

letters to the editor

Khushwant Singh was a journalist of rare skill and talent

With the passing of Khushwant Singh (*Acclaimed Indian journalist and author Khushwant Singh dies at 99, March 21*), India has lost an author of great perception and skill.

With his sharp writings, he exposed the many foibles in India's political and social system. He wrote very simple prose, in an easy-to-read style, but made strong points that appealed to a wide range of readers across all educational levels. He wrote for the ordinary man, not necessarily for the scholars or the educated elite.

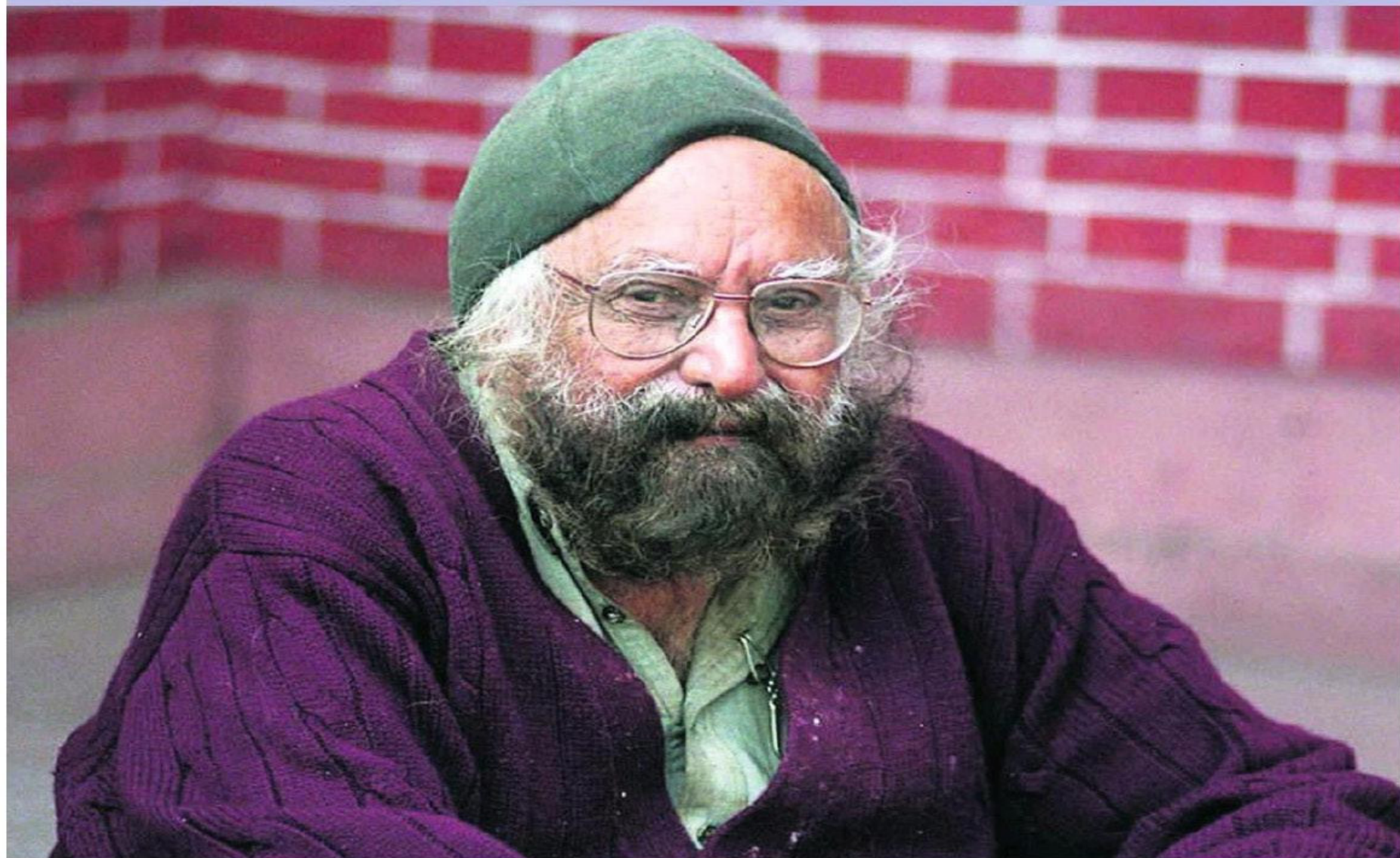
He was a doyen of good writing and apart from educating millions with his incisive writings, he also trained and developed many generations of writers and journalists – a truly lasting contribution.

He was also a fearless man. He incurred the wrath of the journalistic community in India by supporting Indira Gandhi in the emergency in 1976, because he thought it would improve the country. However, he returned the honours given to him when Mrs Gandhi authorised the military operation in the Golden Temple in 1984.

He personally replied to every letter he received. When I had sent him some of my writing over two decades ago, he sent me a short, simple letter encouraging me. I still have the letter.

Rajendra K Aneja, Dubai

Writer's legacy



Readers have praised the legacy of writer and journalist Khushwant Singh, who died in Delhi on Thursday AFP photo