

FRONTLIST

JANUARY 2022



PVLf EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Join us to celebrate a

GRAND EVENING

ON 8TH JANUARY 2022

With the winners of

**Author
Excellence
Awards**

**People's Choice
Publisher
Awards**

**Reader's Choice
Book
Awards**

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL



Penguin
Random House
India

Read exclusive interviews under these Vanity Publishers

WELCOME MESSAGE

A Very Happy New Year to Everyone!

I'd like to begin by sharing my great admiration for all the wonderful professionals and industry leaders who have collaborated with Frontlist to uplift the publishing ecosystem.

This New Year - 2022, we promise to bring amazing opportunities and events to encourage all aspiring and renowned authors who are grappling to find a plausible place to exhibit their talents and get better reach.

We are starting this year with PragatiE Vichaar Literature Festival - a first-of-its-kind 24-Hour Author's Marathon from 6th-7th January to be hosted at PragatiE.com platform, followed by a PVL Excellence Awards on 8th January at Hotel Claridge's. Conceptualized by Frontlist, co-organized with The Federation of Indian Publishers, hosted by pragatiE, and powered by our knowledge partner Nielsen, this edition of PVL will be specifically designed to give new and upcoming authors a platform to promote themselves. PVL2022 will also include the first PVL Excellence Awards, where debutant and seasoned authors will be celebrated and felicitated. As our knowledge partner, Nielsen will be lending their BookScan data and expertise to ensure 100% authenticity of the awards. Read further in this magazine for more information.

Get ready everyone! It's just the beginning. 2022 is going to be the year of Frontlist and the publishing industry to come together for bigger and better things. Watch out for the February edition for more insights and exclusive look of the winners of the PVL Excellence Awards.

Stay connected with us for more updates about the publishing universe.

Write to me: navita@frontlist.in

Navita Berry
Business Head



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Frontlist Special:

- Spotlight Session - 'Role of Books in creating knowledge Society'
- Clubhouse Session - 'Author: Is it a full-time job?'

Frontlist

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Editorial Interview

Ramesh K Mittal – Hon.
President of The Federation of
Indian Publishers

Frontlist: As President of FIP, what problems do you think require a prompt discussion and action for the growth of Indian Publishing Industry?

Ramesh: The most important issues of Indian Publishing Industry that need to be addressed are Copyright infringements by way of illegal photocopying as well as physical or digital reproduction of books and or their chapters; level playing field for private publishers vis-a-vis government supported/subsidized publishing, GST on royalties being paid to authors of books, better funding to libraries, negligible public library infrastructure not commensurating with the population and the non-availability of a national book database of the country.

Frontlist: What steps has FIP taken to resolve these issues?

Ramesh : FIP has taken up these challenging issues with the concerned authorities and on different platforms from time to time. Our suggestions to overcome the copyright infringements have been accepted by the relevant Standing Committee of the Govt. of India and the report of the said Committee is currently under consideration.

Frontlist: What are the key areas you're trying to cover through the book '75 years of Publishing in India', which is under compilation?

Ramesh: FIP had published two independent, monographic volumes at the time of 50 years and 60 years of independence, which were well received by one and all. To mark the Amritmahotsav, fresh articles are being obtained from the stalwarts in different areas of publishing; including some in Indian regional languages. The new volume is likely to be published well before we complete 75 years.

Frontlist: What impact do you think the book '75 years of Publishing in India' is going to have on the publishing ecosystem throughout the world?

Ramesh: This volume will bring to the limelight the current status of every field of publishing ecosystem in India and suggest the way forward for further development and collaborations.

Frontlist: How is the Indian Publishing Industry fairsing on economic and developmental visions of the Govt. of India?

Ramesh: The publishing community is all poised to support the economic and developmental visions of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. The industry is already Atamirbhar in terms of excellent authorship, editorial competence and world-class printing and binding, besides the fact that the Balance of Trade is now in our favour in respect of Printed Books. While publishers directly contribute to Padhega-Bharat Badhega-Bharat, they are also coming up with all kinds of digital book products in support of Digital India. We are indeed supporting to build a 'Knowledge Society' leading to the 'Knowledge Economy'.

Frontlist: With the introduction of the digital world, everything is available online, including the contents of books. Do you think the government should step in to ensure some reservation regarding the copyright issues faced by the authors and writers?

Ramesh: Yes, technology in any field ensures fast development but it has its own drawbacks. FIP is trying its best to get the Copyright laws strengthened to avoid misuse of technology.

Frontlist: Aspiring writers are the future of the nation for bringing new perspectives on the pages. But big publishing houses are beyond their reach and they are not getting a good platform to exhibit their talent. How will you look to address this issue?

Ramesh: We need to develop platforms, literary festivals/meets, where debutant authors make presentations on their writings. And once readers show their interest in the writings of an author, some publishers are sure to come forward and take up the manuscripts. After all, readers become aspiring writers and their books create more readers. Publishing eco-system will only grow if there are more and more book readers.

Frontlist: What steps would you like to take for bringing the Indian and Global Publishing Industry together?

Ramesh: Having been a member of the International Publishers' Association, Geneva, FIP is always in touch with the Global Publishing Industry leaders to discuss the developments taking place across the continents. FIP Office Bearers also attend the IPA Congress world over. In fact, India has hosted two such congresses at New Delhi in 1992 and 2018 respectively.



REPUBLIC DAY
SPECIAL



“The Origin Story of India’s States”

–Venkataraghavan
Subha Srinivasan

Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan is a writer, actor, and strategy consultant from Bengaluru, India.

‘The Origin Story of India’s States’ is his first non-fiction book.

Frontlist: Your Twitter bio says, you’re a multi-talented person - a writer, actor, brand strategist, author, audible narrator, and Byju’s presenter. Who is the real Venkataraghavan Subha Srinivasan amongst these?

Venkataraghavan: They’re all the real me. I believe that none of us is ever just one thing. We’re all multi-talented and multi-faceted. We’re a lot like India’s states - there are multiple stories and truths about each of us, and we can’t be contained to just one story, skill or talent. It simply is a matter of what we choose to develop and are able to amplify.

Frontlist: What is the main objective behind this subject that is illustrated in your debut book?

Venkataraghavan: Your state forms an integral part of your identity. Maybe you were born there or you studied or worked there, or maybe your grandparents were from there. When you introduce yourself, you often say which state you’re from as well. And yet, while nearly everyone knows the story of India’s independence, very few people know the story of their state. I believe everyone must know the story of their state. This book tells the origin stories of all the states and union territories of India in accessible language so that everyone can read and engage with it.

Frontlist: As the book title comprehends, it must require very demanding research. How did you start the research process and carry on till the end?

Venkataraghavan: This book was researched and written entirely from my desk. I referred to academic journals, research papers, government documents, books

and articles - and they’re all available online! There are sites like jstor and academia dedicated to scholarly knowledge; they were incredible storehouses and resources for me. And I’ve dedicated my book to all those who researched and wrote about specific states; their work has made mine possible.

Since I had to write about 36 states and union territories in one year, I allocated on average ten days per state. I would first dive into the research material and figure out the major players and plot points and overarching narrative. Then, I would write out that narrative. This discipline helped me stay on schedule and complete the book in a year.

Frontlist: Do you think this book will resonate with readers and convey the right interpretation of India’s birth?

Venkataraghavan: Yes! I have three wishes for how this book will connect with readers. One, I would like readers to have a sense of satisfaction after they read the story of their state, because it’s very personal to them and I want to do justice to every state’s story. Two, I would like readers to have learned something new about their state. And three, I hope these stories will ignite a curiosity in readers so that they go and do further reading on their own.

Frontlist: Through this book, you’ve defined each state and union territory. Which state was the most difficult one to write about and also share which one of the state’s birth history is your favourite?

Venkataraghavan: One thing that quickly became apparent to me as I wrote this book is that we have been taught very little about all the states. There was so much

I didn't know. And this is especially true of all the North-east states. It took me a while to get a sense of all their stories and figure out their narratives.

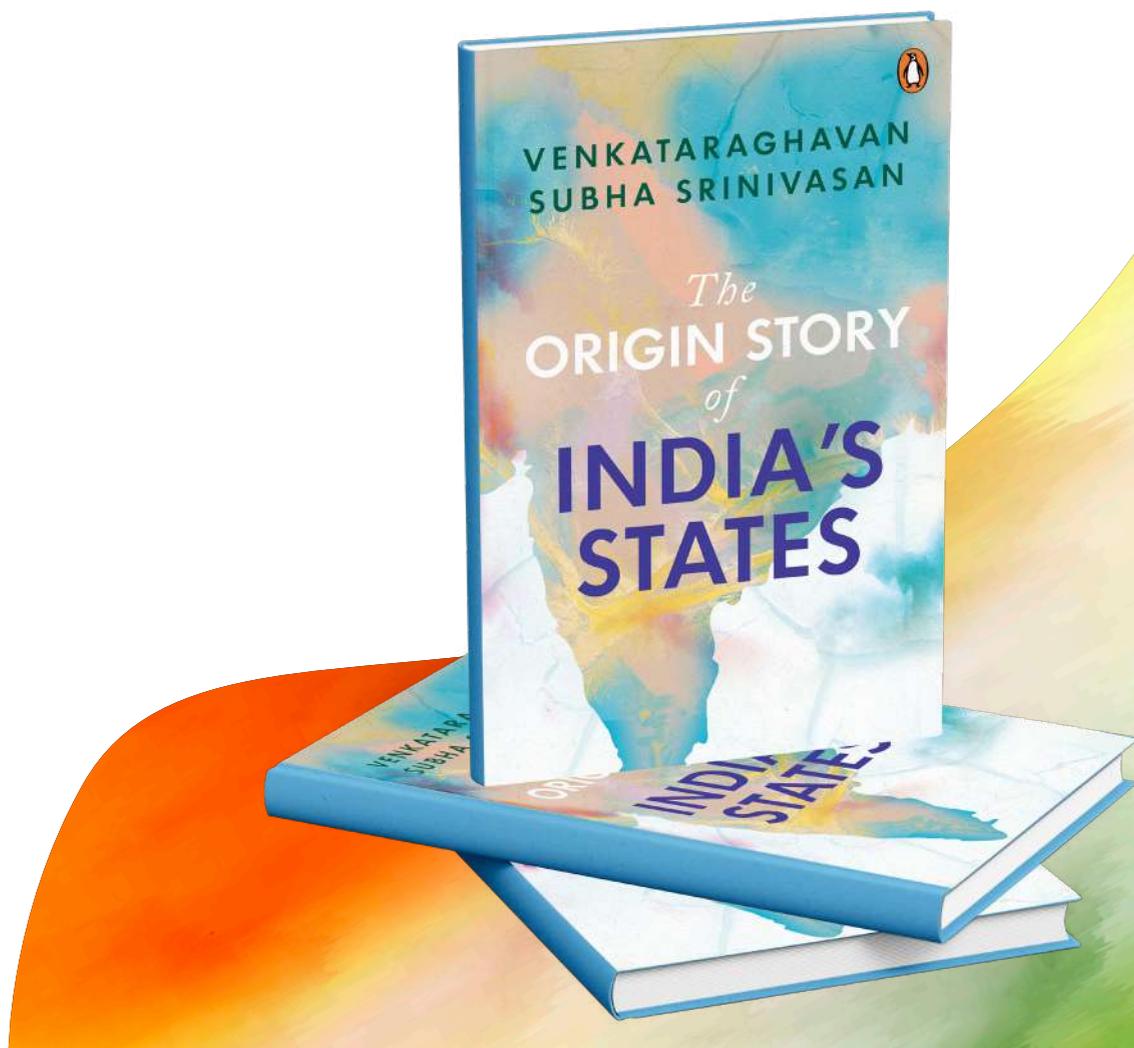
Every state's origin story is unique. No two states share the same journey. I thoroughly enjoyed diving into every state's past. Sikkim's origin story is a real page-turner, how it wasn't even a part of India until 1975 and then became a state. Similarly, Goa has had a real rollercoaster ride to statehood, even nearly becoming a district in Maharashtra at one point.

Frontlist: Have you always been into the 'non-fiction' genre? Share your favourite authors who reflect your writing style.

Venkataraman: I've written and published short fiction and children's books before this nonfiction book, and I hope to expand into writing for screen and audio formats. In terms of favourite authors, I love how Gayatri Prabhu can devastate you with sparse prose. And I've really been enjoying translated books from across the country; they're as diverse as the origin stories of the states they come from.

More about the book

The Origin Story of India's States is a fascinating and illuminative account of the genesis of India's states. It presents the incredible origin stories of each of India's twenty-eight states and eight union territories, spanning from Independence until today. The state that wasn't even a part of India until 1975; the union territory that had a prime minister for a single day; the state that has not one or two but three capitals; and the union territory that has beaches on both coasts—this book looks into such unique aspects of Indian history and adds to our understanding of how our nation has been built.





“Had Sardar Patel been the First Prime Minister ”

– Justice S. N. Aggarwal

Justice S. N. Aggarwal hails from a family of freedom fighters. After having a small stint in the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, he got into P.C.S. (Judicial). He remained posted at different places as the District Judge of Patiala and Jalandhar before being elevated as a Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court in November 2004. While in High Court, Justice Aggarwal brought the trial court record of Shaheed-e -Azam

Frontlist: If Sardar Patel had been the First Prime Minister of India, how developed had our foreign policy and defence structure been?

Justice S. N.: So far as the Foreign Policy of Sardar Patel is concerned, it would have been friendly or favourable or it could be hard, but it would have been decided upon after great thought, consultation and considering our country's long time interest.

