for the budding writers and authors out there!

Everyone has their own methods. In my case, I start with a vague sense of how I want the story to pan out. Mostly am aware about broad boundary lines and key characters and episodes. Rest of it evolves over time. Some of the best parts are often discovered towards the end of the writing.

Q: So, what's next for you now as an Author? Are there any other books being worked by you? Please let us know about your future projects.

There are a couple of stories but it is difficult to talk about them at the moment. In the beginning, I know very little and the story often undergoes significant change during the writing process. Also, there are often multiple stories and which one of them eventually works out remains difficult to predict.

Q: Well, thank you so very much for answering all the questions and all the very best to you for the future and your books!

Thankyou. Hope you enjoy reading the book, The Fishbowl. Would love to hear about reader's response to it.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Whereas a GIG job, in all the cases, in an online business model, does not require one to be highly qualified or skilled or professionally excelled. It needs a certain basic level of computer and internet knowledge and it brings them hefty income which varies from Company to Company.

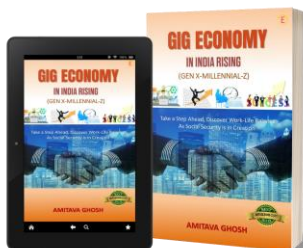
It can be attended and accomplished at one's own time unlike a specific hours of work in organised sector employment. That's being the anchor reason for gig workers getting attracted to gig jobs at a must faster scale than any other nature of job. It's quite lucrative, fun making, provides an infinite level of option and the work-field is across the globe.

Young generation and future generation of India are thus more leaning to Artificial Intelligence based digitized form of GIG job as it let them work at their free will and spend quality time with families. Another big reason for choosing a GIG job as a wiser option for survival is the dreadful pandemic effect of Covid-19 which has thrown many working people out of the job causing them to suffer a lot in meeting routine family costs.

Moreover, a technically qualified person or a highly skilled person can easily reach the top of the ladder if he prefers to join a GIG job as it provides a great deal of opportunity for a skill worker to upgrade and up-rise in GIG job through his dedicated engagement in GIG job. More a person is flexible in his approach and receptivity to temporary job of varied nature without stretching his daily employment hours, he turns up with the brightest choice of the employer.

India is in the path of witnessing an exponential growth in all sectors of industries where gig workers would play the major role to dominate the sector as every option in the industry is going to be digitized very soon.

The Union Government of India has also acknowledged gig job and platform job as future sectors of employment by inserting these two categories of workforce in the upcoming Labour Codes and also the Government has provided ample social security measures for GIG workforce by extending coverage of Employment Laws to them. This step of the Government would encourage more workforce to join in GIG collar job and this would propel the speed of replacing the concept of permanent employment with the GIG JOB.



PUBLISHER
Evincepub Publishing

AMITAVA GHOSH



AMITAVA GHOSH

**FIRST INDIAN AUTHORED BOOK
"GIG ECONOMY IN INDIA RISING"**

Gen X-Y-Z: Gig Collar workforce is the Evolution of a New form of workforce which has Unfolded in this Country and is going to Stay Over for Decades Together and Upsurge Kick-Starts from January 2021

A rapid growth in GIG workforce in the economy in India is a noticeable feature now-a-days and the number of workforce joining gig job is a very fast rising upward trend which in turn is taking India's economy to a new height. A sustainable growth in gig workforce and their consistent contribution for the growth of the country is clearly visible and forecasted. It is surely going to drive the economy in future. We have witnessed in past decades in all segments of industries, a vividly displayed human likes and dislikes in the workplace environment which has finally pushed them towards an alternative source of job which throws open to the workforce a lot of choices with a flexibility in working hours and earning not lesser than the regular nature of job.

A job without any close supervision or monitoring by bosses, time is of own and place of one's choice, whether it is home or anywhere. No barriers of the workplace besides a perfect tool for maintaining work-life balance.

GIG economy is also lending ample opportunity to employers to exercise its own human capital cost in a flexible manner on a real time basis. It shows a viable way to opt for fixed term manpower within its budget on any given time & date, as resource on a fixed term employment mode remains no more an obstacle.

Gen X-Y-Z, who are more tend to flexible hours of work, an atmosphere of freedom and a wish & vision to engage themselves in multiple options of earning in Platform work, does not want themselves to be captivated in four wall workplace where assignments are predetermined, unchangeable and static and where scope of exercising one's own option and talent is restricted, except too few cases which specifically demands brain & skill exercise.

