### Parul Khakhar: The Indian stay-at-home mum trolled for poem on Covid dead

**One morning in early May, a poetess living in a nondescript town in India's western state of Gujarat finished her chores and picked up the newspapers.**

五月初的一个早晨，一位住在印度西部古吉拉特邦一个不起眼的小镇上的女诗人完成了她的家务，拿起了报纸。

India was in the throes of a deadly second wave of the coronavirus. Disturbing pictures of India's holiest river, the Ganges, swollen with bodies of people feared to have died of Covid-19 filled the front pages. There were reports of overflowing cremation grounds, and of patients choking to death because of a lack of oxygen.

印度正处于致命的第二波冠状病毒的阵痛之中。印度最神圣的河流恒河令人不安的图片充斥了报纸的头版，上面满是可能死于2019冠状病毒疾病的人们的尸体。有报道称，火葬场人满为患，还有名病人因缺氧窒息而死。

Stirred by what she saw and read, Parul Khakhar quickly wrote a poem. She posted the mournful 14-line dirge called *Shabvahini Ganga* (A hearse called Ganga - the Indian name for river Ganges) on her Facebook page, where she has more than 15,000 followers.

帕鲁尔 · 哈尔被她所看到和读到的东西搅动，很快写了一首诗。她在自己的 Facebook 页面上发布了14行哀伤的挽歌，题为 Shabvahini Ganga ，她的粉丝超过1.5万。

The Gujarati-language poem speaks about the wrath of the virus, leaving a trail of death and devastation in its wake. Khakhar writes about floating corpses, funeral pyres and the crematoria chimneys melting under the load of the burning dead.

古吉拉特语的诗歌讲述了病毒的愤怒，在它到来之后留下了死亡和毁灭的痕迹。哈尔写到了漂浮的尸体，葬礼的柴堆，以及火葬场的烟囱在死人的燃烧下融化。

Without naming anyone, she writes: "The city burns as he fiddles." In another line, she exhorts the reader: "Come out and shout and say it loud/The naked King is lame and weak."

她没有指名，写道: “城市燃烧如同他弹奏小提琴。”在另一行中，她勉励读者: “出来大声喊出来/赤裸的国王是瘸腿和软弱的。”

Within hours of her post, all hell broke loose.

在她上任后的几个小时内，一切都乱套了。

The poem, which appeared to criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for inaction, quickly went viral. In no time, it was translated into half a dozen languages, including[**English**](https://thewire.in/the-arts/parul-khakkar-gujarati-poem-ganga-bodies-covid).

这首诗似乎是在批评总理纳伦德拉 · 莫迪(Narendra Modi)领导的政府的不作为，很快就在网上疯传。很快，它就被翻译成了六种语言，包括英语。

Khakhar was viciously trolled and abused by supporters of Mr Modi who took it as an attack on the leader. Tens of thousands of harsh missives were also shared on WhatsApp. Some called her a "demoness" and an "anti-national". Others used misogynistic expletives. Fellow poets and columnists panned it.

哈尔被莫迪先生的支持者恶毒地攻击和辱骂，他们认为这是对这位领导人的攻击。在 WhatsApp 上也分享了数以万计的严厉信件。一些人称她为“恶魔”和“反国家”。其他人则使用了歧视女性的脏话。同行的诗人和专栏作家对此进行了抨击。

But she also received widespread support. "The poem is like an ironic satire. She does not name Mr Modi, but her anguish and anger are palpable," said Salil Tripathi, a New York-based writer, who translated it to English. "She has used tropes and rhymes to mock the rulers."

但她也得到了广泛的支持。“这首诗就像一首讽刺的讽刺诗。她没有说出莫迪先生的名字，但是她的痛苦和愤怒是显而易见的。”萨利尔 · 特里帕蒂说，他是一位纽约作家，将这本书翻译成了英文。“她用比喻和押韵来嘲笑统治者。”

After facing the ire of her critics, Khakhar has maintained a studied silence. When I contacted her on email, she wrote back: "I cannot talk to anyone now. I am grateful for your goodwill."

面对批评者的愤怒，Khakhar 故意保持沉默。当我通过电子邮件联系她时，她回复说: “我现在不能和任何人说话。我很感激你们的善意。”

She has since locked her Facebook page, but the poem remains. When Gujarati poet Mehul Devkala called her to congratulate her on not taking down the poem, she told him: "Why should I delete it when I have said nothing wrong?"

她已经锁定了自己的 Facebook 页面，但这首诗仍然保留着。当古吉拉特语诗人 Mehul Devkala 打电话祝贺她没有删除这首诗时，她告诉他: “我既然没有说错什么，为什么要删除它?”

The 51-year-old poetess from the town of Amreli, some 200km (124 miles) south-west of Gujarat's main city of Ahmedabad, is new to controversy. "She's not known to be a political writer. She's a popular, feel-good poet who writes about nature, love and God. This poem is completely out of character," said Tripathi.

