

Reviving the “Little Republics” of India

Decline of India’s village

(Book reviews by Bhaskar Paricha, Dumani Mail, November 30, 2025)

Reviving the Little Republics of India is a timely reflection on the nation's oldest democratic inheritance—the self-governing village republics that once formed the moral and administrative backbone of Indian society. The book journeys across history, memory, and lived experience to explore how these "little republics"—rooted in collective decision-making, shared resources, and community wisdom—sustained the subcontinent for centuries before modern governance structures took shape.

Drawing from classical texts, local traditions, and field observations, the narrative re-examines India not as a single sweeping civilisation but as a constellation of vibrant micro-democracies. These local institutions, built on trust and participation, enabled social cohesion long before constitutional frameworks were imagined. The book argues that the strength of India has always flowed from its peripheries—from the panchayats, village sabhas, and community-led systems that kept everyday life anchored in justice, cooperation, and accountability.

But Reviving the Little Republics of India is not merely a nostalgic tribute. It is an urgent call to rethink contemporary governance through the lens of decentralisation and grassroots empowerment. As urbanisation accelerates and bureaucratic systems grow more complex, the book asks whether the wisdom of these small, self-reliant communities can guide India toward more inclusive development. It explores how participatory institutions can be revitalised to restore trust, enhance local problem-solving, and bridge the widening gap between citizens and the state.

Written in lucid, engaging prose, the book draws readers into a quiet yet powerful argument: that India's future may well depend on rediscovering the democratic spirit buried in its smallest units. In an age of centralised power and fragmented social bonds, the little republics offer a blueprint for rebuilding harmony, dignity, and collective agency.

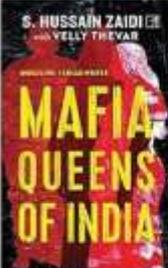
Reviving the Little Republics of India becomes not just a work of scholarship but a reflection on India's past and a manifesto for its future-inviting citizens, policymakers, and thinkers to imagine a nation strengthened from the ground up.

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BOOKS

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MAFIA QUEENS OF INDIA
S. HUSSAIN ZAIDI & VELLY THEVAR

Ecosphere of Mafia Queens

The book traces the rise of the mafia in India, from its roots in the underworld to its current status as a powerful force in the country's economy. It explores the complex web of relationships between the mafia and various sectors of the economy, including politics, business, and media. The author provides a detailed analysis of the mafia's operations and its impact on society.



THE CALL TO TURN INWARD
Anand Singh

Invisible Threads of Ordinary Lives

Yashwantrao Chavan's life is a testament to the power of ordinary lives. This book explores the hidden stories of the people who shaped the nation, from the common folk to the great leaders. It is a tribute to the unsung heroes who have made India what it is today.

Decline of India's Villages

Reviving the 'Little Republics' of India. This book discusses the decline of villages in India and offers a blueprint for their revival. It argues that villages are the backbone of the nation and that their decline is a threat to the country's future. The author provides a detailed analysis of the reasons for the decline and offers practical solutions for their revival.

Poetry as Act of Revelation

When Blood Becomes Ink. This book explores the power of poetry as a form of revelation. It argues that poetry is not just a form of art, but a way of seeing the world. It is a way of revealing the hidden truths of life and the human condition. The author provides a detailed analysis of the power of poetry and offers a blueprint for its revival.

Prospect of a Life Reimagined

Leap. This book explores the prospect of a life reimagined. It argues that life is not just a series of events, but a journey. It is a journey of discovery and growth. The author provides a detailed analysis of the prospect of a life reimagined and offers a blueprint for its realization.

Voices from the Waiting Room

Mayank Gupta. This book explores the voices from the waiting room. It argues that the waiting room is a place of many voices. It is a place where people wait for their lives to begin. The author provides a detailed analysis of the voices from the waiting room and offers a blueprint for their realization.