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INDIAN CINEMA
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

- in association with -



ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA

Kumaon Literary Festival

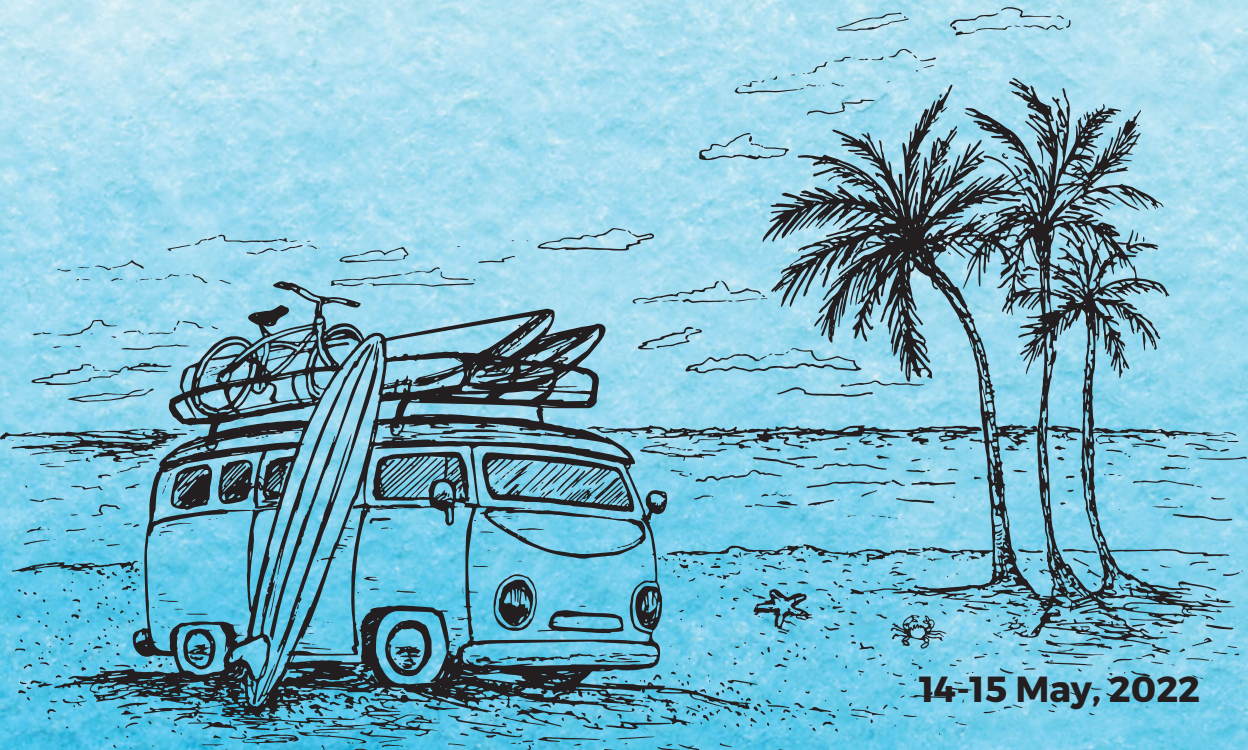
GOA Edition

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14-15 May, 2022

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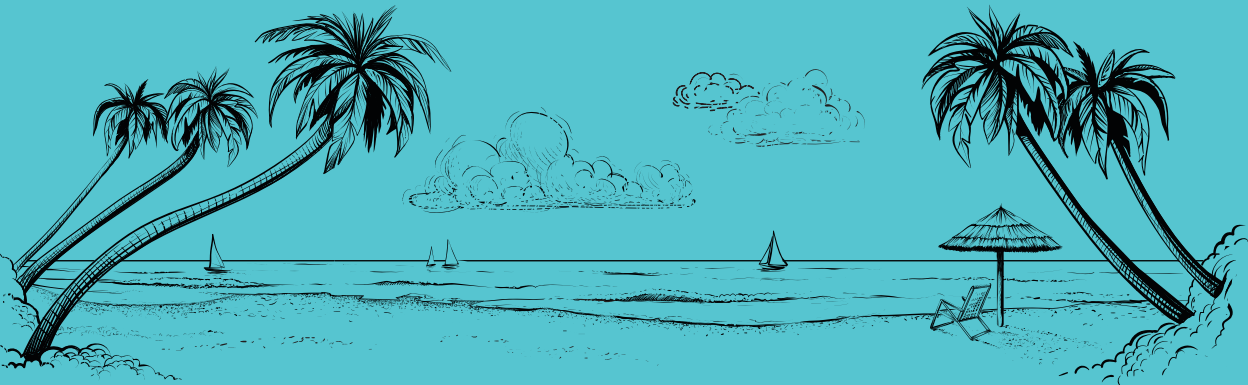


Kumaon Literary Festival is the first travelling literary festival of the country which brings together creative minds to offer insights on matters relevant to the literature and our cultural life as a nation. Founded in the year 2014, the not-for-profit festival has held many successful editions attended by hundreds of literary luminaries and thinkers from around the world. The earlier editions of KLF were held at Te Aroha, Dhanachuli, in Nainital, and in Jim Corbett National Park.

Founded by Sumant Batra, an eminent lawyer and cultural champion, KLF is conceptualised as an institution with an eco-system comprising of initiatives, projects and activities that are not limited or confined to the festival. The key projects that are part of KLF's eco-system are: Fellows of Nature; Women Unlimited Series; and Literary Bhagidari. The institutionalised approach to the festival is aimed at maximising impact and optimise on resources to help identify hidden talent, open avenues and opportunities for writers and increase their access through translations and other means to a larger audience. This also ensures there are measurable and tangible outcomes of the festival.

The management of KLF was taken over by the Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation in the year 2021.

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INDIAN CINEMA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation is a public charitable trust registered in Goa, under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882, to document the history of Indian cinema, set up an archive, libraries, research and resource centers, and other cultural spaces.

The Foundation undertakes preservation, restoration and conservation of cinema memorabilia, artefacts, equipment, books, magazines and other material.

Another key objective of the Foundation is to disseminate and promote the work of the Trust, its activities and products through seminars, conferences, festivals, exhibitions, videos, audios and other mediums; and carry out activities with respect to films, art, music, theatre and cultural events.

Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation is registered under Section 12AA and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.





Founded by the Government of Goa in 2004, the Entertainment Society of Goa, known as ESG was the 1st Government event and entertainment agency of the State. ESG was started with one focused, single idea in mind to bring the best of events, film festivals and creative minds of the vibrant entertainment industry from all over the globe at one place, on one platform and to make the State of Goa a hub of this industry.

ESG became the nodal agency to organize and execute the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) on behalf of Government of Goa. The festival is a joint collaboration between the Government of Goa and Government of India. ESG has been successfully executing this festival from 2004 since the year of its establishment.

Over the years, this organization, either on its own or through collaborations has also hosted various National and International Film Festivals. It has executed events for both private and Government bodies. It also provides permissions for film shooting across the State of Goa on behalf of the Government of Goa.

ESG has made efforts to conduct educational lectures and courses that benefit creative minds and has a Cinephile Film Club for film enthusiasts. Additionally, the ESG in the year 2019 collaborated and signed a MOU with the Goa Collage of Art, a Government of Goa institute to inculcate and involve students in the main stream through its activities and events. ESG through its various attempts provides a platform to all interested, in the field of Art, Culture, literature, Film, Entertainment and Events to showcase their talents and creativity with a new perspective.

Our Mission, Spirit, Values and Behaviours are what separate us from other Societies.

They are the strengths that underpin our entire approach to responsible, ethical business conduct. These attributes are exactly what makes the Entertainment Society of Goa a great organization to work for and to do business with.





DR. PRAMOD SAWANT
CHIEF MINISTER, GOA

19th April, 2022

MESSAGE

It gives me pleasure to know that the 2022 edition of Kumaon Literary Festival - KLF is going to be held in Goa, in association with Entertainment Society of Goa.

Many eminent writers and publishers to grace the occasion with their presence and participation. The wisdom shared by the eminent personalities shall definitely enlighten people.

I congratulate and thank Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation for choosing Goa for the 2022 edition of KLF. My best wishes to the entire team for the KLF 2022.

(Dr. Pramod Sawant)

Chief Minister, Goa

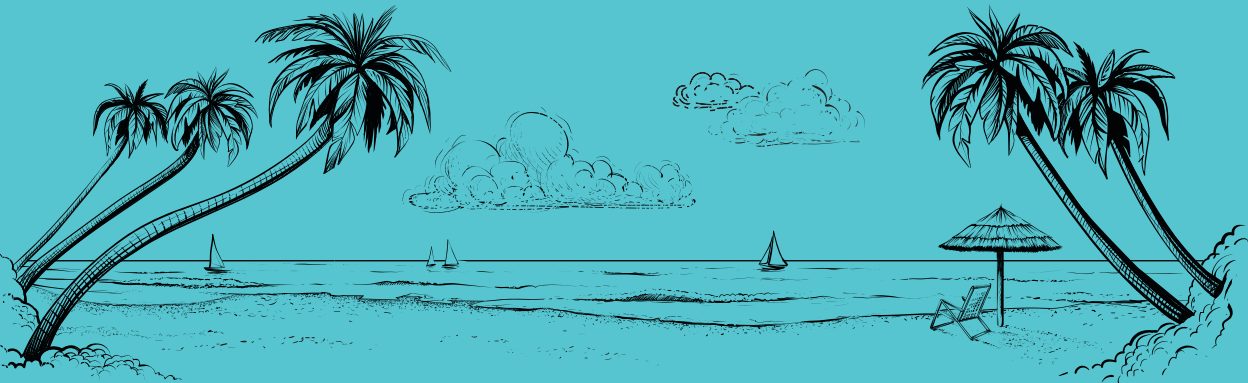




THE KLF VENUE

Old GMC Heritage Precinct,
Dayanand Bandodkar Marg,
Panaji, Goa

FOUNDER'S DESK



It was in 2014 that I presented the idea of Kumaon Literary Festival to the world of literature. An idea of a passionate festival that looked beyond the conventional event based approach. A festival based on a considered vision, with an annual plan to it, which strived for tangible outcomes and optimisation of resources, required impact assessment and was open to objective criticism and accountability. Yet, it being not a mission or a crusade. At its core was to be celebration of literature.

We could see the green shoots emerging at the end of the first season of the festival held in 2015. The unprecedented support KLF received, motivated the team to work harder on our various initiatives. It grew organically, supported by the literary community. We are a country with a young and aspiring population. It is the responsibility of the adults of the society to guide them. Therefore, we strive hard at KLF to stay approachable and mentor them.

The second edition of KLF was bigger in design. Our focus, however, remained on quality than quantity. This offered challenges of mobilising financial support. We, however, held our ground, avoided commercial temptations and continued to navigate our way through pitfalls. Operating on a minimal budget, we worked hard to curate a memorable three days of festivity and bonhomie. Yet, not all that we offered was perfect. There were mammoth restrictions and logistical constraints in organising a festival of this scale in a village that is part of an eco-sensitive area. We stayed respectful towards the restrictions and observed applicable guidelines.

I am humbled by the success of KLF and deeply moved by the affection and overwhelming warmth with which you have welcomed me into the world of literature. It has been a great experience working with such illustrious luminaries.

