



Monthly News Letter// All India Fine Arts and Crafts society, New Delhi // November, 2013

Exhibition of paintings of B N Sehgal was inaugurated by Padma Shree Ram V Sutar, President of AIFACS on 15th of November 2013 in the gallery of AIFACS



Mountains of Inspiration



Releasing of the catalogue by Sh. Ram V Sutar

B N Sehgal, a life member and Honourary joint Secretary of AIFACS held an exhibition of his paintings in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, New Delhi from 15 to 21 November 2013. This is his second exhibition of mountainscapes.

Mountains fascinate every human being, but people living in plains have another kind of fascination. Painters of the world are also fascinated and admire. They have the highest admiration for these high peaks of nature. We explore them, we worship them and we paint them.

For us these mountains are the sacred places for many reasons. These are the places for hermits and places for our Gods and Goddesses like Kailash, Shiv and Parvati. Life giving rivers like Vyas, Ganga, Yamuna and a place in the foothills of Himalayas where Buddha was born are our sacred places. These are full of our mythological events. We have special respect in our hearts. A place of spiritual growth of mankind, source of life-Rivers, have greater importance. Climbing mountains also leads towards spiritual insight. Mountains are symbolic in life of overcoming one's challenges – and rising to the top and succeeding.

Mountains attract artists, Photographers, travelers, explorers and researchers. Kangra school of Paintings, Chamba school and Guler schools have grown in these mountainous areas also known as Pahari Schools of Paintings. Photographers have shot their frames unlimited times. Day and night all the conditions are for good photographs.

Sehgal has explored some of the areas in his early life and the images of its grandeur left



B N Sehgal presenting bouquet to Sh. Ram V Sutar

deep impact on his physical and spiritual body and mind. These images, time and again, forced him to create through his expression - painting or poetry. He selected painting for his expression. His mountains are not different, they also vibrate and radiate cosmic energy. The roughness of rocks is true to its character. They have survived the ages of hard weather conditions and stand today with grace. The serenity of the atmosphere speaks volumes in silence. Sehgal's paintings stand by this statement and reflect truth with sincerity. These mountains inspire to never give up, pick yourself up and keep on climbing.

Some of his paintings have a photogenic effect of perspective and colour scheme. But his paintings do not follow any specific conventions of forms, style and function as in many traditional schools. He does not try to present an image of what he has seen in the nature. It is also not necessary whether the painted colours and shapes look like the real objects or not. His paintings open a window for the viewer's eye as well as for the viewer's mind.



Robinson, Shamshad Husain and B N Sehgal

Space A - Z

Exhibition of recent paintings by S K Sahni was held in Shridharani Art Gallery from 1 to 11 October 2013.

In the beginning of the "Straight Lines" series, all lines depended on each other and on this promise gradually the image was built. In the works displayed in the exhibition the same tendency or behavior of the lines have reappeared with certain modifications.

Negative areas which were earlier treated with muted colours are more active and alive with strong hues of all kinds and thus their participation in the image is worth noticeable. In the image, Lines & Colours both get their equal share of importance and this factor leads these works in a different direction.

When we see Sahni's works which are based on lines remind us the basic elements and principles of design. He has chosen line as a basic element of his paintings. If we define a line, simply a dot moves in certain direction creates a line. It indicates position and direction, besides having within itself a certain energy. This energy travels along its length. Straight line has been used from the early civilisation which has recorded through line drawings. Lines also created the most important invention - alphabets. which has communicated all the historic events of all the regions of the world. Lines can create many kinds of illusions, spaces, strength, stability, vibration,

restlessness even calmness and tranquility. Line plays major role to define an area or space, identify an object, create space and movement in a picture.

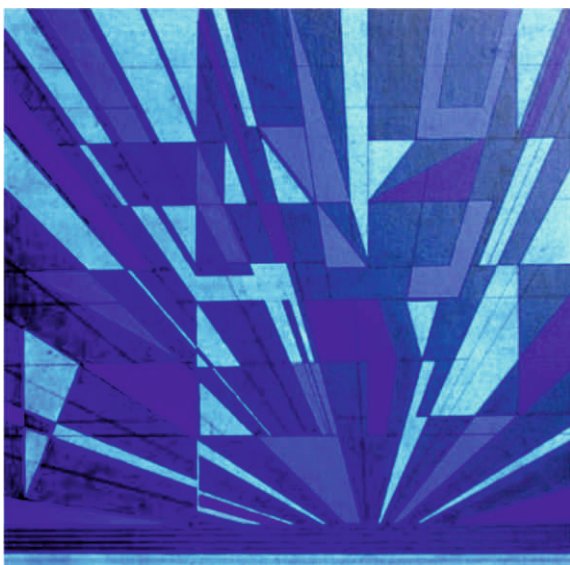
Sahni has explored all the possibilities with straight line and created spaces, movements, directions and various planes.

Emphasis is given to space in the paintings but through lines only. All the possibilities of creating different moods and spaces can be seen in Sahni's paintings. Horizontal and vertical lines in 'space - s' create more stability where as in 'Space - t' create a kind of destructive vibration. This work and some more works are like transformation from his flat colour compositions to textures that too the forceful strokes lead to that kind of vibrations. We can see the point of transformation in treatment which liberates him.

Most of his paintings are in square or nearly square but spaces within that space created are of different shapes and directions. These take the viewer to infinite space or place the viewer on different planes. One can move in each and every canvas and experience different feelings.

A straight line is pure & unsentimental but it evokes different moods and emotions in conjunction with other lines. It is this aspect which I explore through my works.

S.K.Sahni



Space G - 2011 acrylic on canvas 81 X 81 Cms.



Space T - 2012 Acrylic on Canvas 61 X 81 Cms.

The Vanishing Legacy

Sushil Khandelwal held an exhibition of photographs of havelis of Shekhawati titled 'The Vanishing Legacy' in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 8 to 14 November 2013.

This is his second solo show of photographs in the gallery of AIFACS. He also participated in many group shows. His specialization is bringing the grandeur of our heritage monuments to show the public and built up an opinion to protect as well as feel proud of the heritage.

Shekhawati is located in the north east of Rajasthan as one of the districts. In 18th and 19th centuries Marwari merchants constructed these grand havelis in the Shekhawati region. These Wealthy and affluent merchants got made their homes, temples and step wells in competition with each other to show power of their wealth. These were richly decorated inside and out side with painted murals. Initially these frescos were introduced by Shekhawati Rajputs in their forts and palaces The towns are known for their painted havelis and also known

as 'open art Gallery of Rajasthan' having the largest concentration of frescos in the world. The Marwaris from Marwar is an influential business community in Shekhawati, and they prospered until the beginning of the 19th century, due to the caravan routes that crossed the area to reach the ports of Gujarat. However, from 1820 onwards, many left their families behind and migrated to Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, which were gaining importance as main trade centers where they had great financial success.

At present most of the havelis are still owned by the descendants of the original families but not inhabited by their owners. Only Chowkidars and local people live in these one time grandeur of that land.

Sushil Khandelwal has tried to capture all the havelis, forts and step wells in his camera and presented a picture of that area. The condition of the walls, frescos are in the vanishing stage. Sushil has captured the weeping souls of these buildings. Though these are of great tourist and research scholars' subject of interest.

This heritage of the country will vanish soon if not taken care by the authority which is well documented by Sushil Khandelwal.



A Splendour Relived

Shubha Bahadur held an exhibition of Water Colours in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 8 to 14 November, 2013.

She was born and brought up in Delhi and graduated from College of Art, Delhi in 1979. She developed liking for water colour may be because she travelled a lot and water colour is the best medium to paint in out door and on the spot landscapes and other subjects.

Rajasthan is a place of living history of Rajas and maharajas who reigned their kingdoms and created forts, palaces, temples, bawadees (deep wells), gardens etc. using local red sand stone and marble.

Shubha painted these subjects of Rajasthan and brought out some monuments on paper with command of controlling water colour medium.

Rajasthan has been fascinating many artists to paint monuments and their life style with colourful costumes. Earlier also some painters held exhibitions in AIFACS galleries. These monuments attract every artist.

Shubha is one of them who loved Rajasthan's

beauty. Its sand, colourful costumed people, palaces and forts.

