



# THE LITERATURE TODAY

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*Cover Story*

*Dr. Joseph K Thomas*

*"Indian Army Veteran, Educationist  
& Amazon Best-Selling Author"*

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FROM THE  
*Editor-in-chief*



When we began our journey with **The Literature Today**, we could not have foreseen the heights this creative endeavor would achieve. Each edition has been a stepping stone, refining our vision and broadening our scope. Today, we take pride in being a dynamic platform that connects the timeless essence of literature with the transformative power of modern technology.

Volume 4 of this six-issue series represents another leap forward, bringing an exceptional blend of content designed to engage and inspire. From insightful book reviews to in-depth author interviews, this edition explores themes that resonate with the evolving interests of our readers. We are thrilled to feature exclusive interviews with renowned personalities, including **Rajiv Malhotra, Neelesh Kulkarni, Dr. Joseph K. Thomas, and Gargi Rawat**, offering unparalleled perspectives on contemporary issues.

At The Literature Today, our commitment is unwavering: to deliver content that enlightens, inspires, and fosters intellectual discourse. Each issue is a labor of love, striving for excellence to meet the expectations of our diverse readership.

We believe in building a community where readers and authors connect, engage, and grow together. Your feedback fuels our journey, and we invite you to share your thoughts at [theliteraturetoday@gmail.com](mailto:theliteraturetoday@gmail.com). Thank you for being an integral part of our story. Together, let's continue to celebrate the vibrant world of literature.

Happy Reading!



**Dr. Mayurkumar Mukundbhai Solanki**

Editor, *The Literature Today*, India

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**Best Regards,**

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mmsmodasa@yahoo.com

*M. M. Solanki*

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# DR. JOSEPH K. THOMAS

**VETERAN | CORPORATE LEADER | EDUCATIONIST | SOCIAL  
ENTREPRENEUR | AUTHOR**

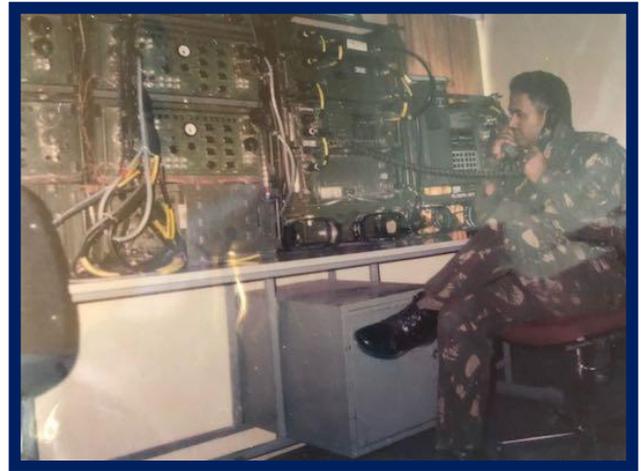


**D**r. Joseph K. Thomas is a visionary leader whose journey from the war room to the boardroom and the classroom epitomizes resilience, innovation, and dedication. A man of humble beginnings, he served in the Indian Army for 20 years, participating in pivotal missions such as the Indian Peacekeeping Force, Operation Vijay (Kargil War), Operation Parakram, and others. Notably, he had the privilege of working with His Excellency, former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, and the DRDO team during the Pokhran-II nuclear test, where he played a critical role in establishing a telecom network in the Pokhran desert.

Dr. Thomas was also a key member of the project team that installed satellite links (VSAT) at high-altitude areas along the India-Pakistan-China border, working in extreme conditions of  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  after the Kargil War, including the installation of the world's highest satellite link. After his military career, Dr. Thomas transitioned to corporate leadership, a journey that was far from easy but driven by sheer determination, dedication, and a "never say no" attitude. Armed with an MBA in HR, he excelled in leadership roles across multinational corporations, leaving a mark in diverse industries like engineering, telecom, and customer service in countries such as Singapore, Israel, South Korea, and the USA. His passion for creating world-class workplaces and infrastructure has not only fostered collaborative spaces and attracted top-tier talent but has also strengthened employer branding and supported business growth on a global scale.

As an educationist, Dr. Thomas is the Founder and Chairman of Mysore International School and St. Anthony's International School, where he has redefined the educational landscape. His institutions emphasize holistic development, leadership, and ethical responsibility, preparing students to navigate an ever-changing world while staying rooted in strong values. Dr. Thomas is also an accomplished author. His books, including *India: The Next Superpower*, *Conman: In Chief of Capitol Coup*, *India's New National Education Policy: 2020*, *Taliban 20*, and *Russia-Ukraine War*, have all been Amazon #1 bestsellers. His diverse expertise across military, corporate, educational evangelism, and social entrepreneurship has earned him six national and five international awards for his service and contributions.

He serves on multiple not-for-profit boards, actively working towards societal betterment. Dr. Thomas is often described as a soldier by choice, an engineer by profession, an educationist by passion, and an author by accident—a testament to his multifaceted life and relentless drive for excellence.



Army veteran Dr. Thomas brings his passion and dedication to create innovative workplace infrastructure along with providing high-quality education to students and grooming them to become responsible citizens.

Watch him on



# **AUTHOR INTERVIEWS**

- **RAJIV MALHOTRA**
- **NEELESH KULKARNI**
- **DR. JOSEPH K. THOMAS**
- **GARGI RAWAT**
- **YOGESH NAIR**

# AN INTERVIEW WITH INDIAN-AMERICAN AUTHOR RAJIV MALHOTRA

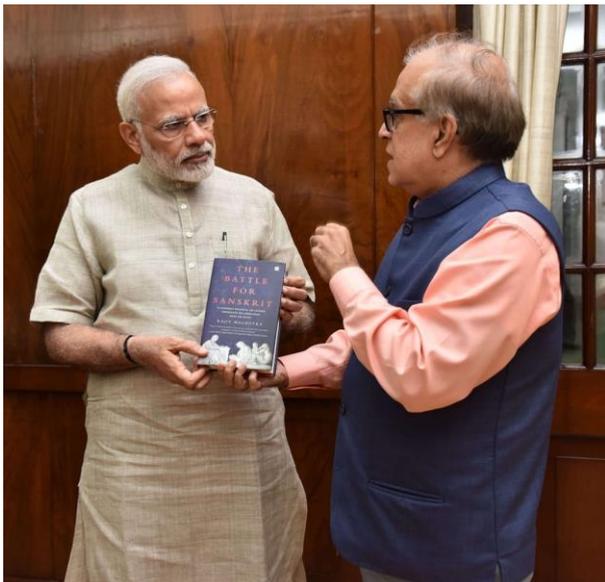
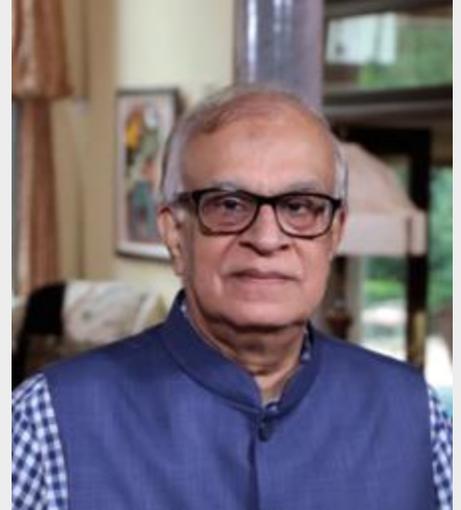
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**Rajiv Malhotra** is a renowned author, researcher, and thought leader whose work focuses on civilizational studies and fostering dialogue between Indian and Western perspectives. Trained as a physicist and later as a computer scientist specializing in artificial intelligence in the 1970s, he had a distinguished corporate career in the U.S. before transitioning to entrepreneurship. He successfully established and ran several IT companies in over 20 countries.

In the early 1990s, Malhotra decided to exit all for-profit ventures and devote himself fully to research and advocacy. He founded the Infinity Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Princeton, USA, through which he conducts in-depth research into history, social sciences, and mind sciences, often using an Indian civilizational lens.

His foundation is dedicated to creating knowledge, fostering dialogue, and promoting global understanding through books, videos, and public engagements.

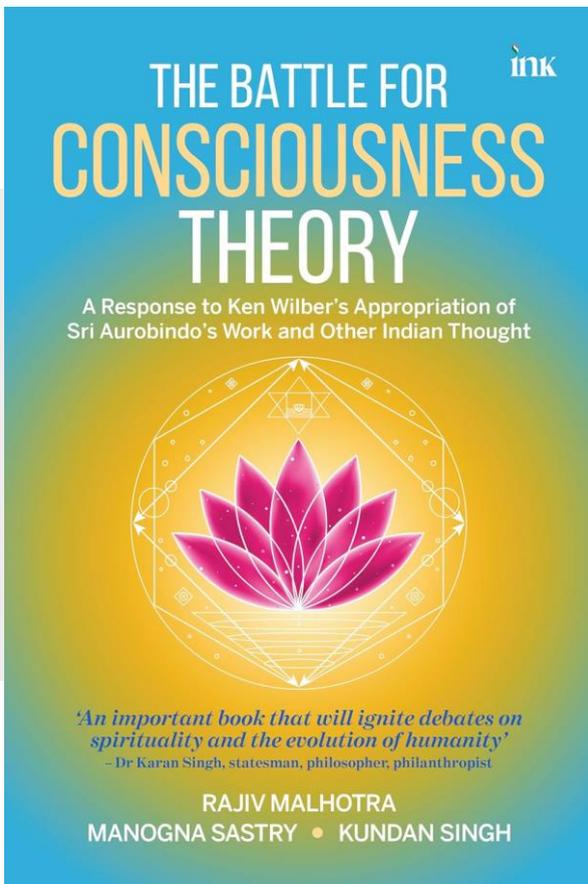
Malhotra's acclaimed works, such as *Being Different*, *Breaking India*, and *Snakes in the Ganga*, challenge Western interpretations of Indian traditions and emphasize the importance of preserving India's unique civilizational identity. He is particularly known for critiquing the assimilation and misrepresentation of Indian culture by Western frameworks. Today, his contributions span academic research, public discourse, and collaborations with like-minded organizations worldwide.



## QUESTIONNAIRE:

**TLT:** Your book deeply explores the domain of consciousness, blending mysticism and science. How do you see consciousness studies influencing the broader understanding of human existence and its integration into fields like neuroscience and spirituality?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** Consciousness studies have been a focus of mine for two decades. Apart from the present book *The Battle for Consciousness Theory*, in earlier books, I highlighted how AI and allied technologies will impact how we understand consciousness. Newer research and advances in neuroscience are pushing the boundaries of materialism and we need to understand deeply the issues at stake and articulate the Dharmic position to this.



**TLT:** A recurring theme in your works is the critique of "Western Universalism." How do you propose that Indian traditions reclaim their narrative and assert their uniqueness against the homogenizing forces of globalization?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** An important counter to forces of globalization is to not only understand how Western universalism works but also put forth our own Swadeshi response. Sanskrit non-translatable, the concept of Poison Pills, the Hindu Good News – there are many methods I have written on countering this.

**TLT:** Your concept of the "U-Turn Theory" highlights how Indian traditions are often appropriated and rebranded. What steps can institutions and scholars take to preserve the authenticity of Indian knowledge systems while engaging globally?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** There are five major steps that I outline as a part of the U-Turn theory, which usually takes place: immersion into the source culture, appropriation of useful elements, erasure of traces to source, repackage as receiver's original idea, and lastly the export back to the source tradition. Understanding this pattern is crucial to first identifying the concepts and material that have fallen victim to this process. Once this is done, one can establish the trace and spotlight the source tradition in the correct context.

**TLT:** In your book AI and the Future of Power, you discuss "Five Battlegrounds" impacted by AI. Could you share your perspective on how AI is reshaping human consciousness and the ethical challenges it poses to civilizations like India?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** In my book AI and the Future of Power, I devote two battlegrounds to understanding the consequences of this important issue. The battle for the agency of the individual, the hacking of nature's learning systems, and the challenge to spiritualism are hugely important to discuss and debate, especially in India, which has its rich repository of theories on consciousness and at the same time, immense challenges due to the impact of AI on other socio-economic aspects. I address not only the practical issues but more interestingly the metaphysical issues raised – such as the possibility of artificial consciousness as distinct from artificial intelligence.

**TLT:** Your comparison of Integral Unity and Synthetic Unity is compelling. Could you provide contemporary examples where these paradigms manifest, and discuss their implications for societal and environmental harmony?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** Integral unity means that ultimately only the whole exists; the parts that make up the whole are only a relative existence; yet this relative existence is important as that is our present state of consciousness. The metaphor used to illustrate this unity is of a smile about a face: A smile cannot exist separately from the face; it is dependent and contingent on the face.

## Continued Discussion

However, the face has an independent existence, whether it smiles or not. Yet, we cannot dismiss the existence of the smile. The relationship of every entity to the cosmic whole is similar: the dependency is unidirectional. The cosmos is the form of Bhagwan. You cannot dismiss Bhagwan's smile (the world) even though its existence is relative and not absolute. Synthetic unity is different: It starts with parts that pre-exist separately from one another. For example, the parts of an automobile exist separately until they are assembled into a single vehicle. Similarly, in classical physics, the cosmos is viewed as an assemblage of separate elementary particles. The Western scientific tradition has been reductionist rather than integral.

**TLT:** Transitioning from a successful career in technology to pioneering Indian studies is unique. What inspired this shift, and how has your technical background influenced your work in philosophy and cultural analysis?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** I was trained initially as a Physicist, and then as a Computer Scientist specializing in AI in the 1970s. After a successful corporate career in the US, I became an entrepreneur and founded and ran several IT companies in 20 countries. Since the early 1990s, as the founder of the non-profit Infinity Foundation (Princeton, USA), I have been researching on a full-time basis the Indian civilization and its engagement with technology from a historical, social sciences, and mind sciences perspective.