For example, Pandit Nehru sought advice from Sardar Patel about a letter received by Nehru from PM Attlee that the UK Government was worried about Hong Kong as they thought there might be a possibility of the Chinese Communist attacking Hong Kong. UK wanted moral support from India but Nehru thought that we should not be entangled in their business.

Sardar Patel advised that we have to reckon with the growing Communist menace in China. If Hong Kong is to be a bastion against communism, there is something to be said for reinforcing it, but if it is merely going to be an imperialist domain, then it is obvious we can have nothing to do with it. We also have to realize that India is the only country which can withstand communist expansion in Asia. At the same time, it is obvious, that we cannot do it alone; if we have to safeguard our frontiers against communist infiltration and encroachments, we shall have to depend on outside sympathy and support. We have to bear in mind the practical considerations of today and evolve a line of approach which, while not compromising with our stand against imperialism. If Nehru had followed the advice of Sardar Patel, Hong Kong could have been saved from the Chinese Control.

Secondly, Sardar Patel advised Nehru that we have to

strengthen our position in Sikkim as well as in Tibet. The farther we keep away the communist forces, the better. Tibet has long been detached from China. I anticipate that as soon as communists have established themselves in the rest of china, they will try to destroy its autonomous existence.

Thirdly, again look at Nehru's approach. Nehru wanted to recognize Communist China first of all but Sardar Patel had advised Nehru on December 6, 1949, not to show any hurry. My own feeling is that we do not stand to gain anything substantial by giving a lead. Nehru had the intention to go in advance and he did it. Sardar Patel had a more considerate and nationalistic approach towards foreign affairs.

Fourthly, Churchill's speech was reported in Hindustan Times where he spoke ill of India's policy for pressing Hyderabad for accession to India. Sardar Patel asked Shankar to prepare a draft rejoinder. Shankar put it in a way that it related to Churchill and Foreign Affairs is under Nehru. Should we consult Nehru? Sardar Patel told Shankar curtly that it was not necessary and in any case, if he showed it to the Prime Minister, it would never be issued at all. The next day the rejoinder was published in the newspapers and phone calls were received congratulating Sardar Patel. Sardar Patel stated in the rejoinder: "I am glad to know that His Majesty's Government has not fallen prey to these machinations of Mr. Churchill and his henchmen and have refused to treat the Hyderabad issue as one of internal concern of the Indian Dominion."

The interesting part now starts. In 1949 Anthony Aden only second to Churchill in the Conservative Party of England came to India and met Sardar Patel. He said that

Bhagat Singh from Lahore (Pakistan) now lying in the High Court Museum. Justice Aggarwal also served as the President, State Consumer Redressal Commission, Punjab and later on as the Chairman, Haryana Backward Classes Commission.

He served as Law Secretary in the Andaman and Nicobar Administration at Port Blair from May 1990 to September 1992. He authored a book "The Heroes of Cellular Jail" about the supreme sacrifices made by the revolutionary patriots, incarcerated in the Cellular Jail in their struggle for the freedom of the country. Later on, he brought it out in a concise form and 'The Cellular Jail in Our Freedom Struggle' was published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as Supplementary Reading for Senior Secondary School students to update them about this chapter of History.

Besides these two books, Justice Aggarwal has also written 5 other books on law.

Previously, he had also written the book '**Nehru's Himalayan Blunders: The Accession of Jammu and Kashmir**'. Now, Justice Aggarwal has converted the same into a three book series. Followed by two volumes, '**Sardar Patel: The Supreme Architect in Unification Of India**' and '**Had Sardar Patel Been the First Prime Minister**'.

he 'has a message to give you from Mr. Churchill.' Eden said that Churchill had asked him to say that he thoroughly enjoyed the retort Sardar Patel had made to him and that he had nothing but admiration. Eden went on to say that Churchill had specially said that the Sardar should not confine himself within the limits of India and that the world was entitled to see and hear more of him.

Lastly V. Shankar Secretary to Sardar Patel tells us the foreign policy of Sardar Patel in brief. "In external affairs, he (Sardar Patel) was a believer in collective endeavour in mutual-help and in a foreign policy based on national interest. His golden rule in international affairs was to speak only when necessary, to always keep national interest in view and not to be tied down to any particular bloc." Keep options open. "He wanted to maintain an eclectic attitude in international cooperation so as to benefit from the best in every country without surrendering the freedom of choice. On this philosophy and belief, he wanted to build India's future of glory and greatness and to secure a place for it in the committee of nations which would enable it to command both respect and influence which would be utilized for universal good."

THIS MUCH ABOUT SARDAR PATEL'S FOREIGN POLICY

The second part of the first question is: "How developed our Defence structure had been?"

Firstly, Sardar Patel was strongly in favour of a strong military for the country's defence. He wanted to explore the chances of establishing a factory that would manufacture arms, and ammunition and flashlights and flashlight cells. He believed that Government's ordnance factories will be able to turn out sufficient quantities of small arms. If

we have to do anything, we must do it with some speed; otherwise, others may steal a march over us.

Secondly, SS Bhatnagar (Eminent Scientist; Secretary of Union Education Ministry) wrote to Sardar Patel on September 16, 1947, that he has felt the need to write on the subject of defence of this country and for the expansion of our ordnance and ammunition factories. It is very necessary that the army of India should be prepared for all emergencies. Sardar Patel replied with a letter dated by September 23, 1947, and appreciated the intensity of feelings of SS Bhatnagar, Director General of Science and Industrial Research.

Thirdly, on December 17, 1947, Sardar Patel gave a speech on 'What Freedom Means' and said: "There is a great deal to do to strengthen Indian militarily. The strong army demands strong support in the matter of supply and food. We have, therefore, to husband our resources and, for that, we must forget our quarrels." Sardar Patel in his speech in Lucknow on January 6, 1948, said: "For the reconstruction of India only two things are the need of the time. A strong Central Government and a formidable army. By army I mean all its branches - Naval, Air and Land forces."

Fourthly, Sardar Patel addressed the Officers and Members of the Indian Air Force on October 1, 1948, and told them not to be cowards. Learn to fight bravely. Defend every inch of our country. On July 9, 1950, Sardar Patel wrote that the war clouds in Korea have set his mind thinking as to whether they were really equipping themselves for a situation in which they might be cut off from the rest of the world and might run short of essential defence or other stores. At another time Sardar Patel said that he was fully convinced that it was the time of making the

best use of Hindustan Aircraft. They cannot afford to lose any more time in putting this factory to the maximum use. Had he been the person to lead the country the defence would have been his top priority.

Frontlist: Do you visualize a less bitter relationship between India and China if Patel would have been the first person to lead the country?

Justice S. N.: I would answer this question by disclosing the views of Sardar Patel about the expansionist designs of China.

We go to Chapter 6 on page 64 of the book 'Had Sardar Patel Been The First Prime Minister'. Sardar Patel wrote a letter dated November 7, 1950 to Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru around the time when Tibet's occupancy by China came up for consideration. The letter runs into 8 pages dealing with every aspect of giving caution to Nehru to be aware of the China's imperialist designs. On our continuous support to China, still that country stares at India. Their last telegram to us is an act of gross discourtesy, not only in the summary way it disposes of our protest against the entry of Chinese forces into Tibet, but also in the wild insinuation that our attitude is determined by foreign influences. It looks as though, it is not a friend speaking in that language but a potential enemy. The people living in our border area looking like Tibetans which China could easily claim to be a part of their land.

Sardar Patel further wrote that 'let us consider the political conditions on this potentially troublesome frontier. Our northern and north-eastern approaches consist of Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Darjeeling (area) and the tribal area in Assam. From the point of view of communication, they are the weak spots. Continuous defensive lines do not exist. There is almost an unlimited scope for infiltration. Police protection is limited to a very small number of passes. There, too, our outposts do not seem to be fully manned. The contact of these areas with us is by no means close and intimate. Any faltering or indecisiveness in formulating and attaining the objectives is bound to weaken us and increase the threat. Had Sardar Patel's advice been followed by the PM Nehru, the Nation would not have undergone the calamity of total and humiliating defeat in 1962 war and huge Indian land would not have passed to the Chinese.

I must mention that Sardar Patel was a rare gift of God Almighty to India. Personalities like him rarely visit the Planet Mother Earth. He pressed upon three duties on every Indian i.e. (i) to be patriotic, (ii) to have regard for the moral values and high character and (iii) be disciplined. Had Sardar Patel been the first Prime Minister, our country would have been a fully developed country and leader in Asia probably by 1960 at the latest. If Sardar Patel had been the first Prime Minister, there was a line of nationalist politicians to follow Sardar Patel's policy and line of action for the advancement of the country who would have

succeeded Sardar Patel. Therefore, to answer your question, India would have been a developed country in 1960s. China could not have the courage to challenge India or to attack our borders. China could have been hostile to India at her own cost.

Frontlist: When Pakistan attacked India in 1947, Nehru wanted the UN to intervene on the Kashmir issue. Do you think under Patel's leadership, any ounce of Jammu and Kashmir's geographical land would have belonged to Pakistan ever?

Justice S. N.: firstly the facts in the background are that Mountbatten the governor-general of India on June 13, 1947 decided that 'states department' for dealing with the princely states in India would be set up in each country. Then the question arose which minister of Indian government should hold that department? In the meeting held by Lord Mountbatten on June 25, 1947, it was decided that the states department would be held by the hon'ble Home Minister who was Sardar Patel. Lord Mountbatten wrote a letter to his home government in London on June 27, 1947 and as item number 27 of the letter he wrote: "I am glad to say that Nehru has not been put in charge of the new department, which would have wrecked everything. Sardar Patel, who is essentially a realist, and very sensible is going to take it over"

Secondly, Sardar Patel persuaded almost all the 550 Princely States to merge in India. Even Junagadh was made to accede to India by Sardar Patel with his own diplomacy on November 9, 1947. Hyderabad was taken over by Police Action started on September 13, 1948 by Sardar Patel and it became a part of India September 16, 1948.

Thirdly, Maharaja Hari Singh ruler of the State of Jammu and Kashmir sent the proposal of accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to India through Justice Mehr Chand Mahajan, the Prime Minister (designate) of Jammu and Kashmir. Mahajan wrote (page 97 of my book 'NEHRU'S HIMALAYAN BLUNDERS: The Accession of Jammu and Kashmir') on September 19, 1947 as under: "I also met Pandit Nehru, PM of India and I told him the terms on which the Maharaja wanted me to negotiate with India. The Maharaja was willing to accede to India and also to introduce necessary reforms in the administration of the State. He, however, wanted the question of administrative reforms to be taken up later on. Panditji wanted an immediate change in the internal administration of the State and he felt somewhat annoyed when I conveyed to him the Maharaja's views. Nehru asked me to see that Sheikh Abdullah was set free."

On September 19, 1947 Pakistan had not even attacked the State of Jammu and Kashmir. See the foolishness of

pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. The accession of Jammu and Kashmir was being offered to India on the platter, but Nehru did not accept the accession. If Sardar Patel had been the first prime minister he would have immediately accepted the offer and the state of Jammu and Kashmir in its entirety would have become a part of India.

Fourthly, otherwise also the state of Jammu and Kashmir was in the domain of Sardar Patel being in charge of the Ministry of States. Unfortunately the state of Jammu and Kashmir was withdrawn by Pandit Nehru from the domain of Sardar Patel and had taken it over to himself without any discussion in the cabinet and without even informing Sardar Patel with effect from October 31, 1947 after Pakistan had already attacked the state of Jammu and Kashmir on October 22, 1947 and the Maharaja Hari Singh had acceded to India on October 26, 1947.

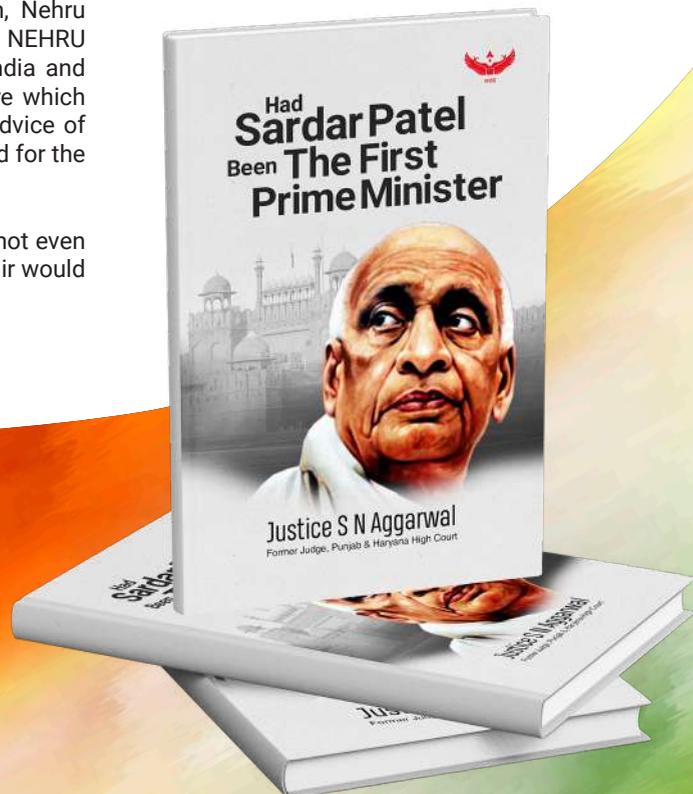
Fifthly, Nehru had come to know that Pakistan is going to attack the state of Jammu and Kashmir and wrote to Sardar Patel that he (Nehru) does not know what to do and asked him 'anyhow we should think about it, and devise some plan.' Sardar Patel replied that retaliation to Pakistan was the only answer in such circumstances. Nehru did not follow the advice of Sardar Patel and lost a strategic and significant area to Pakistan.

Lastly, Nehru made a speech from Radio on November 2, 1947 of his own choice without taking the consent of the Cabinet and even of Sardar Patel. When Sardar Patel learnt about it, he sent his private Secretary to the Radio station for stopping Nehru from doing so but by then, Nehru had already started making his speech; thereby Nehru internationalized the domestic issue between India and Pakistan. By now Sardar Patel was out of picture which he came to know later on. Nehru acted on the advice of Mountbatten and Sheikh Abdullah and never cared for the advice of Sardar Patel.

If Sardar Patel had been the first prime minister, not even an inch of land of the state of Jammu and Kashmir would have gone to Pakistan.

Frontlist: What are the reasons India has never been able to make it to the list of developed nations?

Justice S. N.: The answer is very simple. Our National leadership never had the idea of bringing the country in the list of Developed Nations. Even Mahatma Gandhi, received complaints on January 12, 1948. Gandhi ji disclosed it on the post prayer speech on January 13, 1948 and it was published in the Newspapers on January 14, 1948. The two letters received were the complaints that all moral restrictions are gone. The factions in Congress carry on the money-making activities of several MLAs and MLCS. The people have begun to say that the British government was much better and they are even cursing the Congress. Gandhi ji must have felt that he had led the Congress party to fight for the independence of our country so that the loot of the country by the British is stopped, and the resources of the country, are to be utilized for wiping out the tears from the eyes of the every person in the country. Gandhi ji often said that 'since independence was achieved, the Congress party should cease to exist and the ruling party should adopt some other name, so that the people in power may not exploit the name of the 'Congress' for their own selfish ends.' The political parties took the advantage of the name of 'Congress' and 'Gandhi ji' and remained in power and ruled the country. The same process of misuse of power continued since then. Nobody cared for bringing the name of the country in the list of developed nations. Now there is a change with PM Narendra Modi.





“Had Patel been the Prime Minister”

- Prafull Goradia

Born in Bombay on 27 March 1937, Prafull Goradia is a specialist of the tea industry, having worked with the biggest tea-brokers in the world and later in his own business. He later made the conscious and resolute decision to quit a comfortable existence to enter the uncertain world of politics, his real passion and constant calling since his adolescence.

Elected to Parliament in 1998, as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he intervened in several important matters that came up for discussion, making several significant speeches on contemporary issues, participating in debates and contributing to policy making.

Frontlist: The biggest democracy in the world elected its first Prime Minister undemocratically. Is your book an indication of what we lost rather than what we gained?

Prafull: 15 out of 16 PCCs expressed preference for Sardar Patel to be the Prime Minister. The idea behind this was that whoever was the President of the Congress in 1946, would ultimately be the first Prime Minister of independent India in 1947. No one at all thought of Nehru. Gandhi, being disappointed with the results, asked Patel to step aside. Against the rules, Gandhi got Nehru appointed by the Congress Working Committee, which then consisted of 21 members.

Frontlist: Your autobiography shows your admiration towards Hindutva. Can your books be called a simpler version of actual Hindutva as well as what it appears to be?

Prafull: I have recently written a book ‘The Grammar of Hindudom’, which again copes up with what I can cope with as well as what the readers can cope with. There again, it is nothing but a dialectic process of the Hindu principles of life being projected into politics of the country.

Frontlist: In your book “Saffron Awakening”, you mention the 2017 UP Elections as the third public demonstration of saffron ascendancy. Can this third be probably the final nail in the coffin?

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Prafull: I don't think life has such finalities. And, I don't think any coffin was involved. But it certainly indicated what people decisively felt. think any coffin was involved. But it certainly indicated what people decisively felt.

Frontlist: Jinnah's vision of Pakistan was as strong yet subtle as Patel's vision of India. Do you think if Patel and Jinnah worked hand in hand, this everlasting cold war wouldn't have started?

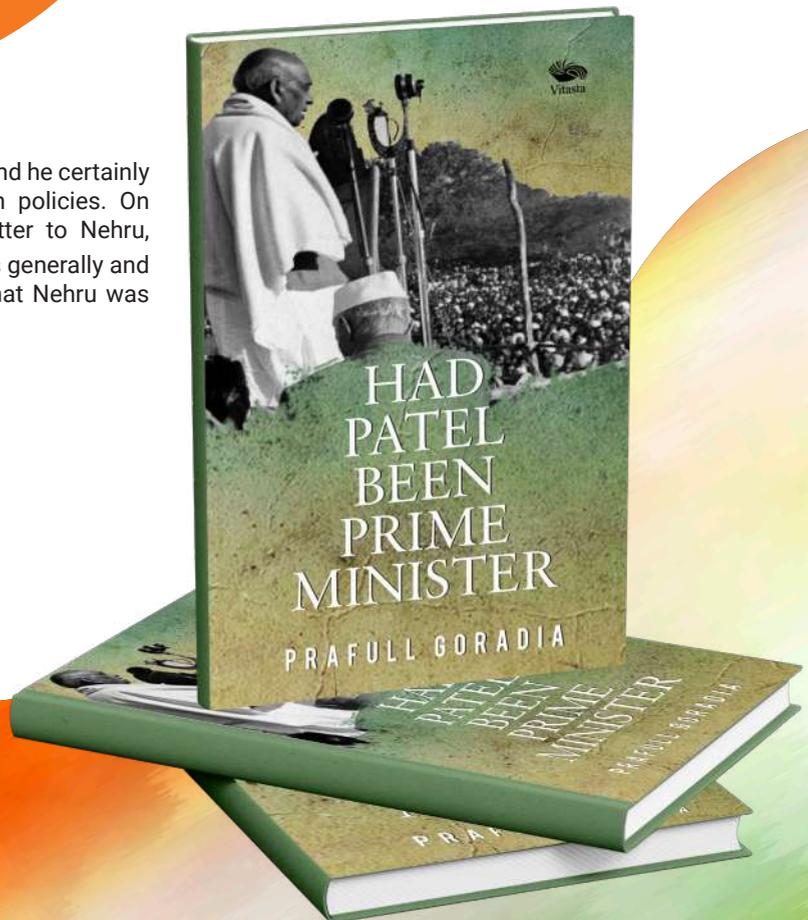
Prafull: Well, I think it may not have started at all only on the condition that India could have beaten Pakistan decisively when they first invaded Kashmir in the October month of 1947. Other than that, friendly-friendly business Jinnah and Patel in any case. Jinnah was not a leader of muslims, as much as an advocate. And an advocate wants his fees and he's not willing to settle, because settlement is against the advantage of an advocate. What was the fee? The fee was replacing the whole history. So he became famous as a founder of the nation, which couldn't have been possible through a friendly-friendly business.

Frontlist: Had Patel been the Prime Minister, do you think India's international stand would've been stronger in terms of foreign policy and defense?

Prafull Goradia has penned several books: Profiles of Tea, Dear Editor, The Saffron Book, Hindu Masjids, Muslim League's Unfinished Agenda, Anti-Hindus and Saga of Indian Tea, Fly me to the Moon (Bloomsbury India), Krishna Rajya (Bloomsbury India), Saffron Awakening, Had Patel been Prime Minister, Jinnah Helped Hindus, Population Exchange. He has also written over 500 articles on issues of both national and global significance. His letters to editors of national dailies, numbering over 2,800, are useful for transporting contemporary readers over a period of modern India's political journey. He presides over The Indian School in Delhi, which has earned a reputation for offering modern education entwined with traditional Indian ethos.

Hypocrisy is not the key for achieving Hindu Muslim oneness without which India cannot be integrated.

Prafull: Patel knew more about defense and he certainly knew quite a lot more about the foreign policies. On 7th November 1950, he wrote a long letter to Nehru, warning him against the Chinese intentions generally and particularly with regard to Tibet. He felt that Nehru was being generous and led away.





“India Vision”

- Kapil Gupta

A marketer to the core, Kapil Gupta is an entrepreneur, both in thought and in style who believes that the power of a message & its delivery is what causes true revolutions. Kapil Gupta is a parallel entrepreneur who believes in providing true meaning to the various organizations he runs and builds them in sync with one another. He jokingly calls himself the jack of all trades and a master of some. He is the founder and CEO of OMLogic (India's leading digital marketing agency), PragatiE (a virtual exhibition platform), Frontlist (portal for the publishing industry), Solh (a mental wellness platform & his current passion project), and Advit Toys (a board games company).

Frontlist: In the month of December 2021, Prostitutes won their long-fought voting and social rights from the highest court of the country. As a gender equality representative, please share your thoughts on this new and bright victory.

Kapil: Prostitution in my view is a profession. Perhaps I count it as one of the oldest professions. I have been a strong supporter of the legalisation of prostitution in India. Although I say there should be a structure made around it but then the structure should be made around every profession. I'm very glad that they got their voting and social rights from the Supreme Court but I still believe the profession should be taken to a next level and in fact, when I worked as an activist for women safety after the brutal Delhi gang rape in 2012, one of the aspects I actually talked about was of legalisation of prostitution. I think it's an individual choice and if a woman or a man perhaps wants to take it up as a profession in their life then that is completely their personal choice.

Frontlist: The way the NDA government has been working towards the betterment of the country, does it reflect your vision to see India as a Developed Nation as mentioned in your book?

Kapil: I've never seen a government as successful or unsuccessful. I think a government is partly successful and partly unsuccessful. You need to see the figures for taking out the percentage. But the question arises, which missions of the government are successful and in favour or which missions or agendas see a downfall?

Although I love the current government for taking a stand on a variety of different issues. I hate them for taking the 'Farm Laws' back. Now I do not say anything on whether the farm laws were good or bad. But in a country like ours, a law has been passed from both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and it has just been taken back because of some 'Mob Activity'. And I keep calling them a mob...

The mob sat somewhere and protested and for that reason, the law had to be reverted, it is very shameful. I don't think it is a victory of democracy at all. It is just a victory of what I always keep calling 'The Mob rule'.

Frontlist: As the country will mark its 73rd Republic Day, Farmers are still grappling with the security of their livelihood. Do you think that we are on the right path as a nation when our primary sector is under a huge threat?

Kapil: First of all, I do not consider farming as a noble profession. Just like prostitution, it is also any other common profession. Interestingly farming is the only profession where the person doing the role has earned nothing in their life on their own. They've taken the lands from their forefathers and they are using it to generate employment. Yes, there should be a space for constant change and growth in every profession but calling farming a noble profession, I'm completely against it. If small farmers think that farming is a non-profitable profession then the government should look for nationalising farming in the country. Well, I've written a chapter about it into my book, everyone should definitely read it.

Frontlist: How are you hoping to see the UP

Kapil is a true believer in new-age equality, which for him is deep rooted in providing equal opportunity to all. He believes that the current world of equality is still a 20th century way of working, which is rotten with personal benefits in the forms of subsidies & reservations (women, LGBTQ, religion, race, caste, region based). For true equality, everybody MUST be treated equally. Period.

Elections 2022 that has come so close especially when it was previously fought primarily on a religious basis?

Kapil: What do you mean by 'previously'? It'll still be fought on the same basis. It is Uttar Pradesh. It is not about what politicians want but in fact, it's the people's ask. People there like it that way. They are too much into religion, caste and every other kind of discrimination.

From my point of view, I think once again Yogi (Yogi Adityanath, Current CM of UP) is going to win. First, I think he has not done too much wrong. Second, if not 'he' then 'who'? So in our country, I think that has been the core theme of all the elections that the citizens keep running out of options.

Frontlist: Do you think 'India Vision - New Age Equality' is the roadmap that our country is moving on or is it just a visionary thought in the corner of your head?

Kapil: I don't think it's into the corner of my head but definitely, it is visionary. And not just India but I don't think any country on the globe is moving through this. We are still living in the 20th-century definition of equality which is why I decided to write this book. We still live in a society where we keep thinking of social justice as bringing the oppressed one up and not equality. I stand by equality. I always had and I always will but not any kind of subsidies or privileges to any individual or community based on their religion, caste, nationality, gender or any other thing.

While we keep saying equality, we just keep giving the subsidies or privileges to a certain community which I

don't think is the right way to go. Equality means 100% equality.

Frontlist: 'India Vision - New Age Equality' also revolves around Gender Equality. Don't you think that if this term would have ever existed, Feminists and Activists who fight for the rights and freedom of women would have been at the best of their mental peace?

Kapil: See going with this question I'll mention that I have got a huge problem with the feminists and activists. All they do is misuse the privilege that they are fighting for the lower strata of the society. Why will a woman who is empowered need a reserved seat in a metro? Why will the woman who is empowered require a six month holiday from the business owner? Where is the equality in that?

I think equality needs to be looked upon differently. Only government privileges may exist for certain strata of society. Even the government to an extent should also not intervene in that. Let equality be generated like this over a period of time.

You cannot set the past wrong, you cannot work on repressions. The problem I have with almost all the activism is that they think past as wrong but the past is visualised with the changing needs of the society and evolution of humans and this is how we should start looking at gender equality versus what was wrong earlier.

Frontlist: How do you differentiate between a democracy and a democratic republic? Share your views in context of India.

Kapil: Well if 50.1% of the population gets up and tells that we want to be a 'Hindu Rashtra', we will not become a Hindu Rashtra because we are not a pure democracy. We are a democratic republic. Democratic republic means that we're governed by the constitution. The entire country revolves around this book known as the Constitution. People need to understand this. We cannot have a majority simply standing and asking for something.

UK is a democracy. That is why 50.1% of people could get up and say that we do not want to be a part of the European Union and thus 'Brexit' happened. In India, you cannot do that which is why people keep shouting for the referendum in Jammu & Kashmir which is unconstitutional.

Frontlist: Do you consider the Constitution as an absolute document of act or guidelines open for interpretation?

Kapil: I think it's an absolute document of an act which should evolve with the changing needs of the society. So I don't necessarily say it's open for interpretation but it should be open for evolution as the structure of the society changes.

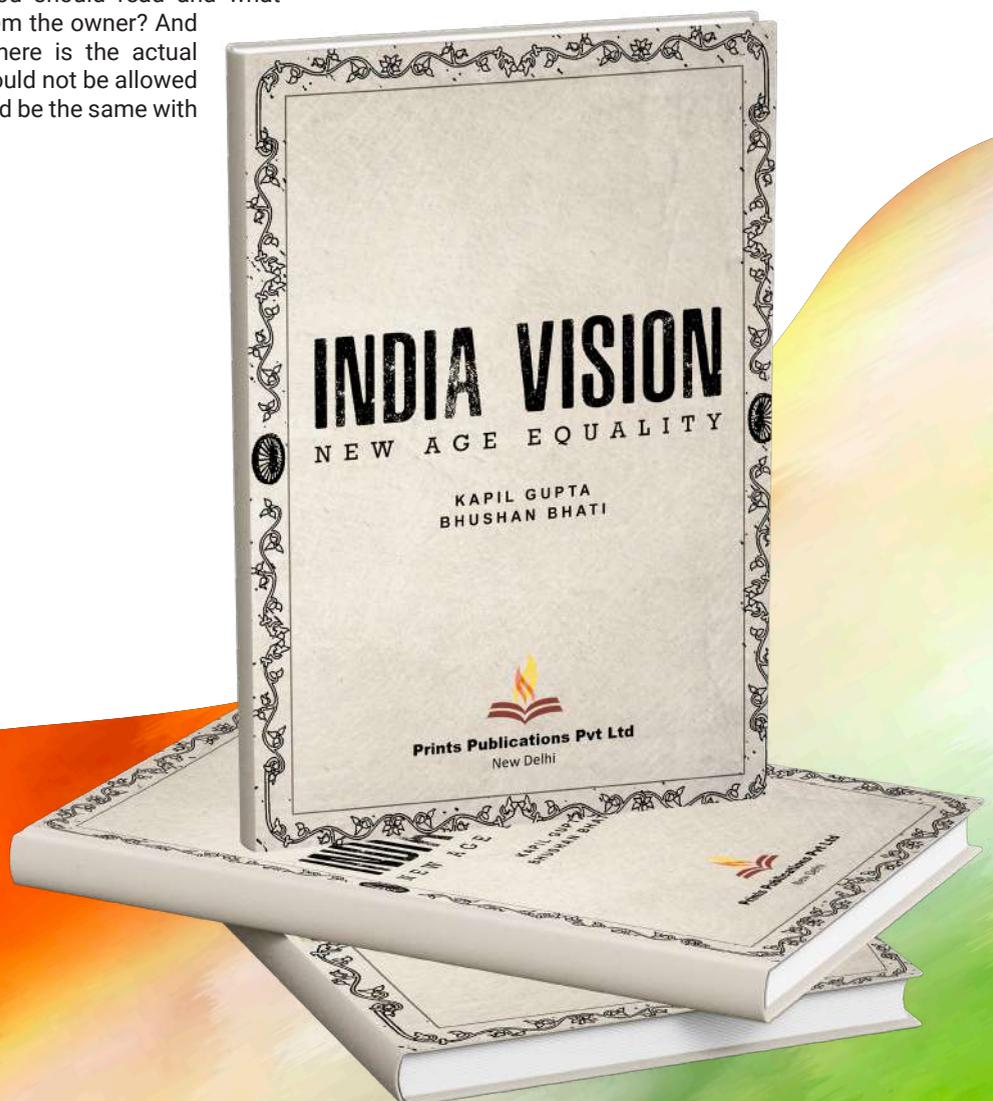
Frontlist: Every person evolves over a period of time. Do you think the constitution of India should also be evolved?

Kapil: Absolutely! It should be evolved.

Frontlist: We've got the right to freedom of opinion and expression in our constitution but the government opposes it every time someone tries to speak up. What's your opinion on this?

Kapil: I'm a very strong believer in the freedom of speech. We need to make smarter audiences versus smarter orators. This is a huge challenge to cope up. The assumption that the listener is stupid and will misuse the information or wrongly use the information fed to them in itself is a problem. However, there are areas where the government can come in and intervene. The challenge in all this is if you look at the social platforms of today like Facebook and Twitter; they've become the policing zone that determines what you should read and what you should not. Who made them the owner? And where is the authenticity? Where is the actual control? Yeah! Government should not be allowed to take control but then it should be the same with all other parties as well.

Freedom cannot survive in vacuum. One man's freedom cannot be another man's obligation. Our social structures are primary and must rule all freedom.





PVLf

PragatiE Vichaar

LITERATURE FESTIVAL



FRONT LIST

Presents

PVLf 24 HOURS AUTHOR'S MARATHON

6TH - 7TH JANUARY 2022



PVLf EXCELLENCE AWARDS

8TH JANUARY 2022

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15, Frontlist Magazine -Jan Edition

Festival Director's Message



Mr. Pranav Gupta

Co-founder, Frontlist Media
Joint Secretary, FIP
IPA Executive Member

I am very overjoyed to announce PragatiE Vichaar Literature Festival 2022.

It has been a long time since I am associated with the Publishing community. I reckoned how debut authors have been exploited through the hands of Vanity Publishers and they don't get the same recognition as the famous authors. All top-notch publishers would only prefer celebrity writers.

PVLF will be an immense event for all Indian aspiring writers with the objective of giving them a platform to raise their voices and bring their talents in front of everyone. I would like to pay my regards to Publishing Ecosystem for supporting us to organize this event. Special gratitude to Nielson - Knowledge Partner, Authors Guild of India and IRRO for ensuring this event run seamlessly.

This edition of the PragatiE Vichaar Literature Festival will be held from 6th to 8th January 2022, on the pragatiE.com virtual exhibition platform. PVLF is dedicated to enhancing Dialogue, Free Speech, Literature, Story Telling, and the promotion of the world's most powerful tool of communication, writing.

Conceptualized by Frontlist Media, co-organized with The Federation of Indian Publishers; and hosted by PragatiE, this edition of PVLF will have the 24-Hours Author's Marathon impressive ideation getting executed at the "PragatiE Vichaar Literature Festival, 2022" for providing a platform and recognition to the authors and writers to speak up on the topics provided to them. The event is going to start on 06th of January, 2022 and end on 07th of January, 2022.

PVLF Excellence Awards will be held physically on the 8th of January, 2022. It will feature the President of the International Publishers Association (IPA) as the guest of honour.

Through this event, I am hoping to expand the Literary Ecosystem across India with the alliance of Publishing Fraternity.

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PVLF - PEOPLE'S CHOICE PUBLISHER AWARDS

The People's Choice Publisher Award is an initiative by PVLF to recognise and appreciate the hard work done by publishers under different domains.

Categories based on Nielsen BookScan Data

- Trade (Non - Academic) Publisher
- Top Indian Children Publishers
- Top Indian Academic Publishers

LIST OF NOMINEES

Trade (Non-Academic) Books	Top Indian Children Books	Academic Books
DC Books India	Amar Chitra Katha	Arihant Publishers
Dreamland Publications	DC Books India	Bharati Bhavan
Jaico Publications House	Dreamland Publications	CBS Publishers & Distributors
Manjul Publishing House	Maple Press	Disha Publication
Maple Press	Om Books International	Jaypee Brothers
Om Books International	Prakash Books India (P) Ltd	Mtg Learning Media
Prabhat Prakashan	Rupa Publications	National Council of Education Research & Training
Prakash Books India (P) Ltd	Shree Books Center	Oswal Books
Rupa Publications	V&S Publishers	Ramesh Publishing House
Srishti Publishers & Distributors	Young Learner Publishers	S Chand & Co Ltd

PVLF AUTHOR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

PVLF has come up with a proposition to appreciate and felicitate the writing community around the globe. The event is going to be held on 8th January 2022.

Authors are allowed to nominate themselves into a maximum of 2 categories and the winner of each category shall be decided based on Jury selection & public voting.

The voting lines will remain open till 4th January 2022 on the Frontlist platform.

Visit us to vote for your favourite Authors and Publishers today!

Categories

- Best Debut Fiction
- Best Debut Non-Fiction
- Best Non-Fiction
- Best Fiction
- Best Poetry

LIST OF NOMINEES

	Book Name	Author Name	Publisher Name
Best Non – Fiction Category	Going Solo - Raising Happy Kids	Sujata Parashar	Vishwakarma Publications
	Ambedkar Islam aur Vampanth	Mithilesh Kumar Singh	Garuda Prakashan
	27 Years UPSC IAS/ IPS Prelims Topic-wise Solved Papers	Mrunal Patel	Disha Publication
	Valiant Women: Defenders of the Nation	Nandini Nayar and Surekha S.	ACK
	In the Footsteps of Rama	Vikrant Pande and Neelesh Kulkarni	Harper Collins

**Best Poetry
Category**

Book Name	Author Name	Publisher Name
Zindagi Teri Dhoop Chaon	Rekha Mehra	Notion Press
Where Stories Gather	Karuna Ezara Parikh	Harper Collins
Dear Silver Lining...	Shalini Chhabra Jain	V & S Publishers
Forgotten Kaleidoscopes	Deepa Agarwal	Authorpress
A God at the Door	Tishani Doshi	HarperCollins Publishers

**Best Fiction
Category**

Book Name	Author Name	Publisher Name
Mafia Premier League	K. Vijayakarhikeyan	Rupa Publications
Balakot Air-Strike: How India Avenged Pulwama	Manan Bhatt	Garuda Prakashan
The Last Queen	Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni	HarperCollins Publishers
Mandu -the romance of Ropmati and Baz Bahadur	Malathi Ramachandran	Niyogi Books
Lahore	Manreet Sodhi Someshwar	HarperCollins Publishers

**Best Debut Fiction
Category**

Book Name	Author Name	Publisher Name
Janaka and Ashtavakra: A Journey Beyond	Ashraf Karayath	Rupa Publications
Abhimanyu - the Warrior Prince	Deepak M R	Bloomsbury Publications
A Mirror Made of Rain	Naheed Patel	Fourth Estate India
The Tree with a Thousand Apples	Sanchit Gupta	Niyogi Books
Eyes shine and hearts smile	Neha Bhat	Notion Press

**Best Debut Non
Fiction Category**

Book Name	Author Name	Publisher Name
The Teachings of Bhagavad Gita- Timeless wisdom for the Modern Age	Richa Tilokani	Hay House India
The Visionary Parent	Apurva Tare	Cleverfox Publishing
Toppers' Study Hacks	Avinash Agarwal	Disha Publications
Rumours of Spring	Farah Bashir	Harper Collins
Delhi Heritage: Top 10 Baolis	Vikramjit Singh Rooprai	Niyogi Books

PVLF READER'S CHOICE BOOK AWARDS

Readers come first and their views must be heard. Keeping readers voice in view, PVLF brings you to the Reader's Choice Book Awards where you can come and vote for your favorite book and help them win.

The winners amongst each category will be decided on the basis of Nielsen BookScan data & Public Voting.

Categories

- Platinum Award
- Gold Award
- Silver Award

LIST OF NOMINEES

**Platinum
Category**

Book Name	Author Name	Publishers Name
Attitude Is Everything: Change Your Attitude ... Change Your Life!	Jeff Keller	HarperCollins Publishers
Ikigai: The Japanese secret to a long and happy life	Héctor García & Francesc Miralles	Penguin Random House
Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations	R. S. Aggarwal	S Chand & Co Ltd

Platinum Category

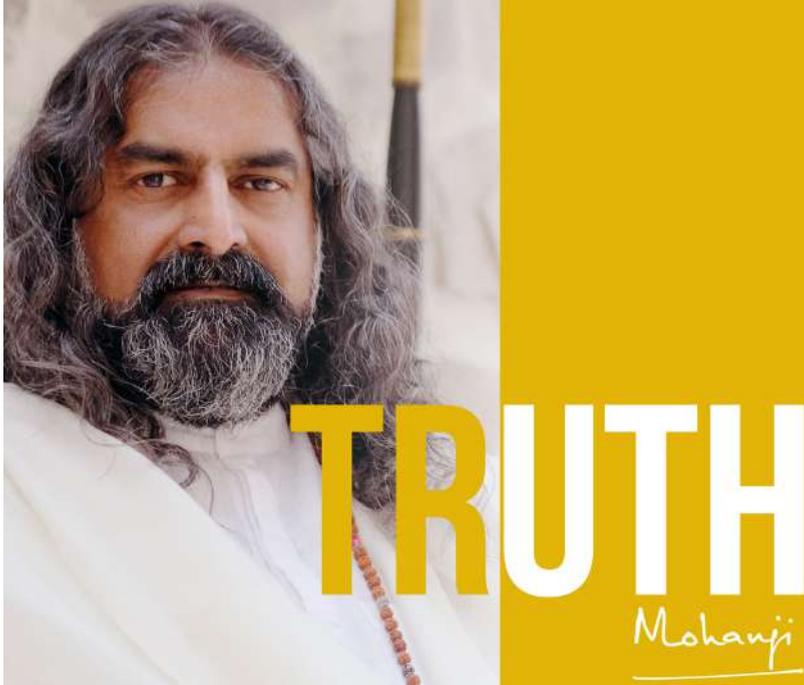
Book Name	Author Name	Publishers Name
Alchemist: A Fable About Following Your Dream	Paulo Coelho	HarperCollins Publishers
Word Power Made Easy	Norman Lewis	Goyal Publishers & Distributors
Rich Dad Poor Dad: What the Rich Teach Their Kids About Money That the	Robert T. Kiyosaki	Plata Publishing
Life's Amazing Secrets: How to Find Balance and Purpose in Your Life	Gaur Gopal Das	Penguin Random House
Indian Polity - for Civil Services and Other State Examinations	M. Laxmikanth	McGraw Hill Education

