

The

Literary Mirror

INTERNATIONAL LITERARY E-MAGAZINE



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Dr. Manisha Yadava

Indian poetess

Dr. Manisha Yadava has donned multiple hats as a Motivational Speaker, Reiki Healer, Dowser, Angels Card Reader apart from having very strong academic credentials. A Ph.D. in Economics, Dr. Yadava has been the authoress of two best-selling poetry collections; Mere Khayal and Dariya-e-Ehsaas apart from co-authoring four anthologies. At the time when people condemn of limited offourtunity, she has been gracefully fulfilling the responsibilities of a woman as a proud mother of her two beautiful kids. Overcoming the stereotyping of language barrier, she has made her mark in poetry in her mother tongue I.e., Hindi. Not just she has been an affluent expert of language but also credits spirituality as the guiding force in her development.

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From the
**EDITOR'S
 DESK**



Every time we come across humanity, we get into a confrontation with various fallacies rather than facts. Those fallacies which have become an inherent part of our life either on the name of traditions or superstitions have been hovering around our thought-process. These not only get us imbibed on various aspects but also are invariably affecting our lives. Even if we try hard to break these shackles, we are bound to get entangled in the cobweb of morality. The moralities which should be an integral aspect of any mortal but is it worth at its own mortality.

Indeed! The moralities have been a constituent of our writings which had let us in troubled waters. Since humans have always fascination to cross the demarcation to satisfy our curiosity quotient, writing has always challenged the set parameters of morality. The parameters which have been pulling us downward consistently either on the name of our cultural veracity or the tangibility of our traditions. Even though those ill-fed notions have got themselves wrong, we are not ready to accept the inevitable. Considering the soulful integrity of the inevitables which will challenge the prevent idiosyncrasies, The Literary Mirror presents its March Edition

May the Inevitable Integrate the Integrity!

Nitish Raj | Editor-In-Chief | The Literary Mirror

The **Literary Mirror**

Managment

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INTERVIEW

My interest has been in the differences in diversity that never fail to strengthen the spiritual perceptions in me."

– Jayanthi Sankar, the author of Dangling Gandhi

Jayanthi Sankar, born and brought up in India, living in Singapore since 1990, has been creatively active since 1995. This is her first novel after her critically acclaimed short stories collection – *Dangling Gandhi*. She has edited and translated the Global Anthology of 43 contemporary Tamil short stories 'Unwinding'-with contributions from 10 countries has been published in July 2019. She's been published in several magazines and ezines like the indianruminations, museindia, The Wagon, inOpinion. Her short stories have found places in various anthologies including 'the other.' She has been invited to participate in the panels of literary festivals such as (Asia Pacific Writers & Translators) APWT 2018 at Gold coast, Singapore Writers Festival, Seemanchal International Literary festival, ASEAN- India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Writers Festival. Also a watercolor artist, she has been a freelancer for more than a decade and a half, with three years of experience in journalism.



Jayanthi Sankar
Indian Author

era that I'd decided to place my story and that added another 40% and the rest of it came from the social climate that prevailed in South India during the same period.

Q. War has been the most touched upon historical fiction genre, especially the period of Indian independence is the go-to desi thought, how does *Dangling Gandhi* differ from the other stories about the era?

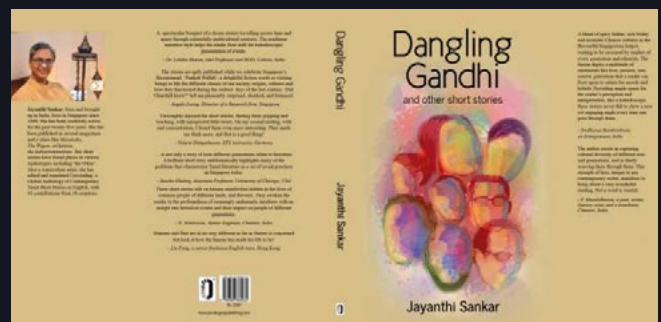
A. Half of the stories, set in colonial India, and Malaya talk of ordinary humans and their ordinary lives who normally would've existed away from war-torn or riots regions or those who lived their lives regardless of ways of their rulers or those who would've been affected only indirectly by the significant historical happenings of that particular era. I thought such ordinary people who constituted a larger portion of a population have hardly ever been depicted in any social or political history. It's always either extolling or criticizing groups or individuals.

Q. Why 'Dangling Gandhi'?

A. As a simple metaphor and the title of one of the short stories, it fitted well as the title of the collection, perhaps better than what I had originally thought.

Q. How much of conceptual research was necessary apart from empirical analysis and personal experiences?

A. Most of the stories required only the basic research as these are more of character-driven stories that are truly fictitious in nature and experimental in craft and form. For example, Mani in 'Punkah Wallah' was a character formed from the piece of information I had heard during my mid-teens made about 40% of the substance. When I read both online and in the national library to find out the situation of Singapore during the colonial times, I came across certain sociopolitical incidents during the



Book: *Dangling Gandhi*

Q. There are contemporary stories that alternate with the historical fiction in 'Dangling Gandhi'. Is there any reason for it, or was this an attempt to be relevant to the present generation?

A. As a collection, I sequenced the twelve stories to alternate, primarily to bring a better vibrant reading experience and also to give the young readers a wholesome feel of reading the past and the present.

Q. Most of your stories figure a male protagonist, how easy/tough was it for you as a woman to tap into a man's psyche?

A. As any fiction writer, I tend to experiment on how my characters would think or should think and some basic and innate psychology that we humans possess can help in that. I have not had much difficulty in this in and out of the fictional space that gives both pain and pleasure. Although unintentionally the collection turned out to be more of male protagonists perhaps also because of the era that I touched saw more Indian migrants who used to be mostly men.

Q. As you were born in India and have been a Singapore resident for the past 30 years and have experienced many cultures. How does this affect your thinking process?

A. I have observed myself distinctly becoming more and more human and hence almost always unbiased as I got to experience more and more of diversity. My interest has always been in the differences in the diversity that never fails to strengthen the spiritual perceptions in me. I think it has always aided my evolution as a person. I've noticed in innumerable occasions, my acquaintances expressing that they rarely come across a person like me who thinks so lesser of self, who can never judge situations or persons where it might even sound normal to, and I believe wider exposure to various cultures along with reading alone can naturally bring this in one.

Q. You've brought in a neutral perspective over physical disabilities, and they're not brought in as a bane or a boon to the host or the third person. How was this brought about?

A. I didn't think of taking any stand on the differently-abled people. Just the way I wanted to depict the ordinary lives of ordinary people during extraordinary times, I created characters like Mani and Venu, who live their lives normally like their peers despite their physical shortcomings. It's neither to glorify physical challenge nor to bring any sympathy in the readers but only to show perhaps their inner strengths, more through the feel the readers would get rather than through my words.

Q. With rising awareness and acceptance of the LGBTQ community and their ideologies, there's still ambiguity in the knowledge or even the definition of Queer, how were you able to tap into that genre through 'Am I a jar'?

A. The story too carries the required abstractness to indicate the same but raises questions in a reader. 'Am I a Jar?' was based on the daughter of my ex-colleague friend. That young girl went through all the confusion in her life in search of the same. Years ago, that girl's mother had shared so much with me that I'd thought of a full-fledged novel first but the short story formed on a fine day.

Q. How did Allegory being one of the least experimented writing styles, attract you?

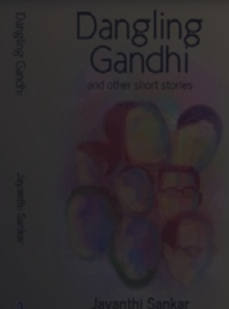
A. Normally, I play with the theme and characters in my mind before I start crafting, letting the theme and content choose their form. Different readers can read these stories in different depths. Although the stories are in a simple language, I won't deny that they are layered and require some effort to understand better.



R. Sredhanea

Interview by R. Sredhanea

Book : Dangling Gandhi
 Author : Jayanthi Sankar
 Publisher : Zero Degree publishing
 Price : ₹220
 Pages : 154



A True Epitome of Iron Will & Immense Grit

– Mohit Chauhan



Mohit Chauhan
Indian Author

The acclaimed poet Mohit Chauhan, has been a path-bearer for all those who complains about the petty issues and expects pity in return.

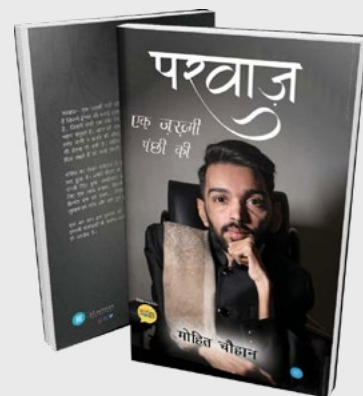
The difference in you is enough to make you quite different, and the 32 year old differently abled poet and writer Mohit Chauhan from New Delhi has been the true epitome. Born with an incurable and a near fatal disease called “**Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy**”; Mr. Chauhan has never let his physical weakness come into the way of his literary enlightenment. Proving even the whole medical fraternity wrong, Mr. Chauhan is living his life to the fullest in contrary to what the white-collared professionals prophecy of just 12 years! Mr. Chauhan tell that **DMD is a genetic disorder characterized** by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness due to the alterations of a protein called dystrophin that helps keep muscle cells intact. There are manytypes of muscular dystrophy but it is the most severe one.

Despite being bed-ridden for the past 32 years, nothing could ever devour his grit and determination to pen down his thoughts. As per the old saying, “**Behind every successful man there is a woman**”; Mr. Chauhan embarked on a poetic journey almost 3 years ago when a girl rang the bell of his poetic soul. He carved out his thoughts and feelings in the form of a book titled “**Parwaaz – Ek Zakhmi Panchhi Ki**”. The most notable thing feature here is that mohit wrote each and every word of his book on a cellphone as the disease has impacted his limbs to such an extent that they hardly showcase any locomotive function.

His creation “**Parwaaz – Ek Zakhmi Panchhi Ki**”, comprises of poetry on various themes that reflect on life and unfolds all the emotions beautifully instilled in human nature by the Almighty. While one part of the book beautifully incarnates the true and pure form of love, motivation, courage; the other part brings out the harsh reality of relationships in the modern world, social stigmas, fear and shame.

The book unveiling was done by **Deputy Chief Minister**

of Delhi; **Shri Manish Sisodia** along with some of the distinguished personalities of Hindi literature which includes; **Dr. Prem Janmejai**, Poet Mohit Chauhan with Mr. Manish Sisodia on his book launch at World Book Fair 2020. **Harish Naval**, **Dr. Sangeeta Sharma Adhikari**, **Mrs. Sunita Shanu** and **Mr. Rannvijay Rao** on 4th Jan 2020 at **New Delhi World Book Fair, Pragati Maidan**. Considering this disease as a boon for himself which is given only to special ones; Mr. Chauhan believes that it has given him wings to fly and courage to dream beyond every limitation. Mohit has been an active part of the poetry society and has attended various poetry events as and when possible despite facing all the physical challenges. Mohit attributes the credit of his achievements to his parents and his younger brother who has played a crucial role in Mohit’s success. As contrary to what people perceive that a routine life is a normal life, Mohit is living an extraordinary life and all thanks to his iron will and immense grit.



Being a firm believe in the popular saying; “**What the mind can perceive, the hands can receive**”; Mohit is creating niche for himself. His unparalleled devotion towards literature has led him to get featured in various digital and print media houses. Being a firm believer in humanity and graciousness of individuals along with, **Never Say No attitude**, Mr. Chauhan summarizes the philosophy of his life which he thinks can act as a message for anyone who is finding his morale down in just a few lines.

YOU BENEATH YOUR SKIN

By Damyanti Bishwas

Damyanti Biswas lives in Singapore, and works with Delhi's underprivileged children as part of Project Why, a charity that promotes education and social enhancement in underprivileged communities. Her short stories have been published in magazines in the US, UK, and Asia, and she helps edit the Forge Literary Magazine.