**TLT:** In *The Battle for Consciousness Theory*, you address the distortion of Sri Aurobindo's ideas. How can the global community of Aurobindonians effectively counter such misrepresentations and uphold his teachings?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** When I first began to expose Wilber's appropriation of Sri Aurobindo's ideas in the late 1990s, I found myself challenged by many Aurobindonians due to a variety of reasons – hesitation to rock the boat and potentially harm their careers, ignorance of the issue, aloofness and escapist attitudes towards the practical problems in the SA studies, and so on. It was due to the encouragement of Aurobindonian stalwarts such as K.D. Sethna, Kireet Joshi, and Devan Nair I continued my work. The first step to upholding Sri Aurobindo's legacy is to once again spotlight his work and counter the distortions and appropriations it is subject to by the Wilburites in the public domain.

**TLT:** You emphasize the importance of creating an "Indian Grand Narrative." What role can literature, education, and media play in fostering a cohesive and empowering narrative for India?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** All nations and communities have their own identity-forming stories which helps them build their national and global identity. These stories, a combination of facts and myths form what is called the grand narrative of a people. India lacks such a grand narrative. Instead, many narratives have become implanted by foreign invaders and colonizers. Worst of all are the narratives championing various divisive fragments that serve to emotionally and conceptually break up India rather than build it. Indian Grand Narrative should comprise the stellar contributions the Indian people made across millennia to the global discourse in material and practical ways – such as in science and technology and the mind sciences. The media and the school curricula have a crucial role in spotlighting these contributions, while also highlighting the present challenges, to create an effective "Indian Grand Narrative" for the public.

**TLT:** You've spoken about nurturing "intellectual ksatriyas" to defend dharma. What advice do you have for young scholars seeking to engage deeply with Indic thought in a global context?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** The first advice would be to understand one's own dharma, then get out of your comfort zone to immerse in the global Kurukshetra. This involves understanding the current dynamics of the Kurukshetra and how to use Purva paksha. We have many resources that we have put together over the years that can help, even as one identifies issues within one's circle of influence to take on.

**TLT:** With several acclaimed books and initiatives, what projects or areas of research are you currently pursuing? Can readers expect new frameworks or concepts to emerge from your work?

**Rajiv Malhotra:** Infinity Foundation (IF) is presently at a special moment – it celebrates its 30th anniversary soon. Over the next year, we have some highly important products scheduled for launch including books that will highlight IF's contributions over the past decades in various domains. I hope to complete the development and propagation of my lifetime work, which is my School of Thought, consisting of a collection of unique frameworks and models.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH NEELESH KULKARNI AUTHOR OF THE BOOK UPRISING

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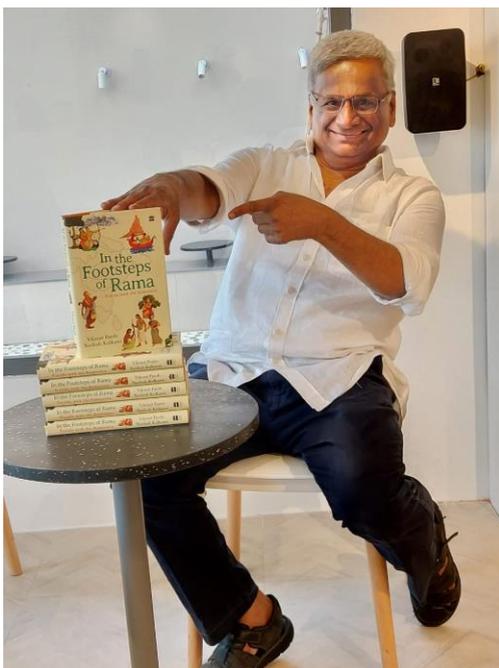
**Neelesh Kulkarni** is a management graduate, entrepreneur, and passionate reader and traveler. He is also a poet, theatre actor, voiceover artist, and former cricket commentator. Neelesh frequently conducts corporate workshops on public speaking, storytelling, and creative writing. He is an author with HarperCollins and Westland Books and is currently under a three-book contract with Westland. His debut book, *In the Footsteps of Rama: Travels with the Ramayana* (HarperCollins), is available in hardcover, paperback, and eBook formats, and has been adapted into a six-part web series. The Hindi translation, *Ram ke Path Par*:



*Ramayan ke Sang*, was named the best non-fiction book of 1923-24 by FICCI and is being translated into Marathi, Gujarati, and Bengali. Neelesh also contributed to the best-selling anthology *Where the Gods Dwell: Thirteen Temples and Their (hi) Stories* (Westland), where his essay "Vithoba of Pandharpur" received acclaim.

His book *Open Sesame: My Little Book of Magic Tricks for Kids* was published by Westland in June 2024. His seminal work on the successful people-led armed struggle in the Indian freedom movement, *Uprising: The Liberation of Dadra and Nagar Haveli*, was released by Westland in August 2024.

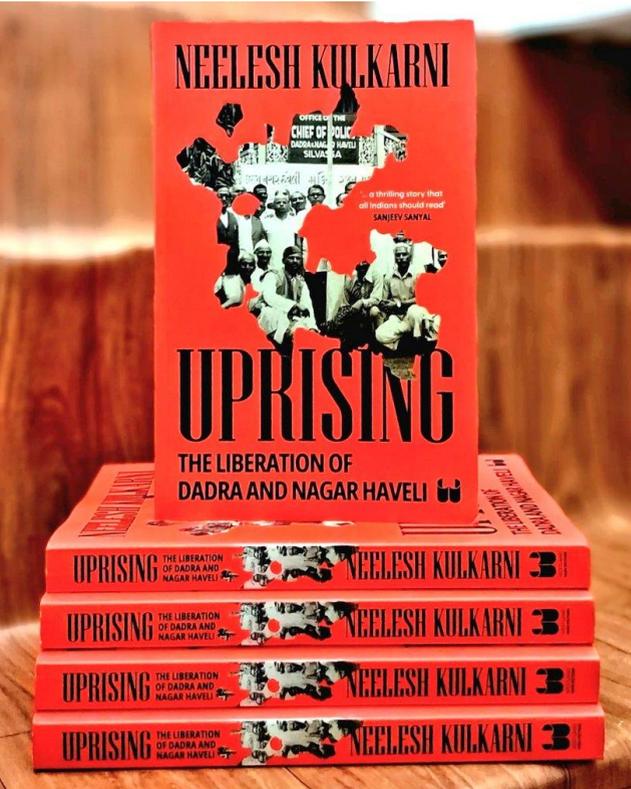
*Akashvani: A Century of Stories*, about All India Radio, will be published by HarperCollins in February 2025. Neelesh is currently working on a children's book, an anecdotal history of Delhi University, and a book on the Varkaree tradition.



### QUESTIONNAIRE:

**TLT:** Welcome to The Literature Today magazine, Neelesh! Your book *Uprising* sheds light on a largely overlooked chapter of India's history. What inspired you to write this story, and how did you navigate the challenges of piecing it together through interviews and archival research?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** The discovery of the story was pure happenstance! I was traveling by train from Delhi to Nasik to research my first book when I got into a conversation, as we all do on trains, with the gentleman seated across. He was then in his late eighties and revealed that he had been a freedom fighter who had taken up arms to liberate Dadra and Nagar Haveli from the Portuguese. He told me how he was part of a small group of idealistic young men who had formed a private militia, raised funds for it, purchased arms, and attacked and drove out over three hundred fully armed Portuguese soldiers from these territories. It sounded like dynamite, and there and then, I knew I just had to write the story.



There were many challenges to writing it. The primary one was that the battle had been fought by many freedom fighters in parts, and each knew only their particular part. Almost all who knew the larger picture had passed away, and of the ones still alive, only a few were traceable, and most of them were unwilling to talk. Their attitude was that they had done their duty towards their motherland and saw no reason to talk about it. Tracing them in Pune, Goa, and even the jungles of Nagar Haveli and gaining their trust were significant challenges. Through patience and tenacity, I managed to talk to them, obtain documents and memoirs available either with them or their heirs, cross-check them against newspaper reports and government documents, and then put the story together.

**TLT:** The book highlights the courage of ordinary civilians against well-armed Portuguese forces. How did you portray the emotions and resilience of those involved in this historic struggle?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** I did not have to work hard on that at all. It was all there—the bravery, the resilience, and the raw courage. I just had to report it, which I did faithfully.

**TLT:** As an entrepreneur, poet, theatre actor, and more, how have your diverse experiences shaped your approach to storytelling and your writing style?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** I believe one writes from the sum total of one's experience. Each one of my activities is, therefore, reflected in my writing. I think everything I do has made my writing more visual and readable. Even when dealing with the hard facts of history, like in this book, I adopt a style that makes it interesting. I guess that's why the book has been referred to as history that reads like a thriller.

**TLT:** Your earlier book, *In the Footsteps of Rama*, was adapted into a web series and translated into multiple languages. How did seeing your work transcend mediums influence your creative vision?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** I have become more conscious of my responsibility towards what I write since my work is reaching audiences far bigger than initially envisaged. I have started going that extra mile to ensure that whatever I commit to my writing is authentic and genuine.

**TLT:** *Uprising* also showcases cultural icons like Lata Mangeshkar and Mohammed Rafi raising funds for the cause. What role do you think cultural solidarity played in India's broader freedom movements?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** Each individual who participated in the freedom struggle, whether in this *Uprising* or the fight against the British, was first and foremost an Indian. Any differences in caste, creed, or religion were subsumed in this identity. In the case of this armed struggle, Lataji and Rafi Sahab performed free of charge in Pune to raise funds for it. In a telling aside, when the freedom fighters went to Rafi Sahab to request him to perform, he not only agreed to do so but, when a volunteer rose to book a train ticket for him, he stopped him and said, *"This country is as much mine as it is yours—if you are risking your lives for it, can't I even buy my ticket?"*



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## Continued Discussion

**TLT:** How has your journey influenced this book, and what life lessons do you see reflected in the resilience of the people you've written about?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** As an individual, I have faced many ups and downs in my life and fought against adversity. Maybe this is why this story struck a chord with me. In writing this story, I have seen validation for my worldview: no fight is impossible, and no odds are insurmountable if you desire to fight against them.

**TLT:** What challenges did you face during the writing process, and what advice would you offer aspiring authors tackling historical nonfiction?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** One challenge was locating the survivors of the Uprising, particularly those from Goa and among the tribals. Winning their confidence and making them talk about it was another. After speaking to them and obtaining whatever written material they had, cross-referencing the various narratives and cross-checking them against independent sources was yet another. The final frontier was arranging the disparate narratives into a single linear story. I am glad all that is over and done with, and the book is receiving fantastic reviews. My advice to authors writing historical nonfiction is to be aware of their responsibility towards their readers and cross-check every date, every statement, and every fact before putting them down on paper. You owe it to the past!

**TLT:** Finally, what are your plans? Can readers expect more historical narratives, or are you exploring other genres?

**Neelesh Kulkarni:** Of the books lined up now, two are organizational histories (All India Radio and Delhi University), and one is a mythological travelogue. After that? I am open to ideas and to whatever powerful story want me to write it.

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# AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOSEPH THOMAS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR

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**Dr. Joseph Thomas** is a veteran, corporate leader, educationist, and social entrepreneur. A man with humble beginnings, he served in the Indian Army for 20 years and participated in the Indian Peacekeeping Force, Operation Vijay (Kargil War), Operation Parakram, and many other missions. He had the privilege of working with His Excellency, former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, and the DRDO team during the Pokhran-II nuclear test, providing a telecom network in the Pokhran desert. He was part of the project team that installed satellite links (VSAT) at high-altitude areas along the India-Pakistan-China border in -40°C temperatures after the Kargil War, including the world's highest satellite link.



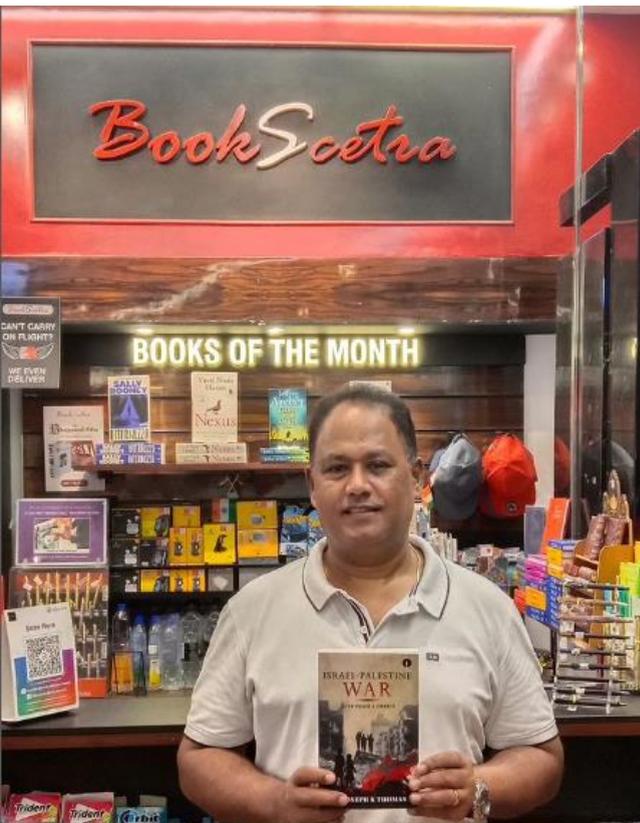
The transition from war rooms to the boardrooms of the corporate world was not easy, but through sheer determination, dedication, hard work, perseverance, and a 'never say no' attitude, Dr. Thomas established himself as a highly preferred and respected executive leader in the global community. His passion for creating innovative, world-class workplaces and infrastructure has not only led to the development of collaborative spaces and the attraction of top-tier talent from the industry but has also helped promote employer branding and support business growth.