Art Critic Sh. Keshav Malik wrote in her catalogue, "It is so, That this painter's works hold their interest for us. They do not innovate or experiment over much, but rather loyal to a perfected past, not slavishly but with deep affection. By dotting on beauty of stones, hewn or masoned deftly, her own work equally gains its own beauty. Then as she looks at the architectural remains, she's struck by the way are moulded by the stuff of human desires and emotions. By the artist's brush work, these water colours are connected not with a dead past but a still life one. Here then is an architecture of restless vitality and movement, of thrust parried by counter thrust. So the artist creates flashbacks of the past which in turn flood with romance our mind. Even so each of the works is different and declares an aspect of life of a people endowed with song and the whirl of the heroic dance."

Shubha's water colours are treated with a very subtle touch of brush. The flow of colours are sensitive but reflects the roughness and toughness of stone.



Peace and harmony through paintings

An exhibition of paintings by **Chandrima Syam**, a self taught painter, was held in the gallery of Lalit Kala Akademi from 18 to 24 November 2013.

She works specially on Assam silk, Moga, Bapta the traditional ethnic textiles of Assam as her canvas. She works with Acrylic and oil pastels. She was inspired to use traditional silk because firstly she was born & brought up in silchar, Assam. Secondly, these silk materials of that region are used in many rituals and honours. Rabindranath Tagore was facilitated with traditional hand woven Endi & Moga silk shawls in 1919. These are also used as symbols of peace and harmony. She is also inspired by Rabindranath Tagore's works. This was converted into beautiful works on Assam silk. Prof. Tapodir Bhattacharjee, former Vice-chancellor, Assam University, Silchar, Indologist

and art critic wrote about Chandrima's works, "An artist dreams of being explorer of self when there is nothing better to do. Art is not only expression of self but also confrontation with the strife ful world around. Chandrima Syam, a young artist from the North East, imaginatively deciphers the immense possibilities of varying modes of artistic signifiers in quest of peace and harmony. Chandrima negotiates with the shattered mirror of alienation through creating her own images which suggest new beginning, liberty, peace and harmony."

Her paintings are inspired by nature but in its true sense. What we see in trees and shrubs are not the reality but the happiness and joy these trees express through the rhythmic movement of branches and leaves in her paintings. These flora gives happiness and also absorbs all the sorrowness as we see them and enjoy. Small brush strokes on silk make her painting to come nearer to the organic world. She dedicated this exhibition to her parents.

Journey to Moon

Acrylic on Assam silk

58 X 77 cms.



Rajesh Sharma's cityscapes

An exhibition of paintings by Rajesh Sharma was held in the gallery of Lalit Kala Akademi from 10 to 16 November 2013.

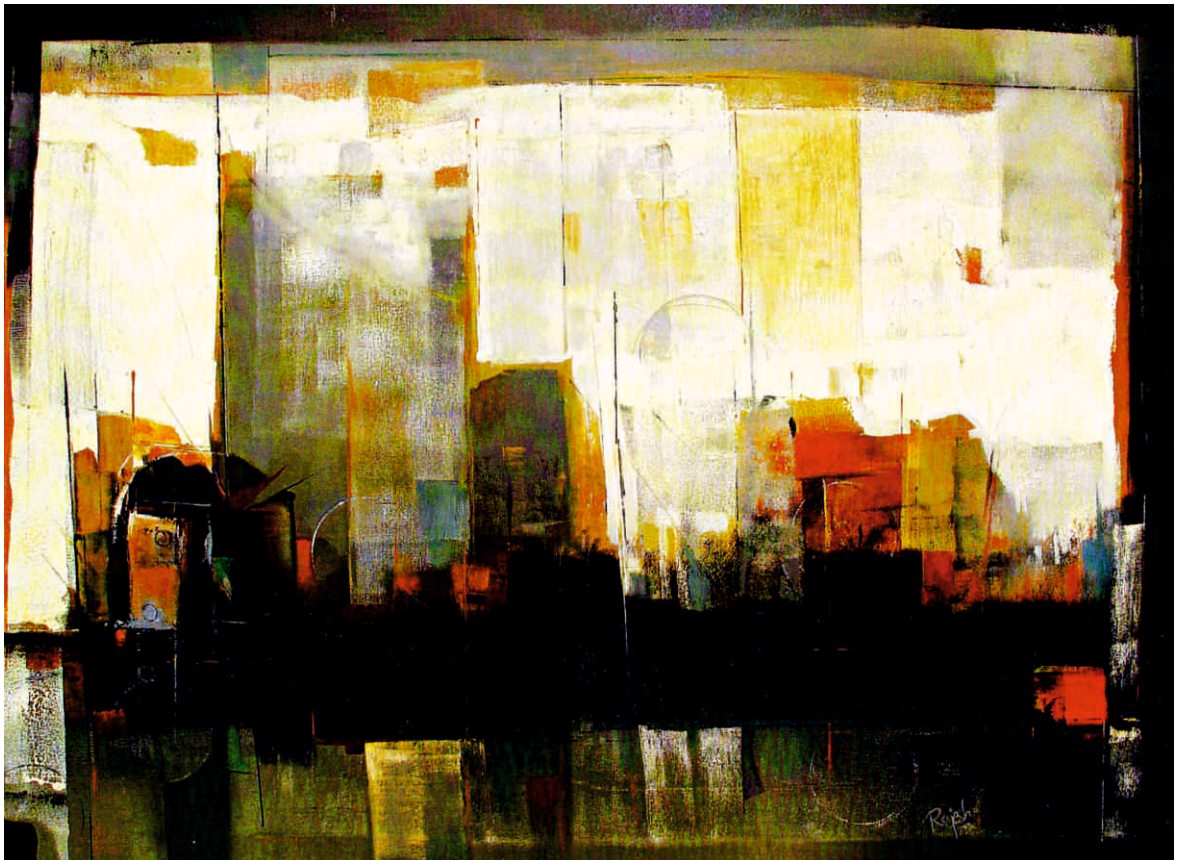
He has done his post graduation in drawing and painting. He had 14 solo shows to his credit with the first show at AIFACS in 1982. He has participated in many group shows since 1976. He has won seven awards including National Akademi Award of Lalit Kala Akademi in 1993.

