



# **Bharat Shakti Pondy Lit Fest 2022**

**Dates:**

5th to 7th August 2022

**Venue:**

Shenbaga Convention Centre, Puducherry

**Theme:**

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of India's Independence,  
and Hundred and Fiftieth Birth Anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

**Organisers:**



Indologue Events and Ideas

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Pondy Lit Fest



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<https://t.me/pondylitfest>

# **Bharat Shakti**

*“India is the Bharat Shakti, the living energy of a great spiritual conception and fidelity to it is the very principle of her existence.”*

-Sri Aurobindo

India celebrates 75 years of her Independence this year. Sri Aurobindo's 150th birth anniversary in the same year is no coincidence. Many sacrificed their lives for India's independence, while others chose to spend decades in jail, forsaking a life of comfort and luxury. There were still others whose entire lives revolved around the freedom struggle. Countless freedom fighters contributed immensely by working at the regional levels, but many of them are hardly recognized. These unsung hero warriors, who spearheaded the freedom struggle on the ground, deserve the same respect as their national counterparts.

Keeping this in mind, the Pondy Lit Fest will pay tribute to Sri Aurobindo and many other hero warriors from South India, who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our motherland.

But is paying tribute to freedom fighters enough while celebrating such an important milestone in India's trajectory? We certainly cannot leave it at that. India's journey of seventy-five years, in every walk of life, deserves to be celebrated as well. We have excelled in diverse areas, which we could look into: space research, science, literature, art, infrastructure, vaccines/pharma, sports, economic growth, politics, policy, religious matters, history, temples, spirituality, heritage, culture. It is in this spirit that the Pondy Lit Fest celebrates Freedom 75 with a grand event marking Independence Day and Sri Aurobindo's Birth Anniversary.

# The Pondy Lit Fest thanks our partners.

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Platinum & Broadcast Partner



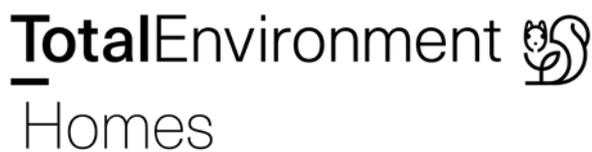
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Session Partner



# Our Advisors

(in alphabetical order)



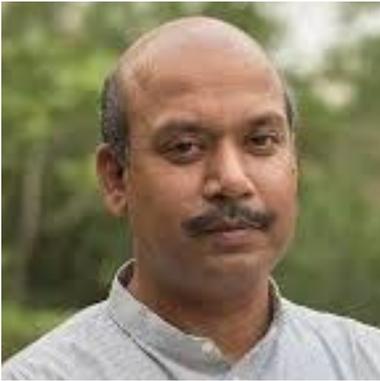
**Anand Ranganathan**

Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University,  
Author, Columnist



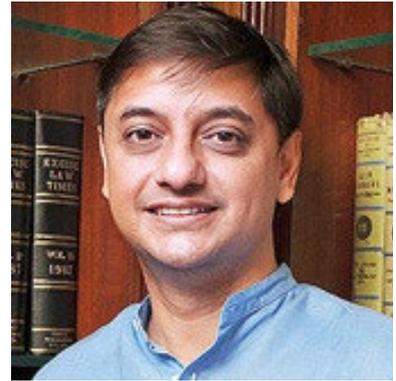
**Arvindan Neelakandan**

Author



**Sampadananda Mishra**

Professor at Rashtram School of Public Leadership,  
Sanskrit Scholar



**Sanjeev Sanyal**

Member, Economic Advisory Council  
to the Prime Minister, Economist, Writer



**S G Suryah**

Author, Lawyer,  
Public Speaker, Youth Leader



**Ma Venkatesan**

Chairman,  
National Commission for  
Safai Karamcharis, Govt. of India

# August 5th (Friday)

For LiveStream: <https://youtu.be/WO8tDRaPgKU>

5:00 PM

To

5:30 PM

## Inauguration Ceremony

A.Namassivayam

Home Minister, Puducherry



5:30 PM

To

6:00 PM

## Keynote Address

K Annamalai

President, BJP Tamil Nadu. Former IPS Officer.



6:00 PM

To

6:30 PM

## SMaRT - Swarajya Awards

6:30 PM

To

6:45 PM

## Dr. Ambedkar on National Unity

Ma Venkatesan

Chairman, National Commission for  
Safai Karamcharis, Govt. of India



6:45 PM

To

7:15 PM

## Auroville : India's Divine Gift to the World

Dr. Jayanti Ravi

Secretary, Auroville Foundation



7:15 PM

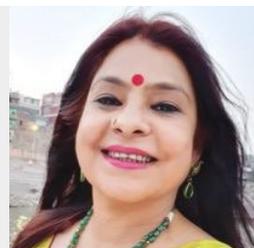
To

8:00 PM

## Songs of our Freedom: Muktigatha

Padmashree Malini Awasthi

Renowned Folk Singer



# August 6th [Saturday]

For LiveStream: [https://youtu.be/F\\_WeHQsT\\_6g](https://youtu.be/F_WeHQsT_6g)

9:30 AM

To

10:05 AM

## Bringing our Gods Home

S. Vijay Kumar

Co-founder India Pride Project, Author 'The Idol Thief'



10:10 AM

to

10:45 AM

## Our History Wars and National Identity

Dr. Swapan Dasgupta

Former Member of Parliament



10:45 AM

to

11:15 AM

## Revisiting the Past to Narrow Literary Errors: What Material Culture Says

Dr. Sanjay Kumar Manjul

Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.



11:15 AM

to

11:45 AM

## Revisiting the Past to Narrow Literary Errors: What Faunal Records Say

Prof. Vijay Sathe

Archaeozoologist, Former Professor.



11:45 AM

to

12:15 PM

## Revisiting the Past to Narrow Literary Errors: DNA Analysis and Human and Animal Migration

Dr. Niraj Rai

Scientist, Ancient DNA Lab,  
Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences.



## Lunch Break

01:45 PM

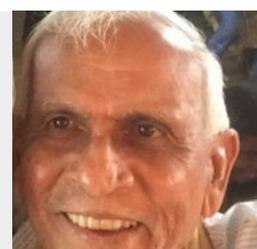
to

02:05 PM

## India at 75: The Necessity and the Limits of Good News

DV Sridharan

Author



02:05 PM

to

02:25 PM

## Antiquity and Continuity of Bharatiya Civilisation

Manoshi Sinha

Author



02:25 PM

To

02:45 PM

### Think Global but Act Local in the Field of Yoga

Dr. Jayaraman Mahadevan

Director of the Textual Research Division, Indica Yoga



02:45 PM

to

03:20 PM

### Sri Aurobindo's Vision of Sanatana Dharma and His Five Dreams For New India

Diganta Biswa Sarma

Translator of Sri Aurobindo's Works,  
Sahitya Akademi Awardee.



03:25 PM

to

04:00 PM

### The Colonised Mind at 75

Kanchan Gupta

Senior Adviser, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.



04:00 PM

to

04:35 PM

### India at 75: The Need for Judicial Reforms

Abhijit Iyer Mitra

Senior Fellow, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies.



04:40 PM

to

05:15 PM

### Sri Aurobindo and Philosophy

Dr. Pariksith Singh

Educator and Writer

[in conversation with Aravindan Neelakandan]



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## Tea Break

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05:30 PM

to

06:05 PM

### Freedom of Expression in India at 75

Prof. Anand Ranganathan

Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University.  
Author, columnist.

[in conversation with Alo Pal]



06:10 PM

to

06:45 PM

### India's Real Economy

Prof. Shamika Ravi

Economist, Professor,  
Vice President, Observer Research Foundation



06:45 PM

To

07:20 PM

**Spirit of Freedom and Holistic National Renaissance:  
Subramania Bharati's Literary Universe**

**Jataayu**  
Tamizh Scholar



## August 7th [Sunday]

For LiveStream: <https://youtu.be/B7XXwzMfyOI>

09:30 AM

To

10:05 AM

**Reading Sri Aurobindo**

**Gautam Chikermane**  
Vice President, Observer Research Foundation. Author.



10:10 AM

to

10:45 AM

**Reading Sri Aurobindo**

**Devdip Ganguli**  
Faculty Member,  
Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education.



10:45 AM

to

11:20 AM

**Social Media in India, for India and the World**

**Aprameya Radhakrishna**  
Co-founder, Koo.



11:25 AM

to

12:00 PM

**Media and Free Speech Constraints**

**Rahul Shivshankar**  
Editor-in-Chief, Times Now



### Lunch Break

01:30 PM

To

02:05 PM

**What Does the Future Portend for Bharat:  
An Attempt At Crystal Gazing**

**J Sai Deepak**  
Counsel, Supreme Court. Author.  
[in conversation with Anand Ranganathan]



02:10 PM

to

02:45 PM

### **The Indian Economy at 75**

**Prasenjit Basu**

Economist, author of Asia Reborn



02:45 PM

to

03:20 PM

### **India's Most Fearless 3**

**Shiv Aroor**

Journalist, Author.

[in conversation with Abhijit Iyer Mitra]



03:25 PM

to

04:00 PM

### **Trends and Practices in Indian Historiography**

**Prof. Saumya Dey**

Mentor and Professor at Rashtram School of Public Leadership



04:00 PM

to

04:35 PM

### **Swaraj at 75: What to Celebrate and Why**

**Prafulla Ketkar**

Editor, Organizer Weekly.



04:40 PM

to

05:15 PM

### **Indian Historiography at 75**

**Sandeep Balakrishna**

Founder and Chief Editor, The Dharma Dispatch.  
Author.



## **Tea Break**

05:30 PM

to

06:05 PM

### **Sri Aurobindo as a Philologist**

**Prof. Sampadananda Mishra**

Professor at Rashtram School of Public Leadership.  
Sanskrit scholar.



06:10 PM

To

06:45 PM

### **Literature as Experiencing Another Life**

**Dr. Sridhar Vembu**

CEO, Zoho



06:45 PM

to

07:20 PM

**The Indian Military: From 75 to 100**

**Lt. Gen. Satish Dua**

Retired Chief of Integrated Defense Staff,  
Planned & Executed the Surgical Strikes



07:25 PM

to

08:00 PM

**Harmony of Science and Art in Maharshi Sri Aurobindo  
and Mahakavi Bharathi  
in the Context of Tamizh Literature**

**Aravindan Neelakandan**

Author



## Our Session Partners



#SWARAJYA  
ESTD 1950  
READ INDIA RIGHT

SMaRT - Swarajya Awards

# INDICA

**India at 75:  
The Necessity and the Limits of Good News**

DV Sridharan  
Author

# INDICA

**Revisiting Indian chronology  
and survival as an ancient civilization**

Manoshi Sinha  
Author

# INDICA

**Think Global but Act Local in the Field of Yoga**

Dr. Jayaraman Mahadevan  
Director of the Textual Research Division, Indica Yoga



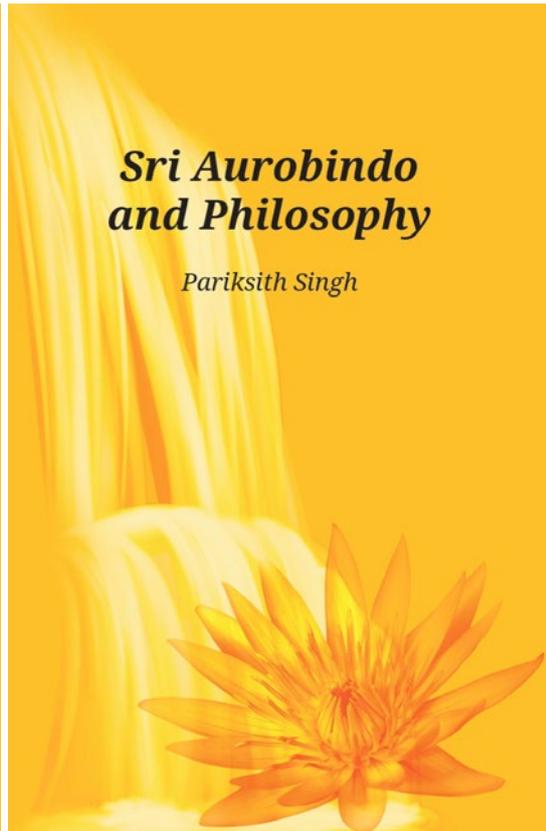
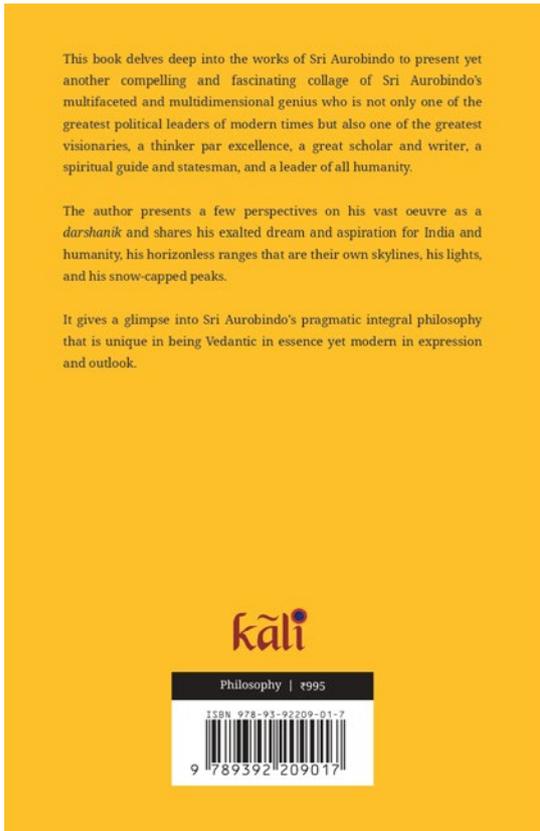
**Sri Aurobindo as a Philologist**

Prof. Sampadananda Mishra  
Professor at Rashtram School of Public Leadership.  
Sanskrit scholar.

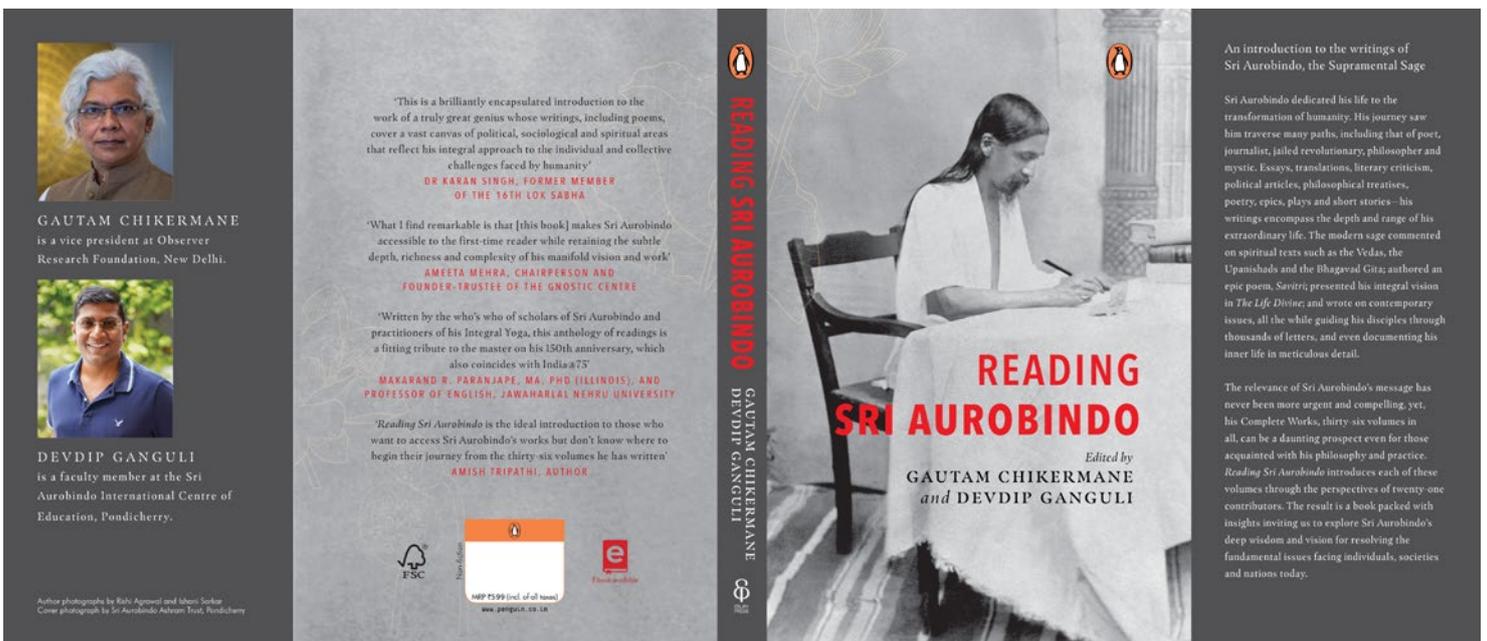
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The Pondy Lit Fest is proud to have Koo, India's very own social media app, as our social media partner. Follow us on Koo [@pondylitfest] and koo using #PLF2022. Use the QR code below to join Koo!

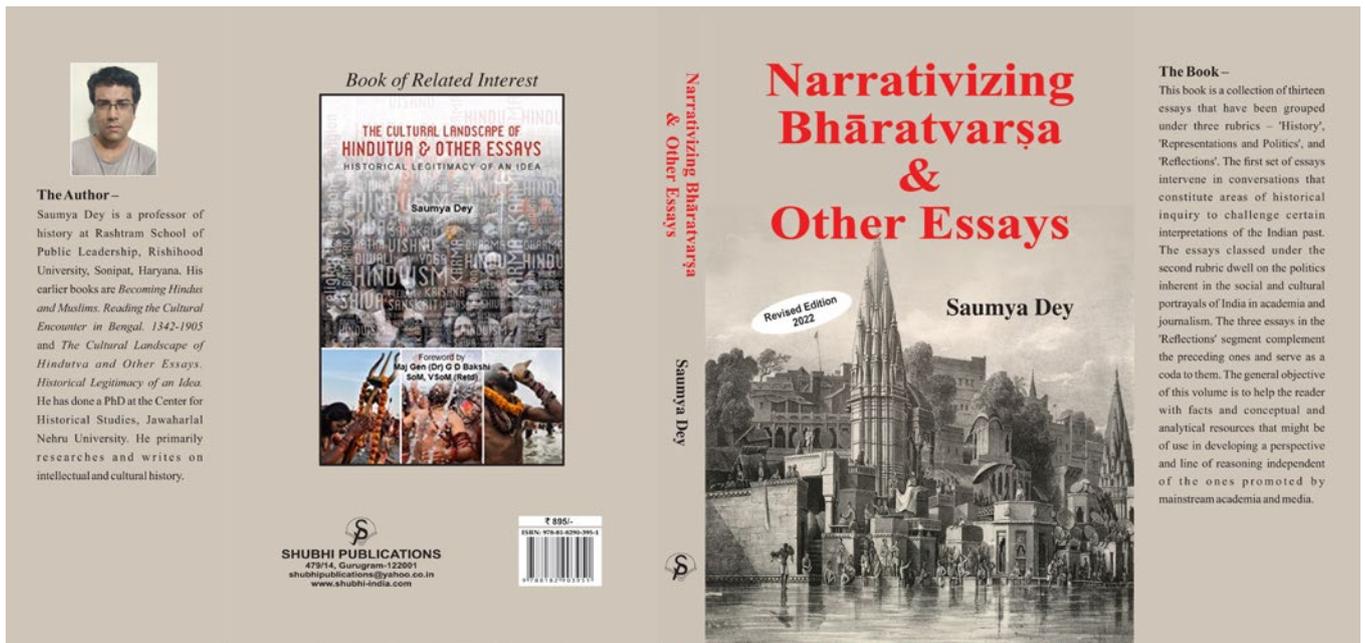




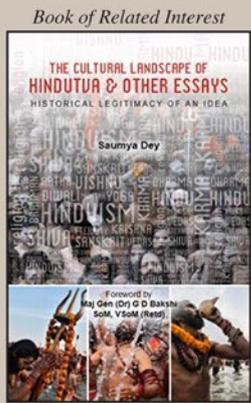
Dr. Pariksith Singh's book, 'Sri Aurobindo and Philosophy', will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 6th August 2022, at 4.30 pm.



'Reading Sri Aurobindo', a book edited by Gautam Chikermame and Devdip Ganguli, will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 7th August 2022, at 9.30 am.



**The Author –**  
Saumya Dey is a professor of history at Rashtam School of Public Leadership, Rishikood University, Sonapat, Haryana. His earlier books are *Becoming Hindus and Muslims. Reading the Cultural Encounter in Bengal. 1342-1905* and *The Cultural Landscape of Hindutva and Other Essays. Historical Legitimacy of an Idea*. He has done a PhD at the Center for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He primarily researches and writes on intellectual and cultural history.

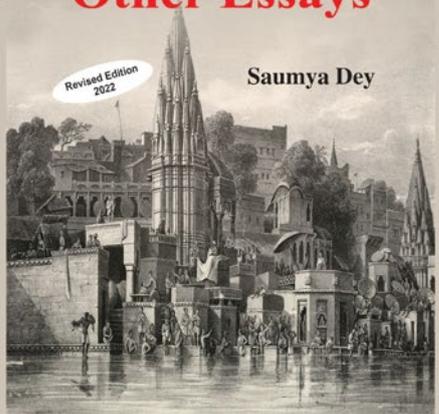


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Narrativizing Bhāratvarṣa & Other Essays  
Saumya Dey

