

RANI MASSEY (India)



Dr. Rani Massey, is a Reader in the Department of English, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow (joined 1980) and teaches at the undergraduate and Post- graduate levels. She also contributes towards the teaching of Women's Studies Post – graduate

classes and has to her credit numerous dissertations as a supervisor. She has also to her credit, an International publication of a Research Paper (an outcome of the International Research Project awarded to the College), which culminated in a text book: "Women's Studies in India: Some Contours." This Indian Volume is a part of the Women's Studies in Asia text book series from eight Asian polities, published by Ewha Woman's University Press Korea, June 2005. Besides other publications she has been the Faculty Advisor and Editor-in-Chief of the college magazine 'Chronicle', and Secretary Faculty Meetings and of late, member of college NAAC and IQAC Planning Committees. She has contributed richly to the college campus life and co-curricular activities of this prestigious Women's College-the first Women's College in Asia. It has strong roots embedded in history and values which uphold the Institute and also an insight to make it forward- looking and progressive.

OM THANVI (India)

Om Thanvi, born and brought-up in Rajasthan, is editor of *Jansatta*, a Hindi daily of the Indian Express Group. He is known for his social and cultural concerns. He has personally been engaged in theatre, literature and environmental activities and has keen interest in history and anthropology; particularly in cinema,



music, painting and language. Om writes travelogues and critical essays. His travelogue *Muanjodaro* tracing remains of the Indus Valley civilization has been widely acclaimed in the literary circles.

PIYASENA WICKRAMARATHNE (Sri Lanka)

Dr. Piyasena Wickramaratne was born in 1944. After a short period he as a teacher went abroad and served Mitsubishi and Morimoto. He came back and

joined in 'Associated Newspapers of Ceylon' and served the then President of Sri Lanka Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga as a translator in her media unit. Thereafter he joined the staff of Prime Minister in his media division where he still continues. Books authored by him include : '*Mihimadalen Eha*', '*Kolamba Ugaye Hitiwala Kavi*', and '*Irugala Langa Wadiwela*'. His various Awards include : Kalabhushana Award, Kawya Chakrawrthi, Kivipathi, Justice of the Peace, Kavya Pradeepa, and Swarna Singha Award.

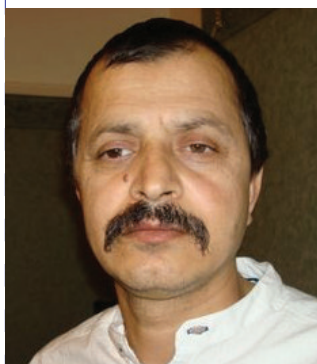


BISHNU N. MOHAPATRA (India)

Bishnu Mohapatra is Programme officer, Local Global Governance at the New Delhi office of the Ford Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, he taught at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru

University. His teaching and research interests cover a wide variety of themes such as modern political philosophy, democracy and pluralism in South Asia, methodologies in social sciences and social and cultural history of colonial India. He has also one collection in English translation.

ABDUL WAKIL SULAMAL SHINWARI (Afghanistan)



Abdul Wakil Sulamal Shinwari was born in Haska Maina Nangarhar Province, in 1964. After his secondary education in Jalalabad, he was sent for higher education to the former Soviet Union, where he got his Masters degree in Military Pedagogy. He returned to Afghanistan in 1989, and worked as an

instructor in various military institutes of the Ministry of Defense, Afghanistan.

In 1994 he worked as a journalist with the "Writers

Union of Free Afghanistan” in Peshawar. In 1995 he went to the Slovak Republic, and later on moved to United Kingdom.

Wakil Shinwari has written a number of academic, research, analytical, political and literary essays, which have been published in various journals in and outside Afghanistan.

Besides Dari, Shinwari knows Russian and Slovak languages, he is well versed in the Dari language, while his mother tongue is Pashto. Has written two books of short stories in Pashto : *Old Castle* and *Fifty Million*.

TARANNUM RIYAZ (India)



Tarannum Riyaz was born, brought up and educated at Srinagar, Kashmir. She holds the degrees of Masters in Urdu and Masters in Education (M.Ed) from Kashmir University.

Tarannum Riyaz has authored more than 12 books of Fiction, Criticism and Poetry.

Tarannum Riyaz has been the recipient of *Delhi Urdu Academy Fiction Award* three times. She has also received *Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy Fiction Award* and *Sahir Ludhyanvi Adeeb International Award* for her contribution in Poetry and Prose. She has also received the *Rasa Javedani Memorial Award* and *Jammu and Kashmir Academy for art, culture and languages for the Best Book Award 2008* for her substantial contribution towards Urdu Literature. Her works have been included in several noteworthy anthologies. Her works have been translated in several Indian and foreign languages.