## QUESTIONNAIRE:

**TLT:** Your book, “Israel-Palestine War — Give Peace A Chance” tackles a complex & longstanding conflict. What inspired you to write about this subject and how does your diverse background in the military, corporate world, and education inform your perspective on it?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** Writing Israel-Palestine War — Give Peace A Chance was inspired by my deep concern for the prolonged suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians and my belief that peace is not only possible but necessary for the stability of the entire region. My background in the military allows me to understand the human cost of war and the importance of security, which is at the heart of both Israeli and Palestinian concerns. The military experience has also given me a profound respect for the value of peace and the sacrifices needed to achieve it, which I hope will resonate with the audience. On the Corporate side, I've learned that effective negotiations, compromise, and clear communication are often the key to resolving seemingly insurmountable issues. Corporate diplomacy is about building relationships, understanding different viewpoints, and finding win-win solutions, which is precisely what is needed in the Israel-Palestine peace process.

Finally, by educating people about each other's history, culture, and experiences, we can break down the walls of ignorance that fuel the conflict. Through my writing, I aim to encourage empathy, foster dialogue, and provide a platform for fresh ideas that can help move both sides closer to peace. I believe that peace in the region is not only a possibility but an imperative that demands effort, understanding, and, above all, a willingness to compromise for the greater good.



**TLT:** The title of your book is a call for peace. In what ways do you believe this book can contribute to building a foundation for reconciliation in the Israel-Palestine conflict?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** The title Israel-Palestine War — Give Peace A Chance is indeed a call to action, urging both sides and the international community to reconsider their approach to the conflict and to focus on building a path toward reconciliation. I believe this book can contribute to laying the groundwork for reconciliation in several key ways:

- Fostering Empathy and Understanding
- Offering Practical Solutions and Alternatives
- Challenging the Cycle of Violence
- Bridging Gaps through Dialogue
- Encouraging Global Involvement and Solidarity
- Inspiring a New Generation

Finally, I believe the book can inspire younger generations, particularly Millennials and Gen Z, who may feel disconnected from the historical context of the conflict. They can play a crucial role in changing the narrative, advocating for coexistence, and moving away from violence and vengeance.

**TLT:** You have navigated multiple fields, from the war room to the boardroom to the classroom. How do these different roles shape your approach to discussing complex issues like international conflict and diplomacy?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** This multidisciplinary approach allows me to discuss international conflicts with a balanced view, recognizing both the immediate realities and the long-term goals of peace and stability. Each role has instilled specific values and insights that shape my approach;

**Military Experience:** Being part of the military involves direct exposure to the realities of conflict, decision-making under pressure, and the value of discipline and resilience. This background has taught me the high stakes of war and peace and the profound consequences decisions can have on individuals, communities, and nations.

**Corporate Leadership:** Working in the corporate world, particularly in leadership positions, has reinforced the value of negotiation, resource management, and building partnerships. This experience has taught me how to engage stakeholders with differing priorities and to seek collaborative solutions that create value for all parties involved—skills directly applicable to the realm of diplomacy.

**Educational Advocacy:** As an educator and advocate, I see the importance of informed dialogue, critical thinking, and the power of knowledge. Educating others involves presenting balanced perspectives, encouraging open-mindedness, and fostering empathy.

**TLT:** The book covers the Israel-Palestine conflict from its roots in the Balfour Declaration to recent events in October 2023. What do you feel are the most critical historical moments that shaped the trajectory of this conflict?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** The Israel-Palestine conflict has a complex history with several pivotal moments that have shaped its trajectory. Some of the most critical historical events include:

## Continued Discussion

1. **The Balfour Declaration (1917):** This British statement supported the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire. It set the stage for Jewish immigration to Palestine and the tensions between the Jewish and Arab communities, who saw this as a threat to their homeland.
2. **The United Nations Partition Plan (1947):** Following World War II and the Holocaust, international pressure mounted to find a solution for displaced Jewish people. The UN proposed partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. The plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by Arab leaders, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948 after Israel declared independence.
3. **The Nakba (1948):** Known as "the catastrophe" in Arabic, this refers to the mass displacement of around 700,000 Palestinian Arabs following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. This event created a large refugee population and deepened the animosity between the Jewish and Palestinian communities.
4. **The Six-Day War (1967):** Israel's victory in this war against neighboring Arab states resulted in its control over the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The occupation of these territories continues to be one of the most contentious issues in the conflict, especially regarding settlements and the rights of Palestinians in these areas.
5. **The Oslo Accords (1993):** These agreements marked the first direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). While it led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and gave Palestinians limited self-governance, it fell short of resolving core issues like borders, the status of Jerusalem, and Palestinian refugees.
6. **The Second Intifada (2000-2005):** This Palestinian uprising was marked by intense violence on both sides, including military actions by Israel and suicide bombings by Palestinians. It ended the momentum of the peace process and entrenched both communities further in a cycle of violence and distrust.
7. **The Gaza Blockade and Hamas Control (2007):** Following the takeover of Gaza by Hamas, considered a terrorist organization by Israel and others, Israel imposed a blockade on the territory, severely impacting the lives of Gazans. The periodic conflicts between Israel and Hamas, alongside humanitarian crises, have added layers of complexity to peace efforts.
8. **The Abraham Accords (2020):** This normalization of relations between Israel and several Arab nations marked a shift in regional dynamics. While it represented a move toward broader acceptance of Israel in the Middle East, it did not address the core Israel-Palestine conflict, leading some Palestinians to feel isolated in their struggle.
9. **October 2023 Events:** The recent surge in violence, likely related to longstanding grievances, geopolitical shifts, and the failures of past peace processes, has again highlighted the fragility of the region and the urgent need for a sustainable resolution.

Each of these moments has contributed to the deep-seated mistrust and animosity that characterize the Israel-Palestine conflict today. A thorough understanding of these events is essential to grasp the challenges facing peace and reconciliation efforts.

**TLT:** With media playing a major role in shaping perceptions, what are your thoughts on how the Israel-Palestine conflict is portrayed, and how does your book attempt to address or balance these portrayals?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most reported and polarizing issues globally, and media portrayal has a significant impact on how it is perceived. Coverage often varies based on regional, cultural, and political biases, which can either humanize or demonize one side, depending on the perspective. Some outlets emphasize Israel's security concerns, highlighting terrorist attacks and Hamas's role, while others focus on the humanitarian issues faced by Palestinians, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank. The resulting narratives can create echo chambers that reinforce pre-existing beliefs without offering a balanced view.

## Continued Discussion

In my book, *Israel-Palestine War*, I aim to present a balanced perspective by focusing on the historical context, the complex socio-political realities, and the personal stories that reflect the human side of the conflict on both ends. I attempt to cut through the often sensationalized portrayals by drawing on factual accounts, historical milestones, and objective analysis to give readers a more nuanced understanding. The goal is not to take sides but to foster a sense of empathy and a call for peace by presenting the challenges each side faces. By highlighting both Israeli and Palestinian experiences, I hope to bridge some of the divides in perception and encourage readers to consider perspectives beyond what is commonly shown in mainstream media.

**TLT:** You delve into the environmental and health impacts of the conflict, such as water scarcity and contamination. Why do you feel it's essential to highlight these often-overlooked aspects of war?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** Highlighting the environmental and health impacts of the Israel-Palestine conflict is essential because these issues reveal the profound, long-term consequences of war beyond the immediate loss of life and property. Water scarcity, contamination, soil degradation, and air pollution are not just side effects; they deeply affect the daily lives, health, and future of the populations involved, especially the most vulnerable.

For instance, water scarcity has long been a point of tension in the region. Access to clean water is limited, with infrastructure damage from conflict further reducing water availability and exacerbating contamination risks. Polluted water sources can lead to outbreaks of disease, malnutrition, and a general decline in health, disproportionately affecting children and the elderly. Similarly, contamination from explosives and military waste affects soil and air quality, which impacts agriculture and food security—critical factors for a population under economic and logistical strain.

By focusing on these often-overlooked aspects, I hope to foster a broader understanding of the stakes involved in the conflict, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable peace efforts that consider not only political and territorial issues but also the basic human right to a safe and healthy environment. This approach can inspire readers to think of peace not only as the absence of war but as a foundation for well-being and resilience for future generations on both sides.

**TLT:** As an author who has written on various international issues, including the Russia-Ukraine war and the Taliban, what similarities and differences did you observe when examining the Israel-Palestine conflict?

**Dr. Joseph K. Thomas:** Examining the Israel-Palestine conflict alongside other international issues such as the Russia-Ukraine war and the Taliban's resurgence in Afghanistan reveals both shared themes and stark differences. One similarity is the deep-rooted historical grievances and complex national identities driving these conflicts. Just as Ukraine and Russia have long-standing historical and cultural ties, Israel and Palestine are both connected to the same land, with each side possessing deep-seated religious, cultural, and historical claims.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban's resurgence also taps into decades of internal strife and resistance against external influences, mirroring how both Israelis and Palestinians have struggled against perceived external pressures or occupations. A major difference lies in the international responses to these conflicts. The Israel-Palestine issue, for example, is often viewed through a unique lens due to its religious significance to three major world religions, drawing attention and polarizing opinions globally. In contrast, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has reignited tensions reminiscent of the Cold War, with clear divisions between Western and Eastern powers. Meanwhile, Afghanistan's conflict is largely seen as an internal issue with international repercussions, especially in terms of global security and terrorism.

Another key difference is in each conflict's impact on civilians and surrounding countries. In Israel-Palestine, civilians frequently endure intense violence in densely populated areas, with limited means to escape. This mirrors aspects of the conflict in Ukraine, where civilian areas have also become battlegrounds. However, in Afghanistan, the Taliban's control impacts civilian life in different ways, including the enforcement of strict laws and restrictions that alter daily life.

# AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH JOURNALIST GARGI RAWAT AUTHOR OF THE BOOK TIGER SEASON.

“

**Gargi Rawat** is a senior news anchor and environment reporter who has worked with NDTV 24/7 for the last two decades. For many years she has been a regular face on the channel and has filmed several documentaries and environment-related programmes. She worked on the first-ever news show on wildlife in India, ‘Born Wild’, and anchored its Hindi version, ‘Safari India’, for the Hindi channel NDTV India. Gargi has also been editorial head for some of the best-known environmental campaigns carried out by NDTV, including ‘The Greenathon’, ‘Save Our Tigers’, and the ‘Banega Swachh India Campaign’. She received widespread acclaim for her award-winning documentary series on the state of the river Ganga. She has just released her first book *Tiger Season*, a work of fiction, which has themes of tiger conservation and environmental concerns.



## QUESTIONNAIRE:

**TLT:** First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the success of your book *TIGER SEASON*. This book is based on your own experience during the *SAVE TIGER* campaign. What initially drew you to write about this specific experience?

**Gargi Rawat:** Thank you. I was inspired to write the novel by my own experiences reporting on wildlife and conservation issues. Particularly covering man-animal conflict which is a very complex issue that people don't put enough effort into understanding. There was a tragic incident in 2015 at Ranthambore when a forest guard was killed by a tiger, T24 popularly known as Ustad. When the forest department removed him to a zoo, as he was perceived as a threat as he had killed humans earlier as well, there was a huge hue and cry among tiger lovers. I had covered the story and found the outrage over Ustad's shifting misplaced. Most conservationists agreed with the Forest Department's action. These are the issues I wanted to bring out in my book.

**TLT:** As a journalist, you covered the *Save the Tiger* movement. What particular change in yourself did you find, though, once your stay was up?

**Gargi Rawat:** I feel spending time in nature helps one become more empathetic, and appreciative. I would highly recommend people try and take a break from city life and visit a national park. One needn't be tiger fixated, but learn to enjoy being in the wild and seeing other animals, and birds.

**TLT:** How successful, in your opinion, is it to use a celebrity for these kinds of campaigns?



**Gargi Rawat:** Using a celebrity helps boost a campaign. Many people who otherwise would not be attracted to an environmental campaign, often come because of the star but then also learn about the issues they are promoting. During the NDTV Save Our Tigers campaign, we had Amitabh Bachchan as our campaign ambassador, and other big names like Dia Mirza, and M S Dhoni were involved.

**TLT :** Can you please explain your book's subtitle "Stripes, Safaris and Sparks?"

**Gargi Rawat:** My editors and I thought the subtitle would convey that it was at the heart of it, a fun, light read with a dash of romance. The title of the book Tiger Season indicates it was a novel involving tigers and wildlife. The subtitle was to add a fun element.

**TLT :** In your opinion which was the biggest challenge – saving the tiger, or convincing people?

**TLT:** What were the key lessons you got from the campaign?

**Gargi Rawat:** I was very lucky to be involved in a campaign like Save Our Tigers as well as other environmental campaigns that we did at NDTV. It was great to see how a concerted well thought-out effort went a long way in creating awareness about these key issues. Even today people remember our campaign. We started by emphasising only 1411 tigers were left and that number created a sensation and got many people to care.

**TLT:** Finally, I would like to know about your plans related to literature. Are you planning any other book related to wildlife or any other important matter?

**Gargi Rawat:** I think Tiger Season deserves a follow-up book. Many people have told me they would like to read more about Sunaina Joshi's journey and the other characters in the book. I would like to pick up other parts of the country to highlight in a fictional way, especially Corbett tiger reserve which is my home state Uttarakhand. So, let's see. I think in a few years a book on broadcast media and its evolution is also something I'd like to write on. Especially since I've seen how it's changed in the last 20-odd years.

