

- an initiative of -

INDIAN CINEMA
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

- in association with -

KYARI
KASHMIR'S YUMBERZAL APPLIED RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Kumaon Literary Festival

Kashmir Edition

- powered by -



18-20 October, 2022



LAKSHMI KUPPUSWAMI
TRUST

CINEMA AZI



FORTUNE
RESORT HEEVAN
SRINAGAR
Member ITC's hotel group





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

An initiative of Asha and Sumant Batra, KLF is conceptualised as an institution with an eco-system comprising of projects and activities which are not limited or confined to the festival. Such as Fellows of Nature; Women Unlimited Series; and Literary Bhagidari. The institutionalised approach to the festival is aimed at maximising impact and optimise on resources to help identify hidden talent, open avenues and opportunities for writers and increase their access through translations and other means to a larger audience. This also ensures measurable and tangible outcomes of the festival.

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



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INDIAN CINEMA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation is a public charitable trust established to chronicle the rich history and heritage of Indian cinema. The Foundation undertakes preservation, restoration and conservation of cinema memorabilia.

The Foundation holds thousands of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment painstakingly collected by its founders over a period of more than ten years. A public archive has been set up by the Foundation to preserve this rich heritage in the form of crucial resources of Indian cinema.

Cinemaazi Research Centre, a unit of the Foundation, has been working relentlessly over the last four years to create a reliable digital, freely accessible encyclopedia of Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Garhwali, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and other regional cinemas; document the extraordinary legacies of its people and films, and archive their rich contribution; exhibit the exquisite and colourful cinema memorabilia from the in-house collection of the founders of Cinemaazi; recount the spectacular journey of Indian cinema and its people, through digital content in multimedia format - articles, video and photo essays, interviews, reviews, timelines - authored by historians, scholars and experts; rekindle memories and create nostalgia; crowd source memories and memorabilia; and engage and entertain the readers, viewers and listeners.

A dynamic team of film historians, researchers, writers, film students and support staff comprise the Research Centre of the Foundation.

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

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



KYARI – Kashmir's Yumberzal Applied Research Institute is a private research organisation headquartered in Srinagar, India. KYARI is powered by the belief that academic research paves the way for debates, discussions and ultimately, decision-making in matters of public policy. Their focus is to conduct Applied Research on a broad spectrum of topics that impact civic and social issues in J&K and hope to identify developmental issues in the region and subsequently provide effective, efficient, and economical solutions for the same.

Based on their study and research, they aim to develop policy papers on various issues like Education, Sanitation, Electricity, Tourism, Conservation, Economic Empowerment of Women and others affecting the J&K region and more. Their mission is to focus on the developmental issues hindering the economic and social growth of the Union Territory. KYARI will conduct deep dives into district-wise issues, creating papers that they aim to publish in internationally acclaimed journals, while simultaneously striving to achieve tangible change in society.

KYARI is a trusted grassroots level partner in Kashmir, offering credible, agile and responsive research solutions to institutions, governments, and civic bodies.

KYARI Milestones: Just over a year old, KYARI has completed 1 thorough paper on Waste Management in Aharbal, Kulgam; has 2 papers in the editing phase - 1 on Climate Change and its Effects on Agriculture & Horticulture in Kupwara and 1 on the Tribal Communities of J&K. Moreover, in addition to partnering with Kumaon Lit Fest to organise this Kashmir Edition, KYARI also partnered with India Foundation to organise the 10th Young Thinkers Meet in Kashmir last year. KYARI is also striving to make Kashmir THE film destination once again & has got one of the leading Film Production companies of India to shoot a film in Kashmir.



LG'S MESSAGE

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR



RAJ BHAVAN
SRINAGAR-190001


I am happy to know that the Kumaon Literary Festival is being held in Srinagar from 18th October - 20th October. Over the years, this event has become popular among book-lovers and provides an opportunity to explore new ideas and perspectives.

Books are like open sky offering limitless horizon of wisdom, intellectual inspiration and imagination. Books speak in their own way and have served the humanity profoundly.

J&K Union Territory has a rich literary tradition, dating back many centuries. Many diamonds are hidden in this land and I am confident this literary festival will provide the opportunity to the participants, authors and book-lovers to seek and search.

I extend my good wishes to the Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation and Kashmir's Yumberzal Applied Research Institute (KYARI) for this initiative. I wish the event all success.

30th September, 2022
Srinagar.


(Manoj Sinha)



SKICC



VENUE PARTNER

Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre
Centaur Hotel, Boulevard Road,
Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

www.skicc.co.in

CO-FOUNDER'S DESK



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

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

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

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

We took yet another leap of faith and decided to travel to Srinagar, the valley of lakes and gardens.

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

Asha Batra

Co-Founder



KYARI'S DESK



It is a great honour for KYARI to partner with the Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation to bring the Kumaon Literary Festival's 4th Edition to our paradise on Earth, Kashmir.

Our goal at KYARI is to focus on developmental research in Jammu & Kashmir. Despite only being a little over a year old, we have undertaken projects on topics ranging from Waste Management to Tribal Communities, have organised a Young Thinkers' Meet conference, and have even successfully invited & assisted one of India's largest film production companies to shoot here in the Valley.

With this, however, comes the added responsibility of promoting the region not only as a tourist destination but also as one that prides itself in successes of all kinds. By bringing the Kumaon Literary Festival to Kashmir, we feel that we are properly living up to our goals while simultaneously making our debut into the literary world.

The scenic SKICC, located on the banks of the Dal Lake, forms a perfect location for holding the festival. The participation of illustrious authors and speakers from across the country will bring a treasure trove of books and literary discussion to Srinagar. We feel honoured that the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir has consented to grace the festival as the Chief Guest. I am sure that the 4th edition of Kumaon Literary Festival will leave behind fond memories.

We look forward to making this a memorable experience and are eager to set forth on this journey with you all.

Arhan Bagati

Founder, KYARI

HOTEL PARTNER

ITC Fortune Resort Heevan

Gupta Ganga, Nishat Srinagar,
Jammu and Kashmir



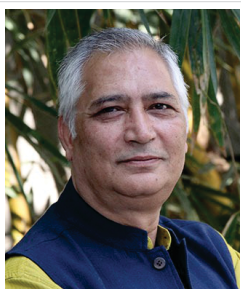


Aditya Raj Kaul

Executive Editor, TV9 Network

Aditya Raj Kaul is a well-known Indian journalist with over 14 years' work experience in critical breaking news situations and leadership roles. At present, he is the Executive Editor of TV9 Network. Earlier, Kaul was the Group Contributing Editor of CNN-News18 and Network18.

Kaul in his previous role was Editor, Strategic Affairs and Internal Security at Business Television India (BTVI) where he anchored his prime-time debate on foreign affairs and national security with prominent voices. He was earlier the Senior Associate Editor and anchor at Republic TV as its founding member, where he primarily looked after strategic affairs with an interest in conflict reportage.



Ajay Raina

Award Winning Filmmaker, Writer, and Educator

Prof. Ajay Raina is an award winning filmmaker, writer and academician with considerable experience. He has produced, directed, and edited many fiction shorts, documentary films and TV programmes besides having written innumerable screenplays for feature films and a novel in English. He has won the National Award (Rajat Kamal), the Golden Conch and other prestigious awards like IDPA Silver Trophy and RAPA award for his documentary films, many of which have screened at numerous forums, seminars and at major international and national film festivals. He was recipient of the prestigious 'Fond Sud' production grant given by the Ministry of Culture & Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France for his feature film script 'Letters to God'. His Feature film project 'Aharbal Falls' was Selected for 'Open Doors' co-production Lab at Locarno Film Festival in 2011. His Documentary film "Between Border and the Fence, on Edge of a Map" (2011)" is short listed among 12 best documentaries of the year 2011-12 by the well-known Walker Art Magazine.



Anant Vijay

Senior Journalist and Author

Anant Vijay is a National Award winning Journalist and Author. Presently working with Dainik Jagran, his journalism experience spans more than two decades across TV and Print, writing mainly on the Cinema, politics of Culture and Literature. His weekly column has been running for 12 years in Dainik Jagran, the largest read newspaper in India. Writing with consummate ease, he's authored 12 books across genres. His book Bollywood Selfie was the best seller. His latest book, Amethi Sangram became a best seller within a week of its launch. A keen student of the Hindi language, Anant has organized literature festivals, been part of Hindi literary bodies playing active advisory roles, been on editorial boards, been a Jury Chairman at the National Film Awards twice, Chairman of the selection Jury (Konkani Films) of International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2019 and Member of Jury, 75 Creative Minds, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 2021. He has actively engaged with academia to train the next generation journalists/writers across educational institutes of repute. Apart from the National Award, Anant Vijay is the recipient of the most prestigious Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award and Father Camille Bulcke Award.



Anirudha Bhattacharjee

National & MAMI Award Winner

Anirudha is a SAP consultant by profession and a musician by passion. A huge fan of Kishore Kumar, he loves revisiting football matches, films of Billy Wilder, Alfred Hitchcock, Satyajit Ray, Bimal Roy, Tarun Majumdar, Basu Chatterjee, Gulzar and a horde of comedies - from the awkwardly funny Crazy Boys series to childhood favourites featuring Terence Hill & Bud Spencer.

He writes only when he has a deadline.

A firm believer in original research, he abhors writing sourced from the net, which unfortunately has become the norm today. An active quizzier for over 30 years, he owes most of his knowledge to co-quizzers who have made him push the envelope from time to time. His partners in crime have been Amitava Chatterjee (Professor of Electrical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Calcutta) with whom he wrote a weekly column for The Statesman, Calcutta, in the early 1990s, and Balaji Vittal (VP - Concentrix), with whom he has authored three books.

His "R D Burman, the Man the Music" has won the National award for Best book on cinema in 2012 and "Gaata Rahe Mera Dil", won the MAMI award in it's inaugural year, 2015.



Anu Singh Choudhary

Journalist, Writer & Documentary Film Maker

Anu Singh Choudhary, a celebrated author in Hindi, is also an accomplished screenwriter. Her experience as a documentary filmmaker and award-winning journalist make her stories an authentic chronicle of the zeitgeist. Anu has written extensively across mediums: print, radio, TV, films and digital. As a Screenwriter, Anu has co-written AARYA Season 1 and Season 2. She has also co-written the critically acclaimed Disney+Hotstar series 'GRAHAN', inspired by a Hindi novel 'Chaurasee', and is now writing the Hindi adaptation of the Malayalam masterpiece 'The Great Indian Kitchen'. As the co-founder of Dopamine Media, Anu has written and directed 'The Good Girl Show', a 5-part series for YouTube, and has co-produced 'Alma Matters: Inside the IIT Dream', a 3-part docu-series now streaming on Netflix. Her books 'Neela Scarf', 'Mamma Ki Diary' and 'Bhali Ladkiyaan, Buri Ladkiyaan' are all considered bestsellers. She has also translated well-known authors such as Perumal Murugan, Namita Gokhale, Paulo Coelho, Vir Sanghvi and Anuja Chauhan into Hindi. She has been awarded Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism and Laadli Media and Advertising Awards for her stories in "Gaon Connection".





Arhan Bagati

Founder, KYARI

India's First & World's Youngest Deputy Chef de Mission of the Indian Paralympic Contingent for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

KYARI - Kashmir's Yumberzal Applied Research Institute Founder.

Awareness and Impact Ambassador of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Politics (specialising in Comparative Politics) and a Minor in Asian Studies (with a concentration on India) from Pomona College.

Semester abroad to study Law (Introduction and Criminal), Politics (Political Theory), Creative Writing (English), and Modern Art at the University of Cambridge.

Founded LetsEnable.com; InRio and IndTokyo applications. All for the differently-abled, an attempt to improve their lives.

InRio sponsored a few Paralympic Athletes, out of which Mariyappan Thangavelu and Varun Singh Bhati won Gold and Bronze, respectively, in High Jump at the Rio Paralympic Games 2016.

Have been featured multiple times on most National (and some International) news platforms - Google is the best source now.

Frequently write (and published) on topics ranging from Kashmir to National Security to Current Events (Firstpost, Quint, Greater Kashmir are some of the publications that I have written for).

Youth Ambassador of Pixstory Application.

Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation's Cinemaazi Gen X Think Tank's Chair

A Student Pilot.

A Kashmiri Pandit.



Asha Batra

Co-Founder, Cinemaazi and Te Aroha, Lawyer

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

At Cinemaazi she is responsible to oversee the documentation of history and heritage of Indian cinema and chronicling the oral history.

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



Ashwin Sanghi

Author

Ashwin Sanghi ranks among India's highest selling English fiction authors. He has written several bestsellers (The Rozabal Line, Chanakya's Chant, The Krishna Key, The Sialkot Saga, Keepers of the Kalachakra, The Vault of Vishnu and The Magicians of Mazda in the Bharat Series) and two New York Times bestselling crime thrillers with James Patterson, Private India (sold in the US as City on Fire) and Private Delhi (sold in the US as Count to Ten). Ashwin also mentors, co-writes and edits titles in the immensely popular 13 Steps Series on subjects as diverse as Luck, Wealth, Marks, Health and Parenting.

Ashwin has been included by Forbes India in their Celebrity 100 and by the New Indian Express in their Culture Power List. He is a winner of the Crossword Popular Choice Award 2012, Atta Galatta Popular Choice Award 2018, WBR Iconic Achievers Award 2018 and the Lit-O-Fest Literature Legend Award 2018.



Balaji Ramachandran

Co-Founder, Nostalgiaana

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

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

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

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

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





Bhawana Somaaya

Author & Senior Film Journalist

Bhawana Somaaya has been a film critic for more than forty years and has contributed columns to various publications. She is the former editor of Screen and has authored several books on cinema that include biographies of Hema Malini and Amitabh Bachchan. Her books are a point of reference for students studying cinema at Whistling Woods, Manipal University, and JNU, Delhi.

She has served on the Advisory Panel of CBFC India, and also the Governing Council of FTII, Pune, and is the Entertainment Editor at 92.7 Big FM radio channel. In 2008, she released Keshava: A Magnificent Obsession, and Letters to Mother which is an English translation of the Prime Minister of India's Gujarati book Saakshi Bhaav, published in 2020. Letters to Self is a translation of Shri Narendra Modi's book Aankh Aa Dhanya Chhe.

Bhawana Somaaya was conferred with Padma Shri in 2017 and with an honorary doctorate by Jagran Lake City University in 2021.



Danish Manzoor Bhat

Editorial Director(Asia), International Business Times

Danish Manzoor is the youngest ever to hold the position of Editorial Director at the International Business Times in Asia. He's also on the board of historic and world's leading Newsweek magazine in Asia as its Editor.

Danish has served as the youngest ever Resident Editor at India's leading Tabloid newspaper Mid-Day and Dainik Jagran.

An IIM-Ahmedabad and Osmania alumnus; his diverse leadership experience ranges from print, broadcast, digital-journalism, management, civic-tech, media-tech, Ad-Tech, public relations, policy and crisis communication. He, at present, heads editorial, strategy, tech & social innovations (dabbling in AI & Blockchain for Media), and partnerships for the Asia Pacific region at The Newsweek group.



Divya Dutta

Actor and Writer

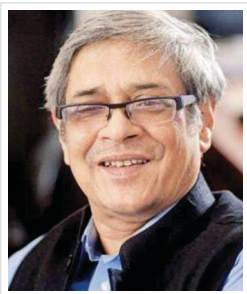
Divya Dutta is an actor, author and now a poet too. The talented actor won a National Award for best actor (female) in a supporting role in 2018.

She has acted in more than 100 feature films in Hindi and Punjabi language, few notable films being Veer-Zara, Bhaag Milkha Bhag, My Friend Pinto, Stanley ka Dabba.

Her first poem that she wrote recently titled 'Jab Sab Theek Hoga Na', about going on lockdown in the country has been much appreciated.

Her memoir, *Me and Ma*, published in 2017 was one of the most talked about books that year. She launched her second book on 10th November 2021 titled, 'The Stars In My Sky'.

Divya had four releases back to back during the lockdown that include Web Show Special Ops, the short film *The Relationship Manager*, Feature film *Ramsingh Charlie* and the second season of web show *Hostages*. Along with this, her recent releases include feature films like action-thriller, *Dhakkad* and a much-appreciated Punjabi language film, *Maa*.



Dr. Bibek Debroy

Author, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India

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



Dr Sachidanand Joshi

Member Secretary, the Executive and Academic Head of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

Sachidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, the Executive and Academic Head of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, is a Scholar of History and Mass Communication, a Writer, a Poet and an Actor. He was the Founder Vice Chancellor of the Keshavnagar Thakre University of Journalism and Mass Communication, Raipur. He served as Vice Chancellor for two terms (10 years). He was also the Founder Registrar of Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal. He served as Dean (Academics) in the Makhn Lal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal too. He has written extensively on Media, Communication, History, Culture, Education, Policy, and other relevant issues. He has been delivering lectures on Communication, Gender Sensitization, Research for Resurgence, Personality Development, Art and Culture in prestigious institutions. He has edited the Speeches of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for Publication Division. He edited many other prestigious publications. He has been writing extensively. Some of his recent published works include "*Sachidanand Joshi ki Lokpriya Kahaniya*" (2017); "*Kuchh Alpa Viraam*" (2018), "*Pal Bhar ki Pahchan*" (2019) two poetry collections. His speeches have been compiled in two volumes titled "*Mera Desh Mera Dharm*".





Jai Arjun Singh

Author, Columnist and Film Critic

Jai Arjun Singh is an independent writer and critic. His books include *The World of Hrishikesh Mukherjee*, which won the MAMI Excellence in Writing on Cinema Award in 2016, *Jaane bhi do Yaaro: Seriously Funny Since 1983* (about the making of the cult comedy film), and the anthology *The Popcorn Essayists: What Movies do to Writers*. His columns, reviews and essays have appeared in dozens of publications, and are available on his culture blog *Jabberwock* (<http://jaiarjun.blogspot.com>). He has conducted workshops and delivered talks at several colleges and universities, and is currently teaching a film course at the Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, Sonipat.



Jameel Gulrays

Founder, Katha Kathan

Friends know of him as an Urdu connoisseur, writer and shayar... Colleagues remember him as a mad combination of creative and media planning... his industry contemporaries know him as the strategic planner and 10-sec format maverick behind campaigns like “Bottal mein aam, Maaza hain naam...” “Taaza mango, Maaza mango”, “lime-n-lemoni Limca”, “toh phir kyon na khaye Amul Chocolates; pyaar ki meethi bhent”, LIC’s “Jeevan ke saath bhi, Jeevan ke baad bhi” and many more...

His Voice Over friends and radio producers vouch for him as the best Hindi-Urdu writer they have worked with, and remember him for coining phrases that have become common parlance, including the now oft repeated ‘Ziddi mael’...

Discovery and Travel & Living channels have insisted that their best, most sensitive programmes are transliterated into Hindi by none other than him...

Having traversed through all aspects of the communications business for over 40 years, Jameel Gulrays has many firsts to his credit. His contribution to advertising includes Advertising’s one and only book in Hindi titled, *Vigyapanon Ki Duniya*, 52 advertising training workshops for beginners conducted for the industry body Advertising Agencies Association of India, starting the first ever awards to recognise contribution and work of media professionals – The Media Meet awards and much more.

Besides being on Ad Club-CAG-committees, writing articles for several newspapers, winning innumerable awards, being behind iconic brand launches, outdoing competition with cut-throat media strategies, producing ad films, he is now the communications consultant for select clients. While communications continue to get his adrenaline pumping, it is Urdu and that plays his muse. Mir, Zauq, Zafar, Chakbast, Dagh, Faiz, Iqbal, Firaq, Hali, Ghalib... you ask him and he will know the poet and the poetry, most of the time from memory. Manto, Krishan Chander, Rajender Singh Bedi, Ismat Chughtai, Pitras Bukhari... you ask him to recollect short stories from the galaxy of these litterateurs, and he will have it right out of his memory! His collection of Urdu poetry and literature and his repertoire of knowledge with respect to his beloved language Urdu and Urdu literature, is enviable to any lover of the language.

Currently, he is on a crusade of sorts to preserve the rich tapestry of Indian language

literature through his initiative Katha Kathan.

He was felicitated with Maharashtra State Government's Urdu Sahitya Academy Award, for his work in promoting Urdu literature.

Katha Kathan's journey began with his quest to make his vast library of Urdu poetry and prose available to those who appreciate Urdu literature. As he started off with this rather simple mission with his YouTube channel 'Jameel Gulrays', it transcended into a larger cause of preservation of the vast repertoire of Indian language literature.

Being fluent in Urdu, Hindi and English, and also having graduated in Persian, it has been relatively easy for him to share the gems of Urdu with his audiences through Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, where he records one story and/or poem each day, of legendary writers and poets.

Today, his initiative Katha Kathan which is headquartered in Mumbai, now has chapters in Delhi, Allahabad and Lucknow.



Khushboo Mattoo

Consulting Editor, Network18 Group

Khushboo Mattoo is a Consulting Editor/Columnist with Network18. Having an exposure in technology and broadcast media like Radio and TV for over a decade, she writes/talks elaborately on topics of migration, conflict and culture. She has contributed to multiple anthologies in the past, and works actively in the social work domain with community led initiatives like KeepWarm, SOSJK and Channel22.org. With multiple national and regional awards in her name for national campaigns on male child sexual abuse, Menstrual Hygiene, Covid response in J&K, holding women empowerment and security conclaves, marathons, festivals and screenings, Khushboo believes in social media for social impact.



