



International Hummus Day

Hummus is an Eastern Mediterranean and Egyptian food. It may come in the form of a dip or a spread, that is made from cooked, mashed chickpeas or other beans, and then blended with tahini, olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and garlic. Hummus can be a healthy part of a tasty Mediterranean diet that provides nutrients, all packed with delicious flavour. And International Hummus Day is the perfect day to learn more about this delicious treat, and, of course, spend some time eating it too!

#TRENDING

A Fusion Delight Winning Hearts in India

Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers represent more than just food trends. They're a celebration of cultural exchange, creativity, and culinary innovation.



India, known for its rich cultural heritage and diverse culinary landscape, is experiencing a delightful fusion of flavours and trends, with the rise of Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers. Here, we'll explore how these unique culinary offerings are capturing the hearts and taste buds of Indians across the country.

Bubble Tea: A Taiwanese Sensation

Originating from Taiwan, Bubble Tea, also known as Boba Tea or Pearl Milk Tea, has taken the world by storm with its tantalizing blend of tea, milk, and chewy tapioca pearls. In India, Bubble Tea has quickly gained popularity among the youth, offering a refreshing and Instagram-worthy beverage experience. From classic flavours like milk tea and taro to exotic options like matcha and fruit teas, Bubble Tea shops are popping up in cities nationwide, offering a diverse range of flavours and customizable options to suit every palate.

K-Pop Burgers: A Korean-Inspired Culinary Craze

With the global rise of Korean pop culture, particularly K-Pop music and dramas, Korean cuisine has found its way into the hearts and stomachs of Indians. Enter K-Pop Burgers, a mouth-watering fusion of Korean flavours and American fast food classics. These burgers typically feature Korean-inspired toppings such as kimchi, bulgogi (marinated beef), gochujang (spicy chili paste), and Korean-style pickles, creating a unique and flavourful twist on traditional burgers. From food trucks to trendy cafes, K-Pop Burgers are becoming a popular choice for foodies, looking to satisfy their cravings for both comfort food and Korean cuisine.

Embracing Diversity and Creativity

The popularity of Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers in India reflects a broader trend of culinary diversity and creativity in the country's food scene. As Indians embrace global influences and experiment with new flavours and trends, the boundaries between traditional and modern cuisine continue to blur, giving rise to exciting culinary delights. With a growing appetite for innovation and experimentation, India's food culture is evolving, embracing diversity, and celebrating the fusion of flavours from around the world.

The Fusion Appeal

What sets Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers apart is their ability to blend diverse cultural influences into innovative and exciting culinary creations. By combining traditional Asian flavours with contemporary twists and presentation, these food trends offer a unique sensory experience that appeals to both the adventurous palate and the social media-savvy generation. With vibrant colours, bold flavours, and playful textures, Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers have become more than just food. They're a cultural phenomenon and a form of self-expression for enthusiasts and foodies alike.



Conclusion

Bubble Tea and K-Pop Burgers represent more than just food trends. They're a celebration of cultural exchange, creativity and culinary innovation. As these delightful offerings continue to win hearts in India, they serve as a reminder of the 'universal language of food' and the 'joy of exploring new tastes and experiences.' Whether you're sipping on a refreshing Bubble Tea or biting into a flavourful K-Pop Burger, these culinary delights offer a tantalizing glimpse into the vibrant and dynamic world of 'food fusion and cultural exchange.'



Cuckoos Speak...

The event commenced with Jagdeep Singh, 'Jags,' introducing Malashri Lal as a prolific poet, who has written poems on a range of subjects, from romance to mythology to female infanticide. He spoke about how her poems are not just poignant and heartfelt but also carry a deep message for the reader. He said that Malashri's poems resonate with their readers because they are written on topics that every one feels and thinks about.



Rajesh Sharma conversing.



An attendee asking a question.



Jagdeep Singh, 'Jags,' introducing the poet.



Malashri Lal, with her book, 'Mandalas of Time.'



Avid Listeners at Rashtadoot's Sudharma Complex.



An attendee asking his query.



An attendee asking a query.



An attendee engaging in discussion.



Prakash Bhandari giving a vote of thanks.

#A POETIC EVENING



Robey Lal, Malashri Lal, Rajesh Sharma and Sudhir Mathur.

her debut poetry collection, 'Mandalas of Time' and talked about her life amongst an enraptured audience at Rashtadoot's Sudharma Complex.

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The audience was not a spectator, what surprised me was, the extent of appreciation and involvement people have for poetry. This was not Dulat sahib, who, one would, I now realise how wrong I can be, likely to hold audience because everyone wants to know what is hidden up till now. When she was asked about her poetic journey and which poet inspired her the most, Malashri revealed that she has been writing poems from the age of 12. She said that she drew her inspiration from the American poet, Emily Dickinson. She mentioned that like Dickinson, she used to write short poems on scraps of paper and then, just keep them in between her books. It was only recently that she thought of collecting her poems and getting them published.

When a member of the audience asked her about how she navigated the big change from Jaipur to Delhi, when she moved to Delhi, after she got married, Malashri replied that though, the change was huge considering the different natures of the two cities, she had very supportive in-laws, who helped her to ease the transition. She described how she got her first job in Delhi at Jesus and Mary College, where she spent

twelve years of her professional life. She had been working before her marriage, she had been working in Kanodia college in Jaipur, but that was only a year long stint, since she soon got married and moved to Delhi. However, she added that despite the fact that she has been living in Delhi for decades now, since it is her marital home and workplace, her heart is still in Jaipur because that is where she

has spent her best years of childhood and youth.

Guests were curious about her various transitions, especially of a child of our own backyard making home and professionally making place for herself, but more than that, finding 'the poet in herself' while doing it all. When she was asked if the writer in her ever had any difference of opinion with the poet in her, she replied that the

'writer in her' gets inspired by the poet's optimism.' She also added that there were times when the writer in her also helped the poet to become more practical and disciplined. Malashri believes that the 'poet in her' helps the 'writer to heal' because the very act of composing poetry is, in itself, a self-healing process.

Someone from the audience inquired about her poem-writing process, to which Malashri replied that earlier, she used to write her poems on any paper that she could find. That surprised many, because some of us are used to do just that. However, now, she uses her phone to write her poems and she mails them to herself. She believes that allows her to keep a record of the thoughts and poems that come.

The discussions and questions continued over tea and snacks, long after the session had ended. There were many people in the audience, who, though did not know Malashri Lal personally, but were happy and proud seeing the success of this 'Jaipur girl' in the literary circles of Delhi and the world. For them, Malashri's triumph, as an eminent author and poet in the literary Mecca of Delhi, was like their own victory. From their perspective, it was as if someone from their family had gone out in the world and proven that Rajasthan can also produce authors and poets, who are articulate and adept in English as Malashri Lal.

It was like suddenly seeing an oasis in the middle of the desert and discovering that it is not a mirage but the real thing.

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Somebody remarked that what makes Malashri so endearing and likable is that despite her success in the literary world, Malashri has made it a point to keep her connection with Jaipur alive and thriving. He said that her frequent visits to Jaipur prove that she has not forgotten her roots and old friends. Another lady said that the beauty of

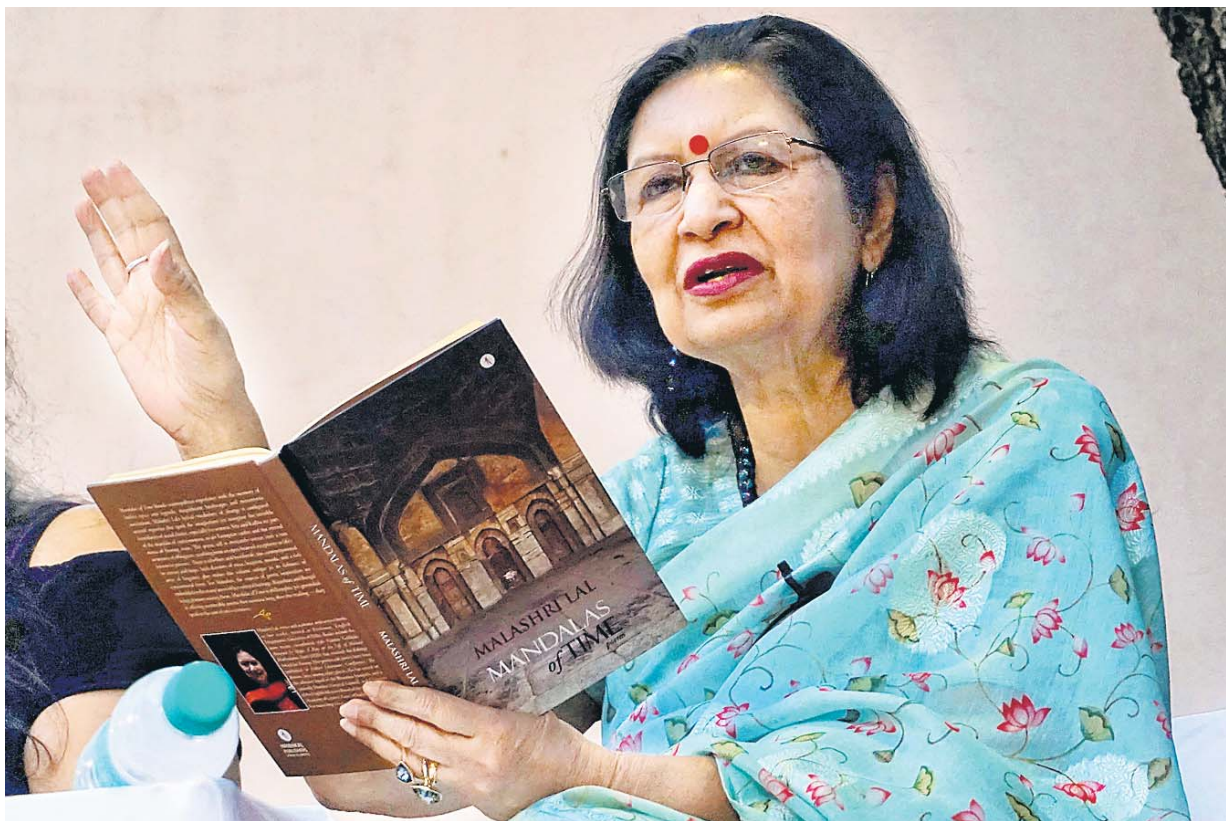
Malashri's poems is that on one hand, her poems have celebrated the values and traditions of the yore, on the other, they have constantly questioned and rebelled against the patriarchal societies and values.

She also added that Malashri's poems don't just talk about her connections with Bengal and Gurudev

Rabindranath Tagore but also delve into her deep connection with Rajasthan.

Sounds of laughter and conversations echoed in the green lawns as many people caught up with their friends and acquaintances, they had not met for long. Some friends commented, that they had come for the now famous samosas, but were enchanted by the poems. The evening was a magical one as the setting sun and the songs of the cuckoo bird added their own poetic license to an already enriched session. Senior journalist, Prakash Bhandari, brought the session to a close with the vote of thanks.

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Malashri Lal, reciting poems from her book, 'Mandalas of Time.'

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman