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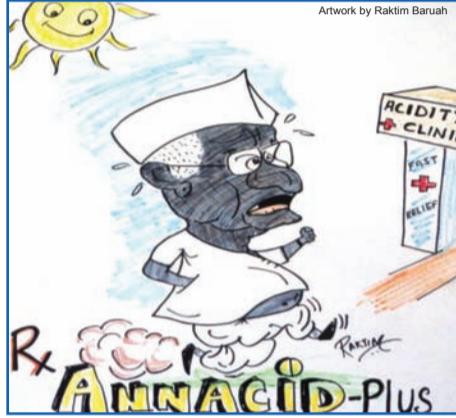
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The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work.

— Emile Zola



Kill The Credit

Rs two crore is a small sum when compared to corruption figures like Rs 170,000 crore which often hit Indian media headlines. However, for the small publisher in the industry, even this is a large amount of money. In India, the publishing industry acquired a life of its own with text book publishing. It grew because of government orders and survives because of government orders. Publishers like Oxford University Press, Macmillan, Indian groups like S Chand, all grew because of text book publishing for first schools and then universities. And in India, there are 567 recognised universities, another 400 give or take, not officially recognised, which means not okayed by the University Grants Commission. Of course, it would be too wide a pot shot if one were to say the system is rooted in corruption, beginning with attempts at getting recognition through unfair means, which usually in India is by off-the-record pay off.

Editorial

In the case of the Gautam Buddha University, it bought books from a dozen publishers, after competitive bidding. The allegations against the publishing community is that some publishers were favoured unduly over others, and books from only those favoured were ordered. How and why were some favoured, who favoured them are a few questions that may bother the industry. Half a dozen publishers and distributors accuse the university of non-payment after taking books from them through a transparent process. The charges and counter-charges have resulted in a Lokayukta investigation and a halt to all transactions on book purchases past and present.

At present, the amount involved is said to be Rs 2.32 crore. Unless the credit system is abolished by the industry and a system of immediate and direct purchase-and-pay system is established, library purchases will continue to remain dead end for publishers in India. Despite the electronic accounting aid, defaulting on payments will one day kill the smaller publishers and distributors. There is no two way about it.

GBU Defaults

Owes Publishers Rs 2.32 Cr

Papri Sri Raman

The Gautam Buddha University in Greater Noida is said to have taken books worth Rs 2.32 crore from half a dozen small publishers and distributors and not paid them. The university says, payments have been stayed by investigating agencies like the Lokayukta and a lower court; for the publishing industry, it is 'huge loss' on a daily basis.

This is one of the half a dozen 'Noida scams', rooted in the Mayawati regime and with elections in the air, the issue is not likely to get resolved this year, nor next year. Among the 'injured party' are Bharatiya Sahitya Bhawan with dues worth Rs 44 lakh, XL Media with dues worth Rs 30 lakh, Researchco, Shipra Publications, Overseas Press with dues worth Rs 49 lakh, K K Publications with dues worth Rs 92 lakh.

The story began in 2008, when the university was set up with much fanfare. The university in Greater Noida was set up as a 'Center of Excellence' by the BSP government over 511 acre area. Officers considered close to the BSP chief, including the then cabinet secretary Shashank Shekhar Singh and the then chief secretary Atul Kumar Gupta, were appointed president and vice-president of Gautam Buddha University Society, the promoter. Within five years, however, it was mired in a dozen controversies. The Chancellor of the university is the

Chief Minister of the state. It was Mayawati, it is Akhilesh Singh Yadav now. President of the society is a former cabinet secretary, vice-president is a secretary and the secretary of the society is the patriarch. For the university, Noida and Greater Noida have given Rs 100 crore each and its estimated requirement is pegged at Rs 1,000 crore.

The default for publishers is only a part of a larger scam. A retired IAS officer, SR Lakha, is the chief promoter and patron of the Gautam Buddha Society. He, naturally is a patron of the university and was appointed its Vice-Chancellor. The government appointed Pramod Kumar Agrawal as Registrar, he has now been suspended and was succeeded by Dinesh Saxena, who too soon resigned. Assistant Registrar is Shamsuddin Ansari. One Opin Kumar, a suspended junior employee, lodged a complaint with the UP Lokayukta in 2012 alleging 'irregularities committed by Gautam Buddha University administration in 2009-12'.

Once Lokayukta, Justice NK Mehrotra, began his inquiry into faculty appointment and other matters like buying of books (dead stock from favoured publishers worth Rs 2.3 crore, according to the petitioner), lab equipment etc., the then V-C SR Lakha resigned from the post. Other officials who left the university included Ravindra Pratap Singh, KP Singh and Dinesh Saxena.

— Continued on page 3



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Aspiring CM Harsh Vardhan's Book On Polio Relaunched

Former union health minister of India and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Sushma Swaraj, released the revised edition of senior party leader Dr Harsh Vardhan's 2004 book titled, *A Tale of Two Drops*, on 29 October in Delhi.

The original edition and its subsequent reprints detailed how the original pulse polio campaign in Delhi was conceived by Dr Harshvardhan, who was the state's health minister, and carried it to its logical conclusion on 2 October 1994. He was able to persuade the entire health machinery of India - government and non-government - into replicating the Delhi experiment. The new edition details the present position in India's fight against polio.

As per World Health Organization's rules, a country has got to have zero cases of polio for full three years before being eligible for polio free certification. On January 13, 2014, India is expected to join the proud community of nations which have made polio history. Harshvardhan is the Chief ministerial candidate for the opposition BJP for Delhi, which faces legislative assembly polls in December.

— ANI

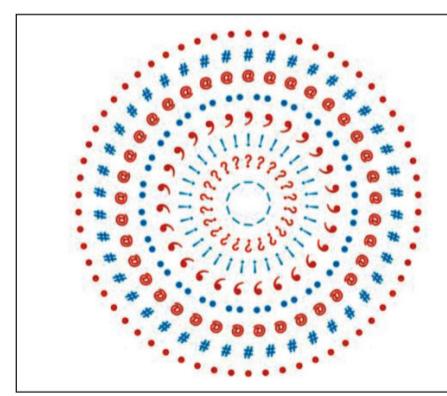
Delhi LitFest Promises To Be Different

Book Link Correspondent

Even as Delhi literati 'mentally gear up' for another mega JLF a month and 250 km away, closer at home, preparations are quietly on for the Second Edition of the DLF, the Delhi Literary Festival that takes place from 7 February to 9 February, 2014. Yes, parallel to the annual World Book Fair.

The venue for the first edition was the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts and is likely to remain the same for the second litfest. Organisers Cinedarbar is into film festival curating, Anime Con, Fun to Films, Delhi Dairy and is supported by partners like the NCT government of Delhi, the National Book Trust, the HRD Ministry, Tourism Ministry, Ministry of Culture and the American Centre. Author-politician Shashi Tharoor is expected to grace the occasion.

DLF has an ambitious authors' list, India's very best: Man Booker winner Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy, Vikram Seth, Shashi



Tharoor, Ruskin Bond, Nita Mehta, Amitav Ghosh, Devdutt Patnaik, Ramchandra Guha, Chetan Bhagat, Kunal Basu, Upamanyu Chatterjee and Rashmi Bansal. Some new and not-so new names are being added. Says Ratan Kaul, the woman behind the show, 'why not a fest for Delhi? Delhi's Very Own?' What about those who cannot travel to Jaipur, cannot pay for the glitz

razzmatazz? What about the publishers? JLF is so exclusively an author-audience show and this year, just before India's general elections, the Jaipur LitFest has politics as theme.