We took yet another leap of faith and decided to travel to Goa and make it our home, together with the Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation. Goa forms a perfect backdrop for KLF!

I hope you enjoy this edition of Kumaon Literary Festival brought to you by us with utmost sincerity, passion and love for literature and cinema!

Sumant Batra

Founder



It is indeed a matter of pride for the ESG to collaborate with Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation to bring forth the Kumaon Literary Festival's Goa edition.

ESG has been collaborating with various Government and private entities like the Directorate of Film Festivals, Serendipity etc. to host events in the State of Goa. However, this is the first time that ESG is collaborating with an organisation to host a literary event. Most importantly, with the Kumaon Literary Festival, ESG will finally be able to enter the world of literature festivals.

The festival will be hosted at one of the most important heritage structures in the State of Goa, i.e. the Old GMC campus located at Panaji. This heritage structure was part of the palaces of the Maquinezes in Panjim which was built in the year 1702 by two brothers Diago da Costa de Ataide e Tieve and Cristovam da Costa. Nearly 150 years later, it was established as Escola Medica – Cirurgica de Nova Goa by the Portuguese i.e. the Goa Medical College (GMC) and Hospital. The establishment of Escola Medica-Cirurgica de Nova Goaput Goa on the world map. Currently this is the office premises of the Entertainment Society of Goa, the festival Secretariat for the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI) and is the perfect space for hosting Art, Culture and Entertainment events. Located in the heart of Panjim city, across the serene Mandovi river, the Old GMC is an architectural delight making it an unparalleled venue for the Literature Festival.

The festival will have eminent speakers like Dr. Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, Dr. K. K. Muhammed. Jerry Pinto, Vikram Sampath, Hindol Sengupta, Rahul Rawail, Dhritiman Chatterji, Anant Vijay, Vijay Jha, Venita Coelho, Kiran Manral, Siddhartha Gigoo, Gautam Chintamani, Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri, Koral Dasgupta etc. It is indeed a great opportunity for the people of Goa and the literary community to gain insights on matters relating to people, art, culture, history and entertainment.

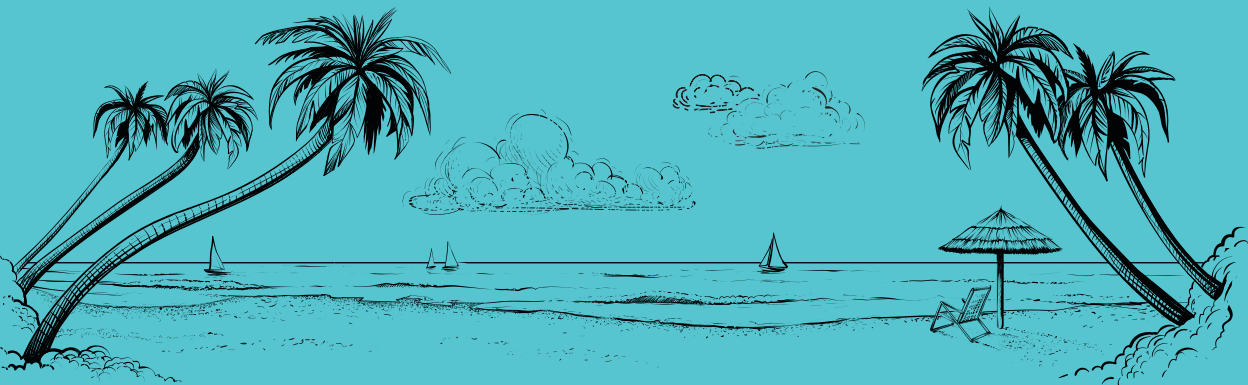
Entertainment Society of Goa and Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation look forward to providing you an amazing experience of the world of literature through “The Kumaon Literary Festival, Goa edition 2022” in the heart of the capital city of State of Goa, Panaji.

Dr. Tariq Thomas,

CEO, Entertainment Society of Goa



SPEAKERS





Amrit Gangar

Film Historian and Writer

Amrit Gangar is a Mumbai-based author, curator, film theoretician and historian. He has independently authored books on cinema, both in English and Gujarati languages, besides having edited and co-edited a number of books. His book Cinema Vimarsh has been awarded by the Gujarat Sahitya Akademi. For the past decade he has been engaged with his theoretical concept of Cinema Prayoga and has presented it at various venues in India and abroad. He has been on juries of numerous film festivals. Gangar is on the international advisory board of the Moving Image Review & Art Journal (MIRAJ) published from London. He is Consultant Curator for the National Museum of Indian Cinema set up in Mumbai by the Government of India.



Anant Vijay

Senior Journalist and Author

Anant Vijay, currently with Dainik Jagran, is a senior journalist, columnist, and author with more than two decades of journalistic experience. He has written nine books across various genres and is the author of the bestselling Bollywood Selfie. His latest book is Marxwad ka Ardhsatya. He is currently working on the Superstar Selfie, a book on the legends of Hindi Cinema. He is a recipient of the National Award for Best Writing on Cinema.



Asha Batra

Co-Founder, Cinemaazi and Te Aroha, Lawyer

Asha is the co-founder of Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation, which manages Cinemaazi. A senior partner of Kesar Dass B. & Associates, a leading law firm of the country, Asha graduated in Botany with Honours before studying law. Born and grown up in the mountains of North East, she has deep and sensitive understanding of the problems faced by the people living in the hill villages and works for their welfare.

She is the Managing Director of Treepie Hospitality Private Limited, which manages Te Aroha, a boutique hotel located in the mountains of Uttarakhand.





Ashok Maheshwari

Managing Director, Rajkamal Prakashan

Born on October 9, 1957 in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh in a middle-class family, Ashok Maheshwari did his MA from Rohilkhand University in Hindi Literature. He became active in the world of publishing in 1974. In 1978, he took charge of 'Vani Prakashan'. In 1994, he became the Managing Director of the most prestigious publication institute of Hindi literature 'Rajkamal Prakashan'. Taking forward 'Rajkamal' and 'Radhakrishna Prakashan' on the path of progress, he also took charge of 'Lokbharti Prakashan' in 2005. At present, he is the chairman of 'Rajkamal Prakashan Group', a group of three major literary publications of Hindi.



Balaji Ramachandran

Co-Founder, Nostalgiaana

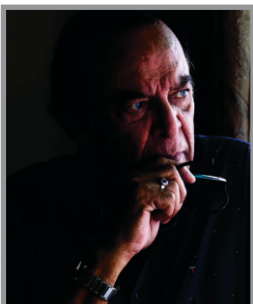
Film music has been a part of Balaji's growing days in Mumbai and the influence in his life. With a keen ear for the light genre of music, his life mission is to spread the goodness of this genre from which he has himself benefitted.

He is currently an independent Management Consultant and Entrepreneur. He has over 22 years of work experience in corporate environment with Travel eCommerce and Consumer Durable companies.

Balaji represents Nostalgiaana, a team made of Corporate Professionals with a deep passion for Hindi Film Music & Indian Film Music. Their mission is to showcase the vast and rich legacy of film music as an "Art Form".

The team takes pride in conducting various shows to highlight nuances of a film song / film songs which they believe, also, helps to grow and build a community of music lovers!

After various onsite and online shows for leading Corporates like Au Bank, YES bank, AXIS Bank, RpTech and Ifast Financials, Nostalgiaana has revived the Radio Nostalgia of Retro Hindi film songs through specially curated online shows, served to more than 300 dedicated members. These shows are running for nearly 2 years now.



Barun Chanda

Actor and Writer

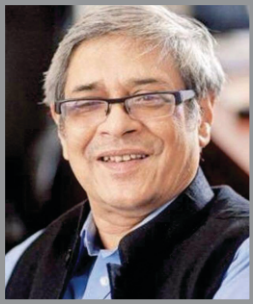
There have been three enduring passions in Barun's life advertising - acting and writing, and not necessarily in that order. With a Master's degree in English from Jadavpur University, Kolkata, he embarked upon a career in advertising that spanned more than three decades, winning him numerous accolades and awards as a Creative Director.

Acting happened in his career as a happy accident. Chosen by Satyajit Ray to play the protagonist in the film Seemabaddha, Barun came up with an inspiring performance as a high-flying executive that won him a special President's Award for acting. After a hiatus of nearly two decades, he returned to acting and has since tackled challenging roles in both



Bollywood and Tollywood with equal aplomb, distinguishing himself in films as Looter, Roy, Chotushkone, Mishor Rohoshya, Bela Sheshe and Chorabali.

The third passion in Barun's life has been writing. At one time a regular film reviewer, and contributor of feature articles in major dailies, he has so far published four highly acclaimed novels in Bengali. His work has played a major role in establishing the adult thriller genre in Bengali literature. While the first two novels in English, *Coke* and *Murder in the Monastery*, are crime stories, *Satyajit Ray : The Man Who Knew Too Much* would be his first non-fiction book in English.



BIBEK DEBROY

Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India

Bibek Debroy is an Indian economist, serving as the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India. Debroy has made significant contributions to economic theory, income and social inequalities, poverty, law reforms, railway reforms and Indology among others. He is also an anchor for the fortnightly show Itihasa on Sansad TV. From its inception in January 2015, till June 2019, Mr. Debroy was a member of the NITI Aayog, the think tank of the Indian Government. He was awarded the Padma Shri (the fourth-highest civilian honour in India) in 2015. In 2016, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by US-India Business Summit. He is a translator, best known for his magnificent rendition of the *Mahabharata* in ten volumes as well as the three-volume *Valmiki Ramayana* - both of which have been published to wide acclaim by Penguin Classics. He is also the author of *Sarama and Her Children*, which splices his interest in Hinduism with his love for dogs. Most recently, he translated the *Bhagavata Purana* and the *Markandeya Purana* for Penguin Classics.



Dhritiman Chatterji

Actor

Dhritiman Chatterji is an Indian actor. He began his acting career in 1970 as the protagonist of Satyajit Ray's *Pratidwandi*. Most of his acting work has been in India's "parallel", or independent, cinema with filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Aparna Sen, among others and is noted for his acting skills. He has worked extensively in Bengali cinema and notably, in many popular Hindi films.





Dilip Puri

Founder and CEO, Indian School of Hospitality

Dilip Puri is the Founder & CEO of Indian School of Hospitality (ISH), an institution of higher education focused on reshaping hospitality, culinary arts and executive education for today's generation and tomorrow's businesses. Dilip served as the Managing Director of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, South Asia, from 2011 till the end of 2017 when he set out to be an education entrepreneur and founded ISH. During his time at the helm, Starwood's South Asia portfolio grew from 24 to 54 operating hotels with a pipeline of over 100 hotels. He was also responsible for launching the luxury brands of Starwood with the entry of St. Regis & W Hotels in the Indian market. From 2008 to 2010, Dilip was the CEO of Duet India Hotels, a private equity backed hospitality development company, and led the raise of circa USD 166 million in private equity capital.

Dilip has over three decades of experience in the hospitality industry and has worked with brands such as Oberoi, Taj, IHG, and Starwood in India, Australia and Africa. He has an economics degree from the University of Delhi and he completed his postgraduate studies at the Oberoi Centre of Learning & Development (OCLD). Since the opening of ISH, Dilip is a part of the ISH faculty and he is also an industry mentor to students.