Gold Category

Book Name	Author Name	Publishers Name
General Knowledge	Dr. Binay Karna, R. P. Suman, Manvendra Mukul	Lucent Publication
My First Library: Boxset of 10 Board Books for Kids		Prakash Books India (P) Ltd
The 5 AM Club	Robin Sharma	Jaico Publishing House
The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck	Mark Manson	HarperCollins Publishers
The Girl in Room 105	Chetan Bhagat	Westland Books
One Arranged Murder	Chetan Bhagat	Westland Books
Objective General English	S.P. Bakshi	Arihant Publishers
Oxford Student Atlas for India	Oxford Editorial Board	Oxford University Press

Silver Category

Book Name	Author Name	Publishers Name
The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari	Robin Sharma	Jaico Publishing House
Think Like a Monk: The Secret of How to Harness the Power of Positivity	Jay Shetty	HarperCollins Publishers
The Psychology of Money	Morgan Housel	Jaico Publishing House
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind	Yuval Noah Harari	Penguin Random House
Grandma's Bag Of Stories	Sudha Murty	Penguin Random House
Death; An Inside Story: A book for all those who shall die	Sadhguru	Penguin Random House
Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta: Ram Chandra	Amish Tripathi	Westland Books
Atomic Habits	James Clear	Penguin Random House
The Intelligent Investor	Benjamin Graham	HarperCollins Publishers
A Modern Approach to Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning	R. S. Aggarwal	S Chand & Co Ltd
Word Power Made Easy paperback Fully Revised & Expanded, complete hand	Norman Lewis	Penguin Random House
Inner Engineering: A Yogi's Guide to Joy	Sadhguru	Penguin Random House
The Power of your Subconscious Mind	Dr. Joseph Murphy	Amazing Reads



Mohanji

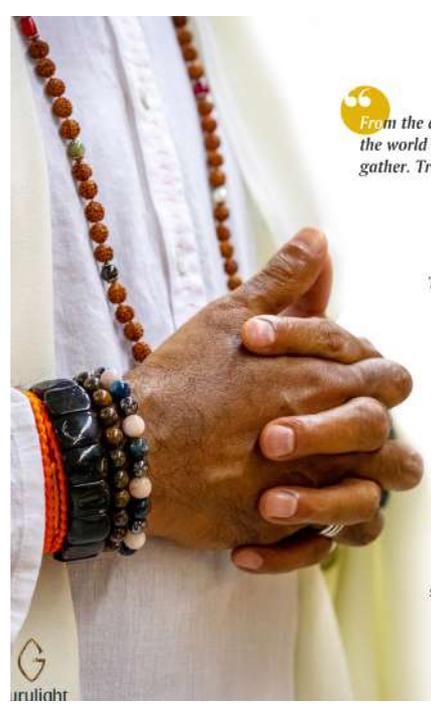
silence, truth
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els right. It heals

The man of compassion and awareness brings to you
book of valuable quotes on **TRUTH** – about self,
relationship, existence, situation and surroundings.
One who has gone through the scarcity of acceptance
for living and authentic identity and understanding
the real meaning of life; the book curates valuable
quotes from his lectures over time.

Life is unfiltered yet dynamic; it's confusing yet
straight; it's illusion yet real.

"The Unshakable stillness amidst all our movements is the eternal truth."

This truth is beautifully woven through Mohanji's
supreme vision to question and comprehend the purest
sense of our being.



"From the depth of silence, truth emerges. Truth is eternal. In the world of relative truths, absolute truth is not easy to gather. Truth feels right. It heals too."

Mohanji

The man of compassion and awareness brings to you a book of valuable quotes on **TRUTH** – about self, relationship, existence, situation and surroundings. One who has gone through the scarcity of acceptance for living and authentic identity and understanding the real meaning of life; the book curates valuable quotes from his lectures over time.

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For more details, visit www.mohanji.org.

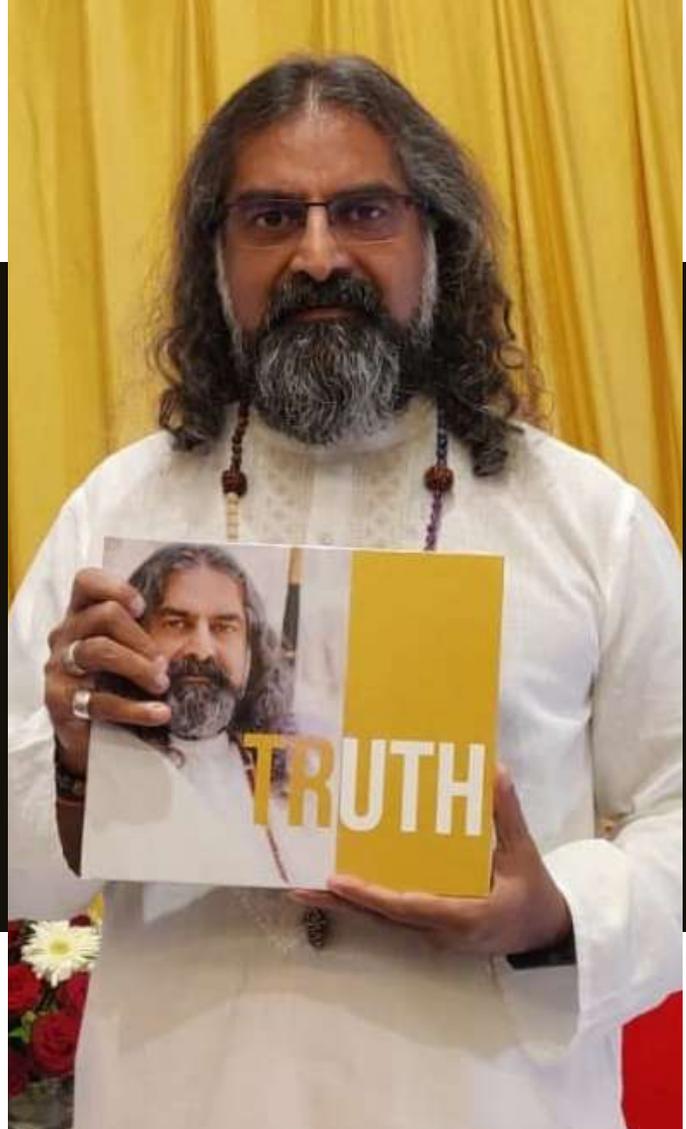


“

*Whatever we resist gains strength. This is the law of nature.
The more we resist something, that thing persists.*

Frontlist is delighted to announce that the Coffee Table Book Cover of 'Truth by Mohanji' has been designed by us.

'Truth by Mohanji' is a compilation of Mohanji's quotes on truth depicted through captivating illustrations.



*Fear is the tool the mind uses to trap us. Fears are rooted
in ignorance. They are useless.*

”

Author Interviews



"The Kitty Party Murder"

Kiran Manral

Kiran Manral is a writer, author, and novelist based in Mumbai. Her fiction genre books include *The Reluctant Detective*, *Once Upon A Crush*, *All Aboard*, *Saving Maya*, *Missing Presumed Dead*, *The Face at the Window*, *The Kitty Party Murder* and *More Things in Heaven and Earth*. And some of her non-fiction books are *Karmic Kids*, *True Love Stories*, *A Boy's Guide to Growing Up*, *13 Steps to Bloody Good Parenting*, *Raising Kids with Hope and Wonder in Times of a Pandemic* and *Climate Change*. Apart from these, she has written several short stories in various acclaimed anthologies. *Saving Maya* was long-listed for the Saboteur Awards UK, supported by the Arts Council England, and *The Kitty Party Murder* was shortlisted for the Popular Choice Award at the AutHer Awards 2020 by The Times of India and JK Papers. *Missing*, *Presumed Dead* and *The Face at the Window* were both long-listed at Jio MAMI Word to Screen. She has received multiple awards, such as the Women Achievers award by the Young Environmentalists Association and the International Women's Day Award 2018 from ICUNR supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare, Government of India, for excellence in the field of writing.

Frontlist: Tell us something about this book - 'The Kitty Party Murder'.

Kiran: *The Kitty Party Murder* is a fun, humorous read, about a suburban mom who kind of moonlights with her detective friend as her assistant. It is a more comic mystery than crime, so that's a fair warning for readers who expect her to be a Miss Marple in the making.

Frontlist: What inspired you to write this story?

Kiran: It is a continuation of my very first book with Kanan Mehra, called *The Reluctant Detective*. It was inspired by the women I saw all around me, who had dropped out of the formal workforce when they had their children.

Frontlist: What was your vision behind the character of Kanan Mehra?

Kiran: Every suburban mom, I guess, who has once upon a time been in the corporate world, pursuing a career and then had to put the brakes on her career for early childcare and somehow never got back to full-time work despite feeling the need to do so.

Frontlist: What challenges did you face during your writing journey?

Kiran: The usual as most authors would, I guess. Being taken seriously as a writer, refusing to be boxed into one particular category of writing or genre, finding the space and time to write without constant intrusions, and writing in the midst of bread and butter work.

Frontlist: Which authors affected your writing skills and shaped your career as an author till now?

Kiran: I read across diverse kinds of writing, and I think every book I have read and re-read has in some way impacted me. I must say I have been heavily influenced by P.G.Wodehouse, Terry Pratchett, Erma Bombeck, and Dave Barry in my humor writing, for my darker books, Stephen King, Daphne Du Maurier, Emily Bronte, Murakami to name a few.

Frontlist: How would your readers resonate with your book?

Kiran: I hope readers see snippets of their own lives in the situations in the book and feel a kinship with Kanan Mehra, through all her ditziness and foibles.

Frontlist: What are you expecting your readers to learn from this book?

Kiran: I don't really expect my readers to learn anything from this book. It is not a moral science lesson. I do hope though that they have a riot reading it, laugh themselves silly and re-read it whenever they need a good laugh.



"3 & The Emerald Stone of Irene"

Vinod Raman Nair

Born in Bombay in 1973, **Vinod Raman Nair** grew up in an era devoid of satellite TV and cell phones. This made him a voracious reader and he befriended the likes of Gurdjieff, Friedrich Nietzsche, Kahlil Gibran, Osho, J. Krishnamurthy, and Milgram early on.

He has worked with legendary talents across the world including Korean director Kwon Taek, producer-director Stanley Huntsman, and British actor Alex Goldwin. He is one of the first Indians to have shot across the war-torn Gaza Strip for a German film, which entered the 2004 Berlin Film Festival. This led him to bigger projects like a show on Palestine for the Discovery channel. For German Producer Jacob Prinz, he collaborated with the legendary Turkish director Mustafa Altıoklar and wrote the script for the film 'Palestine - the day of revenge' alongside renowned literary laureate Ludwig Watzal.

He loves to pick a piece of history and package it in his signature edutainment style. "History is what will take us into a brighter future. I love creating a more palatable way to digest it."

Frontlist: According to you, History can be fun to learn through fiction. So how did you get interested in telling historical stories through fictional storytelling?

Vinod: Like any other wandering child, I was also exasperated about remembering the time logs of those important events history claims to have recorded. I always wondered why I need to know when the Battle of Plassey really happened? Why do I

need to know about the World Wars? Going an octave higher, why do I need to know about a Gandhi, a Nehru, or a Shivaji? Was this a compulsive curriculum pushed onto me like the various Gods, whom I was taught to revere during my grooming days? I had neither seen these Gods nor these heroes.

One book that completely changed my perspective towards reading and, most importantly, history was MEIN KAMPF written by Adolf Hitler. Though I personally never allied to Adolf's ideologies, he taught me that history was not about timelines but about causes and effects. Christopher Columbus was not a testimony to the discovery of America, but the crumbling of the Mayan Civilization.

As for fiction storytelling, I would credit my parents for decoding an alternative way of looking at things. My mom, despite being with the Department of Atomic energy was well versed with the Puranas, Upanishads, and other scriptures. She used to tell stories of it every evening. And my dad used to get me books to read. I discovered that the comic script of a historical character was better understood than reading a historical piece written in my textbook. When we have done all kinds of fiction with gods all the time... why not with history?

Frontlist: The storyline of '3 & The Emerald Stone of Irene' sets into the Medieval Islamic History era. How did you come up with the idea of writing this story?

Vinod: The idea germinated, when I was on a research tour to Turkey. This was regarding the documentary film on the Warsaw Pact for which I was researching the Ottomans. I stumbled upon a book called the Jabirian Corpus written by Jabir Ibn Hayan at the University Library in Istanbul, which had excerpts of the 9th-century translation movement in Baghdad. The Islamic empire is known to be brutal and with the modern-day Islamophobia floating around post 9/11, I pursued a completely different perception of this civilization. And what furthered my reason is the current day India. Sadly, history has turned people into foes. History for some is abusing a few personalities who have stood the test of time. History for others is demonizing a section of society. A large percentage of youth is so oblivious of their own history that they can be fed with any misinformation via a mere WhatsApp message. And the responses are robotic. Some brilliant writers and academicians did try to diffuse the demons with their books. But the issue here is most of these books are highly academic and can resonate only with the elite. The real vulnerability lay at the bottom of the pyramid. I wanted to do something which could try and upturn the idea of history. My argument is that history is not about timelines or personalities. History is about great civilizations that walked this planet, their rise and fall. It's about their contributions that took the world from where it was to where we stand today. And I wanted to



audience to his own film. Be fair to yourself...

