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Library



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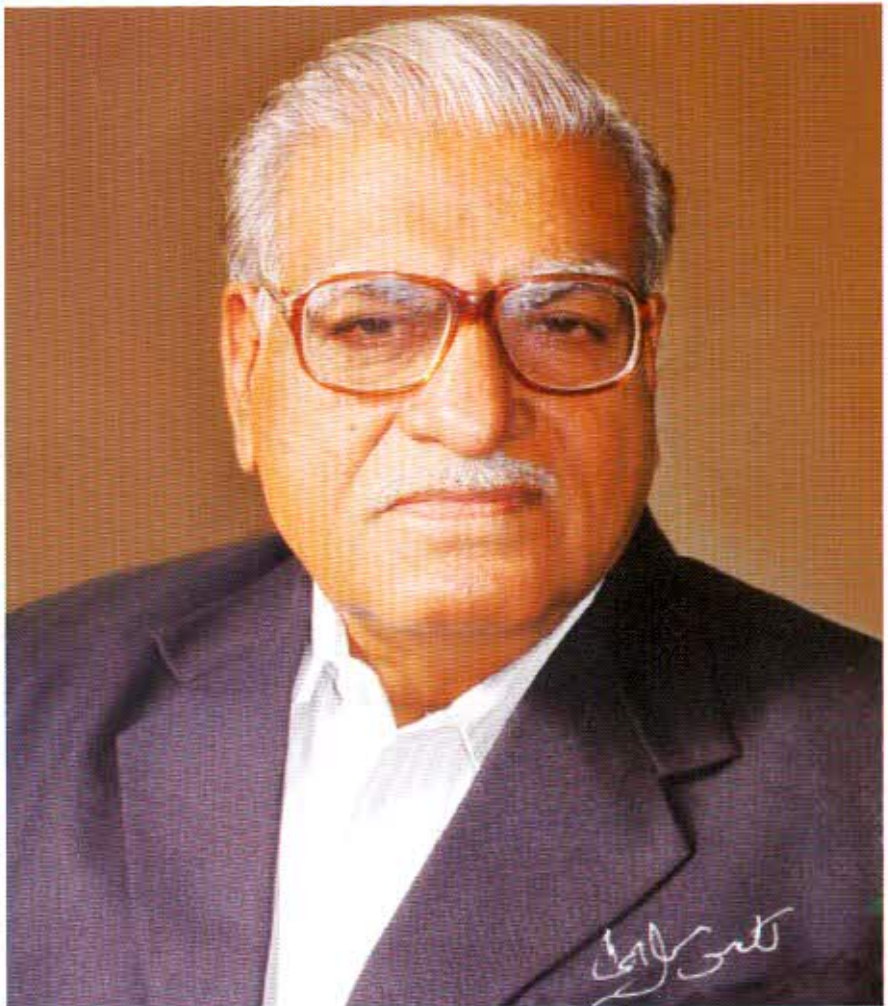


Indian Institute
of Sindhology

invite you to

meet the author

Lakhmi Khilani





With his wife, Vashdevi

Lakhmichand Bhiryomal

Khilani was born at Sukkur (Sindh) situated on the banks of river Sindhu on 2nd October 1935. He was a voracious reader from childhood. Soon he began writing poetry which was of course by a child, for children, and on children. In fact its manuscript was given to a printing press which could not see light of a day as he could not muster 75 rupees from his friends, who had agreed to contribute to the 'cause'. In 1947 he left for Hardwar along with his family for summer holidays and, due to the

Partition of the country, the family did not return back and after some time they settled in Benaras and then moved to Calcutta. After graduating as a Civil Engineer from Benaras Hindu University he joined a Civil Engineering firm in Calcutta (Now Kolkata). Thus Lakhmi has imbibed the sufi ethos of Sindhu, and gushing flow of Ganges combined with intellectual sharpness and emotional intensity of Bengal. All the traits are visible in his persona and literature. In India his first story was published in 1960 in *Sindhu Dhara*. This story was inspired by a real life incident when he was approached by a teenage girl to read a letter written in Sindhi by her parents. This incident came as rude shock, and it was a wake up call for him to be alive to the danger of