FARHA NAZ

Publisher and Writer

Farha Naz is the Director of Lab Academia Research and Publishing Center, a positioning and branding firm that has six different wings. She is the founder member of Motivate India Society and works for providing educational support and platforms to creative talents. She is a literary ambassador, an enthusiast of digital marketing and has been organizing a number of socio-cultural, literary and artistic events in different cities of India. She has successfully curated three National level Art Exhibitions (group shows) by the name, Hues of Bliss. She is also known for her motivational anthologies such as Hope Reborn, Youth as Nation Builders, The Wit and Wisdom of Thought Leaders, Perspectives of Hope and recently published book, "How to overcome failure". She worked at the Indian Institute of Information Technology – Allahabad (IIIT-A). Her research work has been published in several International Journals and Conferences. She also looked after Swachh Kumbh in the recently concluded Kumbh Mela 2019. An international publication, "The story mint" has awarded Naaz for her article on her favourite author Jalalu'ddin Rumi. Ms. Farha Naz is known by her Sufi pen name "Ishq Niazi" and belongs to the Niazi Sufi Silsila.

She lives in Goa.





Gajra Kottary

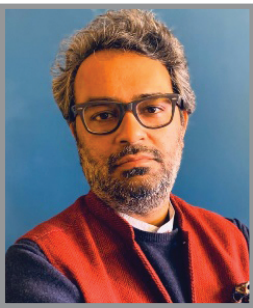
Author and Scriptwriter

Gajra Kottary is an author and scriptwriter who made a transition from journalism, after winning The Hindu gold medal from the Indian Institute of Mass Communications. Having worked at The Statesman in New Delhi and written for Choices, the magazine of the United Nations Development Program, she published her first collection of women-centric short stories *Fragile Victories* in 1996.

Her debut novel, stemming partly from her own life experiences, *Broken Melodies* was published by Harper Collins India Publishers in 2011. Her other novels include *Once Upon A Star*, which is based on the entertainment industry, was released in 2014 and *Girls Don't Cry*, which parses the lives of three generations of women in a family, was issued in 2017; all by Harper Collins India. Her e-book *Not Woman Enough* was published by Juggernaut Publishers on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. Gajra's latest work, her first in non fiction, *Healing at the Movies*, which she co-wrote was released in early 2021 by Hay House Publishers. It deals with the therapeutic value of Hindi Cinema.

Gajra entered the audio-visual world by being a script associate with Mahesh Bhatt in 1999 on a film *Ye Zindagi Ka Safar*. She subsequently has written the stories of several successful nationally telecast television shows such as the record-setting *Balika Vadu*, *Astitva - Ek Prem Kahani*, *Jyoti*, *Hamare Tumhare* and the mega-historical 55-episode *Buddha*. For her endeavours in television, Gajra has won almost all the industry awards, several times over.

Most recently, Gajra has turned her attention to the world of audio books. She has written two audio books for Storytel; *The Perfect Switch* and *#Couple Goals*, voiced by Soha Ali Khan. A 10-episode Hindi audio series is slated for release in late 2022.



Gautam Chintamani

Film Historian and Writer

Gautam Chintamani is a film historian and the author of *Rajneeti* (Penguin-Random House, 2019), the first biography of Rajnath Singh. He is the author of the bestselling *Dark Star: The Loneliness of Being Rajesh Khanna* (HarperCollins, 2014), *The Film That Revived Hindi Cinema* (HarperCollins, 2016); *Pink- The Inside Story* (HarperCollins, 2017); and *The Midway Battle: Narendra Modi's Roller-Coaster Second Term* (Bloomsbury). Gautam Chintamani is currently working on *A Class Act - The Life of Vinod Khanna*.

He is part of curating team working on the Government of India's museum of Prime Ministers of India.

He hails from a literary tradition that runs deep on both sides of his family—the late Telugu poet Arudra is his maternal grandfather and the liberal thinker Sir C.Y. Chintamani is his paternal great-grandfather.

Gautam's writing has featured in national publications, including a compilation on Dadasaheb Phalke awardees published by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, *Legends of Indian Silver Screen*. He was on the National Film Awards jury for Best Writing on Cinema in



2016. The British Film Institute included *The Film That Revived Hindi Cinema* in their library in 2016. In 2017, Gautam contributed an essay on the cinema of Franz Osten for The British Film Institute's restoration project of filmmaker's 1928 masterpiece *Shiraz*. Gautam's documentary film *SRI: Challenging Traditions, Transforming Lives* won the Best Documentary Award at the Asia Pacific Rice Film Festival, Malaysia. His trilogy, *Janam–Aagazh– Parvaaz*, on the journey of children with special needs and their parents was screened at the 2011 International Film Festival of India (IFFI). His notable television credits include *Siddhanth*, a law series that garnered an Emmy nomination in the 'international drama' category—a first for an Indian television show.



Harini Srinivasan

Author and Editor

Harini Srinivasan is an author, editor and an experienced program management professional.

An aficionado of literature, history and dance and a former civil servant, among her achievements is her contribution as an editor of several prestigious publications published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, such as *Selected Speeches of the President: Pranab Mukherjee*; *The Republican Ethic: Selected Speeches of Shri Ram Nath Kovind*; *Indian Dance – Through a Critic's Eye*; *Abode Under the Dome*; *Legends of Indian Silver Screen*; and *Selected Speeches of the Vice President: M. Venkaiah Naidu*.

She has authored a historical detective fiction novel, *The Curse of Anuganga* (TreeShadeBooks, 2019), a children's book, *The Wizard Tales- Adventures of Bun-Bun* (Maple Press, 2014), and several stories and novellas for Juggernaut Books - *Ek Confusing Love Story*, *Death at Arcade Emporia*, *The Unintended Boyfriend*, *When I met Him*, and *Arjun's Wife*. She has been associated with Scholastic Writer's Academy Programme as a mentor for children in the age group of 8-14 years. She is currently working on her next historical detective fiction novel and a non-fiction book.



Hemma Myers Sood

Author

Hemma Myers Sood was born in New Delhi and studied in Bengaluru. She uses a pen name for her books and workshops: HEMMA MYERS SOOD.

At 29, she released her first book, *The Eternal Ocean of Brahma*, which conveys the wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita imbibed through intuitive perceptions of the waves of the ocean. She received notable reviews and was compared to Newton and Archimedes for her extraordinary perceptions and unique insights. The revised version is *The Oceanic Geeta*. Two of her early books, published by Indmark Publishers, are being currently revised.

Her sixth book, *Karmic Cords*, is a poignant narrative of the author's personal loss of her sibling. The Karmic City trilogy, released in 2015 and 2019, comprises *Karmic City: The City of Lord Brahma*, *Karmic City: The City of Lord Vishnu* and *Karmic City: The City of Lord Shiva*. The





trilogy depicts the ascension of the soul at different levels of consciousness. It portrays profound insights into ancient Indian philosophy, interspersed with mystical poetry. The erudite Maharaja Dr. Karan Singh has written an articulate Foreword for the trilogy.

Hemma has successfully completed a course on 'Writing Fiction' from the prestigious Oxford University. Her ninth book, *Tijara's Mystery Codes*, is uniquely interwoven with historical fiction, murder, palace intrigue, and clairvoyance.

She is a certified Reiki Grandmaster, Money Reiki Grandmaster, and a Karuna Reiki Master. She uses Reiki symbols in her meditative writing to imbibe mystical cosmic knowledge. She teaches all three levels of Reiki, Money Reiki and Karuna Reiki. She is an Akashic Records Reader and Trainer and empowers people by reading their Akashic Records and sharing insights.

Since March 2009 she has channelled over 700 messages, which form The Gratitude Channellings. These are a series of seven books that depict enlightening messages from higher realms. In early 2021 she channelled over 200 symbols from the seventh dimensional Unicorns. She has created The Unicorn Oracle Cards using these potent symbols and imparts detailed knowledge about each symbol.

She is a US certified Ho'oponopono Practitioner and she efficaciously practices Tarot Cards, Runology and Chaldean Numerology to manifest abundance and success. She ingeniously combines the Dowsing Pendulum, Crystal Ball Divination during her personal empowerment sessions. She designs Crystalline Grids using the principles of Sacred Geometry.

Hemma lives in Goa, India with her family. She practices meditation, chanting, yoga, and pranayama. She enjoys walking amongst Mother Nature to receive inspirational insights for her motivational writing.



Hindol Sengupta

Economist and Writer

Hindol Sengupta is an Indian historian and journalist. He is the award winning author of none books. In 2019, In 2019, his book *The Man Who Saved India – Sardar Patel and his Idea of India* won the prize for best work of non-fiction at the Valley of Words literary festival in India. In 2018, he became the only Indian to win the Wilbur Award given by the Religion Communicators Council of America for his book *Being Hindu*. In 2015, his book *Recasting India* was shortlisted for the Hayek Prize given by the Manhattan Institute, a conservative American think-tank. He was also awarded the PSF Award in 2015 for his contribution to writing. His books have been reviewed over multiple media outlets. Sengupta lives in Delhi and is Editor-at-Large at Fortune India where he writes a weekly column. He is also a columnist for Aspen Italia and The New Indian Express. At KLF, Hindol will launch his next book *Sing, Dance and Pray – The Inspirational Story of Srila Prabhupada*.

In 2017, he was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. He is a co-founder of the Whypoll Trust which garnered media attention after mapping places in Delhi that were dangerous for women, and following up with releasing an emergency smartphone-app.





Jerry Pinto

Writer, Poet and Journalist

Jerry Pinto is a Mumbai-based Indian English poet of Goa origin, novelist, short story writer, translator, as well as journalist. Pinto's works include *Helen: The Life and Times of an H-Bomb* (2006), which won the Best Book on Cinema Award at the 54th National Film Awards, *Surviving Women* (2000) and *Asylum and Other Poems* (2003). His first novel *Em and the Big Hoom* was published in 2012. Pinto won the Windham-Campbell prize in 2016 for his fiction. He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2016 for his novel *Em and the Big Hoom*. He has also co-edited *Confronting Love* (2005), a book of contemporary Indian love poetry in English. He returned to magazine journalism as a Consulting Editor at *Man's World* magazine. Later, he joined Paprika Media (the publishing house that brings out *Time Out Mumbai* and *Time Out Delhi*) to edit their special projects. He is now a freelance journalist, writing articles for the *Hindustan Times* and *Live Mint* newspapers, as well as *The Man* and *MW*. In 2009, he co-authored *Leela: A Portrait with Leela Naidu*, a semi-biographical book of anecdotes and photos from Leela Naidu's life. Leela Naidu was continuously listed as one of top ten or top five most beautiful women in the world in the 1950s and 1960s by magazines like *Vogue*. He has translated several books from Marathi to English including *Cobalt Blue*, *Baluta*, *When I Hid My Caste* and *I, the Salt Doll*.



K K Muhammed

Archeaologist and Historian

Shri Muhammed K.K, retired from the Archaeological Survey of India as Regional Director (North) in 2012, is known for his enlightened and broad views on some of the issues for which he was felicitated by no less a person than Dr Subhramanya Swami. He was awarded INDIA HARMONY AWARD 2014" by Dr Najma Heptulla for working closely with various religious groups.

During his distinguished carrier he excavated IBADAT KHANA (the hall of interreligious discussions) where Akbar, the Great promulgated the composite religion, known as Din-e-Ilahi. He also located and excavated the first CHRISTIAN CHURCH of North India built by Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri.