Cityscapes is a subject explored and experienced in ones own way by many artists. We have various places to live in India. Just from a small hamlet, village, town, small city, large city to metropolitan city. Those who are born in metropolitan city may not have that experience which one born in small town or in a village can experience. Seeing high rise buildings, fast life, heavy traffic, all sorts of vehicles, high tech facilities excite ones senses.

It may have also negative effect on ones mind. Painters see these things around them and express on their canvases with full emotions and action.

Rajesh is one of them who may have all sorts of experiences which he painted on his medium and small format canvases. He has tried to paint high rise buildings and put them in that small format. His city has many high rise as well as old historic buildings. It is an impression of the metaphor. The change in a span of hundred, two hundred or three hundred years, which a city have, historic document of that period. Though his city has not reflected the life style of people but the cityscapes of Rajesh echo the noise of the city which one has to experience after seeing his works.

The treatment and the application of the colours, strokes of brushes and knives are adding to the mood of the city he painted.



Hana - part II the Lotus (Fluid)

Exhibition of recent paintings by Yurico Lochan was held at Shrishti Art Gallery, Hyderabad from 18 October to 5 November 2013.

All the paintings were made on Gouache and water colour on Japanese paper board called "Shikishi"

"The eternal theme - Lotus captures people's hearts beyond centuries as the representation of life. Artists' attempt is to connect each one's life experience towards larger, wider vision of 'life'."

The lotus flower represents as a symbol of fortune. It grows in muddy water but rising and blooming above the mud untouched to achieve enlightenment. It symbolizes purity. Colours of lotus have its importance. A white flower refers to purity of mind. Red flower refers to love and compassion. The blue flower refers to wisdom and enlightenment. A purple

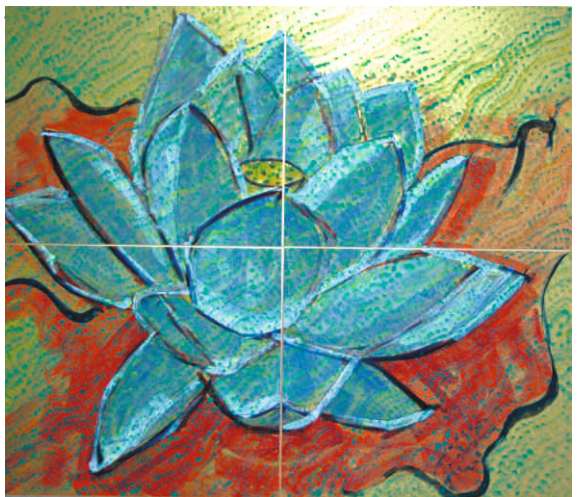
lotus symbolizes spirituality.

