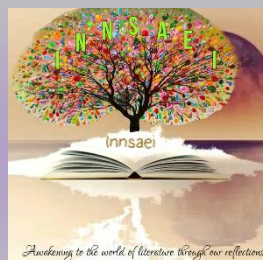


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VISION

An honest voice having the vision to provide a vibrant literary culture with the creative writers with the literary commune to promote peace and humanity in the society.

MISSION

1. To provide a vibrant literary culture among the creative writers.
2. To encourage the development of poets and writers in society.
3. An initiative to promote peace and humanity in society.
4. To provide an ambience among the literary communities to work together for a common cause.
5. To provide a platform for human expression for the deep inner expression of suppressed thoughts.
6. To encourage hidden voices from the grass-root contributors allowing them to express human values.

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June 2023 Edition...

FOUNDERS' VOICE

Founders' Voice

Dear Readers...

Greetings and sincere apologies... !!!

The Journey Took a Break for a long while for certain reasons ... but after a break, it's moving towards its Beautiful Destination...

And we are back with wonderful energy and invite all our readers and contributors in our INNSÆI Family once again...

The literary journey of INNSÆI Journal took another significant mode with the organization of INNSÆI International Poetry Conclave, Pune 23. The March issue has been devoted to the Poetry Conclave event. The Pleasant, Refreshing and Multifaceted poetry recitations won the hearts of the online and in-person audience, which are presented for our global audience.

This issue includes the submissions from our dear contributors.

We assure you that the journey ahead will be beautiful... The literary journey cannot be one's own... The Journal is yours... ours... your words will replicate the hearts of each other.

The world is still under the silhouettes of the War which is eroding the hearts of the compassionate and peace-loving souls..... What is in our hands is to spread Love, Compassion and Humanity. The Journal has been devoted to the cause right from its inception.

We hope more and more travellers join the journey.

We wish to offer our sincere efforts in your auspicious hands...

INNSÆI... is in the continuous process to light the path of the readers.

So,

We pray...

Let all the strings of human hearts be joined to create Harmony in the world...

Let all the music orchestrate itself for Peace in the world ...

Let the world be a beautiful and heavenly abode forever ...

Adieu...

Tejaswini Patil, Ph.D.

Aditi Barve

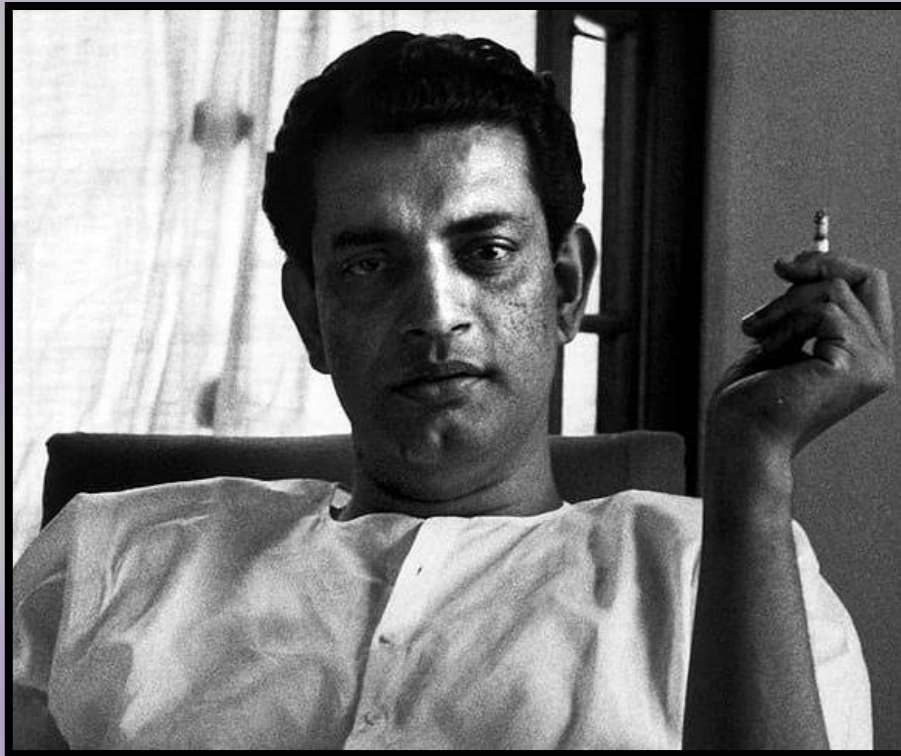
Executive Directors,

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COVER STORY

COVER STORY

Satyajit Ray - 2 May 1921 – 23 April 1992

**The Art of Realism and Humanistic Vision: The Enduring Legacy of Satyajit Ray
in Indian and Global Cinematic Landscape**

By Ms Sweta Kumar (India)

Editorial Board Member, INNSÆI

International Journal of Creative Literature for Peace and Humanity

The quiet but deep observation, understanding and love of the human race, which are characteristic of all his films, have impressed me greatly. ... I feel that he is a “giant” of the movie industry... Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon.

- Akira Kurosawa

Satyajit Ray, an acclaimed filmmaker in the history of cinema, remains an iconic figure in terms of his realistic, artistic and humanistic vision. Ray's life and works continue to inspire

generations of filmmakers worldwide. His enduring legacy as a renowned auteur, litterateur, composer, illustrator, his groundbreaking films, and the ever-lasting impact of his art on the Indian and global cinematic landscape is unparalleled. His films are significant to throw light upon the realistic human condition in the present contemporary world. Thus, Ray is widely celebrated for his prominent works including *The Apu Trilogy* (1955-1959), *The music Room* (1958), *Devi* (1960) *The Big City* (1963), *Charulata* (1964) and *The Goopy-Bagha*.

Satyajit Ray, a great master storyteller, holds an indelible cinematic heritage that is universal. He gave a new dimension to the cinematic world with his art of filmmaking and knitting a plot in a more realistic manner. Apart from these, Satyajit Ray is one of the first Indian filmmakers to gain international recognition for his works. In his article titled “Satyajit Ray and the art of Universalism”, published in *The New Republic* on April 1, 1996, Nobel Laureate, Amartya Sen remarks, “*The work of Satyajit Ray presents a remarkably insightful understanding of the relations between cultures, and his ideas remain pertinent to the great cultural debates in the contemporary world, not least in India.*”

Belonging from a family of accomplished artists, musicians, and writers, Satyajit Ray had an exposure to a diverse range of artistic influences, which contributed to the foundation for his artistic vision. As a filmmaker, Ray’s journey started in the 1940s with his association of the British-run advertising agency, D.J. Keymer, in Kolkata. While working in this advertising agency, he skilled himself with the art and craft of filmmaking from script writing to editing. Then Ray went to the University of London to study film. The works of European masters including Jean Renoir, Vittorio De Sica, and Federico Fellini had a great impact on Ray and shaped his artistic vision.

Realism in a true sense implies the quality or fact of representing an individual or a thing in a manner that is true to life. In Satyajit Ray's movie, we witness all his characters and settings in films are established with the touch of reality that one can relate and empathize with. Be it Charu from the film *Charulata* (1964), Dayamoyee from *Devi* (1960), Aarati from *Mahanagar* or Sidharth from *Pratidwandi* (1970). Even in his book, *Our Films Their Time*, Satyajit Ray opines:

I choose Pather Panchali for the qualities that made it a great book: its humanism, its lyricism and its ring of truth... but ...the script had to retain some of the rambling quality of the novel because that itself contained a clue to feel of authenticity: life in a poor Bangali village does ramble.