Frontlist: Anything special you'd like to share about what helped you discover your passion for history?

Vinod: Destiny scripted my birth in a Socialist era and my childhood was devoid of mobile phones and satellite TV. And so books turned out to be the best companions. Right from my high school days, when I was introduced to Leo Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, RK Narayan, Sarthchandra, Manto, or for that matter Premchand, I was in complete awe of them. Their works were compelling, an intricate dissection of an era, laced with a deep understanding of the socio-economic challenges and most importantly standing up to the spirit of man. What else is history? But testimony of an era, events that happened around it, and effects it had on ordinary lives. I loved every bit of it and it grew inside me.

Frontlist: Ever since your book got published, it has been garnering popularity. The film industry often keeps approaching you for turning it into a feature film. Do you think a movie adaptation will do justice to the book?

Vinod: Oh yes! A movie adaptation would be great. As I have mentioned before, the film is an automatic extension. Cinema has the power of audiovisual and it can effectively translate words into visuals. But it requires a mind that understands the complexities of history. A few studios have reached out to me and we are in talks.

to tell it like a story so that even a 13-year-old can enjoy it. And when the story started taking shape, I was in a dilemma. A lot of details I was bringing in faced the danger of getting lost in transit, if it was turned into a film. And it was my dear friend Kashyap Chandhock, who motivated me to turn it into a book. He made me realize that a film could only be an extension of this story.

Frontlist: You've worked with so many eminent personalities. Which person has impacted your life profoundly and how?

Vinod: It is very difficult to pinpoint one person. They all have been brilliant and I have been inspired by many qualities they possess. But one filmmaker who lives with me even today is the Late Basu Bhattacharya. For he taught me how to introspect on one's own work. He taught me to believe in self and express myself in an uninhibited fashion. He taught me that a creative person ought to admire any great work than feel insecure. I was an assistant to him during those days and I remember the greatest lesson he gave me then. He told me that the moment you feel; you can think better than your director, leave him. Continuing would hinder your personal progress.

Frontlist: What advice would you like to give to aspiring filmmakers?

Nair: Who am I... but a mere mortal to offer advice? I would just make a submission that a filmmaker is the first



"Life Unknown - A Passage through India"

Kartikeya Ladha

Born in India, Kartikeya Ladha first gained international recognition after the launch of his first book, 'Dream Beyond Shadows'. Published in 2018, it went on to become an Amazon bestseller in India. The book captures tales from Kartikeya's many insightful stories, based on experiences from a trailblazing expedition to Peru, South America.

A social media influencer with a global online community of thousands on Instagram, Kartikeya uses his creative endeavors to inspire and empower people.

Kartikeya used to live in the U.S. before quitting his job and letting go of his long-held plans to build a life in America. Since then, he has been on a quest to discover the absolute truth of our existence, which has inspired travel to many faraway lands.

His artistic imagination springs from his desire to create works that exemplify the rawness of "what it means to be a human being."

Frontlist: This book is a continuation of your previous book - 'Dream Beyond Shadows'. You explored the Himalayan mountains and remote regions of India. Why did you choose these places to travel?

Kartikeya: When I began seeking through India, it wasn't a planned trip. Rather, a very curious one, where I would say India and the Himalayas chose me to get on the path of

breaking my inner being so that I could learn to experience life as I do now - with a lot of hope, love, compassion, and joy. We think we are in control of life, and that makes us feel like we are in control of ourselves, but really we don't know what life has in store for us, and the more we embrace the unknown nature of life, we become free in ourselves.

Frontlist: People consider you as a 'New Age Author'. How do you define yourself?

Kartikeya: I don't like to define myself as anything. Humans constantly need labels to make sense of things. For some people, I am a writer, for others, I am something else. It doesn't really matter how we choose to define ourselves, as long as we are able to live our true calling and take meaningful action in our everyday.

Frontlist: Renouncing a good life and adopting a path of knowing true self. What made you take this big step in your life?

Kartikeya: Again, it wasn't something I planned to do. It kind of just happened. It all started in New York when one night I began questioning everything that I was and had become, after years of dedicating my life towards living the American dream. Something didn't feel right and I knew that there was more to life than I could imagine, so I decided to leave everything and start on this seekers journey of finding the answers to human existence.

Frontlist: There are many books available that broach inspirational preachings. Why do you think that readers will resonate with your book?

Kartikeya: Because I am not trying to preach anything in my books, or tell people what they should or shouldn't do. I am simply sharing my experiences of moving around India in a sincere and honest manner. I personally feel that when you are sharing a story with readers, rather than telling them what to do, they connect more and there's a sense of authenticity in the experience of reading.

Frontlist: People generally see the serene part of the travel life and feel mesmerized. Share the unbearable incidents a traveler goes through which are not that enthralling.

Kartikeya: I have for the longest time not promoted the romanticized version of traveling. because the way I live is not for everyone. I have been on the road for almost 4 years now, and I can tell you that it's not for everyone. There are many challenges on an everyday basis and it can be a rather uncomfortable lifestyle for many, as you have to learn to sleep wherever you can and eat whatever you can. Being a nomad isn't just something anyone can do, you have to have a certain

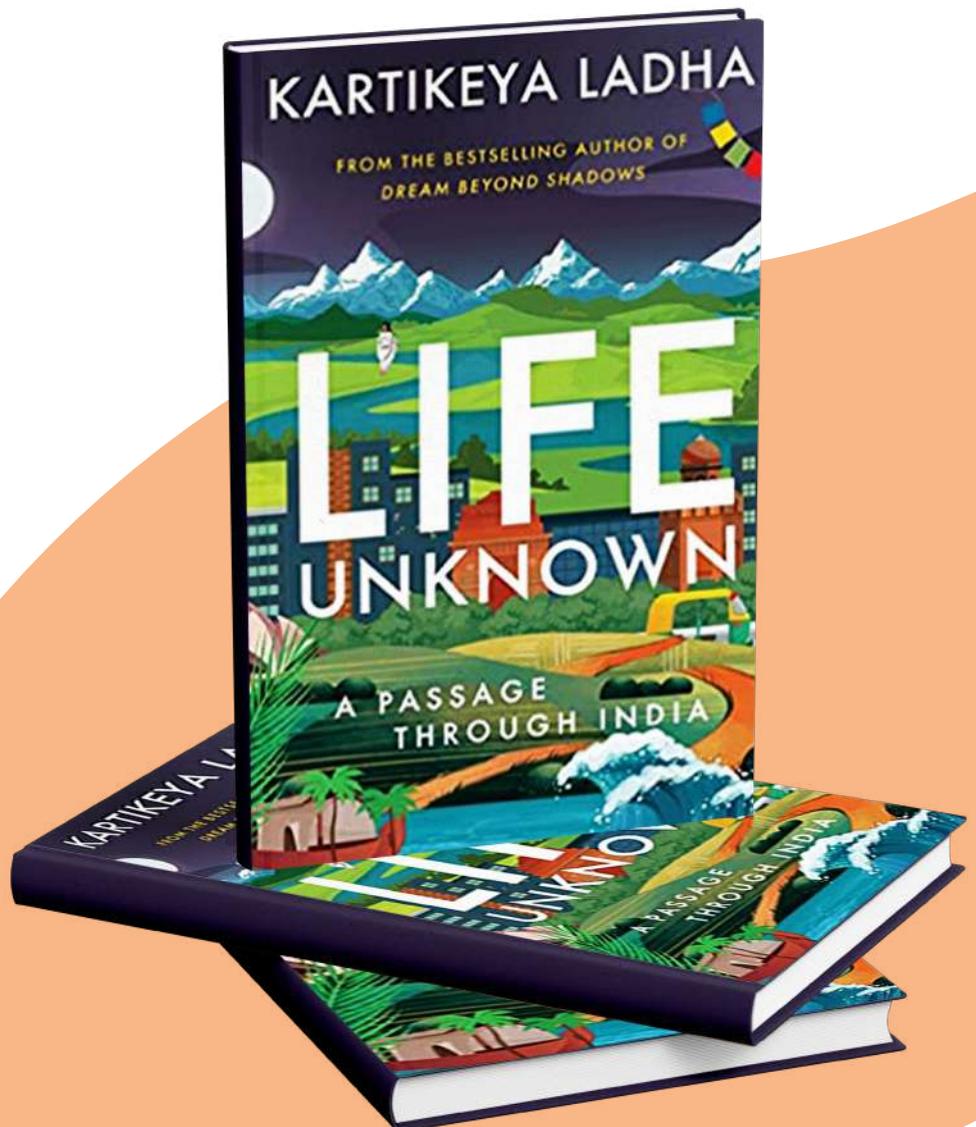
type of personality and be very driven internally to not get bothered by constantly changing scenarios, be it in terms of people, places, food, environment, etc.

I have had some unpleasant interactions through my travels, but I can assure you that they are minuscule in comparison to all the positive interactions I have had. I like to believe that most people are nice and helpful, and in my experience over the years of moving across India, that has always been the case.

Frontlist: What advice would you like to give new generations in their pursuit of the right path?

Kartikeya: My advice would be to connect with your heart, listen to it, and then follow it. You already know what's your path, you simply have to look within. No one outside of you can decide your path in life. It has to come from you.

Greed is a virus as malicious as any other and has already spread across the world. We do not see how it assiduously kills us and the world around us when we continue to let it be the decisive force operating our world today





"Flight of the Pink - Headed Ducks and other stories"

Katie Bagli

Katie Bagli is an avid nature lover and she gives expression to her passion by writing for children. She has 32 published titles to her credit so far, nearly all of which are on various subjects of nature. She has published articles in several magazines like the Sanctuary Cub, Highlight Champs, Saevus and is currently contributing articles on nature to the children's section, Young World, of The Hindu.

Her books have been recommended for general reading in schools and also for college students of zoology. When she is not writing, Katie devotes her time to taking walks amongst trees, along nature trails, conducting creative nature writing workshops and creative poetry writing, and, doodling comic strips and cartoons for children.

Frontlist: Why did you choose Pink-Headed Ducks for this book?

Katie: About 20 years ago, a friend lent me a book by Rory Nugent, titled The Search for the Pink-headed Duck. In this book, Nugent describes his long journey along the River Brahmaputra, through the marshy jungles of Myanmar, in search of this duck which was last seen in the wild in 1949. He ended his story by mentioning that he just caught a glimpse of the shadow of a largish duck. He was not sure if it was the Pink-headed Duck. In fact, this duck, though not sighted for more than 70 years now, has been labeled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as critically endangered, and not as extinct. Nugent's story was etched in my mind, shrouded with mystery. So, 20 years later, when I decided to

write a storybook on endangered species, the Pink-headed duck was the first to come to my mind.

Frontlist: What brought you so close to nature that you thought of writing about it? Share your journey with us.

Katie: I am full of awe of nature and wildlife, and my writing, my activities, all revolve around nature. Almost all of my 32 published books are on themes of nature. What brought me really close to nature was my stint as a volunteer with the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). I used to take children and grown-ups along natural trails in Sanjay Gandhi National Park which is in Mumbai's backyard. It would be most exciting to look under leaves or among the leaf litter or on the trees and discover some fascinating insect or spider or reptiles or bird, or to come across the scat of a leopard with monkey's fur in it. Every visit to the park had its own awe-inspiring story.

Frontlist: Did you find any relevance between Bombay Natural History Society and nature that you thought of choosing them as the publisher?

Katie: There is definitely a strong relevance between BNHS and nature. They were the most appropriate publishers for this book. In fact, I was asked by their publishing department if I had any stories for children that I would want to publish through them. It was quite a coincidence, as I had just finished writing these five stories on endangered species.

Frontlist: You used to be a teacher and now a bestselling author and an illustrator as well. What inspired you to be an author?

Katie: About ten years ago, when I found I had more time on my hands as my children were well settled, I began spending a lot more time in the lap of nature, going for trails in the wild, in Mumbai, and other parts of the country. There are so many quirky, bizarre, intriguing facts about the wild flora and fauna, I began weaving stories around these facts and sharing them with my like-minded nature-loving friends. It was they who encouraged me to publish these stories. I was thus spurred on to give it a shot – and hey presto! My life changed, and I never looked back. I found it most fulfilling and satisfying to play the role of writer and, quite often, illustrator too.

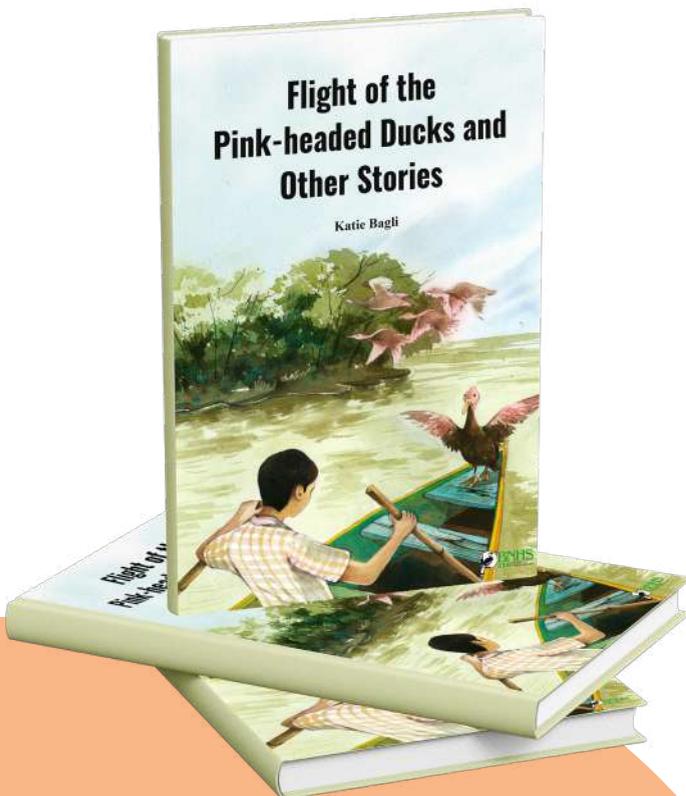
Frontlist: You've always portrayed yourself as a children's writer. Have you ever thought about writing for an adult audience?

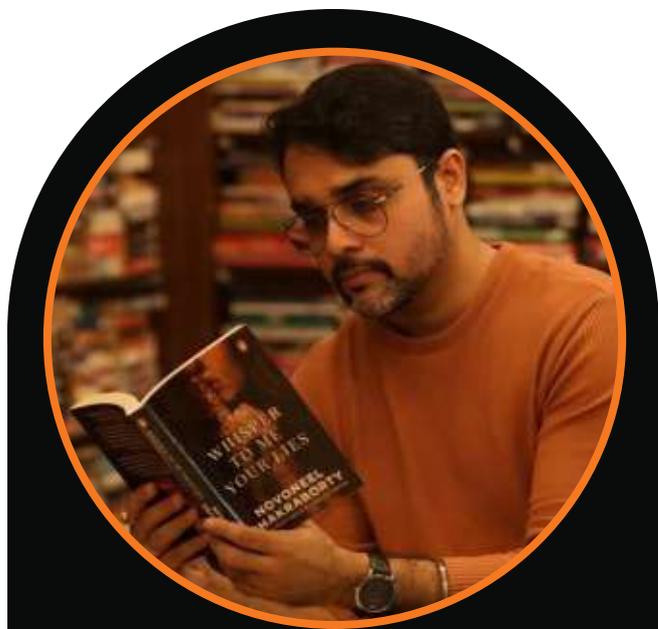
Katie: Somehow, I am very comfortable with children, even when I conduct my workshops. I relate to them better than to adults. That is why I enjoy writing for children. So far, it has never occurred to me to write for

adults. Besides, through my nature writing for children, I hope to sensitize them and spread awareness about how adverse issues are affecting our planet and how we can endeavor, even in the smallest of ways, to make our planet a better place.

More about the book

'Flight of the Pink-headed Ducks and Other Stories' by Katie Bagli is a collection of short stories of five rare animals of the Indian Subcontinent, all negatively impacted by human actions. The stories are fast-paced and prod the reader to think through issues such as hunting, use of products made from animal parts, and human misconceptions that have rendered these animals vulnerable. The collection begins with the 'Flight of the Pink-headed Duck', where a young boy's unexpected encounter with the species turn him into their saviour. The bird we meet through the boy is not only easily trusting but also very vulnerable. A character perhaps that marked the bird's downfall in reality. For the bird is now deemed extinct in real life. The author's note at the end of the story providing facts about the bird helps the reader to situate it in its context. This is true of all the stories in this collection. 'The Grey Ghost of the Mountains' gives a glimpse into this secretive animal's life through its own eyes from its frontier in the snow-capped mountains. It may only be a matter of time for the humans, who have already occupied its earlier habitats, to penetrate these remote lands. But for now, the Grey Ghost's descendants are safe. 'The Return of the Great Indian Bustard' intricately weaves the necessity of grassland birds and the misconceptions around them that lead to their persecution in a lucid, easy-flowing manner, with a little girl as its protagonist. 'Red Panda, the Lucky Mascot', using a light-hearted, engaging pace, shows how a little sensitivity, care and humane engagement with the forest and its creatures is all it takes to build a bond with nature. 'The Singing Dolphins' takes you down the Ganges River in pursuit of the three singing sisters, the Gangetic River Dolphins. A warm relationship strikes between the protagonist and the dolphins that triumphs through a storm and other dangers. The animals we encounter are those that have been pushed to the edge of their existence. Will we ever see the Pink-headed Ducks again? Can the Great Indian Bustard, Snow Leopard, Red Panda and Ganges River Dolphin be saved from vanishing? In Katie Bagli's stories, these fears make way for new hope as we meet characters like Daiwik, Hansa and Aung San, who show us how a little care can go a really long way. A great message for the young readers.





"Whisper To Me Your Lies"

Novoneel Chakraborty

Novoneel Chakraborty is a famous Indian script writer and author. Recently he penned down his first Crime Novel 'Whisper To Me Your Lies'.

Frontlist: Tell us something about your latest book.

Novoneel: My latest 'Whisper To Me Your Lies' is my first attempt at a hardcore crime thriller. I always wanted to dive into this subgenre having written several thrillers. It's a pacy, twisted story about a girl's search for the killer of her boyfriend. But as it unfolds the reader would know nothing is what it seems.

Frontlist: 'Whisper To Me' is your first crime novel. What attracted you to this genre?

Novoneel: Crime always fascinated me. Especially the broken relationships it entails within its womb which is rarely explored. Crime, as they say, never goes out of fashion. It's this eyebrow-raising facet of it that always aroused me as a storyteller even though I never attempted this genre before this book. I was waiting for a story that would unfold in a crime thriller manner but would actually be an emotional one.

Frontlist: How did you come up with the Ekantika Pakrashi Character? What was the idea behind this character?

Novoneel: I wanted to knit a character who on the face of it looked innocuous like the majority of small-town people who take a leap from their comfort zone and come to big cities while at the same time someone who has nestled

twisted and dangerous intentions. Ekantika is not only a rebellious product of the dastardly society we live in and have accepted subconsciously, but also who is ready to put her entire life on the edge to pacify one obsession of hers. What that obsession is? Of course, when one shall read the book, will know.

Frontlist: Why did you choose the title 'Whisper to Me Your Lies'?

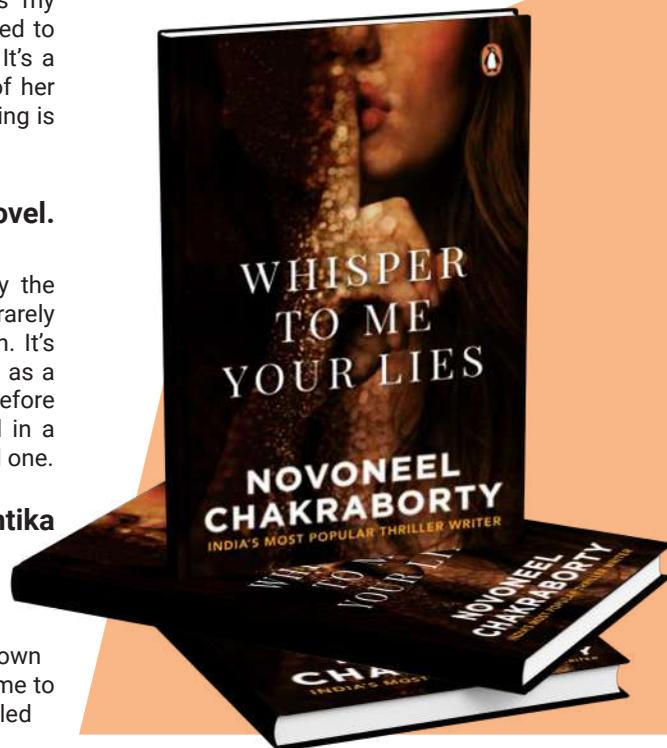
Novoneel: Talking about it would give away spoilers for people who haven't read the book but on a broader level, the title comes from the fact that we, as people, are more defined by our lies than our truths. Or so I believe. As our lies are what we want to hide from the world. And what we want to hide is what we essentially are.

Frontlist: It's been a long time since your first book was published. What changes have you seen in your writing during this time?

Novoneel: I'm more professional. More in control of the craft as a storyteller. We not only learn from every story, but also in all these years life has happened, which has also constantly shaped me as a human being whose reflection, I'm sure, my recent writing carries.

Frontlist: What kind of initiative would you like to do for aspiring writers?

Novoneel: Would love to do certain workshops, if time permits, so I can share my storytelling experience with them.





"Demons and Demonesses of Hindu Mythology"

Priya Narayanan

Priya Narayanan is both an interior designer and an award-winning children's author. While she runs her own design practice under the banners Tatva, Soma, and Umu, she is also a Professor at CEPT University, her alma mater, and a published poet and author. While her poems and short stories have appeared in various anthologies and literary magazines, Priya has six children's books under her belt and many more lurking in the deepest corners of her computer, waiting for their moment in the sun. When not practicing and teaching design, she likes to travel solo and read everything that comes her way.

Frontlist: Tell us something about your Book?

Priya: Demons and Demonesses of Hindu Mythology is, as the title suggests, all about the magical and exotic beings that make our rich mythological heritage all the richer. We all know the stories of gods but seldom are stories of asuras and rakshasas written about or discussed. One of my readers recently wrote back saying he had heard of these demons but did not know their origin stories until he read the book. This 'not knowing' was one of the key reasons I wrote the book. Where did these demons come from? Where did they live? What are the differences between asuras and rakshasas? How did the meaning of the word 'asura' change over a period of time? How do the concepts of time and space apply to the world of demons? I reveal all this and more. Of course, the largest chunk of the book is dedicated to the fantastic stories of seventeen demons and demonesses narrated chronologically, starting from Satya Yuga and ending in Dwapara Yuga.

Frontlist: You're both an interior designer and a children's book author. Which Priya, Interior Designer Priya or Author Priya, do you prefer?

Priya: I really cannot make that choice -both are vital to my being who I am. As a designer, I have to focus my energies on delivering something that my clients will want to use. I love connecting with them, understanding their requirements, and helping convert their dreams into reality. These days, I also teach design, which adds another layer to my experience and understanding of the subject. As an author, I usually put myself first -I write stories that I want to write and am not very worried if a publisher isn't interested in publishing it. Of course, it is icing on the cake if they do get published, but I'm quite satisfied just writing the stories down and sharing them with a few near and dear ones. In recent years though, I have been trying to find ways to marry both my passions and one of the outcomes has been the launch of a collection of Story Chairs for 3-8-year-olds that come with a story written specifically for each chair design. I'm quite looking forward to exploring this concept further.

Frontlist: What subject would you like to choose to write for your next book?

Priya: I like to explore different genres with every book, so I'm looking forward to writing something very different from my previous books -perhaps a mystery or thriller? I have a few ideas but haven't zeroed in on anything specific yet.

Frontlist: How long has it been since you tapped into writing children's books? When did you decide that you want to be a Children's writer?

Priya: When I became a mother in 2006, I confronted a dilemma of sorts. I wanted my children to grow up reading stories that had Indian protagonists doing some unbelievable stuff like I'd read in the Enid Blytons or Hans Christian Andersons growing up. However, there were very few such books for children by Indian authors in the market. So I instinctively started conjuring a variety of stories for my children - stories that were rooted in the cultural and geographical context of our country, but just as fantastic as I'd wanted them to be. I guess, writing for children was a natural progression from there and a worthy challenge - conjuring stories for my own children at bedtime was one thing, but writing stories that children the world over could read and enjoy was quite another. I decided to give it a shot though and the result was my debut book 'The Moon wants to be Spotless White', which was released in 2013. Since then, it has been quite an adventure for me in the world of children's publishing... I have six books under my belt now, and two of them have won prestigious awards.

Frontlist: Why did you opt for the subject of magical and powerful asuras and rakshasas of Hindu Mythology to write?

Priya: I grew up listening to mythological stories narrated by my grandfather and remember that the seemingly wicked asuras and rakshasas were the ones who made all those god-stories so interesting! I also admired a few of these beings, specially Ravana, so much so that my book 'Ten Heads for Tanuj' was inspired by him and even has him playing a key role in the story. I also made sure to add a note at the end of the book to highlight the good qualities of Ravana, something that usually goes unmentioned. It was when writing this note that I realized that most mythological stories focus on the gods and talk about only the wicked or evil aspects of the asuras and rakshasas, which does them injustice. There is quite a bit of good in the demons and their stories reveal the complexities of being gods and demons in a way the stories focusing on the gods do not. It was a wonderful coincidence that even as I was toying with the idea of writing about demons, my editor, Saswati, reached out to me to write a book on very similar lines. I happily took it on and had a great time researching for the book.

Frontlist: Apart from Hayagriva, how many asuras and rakshasas have you talked about in this book?

Priya: As I mentioned earlier, I've narrated the stories of seventeen demons and demonesses in this book. Some of these are well-known, of course, but I have tried to reveal lesser-known stories associated with them. And then there are stories of a number of lesser-known asuras and rakshasas who are equally fascinating in their physical appearance, the magical powers they possess, and stories of their origin. I must say here that although the book has my name on it, I've merely retold the stories that belong to and are a testament to the inimitable imagination of our ancestors. Stories like those of Raktabeeja, Mura, Kabandha, and Kirtimukha are so rich in imagery that I'd personally find it rather difficult to match up to them. After all, it takes a very different kind of mind to imagine a being with three heads, three legs, six arms, and nine eyes, doesn't it?!

Frontlist: What advice would you give to aspiring authors of Children's Books?