The DLF is yet to acquire a political colour. The First Edition was a low-key affair, beginning modestly. 'Many of us believe that, this beautiful city of Delhi should also have its own Literature Festival, echoing its moods. Delhi is the political, diplomatic, cultural, commercial and academic hub of our country and deserves its own Lit Fest....this is an answer to a long felt need!', says Kaul.

The DLF is going to be an annual feature with a 'soul' and 'identity' of its own, focusing on the vast, diverse literary canvas available. After all, the Indian civilization is one of the oldest with a long heritage of the spoken and the written word (the seat of the Vedas and the Upanishads).

— Continued on page 2

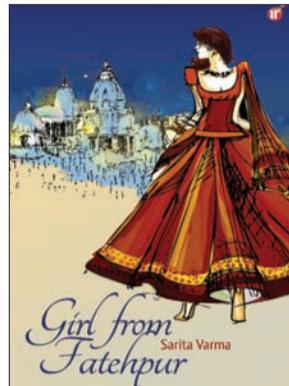
2 | in focus

Of e-books, The Kindle And Indi-rom Novellas

Freelance writer Sarita Varma has been writing since her school days. She officially began writing and editing in-house publications for NGOs in 1997 when she first joined Multiple Sclerosis Society of India, Pune Chapter. She later contributed articles for magazines and websites on history, travel, health and a few stories for the Chicken Soup Series. Currently, Honorary Secretary at the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Varma talks to Vasudha Mohanka about her love for writing. For Varma, writing is a means of communication and self-expression as well as escapism to a world of make believe. In this brief interview, Varma talks about the new trend of e-books, technology and gadgets such as the Kindle and about her upcoming book. The author may be contacted at sartas56@gmail.com

Question: You love reading a variety of literature from escapism to light hearted romances...how do you relate reading and writing?

Answer: 'Reading and writing are lifetime processes'. I am a kind of 'eclectic reader and enjoy reading romance, historical themes and other genres'. I have been writing for some time now and I believe it is a creative process and a form of 'self expression' wherein the author can communicate with the reader as



well as well as express oneself.

Q: What is Indireads and how did you begin writing e-books?

A: Indirom is the flagship brand for Indireads (currently this name is in use

since this June), offering a wide range of romance novellas written by both men and women, for South Asian readers everywhere. The novellas in the form of e-books are not like Mills and Boon! Rooted in Indian culture and tradition, the stories are romances that reflect South Asian culture and are enjoyable reads both by the diaspora and our own people. The stories have a very Indian flavour to them and are not like the western romances. Indireads has some interesting genres like Black Clove, Green Lime and Golden Saffron.

Q: How do you as an e-book writer, interact with your readers since you don't have formal platforms like book launches?

A: Through the author profiles on Indireads, they share the authors' email IDs and Facebook links. The readers can then directly get in touch with the authors. The website

(indireads) also picks up one author at a time, and have audio and video podcasts. In the recent past, Indireads has been able to publicise through this platform in addition to through newspaper and magazine articles. The authors have successfully been able to interact with readers through the internet.

Of course, there are currently no hard copies and e book writers may not be part of book launches...but who knows? may be in future, they decide to bring out hard copies of their books or the demand for e books rises, and the authors have increased engagements with their readers through the internet.

Q: What are the views about the latest technology to read e books? How is Indireads different? There are also classics available freely to download, but most of Indireads' books need to be bought online...

A: Indireads has some very serious readership. Of course, technology has played an important part where the necessary gadgets such as laptops, computers, or the Kindle is required to access and read e-books. It is also a market driven thing. If the demand for e books and Kindle rises over time with more buying it, the cost of such gadgets will automatically decrease. This will allow many more people to access, read and enjoy e books.

Q: What are you currently writing?

A: I am currently working on a romance which will be a historical novel based in pre independent India.

Person Behind Delhi LitFest

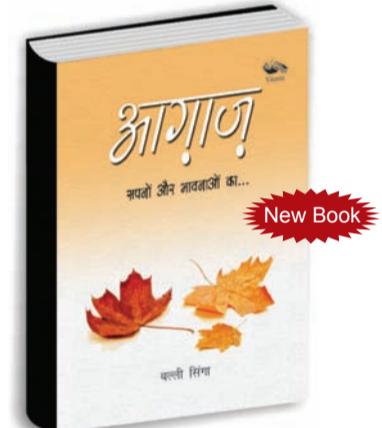
'The limited social exposure in my growing up years was more than compensated by the almost voracious appetite I developed for reading, having been blessed with a "room of my own" and the excellent education at Sophia, both school and college', says Ratan Kaul.



Kaul's love for art and literature has been a viraasat from her dad, T N Wanchoo, a great patron and connoisseur of the arts. 'I was a voracious reader right through school and college in Ajmer. Coming to Delhi for my Masters and settling down here exposed me to world class art, music, literature, and travel around the world further heightened my appreciation and interest', Kaul tells Book Link, ahead of the Delhi Lit Fest.

— BLD

Advt



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On 21 November cinestar Anupam Kher's latest book, *Aap Khud Hi Best Hai*, was launched in Patna. The Book has been published by Prabhat Prakashan. Over 2000 students participated in this mega event. As many as 200 copies of his book were sold on the spot.

Delhi Gears Up For Its LitFest

— Continued from page 1

New Delhi has the distinction of having so many central universities, the DU, JNU, JMI, IGNOU and others in the NCR region, apart from the several private universities like Amity etc. so much of 'learning' and 'teaching' happening here. 'If India has to take its rightful place in the comity of nations then it has to showcase its 'soft power' to the world and what better way...as a matter of fact my personal drive is to involve as many diplomats as possible as a part of the exercise in 'public diplomacy'! ...New Delhi being the diplomatic capital of India certainly helps.' Of course, coming from Ratan Kaul, this is no surprise.

Kaul is VP, Indian Council for UN Relations (ICUNR) and Executive President, Kashmiriyat Preservation Foundation (KPF). 'My current work with the Indian Council of UN Relations, which is a

registered Civil Society Organization, devoted to promoting the mandate of the UN at the country level encourages me to strive towards peace building, developing bilateral and multilateral relations with other countries by our public Diplomacy initiatives in the areas of international relations, trade, commerce, art, culture etc.', Kaul says.

DLF endeavours to celebrate the power of creative writing by mobilising Delhi's literary community for panel discussions, book launches, readings, debates and workshops. The Festival also proposes to honour these creative thinkers and writers. From self publishing to blogging in India, there is a growing trend for creative writing and newer medium for communicating expression on subjects of concern, and DLF's effort is to gather these energies at the Delhi LitFest.

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Colombian Ambassador Says Adios With Three Books

After accomplishing a successful tenure of six years, H E Juan Alfredo Pinto, Ambassador of Colombia to India, and his wife Soraya Caro bade farewell to India on October 24, 2013. Richa Taneja caught up with the Ambassador after the book launch.

Question: During your stay, you've signed treaties, fostered economic bonds, flagged several projects, but on a personal note, what is that one thing that would make you come back to India?

