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YEAR-BOOKS 2 LAST



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Gautam Padmanabhan, CEO, Westland Ltd finds 2016 as a year

Gautam Padmanabhan, CEO, Westland Ltd finds 2016 as a year of steady growth at Westland.

"Ashwin Sanghi continued to prove his versatility with two blockbusters? The Sialkot Saga and 13 Steps to Bloody Good Wealth; Preeti Shenoy consolidated her position as Indias number one women fiction writer with Its All in the Planets, and Savi Sharma, a 23-year-old girl from Surat, stunned the publishing world with her record-breaking debut novel Everyone Has A Story.

"Our other successes included Deedara aka Dara Singh by Seema Sonik Alimchand, Christopher C Doyles The Secret of the Druids: Book 2 in The Mahabharata Quest series, The Tamil Story: Through the times, through the tides, edited by Dilip Kumar and Subashree Krishnaswamy, The Secret Diary of Kasturba by Neelima Dalmia Adhar, Invincible Arjuna by Debashis Chatterjee, and Ashoka: Lion of Maurya by Ashok K Banker."

According to Thomas Abraham, Managing Director at Hachette India, it had a "rather spectacular year frontlined of course by the record-setting performance of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (HPATCC) which offset the generally tough conditions prevailing right now.

"HPATCC apart there was a great roundup ranging from a blockbuster childrens hit in The Gita for Children, to some edgy thrillers like Patang and Sultan of Delhi from new voices, Akhada - the autobiography of Phogat on whom Dangal is based, some fabulous food books like Crumbs and Mrs LCs table, and of course the scriptbook of Fantastic Beasts plus it was nice to have a bunch of awards too from Booker longlisting to the DSC to the Raymond Crossword awards."

Diya Kar Hazra, Publisher of Pan Macmillan India, says 2016 was a fulfilling year for the publishing house.

"We revived some of the stars of our backlist and celebrated some iconic books (the 15th anniversary edition of The Picador Book of Modern Indian Writing edited by Amit Chaudhuri and the first-ever collection of VS Naipauls India books in one volume, The Indian Trilogy).

"We had excellently timed paperback publications (Sunjeev Sahotas Booker-shortlisted The Year of the Runaways and Kunal Basus Kalkattta) and some outstanding fiction," she says.

"We also launched the exquisitely produced, accessible Macmillan Popular Classics and acquired some very exciting books across a range of genres and ended the year with two big acquisitions that well announce in the new year.

"We began the year with Jeffrey Archers Cometh the Hour and ended it with the final installment of his spellbinding Clifton Chronicles, There Was a Man. Its been a huge success and hes had the most spectacular multi-city tour."

The year began with the annual Jaipur Literature Festival in which over 360 authors participated in 200 sessions across 10 venues, including the Diggi Palace, Amber For and the Albert Hall.





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