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**Meena Kandasamy's debut novel: “The Gypsy Goddess”
Launched at ICG ”**

Sunday, 21th June, 2014

“The Gypsy Goddess” is a novel about a true-life massacre. Treading the line between powerful fiction and fearsome critique, the author leads us through a rapidly modernizing India pointing out injustices of privilege, hypocrisies of authority and the unforgivable politics of turning a blind eye.

The International Centre Goa in association with Goa Writer's Group and Harper Collins Publishers India hosted the Exclusive India Launch of “*The Gypsy Goddess*”, debut novel by acclaimed poet, writer and activist Meena Kandasamy on Sunday, 15th June, 2014 .

Kandasamy is a poet, fiction writer, translator and activist based in Chennai. She has published two collections of poetry, Touch (2006) and Ms. Militancy (2010). A PhD in socio-linguistics from Anna University, Chennai; Kandasamy has represented India at the University of Iowa's International Writing Program and was made the Charles Wallace India Trust Fellow at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

The book was released at the hands of Environmental Activist, Padmashree Adv. Norma Alvares who described the author as “a powerful writer with bold sarcasm and whose description of this gruesome incident is extraordinary”. She said that although it is a novel, Kandasamy has used intense emotions to narrate the story in a way so as to make it feel like a real life incident. She further said that she will personally not recommend the book, only because it is comfortable not to know the graphic reality of incidents depicted as they so closely resemble what occurs in India everyday.

The author read from the book, followed by a brief conversation with Vivek Menezes from Goa Writer's Group, questions from the audience and book signing.

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