Priya: I'm neither a prolific writer nor someone who writes for a living, so I'm not sure I'm qualified to be advising others. However, I'm very passionate about writing and there are a few things I've picked up along the way that I'd like to share:

•Each book is a new journey you embark upon. While you need to be prepared to weather a storm for sure, it is more important that you immerse yourself into every step of the adventure and enjoy it to the core. I'd like to cite the example of my book 'Srinivasa Ramanujan: Friend of

Numbers' here. Writing it was quite an adventure and a mixture of curiosity and serendipity took me all the way to London and Cambridge for my research! I'd love it if you took out some time to read my blog post regarding the same.

- Don't procrastinate. Whether it is with putting your pen on paper and getting those ideas rolling or reaching out to publishers with your manuscript, just don't get tangled in the web of the everyday routine and put things off for some other time. Because that 'later' never really comes.
- Keep honing your skills as a writer – never make the mistake of thinking you know it all.





"The Alphabets of Latin America"

Abhay K

Abhay K. is the author of nine poetry collections including *The Magic of Madagascar* (L'Harmattan Paris, 2021), *The Alphabets of Latin America* (Bloomsbury India, 2020), and the editor of *The Book of Bihari Literature* (Harper Collins, 2022), *The Bloomsbury Anthology of Great Indian Poems*, *CAPITALS*, *New Brazilian Poems* and *The Bloomsbury Book of Great Indian Love Poems*. His poems have appeared in over 100 literary magazines including *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Asia Literary Review* among others. His 'Earth Anthem' has been translated in over 130 languages. He received SAARC Literary Award 2013 and was invited to record his poems at the Library of Congress, Washington DC in 2018. His forthcoming book-length poem is titled *Monsoon*. His translations of Kalidasa's *Meghaduta* (Bloomsbury India, 2021) and *Ritusamhara* (Bloomsbury India, 2021) from Sanskrit, have won the KLF Poetry Book of the Year Award 2020-21.

Frontlist: Tell us something about this book – *The Alphabets of Latin America*.

Abhay: *The Alphabets of Latin America* is a collection of poems I penned during my stay and travels in Latin America between 2016-2019. It paints a poetic portrait of Latin America through 108 poems in total describing the flora, fauna, monuments, mythologies, cuisine, landscapes, and festivals of Latin America. Arranged in alphabetical order from A to Z, it starts with a poem on Amazon and ends with a poem on Zocalo. It takes one on a roller coaster ride to one of the most culturally and geographically fascinating continents known for its legendary Maya and Inca civilizations, sizzling Samba and Tango, the world's biggest carnivals, labyrinths of

Borges, magic realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, great poetry of Ruben Dario, Pablo Neruda, Gabriela Mistral, Cesare Vallejo, Octavio Paz, memorable art of Frida Kahlo and Fernando Botero, among others. As one flips through its pages, one finds oneself swimming with pink dolphins in the Amazon river, watching the sunset at the Martian landscape of Atacama desert, kissing the heights of Machu Picchu, dancing with Samba dancers in the carnival in Rio de Janeiro, and admiring a thousand rainbows at Iguazu Falls.

Frontlist: How did you get the idea to pen down this book?

Abhay: I was fascinated by the vibrant Latin American culture and by the poetry of great Latin American poet-diplomats like Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz, and Gabriela Mistral, the legends of great Maya and Inca civilization, colorful costumes, streets and art of Latin America, sensuous dance and music of the continent and dreamlike places like Machu Picchu, Atacama, Iguazu falls. All these combined together created a great urge within me to live and travel across Latin America and write poems about this alluring continent.

Frontlist: The Spanish edition of your book '*The Alphabets of Latin America*' is going to be launched at the International Kolkata Book Fair. How do you feel about that?

Abhay: Kolkata has a great reading culture and I'm delighted that the Spanish edition of *The Alphabets of Latin America* brought out by the Indo-Hispanic Language Academy, Kolkata will be launched at the International Kolkata Book Fair in January 2022. A Bengali edition of the book too will follow which is likely to be released on the occasion of the Bengali New Year in April 2022.

Frontlist: Which authors have profoundly impacted your poetry writing skills and how?

Abhay: Kalidasa, Kabir, Rabindranath Tagore, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Dante, Shakespeare, Rumi, Hafez, Walt Whitman, Kahlil Gibran, C.P. Cavafy, T.S. Eliot, Wislawa Szymborska, Pablo Neruda, Federico Garcia Lorca, Octavio Paz, Carlos Drummond de Andrade, Jean-Joseph Rabearivelo, Pushkin, Du Fu, Shuntaro Tanikawa, Charles Baudelaire, Rilke, Bertolt Brecht, Robert Frost, Mahmoud Darwish, Ghalib, Derek Walcott, Seamus Heaney, Les Murray among others are some of my favorite poets who have had a profound impact on my evolution as a poet. I have learned a lot from their works which have, in turn, inspired me in creating my own poems. For example, my poem 'Carnival, which appears in *The Alphabets of Latin America* is a rewriting of 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' by T.S. Eliot. My forthcoming book-length poem 'Monsoon' is inspired by 'Meghaduta/The Cloud Messenger' of Kalidasa.

Frontlist: What challenges have you faced in your career till now?

Abhay: I have to keep myself motivated, disciplined and work extra hard to keep writing as I also have a very demanding job as a diplomat. So far, I have been able to keep the balance between my passion for poetry and my work as a diplomat. It has been really a challenge. I have had challenges in finding publishers for my work and still do, despite having two dozen books published in several countries.

Frontlist: What advice would you give to aspiring poets and writers?

Abhay: My message to aspiring poets and writers is : write what you really want to express, heed to your inner voice, and bear in mind the Sanskrit adage 'Charaiveti, charaiveti,' which means keep going, keep going, without giving up. Read a lot and write a little every day, it could be just a sentence or a stanza. Word after word after word is a book.

“
There is no greater joy in life than the joy of creating something.
”



Spotlight

by **FRONT LIST**



Pranav Gupta



Prafull Goradia



Kochery C Shibu

JANUARY
2022

This month's Spotlight Session shed a light on 'Role of Books in Creating a Knowledge Society' with Author Kochery C Shibu and Prafull Goradia in conversation with Mr. Pranav Gupta, IPA Executive Committee Member & Co-founder of Frontlist Media.

The primary motive of this session was to encourage people to read more books because exposure to literature is very significant to inculcate knowledge among young minds and bring out their creative side. Humans make the society, and if there is no awareness in the community, then it will be like walking dead on the earth in the form of a conscious body.

Take a look at some of the points that were covered in the Spotlight Session:

- How can an author with his words bring change to create a knowledgeable society?
- Human Minds cannot grow wise and creative unless they are exposed to literature.
- How much does an author's writing impact the development of a nation and its creative minds?
- How can we find a common place to create a knowledge society regardless of having diverse backgrounds in India?
- How can a reader catch up with the true intention of the author for taking the wisdom out of a particular book?
- People are putting their focus upon Digital Learning and e-content. Due to this reason, we are going to lose the charm of books among us.

FRONT LIST

BE READY FOR NEXT

clubhouse

— session —

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CHALLENGES IN AN AUTHOR'S LIFE
'AUTHOR: IS IT A FULL-TIME JOB?'

11TH DECEMBER, 2021 | 7:00 PM



SUKANYA
DE



GAUTAM
MAYEKAR



RAMESH
ARREJA



DIPAVALI
SEN

As you all know, Frontlist hosts a clubhouse session every month.

This December, we explored the subject of “Being an Author: Is it a full-time job?”

We had author Sukanya De, Gautam Mayekar, Ramesh Arreja and Dipavali Sen, as speakers for this session.

The main objective behind the session was to discuss why most people choose the writing profession as secondary, and engage in different jobs for their primary earning. This session will help the audience understand more about the challenges of an author's life.

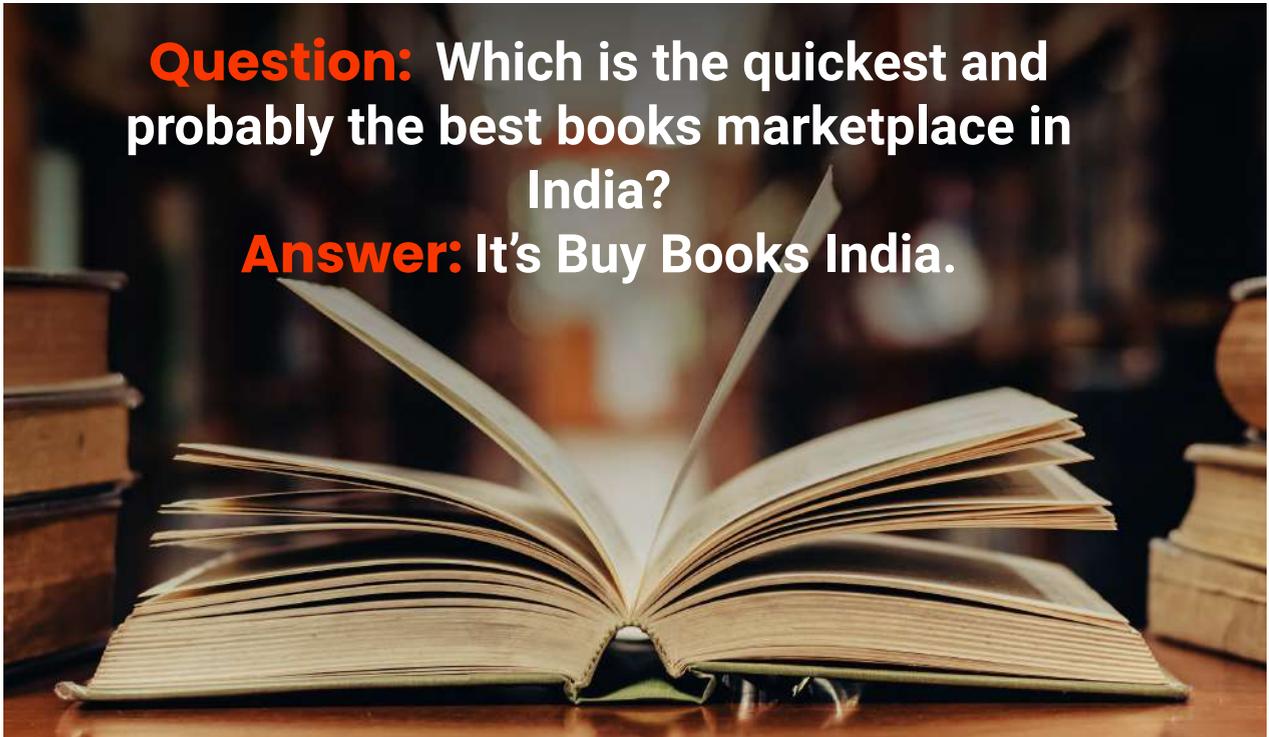
Here are some key points that were emphasized on in this session :

- We always read that an author is also involved in a different profession.
- Writers are not getting enough pay for their work, if we compare it to other professions.
- Why do many authors struggle to make a good living?
- In India, authors are not played well but international authors are well recognized and live the best standard of living.
- What does it take to be a full-time author?
- Is it mandatory to have a bestselling book to become an inspirational author?

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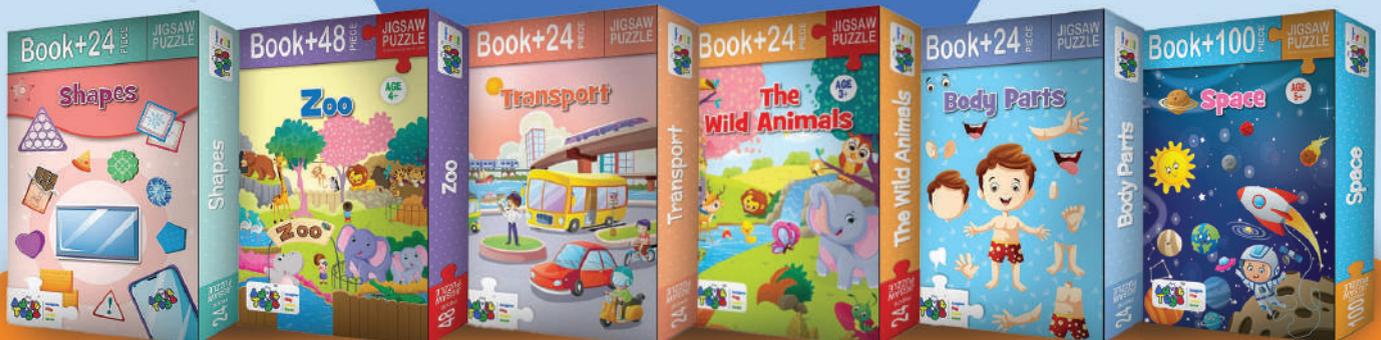
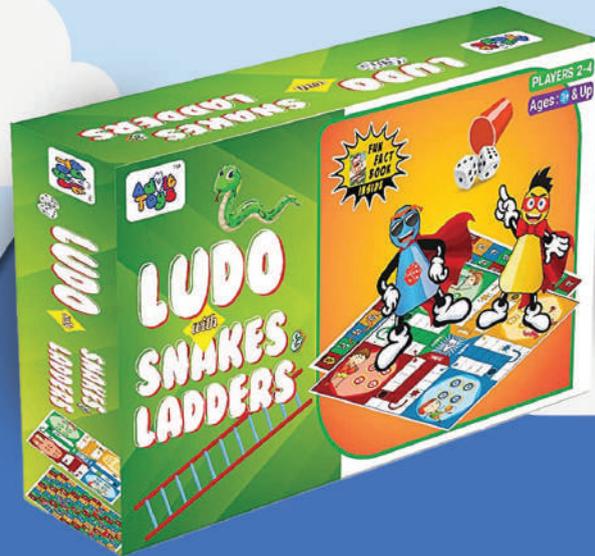
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