In Indian iconography Lotus is the symbol for Non-Attachment, beauty and purity.

Hindu texts and religious poetry describe Lord Krishna as "Lotus-eyed One". Lakshmi, goddess of wealth, is portrayed standing on a thousand-petalled lotus.

In yoga, the body's chakras, centers of subtle energy, are depicted as lotuses.

Yurico's lotus flowers radiate that energy which cover all the philosophies of Hinduism or Buddhism. the subtle lines on petals energize the tenderness of flowers. These flowers stand straight with grace and dignity to communicate the power of that tenderness. Horizontal landscapes with graceful leaves of the lotus plants are creating harmony and movement to depict the vastness. Well controlled treatment of the medium of water colour blends well with the subject - lotus.



Manoj Balyan's



Samvad - II oil on canvas 28" X 58"



Mrityunjaya - 1 oil on canvas 28" X 58"

Mrityunjaya

An exhibition of paintings by Manoj Balyan was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 22 to 28 October 2013.

The theme of this exhibition was 'Mrityunjaya' based on the book of the same name written by Marathi writer Shivaji Sawant. A TV serial was also made by Doordarshan in 1997.

The story is from the life of Karna and re-imagined the Mahabharata around him. Rather Mahabharata seen through the eyes of Karna. The story glorifies Karna, who despite being born with an unique personality & blessed by no other than the sun god has always been a subject of rebuke & ridicule.

The story of Mrityunjaya- the death conqueror- has inspired Manoj so much and the personality of Karna as so generous and divine that this side of Karna must be projected in the modern society.

Indian mythology has always inspired artist. But

the subject matter remains popular as the demand in society. Krishna and Ganesha remained evergreen subject for artists. But Karna was never thought as a subject matter for painting whereas when Krishna is mentioned then Karna is also associated in some chapters of Mahabharata.

In Manoj's paintings, a robust man with unique personality surrounded by many related elements depict the central character of Karna. His famous position in the epic in war standing on a chariot with Krishna can not be forgotten by any one. Around the main subject small elements surrounding him are narrating the story of the great personality from the Karna's angle. The application of colours and selection of colours, tones, textures and basic divisions make the compositions appropriate to the subject. Contrast of colours create new dimension. They all compliment each other.

Soul and Salvation

An exhibition of paintings by Chitra Singh and S D Shrotriya was held in Triveni Art Gallery from 7 to 16 October 2013

As the subject goes the paintings of Chitra Singh are more towards salvation and what else can be the most appropriate other than Buddha. A symbol of salvation has been the most popular for artists but next to Ganesha. The reason may be any but every painter, who paints, before that his thought process takes him/her to the level of meditation.

In buddhism, salvation is reaching Nirvana. Nirvana is a transcendental blissful, spiritual state of nothingness. To reach this state one has to follow eight paths. These are Right understanding, right resolve, right speech, right action, right occupation, right effort, right contemplation, right meditation.

Chitra Singh presented all these eight points and more to express his interpretations for salvation.

Her paintings narrate stories from the life of Buddha in a very subtle way. The environment in which the close contact with nature, flora and fauna completes the pictures.

Though stylized works give a feeling of frescos of the modern time. Good finishing reflects the characteristics of the subject matter too.



S D Shrotriya is known for his water colours of the mountain regions of himalaya. But in this exhibition with Chitra Singh, being the same theme he presented Benaras theme. This is also a popular place and subjects for artists. Banaras ghats have its own characteristic with temples and those umbrellas made with bamboo.

Varanasi, according to the archaeological evidence, was a settlement of Aryans in the beginning of 11th or 12th century.

It is believed that death in Varanasi and some other holy cities can assure liberation from the cycle of reincarnation.

This historic and religious believes made the city famous all over the world.

Artists have added to the popularity of the place.

Shrotriya is one of them . His compositions are not realistic. He rearranges all the recognizable elements in his own way to create new compositions. The characteristic umbrellas and buildings with temples changes into cubic forms. These elements can create infinite compositions with ones individual treatment of shape, tones, textures etc..