Satyajit Ray's debut film, *Pather Panchali* (1955), marked the beginning of a new era in the Indian film Industry. The film director, Akira Kurosawa remarks regarding *Pather Panchali* (1955), “I can never forget the excitement in my mind after seeing it (*Pather Panchali*). It is the kind of cinema that flows with the serenity and nobility of a big river”. The film is based on Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's novel exploring the life of a poor family in rural Bengal. *Pather Panchali* (1955) is a sensitive portrayal of human emotions and its realistic projection of poverty and societal issues. The film is critically acclaimed in India and across the world.

Pather Panchali is the first film in Ray's *Apu Trilogy* and the other two being included *Aparajito* (1956) and *Apur Sansar* (1959). The trilogy spanned over a decade, chronicling the life of Apu, a poor Bengali boy, as he grew into a young man. *The Apu Trilogy* remains a seminal work in the history of Indian cinema and is regarded one of the greatest achievements of world cinema. In his book *The Cinema of Satyajit Ray: Between Tradition and Modernity* (2000), Darius Cooper, a film critic, notes regarding Ray's projection of the contemporary world from a social and historical perspective, “In film after film, he investigates India's social institutions and the power structures to which they give rise, or vice versa. He works out, in concrete terms, the conflicts and issues of his times, both in his own state of Bengal and in the larger Indian nation.” Therefore, *Pather Panchali* is a unique blend of both realism and humanism. To say, this film proved that cinema can be a medium to narrate a real human life story taking place in real time.

Ray's films are remarkable for the manifestation of humanism and realism, and the search for the truth. The narrative of his films is rooted in the realities of life in India. The characters and settings are from his personal life-experiences and observations. Ray's films cover a wider range of social issues, from poverty and inequality to religion and tradition. He is a master at capturing the nuances of human emotions and relationships, and thus his films are marvelous for capturing sensitivity and depth.

Satyajit Ray's accomplishments as a writer, illustrator, and composer are evident in his film scripts, which are comprehensive, detailed and nuanced. He often blended Indian classical

and folk music with Western orchestration, adding a unique dimension to his films. Ray's impact on Indian cinema is immeasurable. Akira Kurosawa observes with regard to his humanistic touch in his films. His films inspired a generation of filmmakers who were drawn to his realism, humanism, and artistic vision. His legacy can be witnessed in the works of some of India's most celebrated directors and filmmakers, including Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Shyam Benegal, and Mira Nair and many others. Nominating Ray for Life Time Achievement Oscar, in 1991, the film director, James Ivory remarks:

Satyajit Ray is among the world's greatest directors, living or dead...Isn't it curious that the newest, the most modern of the arts, has found one of its deepest, most fluent expressions in the work of an artist like Ray, who must make his seem less films—many have been masterpieces—in a chaotic and volatile corner of one of the world's oldest cultures, amidst the most stringent shortages of today's advanced movie-making material and equipment?...It would be fitting to honour this great man, who has influenced so many other film makers in all parts of the world, and to salute him with a Lifetime Award in the spring of 1992.

About the Author



Ms Sweta Kumari (India)

Sweta Kumari (Gold Medalist, M.A. & NET in English), a bilingual award-winning poet, writer, editor & cultural activist, is currently, pursuing her research on her doctoral project entitled "Dialectics of Feminism in Select Hindi Films and Film Adaptations of Indian English Novels (1960-2010)" at Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar. Her areas of interest are Feminist Film Studies and contemporary issues. She has contributed her creative writings to various national and international anthologies, magazines, and journals. She has presented her research papers at national and international seminars and conferences. She has to her credit several of her research papers published in national and international journals, proceedings and in the edited books. She has also been awarded with various literary awards for her creative writings. Apart from this, she has also hosted some events including some interviews as well literary Poetry festivals as co-convener. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journals including *Global Literati Insight Research Journal* and *Innsaei: International Journal Of Creative Literature, Art, Translation and Research For Peace and Humanity*. Besides, she is an executive committee member of Progressive Literary & Cultural Society and a regional director from Bihar at Suryodaya Literary Foundation. Moreover, she edited and published her book anthologies.

INTERVIEW

An Erudite Conversation with the Poet, Writer, Filmmaker and Actor



Hon. Kalpna Singh-Chitnis (India- America)

Kalpna Singh-Chitnis is an Indian-American poet, writer, filmmaker, and author of five poetry collections. Her works have appeared in notable journals such as "World Literature Today," "Columbia Journal," "Tupelo Quarterly," "Cold Mountain Review," "Indian Literature," "Vsesvit," "Silk Routes" (IWP) at The University of Iowa, Stanford University's "Life in Quarantine," etc. Her poetry has been translated into sixteen languages. Her latest poetry collection "Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava" (River Paw Press, 2023) has been translated into Ukrainian by poet and translator Volodymyr Tymchuk, also a Lieutenant Colonel of The Armed Forces of Ukraine. Nominated for the Pushcart Prize, she is the recipient of the Naji Naman Literary Prize, Rajiv Gandhi Global Excellence Award, and Bihar Rajbhasha Award, given by the government of Bihar, India. Poems from her award-winning book "Bare Soul" and her poetry film "River of Songs" have been included in the "Nova Collection" and the "Polaris Collection" of Lunar Codex time capsule, set to go to the moon with NASA's missions in 2023. A former lecturer of Political Science and Editor-in-Chief of "Life and Legends," she is also an Advocacy Member at the United Nations Association of the USA. Her sixth poetry collection "Trespassing My Ancestral Lands" is forthcoming from the Finishing Line Press in 2024. Website: www.kalpnasinghchitnis.com

An Erudite Conversation with the Poet, Writer, Filmmaker and Actor

Hon. Kalpna Singh-Chitnis (India-America)

by Sweta Kumari (India)

Sweta Kumari : Welcome to the interview chamber of Innsaei Journal, Kalpna Ma'am!.

Kalpna Singh-Chitnis : Thank you very much for inviting me.

1. Sweta: You started writing poetry at the young age of fourteen. What inspired you to write, and how did you thrive in it?

Kalpna: As a young poet, I was mesmerized and often moved by the beauty of nature. I was somewhat of a serious child, interested in things children of my age would rarely touch. The first poem I wrote was when I was thirteen or fourteen, about the nature of impermanence. My childhood home in India overlooked a cemetery. In winter, red flowers from a Silk Cotton (Semal) tree would fall on the graves. My first poem was about the short life of these flowers. This poem, along with some others I wrote around the same time, got published in a magazine named Garima Bharti from Lucknow. The magazine was edited by Ramakant Shrivastava, a senior poet and journalist, and this is how my journey as a poet began.

2. Sweta: What inspired you to move from Bodhgaya in Bihar, India to the United States in 1994? And how has your upbringing in India influenced your work as a poet, writer, filmmaker, and actor in the US?

Kalpna: There was a good reason. I got married to an American citizen, and moving to the USA was expected. My upbringing has a lot to do with who I am as an individual, poet, and artist. The values I learned from my family and Indian culture are deeply ingrained in me. India throbs in my heart and flows into my veins.

