

the reading room



Subhash Bose: India's First Prime Minister?; U.V. Singh, Pentagon Press, Rs. 595.

Indians have an emotional connect with Subhash Chandra Bose. In January 1941, after he left to wage a war to liberate Indians from the British rule, he disappeared, causing an unending mystery. Affected by this, a large section of people feel that if Bose had been around, India would have been different. What would have happened if Bose had taken over as the first Prime Minister of Independent India?



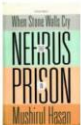
Sorajjem; Akkineni Kutumbarao, trs by Alladi Uma and M. Sridhar, Orient BlackSwan, price not mentioned.

This is the story of the first 16 years in the life of Sorajjem. It is also the story of the sufferings of her community, the Malas. Written in 1973, it is one of the early Telugu novels written by a non-Dalit writer that depicts the problems faced by the Dalits. This masterful translation captures the lived reality of inhumanity and alienation faced by the Dalits.



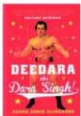
Music Masti Modernity: The Cinema of Nasir Husain; Akshay Manwani, HarperCollins, Rs. 599.

Nasir Husain's career as writer-director-producer, spanning nearly five decades, has shaped commercial Hindi cinema as it exists today. The book examines the broad tropes of Husain's films, and also the enduring song-and-dance sequences that were essential to his cinema. Through interviews with a number of prominent industry insiders, the book contextualises Husain's legacy.



When Stone Walls Cry: The Nehrus in Prison; Mushirul Hasan, Oxford University Press, Rs. 695.

The grim walls of jail provided the place and time to the Nehrus to reflect on and give direction to the nationalist struggle. The book highlights the significance of prison time in shaping the lives of the members of the illustrious family. It was Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership that guided India on to the world stage as a modern nation.



Deedara aka Dara Singh; Seema Sonik Alimchand, Westland Ltd, price not mentioned.

This is the story of Rustam-E-Hind Dara Singh, the first Indian wrestler to fight the toughest in the world - King Kong, Ray Golden, Lou Thesz and Ray Apollon - and emerge as the invincible world champion. It is a fascinating account of an extraordinary man, who started his life in an ordinary way, but became an icon for an entire generation.



Happily Never After; Jane De Suza, HarperCollins, Rs. 299.

This is so not the marriage Tina Raja signed up for. Her best friend Kanchan is mooning over a guy, her sister Oli may be in love for the 84th time, and her blog readers are lecherous pervs. Can an often invisible lover trump an always absent husband? This comedy is a chronicle of Tina's quest for love, lust and understanding.

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