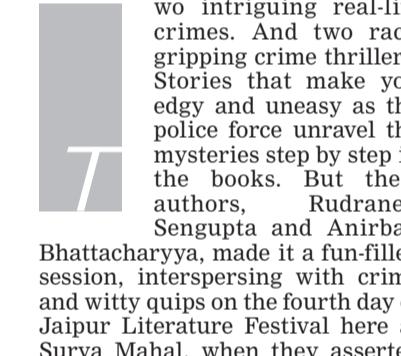


Beyond Forts And Palaces

About cyclical change of government every five years, BJP leader Satish Poonia said the public of Rajasthan does not spare any, if you haven't worked, one pays



L-R Tabeenah Anjum, Deep Mukherjee, Anish Gawande, Satish Poonia, CP Joshi.



Rakhee Roytalukdar

Anish Gawande.



CP Joshi.



Tabeenah Anjum.



Rakhee Roytalukdar

There is so much beyond the magnificent palaces and forts of Rajasthan. The desert land is state of contradictions, has interesting people, whose political acumen needs to be applauded because it strongly believes in the 'revolving door' policy, having not repeated its government between the period 1993 to 2023. It actually isn't a state which just votes on the basis of caste, so said the young authors and journalists, Deep Mukherjee and Tabeenah Anjum of their newly released book 'From Dynasties to Democracy: Politics, Caste and Power Struggles'.

The book was launched by Congress leader CP Joshi and BJP's Satish Poonia on the third day of the Jaipur Literature Festival being held here today. The session was moderated by Anish Gawande, author and national spokesperson of NCP.

Tabeenah, while talking about the idea of the book, said both of them have been reporting and doing ground reports since the last 16 years, and hence, they thought of collating their work in the form of a book in 2020, when the state was going through political turmoil. "But has taken us five years to complete it as we researched thoroughly and deeply and tried including all field notes, read up all Assembly proceedings and wrote in the form of case studies. Rajasthan is the biggest state and we have tried to fit in its story from 1949 to 2024 and writing it has not been an easy task. We have examined and analysed caste, power struggles and also talked to people, politicians who have given us fresh insights and rich anecdotes."

While talking about political maturity and contradictions of the desert state, Deep said, "It can be seen that Rajasthan has had an Opposition since 1952, unlike other states where there has usually been a majority party dominance. Despite talks of caste-driven politics of Rajasthan, it had had chief ministers, not always from the dominant castes. During our research, we also found that some of the issues which impact us now have their roots in the past. And that we have to connect the contempo-

small town called Falna in Rajasthan's Pali district, who came to Jaipur and wanted to turn rich easily. She conned around 1000 men through dating apps like Tinder and websites and ultimately murdered one of them Dushyant Sharma and left him packed in a suitcase. "It is a human story of greed, of how four people wanted to reach beyond what was in their grasp and which culminated into this heinous crime."

On why such crimes happen and on the choice of the victim, Anirban said, "I am a strong believer of serendipity and things that are sometimes fated to happen. And this is something I noticed when writing my first book on India's serial killers. Why was that one person chosen to be killed out of the thousands or why a six-year old was killed, questions for which answers are difficult to find. There is no justification for this. And it was simply destiny that the lives of four people in the Jaipur Tinder murder case collided and led to destruction. And that is what gets me excited as a non-fiction writer because as the saying goes, 'fact is much stranger than fiction' and you don't know what is waiting for you."

The session titled The Murder Dialogue discussed Sengupta's debut novel 'The Beast Within', which deals with the mysterious death of a maid in an affluent family and Bhattacharyya's 'Swipe Right to Kill', which is about the infamous Jaipur Tinder killer about how a young girl, who wished to become rich, conned thousands of men, murdered one and left him packed in a suitcase on a highway. The session was moderated by Amrita Mahale, author of the Himalayan Real Life. The trio discussed and unearthed uncanny realities of the crime world through fact and fiction.

Sengupta said, "And so while reporting, I met police officers, and I went back to them not as a reporter but as someone who wanted to know more about their lives, how they spoke, how they moved and looked at not just the police procedures while working on cases. Thankfully, I found some police officers who agreed to my proposal and I shadowed them for some months and all of that is in my book. A lot of dialogue and observations are in my book, real-life situations, I even went on trials with police."

Bhattacharyya revealed that he got help from the police all through while writing this thriller. "I got access to the cop, Sardar Bhupendra Singh, who solved the case, that is from the horse's mouth. I got access to the

crime scene and I could smell blood. Many believe when the accused gets arrested, it is the end of the mystery but actually it is the beginning when the police have to prove the crime in the court of law. They have to create a witness case, forensics. One she tasted chicken tandoori, she yearned for more and did not want to go back to square one. But she

was brainy and had the acumen to pull off the con job."

Rudraneil Sengupta, the

murderer, Anirban said, "She was a big fish in a small town, celebrated in her town but when she came to Jaipur, she found herself to be a small fish in a big town, she was also attracted to the affluence and wanted to earn money so that she could live a lavish life. Once she tasted chicken tandoori, she yearned for more and did not want to go back to square one. But she

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