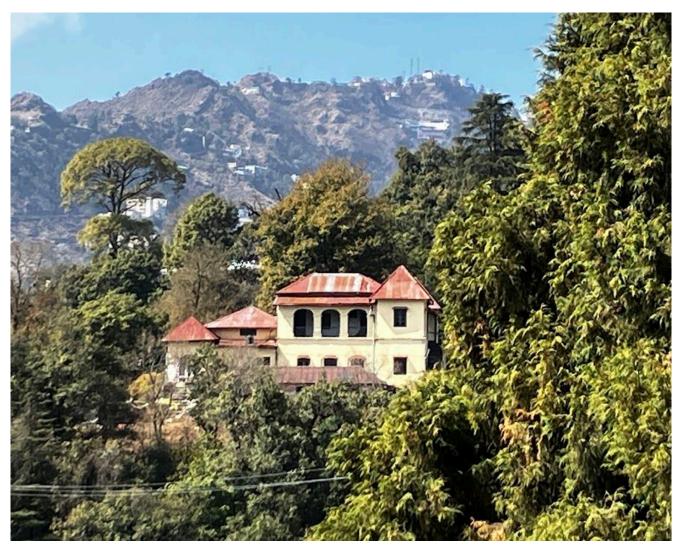
"Kilmoras and Hisalus" & other poems from Mussoorie by Rachna Joshi

Reading at IHC
From my new book
The poem 'Kilmoras and Hisalus',
About my childhood
In Fernlodge Barlowgunj,
And the denizens
Of that village.

By Rachna Joshi

Kilmoras and Hisalus



Sikandar Hall, Mussoorie
Eating kilmoras and hisalus

On the way to Naala Pani Past the Old Brewery And Sikandar Hall.

Fern Lodge perched atop a hillside With peach and plum trees Trailing along a slope.

Below, the cowshed Where the gwala comes to milk the cows And to keep encroachers at bay Who are creeping up the hillside.

Barlowgunj Market
With Chaman Lala's shop

And the schoolchildren From St. George's Coming for tuck.

Chachi and Buaji in the kitchen On stilts
Churning out pots of soup.

The old piano in the drawing room Which children liked to play. Patties and pastries in the evening. Granpa's green fingers in the nursery Where there were fuschias and begonias As well as a beehive. Hydrangeas in the gardens

Rhododendron Squash

Mountains are a special place
Where the mind soars
Above the mundane
and how creativity flowers
among the cedars and rhododendrons.

Granma making rhododendron squash.
Her deft fingers cutting the flowers
And cooking them
In sugar syrup.

This is how I would Like to remember My childhood In Fern Lodge Barlowgunj. Mussoorie Modern School



Mussoorie Modern School

I remember
The pipes used to freeze
In winter in Chaman Estate.
In the hostel dorms
The matron used to change our clothes.

I remember the Tibetan teacher Putting butter and salt In her tea In the mess. Thal jus mukh, kator jus aankh.

Mr. Viegas, the Principal, With his wife Shirley and daughter Candy In a cottage by the side. Framed by flowering beds.

Driving to Dehradoon

Driving to Dehradoon
Passing Duckchick
And Chital at Khatauli.
Seeing the travelers and itinerants.

Having pakoras and chai, With the canal nearby And the bridge.

Attending the Doon readings At Hotel Aketa in Rajpur. With Mountain Echoes, Penguin And Doon Library.

Shekhar Pathak, Ruskin Bond And Anjali Nauriyal, Poetry of the hills.

The stately Rajpur Road With Daalanwaala and Welham Girl's High School. Astley Hall and Ellora's.

The Tibetan monastery
At the end of the road
Near Sahastradhara.

Getting caught in traffic jams While returning on Easter From Dehradoon.

Seemadwar

Walking to Seemadwar After eating khichri And passing Jagdamba's shop At Indiranagar.

Mrs. Chaturvedi's house And HARC.

Shukla Marriage Bureau And Anurag Paudhshala.

Sun Chasers
Where Sumitaji
Is having a conversation
With the owner.
A budding romance.

Ganga Aarati



Ganga Aarati At Haridwar With diyas floated

On the Ganges, And the waving of lamps. Chanting and singing.