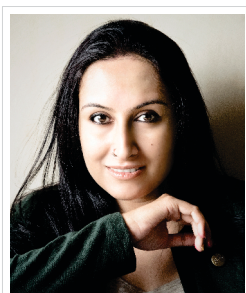
Kiran Manral

Former Journalist and Writer

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



Her novel, *Saving Maya*, was long-listed for the 2018 Saboteur Award, supported by the Arts Council of England in the UK. Her novels 'The Face At the Window' and 'Missing, Presumed Dead' were both long-listed for Jio MAMI Word to Screen, and 'The Face at the Window' was showcased at the South Asian Film Festival 2019. The *Kitty Party Murder* was shortlisted for the Popular Choice award at the 2021 JK Papers TOI Author awards. Her other books include *The Reluctant Detective*, *Once Upon A Crush*, *All Aboard*, *Karmic Kids-The Story of Parenting Nobody Told You*, *A Boy's Guide to Growing Up*, *True Love Stories*, *13 Steps to Bloody Good Parenting*, *Raising Kids with Hope and Wonder in Times of a Pandemic and Climate Change*, *More Things in Heaven and Earth* and *Rising: 30 Women Who Changed India*. She has also published short stories in various magazines, in acclaimed anthologies like *Have A Safe Journey*, *Boo*, *The Best Asian Speculative Fiction 2018*, *Grandpa's Tales*, *Magical Women* and *City of Screams*. Kiran lives in Mumbai with her family.



Koral Dasgupta

Founder, TellMeYourStory and Author

Koral has published an eclectic range of books from academic non fiction to relationship dramas. Her stories explore the inherent nature of complex minds leading to a relatable conflict and unpredictable climax. Having published widely with Westland Books, Niyogi Publishers and Rupa, her books are discussed from the context of gender studies, art, myth and ecocritical literature. Other than India, Koral's books are shelved in the libraries of University of Harvard, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago, University of Wales, Duke University, University of North Carolina, TAMU, and others.

Her fourth book has been optioned for screen adaptation. She is currently working with Pan Macmillan on the five-book Sati series - a retelling of the stories of the Pancha Kanya from Indian mythology - Ahalya, Kunti and Draupadi are on the shelves.

www.tellmeyourstory.biz founded by Koral leverages literature to design and execute extensive learning programmes which inspire social engagement and behavioural change for Inclusion & Diversity.

She conducts writing programmes and critical thinking workshops for educational and corporate floors. She is recognised in the list of Innovator25 Asia Pacific 2019 prepared by The Holmes Report, a New York based PR news agency and has been listed under the Women of Wonder (WOW) series in Outlook Business (September 2019). Her website is www.koraldasgupta.com



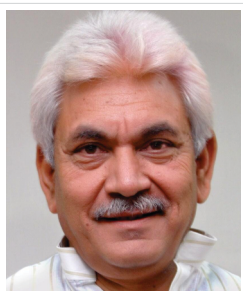
Manisha Mohan Puri

Author and Former Captain, Air India

Captain Manisha Mohan Puri's journey into aviation started way back in 1986 when she got a scholarship for 60 hours of free-flying at the Bhopal flying Club. She has never looked back ever since. She went to the USA to complete her flying and got her Commercial Pilot Licence with instrument rating from 'Skywings Flight Training school in Dallas, Texas. On returning to India, she joined Indian Airlines Ltd in 1988, thereby becoming one of the few elite commercial women pilots of the country.

She feels blessed to be a pilot, a profession that has made her what she is today - disciplined, focussed, daring, fearless, and ready to take on any challenge life throws at her. In her long career as a commercial pilot with Air India Ltd (formerly Indian Airlines Ltd); she has faced many challenging situations like Single Engine, Hydraulic failure, and even Emergency Landings but nothing stopped her from continuing to pursue her passion for flying and she has thoroughly enjoyed every flight she flew. She has played significant roles in organizations, including being the Crew Resource Management facilitator for Air India (narrow body) for four years, and Deputy General Manager (operations department). She was also the former Chairperson (Delhi Branch) of the Indian Women Pilots' Association.

Currently, she is Secretary of the International Organisation of Women Pilots, also known as the Ninety-Nines. Today she mentors underprivileged children through the NGO 'Nai Disha'. She has been honoured in Atchison, USA, by the 'International Forest of Friendship' for her role in aviation. A plaque in her name has been placed in the forest of friendship alongside the plaques of aviators from across the world. Having flown aircraft such as the Pushpak and Cessnas to jets like the Boeings and Airbuses, it gives her immense pleasure to talk about flying and related topics. She is the author of *From Sarees to Stripes: True Stories of Commercial Women Pilots of India*.



Manoj Sinha

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

Manoj Sinha is an Indian politician. He has a B.Tech and M.Tech degree in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) Varanasi (earlier called IT-BHU). During his student days, he was the president of students' union in the Banaras Hindu University.

He was elected as Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, representing Ghazipur for three terms from the Bharatiya Janata Party. He served as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways in the Government of India.

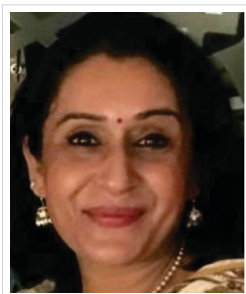




Manpreet Kour

Writer

Manpreet Kour is a young budding Sikh writer and a social activist from the valley of Kashmir- the heaven on earth. She is an alumni of Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School from where she has passed out her grade 12 with flying colours. Presently, she is pursuing her bachelor's degree in Science from Amar Singh College. "Blues and Bliss" is the first book she has written. In the recent first ever literary festival in J&K at Gulmarg, Manpreet Kour was one of the four writers and poets of Kashmir to receive a token of appreciation from Shri Manoj Singh, Honourable Lieutenant Governor of J&K. During the same litfest she also shared stage for the panel discussion where in Siddhartha Gigoo - (Commonwealth Short Story Prize winner 2015 for Asia) was the moderator. The theme of the panel discussion was "Spotlight: Budding Writers of Kashmir." She has also been felicitated with "Young Achievers Award" by "Kashmir Youth Web" and "Kashmir Servers Foundation" at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, Kashmir. At present, she is working on her second book. She has been appreciated by the Helpage India Foundation and Haemophillia Foundation of India for her charitable work. She imparts religious education, and preaches the principles of Sikhi and spreads Guru's wisdom. She has won several awards in religious domain as well, even by the Haryana Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee.



Mona Verma

Author

Mona Verma is an award-winning author of 8 books and over a dozen anthologies which are subject of thesis for many research scholars and the ICSE ELT series. She has edited various science journals, self-help books, and biographies. She specializes as a Haiku, Limericks, and Tanka poet.

Listed as one of the 50 Iconic Authors 2022, she is a Paul Harris Fellow, Chief Coordinator for FLO FICCI, UK Literature Committee and member of the Asia Development Bank. She co-owns DISHA, which trains in MNCs, PSUs, and Universities for EPT, FTP, PEP and PSI, and OB programs in India and abroad.

www.monaverma.in



Neerja Mattoo

Author

Neerja Mattoo taught English in the Government College for Women, Srinagar for nearly four decades before retiring as Principal. She was awarded a British Council Visitorship to the University of Oxford and the HRD Ministry Senior Fellowship in Literature to work on Kashmiri women poets, including Lal Ded and Rupa Bhawani. She has translated three collections of Kashmiri short stories titled The Stranger Beside Me, Contemporary Kashmiri Short Stories and Stories From Kashmir.



Nirupama Kotru

Senior Civil Servant, Writer, Singer and Cultural Commentor

Nirupama Kotru is an officer of the Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) of the 1992 batch, and has worked in the Income Tax Department at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Pune including in the International Tax Directorate. She was educated at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, St.Stephen's College(Delhi University) and Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was posted on deputation to Central Government from Oct.2009 to Jan., 2012 in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, where she was responsible for various e-governance initiatives of the Corporate Affairs Ministry, including the prestigious corporate filing portal MCA21. She also helped set up the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs at Manesar. She helped roll out the National Voluntary Guidelines for Business Responsibility(later notified as CSR rules and also adopted by SEBI as mandatory filing for Top 100 listed companies), and also helped draft Corporate Governance Guidelines and Competition Policy, among other initiatives.

From Feb.2012 to Jan.2015, she was posted as Director(Films) in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, where she drove India's participation in prestigious film festivals such as Cannes, Berlin and Toronto, and also promoted Indian cinema at home by organizing three editions each of International Film Festival of India at Goa and the National Film Awards. She also looked after the administration of media units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting such as NFDC, as well as policy matters such as censorship. She helped set up single window clearance system for film shootings and laid the groundwork for setting up of the national institute on animation, gaming and visual effects, among other initiatives.

Until recently, she was posted as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, where she helped redefine role of prestigious national academies such as Sahitya Akademi, National School of Drama & Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, where she drove several initiatives such as Sangam App under National Audio visual Archives, Vedic Heritage portal, National Manuscripts Mission etc. She helped modernize iconic museums like Victoria Memorial and Indian Museum, Kolkata and National Museum, Delhi and was responsible for setting up several new galleries such as Ajanta (AR-VR) gallery at National Museum. In 2019,she drove India's participation after a hiatus of 8 years, at the prestigious Venice Biennale.She joined Ministry of Coal as Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor on 31May, 2021.Currently she holds additional charges as JS & FA of Ministries of Mines and Minority Affairs.

Her interests include writing short stories and poems, and articles on cinema, parenting and other topics. She is also a singer. She is currently writing a book on cinema.





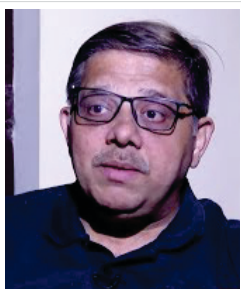
Niyati Bhat

Film Scholar, Writer and Editor

Niyati Bhat is a culture writer and editor of Kashmiri origin from New Delhi. She is a PhD Candidate in Cinema Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her PhD dissertation engages with the Sri Lankan civil war and its aftermath in fiction and non-fiction films. Her M.Phil. thesis was on the cinematic, music and new media practices in Kashmir from 2000-2018.

She has been a guest speaker on various forums such as South Korean cinema panel at Habitat International Film Festival 2022, India International Centre's seminar on Kashmiri literature, speaker at the Desi Books Discourse, Kalinga Literary Festival among others. Prior to this, she has presented her work on Kashmiri music and Indian cinema at Harvard University's Graduate Music Forum, Digital Politics in Millennial India by LMU Germany, Jamia Millia Islamia International Conference 2020 and Association for Asian Studies Conference 2020.

Her work has appeared in leading Indian and international publications such as India Today, The Hindu, Scroll.in, Vogue India, Asymptote Journal, SummerHill Journal among others. She was a media fellow at Metta Centre for Nonviolence in 2014. Her paper "The Wandering Madman: The Allegorical Kashmiri Figure in Indian Cinema" was published in Critical Collective in 2020. You can read more about her work at <http://niyatibhat.in/>



Pavan Jha

Film Historian

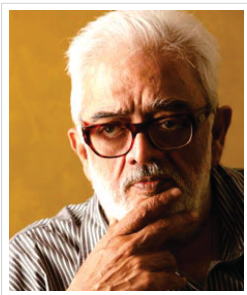
Pavan Jha is a technology consultant, an avid film buff, archivist and film historian.



Rahul Mittra

Award-winning filmmaker and Former Times of India journalist

Award-winning filmmaker/actor and branding expert, Rahul Mittra is the former Times of India journalist. He has been credited to have changed the narrative of Indian cinema from NRI-centric films to heartland films with his debut film Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster in 2011. He has come a long way and has produced path breaking films including Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster Part 2 & 3, Bullett Raja, Revolver Rani, Sarkar 3, Torbaaz and others, earning as a respectable name in the Indian film industry by backing good content. He is also the brand advisor to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and has recently carried out a successful & talked about campaign on the 50 years of Statehood. Rahul has won best producer awards at Norway, Poland, Hungary, Vietnam, San Francisco, Tashkent film festivals and is a regular guest speaker on cinema & mass communication at major Indian and global events.



Rahul Rawail

Film Director and Writer

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

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



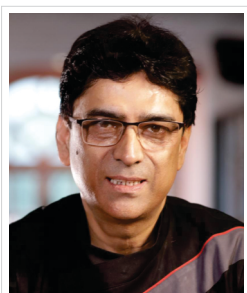
Saleem Beg

Convener, INTACH (J&K Chapter)

Saleem Beg is an Indian art conservator, historian and columnist. He is working to conserve/preserve the artworks, architecture, archaeology, besides museum collections mainly connected to Kashmiri heritage. He joined government service in the year 1975 and retired after rendering 31 years of public service as the Director General of Tourism, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

He prepared the research dossier of seven crafts including papier-mache, pashmina, Khatamband, Woodwork, Pinjrakari, Ari and Metal craft which placed the Srinagar city of Jammu and Kashmir in the list of UNESCO creative cities network for 2021, in the field of craft and folk art.

Since 2006, he is convener of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage – INTACH, J&K Chapter.



Sanjay Raina

Celebrity Chef

Sanjay Raina is a celebrated alumnus of the premier hotel school of India, Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa, New Delhi, and is the Founder of Mealability, The Flavor of Kashmir.

With an unwavering commitment to showcasing Kashmiri culture via cuisine, Masterchef Sanjay Raina constantly aims to present Kashmir on a platter and bring to you various aspects of Kashmiri cuisines across the diaspora that might surprise even the diehard foodie.

Well known for curating bespoke menus, Sanjay Raina's commitment to detail is unrivalled. Sanjay Raina is well known for his mastery in dishing out exotic gourmet Kashmiri cuisine. In a short span, he has become the top choice for Kashmiri gourmet food everywhere.

From catering a 12 course menu in The Parliament in New Delhi, The Tulip Festival in Srinagar, The 75 years of India's independence Curtain Raiser in Nepal to destination weddings in Sri Lanka & UAE and Corporate off-sites at Thailand, Celebrity Chef Sanjay Raina is undisputedly the Ambassador of Kashmiri Cuisine to the world.





Shankar Iyer

Co-Founder Nostalgiaana

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

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

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

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

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



Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri

Publisher

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



Siddhartha Gigoo

Writer and Film Maker

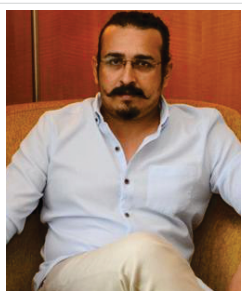
Siddhartha Gigoo is a Commonwealth Prize-winning author. In 2015, he won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize (Asia) for his short story, *The Umbrella Man*. He has written two books of poetry, four novels— *The Garden of Solitude*, *Mehr: A Love Story*, *The Lion of Kashmir*, and *Love in the Time of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



Tamana Slathia

Founder, Daffodils Project and Peacebuilder

Tamana Slathia is a trained Peacebuilder, gender equality activist, and storyteller from the border region of Jammu & Kashmir. The founder of a Peacebuilding youth-led organization called The Daffodils Project and a Swedish Institute Young Leader for Peace & Gender Equality, she uses the art of storytelling to foster dialogue and harmony in vulnerable communities of border villages of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Her work has enabled long-lasting development in youth affairs in the country bringing her recognition from the President of India.



Tejas Vijay Deoskar

Actor, Filmmaker and Writer

Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar is an Indian film writer and director. He has written and directed films like "Ajinkya", "Premsutra" and "Bucket List", which were a huge success. His maiden film as a creative producer, "Baba" was released in August 2019 & received critical acclaim all over the world. His maiden Hindi Feature film, "Chhatrawali", produced by RSVP Movies is gearing up for the release soon. Currently, he's shooting his next film in Kashmir produced by a renowned production house.



Tsering Gurmat

Sculptor

He was born in Kungyam village, 100 kms from Leh, pursued Bachelor in Fine Arts from Jammu University and Master in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University. Sculpting in particular interested him. He has studied under the guidance of Sculptor Ravinder Jamwal from Durb Satya Studio in Jammu.

He also got the opportunity to work as a sculptor at Ratiksha Creative Solutions, Vadodara, at Grang Studio in Delhi and also experimented with his photography skills. He has attended workshops in Leh, Jammu, Mysore, BHU, in various different mediums like stone carving, Clay Modelling, Ice carving, Snow sculpting, Metal Fabrication, Fiberglass, calligraphy, wood carving and art installations. Gurmat also got an opportunity to go to Sweden and study Ice sculpting and how to make Ice hotels.

He's sculpted the 17th century king of Ladakh after 6 months of hard core research. The 14 feet statue is made of bronze and cast metal. Bust of the 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, Statue of Col. Chewang Rinchen (one who created the Nubra Volunteer Force who played a crucial role in the 1947-1948 War).

At present He is working on the statue of 1st Lama Staktsang Reapa Nawang Gyatso (Shambunath). The statue will be over 30 feet high and made of cast copper statue. Gurmat has also received All India Young Artist Scholarship in Visual Art, Ministry of Culture, GOI; special felicitation by LAHDC Leh during sPal- rNam- Duston and a State Award from the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh in 2021.





Yatindra Mohan Mishra

Author, Film Historian and Musicologist

Yatindra Mishra is a celebrated Hindi poet, music and cinema scholar. He has four collections of Hindi poetry, several books on Indian classical music and cinema and translations. His book *Lata: Sur-Gatha* won six awards in 2017, including the prestigious 64th National Film Award for Best Writing on Cinema (Swarna Kamal) and the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival Award for Best Writing on Cinema, 2016-17. His latest book, *Akhtari: Soz Aur Saaz Ka Afsana*, is based on the life, times and music of Akhtari Bai Faizabadi Aka Begum Akhtar. He is currently working on a book on eminent lyricist, poet and filmmaker Gulzar Saheb.



Nusrat Durrani

Media Executive and Filmmaker

Nusrat Durrani is a pioneering American media executive and filmmaker renowned for producing transformative multi-platform storytelling for commercial and social impact. Nusrat kept MTV front and center in the international youth marketplace in senior leadership roles from 1996 until 2016 by boldly advancing the conversation around culture, race, color, gender, and sexual identities. His inclusive vision and resolute allyship to underrepresented identities led him to develop platforms and content for unheard voices across the globe. He most recently founded and served as General Manager & Sr. Vice President at MTV World, Viacom Media Networks' global content incubator and innovation engine, which developed a worldwide network of young filmmakers and producers and created hundreds of hours of groundbreaking stories from over 45 countries.

He created the acclaimed "Rebel Music," a 12-part documentary series about musicians fighting oppression in turbulent countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Venezuela, Myanmar, and Israel-Palestine. In 2015, Nusrat was honored by President Obama and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian for his work spotlighting young Native American artists in his films. "We are Lovers," a 6-part series about modern love, and "FWD," about progressive fashion, which paired film directors and designers are also his creations. Nusrat also created the award-winning "The Music Experiment," a live music franchise, collaborating with bands like Arcade Fire, Disclosure, and Taeyang.

Nusrat conceived and executive-produced "Madly," Viacom's first omnibus film about unusual love featuring works by top-notch global talent: Gael Garcia Bernal (Chile), Sebastian Silva (USA), Mia Wasikowska (Australia), Anurag Kashyap (India), Sion Sono (Japan), and Natasha Khan (UK). The film was selected to open the Tribeca Film Festival and won Best Actress in its category. In 2019 Nusrat conceived and executive-produced "The American Heartland," a series of short films about ordinary citizens engaged in extraordinary struggles in the small-town USA, artfully tackling themes like immigration, bigotry, inequality, capital punishment, indigenous languages, etc. In 2020, at the height of the pandemic, he directed his first feature documentary, "An American Prayer," about the American dream that will premiere at the Black Nights Festival in Tallinn in November 2021.

Tom Freston, former Viacom Chairman, calls Nusrat "a sage when it comes to music and pop culture." He is known for his cutting-edge creative sensibility, ability to forecast changes in culture, and identifying next-generation music and talent.



Established in the year 1947, Jakson Group is a diversified energy and Infrastructure company having expertise in Distributed Energy, Solar Energy, EPC, Hydrogen, Hybrid & Battery Energy Storage Solutions.

Jakson is head quartered at Noida and has four state of the art manufacturing facilities for manufacturing of Generating Sets, Solar Modules and Battery Energy Storage Systems. The Company employs 5000 people, has a loyal base of over 50,000 customers, has a pan India presence apart from its presence in SAARC, Middle East and African regions.

Jakson stands as the largest manufacturer of gensets in India, with a total annual capacity of 14,000 gensets and 35,000 acoustic enclosures at two large plants, one in Kalsar, Gujarat, and another in Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir. Apart from this, the Company also has a world class fully automated module manufacturing plant of 600MW at Greater Noida being scaled up to 1GW and a dedicated manufacturing plant for battery energy storage systems with an annual capacity of 250 units.

Our Distributed Energy Business offers products and solutions in the areas of Diesel Generators, Gas Generators, Solar Roof Top systems, Battery Energy Storage Systems, Special application generating sets for Defence sector, Hybrid solutions and Micro grids.

Our Solar Business comprises of manufacturing highly efficient modules and solar kits. We distribute these products through our 500 plus channel partners and system integrators all over the Country and have now expanded to international geographies.

Our Solar EPC business team have timely executed 1.5GW of land based solar projects in 30 countries without compromising on the global safety and quality standards. We also have a Solar O&M portfolio of 1.5GW whereby our dedicated team of engineers constantly endeavour to provide solutions optimizing energy generation capacity.



Our Electrical EPC Business has design and engineering capabilities for delivering projects related to sub-stations, transmission, distribution, rural electrification, railway and metro rail electrification, utility scale land based solar power plants and civil infrastructure projects. We have to our credit Civil EPC projects related to civil building, hospitals and road construction.

As a testimony to the Company's increasing footprint on sustainable growth in the renewable energy sector, Jakson has taken large strides focussed on Green Hydrogen & Ammonia, Waste to Energy , Electrolysers and Fuel cells , Utility-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems(BESS), Solar and related Operation & Maintenance. In terms of other businesses, the Company has investments in the hospitality sector in India and the real estate sector in United Kingdom.

Today the Company is identified amongst the Top 10 Energy Solutions Company, Top 10 Solar Companies & Top 5 Roof Top EPC Companies in India.

As a responsible organisation, Jakson proactively meets its environmental, social and governance (ESG) objectives. Furthermore, its CSR initiatives are aligned with sustainable development goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations with emphasis on quality education and climate action.

As the Group continues to grow its portfolio, it is committed to help India meet its renewable energy target of 450 GW by 2030.

www.jakson.com

LAKSHMI KUPPUSWAMI TRUST

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Te Aroha

DHANACHULI

Te Aroha, a 'Place of Love', is a boutique hotel nestled in the scenic surroundings of Dhanachuli, an enchanting little village located in the lap of the Kumaon hills. Once a colonial-style summer estate of Delhi-based lawyer couple - Sumant and Asha Batra, the property is now home to a romantic boutique hotel with a harmonious blend of traditional architecture and contemporary comforts to offer the finest hospitality while retaining the bygone elegance of the colonial era.

