The Good, the Bad and the Ridiculous

Khushwant Singh (1915-2014) was an Indian novelist, lawyer, politician and journalist. His literary works were best known for their humour and acerbic satire. We remember the contributions of this polymath on his departure from this world on March 20, 2014.

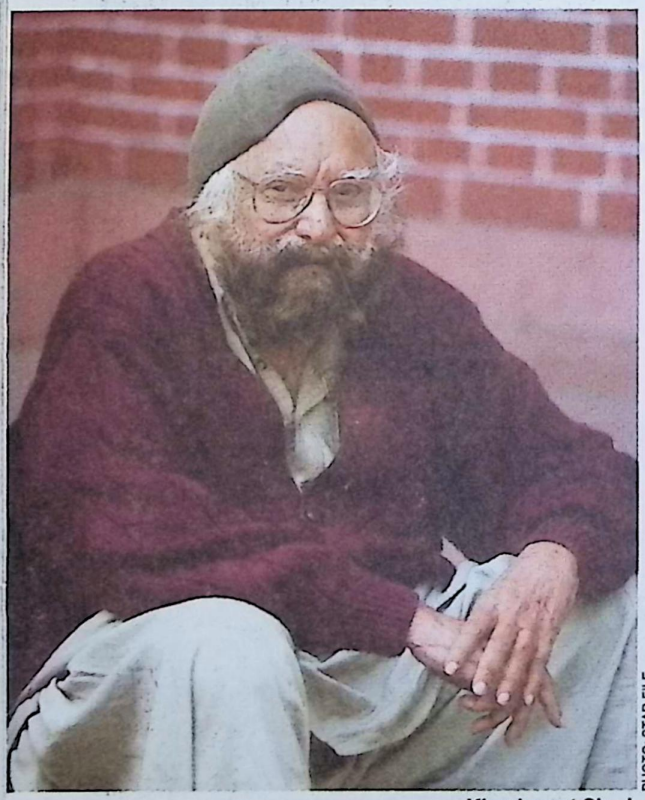


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Khushwant Singh

- Khushwant Singh was born in Hadali, Khushab District, Punjab in Pakistan to a Sikh family
- He completed his education by obtaining Bar at law degree from the Inner Temple
- Singh started his professional career as a practising lawyer in 1938
- He started his career as a journalist in 1951 by joining the All India Radio
- He was the editor of two major Indian newspapers, The National Herald and the Hindustan Times

- Khushwant Singh's writing ranged from political commentary and contemporary satire to outstanding translations of Sikh religious texts
- He was a renowned critic of Urdu literature and poetry
- He was one of the last remaining writers to have personally known most of the stalwarts of Urdu and Punjabi literature
- He is famous for his English translation of the long poems Shikwa and Jawab E Shikwa of Sir Mohammed Iqbal
- Singh promoted lesser known Urdu poets like Arsh Malsiyani and favoured Devanagri or latin script for Urdu in India

- From 1980 through 1986, Singh was a member of Rajya Shabha, the upper house of the Indian parliament
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1974 for service to his country.
- In 1984 he returned the award in protest of the attack of the Golden Temple by the Indian army
- Singh played a key role in developing India's diplomatic relationship with Israel

- Khushwant Singh was a self proclaimed agnostic and published a book on his thoughts named Agnostic Khushwant: There is no God
- Khushwant Singh later became interested in Bahai faith and requested them to bury him in their cemetery
- Later the plan was abandoned due to some conditions proposed from the Bahai community
- Singh died due to natural causes on March 20, 2014 at his Delhi residence, at the age of 99

– MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN