

## **Editorial**

Dear Readers, Greetings!

I am happy to present to you the Vol II No. I of Theatre Street Journal. I begin on a high note as TSJ was successfully launched last year with élan in Kolkata, the city of theatre, by the thespian Rudra Prasad SenGupta and received rave reviews. I take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the inauguration programme, the guests, the audience and the press. A very special thanks to all the authors without whose contributions the issue would not have been possible. A great start indeed—encouraging & inspiring.

I am happy at the same time a little worried because of the latest developments in the academic scenario of India which forms the backdrop of the publication of this 2<sup>nd</sup> issue of TSJ.

The University Grants Commission came out with a notice that it will enlist journals based on certain criteria and publications in those enlisted journals only will be considered for promotion of concerned authors (working in service teachers of colleges & universities and researchers in this case)

What this notice has done is that it has dissuaded authors to write in Journals which are not enlisted in UGC list. The question which comes to mind, is—why don't you get enlisted? Well, the list is quite an elite one. The stringent criteria set by UGC for enlistment suits big commercial publication houses. Expectedly, the journals brought out by these houses were enlisted in the list. An expensive technological infrastructure is needed to meet the concerned criteria in case of online journals. Or else, the only option is to go for print journal which in any case needs a huge investment. So, publishing an academic journal is snatched away from interested individuals and becomes an activity only of big commercial houses—*Elitization of Academics & Research!*

Therefore, we have very few write ups in the present issue. I thank and salute the passion of these authors for going beyond careerist motivation and taking up the

pen for this great art form called theatre. Like the first issue, the papers in the present issue are elusive & rich in terms of content. We have discussions on classical playwrights like Shakespeare by Shri Ashok Mukhopadhyaya, a veteran theatrician of India & Tagore, on later playwrights like Bijan Bhattacharya & Mahesh Dattani. We are truly indebted to *Arghya Journal*, an organ of Kasba Arghya, a Kolkata based theatre group, and their director Shri Manish Mitra for having let us re-publish two wonderful papers from their old issues-one, on *Yakshagana*, the evergreen folk form of India and the other on the work & life of the legendary Indian theatrician Habib Tanvir, written by his daughter. There is another paper of Danda nata of Odisha. Plus, a palatable interview of Mustaq Kak of Jammu & Kashmir and a review of book by another Indian theatre legend, Badal Sircar adds to the flavour.

I sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading the papers of the present issue and find food for thought also. I would take this opportunity to thank the esteemed members of the Editorial Board and Peer Review Board of TSJ for their sincere efforts to maintain the quality of the journal. Messer's Swad Technology Private Ltd. The company which maintains the website of TSJ also deserves a special mention.

The year 2018 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO, under whose aegis the World Theatre Day is celebrated. TSJ releases annually on this day so we are in a way connected. Congratulations to ITI for completing seven decades. Also, hearty congratulations to Shri Ram Gopal Bajaj, theatrician from India and ex-Director, National School of Drama for being selected among five others by ITI to deliver this year's World Theatre Day message. It is a proud moment for Indian Theatre.

Happy reading & a very happy World Theatre Day 2018.

**Sourav Gupta**  
**Editor**  
**Theatre Street Journal**

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