Damyanti Bishwas
Indian Author

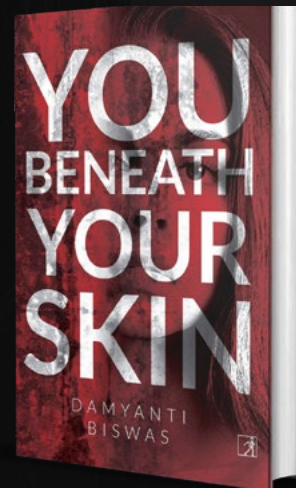
It's a dark, smog-choked new Delhi winter. Indian American single mother Anjali Morgan juggles her job as a psychiatrist with caring for her autistic teenage son. She is in a long-standing affair with ambitious police commissioner Jatin Bhatt – An irresistible attraction that could destroy both their lives. Jatin's home life is falling apart: his handsome and charming son is not all he appears to be, and his wife has too much on her plate to pay attention to either husband or son. But Jatin refuses to listen to anyone, not even the sister to whom he is deeply attached. Across the city there is a crime spree: slum women found stuffed in trash bags, faces and bodies disfigured by acid. And as events spiral out of control Anjali is horrifyingly at the centre of it all in a sordid world of poverty, misogyny, and political corruption, Jatin must make some hard choices. But what he unearths is only the tip of the iceberg. Together with Anjali he must confront old wounds and uncover long-held secrets before it is too late.

This book is not just a story but it raises very serious issues like women's safety, security and most importantly acid attacks on women. Book talks about mental health issues, autism and loneliness too. In our country there are several cases we heard about acid attacks it clearly depicted cruel and sick mentality of men. But other hand it also stated the strong mindset of girls who just survived through it and live her life strongly with those scars.

This story is about Anjali a single mother of an autistic child Nikhil. She lives with her friend Maya in Delhi. Jatin is commissioner of Police and his family life is disturbed but Jatin and Anjali both are very good friends and love each other too. Jatin working on a case where he found two dead bodies of women who burned by acid after rape. Maya, Pawan and Anjali helping him to investigate this case, there are lots of mystery and se-

crets are waiting for you through out the book and keep you on your toes. Story is engaging, captivating and a complete page turner.

Story is bit slow in start after that it is getting pace and there is no point of time i feel like story losing his grip. Narration part of the book is very strong which will keep you glued to book. Characters are very well developed and feeling like real. Language used by author is simple and lucid.



Dipali Gupta
Indian Reviewer

Book Review by Dipali Gupta

Book: You Beneath your skin
Author: Damayanti Biswas
Publisher: Simon & Schuster India
Price: ₹399
Pages: 392
Rating: ***** 5/5

FICTION*Poem***Happy Soul**

I love being hated
 Loathed, scorned upon
 The doors of my inner peace
 Knocked at, banged
 Banged with anger, uncontrolled
 Savage
 I stay calm
 Quiet composed
 There maybe times I mite weaken
 Shedding invisible tears of sorrow
 I sit there
 Consoling those innocent droplets of despair
 I caress them dry them

In dat small room opens a smaller window
 Letting out pain and resentment
 I give them wings
 Wings to fly
 Fly away to noman's land
 And come back never

I gather my strength
 Feeling my heartbeat one more time
 Conscience sublime and clear
 Smiling innocently..

The banging now gradually fading
 Phasing out
 Their pleas falling to deaf ears
 Frustration rebound
 Royally ignored
 Reluctantly limping back

I conquer my fears, criticisms
 An aura of peace and serenity now prevails
 I emerge victorious!
 I am a Happy Soul!!

- Written by
Nidhi Bansal, Poetess, India

About the Poetess

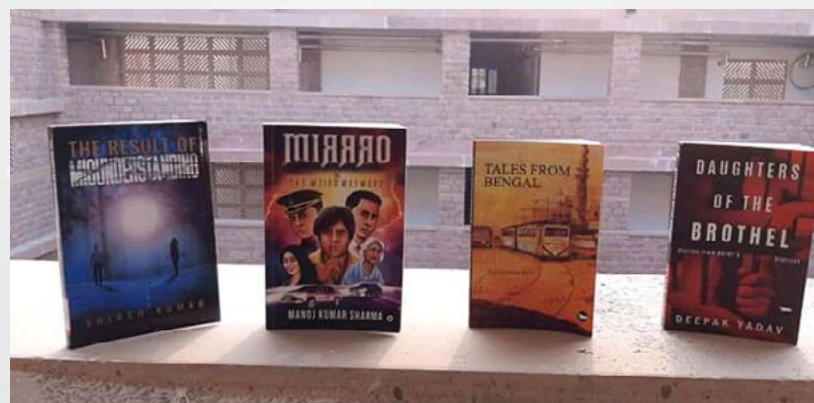
Nidhi Bansal seeks recognition through her poetry & recitations on YouTube. For this homemaker, it all started off as a hobby, doing daily chores in the kitchen. Reading and writing her mind aloud declutters her life and makes her feel liberated from the clutches of worldly conventions. Nidhi has a knack of expressing her feelings through written words that in turn cultivates an impressive audience for her creations.



