



Friday, February, 28,
2020 07:15:05 PM




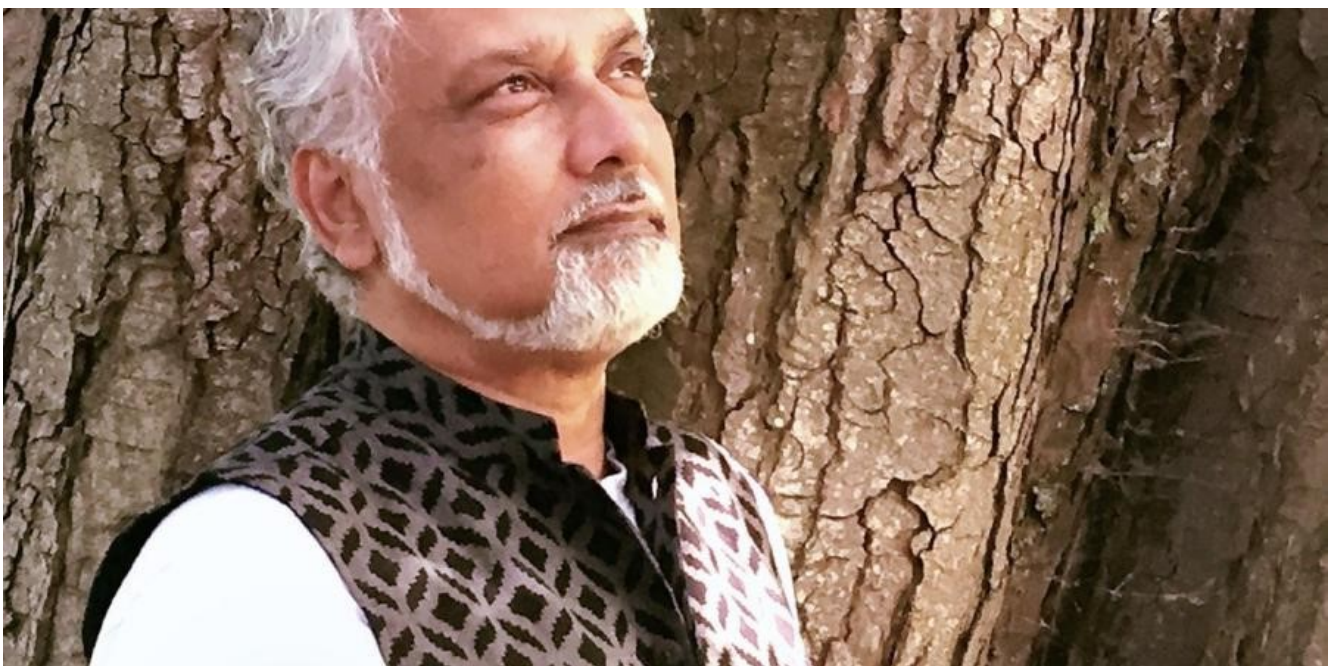
Home > Cities > Bengaluru

Heading towards the starting point

In his latest novel, Sarojini's Mother, Kolkata-born author Kunal Basu explores the story of an adopted daughter who comes back to India looking for her biological mother



Published: 05th February 2020 06:35 AM | Last Updated: 05th February 2020 06:35 AM  | A+ A A-



How did you come up with the idea behind the book?

By Express News Service

In the late seventies when I was a student in the US, I'd find rows of newborns travelling from India to Europe and beyond. They were orphans, I was told, ferried over to the homes of their adopting parents. That image had stayed with me, and was evoked whenever I read a newspaper report of a young person visiting India in search of her/his biological mother. A recent Hollywood film was based on one such story of a reunion. However, only 5 per cent of searches have a happy ending, the rest remain unresolved. Even more than the search, the motive behind it was my starting point. What could the adoptee be searching for? Simply a biological entity or something else – a psychological anchor? What if the person had to choose between two prospective mothers, each offering a different kind of bond? Such thoughts lay behind the story of Sarojini's Mother.

Has there been any inspiration drawn from any real life incident?

I was once asked by a friend to help her look for her biological mother. It was an unsuccessful search, but it taught me a thing or two about the psychological complexity of the process and the challenge of acquiring "true evidence" of motherhood.

Have you come across anyone who is as determined as Sarojini?

Most certainly. Not just in terms of searching of a mother, but in several kinds of pursuits, such as establishing a stable livelihood, overcoming illness, fighting against injustice.

What is the process to the research behind this book?

There were two areas of research. First, understanding in detail the science behind DNA analysis to establish maternity. And second, revisiting parts of Kolkata that are featured in this novel, to draw out their novelties.

Who has been the first reader of your book?

Susmita, my wife – as always.

Did you always want to be an author?