**Gargi Rawat:** There are those who say 'Why save tigers when we have so many more challenging issues' To them, I would say we need to protect tigers as it's one of the most beautiful species and it's a matter of pride that India has over 70% of the world's wild tiger population. Also, thanks to the effort to save tigers by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, under whom Project Tiger was launched, we managed to protect such huge tracts of our forests and natural spaces. These forests are the origins of countless rivers, and provide us with clean air. We know now the biggest protection against climate change and extreme weather is forests. So, in protecting the tigers, we also protect ourselves.

**TLT :** What was your reaction when you met the mahanayak Amitabh Bachchan himself? Were your reactions the same as you described in the book?

**Gargi Rawat:** The book description of meeting the Bollywood star was very different as it was fictional and the character was different from Mr. Bachchan. Meeting Amitabh Bachchan feels very special given what a massive star he is. He's also extremely sharp articulate, and willing to learn which was very wonderful to see.

## AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH YOGESH NAIR, AUTHOR OF THE BOOK THE WARRIOR OWL

“

Author **Yogesh Nair**, an Army officer, has always been deeply passionate about his service and the myriad stories life offers. With the release of his debut book, he shares profound themes of friendship, camaraderie, love, sacrifice, and bravery that shape the journey of the everyday individual. Through vivid storytelling, Yogesh aims to inspire readers to cherish life, value the bonds of friendship and family, and recognize the challenges we all face. His book is more than just a narrative—it is a heartfelt tribute to his comrades and a call to contribute to society, reflecting his unwavering dedication to his nation and its people



### QUESTIONNAIRE:

**TLT:** Your debut book, *The Warrior Owl*, tells the inspiring journey of Advay Varma. What inspired you to create a character like Advay, and how much of his story is drawn from your own experiences in the Army?

**Yogesh Nair:** Besides my journey, the character of Advay Varma in *The Warrior Owl* is inspired by the countless remarkable individuals I've encountered during my time in the Army—men and women whose lives embody courage, resilience, and selflessness. Advay is a composite of these experiences, blending the qualities of real-life warriors with my reflections on human strength and vulnerability. While his journey is fictional, many aspects of Advay's story are drawn from my own experiences in the Army—moments of camaraderie, challenges in the face of adversity, and the quiet yet profound sacrifices that often go unnoticed. His story is a tribute to those who inspire us to push beyond our limits and find strength in unexpected places.

**TLT:** The title of the book is intriguing. Why did you choose to call your protagonist *The Warrior Owl*, and what does the owl symbolize in the context of the story?

**Yogesh Nair:** The title *The Warrior Owl* was chosen to reflect the essence of the protagonist, Advay Varma, and the journey he undertakes. The owl symbolizes wisdom, vigilance, and the ability to navigate through darkness—qualities that align closely with Advay's character. In the story, the owl also represents a guardian spirit, guiding Advay as he grapples with questions of purpose, loyalty, and self-discovery. It's a reminder that true strength lies not just in physical prowess but in understanding oneself and the world with wisdom and compassion. The title encapsulates the balance between the warrior's courage and the owl's quiet wisdom, traits that define Advay's transformation.

**TLT:** Your book emphasizes values such as friendship, love, sacrifice, and bravery. How important were these themes in shaping the narrative, and why do you feel they resonate with readers today?

**Yogesh Nair:** The themes of friendship, love, sacrifice, and bravery are the cornerstone of *The Warrior Owl* and were pivotal in shaping its narrative. These values are universal and timeless, forming the fabric of human connections and defining moments in our lives. In Advay's journey, they serve as guiding forces, helping him navigate personal struggles and emerge stronger, while also underscoring the bonds that sustain him in challenging times. I believe these themes resonate deeply with readers today because, in a world that often feels fragmented, they remind us of what truly matters—our relationships, our sense of purpose, and the courage to face life's uncertainties. By weaving these themes into the narrative, I hoped to create a story that not only entertains but also uplifts, reminding readers of the strength we derive from love, loyalty, and shared humanity.

**TLT:** What was your mindset while working on this book? How is this book different from the other titles of the same genre?

**Yogesh Nair:** My mindset was deeply reflective and personal. I approached the story with a sense of purpose, aiming to create something that would resonate not only with my experiences but also with shared emotions and challenges. I wanted to balance the rawness of reality with the hope and resilience that drive us forward. Every word was written with a desire to inspire readers, honor the unsung heroes in our lives, and explore themes that transcend individual journeys. What sets this book apart from others in the same genre is its blend of authenticity and introspection.

**TLT:** Advay's mother plays a significant role in shaping his character. How does her influence reflect the importance of family in the making of a hero?

**Yogesh Nair:** Advay's mother is a cornerstone in his journey, and her influence reflects the family's profound role in shaping a hero. She instills in him the values of integrity, compassion, and resilience, which become the foundation of his character. Her unwavering support and quiet strength serve as a guiding light for Advay, reminding him of his roots and the importance of staying true to his principles, even in the face of adversity.

**TLT:** As an Army officer, you've experienced camaraderie and sacrifice firsthand. How did your personal experiences influence the way you portrayed these aspects in the book?

**Yogesh Nair:** My experiences as an Army officer profoundly shaped the way I portrayed camaraderie and sacrifice in *The Warrior Owl*. In the Army, these values are not abstract concepts but lived realities. They are built on trust, shared hardships, and an unspoken understanding that each person is willing to lay down everything for the other. Writing about these aspects was both cathartic and a way of paying homage to the individuals who have influenced my life and perspective. Through the story, I wanted readers to feel the depth of these connections and the weight of sacrifice, showing that these values not only shape soldiers but also resonate universally, inspiring us all to lead lives of greater purpose and integrity.

**TLT:** *The Warrior Owl* pays tribute to the values of heroism and selflessness. What message do you hope readers, especially younger ones, take away from Advay's story?

**Yogesh Nair:** Through *The Warrior Owl*, I hope readers, especially younger ones, come away with a deeper understanding of what true heroism and selflessness mean. Advay's story is a reminder that being a hero isn't about grand gestures or recognition—it's about showing courage in the face of challenges, staying true to one's values, and putting others above oneself when it matters most. For younger readers, the message is clear: greatness isn't defined by external accolades but by the strength of character and the choices we make in everyday life. Advay's journey shows that setbacks and struggles are inevitable, but it's how we respond to them—with resilience, humility, and a sense of purpose—that defines who we are.

**TLT:** Through Advay's story, you emphasize the importance of giving back to society. How do you envision *The Warrior Owl* inspiring readers to contribute to their communities?

**Yogesh Nair:** Through Advay's journey in *The Warrior Owl*, I aimed to convey that true fulfillment lies in serving something greater than oneself. Advay's transformation from a seeker of personal success to someone who finds purpose in uplifting others is a central theme of the story. It highlights that acts of selflessness, no matter how small, have the power to create ripples of positive change in society. I envision this book inspiring readers by showing them that giving back doesn't require extraordinary resources—sometimes, it's as simple as offering time, kindness, or support to those in need.

**TLT:** This being your debut book, what were the biggest challenges you faced during the writing and publishing process, and how did you overcome them?

**Yogesh Nair:** As a debut author, the journey of writing and publishing *The Warrior Owl* came with its share of challenges, each of which taught me invaluable lessons. One of the biggest challenges was translating the depth of emotions and experiences into words. Having lived through moments of camaraderie, sacrifice, and self-discovery, I wanted the story to feel authentic and impactful, but balancing personal truths with fictional storytelling required careful thought and effort. To overcome this, I leaned on introspection and constant revision, ensuring the narrative stayed true to its essence while remaining relatable to readers.

**TLT:** As a soldier and an author, how do you balance the discipline of your military background with the creativity required for storytelling?

**Yogesh Nair:** Balancing the discipline of my military background with the creativity required for storytelling has been both challenging and rewarding. In the Army, we are taught to be mission-oriented, to persevere through adversity, and to work with precision—qualities that directly benefit the writing process. However, storytelling requires a different mindset—one that thrives on imagination, flexibility, and emotional depth. To balance the two, I try to incorporate the discipline from my military experience into my writing routine. I also make it a point to create an environment where I can focus deeply, just as I would when preparing for a critical task in the Army.

**TLT:** What's next for you as an author? Are there plans for a sequel or other projects inspired by your experiences or the values showcased in *The Warrior Owl*?

**Yogesh Nair:** As an author, I'm excited to continue exploring themes of heroism, selflessness, and personal growth. While *The Warrior Owl* holds a special place in my heart, I do have plans for future projects. One possibility is a sequel, delving deeper into Advay's journey and the continued challenges he faces, as well as expanding on the relationships and lessons introduced in the first book. Beyond that, I'm exploring other stories inspired by my experiences in the Army and the values of duty, sacrifice, and camaraderie. Ultimately, I envision a body of work that reflects the essence of what it means to live with purpose, to make a difference, and to never stop growing, just like the characters I write about.

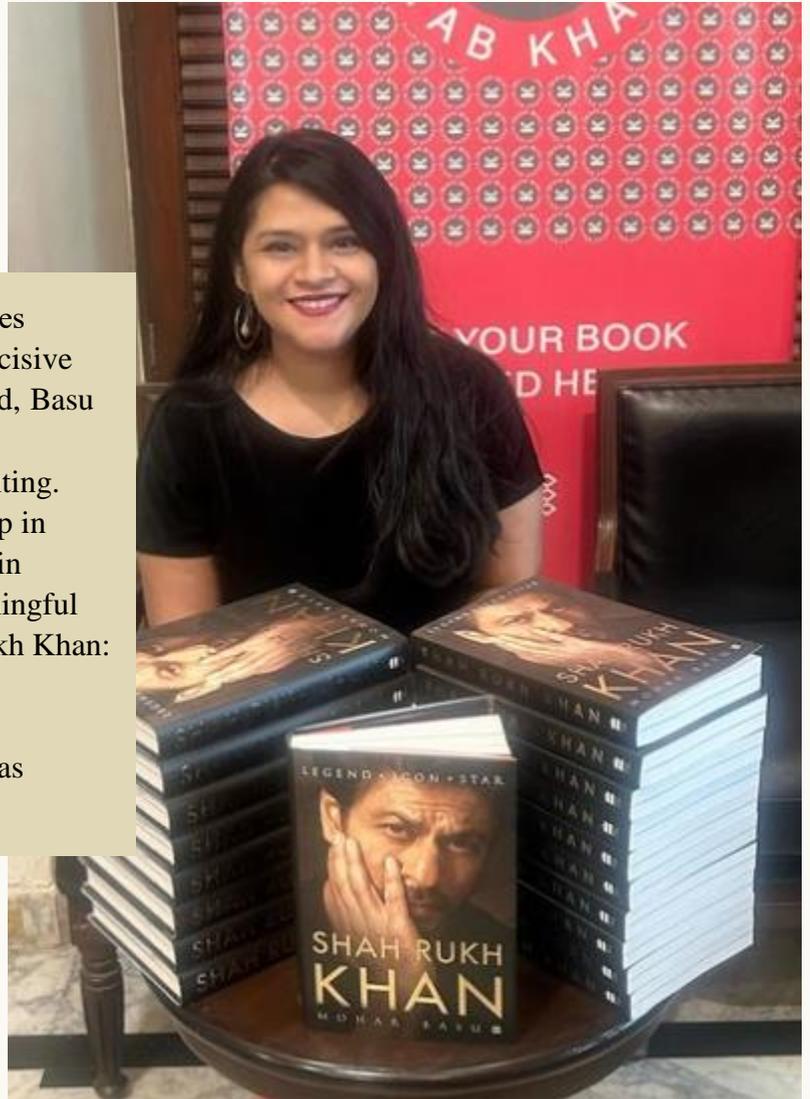
# BOOK REVIEWS

- **SHAH RUKH KHAN: LEGEND, ICON, STAR**
- **TIPU SULTAN: THE SAGA OF MYSORE'S INTERREGNUM (1760–1799)**
- **THE WARRIOR OWL**

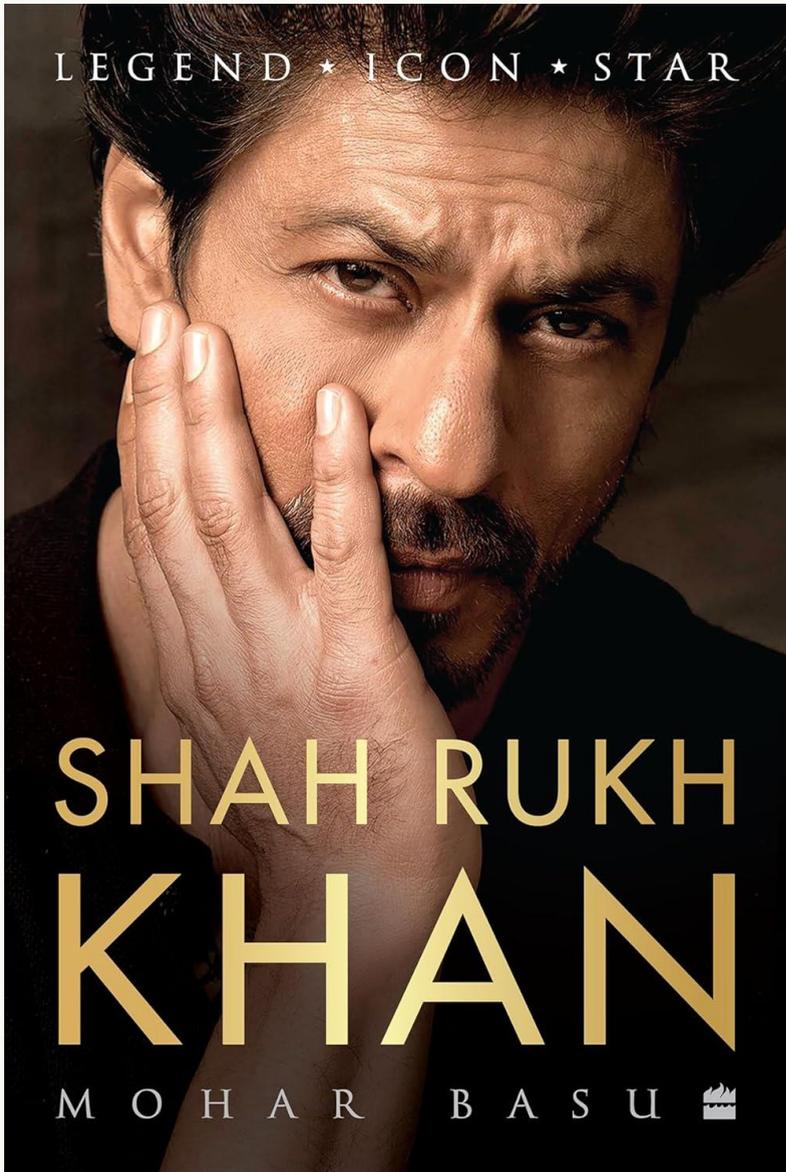
# SHAH RUKH KHAN: LEGEND, ICON, STAR

## BY MOHAR BASU

Mohar Basu's journalistic prowess shines throughout this book. Known for her incisive reporting on the dynamics of Bollywood, Basu brings years of experience and a deep understanding of the industry to her writing. From highlighting issues like censorship in films to exposing systemic harassment in Bollywood, her work has sparked meaningful change within the industry. In *Shah Rukh Khan: Legend, Icon, Star*, Basu combines her investigative skills with her love for storytelling, creating a narrative that is as compelling as it is insightful.



Shah Rukh Khan isn't just a name—it's an emotion, a phenomenon that has touched millions across the globe. In *Shah Rukh Khan: Legend, Icon, Star*, journalist Mohar Basu peels back the layers of one of the world's most iconic actors, presenting a compelling portrait of the man who is so much more than the roles he plays. The book takes you beyond the glitz and glamour of Bollywood to reveal a deeply personal, nuanced side of Shah Rukh Khan. Whether it's as the charming Raj or Rahul, or the more complex Mohan Bhargava and Rizwan Khan, Shah Rukh's roles have resonated with audiences for over three decades. Basu weaves these memorable characters into the larger narrative of his life, showing how he has become a cultural bridge, connecting people from Paris to Pakistan, from London to India.



What sets this book apart is the heart it carries. Through intimate fan stories, Basu beautifully illustrates how Shah Rukh has become a symbol of hope and connection. A taxi driver in Paris sees him as an inspiration. An Irishwoman in London finds solace in his work. Families across generations share a bond through his films. These stories bring Shah Rukh closer to readers, making it clear that his impact goes far beyond the screen.

The book is also a treasure trove for fans, filled with never-before-seen photos and behind-the-scenes moments. But what makes it special is how Basu captures Shah Rukh's humanity—his humility, his tireless work ethic, and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life. It's not just a celebration of his stardom but also a reflection of his journey, his struggles, and the resilience that defines him.

### Verdict:

This book is not just for fans of Shah Rukh Khan—it's for anyone who appreciates the power of storytelling, the magic of cinema, and the human connection that transcends borders. Basu has given us a heartfelt, insightful tribute to a man who isn't just a star but a global icon. *Shah Rukh Khan: Legend, Icon, Star* will leave you inspired, emotional, and with an even deeper appreciation for the King of Bollywood.



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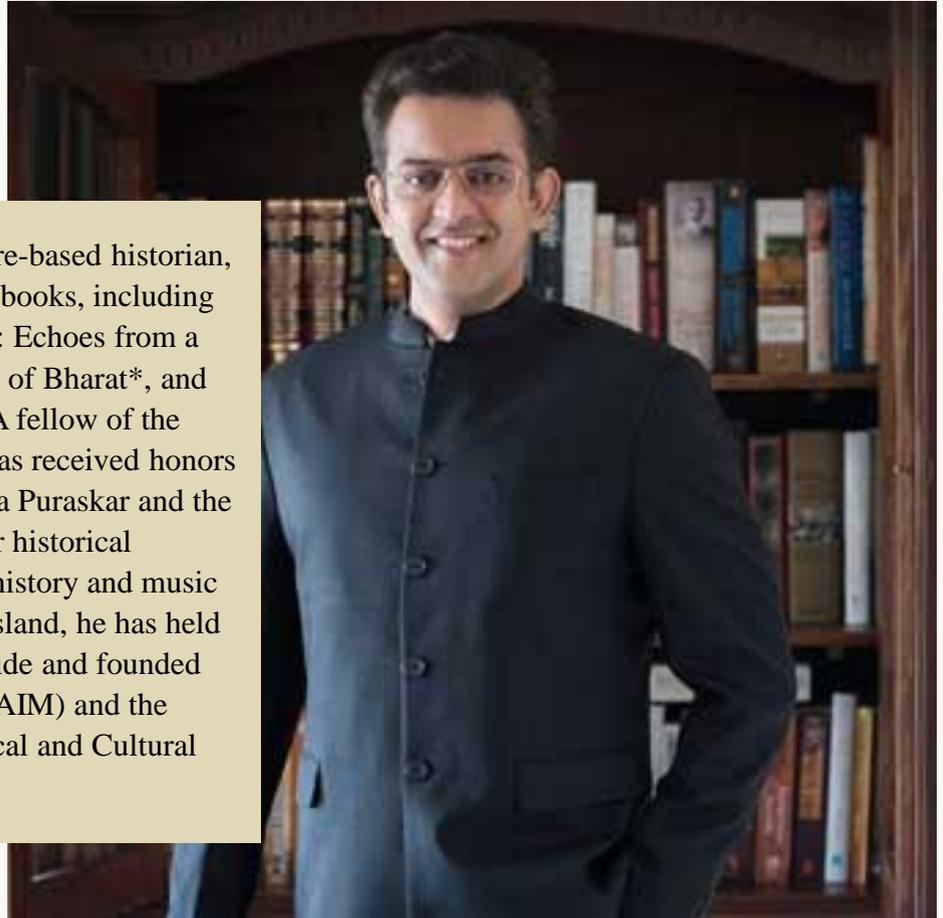
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# TIPU SULTAN: THE SAGA OF MYSORE'S INTERREGNUM (1760–1799) BY VIKRAM SAMPATH

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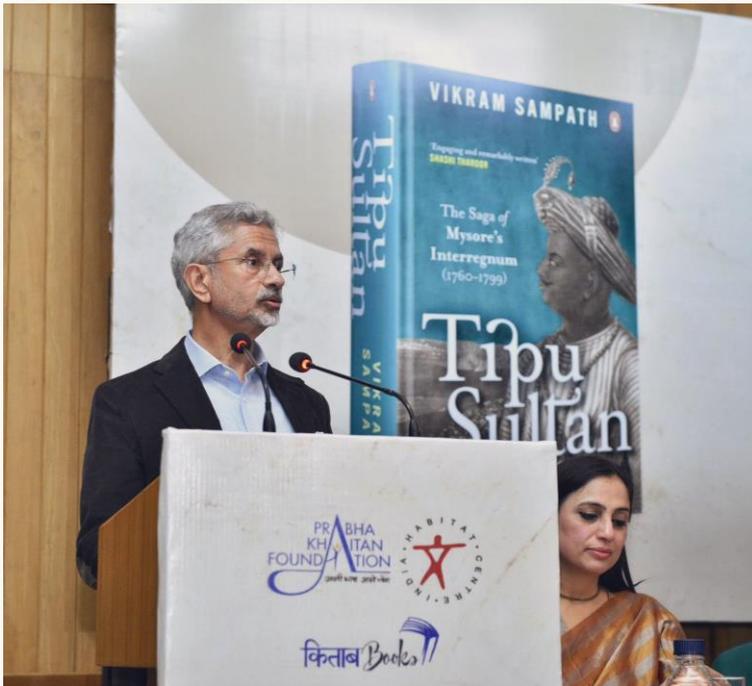
**Vikram Sampath**, a Bangalore-based historian, is the author of ten acclaimed books, including national bestsellers *\*Savarkar: Echoes from a Forgotten Past\**, *\*Bravehearts of Bharat\**, and *\*My Name Is Gauhar Jaan\**. A fellow of the Royal Historical Society, he has received honors like the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar and the ARSC International Award for historical research. With a doctorate in history and music from the University of Queensland, he has held esteemed fellowships worldwide and founded the Archive of Indian Music (AIM) and the Foundation for Indian Historical and Cultural Research (FIHCR).



Vikram Sampath's *Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum* is a remarkable journey into the life of one of the most polarizing figures in Indian history. Through meticulous research and engaging storytelling, Sampath unravels the complexities of Tipu Sultan—painting a portrait that is honest, nuanced, and thought-provoking.

Tipu Sultan's story, as narrated in the book, is one of stark contrasts. His rise to power was accidental, built on the foundation laid by his father, Haidar Ali, who was a brilliant strategist and tactician. While Haidar brought the mighty British East India Company to its knees during the early Anglo-Mysore Wars, Tipu inherited a kingdom poised for greatness. However, his leadership was a blend of bold military campaigns and controversial decisions that left a lasting but divisive legacy.

Sampath does not sugarcoat Tipu's flaws—his intolerance, forced conversions, and the destruction of religious sites are laid bare. Yet, the book also acknowledges his administrative acumen, military prowess, and his role as a formidable ruler of Southern India. This balance allows readers to see Tipu not as a perfect hero or a villain, but as a man shaped by the turbulence of his time.



What truly stands out in this book is Sampath's ability to bring history alive. His vivid descriptions transport readers to the Mysore of the 18th century, where court intrigues, battlefields, and shifting alliances played a pivotal role in shaping events. The narrative is enriched by a depth of archival research that makes this account both credible and compelling.

The book also subtly connects Tipu's legacy to contemporary debates, making it as relevant today as it was centuries ago. With Sampath's impeccable credentials as a historian—backed by national and international accolades—this work stands out as an authoritative account of Mysore's interregnum.

### Why You Should Read It

- **Balanced Perspective:** A fair exploration of Tipu's strengths and flaws, cutting through myths.
- **Engaging Storytelling:** Historical events come alive through vivid descriptions and detailed narratives.
- **Meticulous Research:** A treasure trove of well-researched information for history enthusiasts.

**Verdict:** *Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum* is more than a biography; it is a mirror to a complex era in Indian history. Vikram Sampath has created a masterpiece that challenges perceptions, invites debate, and leaves readers with a deeper understanding of Tipu Sultan's life and times. A must-read for anyone interested in India's rich and layered history.

# THE WARRIOR OWL BY YOGESH NAIR

**Author Yogesh Nair**, an Army officer, has always been passionate about his service and the stories life holds. With the release of his first book, he aims to share the profound experiences of friendship, camaraderie, love, sacrifice, and bravery that define the journey of a common man. Through his vivid storytelling, author Yogesh hopes to inspire the readers to value life, appreciate the bonds of friends & family, and recognize the challenges that one faces in life. His book is not just a story, but a heartfelt tribute to his comrades and a call to give back to society, reflecting his unwavering dedication to his country and fellow citizens. Well, this particular title, “The Warrior Owl” is published by Verses Kindler Publication and is released in the month of September 2024. Also, the book is available in both paperback as well as in e-book format and the readers can find this title on all the top online marketplaces.



This deeply inspiring and action-packed title, **“The Warrior Owl”** by author **Yogesh Nair** presents a fascinating tale of personal transformation, patriotism, and heroism. At its core, this book is an ode to resilience, selflessness, and the unyielding spirit of those who dedicate their lives to serve others. By following the life of Advay Varma, a boy from a humble village who grows into a fearless Indian Army officer, the narrative captures the essence of purpose, sacrifice, and camaraderie. The story pays tribute to the sacrifices made by the soldiers, emphasizing the selflessness required to put others before oneself. With its compelling storytelling and heartfelt themes, this book is a celebration of heroism and an inspiring reminder of the values that shape a life of service!

This title, **“The Warrior Owl”** portrays the story of Advay Varma, affectionately nicknamed “Owl” for his wisdom and insight that begins in the tranquil yet challenging setting of the Melghat forest in Maharashtra. Author **Yogesh Nair’s** expressive writing brings to life the simplicity and hardships of village life, immersing readers in the lush landscapes and cultural richness of Advay’s childhood.



His upbringing is shaped profoundly by his mother, whose teachings instill in him the values of honor, dedication, and compassion. The vivid portrayal of Advay's early life highlights the resilience he gains from his rural roots, forming the foundation for his remarkable journey. Further, Advay's evolution into a courageous army officer is the heart of the plot and something that the readers would find intriguing as well as spellbinding. The author masterfully narrates this transformation, showcasing the grit and inner strength required to embark on such a path. The transition from an unassuming village boy to a disciplined officer embodies themes of bravery, commitment, and selflessness!

On top of that, the book skillfully juxtaposes the innocence of Advay's village upbringing with the daunting challenges of the outside world. Through various incidents during his school and college years, we see the seeds of his transformation being sown.

Each episode reveals a layer of his character, from his unwavering loyalty to his friends to his fierce determination to overcome obstacles. These formative experiences prepare him for the life-changing decision to join the Indian Army, marking the beginning of a journey that is equal parts inspiring and harrowing. One of the **Notable Strengths** of this title is its rich portrayal of the values that define a soldier's life — sacrifice, camaraderie, and an unwavering sense of duty. Author Yogesh Nair captures the camaraderie shared among Advay and his comrades with great authenticity, painting a vivid picture of the brotherhood that sustains soldiers through the most challenging times. These bonds, forged in the crucible of shared struggles, form a powerful emotional thread that runs through the narrative. The book also highlights the importance of roots and upbringing. Advay's ability to stay grounded despite his accomplishments stems from the values instilled in him during his childhood. This connection to his past gives him the strength to face the future with courage and purpose, a message that resonates universally!