3. Sweta: Your first poetry collection, "Chand Ka Paivand" (Patch of Moon), was published when you were just twenty. Could you tell us more about the themes and

inspirations behind "Chand Ka Paivand?" Does this book reflect your personal experiences? If so, how?

Kalpna: The poems in "Chand Ka Paivand" explore a range of themes. While most of the poems delve into philosophical subjects, the rest address socio-political issues. Indeed, they are rooted in my experiences growing up in India.

4. Sweta: You left a promising career as a lecturer in Political Science to become an actor and director. Could you share more about your decision to change careers and how you navigated this transition?

Kalpna: I didn't leave my career as a lecturer in Political Science for acting and directing. When I moved to the USA, I couldn't immediately resume teaching at a college. To do so, I would have had to complete another Master's degree in my subject from a university in the USA. Therefore, I decided to obtain a degree in film directing instead, and I graduated from NYFA in film directing in 2004. My involvement in film and theatre acting has only been part-time. I never made acting my career, despite it being my first love. I still enjoy taking on roles whenever possible, mainly in my own productions.

5. Sweta: How did you become involved in advocacy work with the United Nations Association of the USA? What inspired you to establish the Silent River Film Festival and Silent River Film and Literary Society? How has your education in film directing from NYFA helped to groom your career as an independent filmmaker in Hollywood? How do you balance your various creative pursuits with your advocacy work, and how do you see the intersection of art and activism in your life and work?

Kalpna: There are many questions here, and I will try to answer them as best as I can. I established the Silent River Film and Literary Society and the Silent River Film Festival to bridge the gap between the East and West through the mediums of art, literature, and cinema. This goal led me to become involved with the United Nations Association of the USA. An education in film directing was a necessity in the USA, unlike in India where we have the "Guru Shishya Parampara", a tradition where you learn filmmaking skills by working with directors or mentors in your specific fields for years. My creative pursuits complement the sustainable goals of my advocacy work at the United Nations Association of the USA. Art frequently intersects with activism. However, I believe in creative activism,

which isn't "for or against" anyone in our society but aims for the collective well-being of everyone on the planet.

6. Sweta: As both the Editor-in-Chief of "Life and Legends" and the Translation Editor of "IHRAF Literary" in New York, how do you approach the task of bringing other writers' work to a wider audience through translation and publication?

Kalpna: There is a significant amount of work that goes into what we publish in both journals. We do not solicit submissions. Instead, poets and writers send us their unsolicited works. A team of editors reviews every piece before making the final selections for international readership. IHRAF Literary is a magazine operated by the International Human Rights Art Festival. It's a rewarding experience to be on the editorial board of IHRAF, as we bring forth diverse voices and raise awareness about Human Rights issues. "Life and Legends" shares similar goals, although the magazine is currently on hiatus.

7. Sweta: While going through your works, I found that your poetry has been compared to Walt Whitman's. As a poet, how do you feel about your work being compared to Walt Whitman's poetry? And how do you approach incorporating such cross-cultural and universal themes into your poetry?

Kalpna: My poems being compared to Walt Whitman's poetry felt surreal. This comparison was made by Jack Foley, an American poet and critic, after he read my poetry collection, Bare Soul, and wrote about it. I still pinch myself when I read his words.

However, I do not make a conscious choice to incorporate cross-cultural themes in my works. Whatever I have written and continue to write comes spontaneously in my works. My poetry, mostly universal in nature, has resonated with readers globally, and I am humbled and grateful.

8. Sweta: Can you tell us about the Lunar Codex project? How do you think the inclusion of such a diverse range of art and culture in the Lunar Codex, including the works of women artists and various forms of literature and media, will impact future generations and their perception of art and culture on a global scale?

Kalpna: The Lunar Codex is a project archiving the works of over 30,000 contemporary artists, writers, musicians, and filmmakers from more than 150 countries on the Moon. This is an exciting project that brings the future of humanity into space. My poems and poetry film, "River of Songs," which are part of the Lunar Codex project, are set to go to the moon with NASA's mission in 2023. Future generations will someday have the chance to experience the art and literature of our planet in space. This idea is revolutionary and truly expands the potential of humanity.

9. Sweta: As the writer and director of the poetry film titled "River of Songs," how do you approach the creative process of translating poetry into a visual medium, and what unique opportunities and challenges does this process present?

Kalpna: "River of Songs" is a poetry film. It did not involve all aspects of making a film that you would normally see in theatres. However, my goal was to create a narrative by stringing pieces of my poetry together. As both a poet and filmmaker, I had the advantage of visually translating my poems onto the screen in a way no one else could possibly do with the same vision. I didn't face any particular challenges in making this film.

10. Sweta: Your poetry has received acclaim and recognition from prominent writers, scholars, and critics such as Nobel Prize nominee in Literature Dr Wazir Agha, Vaptsarov Award, and Ordre des Arts et des Lettres recipient Amrita Pritam, Academy Award-winning poet, lyricist, and filmmaker Gulzar, and others. How has their validation motivated you to write, and what hope do you have that your work will inspire future generations of poets and artists?

Kalpna: I received those accolades at a very early stage of my writing career, which significantly fuelled my creativity and inspired me to take my writing seriously. I am uncertain how inspiring my work will be for the future generation unless they have exposure to my writings. I hope the new generation has the chance to read my works, as there is a decline in readership compared to writing and publishing nowadays.

11. Sweta: Your poetry has been translated into multiple languages, including Ukrainian, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Albanian, Czech, Arabic, Nepali, and various other Indian languages. How do you think the cultural and linguistic

diversity of your readership has influenced the way your work is interpreted and received?

Kalpna: The cultural and linguistic diversity of my readership has significantly helped my work be taken seriously. My poems were included in the curriculum at colleges in the UK and India. When my poetry translations were published in Arabic, I was asked by Khader Mohammad Abu Jahjouh, Assistant Professor in the Arabic Department at the Islamic University of Gaza, Palestine, for permission to conduct research on my poetry collection, *Bare Soul*. This collection received the Naji Naaman Literary Prize in Lebanon in 2017. He published his research paper titled “The Aesthetic Features in the Diwan of Kalpna Singh-Chitnis” in 2018. My latest poetry collection, “Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava,” translated into Ukrainian by poet, translator, and Lieutenant Colonel in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Volodymyr Tymchuk, has brought my poetry to audiences on another side of the globe. I am grateful for such attention to my work.

12. Sweta: You have studied “Buddhism Through its Scriptures” at Harvard University. How do you think your understanding of Buddhism informs you and your ways of storytelling and character development in your films or written works? As an individual, how do you view Buddhist philosophy and literature relevant to contemporary society?

Kalpna: For those who aren't aware of the Buddhist tradition, I want to clarify that Buddhism is not a religion. It's not limited to religious practices, and it's not based on faith but on self-inquiry. The core of Buddhism is in the law of nature, like Sanatana Dharma. Buddhism is both a philosophy and science that can be applied to anything we do in our everyday life. Therefore, it's relevant at all times, in all places, and within any tradition. How we breathe, walk, talk, eat, work, sit, rest, and create, have effect not only our physical and emotional well-being but also our environment and society. I strive to practice meditation everywhere. I do sit for meditation, walking meditation, cooking meditation, eating meditation, contemplative meditation, and so on. If we are mindful of our actions in the present moment, it will have a positive effect on everything we do. When our practice deepens, it becomes our habit, and we begin to apply it in everything we do, even without being aware of it. Mindfulness practice touches every aspect of my day-to-day life and my creativity, including film and literature. They are applicable to all aspects of life, and anyone

can practice them, regardless of their religious affiliation. It's like Yoga; anyone can do it. Just as you do not have to be a Hindu to practice yoga, similarly, you do not have to become a Buddhist to practice mindfulness and meditation.