A group photo with Prof. M.U.Malkani, Fellow of Sahitya Akademi, Narayan Shyam, eminent poet, S.J.Uttamsing, Mrs. Shyam and Hari Himthani at a function in Kolkata

losing the language, literature, culture and entire way of life of the Sindhi community. After his retirement in 1962 Prof. M. U. Malkani who had inspired many a young writer in Mumbai settled in Calcutta (Now Kolkata) proved to be a great source of inspiration for him. There has been no looking back thereafter. He has been working as a cultural activist, writer and a leading figure in the *Sindhiyat* movement which aims at preserving the Sindhi identity. He has been working at all the fronts as a man p o s s e s s e d ! During his literary career he has penned 23 books in various literary genres. They include seven collections of short stories, three novels, a biography of Satyajit Ray, and translations into Sindhi of three prestigious Bengali novels by

Maneck Bandhopadhyay, Bimal Karr, and *Pather Panchali* of B h i b h u t i B h u s h a n Bandhopadhyay, four full length plays apart from a travelogue, and four volumes of essays titled *Rachna Yatra*. He has remained very active in theatrical activities of Sindhi Stage, having written four full length and few one act plays, directing as well as acting in many of them. His writings are rooted in the contemporary society and portray the erosion of traditional values and abandonment of cultural heritage by upper middle and neo rich class fast emerging in the process of globalization and onslaught of consumer culture. Particularly Indian Sindhi community is vulnerable to this onslaught in absence of any land under their feet and



With Sobho Gyanchandani, doyen of Sindhi movement, at his Larkana (Sindhi) residence



With Sajjad Nashin, Dr Sakhi Qabool Muhammad Faruqi & two eminent poets of Sindh, Adal Soomro and Ayaz Gul, paying obeisance at Dargah of great Poet Sachal Sarmast at Daraza

absence of a backyard. His works are scathing attack on the mammon worshiping of present day generation who may know cost of everything but value of nothing.

Apart from his work as an activist and a creative writer he has been editing and publishing a literary quarterly *Rachna* for past 32 years.

He had a vision to create an institution modeled on the pattern of Santiniketan as a Cultural University dedicated to the cause of collection, preservation, and promotion of Sindhi Literature and cultural heritage of the Sindhi community. For that purpose with some like minded friends he has established Indian Institute of Sindhology at Adipur (Kutch), the place, he is

convinced, is a natural soil for Sindhi language. He left his flourishing business to devote himself completely to this cause 25 years ago and now is working as Director of this institution in honorary capacity.

During his long years as a creative writer he has won accolades of which a few may be mentioned:

1. Central Hindi Directorate award for his short story collection *Adhoori Rachna* in the year 1979 and for his travelogue *Man Ja Mahal Khandahar* in 1985.
2. Armec Award in All India competition for his collection of short stories *Band Darwaza* in 1981 and for his play *Waria Sando Kot* in 1986.
3. Rajasthan Sindhi Academy Award for his play *Gudda-Guddiyoon* in all India Competition in year 1984.



With his mother, Anandi Devi

4. Sahitya Akademi Award for collection of short stories *Guffa je huna paar* in the year 1996 and the Translation prize in 1998.

His writings have been translated into many languages. His short story "Naang" (The Snake) has a distinction of being translated into seven languages, and a short film is made on his story "Kakatooa" (Cockatoos).

He speaks about his life in a metaphor in this way:-

"The train is leaving platform and its speed is accelerating. I have failed to board this train and am running fast and faster to catch the running train. AS I CONTINUE TO RUN ALONG THE MOVING TRAIN, PLATFORM GOES ON STRETCHING."



