

# Guftugu

Culture matters. And it *has* to matter in India, with its diverse languages, dialects, regions and communities. Its rich range of voices from the mainstream and the peripheries.

This was the starting point for Guftugu ([www.guftugu.in](http://www.guftugu.in)) a quarterly e-journal of poetry, prose, conversations and images which the Indian Writers' Forum runs as one of its programmes. The aim of the journal is to publish, with universal access online, the best of work by Indian cultural practitioners in a place where they need not fear intimidation or irrational censorship, or be excluded by the profit demands of the marketplace. Such an inclusive platform sparks lively dialogue on literary and artistic issues that demand discussion and debate.

The guiding spirit of the journal is that culture must have many narratives from many different voices – from the established to the marginal, from the conventional to the deeply experimental. To sum up our vision:

Whatever our language, genre or medium, we will freely use our imagination to produce what we see as meaningful for our times. We insist on our freedom to speak and debate without hindrance, both to each other and to our readers and audience. Together, but in different voices, we will interpret and reinterpret the past, our common legacy of contesting narratives; and debate on the present through our creative work.

[www.guftugu.in](http://www.guftugu.in)

## Guftugu features

**Editorials** Current issues in the diverse world of Indian cultural practice in all its forms

**Poetry** Beautifully illustrated, poetry in English, English translation from other Indian languages, as well as bi-lingual features

**Short Fiction** The best of short fiction from all Indian languages in English translation, including stories for children

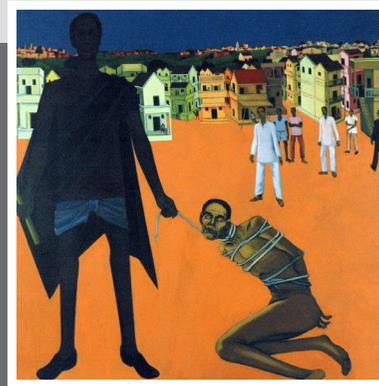
**Special Features** An occasional focus on a language, or a theme, or a form such as the short documentary film

**Conversations** In-depth but accessible discussion of artistic or academic practice

**Videos and films** Performances, interviews, conversations, films, performance art

**Art** Work by well-known and upcoming artists from different parts of India

**Cartoons, posters, graphic art** Regular “columns” -- Scrawl by Unny and Sotto Voce by Orijit Sen



Man II, Gulammohammed Sheikh

It was an illustrious Mir  
who said, Love is an unwieldy rock  
How would a weakling like you lift it?

Excerpt from a poem by Mangalesh Dabral



GALLERY  
GUFTUGU

Exhibitions of four to six weeks of work we should see to understand Indian diversity, and the socio-political aspects of Indian experience. The work includes that by young artists; by artists whose work has been pushed to the margins for several reasons; and by those who may not be “artists” but whose participation in art and craft show us how the creative process can be used to heal the social, economic and political wounds of minorities, oppressed groups, or survivors of atrocities.



Shah-e-Alam Relief Camp, Tasleem Qureshi, 2006, Enamel Paints on Canvas