

***Sakshatkar: Sambhavna aur Yatharth (Poorvottar ke Hindi Rachnadharmion se Sakshatkar)* by Pankaj Mishra, Jaipur: Bodhi Prakashan, First Edition, 2020, Pages- 320, Price- 399/-**

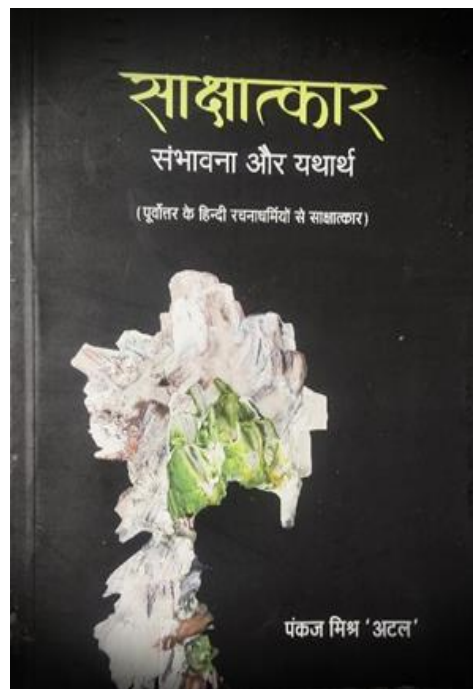
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The book *Sakshatkar: Sambhavna aur Yatharth (Interviews: Possibility and Reality)* by Pankaj Mishra 'Atal' avails the readers with an engaging exploration of the literary and cultural vibrancy of India's Northeast. Through a series of engaging interviews, Pankaj Mishra captures the voices of Hindi writers and creative figures from the region, shedding light on their contributions to the Hindi literary landscape. Published by Bodhi Prakashan in July 2020, this book fills a significant gap in documenting and understanding the dynamic interplay between regional literature and the national Hindi literary canon.

The author Pankaj Mishra's motivation for this stems from his deep connection with the Northeast, a region that enchanted him with its natural beauty, cultural diversity, and unique literary traditions. The narrative of the author reflects a sense of wonder and curiosity, as he delves into the historical and mythological connections between the Northeast and North India. From the tales of Krishna and Rukmini to the folklore of Srimanta Sankardev, the author Pankaj Mishra highlights the region's rich repertoire of cultural narratives.

The book emphasizes the need for greater national recognition of the Northeast's literary achievements. Mishra critiques the neglect of Hindi writers in the region by mainstream Hindi scholars and asserts the importance of translation as a bridge to bring the region's literary heritage to a wider audience.

The book is divided into several chapters, each focusing on interviews with notable Hindi writers, editors, and journalists from the Northeast. These conversations provide a nuanced understanding of their creative processes, the challenges they face, and their aspirations for the promotion of Hindi literature. The interviews conducted and collected by the interviewer are



informed by a blend of historical awareness and personal engagement, making the discussions both insightful and accessible.

The interviewer in Mishra also reflects on the genre of the interview itself, citing luminaries like Harivansh Rai Bachchan and Dr. Nagendra to emphasize its potential for revealing the depths of a subject's personality and work. The historical evolution of the interview as a literary form is skillfully interwoven into the book, showcasing Mishra's meticulous research and commitment to literary scholarship.

The book provides the reader a valuable insights into the symbiotic relationship between the region's natural environment and its cultural expressions. Mishra notes how the Northeast's close connection with nature fosters harmony and authenticity in its literature. He contrasts this with the urban-centric and often socially distorted themes prevalent in mainstream Hindi literature, highlighting the refreshing realism and aesthetic purity of the region's creative output.

The author also explores the enduring stereotypes about the Northeast, such as the perception of its inhabitants practicing black magic. Through his interviews and reflections, he dismantles these misconceptions, revealing the profound beauty and spiritual richness of the region.

Sakshatkar: Sambhavna aur Yatharth is a pioneering work that offers a rare glimpse into the literary ethos of the Northeast. Mishra's prose is lyrical yet precise, reflecting his deep emotional resonance with the region. His interviews are thoughtfully curated, providing a platform for voices that have often been marginalized in the national literary discourse.

However, the book occasionally veers into romanticization, which might overshadow the practical challenges faced by writers in the region. A more critical engagement with issues like linguistic hegemony, economic constraints, and the role of state policies in shaping literary practices would have further enriched the discourse.

Pankaj Mishra 'Atal's Sakshatkar: Sambhavna aur Yatharth is a significant contribution to the study of Hindi literature and its intersections with regional cultures. It is an essential read for scholars, writers, and readers interested in understanding the literary dynamics of India's Northeast. The book not only highlights the region's cultural and literary richness but also calls for a more inclusive and integrative approach to Hindi literary studies.