Exciting Masterpieces on Display



Find the bunch of exciting masterpieces which got displayed during IGNUS 20, the Socio-Cultural event of IIT Jodhpur. The books which covered various themes not just raise a charm amongst the IITians but also to the students from all around the country. Period & Emotion by Mukesh Kr. Shahi, Mirro@The Weird Wayward by Manoj Kumar Sharma, The Result of Misunderstanding by Shirsh Srivastava, Daughters of the Brothel by Deepak Yadav, Alfaaz-e-Mahi by Manju (Mahi Rai) Tales From Bengal by Sourish Roy.



Poetry is Fusion of Thought and Feeling

Ever since the humans have stepped foot on this earth, they have found themselves on the brink of a perplexed thought-process. The thought-process which have made them to entangle into a labyrinth which seems indecipherable. Those indecipherable thoughts demand a thorough understanding of the basic attributes of an individual which can be just understood by a poetic heart. The heart which can wither in pain, giggle in joy, peace in solace and positivity when there has been darkness all around can only be an element of a poet. A poet who can have those emotions which could be expressed and who could express it better than the acclaimed poet Vihang Ashokbhai Naik.

Mr. Naik who entered into the Limca Book of Records for his debut poetry collection; City Times and Other Poems has been a prolific poet in English and Gujarati. A retired Associate Professor (English), Mr. Naik has taught in various college before retiring recently in March 2019. His poetries have been widely read and published. He received Michel Madhusudan Prize in 1998 for his works. In the words of Mr. Naik; "To me poetry is fusion of thought and feeling" which was quite evident in his Jeevangeet(Gujarati) as his

poetic heart withered after the disasterous earthquake in 2001. His poems have been independent of any particular region which has the translations which include Spanish, Italian & Portuguese. Being an avid translator himself, he has translated his works into Gujarati & English.



There have been never even been a comparison to experience. His works have been a blend of fine observation and year long experience of teaching the youngsters has helped him to understand the dynamics of modern society. The works of Mr. Naik which have deciphered those dynamics have got received wide recognition in the recent times as he has been awarded IndiReader Best Book in 2015, Beverly Hills Book Awards in 2016 and Book Excellence Award in 2017 apart from getting published in various literary journals of international repute.



Vihang A. Naik
Indian Author

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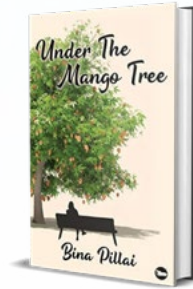
Mr Naik have the charisma to understand those aspects which are necessary for having an affluent persona and has developed as his trait. This trait has been once again duly recognized in the Konark Lit Fest 2019 as the Best Poetry for his poetry collection; Making A Poem which was earlier published back in 2004

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Books of the Month



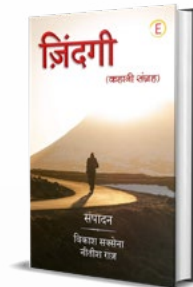
Book : A Year Without Summer
Author : Shreyan Laha
Publisher : Bigfoot Publications
Price : ₹285
Pages : 365



Book : Under The Mango Tree
Author : Bina Pillai
Publisher : Bigfoot Publications
Prize : ₹225
Pages : 236



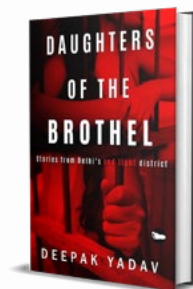
Book : Pink Gender
Author : Anandajit Goswami
Publisher : Bigfoot Publications
Price : ₹149
Pages : 150



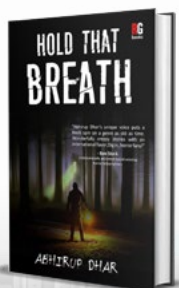
Book : Zindagi
Author : Vikash Saxena, Nitish Raj
Publisher : Evincepub
 Publishing House
Price : ₹149
Pages : 82



Book : Rangbirangi
Compilers : Nidhi Sehgal,
 Naman Khandelwal
Publisher : Manda Publishers
Price : ₹249
Pages : 157



Book : Daughters Of The Brothel
Author : Deepak Yadav
Publisher : Bigfoot Publications
Price : ₹149
Pages : 206



Book : Hold That Breath
Author : Abhirup Dhar
Publisher : Redgrab Publisher
Price : ₹49 (Kindle)
Pages : 132



Book : Panch Rashmi
Author : Naman Khandelwal
Publisher : Manda Publishers
Price : ₹149
Pages : 108


EVENT

Mata Sundri College for Women, DU, celebrates Annual College Fest 'SAARANG' with Sufi Singer and Poet Satinder Sartaj Live in Performance

Mata Sundri College for Women, DU celebrated 'Saarang', the annual college festival on 24th and 25th February, 2020 under the aegis of President, DSGMC S. Manjinder Singh Sirsa; General Secretary, DSGMC, S. Harmeet Singh Kalka; Governing Body Chairman, Padma Shree S. Vikramjit Singh Sahni; Member Governing Body Dr. Rawail Singh, Member Governing Body, S. Prithipal Singh Sahney; Principal of college, Dr. Harpreet Kaur, and the Convener of festival Dr Suprita Jha.

The two day celebration saw the participation of more than 500 students from DU and other universities as Jamia Milia Islamia, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprasth University etc. The motto of the fest was making learning festive and there were many competitions for students keeping in mind their academic, spiritual, artistic and performative interests. Events such as Quiz Competition, Sanskrit Shlo-kavriti and Vaartah, and Debate competition which helped students sharpen their awareness of contemporary topics in various fields of knowledge. The topics of all these competitions were chosen to expose students to the most current questions facing our society, such as our responsibilities while using social media in the age

of Information Technology and women empowerment. Guru Nanak Paper Reading with its theme "Guru Nanak Ji as the Redeemer of Humanity" helped to tie all knowledge to spiritual ethos. Saarang 2020 was mindful about the environmental responsibility that is owed by all to their future generations. Events such as Eco-Innovation were held to encourage students to come up with innovative solutions to the obstacles to sustainable development. Indian traditions of song and dance were encouraged with events like Thirak, Mehfil-e-Ghazal and Sur Sarita. Creativity and art combined with social messages formed the basis of competitions such as Nukkad Natak and Rangoli, and the fields of marketing and information technology found platforms in Ad-o-Mania and Coding Competition. To cap the festive learning, the college welcomed the renowned Sufi singer and poet, Satinder Sartaj for the Grand Finale of the festival. The concert was a huge success with students and staff singing along with the folk music that was redolent of traditional Punjabi culture, landscape and ways of life. Accompanied by his team, Sartaj produced a jubilant atmosphere for his audience, interspersed with reflective shayyari, and was appreciated particularly for his famous

song 'Sai'. Many fans who had long awaited the opportunity were able to meet the singer onstage and offer him their gifts such as portraits, bouquets, etc, which the singer graciously and gratefully accepted.



Zindagi launched in IGNUS 20, IIT Jodhpur

The four day Socio-Cultural fest; IGNUS 20 in the esteemed IIT Jodhpur became the live epitome of the successful launch of Zindagi. The Book Launch witnessed the honorable presence of their editors, Vikash Saxena & Nitish Raj along with Dayal (Dev Kushwaha) whose story, Agent Dev is a part of the book. Zindagi is the debut book as an editor for both Mr. Saxena & Raj. The collection has a fine blend of stories spreading a positive message and other genres of selected storytellers from all over the country. The selected storytellers who contributed to Zindagi are Ramandeep Kaur, Garima Singh, Simran Tripathi, Mukesh Kumar, Bharat A. Tarachandani, Abhishek Nagar, Peeyush Umarav, Sheetal Mittal, Dev Kushwaha, Vishakha Gaur, Hemant Kumar Aasliwaal and Saarika Singh.



काश... तुम समझ पाते

डॉ. मनीषा यादव



MAKING A POEM



Vihang A. Naik