As superintending Archaeologist in Bihar (1998-2000), Shri Muhammed, discovered a new BUDDHIST STUPA at Rajgir and excavated KESARIYA STUPA where LORD BUDDHA had handed over his begging bowl to the people of Vaishali.

He conserved Samlur temple at Dante wada in Jagdalpur (Chattisgarh) working with NAXAL group of the area in 2003. Shri Muhammed, reconstructed EIGHTY TEMPLES at CHAMBAL VALLEY with the help of the DREADED DACOITS of the area. It is considered as a milestone in the field of conservation (2004-2008).

Of the four TRANSPLANTATIONS so far executed in India, Shri Muhammed has the distinction of heading two of them, namely KURDI MAHADEV temple in Goa (1994-1997) and CHAUBIS AVATAR TEMPLE temple at OMKARESHWAR in Madhya Pradesh (2004-2007).





Naturally due to his excellent track record, the Archaeological Survey of India deemed it fit to entrust him the conservation work of Delhi monuments on the occasion of COMMON WEALTH – 2010.

In Delhi Shri Muhammed attracted the attention of AMERICAN PRESIDENT BARRACK OBAMA by running SLUM SCHOOLS for the labourers working in the monuments for its conservation.

He was honored with India's fourth highest civilian honor Padma Shri in 2019 by the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

For his excellent work, Shri Muhammed has to his credit three International Awards, seven National Awards and one State Award. The details are as given below

International Awards:

- **SAARC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD** for Conservation of Bateshwar temples by Foundation of SAARC writers and Literatures 2009-2010 (2010).
- **SRILANKA MAHA BODHI SOCIETY AWARD 2010** for “Invaluable contribution and effort in resurrecting the ancient Buddhist heritage of Mahabharath.”
- **REACH FOUNDATION AWARD** for the year 2010 by the Board of Trustees in Chennai.

National Awards:

- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR MAINTAINING SANCHI STUPA, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE** as the Best Maintained & Tourist Friendly Monument. The award was instituted by the Ministry of Tourism Govt. Of India 2006-2007. Award for Sanchi Stupa.
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR MAINTAINING QUTB MINAR** as the best Maintained & Tourist Friendly monument 2007-2008. Award for Qutb Minar.
- **3. NATIONAL AWARD FOR THE FIRST BARRIER FREE MONUMENT (QUTBMINAR)** 2007-2008. Award for Barrier Free Monument (QutbMinar), shared with Swayam An NGO.
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR MAINTAINING HUMAYUN'S TOMB** as the Best Maintained & Tourist Friendly monument 2008-2009.
- **CITIZEN JOURNALIST AWARD-** Be the Change given by Network18 (CNN IBN) 2009-2010 for running Slum School initiative. Award of Citizen Journalist for running Slum Schools.
- **NATIONAL AWARD FOR MAINTAINING RED FORT** as the Best Maintained & Tourist Friendly monument 2009-2010. Award for Maintaining Red Fort.

State Award:

- **MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNMENT AWARD** for Tourist Friendly Archaeologist 2009-2010.





Kanchana Banerjee

Author

Kanchana enjoys writing thrillers, reading about cold cases, true crime events and these often serve as inspiration for my stories. She has authored 3 books - *A Forgotten Affair* (2016), *Nobody's Child* (2019) and *Eye on You* (2021). *Nobody's Child* will soon be a web series on an OTT platform.

She enjoys reading about writing and have completed various writing courses. She has done writing courses at the London School of Journalism, Curtis Brown Creative (London). I'm passionate about writing and honing my craft. There's no end to learning and she believes we are all 'work-in-progress.'

She conducts a session called TellTale with Kanchana on Instagram. This is a chat series with authors and other personalities.

In another lifetime, she used to be a freelance writer for publications and companies. She has written for almost all the leading publications in the country and worked with reputed MNCs as a writer. Some names I've been associated with – TOI, Femina, Marriott hotels, Colgate, Unilever, UNICEF, Deccan Herald, Deccan Chronicle & others.

Currently, she is full-time author and lives in Gurgaon with her family and way too many plants. Her 4th book is titled *Until I find you* – it's a thriller inspired by a true crime event that happened in the USA in 1970s. It will be published soon and she currently writing her 5th.



Kiran Manral

Former Journalist and Writer

Kiran Manral is a writer and major social media influencer. After quitting her full-time journalist's job when her son was born, Kiran became a mommy blogger on the internet, with a remarkably original voice. She was a journalist at The Asian Age, The Times of India, features editor Cosmopolitan, India Cultural Lead and Trend spotter at Gartner Icon culture US, Senior Consultant at Vector Insights, Ideas Editor, SheThePeople.TV. Kiran is currently a celebrated author and an independent research and media consultant. She was shortlisted for the Femina Women Awards for Literary Contribution in 2017. The Indian Council of UN Relations (ICUNR) supported by the Ministry of Women and Children, Govt of India, awarded her the International Women's Day Award 2018 for excellence in the field of writing. In 2021 she was awarded the Womenovator 1000 Women of Asia award. In 2022, she was named amongst the 75 Iconic Indian women in STEAM by Red Dot Foundation and Beyond Black, in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India, and British High Commission, New Delhi.

Her novella, *Saving Maya*, was long-listed for the 2018 Saboteur Award, supported by the Arts Council of England in the UK. Her novels '*The Face At the Window*' and '*Missing, Presumed Dead*' were both long-listed for Jio MAMI Word to Screen, and '*The Face at the Window*' was showcased at the South Asian Film Festival 2019. *The Kitty Party Murder* was shortlisted for the Popular Choice award at the 2021 JK Papers TOI Author awards. Her other



books include *The Reluctant Detective*, *Once Upon A Crush*, *All Aboard*, *Karmic Kids-The Story of Parenting Nobody Told You*, *A Boy's Guide to Growing Up*, *True Love Stories*, *13 Steps to Bloody Good Parenting*, *Raising Kids with Hope and Wonder in Times of a Pandemic and Climate Change*, *More Things in Heaven and Earth* and *Rising: 30 Women Who Changed India*. She also has published short stories in various magazines, in acclaimed anthologies like *Have A Safe Journey*, *Boo*, *The Best Asian Speculative Fiction 2018*, *Grandpa's Tales*, *Magical Women* and *City of Screams*. Kiran lives in Mumbai with her family.



Koral Dasgupta

Columnist and Writer

Koral has published an eclectic range of books from academic non fiction to relationship dramas. Her stories explore the inherent nature of complex minds leading to a relatable conflict and unpredictable climax. Having published widely with Westland Books, Niyogi Publishers and Rupa, her books are discussed from the context of gender studies, art, myth and ecocritical literature. Other than India, Koral's books are shelved in the libraries of University of Harvard, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, University of Wales, Duke University, University of North Carolina, TAMU, and others. Her fourth book has been optioned for screen adaptation. She is currently working with Pan Macmillan on the five-book Sati series - a retelling of the stories of the Pancha Kanya from Indian mythology - *Ahalya* and *Kunti* are on the shelves. www.tellmeyourstory.biz founded by Koral leverages literature to design and execute extensive learning programmes which inspire social engagement and behavioural change for Inclusion & Diversity. She conducts writing programmes and critical thinking workshops for educational and corporate floors.



Manoj Rajan Tripathi

Senior Journalist, Author and Dialogue Writer

Manoj Rajan Tripathi has been in journalism for almost thirty years. He has been the editor in *Dainik Jagran*, *Hindustan Times*, *Network 18* and is currently an editor in *Zee Media*.

He has written dialogues of Ajay Devgan, Paresh Rawal, Kartik Aaryan's superhit film *Atithi Tum KabJaoge's Part Two* -Guest in London.

He is the creative lead of the upcoming reality show "Swarna Swar Bharat" on Zee 5 OTT.

Amazon Westland recently published his novel *Code Kakori*, which is a topic of discussion in the country these days. Manoj has won Zee Tv's *Saregama* and *Antakshari* as well as reached National level for singing in *Sur Shringar*, *Sangam Kala* and has received many awards in journalism.





Meenakshi Sharma

Writer and Founder of the GLiterARTI Book Club

A trained journalist from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi. Meenakshi comes with extensive experience with the media. A 'nose' for news, a flair for interaction, and an ability to say it best with words have kept her engaged with leading newspapers and magazines as a columnist. She is also an integral part of leading management institutes as well as the corporate world as a communication expert, a certified trainer and an HR Consultant. She is visiting faculty at GIM, Goa University, and the Naval War College among others.

Meenakshi Sharma. Founder of the GLiterARTI Book Club in 2011, she organized the first Gurgaon Art and Literature Festival in Gurgaon in 2013 following which she has been associated with a series of book clubs and literary events all over the country and is a popular speaker and moderator at events.

She has completed a certificate programme in Management of Social Initiatives from IIM Kozhikode and her venture "GLiterARTI" is among the top 20 ventures in 2021-22 selected by the NSRCEL of IIM Bangalore.



Milee Ashwarya

Publisher, Ebury Publishing and Vintage Publishing at Penguin Random House India

Milee Ashwarya is Publisher, Ebury Publishing and Vintage Publishing at Penguin Random House India. Her focus has been on championing the best voices in fiction and non-fiction while publishing a range of bestsellers across segments. Her authors include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Piyush Pandey, Hussain S. Zaidi, Yuvraj Singh, Hindol Sengupta, R. Gopalakrishnan, Karan Johar, and Ravi Subramaniam to name a few.



P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

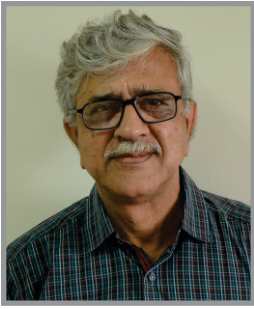
The Hon'ble Governor of the State of Goa

Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai is the Hon'ble Governor of the State of Goa. His Excellency was born in Venmony Panchayat of Alappuzha District, Kerala to V.G. Sukumaran Nair and Bhavani Amma. Shri Sreedharan Pillai is a successful lawyer, a former politician, an organizer par excellence, an orator, a prolific writer, a philanthropist and a thinker.

Shri Pillai graduated in Arts from Pandalam NSS College. Later, he pursued his Degree in Law from Calicut Law College and completed the course in the year 1978. During his stint at the Law College, Shri Pillai was the Editor of the College Magazine of his tenure.

A bilingual author, Shri Pillai writes both in English and his mother-tongue Malayalam with ease and dexterity on topics close to his heart such as politics, social and legal issues and poetry. So far, he has written more than 130 books including 15 poetry collections in Malayalam and English. His detailed profile can be seen on <https://www.goa.gov.in/government/governor>





Pradeep Champanerkar

Book Publisher

Pradeep Champanerkar is a book publisher by profession. He graduated from one of the most reputed art schools of the country, Sir J. J. School of Arts, Mumbai.

He is the director-publisher of a wellknown Marathi Book Publishing company ROHAN PRAKASHAN, which has a base in Mumbai and Pune.

Rohan Prakashan has a standing in the field as a distinguished publisher for the last 39 years. It has published over 600 books so far, on a variety of topics from reference books to fictions. It has to its credit many prestigious Awards on State and National level 'VI. PU. BHAGWAT' Puraskar as a lifetime achievement award and 'PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR AWARD' Which is bestowed on only one publisher from across the country; are the few to be named amongst those. Mr. Pradeep Champanerkar has so far independently edited many Voluminous books. He is also an editor of a periodical ROHAN SAHITYA MAIFAL. He has been writing regularly on book publishing related topics. Lately he has tried his writing skills in creative literature too.