13. Sweta: As a successful woman poet, and filmmaker, do you think societal expectations impact the way women express themselves? How can we encourage more diverse voices to be heard through literature and film? How do you view the success stories of other women poets, immigrants, and filmmakers? Do you believe that women are able to express themselves as they are expected to, particularly in a foreign land?

Kalpna: Societal expectations can indeed influence the way women express themselves. These expectations can sometimes act as constraints, but they can also motivate women to voice their unique experiences and perspectives. It's crucial to continue pushing for gender equality and diversity in all fields, including literature and film, to ensure that varied voices are heard. The success stories of other women poets, immigrants, and filmmakers are inspiring and encourage more women to express their unique perspectives and experiences. I see these stories as indicators of the power of determination, hard work, and resilience. It's my belief that every individual, including women, has the potential to express themselves freely and authentically, regardless of societal expectations or their location. However, this is an ongoing struggle and we must continue to work towards creating a world where everyone feels safe and supported in expressing their true selves.

In general, women in the Western world seem to have more freedom when it comes to making individual choices. However, in general, in every society, there are some unwritten rules for women, and they are expected to follow them. Gender bias is everywhere, in almost every field. Women still get less pay in comparison to men for the same work even in the West. The fields of film, art, and literature are no exceptions. But it should not stop women from standing up for themselves. And I am happy to see how modern women are breaking the glass ceiling.

As a woman of color and ethnicity, I have stood up for myself. When opportunities were not given to me, I created those opportunities for myself and many others like me. I am grateful for every challenge and obstacle I have faced, as it has only led me to higher

success. Sometimes I feel like Priyanka Chopra and Kangana Ranaut in a small way in my fields. I transitioned from the Hindi world to the world of English Cinema and writing in English. I started my own production company, directed movies, did acting, writing, publishing, and so on. I had to cast my net wider. I had to sail in the waters that have been predominantly navigated by men.

My gender is not in my mind when it comes to identifying my place in the world. However, in my personal space, I love to be the woman I am. I like my gentle and softer sides when it comes to life and love. My femininity is my strength, not an obstacle in my way of achieving anything I want.

14. Sweta: Could you share with us your experience of making your films “Goodbye My Friend” and "Girl With An Accent," their screening at various film festivals, and "Girl With An Accent" winning the Silver Ten Award at the SMTV Mumbai film festival in 2006?

Kalpna: “Goodbye My Friend” (2011) was made against the backdrop of the Iraq war. It was officially selected at several international film festivals. The highlights include the Silent River Film Festival (World Premiere), Life Fest (US Premiere), Broadway International Film Festival (Los Angeles Premiere), Dhaka International Film Festival, Bangladesh (South Asian Premiere), Lahore LUMS International Film Festival (Pakistan Premiere), and Guwahati International Film Festival (India Premiere).

“Girl With an Accent,” my thesis film at the New York Film Academy, was inspired by a true story that addressed racial issues and showed the culture of corporate America. The film won the Silver Award at the SMTV Mumbai International Film Festival in 2006. It was later premiered on LA18 TV in California and Hawaii. I was delighted with the success of both my films.

15. Sweta: Tell us about your latest poetry collections – Love Letters to Ukraine From Uyava and Trespassing My Ancestral Land. Pratik's special focus on South Asian writing includes your two poems, "The Temples of Knowledge" and "My Post Office Without a Country." Could you tell us more about these books and share with us the inspiration behind the poems published in Pratik? What message do you hope to convey to your readers through these works?

Kalpna: “Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava” (River Paw Press, 2023) is a collection of love poems dedicated to Ukraine and its defenders. These poems are inspired by the ongoing armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The intent behind this book is to create bridges in the hearts of the readers, allowing them to connect with Ukraine and witness its yearning for love, peace, and freedom. As mentioned earlier, “Love Letters to Ukraine from Uyava,” has also been translated into Ukrainian by poet, translator, and Lieutenant Colonel in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Volodymyr Tymchuk.

“Trespassing My Ancestral Lands” is set to be released by the Finishing Line Press in 2024. This book centers around themes related to the loss of the homeland, immigrant experiences, and cultural and historical narratives that continue to be a part of our identities in our adopted homelands.

“My Post Office Without a Country” is a political poem inspired by a true incident. The United States does not recognize the State of Palestine and thus has no presence of Palestine in its postal service database. As a result, no mail can be sent directly to Palestinian territories from the USA. The refusal of my local post office in the USA to accept the package of my book destined for a friend in Palestine inspired this poem.

"The Temples of Knowledge" is a poem dedicated to all libraries and archives in the world destroyed by human actions. This poem also tells the story of the destruction of the ancient University of Nalanda

and the losses we suffer repeatedly, due to the conquests of India. Both poems hope to convey the message that we must not allow history to repeat itself unless it is in the greater interest of humanity.

16. Sweta: Your latest film "The Tree," based on your works of poetry, won the "Best Experimental Short Film Award" at the 2022 North Dakota Environmental Rights Film Festival in the USA. Could you share your thoughts on the importance of art, and storytelling, in bringing awareness about environmental causes?

Kalpna: “The Tree” film (based on my sequence poem with the same title), itself is an example of how we can bring awareness about important issues through the medium of art, literature, and cinema. The film tells the stories of millions of trees and endangered

forests through the story of one tree, which inspired the film. The movie meditates on the life and purpose of a tree and draws attention to environmental concerns such as deforestation, climate change, and their effects on wildlife and our ecosystem.

17. Sweta: How has your background as a poet influenced your work, particularly in terms of language and expression? What are some of the biggest challenges you have faced as a writer and poet and how have you overcome them?

Kalpna: The biggest challenge was transitioning from writing in Hindi to English. From a poet of the Hindi tongue, I morphed into a poet of the English tongue and successfully wrote in both languages. This was a sort of miracle. The transition phase was full of rejection but I had to overcome those challenges. Being a poet has always been a plus as I have used my creative writing skill in films. I have written the screenplays of all my films. My poet has empowered both my filmmaker and actor.

18. Sweta: As a writer and artist, how challenging do you find it to tackle the periodical shift in readers' mindset to accept the writers' projection of social reality in a rapidly changing world scenario? And what advice would you give to aspiring filmmakers and writers who are just starting out in their careers?

Kalpna: Navigating the ebb and flow of societal perspectives is certainly a challenge for a writer or artist. However, it's not my primary concern when I'm creating. My work is first and foremost a conversation with myself, in an environment that has its own reality. I strive to stay true to my observations and be authentic in my expressions. They might not resonate with everyone, but they have their unique audience who appreciate my work for what it is and how I create them in my own space. As societal realities shift, I aim to harmonize my perspectives with the changing perceptions around me, maintaining authenticity. That's the advice I'd give to emerging filmmakers and writers: Stay true to your unique voice.

19. Sweta: What projects are you currently working on, and what can we expect to see from you in the future?

Kalpna: I am currently engaged in writing the screenplay for my two upcoming feature film projects. In terms of my poetic endeavours, I am publishing my seventh poetry

collection "Love Isn't Audacity" as well as a Hindi poetry collection titled "Jo Tum Ho Wahi Hoon Main." Additionally, I am undertaking translation work of two esteemed Ukrainian poets into English. There's plenty to look forward to!

Sweta : Thank You So Much, Dear Kalpna Singh-Chitnis for the insights you have provided to our readers.

Kalpna: Pleasure mine.

About the Interviewer



Ms Sweta Kumari

Sweta Kumari (Gold Medalist, M.A. & NET in English), a bilingual award-winning poet, writer, editor & cultural activist, is currently, pursuing her research on her doctoral project entitled "Dialectics of Feminism in Select Hindi Films and Film Adaptations of Indian English Novels (1960-2010)" at Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar. Her areas of interest are Feminist Film Studies and contemporary issues. She has contributed her creative writings to various national and international anthologies, magazines, and journals. She has presented her research papers at national and international seminars and conferences. She has to her credit several of her research papers published in national and international journals, proceedings and in the edited books. She has also been awarded with various literary awards for her creative writings. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of the journals including *Global Literati Insight Research Journal* and *Innsæi: International Journal Of Creative Literature, Art, Translation and Research For Peace and Humanity*. Besides, she is an executive committee member of Progressive Literary & Cultural Society and a regional director from Bihar at Suryodaya Literary Foundation. Moreover, she edited and published several books and anthologies.

FEATURED WRITER



Xanthi Hondrou-Hill (Germany)

Xanthi Hondrou-Hill is a Greek award-winning poetess who gained her education in Stuttgart, Germany, studying German Literature and Linguistics, Journalism and Public Relations Management. She has worked as a professor of Greek language and culture at the University of Stuttgart, as teacher for German and English at the open University, as journalist, public relations manager and translator for the Greek Consulate in Stuttgart and for poetry. She has also worked as Public Relations Manager organizing many poetry events, in cooperation with local municipalities, and as archaeological secretary of the Prefecture of Imathias. In the past she worked for the Greek General Consulate in Stuttgart designing, organizing and executing multi-level events for campaigns to improve the Greek fame in Germany. She is the creator of the International Poetry Festival in Naoussa. She has been writing poetry since high school and her poems have been published in many international prestigious media and anthologies around the world. In 2022, she won the first prize at the Gandhian Global Harmony Association and the Rockport Poetry Prize in 2023, as well as many awards around the world. She is cultural Ambassador for NAMASTE magazine in India and editor for poetry at www.faretra.info in Greece. Selections of her poetry have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Slavic as well as in two Languages of India: Hindi and Bengali.

MEDITERRANEAN WAVE

Three blue poets fill our life, one singing the blue from the sky
the other the waves of the sea and, the third whispers the wisdom of the wind

No matter to which shores the poem takes us, with which clouds we want to travel,
with the wave of a blue scarf, the white sail of a boat, or the wing of a plane
there is always the wisdom of the wind to carry us

To reach the shores of dreams, with flowers, pebbles and sea shells as treasures.
The nights were we talked at blue tables with friends or on the phone miles away,
listening to the tide at full moon,
the fun we shared travelling in a rental car without lights
on an island looking to avoid a monastery and
ending up spending the day there in the arms of a Saint,
bringing with us healing oils and sacred water

The paintings we discovered in the small museum, in our faces
and on the street corners looking down to the sea,
feeding a foreign hungry artist at the little coffee shop by the seaside
We didn't exchange letters and alphabets like our ancestors,
didn't care if the numbers were Arabic or Greek, didn't even try to find common ground...

Because three blue poets, a painter and a musician filled our life
with the waves of the Mediterranean...

POETRY



Sudipta Mishra (India)

Sudipta Mishra is a multi-faceted artist and dancer excelling in various fields of art and culture. She has weaved more than a hundred books. Her book, 'The Essence of Life', is credited as an Amazon best seller and 'The Songs of My Heart' is scaling new heights of glory. Her poems are a beautiful amalgamation of imagery and metaphors. She garnered numerous accolades from international literary organizations like the famous Rabindranath Tagore Memorial. She regularly pens articles in newspapers as a strong female voice against gender discrimination, global warming, domestic violence against women, pandemics and the ongoing war. She is pursuing a PhD degree in English.

COLOURFUL BANGLES

What is there in the circle like bangles?
Sometimes they appear in green colour!
Maidens wear them by stealing hues of nature.

There are yellow-coloured bangles,
like sunshine they seem bright
A teen embraces them with growing delight
That tinkle with the hurried moves of the girls

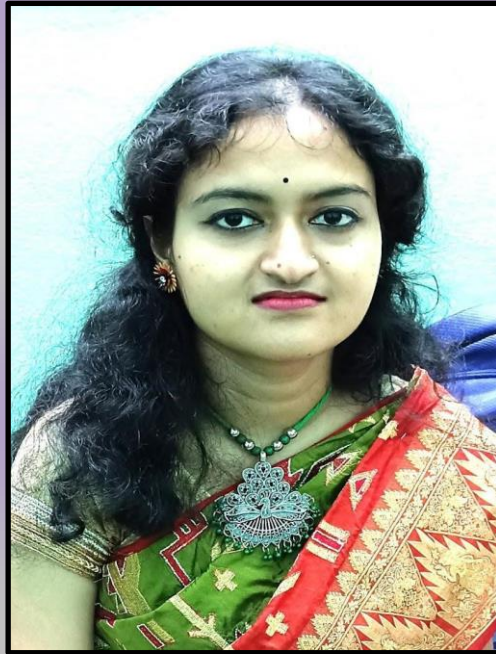
Pinkish-white bangle dazzles like stars
A tiny girl exploits them with a playful desire
She saves it as a treasure trove of pleasure

Bluish-white bangles adorn the dark almirah like the moon in the sky
A girl in her mid-twenties solves many mysteries
With her lover, she weaves a love story

A bride demands red coloured bangles
To pleat and knit the thread of conjugal liaisons
Sometimes she is teased by the sight of broken red ones

Some unknown creatures snatch the same bangles
A widow stands near the threshold
She stares at the same red broken pieces
Exhausted to save her treasured sources
Nobody cares
Again, arrives the much-awaited village fair

Girls run to collect the colourful desires
A cycle goes on
They wear, they flaunt, they hold
Of the dignity of the same bangles
From a girl to a mother
From a beloved to a widow
From a wife to a grandmother
Like a web of spider,
An illuminated sphere
Like a circle,
They stroll with the bangles
From the dense night
Towards a glorious morn
Their jovial spirit at last ceases
And they lose the battles
Of life
By death
With the fading
sounds of the clinking round ones!!!



Riya Haith (India)

Riya Haith is a government employee from West Bengal. Recently she completed her master's in English Literature. She lost her parents at a very young age. Then her pen became her best companion. Her poems and short stories have been published in various Bengali magazines and she also wrote a novella.