Shabdarang

An exhibition of paintings with the theme "Shabdarang" by Ashok Khant based on the poems of Renu Gupta was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 22 to 28 October 2013.

This combination of painter and poet brought certain expressions which satisfied both. But there are many painters/poets who create very poetic and lyrical paintings.

Here the effort is challenging that whether the painter is satisfied with the nearly true expression as the poet thinks and vice-versa. Renu Gupta the poet says, "my tryst with colours has evolved brick by brick and is tender at the core. Many a times these colours called me, conversed with me. Not only that, they folded me as if I was their ward. Such an amazing feeling it was. This led to the birth of my new expedition. All my sentiments and love towards art and colour were articulated in my

poems. Fortunately, all my poems were appreciated by people and won accolades. Such miraculous response filled me self confidence, enthusiasm and vitality." There is a painter in the poet.

Ashok Khant an experienced painter from Rajkot is the recipient of many awards and honours. He has carried the poems to the visual excitement by converting those words. These words are relevant to the images but some times the writing on the canvas disturbs the pleasure of the painting.

He says, "Keeping the veracity in mind, I decided to describe certain best of the best poems composed by her through paintings. With the kind permission of Smt. Renu Gupta and certain experiments, I initiated to create a series of paintings before a year. It was indeed not easy as I thought it to be. In the mind of this journey, I sometimes doubted if would be able to reach my destination. It is only after a year's vigorous effort, I am before you with an enchanting series of Paintings named 'SHABDARANG'.



Reflection

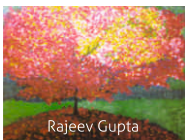
An exhibition of 'The Art Worms' group was held in the gallery of All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society from 13 to 19 September 2013.

This group consists of Anamika Singh, Aneeta Saha, Ashita Singh, Mrs. Balwinder Tanwar, Chandan Kumar Samal, Gaurav Chawla, Harsh Verma, Kumar Umesh, Madan Lal, Neha Mukhi, Dr. Neha Rathi, Priya Singh, Rajeev Gupta, Ruchi Chadha, Raghuvir Shah, Dr. Sardool Mishra, Tanushree Ghandok, Vineet Kumar, Vineeta Prakash, Vijay Singh Thakur, Vikas Singh, Vijay Kumar and Vinod Kumar Kanwar (President of the group).

This group was formed in JUNE 2012 but within a short time of one and half years they held five exhibitions. The group have members from

different fields like self- taught, hobbyists, antique collector, graphic designer, cinema poster designer, architect etc. but one thing they have common, that is art (Paintings & sculpture).

They say through their catalogue, "Our passion for art began during childhood years when we were introduced to art and have been practicing drawing, art & craft since then. We would look up art books and basically anything we thought might inspire us to draw. Ever since we have been creating our unique abstract and realistic art style. We have participated in several art shows since 2010 in India, which included shows at The Arpana Gallery, All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society, Ambience Mall (Gurgaon), Lalit Kala Academi, Pragati Maidan and India Habitat Centre. All the artists are promising and show their talent through works.



Rajeev Gupta



Priya Singh



Ruchi Chadha



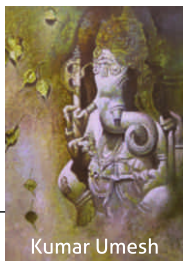
Ashita Singh



Aneeta Saha



Vijay Singh Thakur



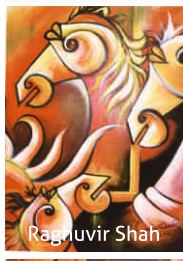
Kumar Umesh



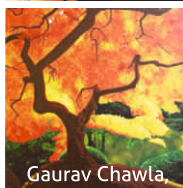
Anamika Singh



Tanushree Ghandok



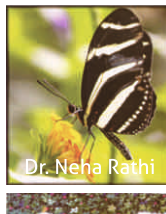
Raghuvir Shah



Gaurav Chawla



Balwinder Tanwar



Dr. Neha Rathi



Vijay Kumar



Harsh Verma



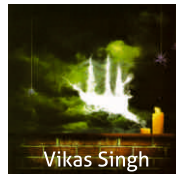
Chandan Kumar Samal



Madan Lal



Vineeta Prakash



Vikas Singh



Vinod Kumar Kanwar



Dr. Sardool Mishra



Vineet Kumar



Neha Mukhi