Another compelling aspect of the book is the author's expressive writing style. His vivid descriptions transport the readers to the world of Advay, from the serene beauty of the Melghat forest to the high-stakes intensity of army life. The emotional depth of his storytelling ensures that every triumph and sacrifice feel personal and impactful. The pacing of the narrative keeps the readers engaged, balancing action-packed moments with introspective passages. The author's ability to convey complex emotions with simplicity and grace makes this title an emotionally resonant read.

Now, upon reaching the final part of the review, i.e. the **Book Verdict**, we can conclude that a title like "*The Warrior Owl*" is for sure a **MUST READ** one. The book deserves a chance from the readers as it is a heartfelt and inspiring tale that celebrates heroism, camaraderie, and the transformative power of purpose. Protagonist Advay Varma's journey from a humble village boy to a fearless army officer is a testament to the strength of character and the enduring values of dedication and sacrifice. This book is not just a tribute to the soldiers but also a universal story of resilience and self-discovery that will resonate with readers from all walks of life! In addition, how the author carried out the task of storytelling in his book is captivating enough to make the readers quench for more with every turn of the page, and this is something that makes this title reading worthy!

# **MEDIA COVERAGES**

- **AT THE 2024 BAL SAHITYA AWARDS, SAHITYA AKADEMI HONOURS 23 AUTHORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.**
- **RARE FIRST EDITION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AUCTIONED FOR £36,000**
- **GULZAR SAAB'S POETIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY CAGED...MEMORIES HAVE NAMES RELEASED BY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE INDIA**
- **S CHAND LAUNCHES NEP 2020-ALIGNED FUTURE SKILLS BOOK SERIES**

## AT THE 2024 BAL SAHITYA AWARDS, SAHITYA AKADEMI HONOURS 23 AUTHORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE.



The Sahitya Akademi presented the 2024 Bal Sahitya Awards to 23 writers in recognition of their outstanding contributions to children's books in various Indian languages. According to an official notification after the ceremony, each laureate received a copper plaque and a Rs 50,000 cash reward.

At the event's opening, Prof. Suryaprasad Dixit emphasized the value of writing children's books that are both captivating and aesthetically pleasing. He highlighted the necessity for material that appeals to children's psychology and piques their interest in topics ranging from thrilling adventures to motivational life stories.

Recognizing Literary Excellence Bharjin Jacob Mosahari for Bodo, Dipanwita Roy for Bengali, and Ranju Hazarika for Assamese were among the recipients. Other winners included Krishnamurthy Biligeri (Kannada), Gira Pinakin Bhatt (Gujarati), and Bishan Singh Dardi (Dogri). Harsha Sadguru Shetye (Konkani) and Muzaffar Hussain Dilbar (Kashmiri) were also honored with the award.

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A delegate accepted Nandini Sengupta's English award. Due to health concerns, a few honorees were unable to attend, including Lal Hotchandani (Sindhi), Shamsur Rahman Faruqi (Urdu), and Devendra Kumar (Hindi). This was the first time the awards were given out in Lucknow, a city renowned for its diverse culture.

Promoting Cultural Heritage Kumud Sharma, vice president of Sahitya Akademi, thanked the recipients and emphasized how children's books foster psychological fortitude and creativity. This was the first time these prizes were awarded in Lucknow, a city known for its rich cultural heritage, according to Secretary K Srinivas Rao. Founded in 1954 as India's National Academy of Letters, the Sahitya Akademi launched the Bal Sahitya Akademi Awards in 2010. The organization serves as a major center for literary discussion, publishing, and promotion across the country.

Narayanji (Maithili), Unni Ammayambalam (Malayalam), Kshetrimayum Suvadani (Manipuri), Bharat Sasne (Marathi), Vasant Thapa (Nepali), Manas Ranjan Samal (Odia), Kuldeep Singh Deep (Punjabi), Prahlad Singh Jhora (Rajasthani), Harshdev Madhav (Sanskrit), Dugai Tudu (Santali), Yuma Vasuki (Tamil), and Pamidimukkala Chandrashekar Azad (Telugu) were among the authors honored at the event.

The honors highlight the value of children's books in encouraging young readers' creativity and education. The Sahitya Akademi continues to support varied storylines that enhance India's literary landscape by honoring these writers.

## RARE FIRST EDITION OF HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE AUCTIONED FOR £36,000



A rare first edition of **J.K. Rowling's** *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* has fetched a remarkable £36,000 at an auction in Lichfield, Staffordshire. Originally sold for just £10 back in 1997, this particular copy belongs to the initial print run of 500 hardback copies that launched the global phenomenon. The book's owner, Christine McCulloch, purchased it for her son Adam from a Stratford-upon-Avon bookstore, unaware of the future value it would hold. The auction, held on Wednesday, saw the final bidder pay £45,000 in total, including the buyer's premium, according to the BBC.

### A Hidden Treasure Rediscovered

Adam McCulloch, from Tansley, Derbyshire, recalled how the book was tucked away in a cupboard under the stairs of their old Chesterfield home. It wasn't until the 2020 lockdown, after hearing about the rising value of first editions, that they realized the treasure they had in their possession. Describing the discovery as a "pinch yourself moment," Adam shared how the book carried sentimental value too. "It had tea stains and a folded-over corner—marks of someone truly enjoying the read," he said, adding that these imperfections only added to the magic of the story.

His mother Christine fondly remembered the day she bought the book, saying, "Adam loved it, and it sparked a fascination, just as it has for millions of children around the world since."

Adam decided it was the right time to part with the book, but its journey and the memories it holds remain priceless to him.

### About *Harry Potter*

The *Harry Potter* series, penned by British author J.K. Rowling, is a seven-book saga that has become one of the most beloved and influential literary works in modern history. Spanning over a decade, the series tells the magical story of Harry Potter, a young wizard who discovers his extraordinary heritage on his eleventh birthday.

At the heart of the series is Harry's journey at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, a magical institution where he learns spellcasting, forms lifelong friendships, and confronts the dark forces threatening the wizarding world. Alongside his best friends, Hermione Granger—a brilliant and resourceful witch—and Ron Weasley, a loyal and courageous companion, Harry embarks on thrilling adventures filled with danger, mystery, and personal growth. The books follow Harry's struggles against the dark wizard Lord Voldemort, who is intent on conquering both the wizarding and Muggle worlds. Each instalment deepens the story, exploring themes of love, friendship, courage, and the power of choice in shaping destiny. Since the release of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 1997 (known as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in the U.S.), the series has captivated readers of all ages worldwide. It has sold hundreds of millions of copies, been translated into more than 80 languages, and inspired a blockbuster film franchise, theme parks, and countless fan creations. Beyond its success as a global phenomenon, *Harry Potter* is cherished for the rich world it builds, the memorable characters it introduces, and the enduring messages it imparts. Whether read as a childhood favourite or revisited as an adult, the series remains a cornerstone of contemporary literature and a timeless tale of hope and resilience.

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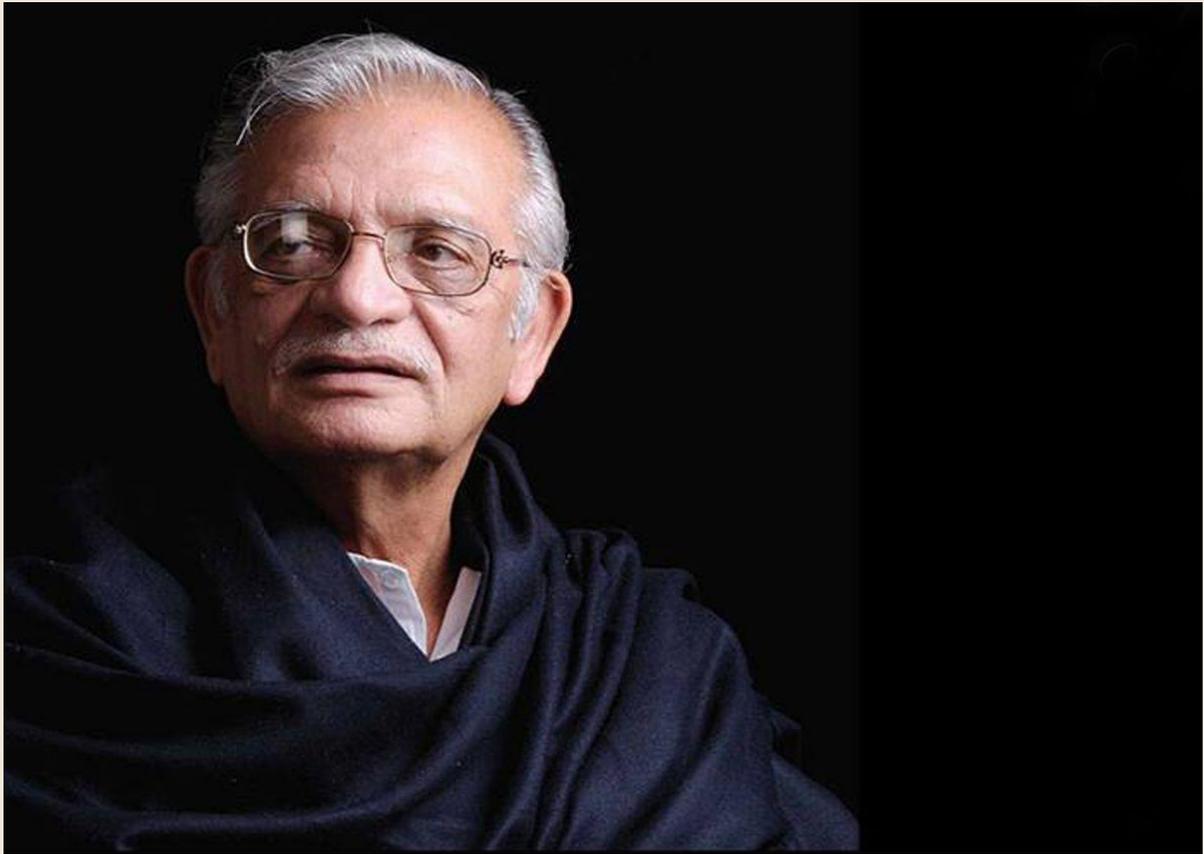


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## GULZAR SAAB'S POETIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY CAGED...MEMORIES HAVE NAMES RELEASED BY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE INDIA



**R**enowned poet, lyricist, and storyteller Gulzar Saab invites readers on an intimate journey into his life with his latest work, *Caged...Memories Have Names*. Published by Penguin Random House India, this deeply personal collection is a poetic autobiography that blends memory and verse, offering a glimpse into the celebrated artist's inner world. In *Caged*, Gulzar Saab weaves a tapestry of emotions, reflecting on his father, whom he fondly calls "Abbu" in cherished memories, and his quest for his "Ma" within his existence. The book paints vivid portraits of cultural icons like Birju Maharaj, Mehdi Hasan, Pancham, and Asha Bhosle, capturing their essence through the lens of poetry.

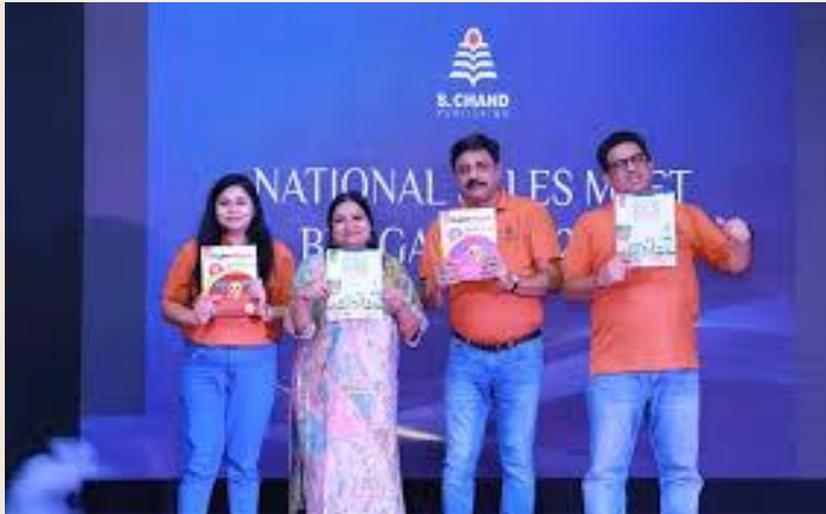
Readers will also find heartfelt tributes to the people who have enriched Gulzar Saab's life—Meghna, Raakhee ji, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Javed Akhtar Saab, among others.

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From Rumi's mysticism to Pablo Neruda's passion and Jibanananda Das's poignancy, Gulzar Saab's influences are as diverse as the hues of a rainbow. His words are steeped in memories and silken bonds of love, affection, and nostalgia, preserved for now and forever. This marks Gulzar Saab's first autobiography in verse, a unique blend of poetry and memoir that reflects his unmatched ability to evoke raw, universal emotions.

**About the Poet:** Gulzar, born Sampuran Singh Kalra in Dina, Jhelum (now in Pakistan), is one of India's most celebrated literary and cinematic icons. A prolific poet, lyricist, novelist, playwright, filmmaker, and scriptwriter, he has redefined creative expression with his originality. From winning an Oscar and Grammy for the globally acclaimed song "Jai Ho" to receiving the Padma Bhushan, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and the Jnanpith Award in 2024, Gulzar Saab's accolades are a testament to his extraordinary contributions to literature and cinema. Despite his success in films, Gulzar Saab has remained deeply connected to serious literature, with his works appearing in publications across India and Pakistan. His literary journey began under the mentorship of Pakistani writer Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, whom he lovingly referred to as "Baba." His writing, often inspired by personal trials, such as the loss of his mother and his turbulent early years, carries a depth and authenticity that resonates with readers worldwide.