Pradip Kumar Routray

Veteran Sound Recordist

Pradip is a Sound Engineer (more specifically, Song Recordist) - working in Mumbai's film and music industry having recorded songs from the films like, Baazi, Barsaat, Bas Itna Sa Khwaab Hai, Biwi No.1, Border, Dil Vil Pyaar Vyaar, Dulhe Raja, Fiza, Ghatak, Ishq, Ishq-Vishk, Judaai, Kareeb, Khamoshi: The Musical, Masoom, Mohabbat, Pardes, Raja Hindustani. His film credits are available at http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1619237/?ref_=nv_sr_3] He is actively involved in teaching, training and mentoring students in the technology, arts, crafts and aesthetics of film-making, sound recording and film sound design at various institutes and universities all over India.

Pradip has been nominated thrice in LUX-ZEE Cine Awards "Best Song Recording" category for the feature Films: Dulhe Raja (1998), Biwi No.1 (1999) & Fiza (2000); He has arranged Live Sound Mixing for Asha Bhosle's Music Concerts in India and abroad.

Pradip is professionally trained in Surround Sound in Oxford, UK; has undertaken professional study visits to Music Recording and Mastering facilities:- Air Lyndhurst, Metropolis, Sony and Sphere studios in London; attended Seminar by Academy Award winning film-maker Walter Murch- on Sound Design and professional Recording Studio Acoustic Design & Installations. He has delivered talk as Panelist, at Mumbai University's National Seminar on Music, Media & Technology, and presented his paper 'Influence of Technology on Music & Cinema in India: The Sonic Boom of 1990-2000', and available at web link- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/music-its-promotion-interaction-media-technology-cinema-routray>





Preeti Vinay Sinha

Producer, Reellife Entertainment

A second Generation film maker, Priti Sinha's father produced the cult comedy Film "Andaz Apna Apna". Taking her father's legacy forward, Priti Sinha, Producer at Reel Life Entertainment and Priti Vinay Sinha Films, has produced several films including the Hindi feature Films "Pehchaan", directed by Shrabani Deodhar, starring Vinod Khanna and Raveena Tandon, "Stumped" Directed by Gaurav Pandey, starring Raveena Tandon and Aly Khan, "David", Directed by Bejoy Nambiar starring Vikram, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Tabu and Lara Dutta as well as has line produced the Spanish Film Vicente Ferrer-El Cielo En La Tierra - A Biopic on Vicente Ferrer, Directed by Augustine Crespi, starring Manuel Maria Arias Dominguez.

Priti has also produced several TV shows for Zee TV, Sony Pix and the hit Horror Series "Darr Sabko Lagta Hai" for &TV as well as several Jazz Concerts with Jazz Greats namely Frank Gambale, Maurizio Colonna Jeff Richman and Scott Henderson.

Her recent production "The Great Indian Murder" Directed By Tigmanshu Dhulia for Disney+Hotstar released this year and she is currently working on the Season 2 of the said show.

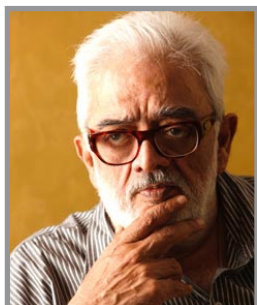
Her upcoming productions include web series on the Dalit cricketer "Baloo Palwankar" and "The Ramsay Family Biopic".



Radha Chakravarty

Writer, Critic and Translator

Radha Chakravarty is a writer, critic and translator. She has co-edited *The Essential Tagore* (Harvard and Visva Bharati), nominated Book of the Year 2011. Her latest book, a Tagore collection called *Shades of Difference* (Social Science Press, 2015), comes with audiovisual material on DVD. Her Tagore translations include *Gora*, *Chokher Bali*, *Boyhood Days*, *Farewell Song: Shesher Kabita* and *The Land of Cards*. She was nominated for the Crossword Translation Award, 2004, for *In the Name of the Mother* by Mahasweta Devi. She has also edited several anthologies of South Asian writing. She is Professor of Comparative Literature & Translation Studies at Ambedkar University Delhi.



Rahul Rawail

Film Director and Writer

Son of veteran film director H.S. Rawail, Rahul Rawail was born on 4 April 1951. He started his film journey as an assistant director to Raj Kapoor in R.K. Films. He made his directorial debut with *Gunahgaar* (1980). His career took off with the romantic drama *Love Story* (1981). He also launched Sunny Deol in *Betaab* (1983), a film which also marked the debut of Amrita Singh and Annu Kapoor. Sunny Deol. Rahul Rawail introduced many newcomers, including musicians, singers and lyricists as well as actors, to films. Noted actor Paresh Rawal made his debut with *Arjun*. With *Bekhud* (1992) and *Aur Pyar Ho Gaya* (1997), Rawail also launched the careers of two of the most successful actresses of their time, Kajol and Aishwarya Rai.

He is the author of *Raj Kapoor – The Master at Work*.





Remo Fernandes

Musician and Author

Remo Fernandes is a self-taught musician from Goa. Upon completing his studies in architecture in Mumbai, he lived in Paris for two and a half years, hitchhiking around Europe and North Africa during the summers. Upon his return to Goa he dove headlong into 'the three things he enjoys doing most': music, drawing, and writing.

He went on to become India's highest-selling artist in the English language. In Hindi too, he won Platinum and Double Platinum discs for the songs he composed and sang in Hindi films. In both languages, he created and is remembered for his unforgettable hits. He was presented the Padmashree Award by President Abdul Kalam.

He has now written his autobiography simply titled '*REMO*', published by HarperCollins, which is creating waves and earning excellent reviews and reactions from the media and readers across the country, not just for its content but for his lucid, image-evoking and honest writing style. After featuring it at the Jaipur Literature Festival and the Kolkata Literature Meet, and in several online literature festivals held in India this year, he features it at the Kumaon Literature Festival in his home state, Goa.

Remo now divides his year almost equally between Porto, Portugal, and Siolim, Goa, where he lives in his ancestral family home.



Sachin Chatte

Film Critic

Sachin Chatte is a film critic based on Goa and have been writing about cinema for more than 25 years now.

He is also a member of FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) and the Film Critics Guild, the registered body of film critics in India.

Sachin is also a visiting lecturer at the Goa University for the film appreciation subject and have taught at various other colleges in Goa.



Saira Shah Halim

Social and Peace Activist, TedX Speaker

Saira Shah Halim is a social and peaceactivist, TedXSpeaker, an educator, a writer, a theatre personality, Image and brand consultant and a free spirit.

Raised all over the country and in the gulf as an army officers daughter. Saira started her corporate career which entailed graveyard shifts with some of the top MNC's and corporate houses in training, learning and development roles.

Having hung up her corporate boots a few years ago to work for more meaningful and



impactful causes, Saira has metamorphosed as one of the more prominent social and gender activists of the country and spends her time taking up the cudgels of society, she is known to take up the causes of the disenfranchised, politically marginalized and is a well known face on Indian national television speaking on myriad social and political issues, Saira is known to voice her opinions vociferously and with perfect conviction on national television.

Saira is a part of Kolkata Swasthya Sankalp a low cost dialysis unit for the underprivileged.

Her short film 'Ek Khaas Aadmi' can be viewed on youtube on NDTV Talkies.

As a conscientious citizen she is known to hit the roads for just causes, being felicitated with numerous awards for her humanitarian and social work, she's also known to be a 'wordsmith' and a poet who pens political and social essays along with poetry with equal ease, She's also a popular culturist and litterateur known to ideate psychedelic programmes reviving lost art forms and is a regular speaker at the literary festivals across the country.

Recently she was awarded with the SAARC Womens award by the SAARC Womens Association Dhaka for her contribution in the cultural, literary and bi lateral contribution with SAARC countries at Dhaka in 2019.

Saira is a columnist with India Today and writes on policy and governance asides being a full time Mom to two young girls.



Sajla Chawla

Writer

Sajla Chawla works in Goa, as the Vice President of a Bangalore based Corporate.

She studied Bachelors in English Literature and stood first in the Delhi University; Masters and M.Phil followed.

She taught in DU, as a lecturer for a year, before moving to Goa. She taught in Goa as well for three years, in Chowgule College, before joining the corporate sector.

She had a fortnightly column on the edit page of O'Heraldo, a Goan daily, for six years. She took a break from it, a few years back, to write a book.

She have written, and still writes for many Goan Dailies and for Tribune, Punjab and Delhi.

Her home is in a small picturesque village in Goa, where I have been residing for the last fourteen years.





Sakshi Chanana

Academic and Writer

Dr Sakshi Chanana is an Assistant Professor, at the School of Liberal Studies, UPES, Dehradun. A Fulbright Fellow at the University of Notre Dame (2018-19), and a gold-medalist in M. Phil, she completed her doctoral thesis on Popular Literature from JNU, Delhi. During 14 years of teaching, she has taught English Literature, Creative Writing, Communication Skills and English Language, at Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Guru Nanak Dev University, Sri Aurobindo Centre of Arts and Communication, Kathmandu University and University of Notre Dame, USA. She has published a poetry anthology titled '*Webs of Light*' and her poems have appeared in journals like Muse India, Kritiya, Reading Hour and Tajmahal Review. She has conducted Creative writing and Soft skills workshops in different cities and has been invited for talks and guest sessions at various universities and colleges. Her recent publication (2022) is an English Translation titled '*Since She Left*'; authored by Hindi poet Krishnakant Nilosey. Her current interest areas include Popular Literature, Creative Writing, Translation Studies and Digital Humanities.



Sanjay Hegde

Senior Advocate

Sanjay Hegde, the reputed Senior Advocate at the Supreme by his own admission is a "... history buff with a sense of humour & rumour. Militant secularist. Good food, good friends & good times make my day. Retweets are not endorsements."

His twitter feed apart, few people know that Sanjay got selected by the UPSC for a non-IAS service, which he kept on hold for a couple of years, while he started out in the Supreme Court with the then Attorney General G.Ramaswamy who was his guru in court-craft.

As a debater and a quizzer growing up, clearly a quiet life behind a desk in a solicitor's firm (that's what corporate law was called then), did not appeal to Sanjay. It had to be courtrooms or nothing.

During this period he worked on several high profile cases, appeared for the Government of India before an international arbitral tribunal and from 1996 to 2004 was on the Union of India's arguing panel before the Supreme Court. He also worked for a decade as the Advocate on Record for the State of Karnataka and thereafter focused on private practice.

He has frequently engaged in legal journalism including appearing on high-profile television panels, and writing as a columnist for newspapers such as The Hindu, India Today and Outlook.

Today, Sanjay has become the voice for civil rights, sometimes going against the "popular" grain. He believes, a democracy without a dissenter in it is impossible. Free men, in the exercise of free thought, will give vent in free speech. No matter how abhorrent the thought, or its manner of expression, a mature democracy will tolerate it, and even encourage its publication. It is better for an imperfect thought to be voiced, and rejected in the marketplace of ideas, than for it to fester within the warehouses of inexpressible thought. After all there is no greater idea of democracy than free men, freely and voluntarily, committing to the requirements of citizenship of a free country.