MY MOM'S COMPANIONS

It was a beautiful moonlit night
The moonbeams kissed the river
The night blooming flowers smiled
The air was full of fragrance
My mom sang a song for me
And kept her head on my lap
All of a sudden I saw a golden chariot
A woman sat on it
She came in her white shroud
And kissed my mom's forehead
I asked her, "Who are you?"
She replied, "Now your mom's companion"
How calmly mom closed her eyes
Her cold body made me silent

The woman said, "I am eternal my dear"
My innocent eyes were full of tears.



S Afrose (Bangladesh)

S. Afrose (Sabiha Afrose) from Bangladesh, educational credentials-B Pharm, M Pharm, Jahangirnagar University. Poetry is her best friend. She loves to write in different poetic forms whether free verse, rhythmic, short stories etc. Her writings have been published in magazines and anthologies. Published Author of poetry books: Thanks Dear God, Poetic Essence, Reflection of Mind, Glittering Hopes, Angels Smile, Tiny Garden of Words, Dancing Alphabet, Artistic Muse. All are available worldwide (on Amazon.com) Can connect with her at afrosewritings@outlook.com/E-mail: afrosewritings@outlook.com

New Vision

Let's make the journey
For the desired occasion.
New vision?
Any option?

Fine!
Wait for the feedback.
At each condition
You will get the proper dictation.

That will help
To make the desired staircase.
New vision!
Optimistic mission.

The mould of life
Transparent or not,
You will decorate it
With your potion.

Hold the caption
In your action,
Will be happy
Without any conditions.



Dr Damuluri Venkateswar Rao (India)

Dr. Damuluri Venkateswar Rao is an Associate Professor of English, Humanities and Sciences, Malla Reddy Institute of Engineering & Technology, Maisammaguda, Dhulapally.

FATHERS' DAY

Fathers' Day- an auspicious day it is,
A memorable event it is!
Mother delivers a baby, father develops.
He brings up that child to grow up,
Mother cares to the kid for nine months,
He cares for every moment, ever
Every one praises mother,
None appreciate his services to humanity,
He lives not only for himself,
But for his family members,
He works day and night, like a bee!
Sacrifice his pleasures and happiness,
He always feels, his children's pleasures are his!
Their success is his!

He doesn't share pains, miseries with them,
He never waits for a holiday,
Sunrise to sunset, he works hard for earning,
To provide shelter, food, clothing,
Education for his children,
Provide a foundation to their job or career!

To lead a successful life for their future,
He is like a bee to collect honey
to his family, with a devotion, tireless work,
His virtues are: hard working, proactive,

Dedication and devotion!

All humans on the earth salute to him!

Because he is a FATHER! a sacred word.



Deepti Shakya, (India)

Deepti Shakya hails from Budaun, Uttar Pradesh, India. She holds a diploma and degree in Computer Science and Engineering as well as a degree in English Literature and Sociology. She has done a one-year apprenticeship in the computer dept. (ARIS Cell) of an esteemed organization "IVRI, Bareilly U.P., India." She is a Bilingual poetess. She is a Co-author of 31 International Anthologies in English language and 4 national Anthologies in Hindi language. Her poems have been published in many International magazines. She was chosen for Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Literary Honour 2022 by Motivational Strips jointly with the Department of Culture, Government of Seychelles and its journal SIPAY. Instituto Cultural Colombiana Casa Poética, Magia Y Plumas has awarded her the DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA EN LITERATURA LATINOAMERICANA on May 25, 2022. She has been awarded with ALEXANDER PUSHKIN - W. B. YEATS INTERNATIONAL LITERARY AWARD by Noel Lorenz House Of Fiction on June 15, 2022. She is also fond of painting, cooking, flowers-making, knitting and crocheting.

OCEAN AND THE SURGING WAVE

In a marvellous aquatic kingdom, where a miraculous world resides,
Could there be something mysterious that nature hides?
A breathtaking underwater world with vibrant and supernatural sea creatures,
In the depths of the ocean, there'll surely be precious treasures.

A world beyond imagination, where secrets are hidden that magnetize,
The glorious blue ocean and the surging waves always mesmerize.
Oh! Undoubtedly the underwater beauty is so thrilling,
But the ripples of water touching the rocks also look fascinating.

Captivated by the rhythmic dance of the ocean waves,
To play and splash with water, the heart always craves.
From the waves crashing onto the sand, a symphony is produced,
By listening to natural rhythms, the stress gets reduced.

The upheaval of the rolling waves always carries a message,
How many ups and downs come, ocean waves choose their passage.
Like waves, challenges in life are sometimes calm and sometimes fierce,
Always rise whenever you fall, even if the circumstances pierce.

INNSÆIAN'S VOICE



Dr Tejaswini Patil (India)

Head, Dept. of English in Arts and Commerce College, Kasegaon, (Sangli, M.S.). Founder Director, INNSÆI, An International Journal of Creative Literature for Peace and Humanity. Her Marathi, Hindi and English poems have been published in 50+ national and international anthologies including South Africa, Romania, USA and UK. The poetry collections- (English)- 'Talons and Nets' translated into Romanian, 'Verses of Silence' and 'A Glass of Time' and Kaainat (Hindi) and a reference book: 'Relations and Relationship' are to her credit. She's edited 'Mystical Voices', Tunisian Asian Poetry Anthology. Her poems were selected for the Rio Grande Valley International Poetry Festival, Texas, USA. Her awards are- State Level Mahila Samajratna Lifetime Achievement Award; International level 'Master of Creative Impulse Award', the International Honor of "A Great Poet and Writer Par Excellence".

Her profile is included in the famous Coffee Table Book, 25 Women of Virtue; She's Vice-President of Jagadguru Tukobaray Sahitya Parishad, Dist. Satara, (M.S.); Founder Director, Adishakti Mahila Rural Non-Agricultural Cooperative Credit Society, Karad, Dist. Satara, Maharashtra; Honorary Chief Editor, Amhi Aksharyatri, Monthly Marathi Journal; Member, Executive Committee, Shivaji University English 'Teachers' Association, Kolhapur; Secretary, Tejaswini Multi-purpose Social Forum, Karad (Regd. NGO); Member, SangeetSurya Keshavrao Bhosale Kala Akademi, Kolhapur.

THE CHAOS

From the front gate

Of my house

To the eyelids,

I close all the doors

One by one...

And the inner chaos

Bursts to the surface

To fill the canvas of my existence.

It takes over

The surrounding silence

And blocks my path to deep sleep.

SHORT STORY



Eva Lianou Petropoulou (Greece)

Eva Lianou Petropoulou was born in Xylokastro, Greece. Initially she loved journalism and in 1994 she worked as a journalist for the French newspaper "Le Libre Journal" but her love for Greece won her over and she returned in 2002. She recently published her book, "The Adventures of Samurai Nogas san" in English by the publishing house OntimeBooks, based in England. Collaborates with the electronic literary magazine The poet magazine. She is his partner International Literary Union based in America. Collaborates for the promotion of literature and promotes the work of Greek poets. Eva is a member of the "Association Alia Mundi Serbia", the "International Society of Writers and Artists of Greece" and the "Piraeus Society of Letters and Arts" as well as the Corinthian Writers Society.

A FAIRY TALE STORY ABOUT A BOY

A story about the children who lost their parents in the war.

Arzaff lived in a block of flats on the third floor.

Every day he went to school

Every night he went home and read.

He was a good student.

His mother was proud

His father was happy too.

On Saturday, Azarov asked the father to go with his friends and play football.