She has participated in a number of national and International Conference and was a special invitee at the SAARC Conference on Sufism in 2006. She also participated in *World Urdu Conference, Islamabad*, in the year 2005 and in *Aman Ki Asha literature festival* in Karachi 2010.

NEELAM AHMED BASHEER (Pakistan)

Neelam Ahmed Basheer's first book was published in 1991, *Gulabon Wali Gali*, Her other books are

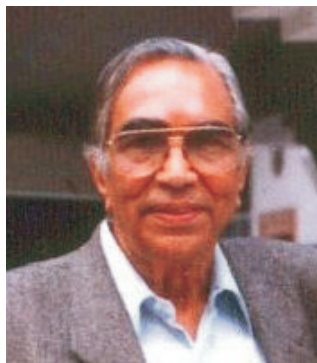


Jugnooun Kay Qaafay, Lay Saans Bhi Ahista, Aik Thi Malika, two travelogues *Nepaal Nama* and *Sitamgar Sitambar* (about 9/11).

She has a masters in Psychology, and has worked professionally in advertising, for ten years.

PRAN NEVILE (India)

Pran Neville was born in Lahore. After a distinguished career in the Indian Foreign Service and the United Nations, he turned a freelance writer and has specialized in the study of Indian art and culture, the paintings and drawings of 18th and 19th centuries. His fascination with performing arts



inspired him to research in the libraries and museums of England and the U.S.A., and produced the illustrated masterpiece 'Nautch Girls of India'. Pran Neville is the author of: '*Lahore – A Sentimental Journey*', '*Love Stories from the Raj*', '*Rare Glimpses of the Raj*', '*Beyond the Veil – Indian Women in the Raj*', '*Stories from the Raj-Sahibs*', '*Memsahibs and Others*', '*K.L. Saigal-Immortal Singer and Superstar*'. Neville has been invited by institutions Universities in India, England, U.S.A. to speak on themes on Indian art and culture.

SHARMILA KANTHA (India)



Sharmila Kantha is the author of three books on Indian business, two novels, and picture books for children. *Building India with Partnership: The Story of CII 1895 to 2005* is the history of an industry association. *India Unlimited: A Corporate Journey* is a

coffee-table book on the trends in Indian business. Both were published by Penguin India. Her novel *A Break in the Circle* was released in 2010. A former bank officer, she now lives in Sri Lanka.

FAKHAR ZAMAN (Pakistan)

Fakhar Zaman is the Chairman, Pakistan Academy



of Letters; Chairman, World Punjabi Congress; Chairman, Pakistan National Committee for World Cultural Decade (UNESCO); Chairman of the International Congress of Writers, Artists and Intellectuals (ICWAI). He has also been Political Adviser to Begum Nusrat Bhutto (1973-77). His Publications include: '*Zahraab*', '*Rastey Kee Dhool*', '*Gardish Mein Paaon*', '*Punjab, Punjabi, Punjabiat*', '*Toon Kay Mein*', '*Kanso Wailey Dee*', '*Wangaar*', '*Sat Gawachay Lok*', '*Ik Marey Bandey Di Kahani*', '*Bandiwan*', '*Bewanta*', '*Kamzat*', '*Zwal Ki Ghari*'. Most of his works have been translated into English and several languages of the world. He has been Awarded with : "*Sitara-i-Imtiaz*" "*Millennium Award*" "*Hilal-i-Imtiaz*" "*Shiromani Sahitik Award*".



SHARANKUMAR LIMBALE (India)

Dr. Sharankumar Limbale, born in 1956, is a Ph.D. in Marathi. His publications are: '*Utpat*', '*Akkarmashi*', '*Baramashi*', '*Swetpatrika*', '*Bhinnlingi*', '*Ranimashi*', and has also edited several journals. Has been honoured with several awards including: Phule-

Ambedkar Memorial Award, Phanishwarnath Renu Award, Daya Pawar Memorial Award and Gurudas Ram Alam Award.

BUSHRA NAZ (Pakistan)

Bushra Naz was born at Faisalabad in 1972. She writes in Punjabi and Urdu. She is the Joint Secretary of Punjabi Adbi Sevak.

She started her career as a writer by publishing articles in *Naunihal* and *Hamdard* periodicals on the issues and problems of children.