Answer: For me, India is the country where whoever can confirm that the difference exists. Whenever I feel that the world is becoming a homogeneity, an uniformity, I will visit India to recover my tranquility, my calmness. Chandni Chowk, Nehru Park and Humayun Tomb. Delhi is one of the loved



corners of my soul.

Q: Did you pick any common threads between India and Colombia?

A: So, all I can visualise is the potential of the difference.

Q: What makes your book, *Atalaya XXI*, special and whom would you want to dedicate it to?

A: *Atalaya XXI* is one of the first environmental novels in international literature. It was dedicat-

ed to my daughter and my life in India.

Q: What had been the high points of your tenure in India?

A: The road travelled by Colombian culture in India is filled with moments of great significance. We have introduced Salsa music in this region. Colombians listen and dance to Bollywood music. Our literature is known, particularly authors such as Garcia Marquez

and Alvaro Mutis. The young Indian poet Sudeep Sen was the winner of Jorge Zalamea Award that we created, and I feel satisfied as my books have been translated and published by Sahitya Akademi. We won 'The Goa Film Festival' and last month, we were distinguished as the best exhibition stand of cinema production fair in Mumbai.

Q: If you had to pick one, what is the most cherished memory of your stay here in India?

A: I have been here 2200 days as Ambassador of Colombia to India, each one gave me some special memories. However, the last October 24th where my wife Soraya and I launched 3 books, my new novel in English, her book on Indo-Latin American relations and my short stories in Hindi, was a memorable day.

— (Courtesy DNA)

Shashi Tharoor Says Yes To Sports

The book, authored by former Haryana Sports Director, OP Singh, documents Haryana's emergence as a sporting powerhouse and decodes how sports is a key differentiator for developing countries and their people.

Singh, an IPS officer, who served as the state's Sports Director from 2008-12, contributed to its transformation into a sporting giant with the iconic programme "Play for India".

The programme, which was part of Haryana government's 'You give us medals and we'll secure your future' campaign, was aimed at identifying 5,000 prospective international medal winners in the 9-19 age bracket and subsidising the cost of their education, training and equipment. Releasing the book on 13 November at the IIC, Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for Human Resource Development said, the Haryana model of encouraging children to take to sports is an inspiration for all and for others



Mark Runacres, Shobit Arya, Shashi Tharoor, OP Singh, Rani Singh states to emulate. Children of the Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai participated.

— BLD

Publishers Do Not Get Hearing

— Continued from page 1

According to the complainant, the appointed employees and faculty members did not match the standard of qualification; also, more than required appointments were made in every department. During the investigation, the Lokayukta found that the candidates who did not fulfill the eligibility for the post of the lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor and professor were hired by the university. Bungling was committed in the recruitment of the teachers—the engineering faculty that has 1,800 students has 70 teachers whereas the departments of Law and Justice and Buddhist Studies have just five students and 49 teachers!

The Lokayukta, unsatisfied with what explanation the university management had to give, asked the UP Government to establish a technical committee to investigate the matter deeply. A team of two, comprising of former director of NCERT JS Rajput and the director

While the long inquiry goes on, that should not hold up our payments'

of distance learning programme of Indira Gandhi National Open University, CB Sharma, was appointed. The committee has submitted a preliminary report, but the comprehensive Lokayukta report is still on its way. The Lookouts has said that the committee members complained that the V-C and other administration officials had not cooperated with the inquiry into the purchase of books. The Lookouts consequently recommended that Mahavir Singh, Dean of School of Biotechnology, and K P Singh, Dean of School of Humanities and Social Sciences, be removed from all posts of administrative nature. After the purge, the Commissioner of Meerut, Manjit Singh was appointed acting Vice-Chancellor.

In this ongoing tussle, publishers and distributors say,

'what can we do? We can just wait and watch. And swallow the losses.' Vendors, they say, went through due diligence, open tenders, competitive bidding at approved rates of 30 percent to 40 percent discount. 'Vendorship was okayed only when the publisher deposited Rs 50,000 as deposit. This too has not been returned', says Vinod Kapoor of Bharatiya Sahitya Bhawan. 'Prior approved payments too have been stopped. And the Lookouts has not given us a hearing', Kapoor adds.

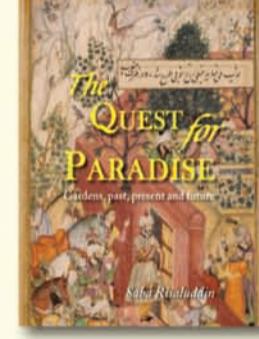
K K Publishers, a distributor for more than 700 publishing houses, for example, has been running from pillar to post for dues recovery. K K had taken a bank loan to be able to purchase the ordered books and in their letter to the Lookouts have said, 'our

banks go on recovering a hefty sum of Rs 50,000 every month as interest on the working capital, thus draining our resources further'. It has said in writing that, loans are 'jeopardising our future and sending us and our families and dependents/aged parents to the brink of starvation'. They first appealed to the Lookouts for relief in December 2012, copied to Lakha (who was still V-C) and the CM. They appealed to Chief Minister in March 2013 once again, and in May sent a legal notice to the university as there was no response from the Lokayukta, the CM's office and the University. The last appeal to the Lookouts was in June. While the long inquiry goes on, 'that should not hold up our payments' as K K has told the Lookouts. 'We were never called by the inquiry committee'. The publishers are the directly affected party. KK's payment has been due since August 2011. As Narendra Kumar of Overseas says, 'going into lawsuits is a long process. Neither does the university nor does the government respond despite reminder after reminder. Our survival is in question. What do we do?'

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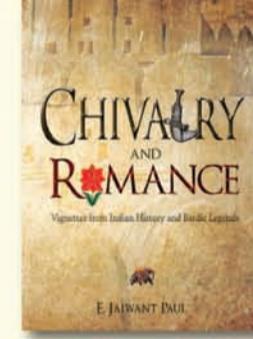
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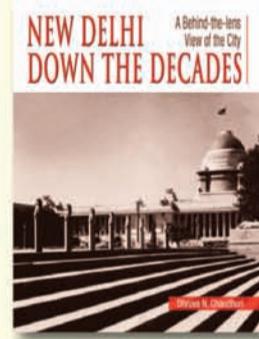
ISBN: 978-93-81523-78-0, 116 pp., ₹ 1250

The Quest for Paradise considers the idea of the sacred grove, the garden and the perfect landscape, ranging from the ancient, pagan world to the present, and from the Abrahamic faiths to the faiths of the East.

Issues of faith, hope and humanity are explored through an extensively researched journey across civilizations and cultures. The book is well-illustrated with reproductions of paintings, mosaics and textiles on the theme of gardens and the paradise legends.



These stories of chivalry and romance that cover several centuries are based both on history and the epic poetry of the great bards. In this saga of the heroic men of history and legends, which often converge, you also meet fascinating women like the Rani of Jhansi, the beautiful Mastani and the Ranis and Begums of Bhopal. The author's approach in this book makes us revisit the turning points in Indian history that add to our rich heritage and culture.



Ever wondered how New Delhi came into being? Who were the architects who created some of the capital city's imposing buildings? *New Delhi Down the Decades* takes the reader through the days when iconic personalities such as Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker were working on a unique style of architecture that makes New Delhi special. Dhruba N. Chaudhuri had his first look at the capital city of India in June 1942 and has watched it grow in the last seven decades, from a quiet garden city into a giant metropolis.