“Only totalitarian regimes suppress dissent and dissidents. Only a country not yet rid of its colonial hangover of a government that commands and controls, labels dissent as seditious. A truly free nation will confidently view even its advocated destruction as a bad idea that will fail in the marketplace of ideas,” he says.



Savia Viegas

Writer

Savia Viegas is an Indian academic and writer living in Carmona, South Goa. Both her parents hail from Carmona of a family of old Zonkar lineage. It is the intricate tapestry of their small secluded and fading world that is a major preoccupation in her novels – *Tales from the Attic* and *In the Hour of Eclipse*. In many ways this microcosm reflects the larger problems of Goan society caught in the throes of modernisation.

Savia Viegas did her schooling at St Pius X Convent, Orlim and her college education at Shrimatibai Parvatibai Chowgule College, Margao. Subsequently, she moved to Mumbai and graduated from Elphinstone College.

She worked for the Times of India group for a number of years before moving to a flexi-time arrangement as researcher with the Research Centre for Women’s Studies , SNDT University, Mumbai.

After a short stint at Xavier Institute of Communications, she opted for teaching Indian Art History at a college affiliated to the University of Mumbai where she continued until 2005.

In 2005, Savia returned to her ancestral home in Goa where she devotes her time to writing, painting and managing a pre-primary school, Saxtti Kids, in the backyard of her old home.

She shares her home with five dogs, a cat, a mongoose that inhabits a hole in the roof, and of course, the family.



Shankar Iyer

Co-Founder Nostalgiaana

Shankar has been an enthusiastic music listener since his school days. Never unaffected by yesteryear Hindi film music, his dedicated love for this genre of music helps him to connect instantaneously with fellow colleagues and music lovers.

His is an ex-banker by profession and his career spanning over two decades was with MNC banks and global leaders in Investment banking & financial services.

Shankar represents Nostalgiaana, a team made of Corporate Professionals with a deep passion for Hindi Film Music & Indian Film Music. Their mission is to showcase the vast and rich legacy of film music as an "Art Form".

The team takes pride in conducting various shows to highlight nuances of a film song / film songs which they believe, also, helps to grow and build a community of music lovers!



After various onsite and online shows for leading Corporates like Au Bank, YES bank, AXIS Bank, RpTech and Ifast Financials, Nostalgiaana has revived the Radio Nostalgia of Retro Hindi film songs through specially curated online shows, served to more than 300 dedicated members. These shows are running for nearly 2 years now.



Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri

Publisher

Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri is an editor, author, journalist and film critic. Books he has commissioned and edited have won a number of national awards. He has worked with leading Indian authors and contributes to Cinemaazi, Daily Eye, Film Companion, Telegraph, among other magazines and portals.

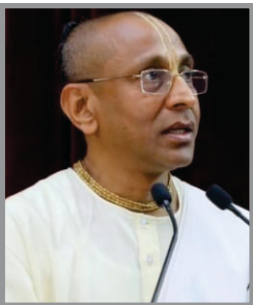


Siddhartha Gigoo

Writer and Film Maker

Siddhartha Gigoo is a Commonwealth Prize-winning author. In 2015, he won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize (Asia) for his short story, *The Umbrella Man*. He has written two books of poetry, four novels— *The Garden of Solitude*, *Mehr: A Love Story*, *The Lion of Kashmir* and *Love in the Time of Quarantine*, and a book of short stories—*A Fistful of Earth and Other Stories* (long listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2015). He has also co-edited two anthologies, namely *A Long Dream of Home: The Persecution, Exodus and Exile of Kashmiri Pandits* and *Once We Had Everything: Literature in Exile*. In 2021, he won the New Asian Short Story Prize for his short story, *Elephant's Tusk*. His short stories have been long listed for Lorian Hemingway Short Story Prize, Royal Society of Literature's V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize, and Seán O'Faoláin Short Story Prize.

Siddhartha's short films, *The Last Day* and *Goodbye, Mayfly*, have won several awards at international film festivals. His writings appear in various literary journals.



Sri Chanchalapati Dasa

Senior Vice-President of ISKCON, Bangalore, Vice-Chairman of the Akshaya Patra Foundation

His Grace Sri Chanchalapati Dasa (legal name Chandrashekar) was born in 1963 in Bengaluru, India. While an undergraduate student in PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, he became interested in the message and mission of Srila Prabhupada, the founder-acharya of ISKCON. Later he joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore for a Masters program in Electrical Communication Engineering. In 1984 he became a full-time dedicated member of ISKCON, Bangalore and soon became the Vice President. He has been involved in the implementation of the various programs of ISKCON, Bangalore and The Akshaya Patra program.



He was also involved in the story research, script direction and creative design of the 13 episode (23 minutes each) 3D animated TV serial Little Krishna, which became a prime time show in Nickelodeon Channel in India.



Suhail Mathur

Book Agent

Suhail Mathur is an award winning and bestselling author of the historical-mythological fiction, *THE BHAIKAV PUTRAS* and the mythological-fantasy, *THE HUNT FOR RAMA'S BOW*, a TedX speaker, and is one of the country's premier literary agents via his agency, THE BOOK BAKERS, through which he has worked on more than 800 books.

An alumnus of Delhi Public School, NOIDA and National Law University, Delhi, Suhail, a lit fest regular and the festival director of the largest & longest online Literature Festival; The Book Bakers Online Literature Festival, has also worked as an English cricket commentator for Star Sports & Airtel's mobile app.

His name has also been listed as one of the 'Top 51 Indian Writers To Follow' by EBooksIndia and called 'India's JK Rowling' by Enewsroom.com and 'India's Rick Riordan' by ED Times.

He has sold several Book To Screen deals, worked with several actors, cricketers and bestselling authors apart from having written and worked on web series, TV shows and animated series. He is currently working in a leading General Entertainment Channel where he looks into new show development and the acquisition of international animation shows & movies, and Indian live action content.



Sumant Batra

Lawyer, Author and Founder -Kumaon Literary Festival

An insolvency lawyer of international repute, social commentator and thought leader, Sumant Batra is Past President of INSOL International, the youngest and the only Asian to have achieved that fete. As senior international insolvency consultant to the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund, OECD and other developmental institutions, he has worked extensively on policy matters in Africa, Eastern Europe, Middle East and South Asia. Rated as India's No. 1 insolvency lawyer by Legal 500 for many consecutive years, Sumant is recognised by Global Restructuring Review as one the top 30 restructuring lawyers in the world. His contributions in the development of Indian insolvency law and industry is well recognised. The only Indian lawyer with over 25 years of experience in insolvency at global and Indian level, Sumant is the author of the best seller book, *Corporate Insolvency – Law & Practice*. He is the President of SIPI – the think tank of the insolvency industry.

A cultural champion, Sumant is the founder and architect of a number of innovative creative projects to promote the Indian heritage, culture, art and literature. He is the Co-founder of Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation.

He is the author of the two bestselling books – *An Actor's Actor: An Authorized Biography of Sanjeev Kumar*; and *The Indians*.

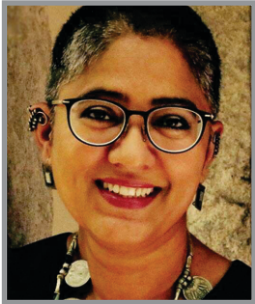




Tariq Thomas, IAS

Chief Executive Officer , ESG

An IAS officer of the 2011 batch, Dr Thomas is also currently the Secretary to Govt of Goa handling the departments of Urban Development, Transport, Science ,Technology and Waste Management. He is the nodal officer for the Swachh Bharat Mission(Urban) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana(Urban) and has previously served as Collector, South Goa. Prior to his tenure in Goa , he has worked as Collector and Development Commissioner in Lakshadweep as well as Collector and District Magistrate in Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. An MBBS graduate from the Government Medical College Kottayam, Dr. Thomas was selected by the Government of India to participate in the Knowledge Co-creation Training Programme for Young Leaders on Disaster Management held by Japan International Cooperation Agency at Sapporo , Hokkaido. He has received training in Urban Planning and Governance from the Centre for Liveable Cities, Singapore. As CEO of ESG he has been responsible for the conduct of multiple events including the prestigious International Film Festival of India(IFFI) and the India International Science Festival at Goa.



Venita Coelho

Author, Screenwriter and Adventurer

Venita Coelho is a screenwriter, novelist and artist who writes across age groups and genres. She has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Bal Puraskar for her book *Dead as a Dodo*. Among her other awards are The Hindu Goodreads Award for Best Fiction for children, The Neev Award and the Peekabook award. Her collection of feminist ghost stories *The Washer of the Dead* was longlisted for the Frank O'Connor award. Her book *Soap-Writing and Surviving Television* teaches how to write for the medium.

She has had a long career in film and television as a writer, director and producer. Her work in canvas and glass was shown at her solo exhibition *The Naked Gaze*. She lives in Goa and is working towards her second exhibition of paintings.



Vikas Jha

Senior Journalist and Author

Vikas is an award winning author who has written many popular novels and books published in Hindi, English and Bengali - *Bihar: Criminalization of Politics*; *Satta Ke Sutradhaar*; *Bhog - A Novel*; *Iss Barish Mein* (Poetry Collection); *Parichay Patra – Essays in Bengali*; *McCluskieganj – A Novel*- In Hindi by Rajkamal Prakashan and in English by Harper Collins; *Varshavan ki Rookkatha* - A novel on the village Agumbe, famously known as Malgudi; *Gayasur Sandhan*-*Story of the twin cities Gaya and Bodhgaya*; *Ullas Ki Naav*; *The biography of Usha Uthup, Queen of Indian Pop* (Hindi by Rajkamal Prakashan and English upcoming release by Penguin India).



He has vast experience as a journalist. He was Correspondent, Ravivar Magazine (1983-84); Bureau Chief, Maya Magazine (Hindi Fortnightly) (1985-2000); Bureau Chief, Outlook Magazine, Hindi (2002-2004); Editor, Rashtriya Prasang (2004- 2013); and State Head, News Express Channel (2013-2014)

He has anchored a programme, 'Aamne Saamne' (a political hard talk) on ETV Bihar (2001-2005); a public issue programme, 'Suno Lucknow' on ETV Lucknow (2001-2005); and a public issue programme, 'Duhai Sarkar Ki' on ETV Bihar (2007- 2008).

He has received Katha UK Honour 2011 for the novel McCluskieganj at The House of Commons, London.

He lives in Patna, Bihar. He can be reached on yikasija@live.in



Vikram Sampath

Historian and Writer

Vikram Sampath is a popular Indian historian, noted for authoring biographies of *Gauhar Jaan* and a two-part biography *V. D. Savarkar*. After academic training in engineering, mathematics, and finance, he worked in banking. In 2008, he published a history of the Wadiyar Dynasty of Mysore—a childhood fascination. He won the Yuva Puraskar in English literature from the Sahitya Akademi for his biography of Gauhar Jaan. The next year, Sampath published a biography of S. Balachander to positive reviews. In 2013, Sampath left his job at Hewlett-Packard and began a PhD in ethnomusicology at the University of Queensland.



