

Femme Forward

Edition

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MARCH 2024

Voice Vista

Celebrating Women's Journey



0 65129 43780 243



Femme Forward

Celebrating Women's Journey



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT.

SINCERELY,

FEMME FORWARD EDITORIAL TEAM

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Dear Readers,

As we embark on this journey with our inaugural issue, it fills me with immense joy to introduce to you our magazine, a platform conceived with the noble intention of shining a spotlight on the extraordinary individuals who tirelessly contribute to society in various fields. Our mission is simple yet profound: to celebrate and appreciate the remarkable work being done by people from all walks of life. As March approaches, a month heralding the celebration of International Women's Day, we find ourselves in a position of privilege to showcase the talents and achievements of eleven remarkable women hailing from diverse sectors in Nashik. These women are not just emblematic of resilience and determination, but they also serve as beacons of inspiration for generations to come.



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team whose dedication and tireless efforts have brought this vision to fruition. Each member has played an integral role in shaping this platform into what it is today—a testament to our collective commitment to amplifying the voices of those who often go unheard.

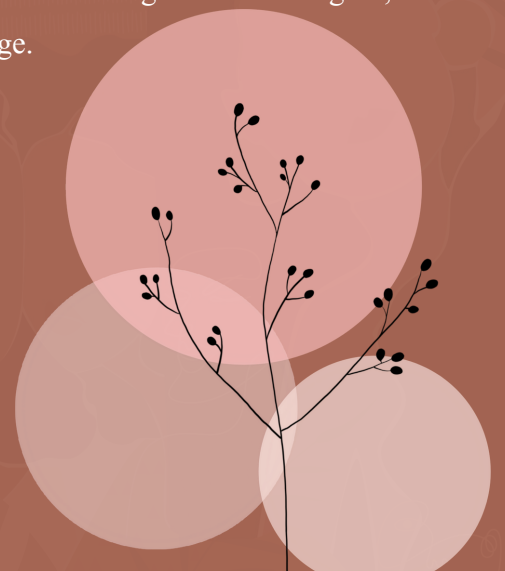
Moreover, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the interviewees who graciously shared their invaluable insights and experiences with us. Their willingness to open up and share their stories has enriched our magazine and will undoubtedly inspire countless individuals.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that it is not merely about the stories we tell, but the lives we touch and the hearts we inspire. Together, let us continue to uplift and celebrate the unsung heroes among us, for it is through their stories that we find hope, courage, and the power to effect change.

With warm regards,

Pooja Praasun

Founder & Editor in Chief for Project
Femme Forward



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Esteemed Readers,

As we stand on the brink of our magazine's debut edition, poised to launch on the auspicious occasion of International Women's Day, I am reminded of the immense power and potential encapsulated within each page. This edition is not just a collection of stories; it is a testament to the unyielding spirit of Nashik's women—a celebration of their triumphs, their resilience, and their unwavering commitment to shaping a better tomorrow.

Within these pages, you will find narratives that transcend the ordinary, offering glimpses into the extraordinary lives of eleven women who have left an indelible mark on our city and beyond. From breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields to nurturing communities with compassion and grace, each story is a testament to the boundless possibilities that await when courage meets opportunity.

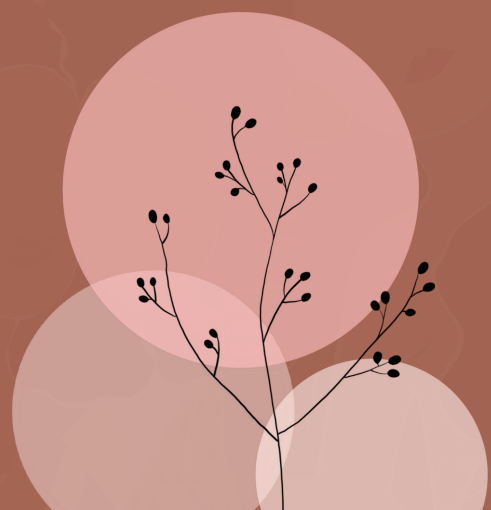
As we embark on this journey together, let us not only celebrate the achievements of these remarkable individuals but also reflect on the collective strides we have made towards a more equitable and inclusive society. May their stories inspire us to dream bigger, to reach higher, and to embrace the unique potential that lies within each of us.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Dr. Anagha Naik

Editor-in-Chief (English Edition)

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संपादकीय ..

पंचवटी पासून पॅन्टीयम पर्यंत प्रगती केलेली ही नाशिकनगरी ... मंत्रभूमीकडून तंत्रभूमीत परावर्तित झालेली नाशिकनगरी ... रुद्राक्षभूमीकडून द्राक्षभूमीकडे वाटचाल करणारी ही नाशिक नगरी... या नवशिखरांवर वसलेल्या नाशिकनगरीतील स्त्री शक्तीच्या भारावलेल्या पंखांनी साकारलेली 'अकरावी दिशा' म्हणजे 'Femme Forward' चा हा पहिला अंक चोखंदळ वाचकांच्या हाती देताना आम्हाला मनस्वी आनंद होत आहे.

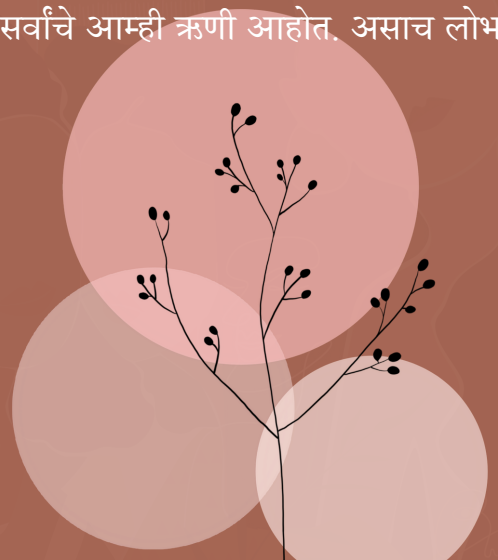
भारतीय संविधानाने बहाल केलेल्या स्वातंत्र्य - समतेचे अर्धे आकाश मिळवून स्वतःची क्षमता सिद्ध केलेल्या स्त्रीजीवनातील 'गृहिणी' पदासोबतच सखी, राज्ञी, सचिव, मार्गदर्शक अशा विविध भूमिका सक्षमपणे साकारणाऱ्या अकरा 'मातृकां' चा 'प्रज्ञाप्रवाह' च्या या अंकात आपणास परिचय होऊन प्रेरणेचा प्रकाश पसरेल अशी आम्हाला खात्री वाटते.

प्रज्ञा प्रवाहाच्या निमित्ताने दरमहा विविध संकल्पना - विषय घेऊन आम्ही नियमितपणे आपल्या भेटीस येणारच आहोत. आपले प्रेम आणि पाठबळ असू द्यावे ही नम्र विनंती. या प्रकल्पात आम्हाला मार्गदर्शन करणारे आमचे मार्गदर्शक, मदत करणारे सहकारी आणि तंत्रज्ञ या सर्वांचे आम्ही ऋणी आहोत. असाच लोभ असू द्या, धन्यवाद !

सुनिता चौहाण.

संपादक (मराठी अंक)

Femme Forward





DR KSHAMA GOVARDHANE

"Literature - A Remarkable Journey"

Welcome to "Femme Forward," our monthly literary exploration! In this edition, we endeavor to delve into the extraordinary journey of a writer Kshama Govardhane. We aim to unveil the creative voyage of a writer, exploring their imaginative world and the enchanting power of their words. We invite you to be a part of this journey, just as we are.

In this exclusive interview, we have the privilege of engaging with a remarkable author whose writing has the power to awaken emotions and create a lasting impact on readers. Known for her evocative and thought-provoking style, she delves into the heart of societal and cultural connections, shedding light on the complex tapestry of life. With a passion for storytelling and a unique ability to reflect the experiences of those around her, she shares her insights on the art of writing, the impact of her work, and offers valuable advice for aspiring authors, particularly women, on finding their own distinct voice in the world of literature. Join us as we explore the literary journey and perspectives of this talented writer.

Q1: Could you please introduce yourself to our readers and share what motivated you to become a writer? What inspired you to embark on this literary journey?

Ans1: I come from a family where writing has been a tradition. My grandparents, parents, and even distant relatives have been involved in various forms of writing from an early age. I was exposed to the culture of reading and writing right from my childhood. As a result, I developed a deep appreciation for literature and its significance, which is deeply ingrained in my upbringing.

Q2: How did you develop your writing skills, and what efforts did you make to cultivate your unique writing style? Do you have any specific experiences or authors who have influenced your writing journey?

Ans2: My journey into writing began in earnest in 2017 when I started contributing to online platforms such as 'Nukkad Sahitya Vishwa' and 'Na Lihileli Patre.' These platforms were curated by Mr. Vikram Bhagwat, who provided invaluable guidance and mentorship. This experience made me feel like I had found my calling as a writer.