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4 | reviews

An Extraordinary Community

Book Link Correspondent

Former Member of Parliament Beatrix D'Souza in her endorsement of the book *The Anglo-Indians*, says, 'Muthiah has chronicled our history, a legacy we can bequeath to our children and our children's children. This history will rekindle in anglo-Indians wherever they are, pride in themselves and pride in our extraordinary community.'

From recipes to dance steps, from extraordinary perseverance to rare pictures, this is a saga in race relations that expose the sunny side more than the shady of a community that came into being by history's chance encounters. However, it is not only the story of the children of the white Nabobs and the Dalrymples and Derek O'Briens, it is the story of the Victoria Cross winner Guy Gibson, Air Chief Marshal Denise La Fontaine, Cliff Richard (yes, if you did not know that he was Indian), Englebert Humperdinck, Melville de Mello (w), Helen (yes, the H-Bomb of Bollywood), Diana Hayden, and many, many more. They may have foreign-sounding names, but they are Indians all, brave, beautiful, flamboyant, loyal and heroes and heroines whom India does not often

name, nor recognise.

In this book, Muthiah, whose Madras Musings is an institution by itself, has brought together names, places, records (he a veteran record-keeper), images and recollections to paint a fine and sensitive picture of the Anglo-Indian community, who have graced and added considerably to India's heritage. What is most interesting is, that what one could overlook as a book of history compels attention by a recipe of the original Mulligatawny Soup, coconut rice, fish cutlets and bread pudding such delicious devil dishes which no Indian can overlook. If you are keen on communities and countries, pick this one up, you will not find a better chronicler to pen this cross-country story.



The Anglo-Indians
S Muthiah and Harry MacLure

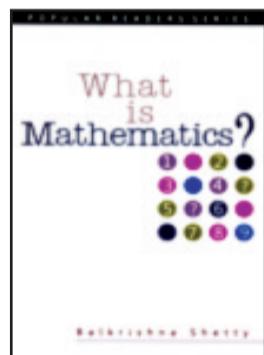
Pages: 216 | Price: Rs 350
Publisher: Niyogi Books

The Muddle And Magic Of Mathematics

Varna

BALKRISHNA SHETTY'S paperback titled, *What is Mathematics*, is a brave book. As a child I found mathematics almost entirely terrifying and as an adult I find the prospect of having to engage with it again, if only, to teach my own child equally terrifying. The difference being that I now apparently can do 'math' and earlier never saw the need to. While Shetty's attempt is brave, the book is nevertheless the product of a lover of all things mathematical and consequently an academician.

The book, one of a three-concept series, in NBT's own description 'introduces mathematics, as the study of logical structure of patterns and focuses on its distinct aspects like deduction, representation and transformation...', that by itself is enough to scare any 15-year-old. The intention is to be lucid and make the subject interesting, it introduces the historical background of many an Indian mathematician and their stories but a reader might be forgiven if they suddenly develop more of an interest in Lilavati's curves than in rid-



What is Mathematics?
Balkrishna Shetty

Pages: 329 | Price: Rs 120
Publisher: NBT

opment are important – one is left absolutely sure that this is profound, just not very sure how. This is much like why explaining to a 10 or 12-year-old that $(a+b+c)^2$ is $a^2 + ab+bc+ca$ and not the evil work of Satan trying to introduce the alphabet into something that originally had only numbers, is very difficult.

To his credit, the author tries his best to make sense of mathematics and does a

dles posed to her around the number of bees in her garden!

The book has a promising beginning but around page number 18, Shetty says something about how the abstract ideas of mathematics of the last century and 'concomitant' technological development are important – one is left absolutely sure that this is profound, just not very sure how. This is much like why explaining to a 10 or 12-year-old that $(a+b+c)^2$ is $a^2 + ab+bc+ca$ and not the evil work of Satan trying to introduce the alphabet into something that originally had only numbers, is very difficult.

Shetty answers the central thesis of book very well – mathematics is indeed about patterns, figuring them out, looking for them, manipulating them and simplifying them. In the end, one hoped that copious 'notes' weren't as much in-pattern for brilliant mathematicians and could have easily been replaced by variables holding a sense of humour in the equation!

sterling job of presenting mathematics as the wonderful and fascinating subject that it is – to those who understand mathematics already or at least who would like to 'like' it. The book unfortunately doesn't work for people who don't. For the rest of us and our children, there are mummy's adventures with donkeys (Maths with Mummy) who are learning mathematics along with children and discover that 1 kilogram is 1 kilogram, regardless of it being cotton or stone. For those of us who are older and love poetry or theatre, the annotated version of Flatland and its stories of squareland and circles falling in love appeal to the senses far more than axioms and the not-so-obvious elegance of proofs.

Shetty answers the central thesis of book very well – mathematics is indeed about patterns, figuring them out, looking for them, manipulating them and simplifying them. In the end, one hoped that copious 'notes' weren't as much in-pattern for brilliant mathematicians and could have easily been replaced by variables holding a sense of humour in the equation!

A Beautiful Little Memoire

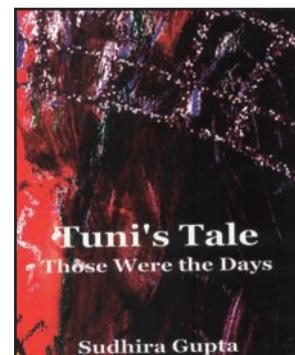
This is a beautiful little bilingual book, with an old-world charm, a story of a young woman born in 1907, one who has lived through two World Wars, India's unique freedom movement and one who has given a feel of the times in her personal writing.

We were rather surprised when the book came in for review from New York. More surprised when turning the pages we found some forgotten limericks in Bangla, in Google font! No 21st century child will be privy to these little poems, the edition is rich in that sense as it is in the photographs of the author, her family members and others; all these give us an idea of the clothes people wore then, the *palki* they rode, the wide freeway called Chowranghee, the sweet-seller carrying his *banke*, the chairs of those times, the gentleness of the people—all these come through from the faded pictures. A coloured book would have made it exotic but in no way does the black and white

detract from the mood.

Surprisingly, one suddenly comes across nuggets of militant feminism—the recollection of an episode in 1943, when the story-teller recounts how she found three women walking the streets carrying a bier, the dead, another woman. No man accompanied them. Later, how a male cousin explained that the women were 'prostitutes', so no man would accompany the dead. The author's beautiful thought: Men enjoy these women, could sleep with them, but not assist in the last rites. 'My mind was filled with hatred for all men', she writes as an honest response.

Then the story of a enlightened father who was moving to Assam, and who took his daughters with him so that they could be admitted to Keshab Bordoloi's school. He had gone against the family, which said, 'what is the use of making a girl literate'. These and other memories, make for a delightful read.



Tuni's Tale
Sudhira Gupta

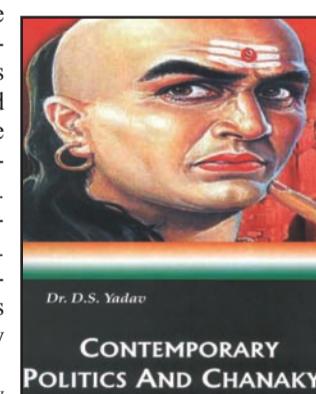
Pages: 190 | Price: \$ 8
Publisher: Aari Publishing

Chanakya In Today's World

Chanakya, for some odd reason is associated with right-wing politics. In the 4th century BCE, politics may have matured, but it had no left-wing or right-wing; it was not through any coloured prism that society could have looked at politics. Or economics or morals or ethics. All these isms became clearly concepts post-Chanakya. So it, indeed, is a bold aspiration to relate Chanakya's politics with contemporary politics.

However, one is a wary traveller in the path of contemporary politics, who would even try to associate Chanakya's dictums to 21st century politics—that too global politics. If one were to link contemporary Indian Chanakya, it could be understood, what this reader failed to understand is, how an author observation like, 'We are using the us in our great diplomatic offensive against Pakistan.... what prevents us from doing so ourselves....'

Not exactly what teachers should teach/tell young India in its classes. Personal comments, political though they may be, cannot be given as examples of comparison with what Chanakya advocated.



Contemporary Politics and Chanakya
D S Yadav

Pages: 264 | Price: Rs 399
Publisher: Orange Books

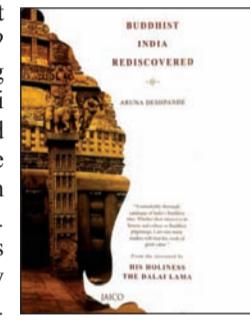
Comments like: 'It will be foolish to believe that it is possible to charm Pakistan, ...that Yusuf Raza Gilani is a man of peace...' do nothing to establish Chanakya's relevance in today's world. And how does taking pot shots at George W Bush or Rahul Gandhi or Akhilesh Yadav, make Chanakya's *niti* relevant today? The book is pax with history, but as far as comparative politics go, it disappoints. It also reads outdated, a book should be written in a manner that the context remains contemporary and relevant, no matter when the comparing incident, even happened. The potential of such a subject is not realised in this case.

— BLD

Buddhist Legends and Landmarks

This is an interesting book, in that its a travel book but not the usual kind of travel guide. It lists important and not-so important Buddhist sites statewise. This makes it easy for the resident Indian reader to select the closest to visit. We all know the important three-four, what many of us do not know is that Ambala district has a significant site at modern Sugh. Or that Karnal's Thaneswar (Thanesar) and the Kurus had lengthy discourses with Buddhist monks. That Nagarjunkonda, Salihundam etc, are memorable sites. The book begins with the eight most important sites, their legents and landmarks.

It is the tit-bits of information, spread across the 380 pages that makes one turn the pages, sniffing for more information on these lores associated with the Buddha and often the Bodhisatvas. The influence of Hinduism is also discernible. For instance, Bodh Gaya one knows of and the bodhi tree, but did you know it is a third generation tree? Someone took a sapling of the original tree to Sri Lanka. The original died and someone else brought it back to Bodh Gaya from Sri Lanka. Did you know Sujata's hut is just two km away from the Niranjana River. Have you heard of the river?



Buddhist India Rediscovered
Aruna Deshpande

Pages: 381 | Price: Rs 399
Publisher: Jaico Publishing

Orissa's Ratnagiri and Udaygiri have proved to be rich treasure house of Buddhist art and artifact. But in Borivali, Mumbai, are the Kanheri caves, a miniature of the Bamiyan caves, where hides a Bodhisatva overseeing a Japanese inscription done many centuries ago. Deshpande is a seasoned travel writer, author of books like Lord Rama: Ayodhya to Sri Lanka that takes readers through the Rama circuit, destinations retracing Rama's journey, and 150 fascinating destinations of India. That her work is well researched shows Deshpande is not happy just travelling and writing, its not all superficial. *Buddhist India*...is her seventh book. It draws you to aspiritual journey that many of us want to take but do not know where to begin. Pick up this book to begin.

— BLD

politics with written in a manner that the context remains contemporary and relevant, no matter when the comparing incident, even happened. The potential of such a subject is not realised in this case.

— BLD

Malala's Book In Hindi

Book Link Correspondent

On 14 November, the august halls of the India International Centre, saw India's first woman IPS officer and social activist Dr Kiran Bedi, launch the Hindi translation of the book *Malala*, the story of the life and struggle of Pakistan's daughter the living legend Malala Yousafzai. Present on the occasion were several hundred school children and eminent scholars like Rahul Dev, Prempal Sharma and social activist Natasha Jain, Asha Vinod and Sarita Singh are the authors of the book, brought out by Hind Pocket Books.

Speaking to the children, Kiran Bedi said, Malala at a very young age has not only given hope to millions in Pakistan's Swat Valley alone, but has also given inspiration to social activist like her in India, who are fighting for social justice and corruption free society. "Behind Malala's courage are also her determined father Ziyauddin Yousafzai and her mother who are very passionate about their daughter's education and the media which broke the news first for the world to know what Taliban was doing!"

Calling Malala the 'the daughter of humanity',



Bedi urged that 14 November every year be designated 'Malala Day'. 'Malala and me have lot in common – we both have Pathan blood in our veins, our parents were hell bound for their daughters' education and we both have courage to question the system.', Bedi said.

Speakers like Rahul Dev urged Indian schools to add the book *Malala* to be included in school curriculum in India, especially in Delhi municipal corporation run schools. Director of Hind Pocket Books Shekhar Malhotra, who also run a literary CSR for girl child said, 'We need one Malala in every house, so that the second struggle of independence of India against corruption, social injustice and violence against women, can be won.'



Jawhar Sircar, CEO, Prasar Bharti, at the launch of Jaideep Bhoosreddy's debut novel 'Alec Mercer: Dead Underground'

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Catcher

The Light Within

The characters in the book open our eyes. Ten-year-old Bitasta a deaf-mute and sightless girl was found abandoned as an infant in a garbage dump in Kolkata, but today teaches children older than her the intricacies of yoga. Visually impaired septuagenarian Mumbai businessman Surendra Kambli lost his hard-earned millions several times over only to recover them through grit, determination and rare entrepreneurial wiles. Riyazuddin, a motorcycle mechanic in Bhopal, is endowed with mastery that borders on the miraculous. Nitai Khan donated his meagre earnings to the tsunami relief fund.



The President with Prachi and Pragya

President Pranab Mukherjee accepted the first copy of Sipra Das's book, *The Light Within: A different vision of life*, at an impressive function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Auditorium. Speaking on the occasion, he called upon the people to enhance the capacities of the differently-abled to enable them to contribute in diverse fields. Asking people to look inwards to find the real meaning of life and understand the capacities and capabilities of those who suffer from disabilities, he said the physically challenged were the 'real heroes of the nation'.

Two visually impaired children, Prachi and Pragya, presented the first copy of the book to the President, Justice Shri P Sathasivam, Chief Justice of India, L K Advani, MP and Brinda Karat, CPI (M) politburo member. Justice Sathasivam drew the attention of the people to various judgments focusing on the facilities to be ensured for the differently-abled persons. Advani said that such persons can perform the tasks that even the normal people find difficult to accomplish.

Published by Niyogi Books, *The Light Within* captures the extraordinary lives of the visually-impaired through images that stimulate genuine empathy and a certain degree of awe.

Globalocal 2014

Book Link Correspondent

GERMAN BOOK Office, New Delhi, has announced the fifth edition of Globalocal: The Forum for Content. The event is slated for 13-14 February 2014 at The Lalit, New Delhi. The two-day event will be a mix bag of roundtables, rights and licenses training, match-making sessions, keynote presentations discussing the dynamics of publishing and allied industry. Besides this, the new additions for this year will be thematic workshops and an experts' table with a panel of industry experts there to provide guidance. It has evolved from a conference format to an exclusive B2B platform integrating expert speakers and networking opportunities among other avenues of business outreach.