Vinesh Pikale

Chartered Accountant

CA Vinesh Pikale completed his schooling from People High School and his Bachelors in commerce with financial accounting, auditing and taxation as elective from S S Dempo College of Commerce and Economics. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant at the age of 22 in Nov 2005. After a stint with Deloitte in the audit vertical, he joined M/s R K Pikale & Co. He practises from the Panaji office of the firm with branches Margao and Ponda. He also holds a Diploma in Information Systems Audit from Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He has more than 16 years of experience in the areas of audit assurance, taxation and foreign exchange management laws. With a keen interest in the startup and MSME ecosystem he is engaged in providing consultancy in this space besides consulting in capital planning and transaction structuring. He has been on the Goa Branch of ICAI committee for 6 years in various capacities and has also served as the Chairman of the Goa branch of Western India regional council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He was also nominated to the taxation committee of GCCI.





Vinod Anupam

Author

Vinod anupam is a film and art critic. He won the National Film Award for the Best film critic in 2002. He has held notable positions as jury member, National film award and indian panorama. Member, innovation committee, national museum of indian cinema. He has former of Bihar sngheet natak akademi. He did his masters in Hindi and also Film appreciation course of FTII, Pune. He won other awrads including a state award for best youth writer in 1988. He edited Bihar ke 100 ratn and Bihar Vihar, two coffee table book. He has written coloumns for various eminent publications.



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LAKSHMI KUPPUSWAMI TRUST

Lakshmi Kuppuswami Trust was constituted as a charitable trust in 1995 by Mrs Lakshmi and Late Prof TV Kuppuswami.

Prof TV Kuppuswami owns legitimate reputation in the schools of scholastic studies and research. A post graduate in History, Economics and Politics, he earned a Doctorate degree in History. He served the field of higher education for over thirty years and has authored many books and scholarly papers in academic journals of repute. He also learnt classical Carnatic music under doyens of the field and was a performing artiste in own right having performed in over 400 public concerts. He was also passionate about and devoted a significant amount of his time to musicology and art history.

Post Prof Kuppuswami's demise in 2004, his son Prof TKV Subramanian took over the activities of the Trust. Prof TKV Subramanian served under Tamil Nadu Collegiate Education Service initially and then joined the University of Delhi in the Department of History, Faculty of Arts in 1984. During a distinguished academic career, he served as Head, Department of History and Dean, Social Sciences; has authored numerous publications and has delivered many prestigious lectures focused on the ancient and medieval history of peninsular India. He also served in many administrative roles including Joint Secretary, Indian History Congress; Member Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research and Chairman, Governing Body, Kirori Mal College. He is also currently serving on the Academic Committee of the NIE of NCERT, Delhi.

He is also an accomplished mṛdaṅgam player and had the privilege of accompanying veterans of Carnatic music. He is a graded artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan, and an empanelled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Prof TKV Subramanian is currently very active in the field of art and cultural history and his interdisciplinary perspective is very evident in his attempt to explore Carnatic music as a classical art in Tamilnadu through a historical approach. He views the musical past as part of the cultural production of the period, which can be linked with historical developments.

Over the years, the Trust has been committed to promoting activities for the:

preservation, enrichment and propagation of culture in all its forms, coaching deserving students in Music; assisting researchers working in the cultural sphere by providing data and study materials and publishing books and monographs.





Champions Yacht Club is a Luxury Private Yacht Company in India with our local office in Goa and Branch office in Bangalore. Our company is a dynamically developed company which was set up by professionals with considerable experience of working in the tourism industry as leading tour providers offering high-quality travel with personalized services. At Champions Yacht Club you'll find endless opportunities to make the most of every moment — like adventurous water activities, world-class dining, show-stopping entertainment, and plenty of ways to unwind in the sun.

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A PLACE OF LOVE

Point of Views

SCHEDULE
DAY
1

Saturday, 14 May 2022



10.00 am - 11.00 am

Opening Ceremony**Welcome Address:** *Dr. Tariq Thomas*, CEO, Entertainment Society of Goa**Founder's Address:** *Shri Sumant Batra*, Eminent lawyer, Founder, Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation**Special Address:** *Shri Rahul Rawail*, Eminent Filmmaker and Chairman, Board of Advisors, Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation**Guest of Honour & Key Note Address:** *Translating the Ancient Text: The Place of Mythology in the Popular Consciousness* by *Dr. Bibek Debroy*, Scholar, Author, Translator and Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister**Chief Guest Address :** *Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai*, The Hon'ble Governor of the State of Goa**Vote of Thanks:** *Mrunal Niket Walke*, General Manager, Entertainment Society of Goa

11.15 am - 11.45 am

Book Launch**Tijara Mystery Codes** by *Hemma Myers Sood*

This book by **Hemma Myers Sood** is an intriguing combination of clairvoyance interwoven with three timelines that are set apart by millennia, yet inextricably linked by an ancient secret of the mystical *Amritha*.

The first timeline depicts the historical *Kurukshetra* battle where cousins fought ruthlessly for their ancestral kingdom. The ancestors of Tijara, King Susharma sided with the Kauravas and fought against the mighty Pandavas. King Susharma deceptively led Arjuna away from the battlefield. The Kauravas created the dreaded Chakra *Vyuhand*, deceitfully trapped Arjuna's son, Abhimanyu and brutally killed him; breaking all the battlefield laws and morals.

Do these actions have consequences millennia later when one of King Susharma's descendants displays a similarly callous mindset at the Tijara fort palace in December 1977, the year being the third timeline and forms the main storyline?

Between the two, the second timeline elucidates on Rao Raja Balwant Singh's lifestyle. He was continually threatened by his elder stepbrother who was keen to usurp all his wealth and property. The construction of the majestic fort palace at Tijara stopped abruptly by the tragic death of Rao Raja Balwant Singh in 1848.

The book will be launched by *Pallavi Dempo* followed by **Hemma Myers Sood** being in conversation with **Meenakshi Sharma**.

11.50 am - 12.35 pm

A Walk Down The Memory Lane**K.K. Muhammed: The Man of Monuments, Churches and Temples**

He discovered Akbar's Ibadat Khana (hall of inter-religious discussions), a Christian chapel and a Mughal Bazaar at Fatehpur Sikri, and restored 80 out of over 200 temples in the 1,300-year-old Bateshwar Temple Complex in Madhya Pradesh after some hard negotiation with the dreaded dacoits of the Chambal Valley and the mining mafia.



In this conversation with **Sumant Batra**, Padma Shri awardee **K.K. Muhammed** recalls interesting anecdotes and the exciting journey of his archaeological discoveries and his struggles.

12.40 pm - 01.10 pm

Book Launch

राजा मोमो और पीली बुलबुल - गोवा के जीवन पर केन्द्रित हिन्दी उपन्यास by **Vikas Kumar Jha**

This Hindi novel by **Vikas Kumar Jha** is centred around life in Goa. Published by Rajkamal Publishers, the book will be launched at the festival.

Following the launch of the book. **Vikas Kumar Jha** will be in conversation with **Naz Farha**.

वर्ष 2011 में मैं पहली बार गोवा गया था। इसी पहली यात्रा में मैं महान कार्टूनिस्ट स्व. मारियो मिरांडा से मिला। बातचीत के दौरान जब मैंने उन्हें बताया कि मैं हिन्दी में उपन्यास लिखता हूँ, तो उन्होंने कहा कि, तुम हिन्दी में गोवा पर उपन्यास क्यों नहीं लिखते ?

उन्होंने मुझसे कहा कि, हिन्दी बेल्ट में गोवा कि इमेज सही नहीं है। गोवा को हिन्दी बेल्ट के लोग बस मैज-मस्ती की जगह मानते हैं और जबकि यह सच नहीं है। गोवा हृदय से एक गांव है।

मारियो जैसी हस्ती से यह सब सुनकर मैंने तय किया कि मैं गोवा पर हिन्दी उपन्यास लिखूंगा। मैं शोध के लिये गोवा के अनेक गावों में घूमा और मुझे गोवा की एक अलग तस्वीर मिली। धान के खेत, काजू और काफ़ि के बगान को देख मैंने महसूस किया कि यहि है असल गोवा। पर इसके अलावा गोवा में और बहुत सुख-दुख है। गोवा पर केन्द्रित यह उपन्यास 'राजा मोमो और पीली बुलबुल' 500 पृष्ठों में भारत के सबसे छोटे प्रान्त गोवा की बडी कथा कहता है।

01.15 pm - 01.45 pm

Book Discussion

Remo: The Autobiography of Remo Fernandes

When he started out as a relatively unknown artist in the 1970s, Remo would record his first albums in his home studio and distribute them around Goa on his yellow scooter. But soon, he was to become a national craze, with blockbuster hits to his credit in English and Hindi pop, and in film music as well. His stage performances were sensational and brought his incredible musical talent to the fore.

REMO is an extraordinary memoir. It is the story of a rich and full life - filled with professional highs and lows as well as personal triumphs and tragedies. Remo takes the reader along on a rollercoaster ride through his growing-up years, his travels, his musical journey, and his many adventures...

Written with great zest, warmth and humour, and complete with hundreds of photographs and sketches from Remo's personal collection, this is a book that is a thrill and a joy to read.

The book was recently launched in Goa.

Here **Remo Fernandes** would be in conversation with **Sajla Chawla**.



02.30 pm - 03.20 pm

The Stories from Goa**The Influence of Literary Stories in Promoting Tourism****Speakers:** *Ravi Dhawan, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, GoG, Vikas Kumar Jha, Suhail Mathur, Dilip Puri and Vinesh Pikle***Moderated by** *Sumant Batra*

This sessions seeks to advocate that the State should encourage and invest in stories in and from Goa to be published widely so that the imagination of the reader is enthused, and she is compelled to travel to Goa to experience the places and culture in which the stories are weaved, similar to the role that cinema plays by its visuals.

03.25 pm - 03.55 pm

Literature of Conflict**Untold Stories from Troubled Land****Speakers:** *Siddhartha Gigoo*

Stories of exile – about the home to which one is unable to return, the family, friends, language, and the culture lost. In this session, *Kanchana Banerjee* would be in conversation with the award-winning writer, *Siddhartha Gigoo*, who will discuss how writers and poets, and the next generation of exiles rediscover, revisit the troubled lands, trying to make sense of the traumatic past and present through their work.

04.00 pm - 05.00 pm

Ek Chatur Naar**Humour in Writing by Indian Women****Speakers:** *Kiran Manral, Venita Coelho, Jerry Pinto and Savia Viegas***Moderated by** *Koral Dasgupta*

There is a growing presence of humour in Indian writing by women writers who seem intent on breaking out of the prison of typecast representations of the Indian woman. Their works investigate the intersections of sexuality, gender and class/caste, which they seem to perceive as absurd social constructs. The writings present women who transgress tyrannically imposed boundaries, while reflecting on their action with humour and irony. Irony, satire and parody are deployed to raise issues that are generally considered uncomfortable. The body features as a trope for subversion; genre appropriation and the uncovering of patriarchal texts are used to generate humour. This session will discuss the devices and tactics used by Indian women writers to create humour.