## S CHAND LAUNCHES NEP 2020-ALIGNED FUTURE SKILLS BOOK SERIES



**S** Chand Publishing has introduced three exciting book series—CodeSync, CyberSync, and Artificial Intelligence—designed to prepare students for a tech-driven future. These series align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aim to equip young learners with essential skills in coding, computer science, and artificial intelligence (AI). **The Need for Future Skills**

In today's digital world, understanding technology is no longer optional. Skills like coding, problem-solving, and logical thinking are crucial for students to excel in the fast-changing tech landscape.

These subjects not only prepare students for future careers but also help them develop creativity and adaptability.

Jitendra Agnihotri, CEO of school education at S Chand Publishing, highlighted the goal of these series: to build a strong foundation in computer science and AI, ensuring students are ready to lead in a technology-driven world.

### Highlights of the New Series

#### • CodeSync

Designed for students from Grades 1 to 8, CodeSync focuses on the basics of coding. Aligned with NEP 2020, the series includes activities that teach reasoning, data processing, and algorithmic thinking. Students will engage in both block-based and text-based coding using a platform developed by Clevered, which is AICTE-approved and reviewed by an Oxford University professor.

#### • CyberSync

Also for Grades 1 to 8, CyberSync covers core computer science and AI concepts. It introduces students to everything from foundational to advanced topics, helping them understand the role of computers in every field. Aligned with NEP 2020, this series provides the groundwork for success in the digital age.

#### • Artificial Intelligence

Geared toward students in Grades 8 to 10, this series takes a deeper dive into AI, exploring areas like Natural Language Processing, Data Science, Neural Networks, and Computer Vision. These books not only teach the technical aspects of AI but also encourage students to think critically about its societal impact.

**A Vision for the Future:** Himanshu Gupta, Managing Director of S Chand Group, shared, "These books are designed to help students develop 21st-century skills like critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, preparing them for the challenges of tomorrow."

Saurabh Mittal, CFO at S Chand Group, added, "This new series reflects our commitment to empowering students with the tools they need to thrive in the evolving digital landscape. By focusing on coding, AI, and computer science, we're laying the foundation for the innovators of the future."

With these book series, S Chand Publishing continues its mission to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

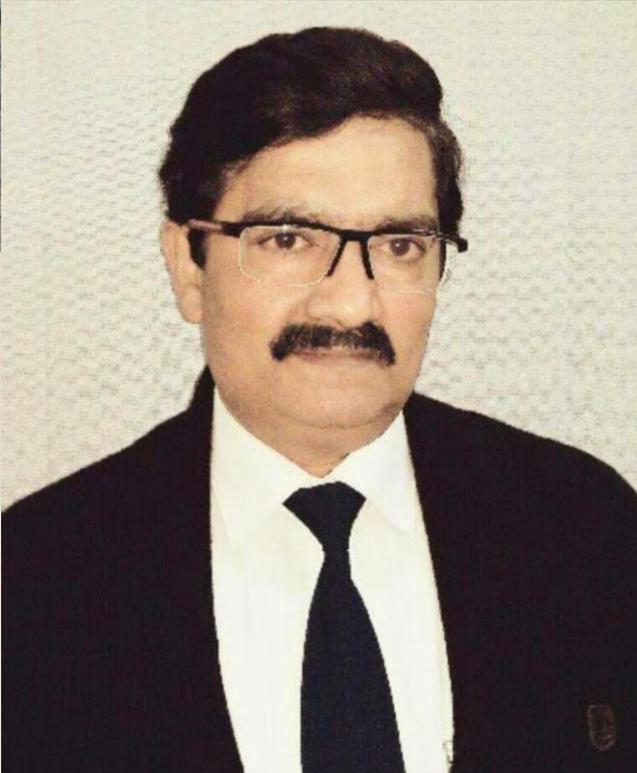
# **INSIDE STORY**

- **AWAKENING THE CONSCIENCE: PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS**
- **HIMACHAL TEMPLES & THE BENGAL CONNECTION: WHY TEMPLES OF MANDI, KULLU RESEMBLE THEIR BENGAL COUNTERPARTS**



# AWAKENING THE CONSCIENCE: PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS

AN ARTICLE BY SAJAL SEN



**My dear Youth,**

The world needs your energy, creativity, and courage. Believe in your ability to shape a brighter future. Dare to dream big, act with integrity, and define what sustainable success means to you. It is within your reach to discover ultimate happiness in life.

**Let us explore this together.**

We live in a threefold existence: past, present, and future. Life is an ever-changing landscape, filled with fleeting moments, new trends, and shifting surroundings. The fast-paced world we navigate today brings with it conflicting mindsets, technological advancements, and the constant pressure of survival and growth. Challenges have become the new normal. In this whirlwind, we face distractions, temptations, and intense competition.

The global scenario—with its rapid geopolitical shifts and ecological changes—calls for resilience and adaptability. Stress often accompanies these demands, and to rise above it, we must cultivate strength within ourselves. While continuous learning and mindful living are essential, spiritual awakening is equally vital. It helps us achieve a harmonious balance among our psychological, emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Awakening to our spiritual self is not an abstract concept; it is a transformative practice. By connecting our daily activities (the microcosm) to the larger universe (the macrocosm), we find purpose and meaning. Meditation and soulful prayers bring calmness to our minds, enhancing our focus, decision-making, and resilience. These tools allow us to face life's challenges with dignity and grace. Spiritual awakening fosters patience, enabling us to trust the process of life. It encourages us to embrace challenges as stepping stones for growth. Far from being mystical or unattainable, it is a journey that aligns our inner self with our greater purpose.

By awakening our sixth sense and extra-sensory perception (ESP), we gain clarity and see the bigger picture. In a world enamoured with materialism and glittering achievements, spirituality offers balance, clarity, and a profound sense of fulfilment.

How does spiritual awakening guide us toward sustainable success and true happiness?

#### 1. Understanding Our True Self

Spiritual awakening helps us see who we truly are, beyond societal roles and expectations. It connects us to our inner values and purpose, forming a solid foundation for a meaningful life journey.

#### 2. Cultivating Gratitude

Life's essence lies in gratitude. We enter the world empty-handed and leave the same way. Expressing gratitude opens our hearts to positivity and optimism—qualities essential for success and happiness. When combined with meditation and soulful prayers, gratitude attracts blessings and good circumstances.

#### 3. Broadening Our Perspective

Life is not just about individual accomplishments. Spiritual awakening connects us to a higher purpose, inspiring us to contribute meaningfully to society and leave a lasting legacy. It nurtures empathy, compassion, and forgiveness, strengthening authentic relationships that stand as unwavering pillars in our life journey.

#### 4. Balancing Ambition with Compassion

Spiritual awakening does not demand detachment from success but guides us toward achieving it with balance and fulfilment. It harmonizes ambition with peace, effort with compassion, and individual goals with collective well-being.

Ultimately, life is about finding joy in every moment. True happiness lies in being in rhythm with our environment and elevating ourselves to a higher state of existence. By cherishing life, we create a deeper connection with our surroundings, bringing sustainable success and unshakable happiness.

Cherish Life 😊

**About Sajal:** Maj. Sajal Sen, a decorated veteran of the Indian Army, has led an extraordinary career blending valor, strategy, and innovation. With a decade of distinguished service in the Artillery Regiment, he mastered high-altitude operations, counter-insurgency tactics, joint rescue missions (esp. the National alert\_flood rescue mission in Bihar), including training the Royal Bhutan Army in the breathtaking terrains of Paro and Thimphu.

Transitioning seamlessly into corporate leadership, Maj. Sen brought his expertise in the senior management teams of prestigious organizations like Yamaha Motors, Upes university at Shillong Meghalaya and the Tata Group. He spearheaded key initiatives in HR, IR, operations, corporate communication, and sustainability while championing projects like the Green Delhi Drive and climate change campaigns. His legacy extends to fostering cultural enrichment and mentoring the next generation of leaders.

A passionate musician, dancer, and martial artist, Maj. Sen's creative pursuits resonate with his vibrant personality. Whether inspiring audiences as a guest speaker or composing music on his keyboard, he remains a beacon of excellence and inspiration.



## MONIDIPA DEY (BOSE) AUTHOR OF THE BOOK - HIMACHAL TEMPLES & THE BENGAL CONNECTION: WHY TEMPLES OF MANDI, KULLU RESEMBLE THEIR BENGAL COUNTERPARTS

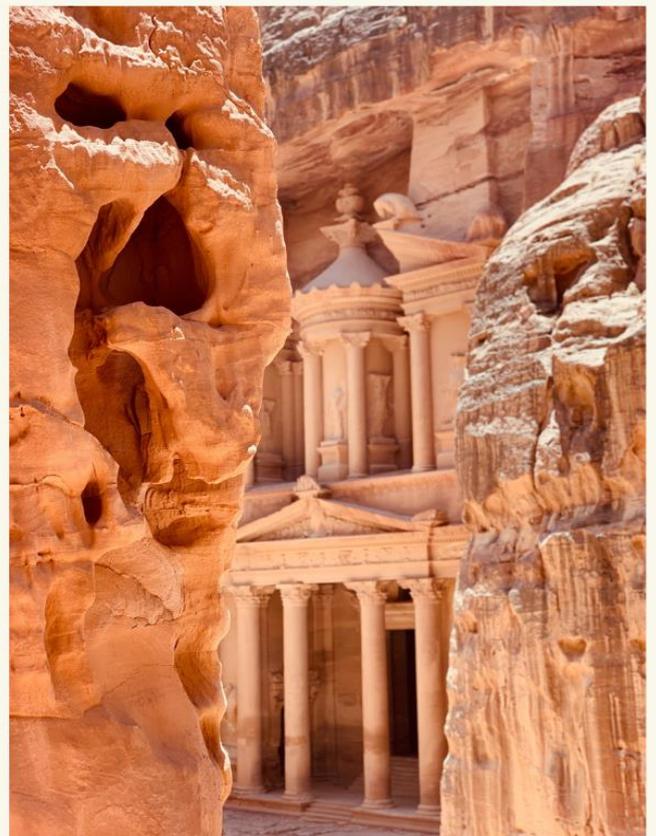
An eternal traveller, with wheels under her feet, Monidipa likes to travel frequently, and as she travels, she does what she loves doing the most: photograph the places, with the aim of documenting them for the future generations. Alongside photo documenting, she also writes about the places and monuments that she has visited mainly as blog articles on her website [MoniGatha \(monidipa.net\)](http://MoniGatha(monidipa.net)). Since her main area of interest is history with a particular focus on iconography, her blog posts attempt to share the heritage structures that she sees and the history behind them, while exploring the iconography behind the various temple sculptures.

**For a more formal introduction to Monidipa:** Born and brought up in Kolkata, Monidipa has stayed and worked in Kolkata, Mumbai, as well as in Delhi. A Master in Lifesciences, she did a further second Bachelor in Education, with the aim of becoming a teacher; however, fate had other plans. As she changed cities, she moved on to being a sales team leader, finally ending up as a freelance research writer.



She has also worked as an educational consultant, lesson plan developer, content creator, and a content reviewer. In the near past she has worked as the Head of Publications for a Delhi based NGO (Youth for Heritage Foundation), which was working towards creating general awareness about heritage. Following her love for photography and art, she has completed a one-year diploma course in photography from the Birla Institute of Management and Futuristic Studies (Kolkata), and a three-year art and craft course from the Ramkrishna Mission Seva Pratisthan (Kolkata). Monidipa has many of travel and heritage related photographs and articles featured and published in newspapers, print magazines, and various heritage-based portals.

**Her literary journey:** Monidipa has two peer-reviewed academic papers published in the KalaKalpa journal, which is a UGC-Care referred journal published by the IGNC- Ministry of Culture. Currently, as a columnist, she writes articles on history, heritage, and political history for the Firstpost and CNNNews18.





**Her recently published book:** Monidipa's book titled "Himachal Temples and the Bengal connection" was published by Garuda Prakashan this year on 23rd January. The purposes and science behind the building of a Hindu temple as given in the sastras is now mostly a forgotten chapter in the minds of a common Hindu. Why does one visit temples besides wanting to perform regular worship, is a question that rarely occurs in one's mind, yet, in the answer, lies the very basic essence of Hinduism: Moksha. Hindu temple visits are all aimed at union with the Supreme Consciousness, which is attaining moksha; and the sculptures that are seen on the ancient and medieval temples all help in the journey. The first half of her book aims at trying to explain some of these forgotten ancient philosophies behind the Hindu temples, their architecture, and temple iconography. It takes a look at the meaning of a Hindu temple as per the scriptures and what is its meaning in the daily life of a Hindu, while giving a brief explanation of the Vastu Shastra that is followed in building a Hindu temple. It also gives an insight into the basics of a Hindu temple architecture that discusses the various parts of a Hindu temple. The second half of her book explores the wonderful blend of folk culture and Hinduism in Himachal Pradesh, and the rarely discussed connection between Himachal Pradesh and Bengal. Scattered across Kullu and Mandi Valleys are temples that bear similarities with the medieval Pala and Sena era temples seen in the Eastern state, and her book takes a closer look at that early medieval connection between Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.

**The inspiration behind her book:** The main inspiration behind her book was the aim to make the common people aware of the ancient meanings behind Hindu temples, the temple architecture, and the various sculptures that are seen in our temples.

Having lost regular touch with ancient texts, most of the Indic ancient knowledge on these topics remain forgotten, and people don't know their relevance or fail to understand the various contexts associated with these topics. With her book she aimed at bringing these segments of the forgotten knowledge into the common man's limelight, and helping Hindus to gain a basic understanding of why Hindu temples are built, the vastu behind building a temple, and the meanings behind the sculptures that are seen on ancient and medieval temples. Monidipa feels that such kinds of knowledge are our very roots, and unless we know and understand our roots very well, it will be easy to lead us astray. Her writing on the Bengal and Himachal Pradesh connection was motivated by a priest in Baijnath temple in Kullu valley in Himachal Pradesh, when he told her about how the Pala kings from Bengal had ruled the Kullu area and how they had brought in various varnas from Bengal and settled them in that region, thus making many of the current inhabitants of the Kullu area descendants of these Bengali varnas. His discussions made her research further on the topic and learn about the migration about the Pala and Sena royal family members from Bengal to Himachal Pradesh, which she has documented in the second half of the book.

**Her future plans for writing:** She will soon be starting with the manuscript on her second book on another topic that has been very carefully ignored in Indian history. Besides that, her articles for the Firstpost and CNNnews18 will keep taking up various topics on history, heritage, and political history.

# **AUTHOR STORY ARTICLES**

- **YOGESH NAIR**
- **ARNAB BASU**

Yogesh Nair's debut novel, *The Warrior Owl*, is a powerful narrative that takes readers on a transformative journey through the life of Advay Varma, a man whose wisdom and courage shape his destiny. Nicknamed 'Owl' for his profound sagacity, Advay's story begins with the quiet strength of intellect but evolves into the valorous path of a soldier dedicated to his nation.

The novel is not just about the protagonist's military prowess but also a tribute to the bonds of friendship, love, and service. As Advay transitions from an insightful young man into a fearless Army officer, the narrative beautifully captures the essence of courage, patriotism, and loyalty. His journey reflects what it means to wear the uniform—marked by moments of selfless sacrifice, commitment to a cause greater than oneself, and the determination to support those who need him the most, including incapacitated fellow veterans.

Through the pages of *The Warrior Owl*, Nair weaves a story that resonates deeply with readers, shining a light on the values of tenacity, persistence, and unwavering dedication. The protagonist's experiences reflect the inner battles that every soldier faces, and his triumphs remind us of the resilience required to serve both in war and peace. At its core, *The Warrior Owl* is more than just a fictional account—it is a heartfelt tribute to the heroic values that define not only soldiers but anyone who dares to live with courage and conviction. Advay's journey serves as a beacon of inspiration, urging readers to cherish life, nurture relationships, and appreciate the bonds that sustain us during challenging times.



Yogesh Nair, an Army officer himself, draws from his personal experiences and insights to craft this evocative narrative. His passion for storytelling reflects the depth of his connection to the stories of those around him—fellow officers, friends, and comrades. For Nair, *The Warrior Owl* is not just a work of fiction; it is a personal endeavour to pay homage to his comrades and their unyielding spirit. His storytelling serves as a reminder that even in the most demanding circumstances, human connections and camaraderie can become lifelines. Nair's words echo a deep sense of gratitude for those who have stood beside him, both on and off the battlefield.

In addition to narrating the personal and professional growth of his protagonist, Nair's novel subtly encourages readers to reflect on their own lives. It inspires a sense of purpose, urging individuals to recognize their inner strength and the importance of contributing to society. Through Advay's story, Nair underscores the idea that heroism is not limited to battlefields—it can be found in the small acts of kindness, the unwavering support of friends, and the quiet perseverance in the face of adversity.

The themes in *The Warrior Owl*—valor, friendship, love, and sacrifice—are universal, making the novel accessible to a wide audience. Whether readers have experienced military life or not, they are sure to connect with the emotions that run through the narrative. Nair’s writing invites readers to journey alongside Advay, feeling every triumph and setback as though they were their own.

With this debut, Yogesh Nair not only establishes himself as a storyteller of note but also shares a piece of his heart with the world. His literary journey, much like the journey of his protagonist, is driven by a purpose larger than himself. Writing *The Warrior Owl* has allowed him to express his gratitude to those who have shaped his life and to extend a call to action—reminding readers of the value of service, love, and resilience.

In every chapter, *The Warrior Owl* resonates with the ideals of bravery and brotherhood, values that Nair holds close to his heart as an Army officer. His debut novel stands as both a tribute to his comrades and a gift to his readers—a story of wisdom transformed into valor and a life dedicated to purpose.

### About the Author

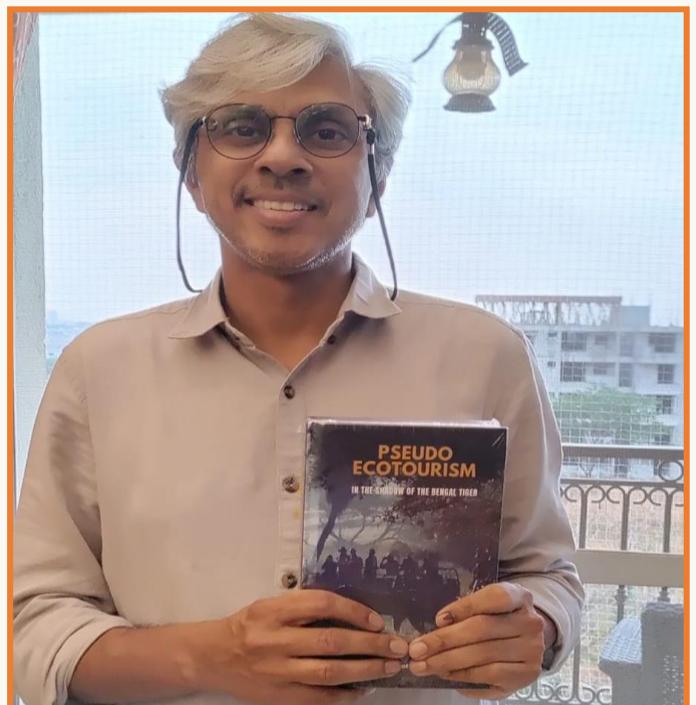
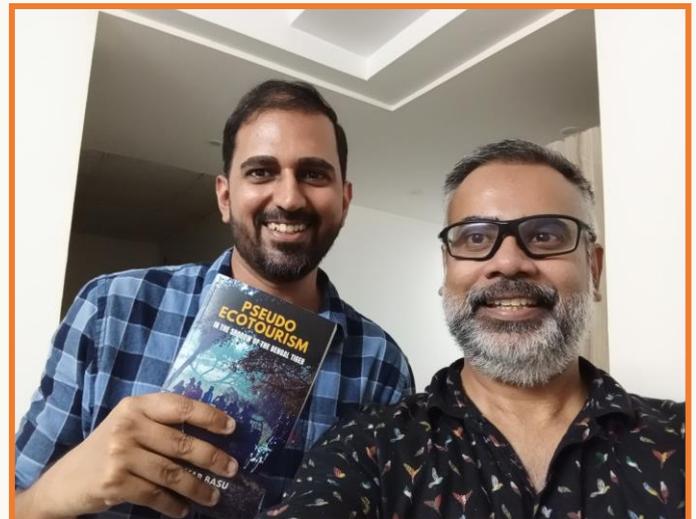
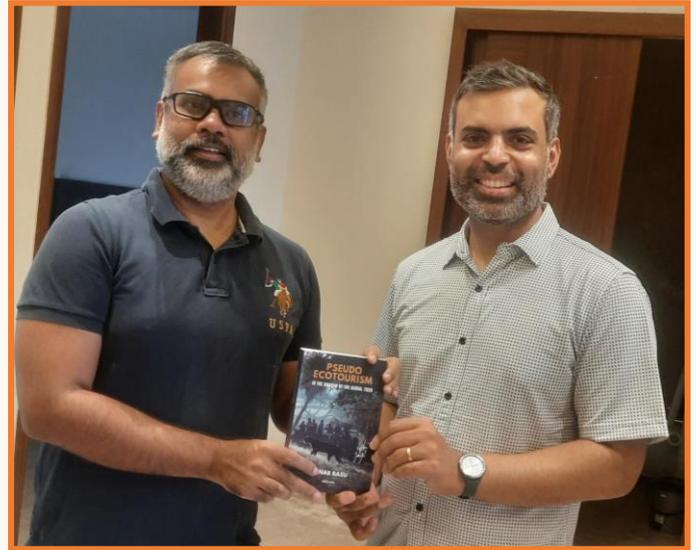
Yogesh Nair, an Army officer, has always been passionate about his service and the stories life holds. With the release of his first book, he aims to share the profound experiences of friendship, camaraderie, love, sacrifice, and bravery that define the journey of a common man. Through his vivid storytelling, Yogesh hopes to inspire readers to value life, appreciate the bonds of friends and family, and recognize the challenges one faces in life. His book is not just a story but a heartfelt tribute to his comrades and a call to give back to society, reflecting his unwavering dedication to his country and fellow citizens.

# ARNAB BASU: A SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTANT AND AN ISSN - 2583-2263 ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER.

Arnab Basu is a seasoned sustainability consultant, environmental writer, and passionate wildlife enthusiast with over two decades of experience in advisory roles related to sustainability, nature-based solutions, and environmental law. He wears many hats, blending his professional expertise with a personal passion for exploring the natural world and advocating for its preservation. Through his work and hobbies, he has cultivated a unique perspective on the intricate relationship between humans and the environment.

Arnab is also an accomplished author, known for his previous works, *A Silver Lining in the Ease of Doing Business Conundrum* and *The Journey Through Holocene*, which reflect his depth of knowledge and critical insights into complex environmental and socio-economic issues. His latest book, *Pseudo Ecotourism*, published by Ukiyoto Publishing in April 2024, takes readers on an eye-opening journey into the challenges and ethical dilemmas surrounding ecotourism today. The book is available in both paperback and e-book formats across major online platforms.

With a deep love for wildlife and an eagerness to inspire others, Arnab's work goes beyond academic discourse, aiming to engage everyday readers and nature lovers. His thoughtful reflections, drawn from years of travel and observation in the forests and ecosystems of the Indian subcontinent, resonate with anyone who believes in a sustainable future. When he isn't immersed in his professional commitments, Arnab can be found behind the lens of a camera, capturing the beauty of nature or reflecting on how humanity can better coexist with the environment. Through his writing, Arnab hopes to spark meaningful conversations and encourage collective action for a more inclusive and sustainable approach to ecotourism and beyond.



# Quest

*Quest governs man's life.*

*Man's quest to create self identity*

*Makes him innovative and lively.*

*Man's quest for getting love*

*Makes him sensitive and humble*

*Man's quest for revenge*

*Makes him heartless and inhuman.*

*Man's quest to earn money*

*Makes him greedy and dissatisfied.*

*Man's quest for truth*

*Leads him towards almighty.*

*Man's quest for spirituality*

*Leads him unison with divine.*

-

*Dr. Mayurkumar Mukundbhai Solanki*

# Why David by Michaelangelo

*Here David,*

*An art of an unattempted sin,  
Standing alone carried a man's dust  
Without female gaze*

*Manliness scattered by every touch  
Never craved my inner darings*

*With unstoppable force of nature Angelo left me alone with an inner imitation  
Desire violently and wait  
When you don't find how to fix  
You could solve nothing  
Still find peace and await in the wild*

*My whole has softness with strength,  
sexual still spiritual,  
independent yet connected,  
flawed and sacred  
deeply rooted but free*

*I'm a man of many shades  
who I'm now, never defines me  
Not a star kind but a supernova  
Angelo set me free  
Never need, want to be imprisoned*

*As just a dust of man  
Angelo left me alone with an inner imitation  
Obsessively and incessantly  
Something in me,  
Wants more to turn up everything*

*To carve to crave me again  
Tea, Kiss and sculpting  
Never be completed with eyes open  
Need Aphrodite woman to retouch my entire  
Waiting to turn up everything  
On the edge for the blindfolded Aphrodite woman.....*

Prof. Ramya, an author and tribal researcher, is currently pursuing doctoral research in tribal literature. Her research focuses on tribal life and culture in states such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and others. She extends her research to explore hidden social issues in India.

Prof. Ramya is particularly committed to empowering education and promoting sustainable livelihoods among tribes in Tamil Nadu. She has authored numerous research articles on tribes, and her work has been featured in reputed publications like *Outlook India*, *Indian Express*, *Pioneer*, *Mathrubhumi*, *Navjeevan*, *Ground Report*, and others.

She has also written books titled *Voice of India* and *The Outlook*. Additionally, her poems have been published in various esteemed magazines, including *The Literary Mirror*, *Today Magazine*, and beyond.



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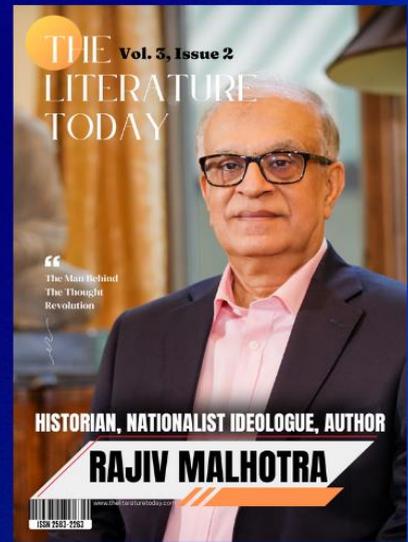
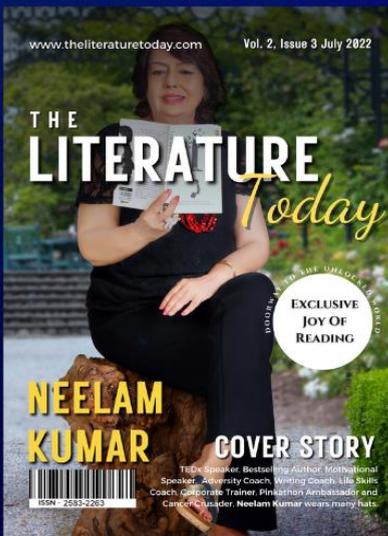
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