Targeted at national and international players within the publishing and ancillary industry, Globalocal is an annual event, which focuses on business possibilities and publishing trends.

'Over the years, we have seen a constant need not only to exchange ideas, but also to do business. This side of the world has not been so aggressively in the B2B marketplace as Frankfurt and our other western counterparts have been,' says GBO director Prashashti Rastogi.

"In 2013, we made GLOBALOCAL into a mini-Frankfurt," she says adding, 'We created a multi-format platform, where people from different parts of the value chain could come together, exchange ideas and co-create and collaborate.'

The world's most populous democracy, India has over 1.2 billion inhabitants who speak dozens of languages, with Hindi and English the primary tongues. Economic growth, though not without recent challenges, is among the strongest anywhere; in 2013, according to most

estimates, India will enjoy five percent growth in industries and services."

GBO presents the 'Exclusive India Trip' to German publishers as a part of the 2014 Globalocal with a view to increasing planned interactions between Indian publishers/distributors/retailers/digital service providers and their international publishing counterparts. The trip is planned across Delhi and Chennai.

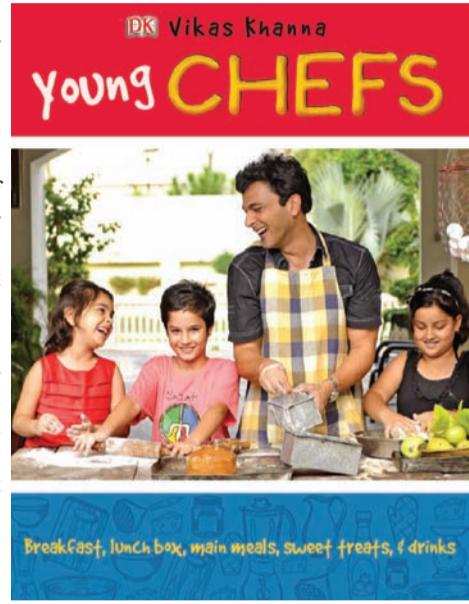
Highlights at GLOBALOCAL 2014:

- ♦ CEOs and STM Roundtables - a forum for discussion where key decision makers talk about challenges, emerging trends and business models
- ♦ Rights & Licenses Workshop – national and international rights experts share their best practices along with practical training on rights and licensing trade
- ♦ Add-on Workshops - on exciting topics like crossmedia story-telling and innovating startups, led by area experts
- ♦ Business Matchmakings – targeted one-on-one business meetings within a carefully curated group of participants matched as per their business interests
- ♦ Keynote addresses/Presentations - speeches and presentations by experts on subjects dealing with digital innovations, publishing industry etc.
- ♦ Sponsored Slots - the perfect space to highlight, present or launch a product/service/idea before a focused audience
- ♦ Experts' Table - a table of experts, national and international, who can be approached directly for advice
- ♦ Globalocal Catalogue - it houses selected book titles from publishers (for rights exchange) and profiles of companies participating.

6 | young adults

Vikas Khanna Teaches Children To Cook

The success of kids' cookery shows in India. The Junior Masterchef Australia has inspired Indian children to take up cooking and baking in a huge way. In *Young Chefs*, Vikas Khanna, a Michelin-starred chef and one of the judges on Junior Masterchef India, lends a helping hand to kids to experiment with different kinds of recipes from India and around the globe. The recipes are illustrated in a step-by-step format, which makes them easy to follow and fun to cook. Divided into five different sections – breakfast bites, lunchbox, main meals, drinks, and sweet treats – the book includes recipes for kids to make at any time of the day.



'Children are the foundation of a country and through this book I am honoured to be a part of a project, a revolution that nurtures our creative and colourful country!', says Khanna

Vikas is one of New York's top-rated chefs and was awarded the Rising Stars Chef Award by StarChefs in 2011. He started the famous documentary film series, *Holy Kitchens*, featured as a judge on the second season of *MasterChef India* and appears on television regularly.

Vikas is the author of *The Spice Story of India, Modern Indian Cooking and Flavors First*.

— BLD

as a graphic designer, after which he devoted himself to illustration. Since then he has done numerous illustrations for newspapers and magazines and has illustrated over 70 books for children. He's fascinated by textiles and by all forms of popular culture.

The workshop took place at Oxford Book Store in New Delhi on 22 November.



Sally Gardner A Christie For Children

Book Link Correspondent

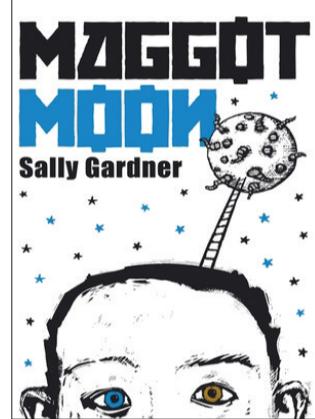
SALLY GARDNER, hailed as 'Agatha Christie for kids', is coming up with her latest fiction for young adults. A modern gothic tale, *Tinder* is illustrated by David Roberts.

Sally is an award-winning British novelist who has sold over two million books in the UK and whose work has been translated into more than twenty-two languages. She

visited India this November.

Her novel, *Maggot Moon* (Hot Key Books 2012) won both the Costa Children's Book Prize and the Carnegie Medal 2013. Sally's genre-defying novel, *The Double Shadow* (Orion 2011) received great critical acclaim and was also longlisted for the Carnegie Medal 2013. *The Red Necklace*, (shortlisted for 2007 Guardian Book Prize) and *The Silver Blade* are set during the

French Revolution, the film rights for which have been purchased by Dominic West. Sally also won the 2005 Nestle Children's Book Prize for her debut novel *I, Coriander*. She is currently writing the popular *Wings & Co* fairy detective agency series (Orion) for 7-11 year olds.



Support



Yes, the Great God Sachin does! He has helped educate 200 Apnalya children. It would be cricket, if you could support just one child!

Apnalya is an NGO founded in 1972 and its activities are mainly concentrated around the Mumbai. Apnalya tries to help the children living in slums to progress toward a better life. Apnalya makes service to large no of children community through programmes such as balwadis and study classes, sponsor-

ship and recreation etc. and also it provides support for community groups to run similar type of programmes. For more than 25 years Apnalya has been promoting preschool education in deprived communities, running its own balwadis, and training teachers to run hundreds of balwadis all over Mumbai. Study classes and sponsorship help children to stay in school and structured recreation session's help in the overall development of the more vulnerable children in the community.