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When it comes to influential authors, I greatly admire the works of Gonida, Anand Yadav, V. S. Khandekar, Aruna Dhere, and Vishwas Patil. Their writings have a profound impact on my creative process, and I find myself deeply engrossed in their works. Additionally, reading J. Kulkarni's books is a practice I follow to enhance my writing skills.

Q3: Were there any specific challenges or obstacles you faced on your journey as a writer? How did you overcome them?

Ans3: Initially, I did not consider myself a writer and faced several challenges. Technical aspects of writing, like grammar and style, were unfamiliar to me. Writing about rural subjects required understanding technical details related to various fields, which I had little knowledge of. Over time, I learned to overcome these challenges and improve my writing skills.

Q4: In terms of your writing, do you have a preferred style or theme that attracts you? What sets your writing apart on a personal and artistic level?

Ans4: Initially, I didn't have a specific style or theme that appealed to me. I found myself drawn to portraying vivid characterizations in my writing, particularly in depicting the depth of female characters. My writing aims to engage readers on an emotional level and create a lasting impact.

Q5: Are there any authors or literary figures whose writing has left a significant impact on you and influenced your work? How have their contributions affected your own writing?

Ans5: In particular, the writing styles of Gonida and Anand Yadav have left a profound influence on my writing. Their works exhibit simplicity, purity, and richness that resonate with me. When it comes to rural literature, I am deeply inspired by Anand Yadav's writing, which reflects a deep connection to the subjects he portrays.

Q6: Would you be willing to share your creative process with our readers, and any special techniques or practices that have helped you nurture your creativity?

Ans6: My creative process is not bound by a rigid routine. Ideas can strike at any moment, and I follow them through to fruition, even if it means getting up in the middle of the night to jot down thoughts on paper. I believe that some stories have a strong urge to be told. My writing begins as a spontaneous response to these moments of inspiration. In terms of nurturing creativity, I often engage in discussions with writer friends who share their experiences and insights. This helps me refine my ideas and translate them into mature stories.

Q7: What is your typical writing routine? Do you have any specific techniques or practices that help you channel your creativity, and what motivates you to bring engaging stories or prose to life?

Ans7: I don't follow a strict writing routine. I capture ideas and emotions as they come, whether in the middle of the night or during the day. I believe that some stories demand immediate attention and need to be expressed at that very moment.

Sometimes, it feels as though a certain story has so much strength that it practically writes itself. These stories are often the most rewarding to create.

Q8: Can you provide guidance on how to create a book or an important writing project? What are the key steps and considerations (main points) expected for this?



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Ans8: Guiding you in this endeavor is not something I have direct experience with. However, I can certainly share the approach I used to create my first novel, "DashaRajnya," which was quite challenging. It involved researching an event that occurred 28,000 years ago, predating even the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The available references in the Rigveda were minimal.

I divided the project into three sections:

1. Raw Material: I gathered as much information as possible on the subject matter.
2. Framework: I created a rough outline for how the novel would be structured, including character sketches based on their unique characteristics.
3. First Draft: I began writing the actual novel.

Using this method, I first completed the entire draft and then edited it seven times, revisiting and refining the work each time. An eighth edit was done at the manuscript level, followed by new edits with each subsequent print edition. This entire process took nearly three years. I follow a similar approach for my future projects.

Q9: Have you explored any unconventional or practical writing techniques or forms in your work? If so, how did it enhance the appeal of your writing, and what impact did it have on your writing?

Ans9: I cannot claim to have explored any concrete or unconventional writing techniques or forms in my work. While I have a general understanding, I have not developed any specific writing techniques. My focus has always been on creating a compelling narrative, well-developed characters, and using language that is engaging. In this context, I believe that the choice of words and language used in the story is crucial. I strive to make my writing captivating and appealing to readers. For example, I encountered a challenging situation in my novel "Dashoradnya" when I had to find a suitable Sanskrit synonym for the Marathi word "खंड" (fragment).

I initially found the term "प्रापण" (subdivision), but it seemed too complex and not an ideal fit. After two days of research, I finally came across the word "वदर," which was a precise and fitting synonym for my context.

Q10: How do you approach storytelling, character development, and language in your writing? What do you give priority to when creating an attractive narrative?

Ans10: Storytelling, character development, and language are interconnected aspects of my writing. To craft an appealing narrative, I emphasize the following:

1. Narrative Style: I use a narrative style that is engaging and captures the reader's interest from the beginning. It is crucial to draw readers into the story right from the start.
2. Character Development: I pay close attention to creating well-developed characters. Each character should have a distinct personality and traits that make them relatable and interesting to the readers. The characters' growth and interactions play a significant role in driving the plot forward.
3. Language: Language is a critical element in storytelling. I choose my words carefully to convey the right emotions and atmosphere. An extensive vocabulary and precise language are essential for effective storytelling.