-It is dangerous to play in the field , it is very close to the wall.

I do not want you to go, said his father.

Arazv cried, hit the door loudly and left.

He went to the fields with the other guys. They played football until night came and all the kids left.

He returned home to find the apartment building bombarded by rockets. There was nothing from the second floor and above. The building had been opened in two.

That afternoon was the last time Azarf saw his parents alive in Syria.

ESSAY



Sudipta Mishra (India)

Sudipta Mishra is a multi-faceted artist and dancer excelling in various fields of art and culture. She has weaved more than a hundred books. Her book, 'The Essence of Life', is credited as an Amazon best seller and 'The Songs of My Heart' is scaling new heights of glory. Her poems are a beautiful amalgamation of imagery and metaphors. She garnered numerous accolades from international literary organizations like the famous Rabindranath Tagore Memorial. She regularly pens articles in newspapers as a strong female voice against gender discrimination, global warming, domestic violence against women, pandemics and the ongoing war. She is pursuing a Ph.D. degree in English.

A DAY TO CELEBRATE: THE STORIES OF REBELLION

by Sudipta Mishra

On this International Women's Day, I want to bow my head in front of the entire female entities of this universe. Everyone is special. It's a day to celebrate the stories of rebellion that we have waged to survive in this patriarchal society. A woman is always deemed as the vulnerable section of society. The current pandemic is the brightest instance of this. Domestic violence and child marriage and abduction of girl children are multiplied by the criminals in the mask of current crises. The victims of domestic violence were selected to seal their lips during Covid times. Hence, it's proved that women are an easy target for any type of crime. Acid attacks, gang rapes, and kidnappings are commonly found in every society nowadays. Hence a woman cannot be liberated unless the mindset of our people would not alter towards her. So, education is the only path to bridge the gap between poverty and enlightenment.

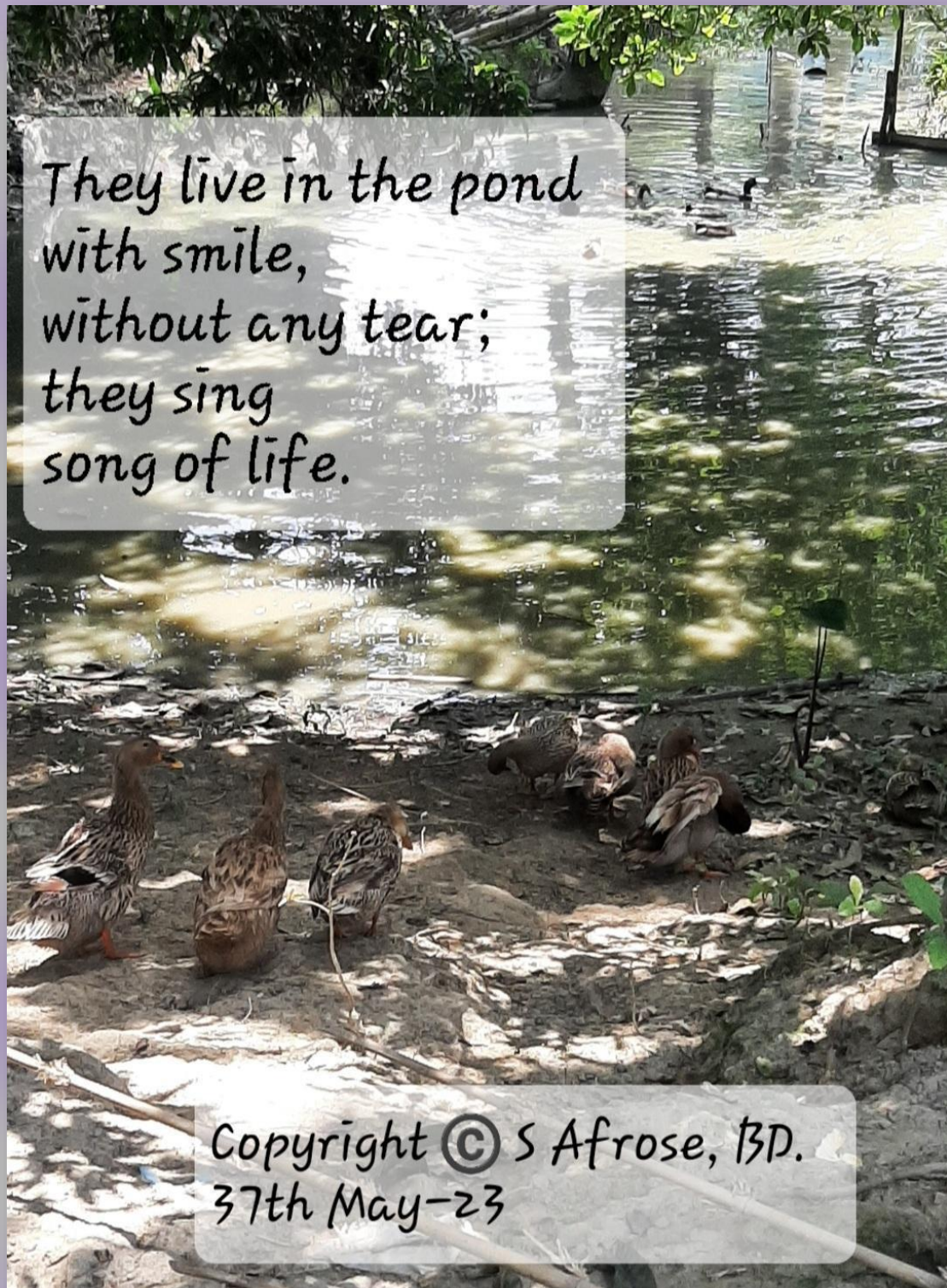
A balanced society is always dependent on a nourished family. A family is dependent on a woman. So, women can be the game changer through wisdom. Through knowledge, they can change their perspective of the world and simultaneously they can be aware of their rights to curb the intensity of violence against them. This Women's Day, let us unravel the resilience and power of our minds to explore womanhood in a true sense.

QUOTES WITH THE IMAGES

S. Afrose (Bangladesh)



S. Afrose (Bangladesh)



PUBLISHED AND UPCOMING BOOKS

Name of the Book - *Literature and Arts for Peace and Humanity: Research Papers Presented in the INNSÆI LIT Fest, Goa 2022*

Type - Edited Book**Chief Editors**

Dr Tejaswini Patil Dange

Mr Orbindu Ganga

Executive Editors

Ms. Aditi Barve

Dr Janatha Ramanathan (English)

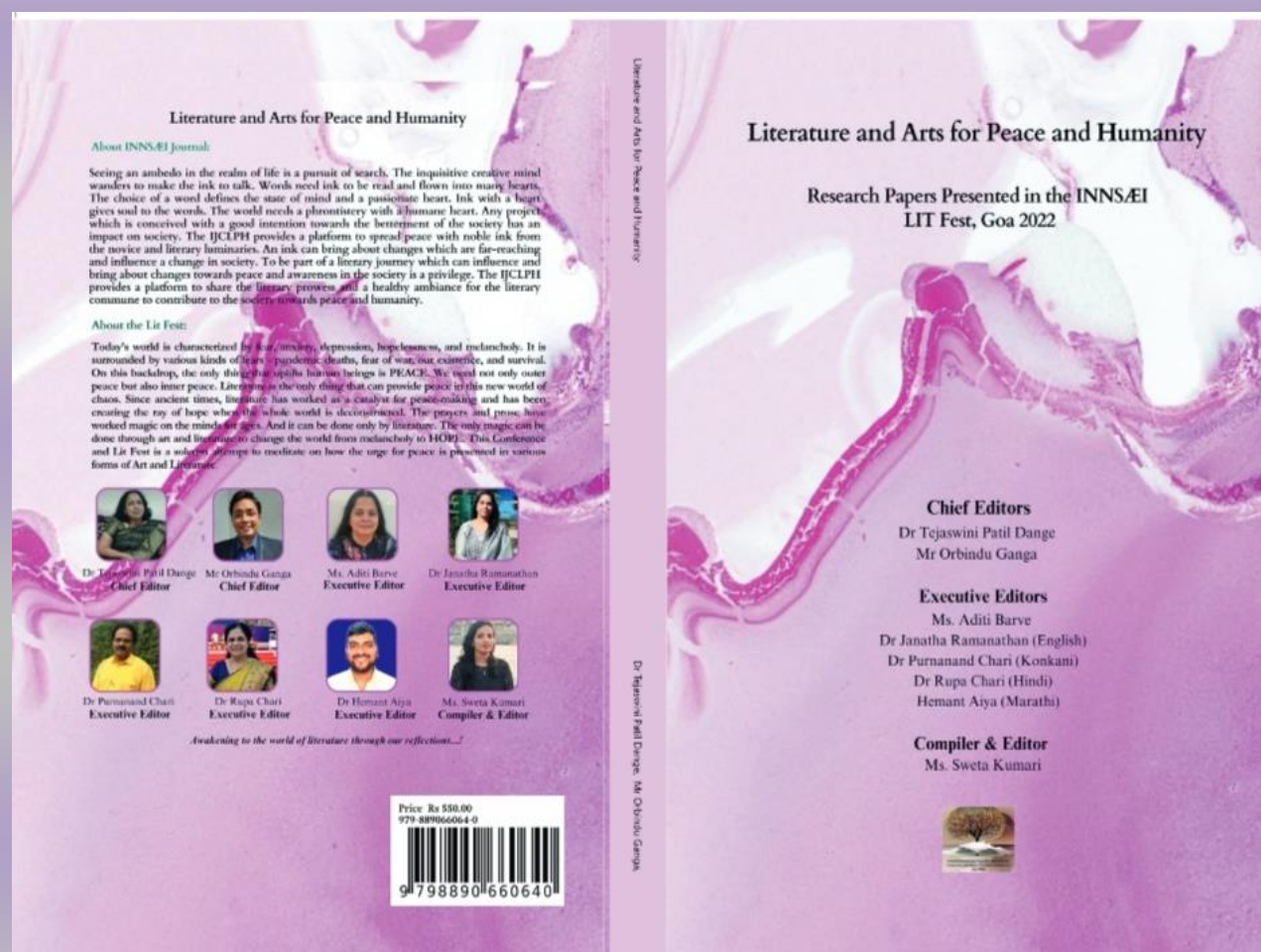
Dr Purnanand Chari (Konkani)

Dr Rupa Chari (Hindi)

Hemant Aiya (Marathi)

Editor and Compiler

Ms. Sweta Kumari



Today's world is characterized by fear, anxiety, depression, hopelessness, and melancholy. It is surrounded by various kinds of fears - pandemic deaths, fear of war, our existence, and survival. On this backdrop, the only thing that uplifts human beings is PEACE. We need not only outer peace but also inner peace. Literature is the only thing that can provide peace in this new world of chaos

Since ancient times, literature has worked as a catalyst for peace-making and has been creating the ray of hope when the whole world is deconstructed. The prayers and prose have worked magic on the minds for ages. And it can be done only by literature. The only magic can be done through art and literature to change the world from melancholy to HOPE.

This Conference and Lit Fest is a solemn attempt to meditate on how the urge for peace is presented in various forms of Art and Literature.

Name of the Book - *The Changing Dimensions: Life in Postmodern Era*

Type - Edited Book

Editors— Dr Bimlesh K Singh, Rahul Kumar, Shrawan Kumar

The Changing Dimensions: Life in Postmodern Era

About the Book

Changing Dimensions: Life in Postmodern Era intertwines the captivating themes of postmodernism and absurdism, offering a profound exploration of the human experience. Through its intricate narratives and thought-provoking analysis, the book delves into the fragmented nature of reality, the dissolution of fixed meanings, and the embrace of ambiguity characteristic of postmodernism. Meanwhile, it also weaves elements of absurdism, inviting readers to grapple with the inherent absurdity of existence and the search for meaning in an uncertain world. This book challenges conventional thought, prompts readers to confront the complexities of modern life and contemplate the existential questions that lie at its core.



Dr. Bimlesh K Singh
Chief-Editor

Dr. Bimlesh K Singh, Associate Professor & Head, Dept of English, Mahatma Gandhi Central University of Bihar, (Motihari) is a lover of Drama Studies, in general and Shakespeare's Dramas, in particular. He has already supervised 1 Ph.D and 06 are still pursuing Ph.D under his supervision. He examined 10 M.Phil and 05 Ph.D theses. He supervised 50 M.Phil Dissertations. As a *Resource Person* he has been invited to a number of National & International Conferences and Workshops. As a *Keynote Speaker*, he has been invited to a good number of National Workshops/ Seminars. Presented more than 35 Research Papers in National & International Conferences. He has 05 books to his credit. His sixth book, *Shakespearean Texts: An Aristotelian Approach* is in the process of publication. He has 30 Research Papers published in the National & International Journals. His areas of interest are—Drama Studies, Cultural Studies, Comparative Literature, Queer Theory, Postmodern Literature. As a social Activist, he has been active in the Personality Development of the Youth.



Rahul Kumar
Co-Editor

Mr. Rahul Kumar is a Social Explorer. He is presently a Research Scholar at Department of English, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar. He is pursuing his research in the field of Multiculturalism. He is NET/JRF qualified and now converted to SRF. He has also qualified GATE-2022 in English securing AIR- 15. He is also selected for the post of Assistant Professor English by Bihar Public Service Commission. He has published two research papers in reputed journals and co-edited a book.



Shrawan Kumar
Co-Editor

Shrawan Kumar is a poet, writer, anthology compiler, editor and a passionate reader from Bihar, India. Currently, he is a Ph.D. research scholar, working on his Doctoral Research at Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar. He has done B.A., B.Ed. and M.A. in English, and has qualified for CTET and NET (English). He has contributed his creative writings in anthologies, journals and magazines. He has edited and published several book anthologies including a book titled *The Changing World Order and the Postmodernism: Theory & Practices*. His areas of interest are *Marginal Literature, Diaspora Literature, Social Contemporary Issues and Postcolonial Studies*.

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The Changing Dimensions: Life in Postmodern Era

Postmodernism Nihilism Absurdism
Absurdism Postmodernism Existentialism



Nihilism Postmodernism Existentialism
Existentialism Absurdism Nihilism

Chief-Editor
Dr. Bimlesh K Singh

Co-Editors
Rahul Kumar
Shrawan Kumar

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The Sea, Within INNSÆI

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