I was born in a house full of books. My mother, Chabi Basu, was a well-known author and my father a publisher. In fact, I was born on the floor of their home library. I grew up in the company of my parent's friends, many of who were authors, poets, playwrights or film directors. An avid reader from an early age, I knew I was bound to gravitate towards writing.

Which are the authors we can find in your bookrack?

It is a very long bookrack, full of classic and contemporary authors. Among classics, you'd find Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Tagore, Saratchandra, Dickens, Zola, Dostoevsky, Steinbeck, Faulkner... and many more. JM Coetzee, Michael Ondaatje, Pamuk and others make up the list of the contemporaries.

How long did it take for your to finish this book?

About a year.

Stay up to date on all the latest **Bengaluru** news with The New Indian Express App. **Download now**

(Get the news that matters from New Indian Express on WhatsApp. Click this link and hit 'Click to Subscribe'. Follow the instructions after that.)

ADVERTISEMENT

India Matters



New Indian Express Group records fastest growth online with 56% rise in 2 months



Residents say humanity first at a time of communal frenzy in Delhi



9-year-old Indian girl, creator of an anti-bullying app, invited to Silicon Valley



I'm Dhoni's fan, would love to see him play in T20 World Cup: Kapil Dev

Comments

Write a comment...

WEF Survey Revealed Uncertainty About the World's Ability to Reach 2050 Target

CNBC for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries | Sponsored

[Photos] The 30 most beautiful women in the world

Easyvoyage | Sponsored

See Why ABP News is Calling This Guy The Hero Who Inspires India!

Shreya.Vip | Sponsored

D-Mart Cashier Acused Over Arrogance Towards Customer Refuses To Quit His Job

TwinFlamesRunner | Sponsored

Most Expensive Dogs in the World

Work + Money | Sponsored

The Cost of a Las Vegas Apartment Might Surprise You

Las Vegas Apartments | Search Ads | Sponsored

Efficient and reliable Air Conditioning Systems for India to lead wi...

Mitsubishi | Sponsored

Raped by 16, eight-year-old dies of prolonged illness

New Indian Express

Hyderabad techie ends life over delay in marriage

New Indian Express

ADVERTISEMENT

Latest

Yousuf Chopan was not accused in Pulwama attack case: NIA

Delhi limping back to normalcy, scars may take time to heal

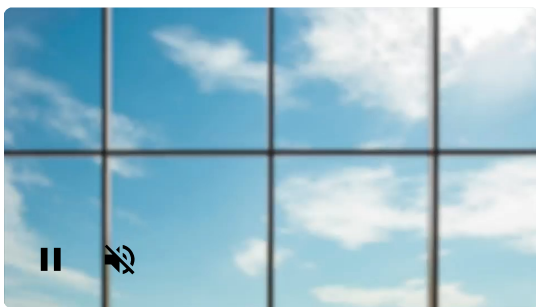
UK's House of Lords debates CAA, expresses concern over impact

IB staffer Ankit Sharma brutally stabbed to death: Post mortem report

Jharkhand: Destitute Munia, Basi and Neelmuni finally get shelter

Lessons on handling mob should be learnt from Tiananmen Square: Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy

ADVERTISEMENT



More From The Section



Children of devadasis seek 'help' as they struggle for rightful place in society



Notorious gangster Slum Bharath killed in police encounter in Bengaluru



Odisha man shoots woman friend in Bengaluru, later tries to kill himself



SIT interrogates Amulya Leona for raising pro-Pakistan slogans in Bengaluru anti-CAA rally



Gangster Ravi Pujari arrested in S Africa, extradited from Senegal

15-ft-long kite flown in Bengaluru to welcome Donald Trump



ADVERTISEMENT

Videos



Delhi Riots: Families of deceased recall horror of losing loved ones



Delhi riots: Muslim neighbours brave mob wrath to save Hindus in minority-dominated area

Gallery





Infographics: Impact of coronavirus on Hajj, international travel & global economy



Scenes of destruction and heartbreak around riot-hit Delhi as city limps back to normalcy

Trending

How anti-CAA protests distort the truth

Property prices in Bengaluru to shoot up soon

Chicken, egg mela in Hyderabad to fight COVID-19 scare

KCR decides to put NPR work on hold in Telangana

You May Like

Promoted Links

WEF Survey Revealed Uncertainty About the World's Ability to Reach 2050 Target

CNBC for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries

Raped by 16, eight-year-old dies of prolonged illness

[Photos] The 30 most beautiful women in the world

Easyvoyage

Hyderabad techie ends life over delay in marriage

by Taboola

FOLLOW US     

Copyright - newindianexpress.com 2020

The Morning Standard | Dinamani | Kannada Prabha | Samakalika Malayalam | Indulgexpress |
Edex Live | Cinema Express | Event Xpress

Contact Us | About Us | Careers | Privacy Policy | Search | Terms of Use | Advertise With Us

Home | Nation | World | Cities | Business | Columns | Entertainment | Sport | Magazine | The
Sunday Standard