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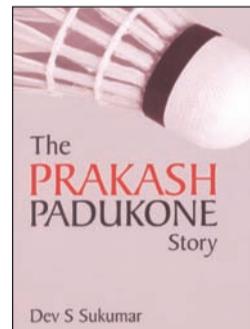
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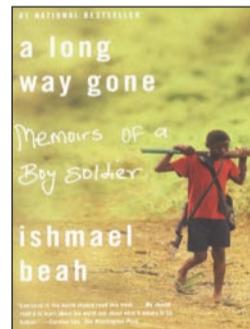


The PRAKASH PADUKONE Story

Pages 252 : Price 495

Publisher : Niyogi Books

ISBN: 978-93-83098-03-3



a long way gone

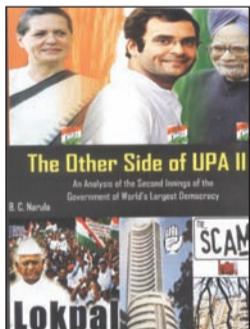
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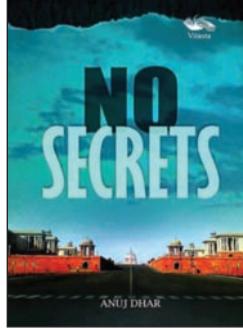
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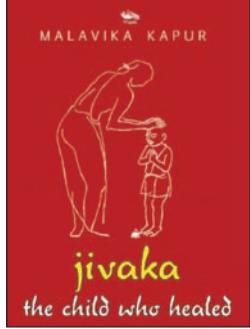


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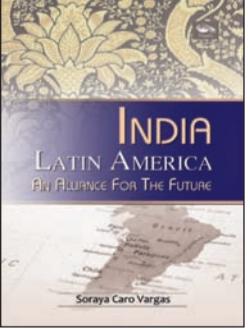


jivaka the child who healed

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An Alpance For The Future

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400 Authors Share Litizen Platform

Geetali Baruah

Litizen.com, founded in 2011, is a unique online platform that allows authors to share their short form fiction stories and poetry with readers globally. There are about 400 authors actively sharing their stories on **Litizen.com**. To draw an analogy, **Litizen** is to user-generated literature what **Youtube** is to user-generated videos.

Litizen was founded by Rishabh and Apurva Chaturvedi, two brothers who are chartered accountants but love reading and Rishabh is a voracious writer too. The problem he faced was that he would write stories and Apurva, along with a few friends, were the only ones who would read them. 'We discovered that many people in our offices too were brilliant but closet writers and didn't have many people who they could share their stories with and get some sort of feedback from. So we started with a simple blog on wordpress called **Litizen** where authors could email us their stories and we would then upload them to be read by all who visited the blog. Word spread around really fast I guess, and soon there were more stories from authors across the country in our **Inbox** than our **CA communications**', confides Apurva.

The submissions became difficult to manage. So in 2012 they made a proper website and Mobile apps (for android and Ios) with a software company. 'This took us some time as we are both from non technical background, however, we were clear about the problem we were solving and knew that technology could be used for this. Now authors can directly create their profiles, upload their stories, interact with their readers, get to



Shobhaa De at a Litizen book launch

know how many times their stories get read etc.' About Rs 5 lakh has been invested so far in **Litizen**, Apurva tells **Book Link**.

Litizen published its first book *Labyrinth short stories* towards the end of 2012. *Labyrinth* had 15 short stories by 10 authors. All the stories were selected from submissions made to **Litizen.com**. This was their first attempt at physical book publishing, plus all the authors were first timers plus short stories. Apurva was told this by distributors-retailers, don't sell. It is now in its fourth print run and on the bestsellers list of flipkart, Landmark, Amazon. **Litizen** has now released its second book *Carnival*, **Litizen** shorts in Diwali. This has 15 stories by 12 different authors.

In India publishing is in a very interesting phase right now. 'I feel it is on the cusp of a digital revolution, what with the massive

increase quarter on quarter in smart phones, tablet purchase and increased penetration of the internet and bandwidth on one hand and on the other a tremendous increase in reading as a recreational activity among Indians. This can be evidenced by the lakhs of copies that get sold of Amish Tripathi, Chetan Bhagat etc. I am excited to see how in the coming years these two will meet', Apurva tells **Book Link**.

'We introduced ourselves to Shobhaa De at the TATA Literature Live festival last year. There she was as a panelist, getting hounded by the media, photographers and fans. We somehow got a few seconds to narrate the idea of **Litizen** to her, amidst all this chaos. Completely to her credit that she picked it up and asked us a few questions, perhaps liked the idea and asked us to get in touch to discuss the details. She was also gracious and encouraging enough to launch *Labyrinth*.

short stories at a Mumbai bookstore. I feel she too is of the view that digital publishing is a big part of the future of publishing.

'So there are two sources from where we get stories. One is professional, established and published authors and the second is normal everyday people like doctors, engineers, advertising guys, and homemakers etc who have their day jobs and businesses but also have this passion for writing. It is a little difficult to introduce the idea to the first lot as that requires us to meet with them and explain the idea to bring them on board. The second lot is a very active one who learns about **Litizen** through newspapers, magazine where **Litizen** keeps getting featured, and maybe by word of mouth. They then create their profiles and start uploading their stories on their own. This source is increasing really fast at almost 3 per cent per week. This lot also brings in a lot of traffic on **litizen** through their circle of friends and family who want to read their stories that are digitally published on **Litizen**.' Some of the most interesting stories on **litizen.com** have been written by Shawn Periera, Harsh Rai Puri, Vivek Banerjee, Kanupriya Jain, Amitabh Srivastav, says Apurva.

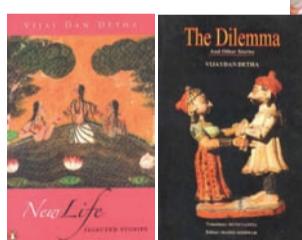
'Our goal is to make **Litizen.com** the "To go To Place" for authors to share their fiction stories and for readers to read them. We are currently expanding our reach and bringing in authors from different countries on **Litizen**. This is achievable as internet has reached most countries on the planet. Just imagine one single place where you can read culturally diverse stories written by talented authors from all continents. We want that place to be **Litizen.com**', Apurva says.

Tribute to Vijaydan Detha

Akshay Pathak

Vijaydan Detha, the fabulist, folklorist writer would have been pleased if one were to start talking about him with a chougou - a form of mostly nonsensical rhythm or rhyme he employed in most of his stories much in the oral tradition of storytelling that he found himself most attracted to. That and the language.

Language flows in one's blood, he believed. The mind then plays tricks adulterating the language - a victim to the hegemonies and hierarchies languages face in the wake of power and its endless tyranny. The writer then resorts to counter that very power with a word and text so mighty it shakes things up.



of the dominant Hindi, as well as compiling folklore, he gave a new life to the language by translating the oral to the written and transforming it richly in the process. His fourteen volume *Batan ri Phulwari* ("A Garden of Stories") is an unparalleled work compiling folklore from the desert state which he adapts with his inimitable style and decorates with commentary, often also citing the source of most of these stories. It is perhaps the only one of its kind available in India.

Thereafter he got recognition nationally by being awarded some of the most prestigious awards - the Padma Shri, the Sahitya Akademi fellowship and the Katha Chudamani award among many other accolades. A book published by Sahitya Akademi titled *Vijaydan Detha: Rachna Sanchayan*, and edited by his son Kailash Kabeer, contains a comprehensive range of his brilliant short stories, some essays and other writings. Biji was being considered for the Nobel Prize in 2011. He was unable to write in his last years due to an accident that left his limbs affected. Never missing a chance to offer a witty repartee, he attributed this to mathematical justice: 'the need to stop writing as his input and output according to him seem to have matched well.'

Hailed commonly as the Shakespeare of Rajasthan, a crown that sat uncomfortably on his head as he deserves more than being a parallel, Biji never offered you a stale word.