With his wife and grandchildren

A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Novel

Hai Munhinji Dil (1968)

Sazish (1970)

Amrit Amrit (1974)

Short Stories

Rata Ja Daga (1972)

Adhoori Rachna (1978)

Band Darwaza (1981)

Guffa je Huna Par (1993)

Kakatooa (1998) in Hindi

Miteea Jee Mahaka (1999)

Munda Jo Tiriyalu

Pahiriyon Gulab (2000)

Travelogue

Man ja Mahiala Khandahar

(1984)

Biography

Satyajit Ray - Part I & II (1994)

Play

Guda Gudiyoan (1984)

Wareea Sando Kotu (1987)

Panhinjo Dushman (1993)

Kooa Phas (2007)

Edited Works

Sindhi Nasura Jaa Thambha (1993)

Sindhi Kutchi Lok Sanskriti (1996)

Criticism

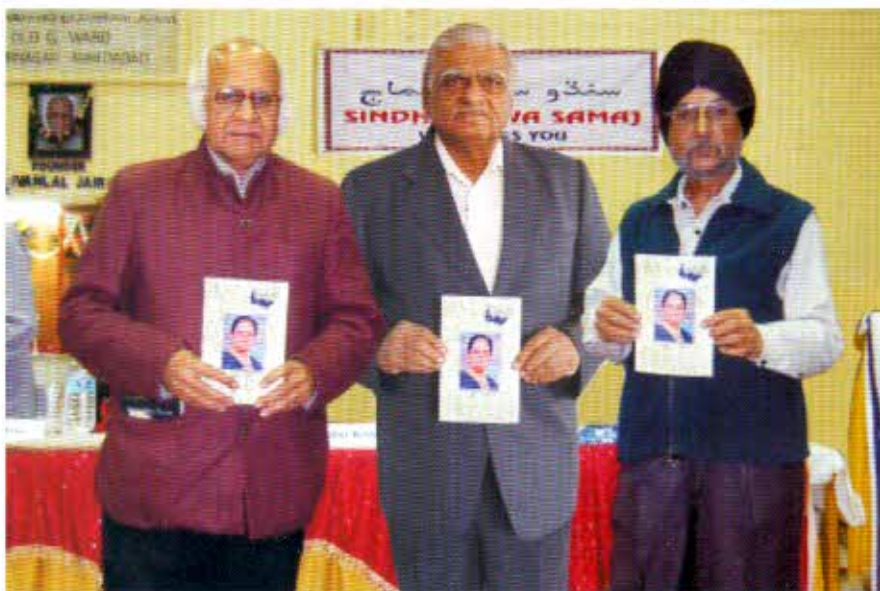
Rachna Yatra - Vol. I & II (2001-2002)

Essay

Rachna Yatra - Vol. III & IV (2003 - 2005)

A CHRONOLOGY

- 1935 Born on 2nd October in Sukkur (Sindh)
1947 Settled in Benaras after the Partition
1958 Graduated as Civil Engineer from Benaras Hindu University
1960 Settled in Calcutta, took up a job in B.B.J. Const. Co.
First short story published in *Sindhu Dhara*
1965 Elected President, Sindhi Youth Association, Calcutta
1968 First novel published by Koonj publication, Bombay (Now Mumbai)
1978 Member, Sindhi Advisory Board, Sahitya Akademi
1979 Editor, *Rachna* magazine
Central Hindi Directorate Award for *Adhuri Rachna*
1981 Armec Award for *Band Darwaza*
1984 Rajasthan Sindhi Academy Award for *Gudda Guddiyun*
1985 Central Hindi Directorate Award for *Man Ja Mahal Khandahar* Member, Central Hindi Directorate Advisory Board for Sindhi
1986 Armec Award for *Waria Sando Kot*
Settled at Adipur - Gandhidham (Kutch)
1987 Trustee, Sindhi Sahitya Kala Mandal, Adipur
1996 Sahitya Akademi Award for *Gufa Je aaahun Par*
1998 Sahitya Akademi Translation Prize
2006 Director, Indian Institute of Sindhology, Adipur



With Vasdev Mohi & Prem Prakash, co-editors, *Rachna* magazine