05.00 pm - 06.30 pm

Jaane Kahan Gaye Woh Din**Reminiscing the Journey of Hindi Film Music Through the Decades****Speakers: Gautam Chintamani, Manoj Rajan and Pradip Routray****Moderated by Shankar Iyer and Balaji, Co-Founders, Nostalgiaana**

In nearly a hundred years of film songs, musical styles have changed, compositions varied widely and many gifted singers emerged. But one thing remained constant: films songs could be loved and cherished independently of film and, indeed, many of the best first appeared in forgotten B-grade films. The period from about 1939 to 1959 is known as the Golden Era of film music, when melody was king. There were scores of songs – given that several hundred films were being released every week, with the mandatory minimum of eight songs per film, and in one case, 42 songs in a single film. In the pre-VHS and DVD eras, it was not unusual for people with little economic means to sell a pint of blood just to be able to see a film again and, more often than not, just for one song sequence. With the mushrooming of satellite TV channels, the plain 'listening' concept about music is fast becoming redundant and it has been replaced by a 'watch and listen' concept. Titillating videos with skimpily clad girls prancing around have thus become the bywords for successful promotion of music. Has video content become much more important than audio content and are most songs are being tailored to suit that requirement? The panel takes us back into the era when lyrics, music and voices reigned supreme, and discusses if the youth would ever be able to relate to that era?

06.30 pm - 07.30 pm

Creative Writing Workshop**A creative writing workshop will be held by Dr. Sakshi Chanana**

Dr Sakshi Chanana is an Assistant Professor, at the School of Liberal Studies, UPES, Dehradun. A Fulbright Fellow at the University of Notre Dame (2018-19), and a gold-medalist in M. Phil, she completed her doctoral thesis on Popular Literature from JNU, Delhi. During 14 years of teaching, she has taught English Literature, Creative Writing, Communication Skills and English Language, at Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Guru Nanak Dev University, Sri Aurobindo Centre of Arts and Communication, Kathmandu University and University of Notre Dame, USA. She has published a poetry anthology titled 'Webs of Light' and her poems have appeared in journals like Muse India, Kritya, Reading Hour and Tajmahal Review. She has conducted Creative writing and Soft skills workshops in different cities and has been invited for talks and guest sessions at various universities and colleges. Her recent publication (2022) is an English Translation titled 'Since she Left'; authored by Hindi poet Krishnakant Nilosey. Her current interest areas include Popular Literature, Creative Writing, Translation Studies and Digital Humanities.



SCHEDULE
DAY
2

Sunday, 15 May 2022



10.00 am - 10.40 am

Book Launch

Sing, Dance and Pray – The Inspirational Story of Srila Prabhupada by *Hindol Sengupta*

When A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada entered the port of New York City on 17 September 1965, few Americans took notice – but he was not merely another immigrant. He was on a mission to introduce ancient teachings of Vedic India to mainstream America. Before Srila Prabhupada passed away at the age of eighty-one on 14 November 1977, his mission was successful. He had founded the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), colloquially known as the 'Hare Krishna Movement', and saw it grow into a worldwide confederation of more than 100 temples, ashrams and cultural centres. This is the inspirational story of Srila Prabhupada. As the founder of ISKCON, he 'emerged as a major figure of Western counterculture, initiating thousands of young Americans'. He has been described as a charismatic leader who was successful in acquiring followers in many countries, including the United States, Europe and India. Srila Prabhupada's story is bound to put you on a path of self-realization.

This book by *Hindol Sengupta* will be launched by **Dr. Bibek Debroy**, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister.

Following the launch of the book, Hindol Sengupta will be in conversation with **Dr. Bibek Debroy, His Grace Sri Chanchalpathi Dasa** and **Milee Ashwarya**.

10.45 am - 11.45 am

Please don't slam the door in my face**Hidden Vaults of Archives and Information: Challenges for Film Historians****Speakers: Rahul Rawail, Amrit Gangar, Vinod Anupam and Asha Batra****Moderated by Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri**

One of the greatest challenges in writing a biography (unofficially) of a cine star or documenting other aspects of cinema history, stems from finding accurate data on the individual. It is even more difficult to get data verified from available sources. One will find truth, half-truths, lies, over/understatements, eulogies, invectives and more. One could be running in circles, encountering unanswered calls, and even slammed doors as not many people are willing to talk, or talk openly. Here, the panel discusses the challenges faced in chronicling cinema.

11.50 am - 12.30 pm

Book Launch

My Name is Gauhar Jaan!: The Life and Times of a Musician by *Vikram Sampath*

The earliest recordings of Indian music are characterised by the high-pitched announcement, 'My name is Gauhar Jaan.' This declaration epitomised a milestone in the history of Indian classical music, one that would forever change its content, structure and style.

The musical scene in India at the turn of the 20th century witnessed tumultuous changes. The traditional custodians of the art form, the devadasis in the south and the nautch girls in the north, who had nurtured the art for centuries, became



victims of the morality laws of the British government and the prudery of an 'enlightened' Indian elitist class. Gauhar Jaan (1873-1930), however, an eminent Hindustani vocalist, symbolises the resurgence of women musicians of her era.

Born Eileen Angelina Yeoward, an Armenian Christian who later converted to Islam, Gauhar Jaan was a naturally gifted musician with an outstanding repertoire. One of the earliest women artists to seize the opportunities that rose with the advent of recording technologies, hers was the first Indian voice to ever be recorded in 1902. She went on to cut close to 600 records, the most successful female musician of her time.

The Life and Times of a Musician tries to demystify the myth and mystery around one of the most enigmatic legends in Indian music history Gauhar Jaan. Vikram Sampath, in this remarkable book, brings forth little known details of this fascinating woman who was known for her melodious voice, her multi-lingual skills, poetic sensibility, irresistible personality and her extravagant lifestyle.

This book also describes the evolution of the Indian recording industry and its impact on the country's music, theatre and social life.

The Hindi Edition of the book will be launched at the festival.

Following the launch of the book, **Vikram Sampath** will be in conversation with **Harini Srinivasan**.

12.35 pm - 01.35 pm

Power Women

Feminine Perspectives in Literature, Cinema and Politics

Speakers: Kiran Manral, Saira Shah Halim and Koral Dasgupta

Moderated by Kanchana Banerjee

The question of women remains a central concern in the cinematic, literary and political imagination of Indian consciousness and socio political discourse on gender identity. As Indian society, culture, and economy undergo transformations, representation of women within the grand masculine narrative of nation, and also powerfully symptomatic of the projected imagination of her contribution and potentials in the nation's future, is also going through change. Because of this churn, often, representation of women and female identity becomes a contested site where national political exigencies, globalizing market consumerism, and renegotiation of female gender identity intersect. Cinema, literature and to an extent, political discourse continues amplifying the voices of women and marginalised communities using tools of art, media, culture, technology and community. This session will discuss the changing feminine perspectives in literature, cinema and politics and its impact on gender equality.



01.40 pm - 02.40 pm

Literature as Translation/Translation as Literature**The Visibilisation of Literature through Translations****Speakers:** *Jerry Pinto, Ashok Maheshwari, Anant Vijay and Pradeep Champanerkar***Moderated by** *Radha Chakravarty*

To have a sense of India culturally you need to know each other's cultures. Literature is an important aspect of this. Translations between Indian languages are crucial. We should be able to read each other's literature in our mother tongue. While literature in mother tongue may be much more earthy and real, much closer to the lives of the people it features, good translations can convey the original narrative, equally effectively. This session will discuss the importance of translation of literature.

02.45 pm - 03.35 pm

Unsung heroes**Mainstreaming the Marginalised****Speakers:** *Vikram Sampath, Gautam Chintamani, Sanjay Hedge and Anant Vijay***Moderated by** *Manoj Rajan*

There has been a long-held perception that the left-of-centre ideology and their heroes have dominated India's intellectual space and discourse. The literature, and contribution of the others in areas of the economy, politics, culture, society and aesthetics, have remained largely marginalised. With a change in political scene in the country, their discourse is now getting a new vocabulary and gradually becoming mainstream. Lively, eloquent and provocative, this session will stimulate much thought, discussion and debate as it challenges the dogmas of the left and the extreme right and raises the key issues that engage India today.

03.40 pm - 4.40 pm

The Shrinking Screen**Digital and Streaming as the New Theatre of Cinema****Speakers:** *Dhritiman Chatterji, Rahul Rawail, Gajra Kottary and Sachin Chatte***Moderated by** *Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri*

Film industries all over have been severely impacted by the pandemic with delayed schedules, uncertain theatrical release, and the rising influence of OTT. With the threat of the virus now a constant presence, this panel addresses the way forward for our cinemas, including what it means for stars, filmmakers as well daily wage earners whose stories tend to be forgotten.



04.45 pm - 05.15 pm

Book Launch

Satyajit Ray: The Man Who Knew Too Much by *Barun Chanda*

Satyajit Ray's *Seemabaddha* (1971), a stinging indictment of the corporate rat race, remains one of the iconic film-maker's most feted works. The second of his much-lauded Calcutta Trilogy, it starred debutant Barun Chanda, who won a special prize for his performance.

Now, fifty years later, Barun Chanda documents his experience of working in the film and being directed by Satyajit Ray, someone he describes as 'the man who knew too much'. The actor begins with an account of his first meeting with Ray for an interview on behalf of *Junior Statesman* which got off to the worst imaginable start as the Garrard, 5-inch spool recorder he had taken with him refused to play. He manages to salvage the situation and the interview is well-received. From thereon he becomes a part of Ray's 'magic circle' and his Sunday morning addas, acts in one scene (with his back to the camera) in *Pratidwandi*, before landing the lead in *Seemabaddha*.

In breezy anecdotal style, Barun Chanda provides an up-close and intimate account of the making of an Indian classic – from its casting to its release – the attention to detail Satyajit Ray brought to every aspect of the film, and the relationship between one of the world's greatest directors and an actor making his debut. But *Satyajit Ray: The Man Who Knew Too Much* is more than just an account of the making of a film.

The author also presents a detailed and informative study of the various avatars of Ray as a film-maker: his sense of script and ear for dialogue, his instinctive grasp of the nuances of music, his penchant for casting non-actors and ability to get the perfect face for a role, his genius in designing a film's title sequence. He also speculates on the kind of man Ray was and asks the dramatic question: was Ray a dictator or director? Insightful and informed by a rare understanding of the master's works, this is an invaluable addition to the corpus of work on Satyajit Ray.

After the launch of the book, *Barun Chanda* will be in conversation with *Dhritiman Chatterji* and *Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri*

05.15 pm - 5:45 pm

Closing Session

(Details of the Session have been circulated separately).



A CKNOWLEDGEMENT

A nation that invests in cultural development as much as it does in economic growth tends to be a happier nation. Economic power alone cannot make a nation a super power in the true sense of the word. Creative industry feeds into the country's soft power. The idea of Kumaon Literary Festival stems out of this very belief.

I am humbled by the support KLF has received. I thank our guests and speakers for their contribution in the development of KLF.

No festival of the scale we have planned is possible without the support of partners and patrons. Particularly, when it is not a commercial event, the support becomes not only important, but also, imperative. I thank each of our patrons, associates, and supporters. Without them we would have struggled.

A special thanks to our sponsors! Sparing funds for a literary event requires a generous heart and visionary decision-making.

No words can do justice to the contribution of the team of Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation - Aditi Parashar, Krishna Sharma, Sandeep Sawhney, Rahul Kumar and others, who have worked relentlessly and tirelessly around my unreasonable demands, expectations and whims not once letting me down.

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Finally, I thank my wife Asha and my children Dev and Siya for bearing with my frequent absence and pre-occupation with my immensely demanding legal profession!

Sumant Batra

Founder

Kumaon Literary Festival



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