Vijaydan Detha, popularly known as Biji, was one such champion of language. Negotiating the promiscuous relationship of language and literature, he wrote much to be read, told and cherished for generations, quite in the spirit of what he believed stories are meant for. And then on the sad day of November 10, 2013 he passed away. He was 87 years old. I picture him sitting in his room lost in a book, a pencil in his hand. When I last visited him he gave me a copy of one of his story collections with his own comments in the margins.

By deliberately writing in Rajasthani, a language yet to be constitutionally recognized in India and considered a poor cousin

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A LitFest in Chandigarh



THE CITY of Chandigarh on 23rd and 24 November saw a gathering of famous authors who participated in the Chandigarh Literary Festival, organised by a group of IAS officers. The occasion was graced by celebrity authors like Jerry Pinto, Nandita C Puri, Meghna Pant, Navtej Sarna and many others.

Sumita Misra and Vivek Attray, the coordinators, also organised a musical evening at the Pinjore Gardens, Kalka while the nip in the air was numbed with lip-smacking eatables and steaming food.

Bhaskar Ghose delivered the keynote address 'In Search of the Authentic'.

— BLD

A Different Islam

Noor Zaheer

I HAVE walked this road before but I have never travelled it. I wonder why? Was it so difficult to recognize this road as variant and dwell on the fact that Islam here was different. It was there all around me and I had been extremely comfortable with it; so why had I never questioned this liberal face of a religion that gets more conservative every day?

I am back after 27 years. It was Soviet Union then and Uzbekistan was then one of its states. I was a student then, I am a professor now. Monuments, remnants of a remarkable architectural heritage stood abandoned then, as they were considered symbols of monarchy and feudalism, hardly worth restoring or salvaging. Today they are surrounded with lush green lawns and are pieces of national pride. But perhaps the most startling discovery are the women. They were free then, are free still in spite of swinging back to religion. But their religion does not have them wear the hijab, or long dress or even cover their head.

'We have never been orthodox', says Ulfat Apa, the professor of Hindi at the State Oriental Institute, Tashkent, 'all our kings had women advising them, running schools and helping in literary and translation work.'

Women enter and leave mosques wearing knee length skirts but the church has a poster indicating the correct dress code; and this only for women. Minorities everywhere are insecure. But how do restrictions on women ward off the threats, whatever they may be? And if it is a case with minorities only, why are countries that have practically total Muslim population so condemning of women's rights?

I stand under the statue of Ulubek the 14th century great astronomer and physi-

Example Uzbekistan

cist. His several observatories spread all over the country, some going deep into the earth and opening up with skylights to mark the passage of the heavenly bodies. This is the country where Al Farghani, the great mathematician, had worked on intricate algebra formulae and the linguist Ali Sher Navai who had successfully opposed the onslaught of Arabic and shown people the beauty and lyricism of the Uzbek language. All of these and more had been called enemies of Islam in their lifetime and all of them had been defended by the people and are even today idolized by the masses. I saw a 'just married couple' come straight after the 'Nikaah' to the statue of Ali Sher



Navai to seek his blessings. All this defies the accepted picture of Islam.

But it is not so difficult to comprehend. After all this is where the Silk Road passes which brought with it not just trade but also ideas. It was here that the oasis of Bukhara had burst forth, that gave both life and knowledge to the halting caravans. Can one exist without the other?

A present day of mass involvement in defending secularism was the complaint from the people about two mullahs who had spoken against Jews and Christians after the Friday Namaaz. Not only were the mullahs removed from their position, the mosques were shut down.

Strange that while the world is so quick in showcasing the regressive and fundamentalist side of Islam, no effort is made to show Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries as a possibility in bringing about a balance between religion and modernity.

(Noor Zaheer is the Coordinator of the SAARC literary festival and the author of *My God Is A Woman*)

Women Power

ON 28 OCTOBER, the German Book Office, the French Book Office and the Indian feminist publishing house Zubaan brought together in Delhi, women social workers, lawyers, writers and publishers to discuss issues related to violence, rights, safety and emancipation.

The two-day event was supported by the ambassadors of France and Germany. Writer and activist Mrinal Pande said on the occasion, 'to be a woman is much more than the damages done to us', as women. Under discussion was the issue of identity, as an individual, as a woman and as a writer or activist or parliamentarian. Several speakers said, identity was not a good idea for feminism. From a western viewpoint, 'the theory of the state is itself questionable', Pande said, adding, 'it was created without the epistomical input of women'.

One session was devoted to if women received equal representation, what was the scope of getting such a right and how far the world had progressed on this matter.

French Minister Najat Vallaud discussed parity in European governments like the French government while delegates from Germany spoke about how they were arriving at 50 per cent representation. A Commission for Gender could slowly progress towards equal representation, but India had not even reached 25 per cent representation in spite of having the right to vote since it became a



Najat Vallaud-Belkacem (Left), Shoma Chaudhury, Martha Crawford-Heitzmann, Andrea Lindlohr Pamela Philipose (Below)

Ambassador of France to India François Richier, Publisher Urvashi Butalia, German Ambassador to India Michael Steiner

republic, Indian speakers pointed out.

Lawyers like Vrinda Grover discussed legal redresses and justice for victims of sexual violence and the glitch in the processes that hindered justice for India's women.

— BLD

Doris Lessing Dies

Doris Lessing, one of Britain's most-influential authors and a Nobel Literature laureate, has died at 94, on 17 November. From a lifetime of writing came more than 80 books, including poetry, two operas, short stories, plays and non-fiction. In 2007, the 88-year-old Lessing became the oldest recipient of the Nobel Prize and only the 11th woman to win the award. The Swedish Academy described her as "that epicist of the female experience, who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny." Nicholas Pearson, her editor at HarperCollins, said: "Doris's long life and career was a great gift to world literature," the Press Association reported.

"Probably she'll be most remembered for *The Golden Notebook* which became a handbook to a whole generation, but her many books have spoken to us in so many various ways," Pearson continued.

Published in 1962, *The Golden Notebook* is Lessing's best-known work.

— The Guardian

Tarot Cards For U! 6 You share your birthday month with Jane Austen & John Milton

Aries VII of Wands



You need to be stubborn and stand your ground in times of adversity. You will triumph over great odds.

Gemini X of Swords



You might feel betrayed and loveless. But improvements are sure to follow. Good days will be back.

Leo XIII Death



It is actually a positive card signifying transformations, change which is a blessing. Change is inevitable.

Libra II of Swords



Friendship at the time of adversity. You need to take your decisions logically. Beware of betrayal.

Sagittarius Page of Swords



Indicates someone young and quick-witted in your vicinity. He might bring news and contacts for you. Be careful.

Aquarius The Fool



Nothing can harm you whatever you do. You can take a risk and start a new chapter in life. Unconventional people may enter your life.

Taurus XII The Hanged Man



There may be a temporary pause in life. Go with the flow and be in tune with the change. Be patient.

Cancer III of Cups



Celebrations and reunions. Parties and love affairs. Sometimes signifies pregnancy or birth.

Virgo II of Cups



Harmonious relations and emotional contentment indicated. Shows co-operation, mutual respect and ending of rivalry.

Scorpio XIX The Sun



Celebrations and reunions, pleasure and good health. There might be some minor setbacks.

Capricorn IX of Swords



Anxiety and tension is shown but all sufferings are ultimately for betterment of your life. Light is there at the end of the tunnel.

Pisces Knight of Swords



Indicates a confident and eloquent person. Possibly a quarrelsome person. Beware of deceptions.