

3rd Vibrant Asia Symposium

By Ms. Vandana Bhasin

The Journal of Asian Art, Culture, and Literature (JAACL), is a quarterly journal managed by the Asian Literary Society. ALS organized the 3rd Vibrant Asia Symposium on a virtual platform on April 17th, 2021 at 7 pm IST. The contributors to Volume 2, No 1: March 2021 were present for the edifying discussion on the articles contributed by each one of them. The 75 minutes of discussion provided some valuable insights into Asian art and culture.

List of Contributors & Name of their articles

- Ms. Santhini Govindan: Kathakali- The Mystic Dance of Kerala
- Ms. Vandana Bhasin: Path to Spirituality through Mandala Art
- Ms. Vimala Nandakumar: India and Indonesia- The inseparables
- Ms. Mahua Sen: Riveting Nepal- A Cultural Flash
- Brig. A. P. Singh: The Wonders of Hoysala Temples

Ms. Vandana Bhasin, a Certified Life Coach, an ex-banker, an artist, an award-winning writer, and a published author, moderated the event. She began the event with the introduction of distinguished panelists for the day.

Ms. Vimala Nandakumar a retired Principal of international schools in Mumbai and Jakarta, currently the chairperson of her own NGO Shaktii Girl's Education Trust for underprivileged girls.

Ms. Santhini Govindan, who's a widely published, award-winning author of children's literature. She's the recipient of the Lok-Sabha Fellowship to write a book to introduce children to the role and function of the Indian parliament.

Brig A. P. Singh, an engineer by profession, who retired from the Indian Army in 2007 after nearly 35 years of service. He's now actively pursuing his hobbies of travel, photography and writing.

Ms. Mahua Sen who's an award-winning poetess based out of Hyderabad currently working as the Regional Director (South) at BEO.

After brief introductions, all of the panelists were requested to elucidate about their articles and share their inspiration for writing the same. This provided a ground for healthy interaction and discussion.

Brig A. P. Singh shared his experience of the magnificence of Hoysala Temples and its spellbinding architecture and emphasized that its splendor can be appreciated only by actually witnessing it.

Ms. Vimala Nandkumar briefed about her stay in Indonesia for about four years and how she explored the similarities between India and Indonesia during that period.

Ms. Santhini Govindan informed about the Kathakali troop in her family and how male members took 6-7 hours to get ready before every performance.

Ms. Mahua Sen shared about the proximity of Nepal to her native place in Bihar and how she had always been mesmerized by Nepal's beauty and culture.

Ms. Vandana Bhasin elucidated her fascination for Mandala Art and how it aided her in finding balance and peace.

The session continued with a set of questions & answers between the moderator and the panelists. The other panelists also shared their insights about the article of their fellow panelists.

While Ms. Vimala Nandkumar shared about the pervasiveness of Hinduism in Indonesia with statues of Arjuna and Krishna, a play on Ramayana with 250 artists and the picture of

Ganesha on Rupaiya, Ms. Santhini enlightened the audience about the stage setting and relevance of colours applied on the face of Kathakali artists. It was intriguing to know from Brig A.P. Singh about the lamp that has been burning in Amrutheshwara Temple for last 200 years where rituals and prayers are being offered incessantly since 1196 CE.

Ms. Mahua Sen surprised us with details of marriage traditions in Nepal where a girl is married first to a tree at the age of 5-10 years so that she is not a widow ever, and Ms. Vandana Bhasin fascinated the audience with the relevance of Mandala art in Hinduism and Buddhism as well as the meaning and significance of colors and shapes used in Mandala art.

The event was highly interactive and insightful leading to an interesting exchange of views and beneficial information.

The session concluded with a poem recitation by Ms. Vandana Bhasin and words of gratitude for Asian Literary Society by all the panelists.