In my writing, it is the connection between these elements that ultimately leads to a compelling and attractive narrative.

Q11: To awaken emotions in your writing and captivate readers with a fresh perspective, how do you think your writing affects those who read it?

Ans11: So far, I have noticed that my writing style is visually evocative, which makes readers feel like they are immersed in the story. Many readers have mentioned that when they read my work, they can vividly picture the scenes in their minds. It's as if my writing has a strong visual impact on them, and it lingers in their minds for a long time.





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Q12: Have you received any memorable feedback or reactions from readers who were deeply moved by your writing? Would you like to share any of those experiences, and how did it impact you and your work?

Ans12: Feedback from readers is quite diverse, but one particular response stands out. Once, a female reader reached out to me after reading my "Unwritten Letters" series. She became emotional while discussing the character from my story, who resonated with her own experiences. She even began to cry during our conversation, deeply connecting with the character's hardships. She expressed how strongly she felt and how she related to the character's emotional journey, making me feel quite responsible. This experience compelled me to write more thoughtfully and with greater empathy.

Q13: In literature, portraying societal and cultural connections is vital. How important is it for your writing to reflect the cultural and artistic backdrop of the city, and do you think it will resonate with readers?

Ans13: In my Facebook writings and Divya Marathi's column, especially in writings about female patients, my focus has always been on reflecting the real-life experiences. At times, readers have found these stories incredible. Some relate while others consider them unbelievable, as women are now more independent and have fewer struggles. However, when these responses surfaced, I noticed a heightened awareness of women's struggles among many. It seems that this response from readers made them more empathetic and understanding.

Q14: Have you explored any unconventional or practical writing techniques or forms in your work? If so, how have they made your writing more engaging and effective?

Ans14: Literature has always aimed at influencing society positively from the beginning. Despite the availability of various other media, books still have their unique charm. Reading a book gives a profound experience, and that experience stays with the reader. Even in the era of the internet, holding a book in hand and immersing oneself in its content is an extraordinary sensation. It provides an opportunity to explore more and contemplate deeply, which I believe is incomparable. In this regard, I find no substitute for literature.

Q15: What advice would you offer to aspiring authors, especially women, to discover their unique voice in writing, and how can they find their own distinct path in the world of literature?

Ans15: My advice to aspiring authors, especially women, is to read extensively. Read as much as you can, not only books but people as well. Don't rush into writing, and don't be hasty. Patience, diligence, and discipline are essential in this field. Don't let others influence or rush your writing; let it flow naturally. Be open to explore and take your time. Writing may be a long and arduous journey, but it's worth it. You don't need to force it; let it evolve naturally. Don't strive for quick fame; instead, focus on producing authentic and meaningful work. In today's fast-paced world, avoid shortcuts and hasty shortcuts that may lead to temporary recognition but won't stand the test of time. Lastly, I'd like to emphasize that literature is not a mere option; it's a lifelong commitment that demands your true dedication.

The author's literary journey is a testament to their passion and dedication to writing. They draw inspiration from a wide range of authors and seek to evoke emotional connections with their readers through vivid character portrayals and compelling narratives. Their creative process is marked by spontaneity, with stories emerging from moments of inspiration. Ultimately, the author's journey is a testament to the transformative power of literature and storytelling.

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Designed by : Creators Den



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Introducing "Femme Forward," a captivating magazine celebrating the extraordinary journeys of 11 remarkable women, each shining brightly in their respective fields. From the intricate strokes of a Rangoli artist to the soul-stirring verses of a poet, from the nurturing guidance of a teacher to the captivating narratives spun by a writer, our pages are adorned with the diverse hues of talent and passion.

Within these pages, you'll meet a calligraphy artist whose ink flows with elegance, a fitness coach inspiring strength and vitality, and a compassionate social worker weaving threads of change in our communities. Venture further and discover the entrepreneurial spirits behind a kitchen of culinary delights and the aromatic spices that tantalize the senses.

Delve into the insightful wisdom of a counselor, guiding hearts towards healing, and the mesmerizing performances of a mono artist, captivating audiences with each word uttered. Through their stories, we illuminate not only their individual journeys but also their profound impact on society, weaving a tapestry of empowerment and inspiration for all who dare to dream.

"Femme Forward" is more than just a magazine; it's a beacon of empowerment, a celebration of diversity, and a testament to the boundless potential of women everywhere. Join us as we embark on a journey of discovery, illumination, and empowerment, one story at a time.