JANUARY 20, 2021 *The*
literature today

How To Train Yourself To Have An Optimistic Mindset

Business is not as tough as we think but at the same time, it's not easy. In life, instead of running away from problems, we should search for the solution! Well! The ideas of startups start right from there.



I feel that without facing problems we can't do anything big in this world. In most cases, we get ideas to start a business by facing real-time problems. Well! In India, most of the Startups fail due to the lack of analysis and execution of the ideas. Also, the lack of support from the surrounding people when the new startup begins is a major cause for its failure. Mostly people think about the risk and give up even before trying it. We also need a proper team to execute these ideas.

We should have a proper approach towards Advertising and Marketing to reach the correct audience. We should advertise the product in such a way that it should touch the customer's hearts and make them share proudly. Through the Advertisements, we should impact the customer's mind and give a reason for them to buy. Sometimes the customer doesn't buy but they refer the Product to their Family and Friends. For example, if someone asks us what the best Android mobile is in the market, some of us may say One Plus whether we're using it. This is the actual impact of the Advertisement. At the beginning of the sales of the product, you can target a particular community or geography to increase sales. Remember that product should be suitable and useful for that particular community when you target them.

Teamwork plays a very important role when it comes to making a business successful. *We need to think out of the box and do something different from our competitors and only then can we stand in the competition and even win it!*

We need to analyze the situations, customers, and client's mindsets to build a successful business. To make your brand top in the world of business you should never think only about your profit but you should also give importance to your employee and customer because without them your business is nothing. When the employees don't get acknowledgment for their work, they may leave your company.

You have to reward them for their contribution to the companies' growth to work more for you and your company. When your company gets an award don't forget to acknowledge your employees. This also applies to your customers, but in a different context. You have to collect feedback from your customers from time to time to know your faults in the business. Then you can work upon your faults and make your customers happy. You need loyal customers and employees to run a successful business for a long span.

We should learn something from the life of Steve Jobs that is to "SAY NO". He never compromised in anything and that is the reason he was a successful businessman. Remember that you shouldn't compromise in your work and always try to give your best be it any competition. Accept your mistakes and work on them and get a solution. Trust and Commitment also play important roles in the growth of a business. When people trust you it is a big boon to you. "NEVER BREAK THE TRUST, IF ONCE TRUST IS BROKEN IT IS HARD TO GET IT BACK." The main reason for Ratan Tata's success is to give importance to Trust and Commitment when compared to the profits. He works for his country and not just for him and his family. He always thinks about the welfare of his COLLEAGUES, CUSTOMERS, and COUNTRY. You may feel weird by listening to Colleagues here but he indeed considers his employees as his colleagues. This indicates the importance given by Ratan Tata to his Employees. My personal opinion is that when you start a business, don't just start it for your own welfare. You should contribute something to your Country's growth. Remember a sentence in your life, "you are your own competition". Always try to improve yourself and your business.

Written by
Rayapati Vasanthi Lakshmi

She is the daughter of a farmer in Andhra Pradesh. She is pursuing her B.tech final year in Andhra University. She always prefer to do something different from others. So she choosed Geo Informatics as her branch in B.tech. She is also a part time Content Writer. She always enjoy to learn new things. Her dream is to see Developed India.





SOME OF MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR THE INDIAN EXPRESS CONCERNING THE “AGE OF AI”

32

MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Some of my accomplishments include writing an article for The Indian Express concerning the “Age of AI”, where I expressed how AI could have an adverse impact on employment, especially labourers. I participated in a letter-writing competition conducted by the Department of Posts, to pen down a letter to the Prime Minister of India on the topic “Unity in Diversity” (Jan 2016) where I secured the third prize. Apart from this, I also appeared for STEP (Standardized Test for English Proficiency) which assesses the listening, reading, writing and speaking skills of an individual, conducted by The Hindu on the 16th of May, 2020, scoring 11.2 on a scale of 12 (Expert / Advanced Technical Proficiency).

In 2015, I had taken part in IIMUN (Indian International Model United Nations) representing Singapore, the topic of my committee was “Food and Agriculture Organization (Genetic modification of 6 Food Crops)”. In the first year of college, I also appeared for a few inter-collegiate essay writing competitions dealing with various hot economic issues where I was awarded the first prize.

Looking Through the Glass: The Post-Pandemic Economy

Wondering when you will finally be able to chuck the mask and step out without having the fear of getting infected? Well, I’m afraid I can’t give you an answer to that, but here’s a little insight as to what I think will happen to the Indian Economy post-pandemic:

IS THE ECONOMY GROWING?

Though this period seems quite bleak for the economy, India hasn’t raised the flag of truce. The country has gone into recession but so has the entire world. While the major economies might struggle to revive, it has been predicted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that India and China might be the only two countries to have positive economic growth by 2021 at 7.4% and 9.2% respectively. Yes, this is just a prediction. But a prediction like this is proof that the people of the country are striving to not give in to this pandemic.

Fitness Fever

When the pandemic hit the world, people became extra conscious about their diet. Not just that, exercising also became a part of the daily routine. Although the whole idea of working out started with the phrase “prevention is better than cure”, lots of people are working out to get in shape. So what if you weren’t allowed to enjoy your summer? You can work on your summer body and flaunt it with confidence! Those who can’t hit the gym have also found ways to exercise at home through social media platforms such as YouTube, Discord, etc.

Mental Health has been an important topic of discussion for the past few years. The Covid-19 outbreak has tested the patience of people.

While some are struggling and battling through their lives, others have discovered new things and found peace. Be it good or bad, the changes in this field will continue to be a point of deliberation in the coming years.

Connecting Virtual Screens

Have you spent hours staring at your computer screen attending a virtual office meet? Or how about attending classes for 3 hours straight? Two things that have drastically changed during this pandemic are learning and communication. Technology has evolved the way we communicate and has played a vital role in the functioning of the economy during this pandemic. Talking about technology throws light on the fact that the Indian Economy has outdone itself in this area.

A country novel to the world of the internet has beaten many large economies in sustaining itself. It has also been reported that rural India reigned over urban areas in mobile data usage, accounting for about 45% overall while the urban population made up 55%. This is a significant change when compared with the 40:60 ratio before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Apart from this, the implementation of online activities such as classes for students, work from home, etc. has led to innovation in the fields of education and business. Educational institutions are constantly trying to bridge the gap by introducing new tools and ideas. The concept of remote work has become the new normal where people are trying to strike a balance between work and life at home. E-commerce companies have benefited the most from this pandemic. New companies have entered the market and due to tough competition firms are trying to make their mark. This again has led to groundbreaking progress in businesses. Seeing all these developments, we can predict that the world will continue to make extensive use of technology post-pandemic.

As you may have already seen and experienced, 2020 has not been a normal year. All hell broke loose due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the number of casualties has put us in a dark place. But this has taught me one thing. Humans don’t just throw in the towel and sit defeated. Confucius has rightly said, “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”

DEVIKA MISHRA

Devki Mishra is currently pursuing Bachelors in Economics (IIInd Year) at Lady Doak College, Madurai (Tamil Nadu). Having a passion for Economics as well as English since her school days, she decided to pick up the habit of writing. Growing up in a multilingual household, she was encouraged to learn new languages and constantly update herself with current affairs. She thinks both of these subjects make her contemplate on various topics concerning the world.

A hand is shown holding a mound of dark, rich soil. A small green seedling with two leaves and a bud is growing from the soil. To the right of the seedling, there is a tall, narrow stack of gold coins, with a small green plant growing out of the top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

THE TYCOON TREND OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK OF AN EMERGING ECONOMY

BY DR. RAHUL KANUNGO

With so much of uncertainty gaining sight over the current scenario with respect to COVID-19, it's not uncommon now to find oneself surrounded with news articles, interviews, reports and even statistics that put us in doubt as to where we stand today as a nation, and where or if we will be able to recover from the setback that we've been struck with. Since March lot has been brought under control, but a huge pile of things still hang in an uncertainty. Our economy is not an exception. Rather, it is the most crucial parameter that has been significantly impacted. Although many policies have been put forth in place by the Government to fight, an element of doubt always remains. As a responsible citizen, concerns for the nation's economic scenario, the opportunities, possibilities, and risks persist at everyone's heart.



The inflation rate in India owing to our demand-supply, is steady at around 7-8% p.a. We run mostly on imports with major imports being oil and gold, but with the worldwide lockdown imports fell drastically. This is an opportunity to explore the indigenous production potential and boost GDP rates and the economy. Higher production will level up exports thus reversing our country's financial position from deficit Balance Of Trades to a surplus, thus pushing up FOREX reserves. With better GDP, markets would be more optimistic hence pushing market indices to new highs, thus attracting more people to take part in the country's wealth-building process, either as entrepreneurs or as investors. Our encouraged entrepreneurs with their marvelous ideas may turn into future world leaders, iconic global tycoons and legendary industrialists. They might turn their startups into multi-national, multi-billion dollar conglomerates. With trusted funding from investors, these rich minds will be able to generate superior business models with unique problem solving approaches, cost efficient, rigid corporate structures encompassing more vertical integration across supply chains, acquire distribution

The world economy indeed plunged in March as global lockdown put the world to a standstill and halted trade. Businesses downsized, especially the MSME sector, and shaking up even the large caps like a Richter scale 8.0 earthquake. "Work from home" turned into "Sorry, we no longer need you". Ours being a country of 1.3 billion people, imagine the level of competence, R&D, monetary and human resources required to mass-produce, ship, distribute and effectively vaccinate the entire population if a vaccine arrives. How will we recover? Will we be able to grow like before, and avail a better quality of living? In other words, is there any scope for optimism? Let's not forget that ours is one of the fastest-growing economies, and we have performed significantly better compared to some of the major countries. This was a downturn, and we must not forget "Every setback brings with it, an equal or greater opportunity for growth". It's not an assumption, but a fact backed by statistics throughout history and persists even today. For instance, even though the GDP contracted, it's only momentary in the long history of this country, and we will continue to grow.

channels for wider customer bases, expand into new niches through innovation, apply economies of scale and scope resulting in stronger cash flows, all of which will increase turnover, profitability & employment rate as the businesses expand. This will also fetch more Foreign Direct and Institutional investments. With most of our population being youth and middle age group, the Education sector, Technology, AI & Healthcare industry are likely to boom. With better education in place, a more significant chunk of the population is likely to become financially literate, which will lead to better income, more savings & investment into newer avenues, strengthening the country's backbone. Such a strength will reduce the problems of NPAs & liquidity crunch in the banking industry and ensure further expansion of the Banks, NBFCs & allied sectors. Everyone responsibly paying their taxes alone would solve the huge Fiscal deficit that the Government has been facing year on year. Doesn't this sound like a future worthy to be optimistic about?

It sure isn't a matter of months or even a couple of years but in the long run, it's a safe harbor to say that our growing economy will one day be a leading economy, provided we do our part of investing in ourselves, solving problems with action driven ideas, creating jobs, paying taxes timely & by adding value to the undermined segments as a social responsibility. We also need an unbreakable faith in the fundamental principle "Give first, receive later" and "You always get in proportion to what you give". So let's add the value on our part first, and then we will reap our reward.

Dr. Rahul Kanungo (M.B.B.S)
Certified in Courses on Share Market, Fundamental Analysis, Mutual funds, Business Management & Wealth Management. Author (Poetry genre)



IRONY OF EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN BIHAR

Now this vividly affluent historical and cultural land of Bihar is facing a serious identity crisis in the field of higher education level. Bihar is that very state which gave the world its the most renowned ancient university, the famous Nalanda University. The count does not end here well it has just begun now, also it was none other than this land of Bihar which gave the world its First Yoga University.

The brilliance and the adroitness of this soil lie in the fact that Bihar gave birth to some of the most decorated personalities in the history of the ancient India, Chanakya the all-time greatest philosopher and political mentor who is also regarded as the Father of Economics wrote the famous book Arthashastra was born on this soil. Valmiki who wrote the great epic of Ramayana, Aryabhatt the great mathematician who invented Zero to the numeral system, Vatsayana who wrote Kamasutra, Ashoka the greatest ruler of India whose famous emblem of Ashoka Chakra is adorned in the National Flag of India, Dinkar who is considered be the National Poet of India, Rishi Shushrat who was the Father of Surgery, Dr Rajendra Prasad who became the First President of Independent India were all born and lived on this very soil. While Lord Buddha got enlightenment and Lord Mahavira found Jainism on this very ancient land of Bihar. Bihar indeed marked the history of the country.

But ironically, the glorious past of the land had faded away now. Today, the state stands much behind in the count of the universities and colleges in the count of the universities and colleges in the country that too with respect to her ever-increasing number of students with the passage of every successive year. Bihar, even after the division of her southern portion of land as Jharkhand in the year 2000, is still India's 3rd most populated state. While this densely populated state accounts for only 30 Universities in the present and in general comparison with Gujarat the real miserable picture of Bihar clearly comes into the light, Gujarat which stands much behind in terms of population and is the 9th most populated state of the nation accounts for a total of 49 Universities in the present.