RACHNA JOSHI

Rachna Joshi is a poet and reviewer who has lived in India and North America. She has written five collections of poems: Configurations (Rupa & Co., 1993); Crossing the Vaitarani (Writer's Workshop, 2008); Travel Tapestry (Yatra Books, 2013); Monsoon and Other Poems (Tethys, 2020); and Unraveling (Authors Press, 2024) She has a master's in Creative Writing from Syracuse University in upstate New York, and has been widely published in magazines and anthologies in India and abroad. She worked as Senior Assistant Editor at the India International Centre, Delhi, for 28 years and lives in Noida, U. P.

"Kavi Saptak: A Celebration of Poetry and Creativity at Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal"



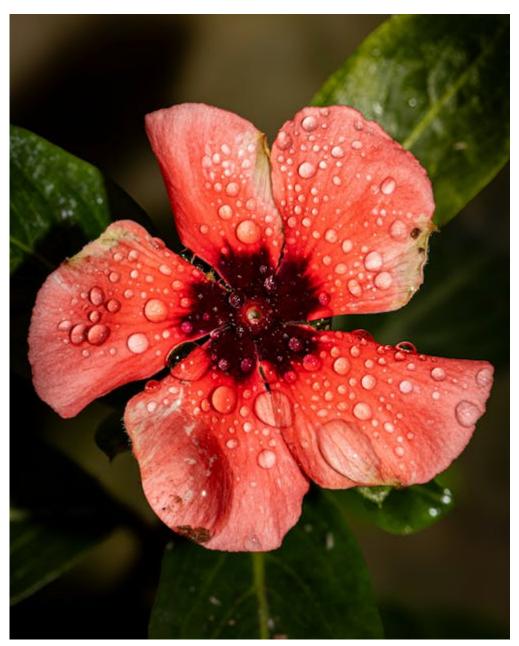
Bhopal. Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal unit organized a special poetry recitation series called 'Kavi Saptak' in the Muktdhara Auditorium of Rabindranath Tagore University on 23 December 2024. In which talented poets of Rabindranath Tagore University and Scope Global Skill University mesmerized the audience with their creations.

In this program, Shashwat Verma, Ashi Dixit, Vikrant Bhatt, Vishakha Rajurkar Raj, Mudit Srivastava and Mausami Parihar recited their poems, which immersed the auditorium in literary essence. Shashwat was seen communicating with his inner self in his poems, while the freshness of language was seen in Ashi's poems. Vikrant presented his curiosities in poetry. Vishakha scattered the rainbow colors of love in her poems. Mudit worked to bind the events of life and the fine lines of nature in language. Mausami expressed her tender restlessness through poems.

The program was presided over by Dr. Veena Sinha ji, President of Vanmali Srujan Kendra, Bhopal unit. Who congratulated the poets and shared her views on their poems. Shri Vinay Upadhyay ji also praised the poets and the new experiments done in their creations. At the end of the program, Dr. Savitri Singh Parihar, Coordinator of Sanskrit Oriental Language and Indian Knowledge Tradition Center, expressed her gratitude to everyone. Student Pushpendra, Chairman of Virasat Samiti, conducted the program efficiently, and on this occasion teachers of the Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts and

students of Natya Vidyalaya were also present as spectators. Due to which the program got a wide and enthusiastic audience. 'Kavi Saptak' not only provided a platform to poetry lovers but also promoted literary dialogue and creativity.

The Pearly Dew Drop Speaks



A few dew drops rests on the primroses with garden greens

It seems like glistening pearls to a few

But the drying drops knows for sure

That they are indeed not the pearly wealthy whites

But only a few drops of glistening moist moments

On the rich laden scented garden

They might be adorned. only come back may another day

If the willingness of fair weather and fade-in garden days permits

We are forever anew



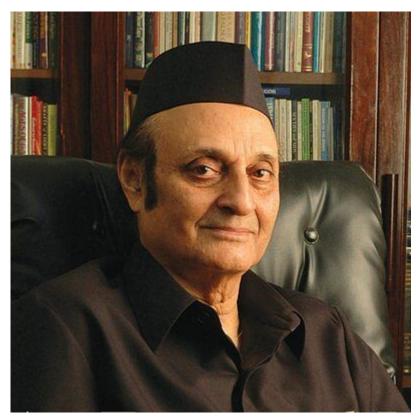
When its time to be heard, prepared to be silent When its time to be considered, prepared to be hurt When its time to say how many times more Be prepared to be reminded your time might never come In the solace that in your grave site You will be marked forget or remembered You will be seen as saint either a saint or a sinner A fool or a fearless brave With flowers at your feet or weeds With no visiting tears or many who will place stones around vour bed To this land we will all go one day Become the dust where new flowers will grow Can we be happy only to know That on our passing by we will Not be silenced, not be hurt, not be torn apart by inner tears Its time my friends to see this too Our saga will be told forever a new

The Hearing of a Home



A Small Cottage near the Greens With Neighbourly kind voices that were once Seen Oh has Life Ever Been? That Standing Stillness of Home? Not to Move out, Not to Move On The Standing Sense of Home It's the Scent of Home, the Sense of Home The Sense of Hearing, the Sense of Greens... That Beckons my Mind to Stay in this Hearth As within the Steady Hands of a Clock Time Unseen For I Wish not to Forget...not to move on Not to move out For that Sense I Belong to that no one Unseen Are the Living Beats of time enough for me? Yes, the Beating Steady time Beats are enough for me Loud, Strong, Clicking, Sounds Loud Enough to be Heard Forever by Me...

A Multilingual Recitation by Dr. Karan Singh



Dr. Karan Singh
Poetry is to be Heard

A review by Mandira Ghosh

READINGS: Sounds of Poetry:

CHAIR: Muzaffar Ali

COLLABORATION: The Poetry Society, India

12 December 2023

The recitations in five languages by Dr. Karan Singh brought alive the linguistic diversity of India. He shared some of his favourite poems in English, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit and Dogri,

and said that prose is to be read and poetry is to be heard; life without music and poetry is dull. Muzaffar Ali, who chaired this unique session, urged the celebration of poetry and said that all his works, especially his unreleased film Zooni, were driven by poetry.

Karan Singh began reciting his favoured poems in a mellifluous voice and sonorous tone. He started with Wordsworth's famous poem titled 'Daffodils', and went on to read more outstanding poems by poets like W. B. Yeats and Robert Frost. While reading Frost's 'The Road Not Taken', he mentioned that he himself took the road less travelled and that made all the difference in his life. He explained Frost's famous words: 'The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep' from the poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening'. He also read Frost's 'Fire and Ice' and said that the world will either end in fire or ice. In this context, he also quoted, 'Nothing beside remains' from P.B. Shelley's 'Ozymandias'

. He also read the creations of Urdu and Hindi poets like Ghalib, Shakeel Badayuni and Kabir. He chose to recite Kabir's 'Ghoonghat Ke Pat Khol' and excerpts from Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas. Going back to his Kashmiri roots, he sang a song in Dogri quite beautifully and concluded the evening with the recitation of 'Shanti Mantra' in Sanskrit, uttering Om!

MANDIRA GHOSH

First Published in IIC Diary (December 2023—January 2024)

Poetry is to be Heard

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World's largest literature festival concludes



Einstein World Records gives certificate of achievement

The last day was dedicated to the differently abled writers

More than 850 children of Delhi NCR More took part in the programme 'Aao Kahani Bune'

New Delhi, 16 March 2024: The Festival of Letters 2024, which is being organized by Sahitya Akademi as the world's largest literature festival, concluded today. The last day of this six-day festival was dedicated to differently abled writers. To provide national platform to differently abled writers All India Differently Abled Writers' Meet was organized. To awaken interest in literature among children many competitions were organized for more than 850 children at the programme 'Aao Kahani Bune'. Today's other important programmes included "Symposium on the Life and Works of Gopi Chand Narang", "Translation in a Multilingual, Multicultural Society", Indian Languages", "Translation "Preservation o f Rewriting/re-creation in the Indian Context", "Indian English Writing and Translation". Apart from this, the ongoing national seminars on "Indian Oral Epics" and "Post-Independence Indian Literature" also concluded.

Considering this six-day festival as the world's biggest literary festival, today the team of Einstein World Records, Dubai, presented the certificate of a world record in ceremoniously to Sri Madhav Kaushik, Prof. Kumud Sharma and Dr. K. Sreenivasarao, respectively President, Vice President and Secretary, Sahitya Akademi. The certificate mentions the participation of more than 1100 writers in 190 sessions in this world's largest literature festival that lasted six days and over 175 languages were represented. Delivering the inaugural address at the inaugural session of the All India Differently Abled Writers' Meet, renowned English scholar Prof. G.J.V. Prasad said that we have to work with awareness and affection in connection with the differently abled. Disability is not congenital but many times we acquire it due to our own ignorance and carelessness. He requested all the differently abled writers to identify their special abilities

and work on them, they must achieve their destination. In her presidential address, Vice President of Sahitya Akademi, Prof. Kumud Sharma, while discussing the achievements of the differently abled people in various fields, said that the differently abled people will have to move forward with the energy and courage, only then they will be able to achieve their desired destination.

At the beginning of the inaugural session, Sahitya Akademi Secretary Dr. K. Sreenivasarao while giving the welcome address said that Sahitya Akademi is feeling proud to have differently abled writers from 24 Indian languages present here today. Remembering the great writer and critic Gopichand Narang, a symposium was organized on his literary contribution. The chief guests of which were Sri Gulzar and Narang ji's wife Manorama Narang. Sri Gulzar in his inaugural address said that the personality and work of Gopi Chand Narang is a beautiful combination of his talent and greatness. The key-note was given by the eminent Urdu scholar Nizam Siddiqui. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai delivered his speech as the special guest. Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik presided over. Introductory remarks were made by Sri Chandra Bhan Khayal, Convener of the Urdu Advisory Board. Important writers and scholars who participated in these programmes were Harish Narang, Damodar Khadse, Anvita Abbi, Rita Kothari, K. Enoch, Debashish Chatterjee, Udaya Narayana Singh, Mamang Dai, Sukrita Paul Kumar, Shafe Kidwai, Shamim Tariq.

(K. Sreenivasarao)

On Starvation and War Without

Peace



Famine & War are Brothers Image: Tufts University

On Starvation

She is eighteen

An age to dance.

.. She knows not her age

Her face wrinkled with sunlight and dust

Once could have been pretty

Now in her tattered clothes,

With swollen belly lying on a street Begs in a broken bowl.

The remaining one rupee Snatched by a rogue

Tomorrow death may strike On an unknown street

Tomorrow death may strike in any street

Across the continents....

Millions will starve Millions will die

For want of food...

Only one question will be asked to them

By the prosperous "Go and search for work!"

Work?

Woman Near the River

Diverged distant dreams

Shattered dreams

Of life and beyond life

Deaths seemed to be easy on them

Dreams that are now non-existent. beneath the yellow sand of the riverbank

Breaking sand, one could see ...

Fossilized bodies of frozen women

Bodies earlier drenched in red.

By men

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Their men
 Our men
 Your men
My men.
War and No Peace
Do you want to know
Meaning of Peace?
Then
Read Kafka.
If you want to know
Of our powerlessness
Then
Read Camus.
If you want to know
About war
Just
Listen to
The music of
Ukrainian singers.
Rhythm of their instruments..
The songs are not melodies
They are shrieks.
Instruments measure
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the noise of the wreck....

And when you really want to wail

Look at

Picture of

The Last Supper

Jesus will make you sob

He will make you cry...

Mandira Ghosh .

Nagaland and other poems



Hornbill Festival **Nagaland**

Conversations with old friends Remembering the good old bad old Days in Nagaland. Bonding and exchanging of views.

Talking of the Hornbill festival, Weaving and craft traditions, Bamboo and indigenous knowledge Folklore and folk songs. Rice beer and dried pork Dal, chaawal and laipatta. Having squash and kachu And fish pie. Christmas songs and blessings.

Graduate School

Reading Structuralist Poetics And Writing and Difference And S/Z by Barthes brings up Old memories of Graduate school in Syracuse.

Poetry workshops, Celestial Seasonings tea, And Fig Newtons. Inspiration.

Chinese New Year

Celebrations in Syracuse With friends from Mainland China And Hong Kong. Dances and food and cheer.

Walking to Westcott store
To get groceries.
Walking back on icy sidewalks.
Going to the International Student's House

For get-togethers and celebrations.