SOUNDARIE DAVID RODRIGO (Sri Lanka)

Soundarie David Rodrigo, completed a degree in Law (LLB) at the Law Faculty, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She has extensive research experience having worked at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, prior to her

appointment as Deputy Director (Programmes) for the SAARC Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka. In 2008, Soundarie graduated with a masters in Law (LLM) in the field of Intellectual Property and International Law from the University of California, Berkeley – where she was a recipient of the Rotary World Peace Scholarship. She has to her credit published several articles on Constitutional Law and Intellectual Property Law, and is a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Colombo, Law Faculty.

Soundarie is also a well known musician having completed her musical career at the prestigious Royal College of Music in London, where she was conferred with the Award, Associate of the Royal College of Music, in piano performance and piano accompaniment. She has performed as a pianist both locally and internationally. She is also the Founder and Music Director of Sri Lanka's premiere female ensemble, 'Soul Sounds' the first choir in Sri Lanka, to perform and win awards internationally thus placing Sri Lanka on the map of International choral Music.

BIMAL SAIGAL (India)

Poet, writer, painter and sculptor, Bimal Saigal is a graduate in English Literature from Delhi University. He writes in English and Hindi. Has pioneered a novel art of discovering human and animal figures in wood with stark resemblance to their live counterparts. Saigal has named this art 'Floral Fauna'. His writings have been Published in India and abroad, Saigal is a diplomat by profession and is posted at present in the SAARC region.



RASHEED AMJAD (Pakistan)

Rasheed Amjad was born in 1940, in Srinagar. During Partition, his family migrated to Pakistan. He lives in Rawalpindi, and is Head, Department of Urdu, at the National University of Modern Languages. His collections of short stories include : *Aam Admi Kay Khwab*, *Aik Aam Admi Ka Khwab*, *Sat Rangay Prinday Kay Taaqub Main*, *Tamanna Betaab*, *Gumshuda Awaz Ki Dastak*, *Kaghaz Ki Faseel* etc. Besides short stories, he also



writes criticism. Rasheed Amjad has edited magazines : *Daryaft, Takhilqui Adab, Dastawez*. Among the many awards he has won are : Pride of Performance, Star Laureate, Mian Muhammad Buksh Award, and Nuqoosh Award.



HUSSAIN FAKHRI (Afghanistan)

Hussain Fakhri was born in 1951 in Ghazni province of Afghanistan. He is the top fiction writer in Dari language. More than ten short story collection have already been published. (The last branch) his short story collection translated from Dari to English by Indian writer B.M.Joshi and published by Afghanistan times in 2008.

FARHEEN CHAUDHRY (Pakistan)

Farheen Chaudhry was born at Quetta in 1959. After her Masters in International relation, Farheen began working for the television and the radio as a writer and a producer. Thus far, she has



published two books, *Suchy Jhoot* and *Adha Such* in Urdu.

REFAQAT ALI KHAN (India)

Dr. Refaat Ali Khan was born in 1939. He was a Professor of History at Jamia Milia Islamia and Principal and Director of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Complex, Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Professor Khan has been associated with the Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature since 1986. He is Vice President of the FOSWAL.

PAUL KAUR (India)

Punjabi Poetess. Associate Professor in S. A. Jain College, Ambala (Haryana). She is well known feminist and philosophical voice in Punjabi Poetry. Author of seven poetry books, one criticism, one non-

fiction book on single women and two other books of poetry. Honoured by governments of Punjab and Haryana with Shiromani Punjabi Kavi Sanman and Baba Shekh Farid Award . She is President of Haryana Kendri Punjabi Lekhak Sabha and member of Advisory Board of Sahitya Akademy, Delhi. Participated in many national and international literary conferences in India and abroad. Research work is being done on her poetry in contemporary Punjabi criticism.



KAILASH VAJPEYI (India)



Kailash Vajpeyi is an eminent Hindi poet and scholar. He has authored several collections of poems, besides many works of literary criticism, cultural issues, mysticism, and also a verse play. He is proficient in Spanish, and has translated works from Spanish into Hindi

and vice versa. He is associated with the print and visual media as a columnist, a broadcaster and also as a documentary film-maker.

NISAR AHMED CHAUDHARY (Pakistan)

Nisar Ahmed Chaudhary is a peace-activist and President of South Asian Foundation, Pakistan Chapter. Also associated with the Foundation-Dialogue for Peace (South Asia) and Cultural Heritage of Five Rivers, Pakistan, and



FOSWAL, India. Chaudhary has been serving the cause of peace for the last two decades. Has organized a number of socio-cultural events in Pakistan.