NEEL PREET

Author of the Books, Voice From The East (2016) & Journey With Time Place And Circumstances (2018)

And the sad story of the state starts from here, the students from this state who holds a tremendous amount of potential are left with no other choice other than to migrate to other parts of the nation and mostly to the metro cities of the country. These students of Bihar who are facing the lack of quality and desirable universities in their home state migrates to the big cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad mostly. While pursuing their graduation, post-graduation, and other higher studies in different parts of the country, these students from Bihar face tremendous challenges since adjusting and settling in some other land is never an easy job.



WRITTEN BY NEEL
PREET – AUTHOR
OF THE BOOKS,
VOICE FROM THE
EAST (2016) &
JOURNEY WITH TIME
PLACE AND
CIRCUMSTANCES
(2018).

The even sadder part of this picture is the fact that these students from Bihar who once leaves their state for the higher educational purposes very rarely returns to their home state as they find themselves placed in some of the very respectable and desirable positions in the various multinational corporations existing and operating in the big cities. Bihar, where the count of students cracking the Civil Examinations is highest in the Country and the state that produces the highest count of IAS & IPS Officers in the country cannot stand to restrain her potential holding student force to stay in their home state. Is this not a shame for Bihar that the state cannot provide satisfaction and better opportunities to her fellow students?

This frightening truth of the state raises up the major question that when would the state government wake up and work on the ground level to develop the educational infrastructure of the state and provide the students of the state what they deserve? Will the state government ever stop to play the vote bank politics in the region and work for the development of the human resource sector in the state? Now this whole case migration of the students has got to be taken care of soon since this big disorder is creating a severe damage in the structure the Human Development Index of the state.

Robust Resurrection of Modern Vintage Fashion...



WHAT IS MODERN VINTAGE?

Modern Vintage is a trend where there is a blend of vintage style and the contemporaries. Most of the contemporary fashion is from the archaic archive which looks relatively close to the fast-changing fashion trends. Modern vintage fashion comes to the rescue to look when one wants to feel classy and feminine. The best part of this modern vintage collections is that it will never fade as time goes. The iconic fashion statements in 1920's is termed as repro collections and some of them are altered to the modern needs and used in the digital era as well.

38

THE TIMELINE OF VINTAGE FASHION

The combination of style and elegance of the 80's is mixed with mainstream fashion gives a chic and comfort in wearing the outfits and accessories indeed. Altering the style of 1940's or 1950's would be funny but that is not the case with the 80's or 90's style since they stand test of time.

The best part of altering or revising the fashion of 80's is that they satiate the craving of a vintage lover. It fulfills the expectations of the fashion kingdom in the 21'st century.

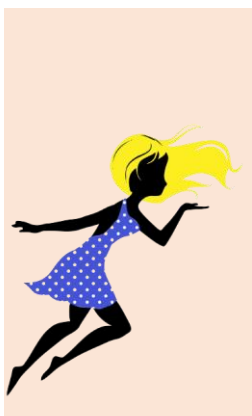
WHY MODERN VINTAGE IS EVERYBODY'S FAVOURITE?

The lovers of retro collections are able to find an authentic vintage look in the nearby shops and in online platforms at ease. The designers are free to exercise wide range of creativity which decides the future fashion statements without any doubts. Instagram plays a pivotal part where the influencers are seen wearing the oversized blazers, miniskirts, white shirts for dark coloured pants or skirts, pearls, tight pants, chiffon dress, polka dots, headbands with a bow and the list goes on. Being stylish and inexpensive is an additional credit for the fashionistas opting the style.

Earlier the Modern Vintage was brought forth by the label designers such as Versace, Prada, Louis Vuitton as they had clients who wished to spend lavish money on their labels to become both stylish and expensive shoppers. The raw materials they used were expensive so the commoners could only dream of it but never wear it. Then times changed and even the thrift stores started replicating the ideas and made it possible for the commoners to adapt to the style they liked.

APPROPRIATE ACCESSORIES

A complete 'Modern Vintage' look can be obtained by matching the outfits with appropriate accessories. Unlike the modern era, a simple shoe, bag, sunglass, headbands would give the complete stunner look. Pastel coloured dresses can be paired with the same streamlined coloured accessories. Even vibrant colours can be worn with minimalistic accessories since they give the touch of elegance. Pastel coloured outfits with simple beaded necklaces can be used as casual outfits for school, college, workplace, etc. Wearing vibrant colours can be opted for giving a grand entrance somewhere.