Blessed with pleasant weather, breath-taking views of the Himalayas, scenic surroundings, an enticing apple orchard, a lush oak forest and charming local people, Te Aroha is the perfect destination for those with a quest for an easy-paced vacation or seeking a quick but quiet getaway or simply looking for a place of love.

www.tearoa.in



S C H E D U L E

OCTOBER **19** WEDNESDAY
2022



A1 | 9.30 am – 10.30 am

Opening Session

Welcome Address: *Arhan Bagati*, Founder, KYARI

Founder's Address: *Asha Batra*, Co-Founder, Kumaon Literary Festival

Special Address: *Rahul Rawail*, Veteran Filmmaker and Chairman, Board of Advisors, Indian Cinema Heritage Foundation

Guest of Honour: *Dr. Bibek Debroy*, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
Author, Translator and Columnist

Chief Guest Address : *Manoj Sinha*, Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

Vote of Thanks: *Arhan Bagati*, Founder, KYARI

A2 | 10.35 am - 11.15 am

Book Discussion

The Stars in My Sky: Those Who Brightened My Film Journey by Divya Dutta

In her second book, award-winning actor Divya Dutta recounts her experiences with some of the stalwarts of Bollywood who played a significant role in her film journey. She will talk about the inspiration they had through what they did for her and what she learnt from them that later proved to be of immense importance in her life.

From winning an acting scholarship with Sonali Bendre to sharing a vanity van with Juhi Chawla and her bond with Shabana Azmi, she tells it all with rare candour and humility. Her interactions with stars like Irfan Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, Rakeysh Mehra and many more shows not only the deep impact they had on her life but also how that defined the trajectory of her own career.

Divya Dutta will be in conversation with Kiran Manral.

A3 | 11.20 am - 12.00 pm

Book Discussion

The Magicians of Mazda by Ashwin Sanghi

Yatha ahu vairyoatharatushashat chit hachavangheush...

As the master, so is the judge to be chosen in accord with truth.

A fleet of boats dock at the port of Sanjan in Gujarat in 720 CE. They carry eighteen thousand frightened souls fleeing the cruelty of Iran's Umayyad Caliphate. Chanting Sanskrit-like prayers, the high priest consecrates a sacred fire to thank their god, Ahura Mazda, leading them to a new home and hope. He uses a mysterious substance to spark the flame, but few know of its miraculous properties or provenance. Centuries later, Parsi scientist Jim Dastoor is abducted from his Seattle laboratory and whisked away to Tehran. The Ayatollah believes Jim is the key to uncovering the ancient relic known as the Athraivan Star and his men will do anything to possess it, even murder. From the ancient ruins of Persepolis to the Taliban camps of Afghanistan, from the womb of an Udvada fire temple to the icy mountains of Kashmir, from the dreadful coffin cells of Tehran to the deathly calm of Diu's Tower of Silence, Jim and his historian wife, Linda, are sucked into a terrifying

chase across vividly changing landscapes. Deftly navigating between time and geography, *The Magicians of Mazda* travels backwards, through the epochs of Islamic jihad, Macedonian revenge, Achaemenid glory, messianic birth, Aryan schism-to the Vedic fount from where it began.

In this session, Ashwin Sanghi talks about his most gripping and provocative novel yet. *He will be in conversation with Koral Dasgupta.*

A4 | 12.05 pm - 12.55 pm

The Noir World of Hindi and Urdu Pulp Fiction: The Struggle for Survival

Printed on grainy pulp and packaged in provocative, arty covers, these paperbacks came to be known by the paper they were printed on (pulp: lugdi). The elite litterateurs gave the genre the title 'pulp literature'. Full of mind-bending twists, and sprinkled with provocative dialogues and titillating scenes, they too had their own genuflecting devotees as these novels were the heroes for Indian travellers in the 1970s-90s. With about 60 active publishers, readers were spoilt for choice with approximately 60,000 new titles a year, many out of which were turned into hit movies. Among the 100-odd authors writing in the genre, a few gained immense popularity and fan following.

The era of pulp fiction, unfortunately, was short-lived. This session will discuss the future of pulp fiction, whether it will survive or fade into oblivion?

In this session, Jameel Gulrays and Anant Vijay will be in conversation with *Anu Singh Chaudhary.*

A5 | 01.00 pm - 01.40 pm

Book Discussion

Raj Kapoor – The Master at Work by Rahul Rawail

In this session on the book authored by him on his Guru, filmmaker Rahul Rawail goes back to his days spent in R.K. Studios where he was nurtured and taught to handle the ropes of filmmaking from the Master himself - Raj Kapoor. Through stories he tells, Rawail delves not only into the techniques of the legendary filmmaker, but also into hitherto unknown aspects of Raj Kapoor's eccentric personality - this quirky sense of humour and his insights into life. He will share the anecdotes from the shooting of blockbusters *Bobby* (1973) in which he assisted Raj Kapoor and *Betaab* (1983), both shot in Kashmir.

In this session, Rahul Rawail will be in conversation with *Rahul Mittra* and *Balaji Ramachandran.*

A6 | 01.45 pm - 02.35 pm

Heritage Matters: Kashmir's Forgotten Wonders

There are many archaeological sites in Kashmir which tells its long history. There are multiple historical sites, monuments and gardens, many of which are on tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Kashmir has always been proud of their food, history and culture. There are living Sufi traditions and other oral traditions all of which are part of the region's rich heritage. In this session, the diverse panel discusses the importance and need to document and preserve this composite tangible and intangible heritage.

In this session, Saleem Beg, Nirupama Kotru, Ajay Raina and Sanjay Raina will be in conversation with *Siddhartha Gigoo.*



A7 | 02.40 pm - 03.20 pm

Book Launch

Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography

by Parthiv Dhar and Anirudha Bhattacharjee

In this soon to be published book on Kishore Kumar, authors and ardent music aficionados Parthiv Dhar and Anirudha Bhattacharjee embark upon the daunting task to explore multiple sides of the legendary singer and his family in vivid detail. Written in a structured chronological order, the chapters faithfully traces Kishore Kumar's life across major milestones – ranging from his parent's marriage, his extended upbringing in Khandwa, his Bhagalpur sojourns, and his Calcutta connections till destiny nudged him to move to Bombay following the footsteps of his illustrious brother Ashoke Kumar. Extremely well researched, this book is packed with some known and mostly unknown facts that define his greatness and uncover the influences that shaped his incredible journey.

In this session, Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Pavan Jha will be in conversation with Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri.

A8 | 03.25 pm - 04.05 pm

Book Discussion

Letters to Self by Narendra Modi

Translated from the Gujarati by Bhawana Somaaya

Narendra Modi, through most of his life, has taken the recourse of pen and paper to express his innermost thoughts and musings. These deep ponderings and ruminations - which came to life in rhyme and metre and which he forever hesitated to share with the world - expresses his unpolished and unrestrained ideas, dreams, and concerns on an array of subjects, ranging from the beauties of nature to the pressures and trials of life. Written over a span of many years, this collection of poems was first published in the Gujarati as *Aankh Aa Dhanya Chhe* and has now been translated into the English as *Letters to Self* by esteemed film journalist and historian Bhawana Somaaya.

In this session, Bhawana Somaaya will be in conversation with Mona Verma.

A9 | 04.10 pm - 04.50 pm

Criticism and the Art of Review: A Step by Step Guide to Analysing a Film

The days when film reviews were published on Sunday cannot even be imagined today. There was an era when the all-powerful film critics could make or break the fortunes of a film based on what they wrote. Today, with the social media enabling nearly every individual to express their opinions, the so-called real film critics have largely been reduced to focus on getting the review out there as soon as possible. The film review is a serious business. Film reviews encompasses personal and idiosyncratic reactions to and evaluations of a film, as well as objective analyses of the film's formal techniques and thematic content.

In this session, Jai Arjun Singh will be in conversation with Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri.

A10 | 04.55 pm - 05.45 pm

Documentation of India's Cultural Heritage – From Analog to Digital

Cultural heritage is the legacy that we receive from the past, experience in the present, and transmit to future generations. Unlike in the past, when the State and its institutions performed the responsibilities of preserving the cultural heritage, in recent times, individuals have been championing this role. Advancement in technologies are opening up new ways of data capture, processing and representation of the information.

In this session, a panel of writers, collectors and curators will discuss the challenges involved in documentation, protection and proper management of cultural heritage.

**Dr Sachidanand Joshi, Anant Vijay, Yatindra Mishra and Asha Batra will be in conversation with Niyati Bhat.*

** Invited*

A11 | 05.50 pm - 06.50 pm

Love in Kashmir: The Hindi Film Industry's Romance With Kashmir

Kashmir was the most popular outdoor location for Hindi films of the 60s through the 80's. Several popular movies were shot here. In this session, Shankar Iyer and Balaji will reignite the nostalgia of that love affair by revisiting some of those iconic songs and sharing the anecdotes and experiences from the period.

In this session, Shankar Iyer and Balaji will be in conversation with Rahul Rawail, Pavan Jha and Tejas Vijay Deoskar.

Dinner: Dinner hosted by Festival Organisers



SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 20 THURSDAY
2022



A12 | 09.00 am - 09.40 am

Inked in India – Fountain Pens and A Story of Make and Unmake**by Bibek Debroy with Sovan Roy**

In the early 1900s, a Bengali doctor created the first Indian fountain pen in Varanasi. Despite this early start, foreign-made pens dominate the Indian market, with no notable Indian brand available to customers.

Inked in India traces this journey of make and unmake, from a pre-Independence India with a strong manufacturing base for pens, nibs and ink, to the post-Independence economic policies which eroded that competitive advantage and led to economic churn and the exit of foreign firms from the country. Going beyond the nostalgia and lost sheen of fountain pens, it tackles economic transition and the impact of policy on local enterprise.

Just as there has been exit post-liberalization, there has been entry too, in what is often perceived to be a sunset sector. The book takes stock of what it will take to transform the unmake in India to make in India, so that Indian fountain pens have a global presence.

The first-ever documentation of all known fountain pen, nib and ink manufacturers in the country, *Inked in India* will be of great interest to the fountain pen aficionados and economic enthusiasts alike.

In this session, Bibek Debroy will be in conversation with Ashwin Sanghi.

A13 | 09.45 am - 10.35 am

Anonymous Is No Longer a Woman: She Writes, She leads.

In her book *Anonymous Is a Woman*, author and historian Nina Ansary takes readers on a 4,000 year historic journey and talks about the eclipsing of women's accomplishments in history. In this session, women writers and personalities, who have both questioned, and answered - Where are the women? - through their writings and by example, talk about what it takes to break the barriers of inequality and discriminatory practices against women and girls. They imagine what society would look like today had women not been written out of history.

In this session, Kiran Manral, Nirupama Kotru, Koral Dasgupta and Manisha M. Puri will be in conversation with Khushboo Mattoo.

A14 | 10.40 am - 11.30 am

Spotlight: Kashmir's New Age Writers, Artists and Thinkers

The youth of Jammu, Kashmir and Leh have always proved their mettle in every field of life whether at home or outside, despite the hostile environment. Be it in the field of art, culture, sports, music, politics and so on, they have been making their presence felt and often come up with surprising successes. Continuing this trend, now a good number of youth are doing well in the field of literature as writers of prose and poetry in recent years after witnessing the conflict and unrest in the valley. In this session, budding writers, artists and thinkers from Kashmir talk about their literary journey, books and aspirations.

In this session Arhan Bagati, Manpreet Kour, Tamana Slathia and Tsering Gurmat will be in conversation with Niyati Bhat.



A15 | 11.35 am - 12.25 pm

Literature of Languages: Lest We Forget

A performance by Jameel Gulrays and his associates

Katha Kathan is an ardent effort to save Indian languages from becoming dialects and eventually vanishing. The initiative by Jameel Gulrays reintroduces the beauty of India's native languages through its literature, via the platform of dramatised readings of Indian language literature on stage, captivating audiences and taking them on a journey of vivid imagination. It brings alive the work of some of the greatest poets and authors from across languages.

In this session, **Jameel Gulrays** talks about his passionate project and together with his associates, narrates one of the stories in his trademark style. He will be in conversation with **Anu Singh Chaudhary**.

A16 | 12.30 pm - 01.20 pm

The Stories from Kashmir

The Influence of Literary Stories in Promoting Tourism

This session seeks to advocate that the State should encourage and invest in literary stories from Kashmir to be published widely so that the imagination of the reader is enthused, and compelled to travel to Kashmir to experience the places and culture in which the stories are weaved, similar to the role that cinema plays by its visuals. This will also help in building a new narrative for Kashmir of its rich heritage of literature, music, folk songs and culture.

*In this session, **Aditya Raj Kaul**, **Nusrat Durrani** and **Mona Verma** will be in conversation with **Sumant Batra**.*

A17 | 01.25 pm - 02.05 pm

Nurturing the Kashmiri Roots: A Heart That Beats For The Motherland.

This 23 year old graduate from the prestigious liberal arts Pomona College, United States chose to work on ground in Kashmir over following other opportunities in the US or the comforts of Delhi life. The young Kashmiri Pandit, founder of and driving force behind KYARI, has been extensively travelling to the various districts of Jammu & Kashmir seeking to understand the developmental issues, hoping to offer economical solutions and, at the same time, trying to bridge the gap between communities.

*In this session, **Arhan Bagati** will be in conversation with **Danish Manzoor Bhat**.*

A18 | 02.10 pm - 02.50 pm

Book Discussion

The Mystic and the Lyric: Four Women Poets from Kashmir

"My Body in bliss, a river of wine My eyes are open, saqi, come fill these cups Hu Hu Ha! I cry, madness in my heart." Lal Ded, Habba Khatun, Rupa Bhavani, Arnimal: these four women poets, dating from different periods in the history of Kashmir, are household names in the Valley and are claimed by all, no matter what religious, ethnic or other group they belong to. In this beautiful volume, Neerja Mattoo brings their work together for the first time, placing it in two traditions, the mystic and the lyric. Fine and nuanced translations of their poems are accompanied by brief introductions to their work that place the women in a historical context and deal with both the facts and the beliefs about their work.

*In this session, **Neerja Mattoo** will be in conversation with **Nirupama Kotru**.*

A19 | 02.50 pm

Closing Remarks

Sumant Batra, Founder, Kumaon Literary Festival

Arhan Bagati, Founder, KYARI



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

My sincere thanks to Shri Manoj Sinha, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, for his support and good wishes!

I am thankful to KYARI and Arhan Bagati, for their support and efforts in the making of this event. My thanks also goes to ITC Fortune Heevan and SKICC, in particularly Bakhshi Javed Humayun (Director, SKICC)

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

Sumant Batra

Founder

Kumaon Literary Festival





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