这位51岁的女诗人来自古吉拉特邦(Gujarat)主要城市 Ahmedabad (阿姆雷利)西南约200公里(124英里)的一个小镇。“众所周知，她不是一位政治作家。她是一个受欢迎的，自我感觉良好的诗人，写自然，爱和上帝。这首诗完全不符合他的性格,”特里帕蒂说。

Married to a bank employee, Khakhar is a stay-at-home mum who tells her friends that she is a "homemaker first, and poet second". Over the past decade, she has quietly marked her presence in the local literary scene. She has also written folk songs and *ghazals*, a form of poetry set to music, in her language.

Khakhar 嫁给了一位银行职员，是一位全职妈妈，她告诉朋友，自己“首先是家庭主妇，其次才是诗人”。在过去的十年里，她已经悄然出现在当地的文坛上。她还用自己的语言创作了民歌和歌谣，这是一种配上音乐的诗歌形式。

"She is always self-effacing and quiet. A very traditional woman, really," says Rupa Mehta, a former station head of Doordarshan, India's state-run news network, who knows the poet well.

“她总是低调而安静。一个非常传统的女人，真的,”鲁帕梅塔说，他是印度国营新闻网站 Doordarshan 的前站长，非常了解这位诗人。

*Shabvahini Ganga* is her first openly political poem. "She writes simple poetry. But she has always been a great communicator," says poet and writer Manishi Jani.

是她第一首公开的政治诗。“她写简单的诗。但她一直是一位伟大的沟通者,”诗人兼作家曼西贾尼说

When Jani called her recently to find out whether she was being harassed and how a group of writers could support her right to free speech, Khakhar, sounding calm, told him: "I am facing no pressure or harassment. You do whatever you feel is right."

当佳妮最近打电话给她，询问她是否受到骚扰，以及一群作家如何支持她的言论自由权时，听起来很冷静的 Khakhar 告诉他: “我没有面临任何压力或骚扰。你做你认为正确的事。”

Many say Khakhar is not given enough credit for her literary flair and inventiveness. When a tree with flaming orange red flowers was cut near her house, she wrote a moving elegy. In another poem, she dealt with vanaprastha (retiring to the forest), one of Hinduism's four stages of life.

许多人认为，Khakhar 的文学天赋和创造力没有得到足够的肯定。当她家附近砍下一棵开着火焰般橙红色花朵的树时，她写下了一首动人的挽歌。在另一首诗中，她描述了印度教四个生命阶段之一的 vanaprastha (退居森林)。

Last March, she wrote a poem where she spoke about "people losing courage", and asking "people to stop living with a thick skin and wake up". "I think it was a very significant poem," said Mehta.

去年三月，她写了一首诗，她在诗中谈到“人们失去勇气”，并要求“人们停止厚着脸皮生活，醒来吧”。“我认为这是一首非常有意义的诗,”梅塔说。

It is not the first time that local writers and poets appear to have criticised Mr Modi - a Gujarati who ruled the state for more than 12 years before winning power in Delhi in 2014 - for his handling of the pandemic. A leading local literary journal Etad, for example, carried a number of anguished poems on the subject.

这已经不是当地作家和诗人第一次批评莫迪先生了。莫迪是一个古吉拉特人，在2014年赢得新德里的权力之前统治该州超过12年。例如，当地一家主要的文学杂志《埃塔德》就刊登了许多关于这一主题的痛苦诗歌。

Vishnu Pandya, who heads Gujarat Sahitya Akademi, a government-run organisation of litterateurs and poets, said Khakhar is "very good poet", but her "new poem is not poetry".

古吉拉特邦(Gujarat Sahitya Akademi)是一个由政府运营的文学家和诗人组织，其负责人毗湿奴•潘迪亚(Vishnu Pandya)表示，哈尔是“非常优秀的诗人”，但她的“新诗不是诗歌”。

"It is full of abuses and is defamatory. The rhyme is nonsensical. People who are against Mr Modi and BJP have misused the poem for their ends," he told me. "We have nothing against her. She can write whatever she wants. We are against the misuse of her work by the left liberals and anti-national people." More than 160 eminent people in the state have issued a [**statement**](https://indianexpress.com/article/india/litterateurs-withdrawal-of-gujarat-sahitya-akademi-editorial-7363821/) against the Akademi's stand against the poem.

“它充满了谩骂和诽谤。这个押韵是荒谬的。那些反对莫迪先生和印度人民党的人为了达到他们的目的而滥用这首诗。“我们对她没有什么意见。她想写什么就写什么。我们反对左翼自由主义者和反全国人民滥用她的作品。”该州超过160名知名人士发表声明，反对 Akademi 反对这首诗的立场。

Last week, Khakhar returned with another poem, published in a local journal. This one is more layered, said Tripathi. "She is now critical of her critics, but she is also wary of those who cheer her on."

上周，哈尔带回了另一首诗，发表在当地的一本杂志上。这一个是更多的层次，说: Tripathi。“她现在对那些批评她的人持批评态度，但她也对那些支持她的人保持警惕。”

One of the lines read:

其中一行写道:

"The pain will get unbearable, but you shall not speak/Even if your heart screams, you shall not speak."

“痛苦会变得难以忍受，但你不能说话/即使你的心在尖叫，你也不能说话。”