MIXING THE ERAS

Mix and matching the old style and new style gives an outrageously chic look and appears to be relevant to the modern age. It is also fun and exciting to mix them both. For instance, a pale colour dress can be paired with vibrant ones which will be an absolute stunner. Sites like Pinterest, Instagram provides various ideas to mix and match the outfits and so a designer is not necessarily needed. Mix n matching black and white dress emits a serious and business-like attitude which can easily be labelled as a formal wear.

The vintage piece of fashion is adaptable in the modern trends as they prove to be timeless classic. Moreover, this robust resurrection of modern vintage style is the reflection of practicality and reality. It is also the romanticizing notion of the past that prevails in the hearts of the human, making the resurrection of vintage vixen fashion possible. Thus, the vintage fashion's glorification has led to the innovation in the contemporary style where there is blend of both and finally presents an elegant and trendy collections termed as 'Modern Vintage'.

(Short Bio of the writer)

Josephine Sneha. T is currently an Editor-cum-Reviewer in AJILE International Literary Journal (online). She has worked as an Assistant Professor of English for a year in Coimbatore. She is an ardent bibliophile and a published author as well. She is a University Rank holder in UG and Gold Medallist in her PG level. An active book reviewer in online platforms and a freelancing content writer as well. She has published more than 10 research papers and Her areas of interest lies in writing research papers, flat lay photography, creative writing and presenting papers. Contact snehajosie0993@gmail.com or 'readwithsneha' in Instagram for book reviews or others.



JOSEPHINE SNEHA. T

Scenario Of The Indian Publishing Industry In The Year 2020

In the year 2020, during the months of the nationwide lockdown in India, due to the pandemic of COVID-19, the Indian Publishing Industry too faced a huge debasement like any other industry. The focus of the people of all income groups shifted entirely only upon those primary necessities, which plays the pivotal role in the survival of the human race like food and medicine; And due to the lockdown people started stocking up huge quantity of foodstuffs and healthcare products, even though the grocery stores and the pharmacy stores were remained open throughout the lockdown to serve the basic necessities of the people.

Once again, the national media played a very irresponsible role and created fear in the mind of the common mass, instead of creating awareness. And these factors, influenced only upon stocking up the foodstuffs and healthcare products, neglecting almost every other product, which are used in regular life. So, obviously, most people neglected reading books, since it comes under the category of “Luxury Product”. Moreover, the media was also busy in feeding the people with negative news, so why to read the book?

Even though the Electronic Books (E-Books) sales significantly increased in the year 2020, as per the various records released in 2020, this didn't help the publishing industry much. And with Self-Publishing Services, like Amazon KDP, CreateSpace, iBooks, Ingram, Kobo etc. the writers and the authors got their work directly published as publishing an E-Book literally requires no cost; many of these platforms even assist in the book cover design to the authors. So, the overall increase in the usage of the self-publishing platforms and that too for publishing e-books didn't create many major benefit to the Indian Publishing industry and almost all of these self-publishing platforms are Non-Indian platforms, so one can imagine how badly the Indian Publishing industry got hollowed by these self-publishing platforms.

The lockdown, which was announced by the Central Government of India, was indeed a very great decision as it prevented the spreading of the Corona Virus in India, but it also created the shutting of the Printing Presses all across the nation. Firstly, this caused great damage to the Publishing Industry in India as almost all the Publishing Houses could not publish and release the books in Paperback Version during those months.

Secondly, even when the Publishing Houses started accepting the manuscripts to publish, which was of course after the lockdown, then it was noted that many of the writers and authors got really restless due to the delay in getting their work released and a great number of those writers and authors released their manuscripts in e-book format on the self-publishing platforms and later terminated their contracts with the publishing houses for the paperback version of their books.

Thirdly, when the lockdown started to get lifted, it wasn't done all at once as it was being lifted gradually. During lifting up the lockdown, the Government of India played a very responsible role and decided to carry out this decision very responsibly. So, the Central Government gave a stringent set of Directions with a clear Regulation Policy to those factories looking forward to resume their operations. Now, they were allowed to make only a fixed number of workers, work together in one shift, as per the Government's direction. Due to this rule, the number of workers working in the Printing Presses also got limited and the production of books went consequentially lower, and it got even more delayed in reaching the market.