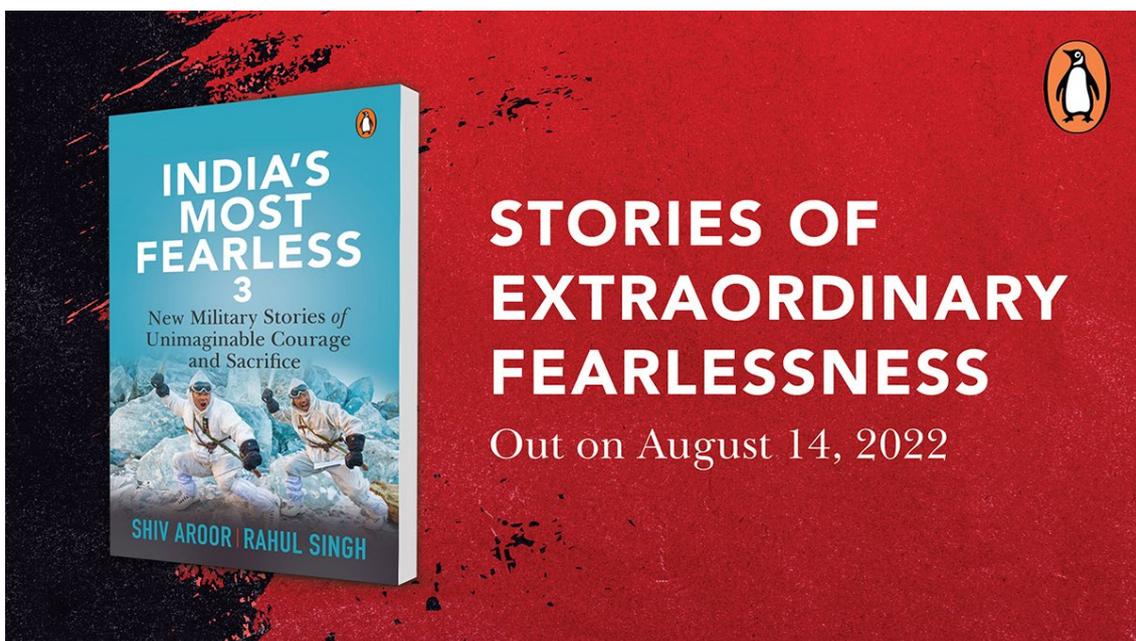
# Narrativizing Bhāratvarṣa & Other Essays

Saumya Dey



**The Book –**  
This book is a collection of thirteen essays that have been grouped under three rubrics – 'History', 'Representations and Politics', and 'Reflections'. The first set of essays intervene in conversations that constitute areas of historical inquiry to challenge certain interpretations of the Indian past. The essays classed under the second rubric dwell on the politics inherent in the social and cultural portrayals of India in academia and journalism. The three essays in the 'Reflections' segment complement the preceding ones and serve as a coda to them. The general objective of this volume is to help the reader with facts and conceptual and analytical resources that might be of use in developing a perspective and line of reasoning independent of the ones promoted by mainstream academia and media.

Prof. Saumya Dey's book, 'Narrativizing Bharatvarsha & Other Essays', will be launched at the Pondy Lit Fest on 7th August 2022, at 3.25 pm.



# STORIES OF EXTRAORDINARY FEARLESSNESS

Out on August 14, 2022

Shiv Aroor, the author of the soon to be launched 'India's Most Fearless 3', will speak at the Pondy Lit Fest on 7th August 2022 at 2.45 pm.

## **Also at the Pondy Lit Fest**

### ***Book Stall 1 - BluOne Ink and OHM Stall***

The stall will feature 20 titles published by BluOne Ink and OHM.

### ***Book Stall 2 - PLF Stall***

The stall will feature 70 titles published by Penguin, Rupa, Bloomsbury, Harper Collins and other publishing houses.

### ***Children Cultural Literacy Campaign Exhibition***

Transmitting the cultural and spiritual inheritance to the next generation is a challenge that India is facing today. With the state education system indifferent and even inimical to the transmission of core Indian values, here we present the Prahalada system - successful models that accomplished organic infusion of the core spiritual and cultural values to the children. Now we have to revitalize them for the coming generations.

### ***Vidyāvagāha***

This year, PLF will be featuring an art installation by Ayahi, a local art atelier specializing in multimedia art. A wide array of books flower out from the wall, symbolizing the diverse ocean out of which emerges, one, the Bhāraitya mind.