

# A traveller on road to forgotten facts

Punya Prava Rath

HE HAS dug into history to make history. His first book *Congress Secret Broadcast and Storming Railway Tracks during Quit India Movement* created a flutter, so did his pamphlets on road safety.

A script writer and researcher with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Art (IGNCA), Dr Gautam Chatterjee's creative instinct has helped him to present complex thoughts through simple ideas.

While doing a course, Archival Diploma of Record Management at the National Archives of India, Chatterjee had access to IB documents, and soon it took the form of a book, his first.

Even for his PhD in Social History, he chose to write *Child Criminals and The Raj*. "More than the PhD, the urge for a solution to the rise in criminal instincts among children made me write the book," says Chatterjee, a Sarojini Nagar resident. The book explores history for ways of reformation and link them to the present scenario.

His book *Reformation through Ram Naam* comprises case studies of the tribal Bhils of Jhabua and



KAUSHIK RAMASWAMY/HT

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convicts of the Indore Central Jail.

During his stint with the Road Safety Cell of Delhi Traffic, he brought out literature, created games and wrote books for children.

"I always attempted to create messages with a high retention value," says this Sarojini Nagar resident.

The idea behind *Dice Game for Road Safety* can be traced to the British Government's strategy to punish the supporters of freedom struggle and reward the informers. He explored

the readers' liking for star forecast in *Zodiac Way to Greater Traffic Sense*.

"It is very important to study child psychology before preparing literature for them. *My First Book on Road Safety* contains no sermons, it is the child who speaks through the poems," he says. To buy space in someone's pocket, he created a pocket directory where every alphabet carried a message on road safety.

Dr Chatterjee and his team at IGNCA has scripted many programmes for DD

Metro and DD Bharati.

Today, his books revolve around spiritualism. His book, *Sacred Hindu Symbols* is internationally acclaimed.

While his mother has always been an inspiration, he attributes his success to Indologist, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan and renowned historians like Dr Ranjit Sen (D.Litt) University of Calcutta, Dr S Sengupta, National Archives of India, Prof Satkari Mukhopadhyay, Indira Gandhi National Center for the Art.

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