So, overall one can see that it was not the year for the Indian Publishing Industry, but then after the lockdown got fully lifted at the ending months of the year 2020, the Publishing Houses started their operations at “Battle Level” and initiated various steps to make up for the losses, which they faced in the year 2020. Now, a scenario like this had made many Publishing Companies come out with the ways to combat any such situations in the future and create a compelling alternative plan.

Now, after analysing the year 2020 for the Indian Publishing Industry, let's shift our focus towards the future. Almost all the book lovers and readers in India, knows that each year in the month of January we've the grand event of the “World Book Fair” in the Pragati Maidan of New Delhi. So, the coming year of 2021 brings some sense of hope and relief for the Publishing Companies operating in India, as the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) is going to take place in the Pragati Maidan of New Delhi in January 2021. This actually is a very positive and strong sign for the Publishing Companies operating in India as the happening of NDWBF even these difficult days opens up the gate for all the other major Book Fair Events in India after the NDWBF.

It's obvious that due to the fear of coronavirus infection, less people will attend the World Book Fair of New Delhi in January 2021. The Publishers and Book Sellers who places their stalls each year in NDWBF understands business and very much knows this analysis and there's a great chance that the number of book stalls would be bit lesser in NDWBF, taking place in January 2021. Still, the New Delhi World Book Fair will play a major role in deciding the fate of the other major and minor Book Fairs of the country.

If a fair amount of people will turn out to attend the NDWBF then it will indicate that people are ready to attend events and fairs like these, so this will give the Publishers and Book Sellers a chance to analyse their strategy for the next Book Fair Event and they may place their stalls in the upcoming book fair events, which takes place in India like that of Chandigarh, Kolkata, Bhopal, Jaipur etc. But, if the vice-versa will happen, the upcoming book fairs will be very dull since the Publishers and Book Sellers will not place their stalls in the book fair events of the other cities.

As book lovers and readers we should stay optimistic and wish best for those whose brings books into our lives. Let's hope that things will get back on track soon and wish for the success of the upcoming book fair events along with the speedy recovery of the Indian Publishing Industry!

Written By NEEL PREET – Author of the Books, Voice From The East (2016) & Journey With Time Place And Circumstances (2018).

FEB 2020 | VOL. 1 | ISSUE 1

THE LITERATURE TODAY

THE PREMIERE ISSUE

5
BOOK REVIEWS
BEST BOOKS TO READ

5
AUTHOR STORIES
INSPIRING SUCCESS
STORIES

6
INTERVIEWS
CONVERSATION
WITH AUTHORS

FEB 2020 | VOL. 1 | ISSUE 1

THE LITERATURE TODAY

THE PREMIERE ISSUE

5
BOOK REVIEWS
BEST BOOKS TO READ

5
AUTHOR STORIES
INSPIRING SUCCESS
STORIES

6
INTERVIEWS
CONVERSATION
WITH AUTHORS

FEB 2020 | VOL. 1 | ISSUE 1

THE LITERATURE TODAY

THE PREMIERE ISSUE

5
BOOK REVIEWS
BEST BOOKS TO READ

5
AUTHOR STORIES
INSPIRING SUCCESS
STORIES

6
INTERVIEWS
CONVERSATION
WITH AUTHORS

SAVE
60%
ON THE
COVER PRICE

The literature today

Enjoyed This Issue?

Get the next issues
home-delivered and save
60% on the cover price

In the coming months we have an impressive line-up of sharp, in-depth and engaging stories about the best minds in business-at home and abroad. In addition there are 6 special issues! You will not want to miss them

Go ahead and subscribe now.

THE LITERATURE TODAY

LITERATURE + ART + DESIGNS

7
BOOK REVIEWS

from this year's
Innovative Creators

Literary Magazine

Cover Story: Konika Singh explains how she
launched her debut poetry collection 'Call Me Rishi'

AUTHOR
INTERVIEWS
This year's
Bestselling authors

LITERATURE + ART + DESIGNS

7
BOOK REVIEWS

from this year's
Innovative Creators

AUTHOR
INTERVIEWS
This year's
Bestselling authors

LITERATURE + ART + DESIGNS

7
BOOK REVIEWS

from this year's
Innovative Creators

tors

Literary Magazine

Konika Singh explains how she
launched her debut poetry collection 'Call Me Rishi'

AUTHOR
INTERVIEWS
This year's
Bestselling authors

PLUS

Author Stories
Motivational Article