

Anveshi
RESEARCH CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES

celebrates

STREE SHAKTI SANGHATANA'S
'We Were Making History...'
The New Edition

With a New Foreword by Janaki Nair

Book Release • Panel Discussions

Talks • Film Screenings
(English, Telugu & Urdu)



Friday & Saturday, March 27 - 28, 2026
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Krystal Hall, Taj Tristar Hotel
Sarojini Devi Road
Secunderabad

NOTE

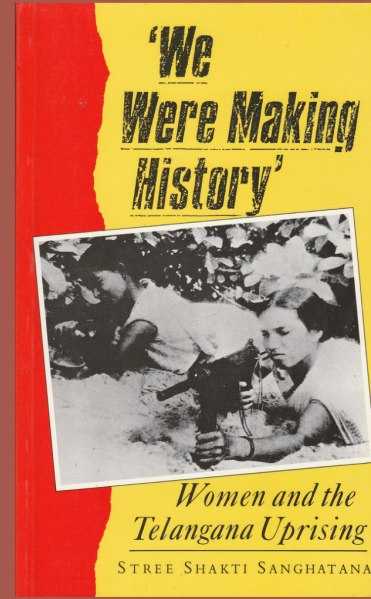


Image: Zed Books, 1989 edition.

A book-launch and set of reflections combined with a celebration, this event marks the release of the new edition of *'We Were Making History...': Life Stories of Women in the Telangana People's Struggle* by Zubaan Books. This compilation of first-person accounts of women who participated in the historic Telangana uprising (1946—1951), begun by the rebellious peasantry of the princely state of Hyderabad and ended by the new republic, was put together by members of the Stree Shakti Sanghatana, a Hyderabad-based women's group active in the post-Emergency years. The founding of the Anveshi Research Centre for Women's Studies was a part of the group's legacy.

The powerful 'life stories' in the book, featuring figures like Chityala Ailamma, Kondapalli Koteswaramma, Jamalunnisa Baji, Brij Rani Gour, and Mallu Swarajyam, were first published in Telugu as *Manaku Teliyani Mana Charithra* (1986). Possibly the first instance of a full-length research publication featuring the poetic Telugu of Telangana in the speech of Ailamma, Kamalamma, Dudala Salamma and others, this book was subsequently translated into English to reach academic and lay readers in that language.

This seminar aims to explore the significance of the book, for its moment and ours: its language and reflexive framing, the problems it posed and those it left out, and the paths it laid for the practice of solidarity through modes of listening and of attentiveness. *'We Were Making History...'* promises not only to move us anew, but also to engender fresh questions about history, politics, and feminist imaginations of equality and freedom.



SCHEDULE

Friday, March 27, 2026

9.30 AM:

Registration

10.00 AM - 10.45 PM:

Session I. Book Release

Welcome & Introduction by Shefali Jha

'We Were Making History...': *Life Stories of Women in the Telangana People's Struggle* (Zubaan Books, 2026)

Released by: Janaki Nair, Urvashi Butalia, K. Lalita, Rama Melkote, Susie Tharu, Uma Maheshwari, Vasanth Kannabiran

10.45 AM - 1.00 PM:

Session II. Making History

Chair: Uma Bhrugubanda

1. Janaki Nair: 'Endangered Pasts: Public History as Manifesto'
2. Urvashi Butalia: 'A Sense of the Past: Reflecting on the Practice of Oral History'

2.00 PM to 4.00 PM:

Session III. Mana Charithra/Our History

Chair: K. Sajaya

1. Vimala Morthala
2. Kaneez Fathima
3. Gogu Shyamala
4. K. Lalita

4.30 PM – 6.00 PM:

Session IV. Film: *Pani, Pata, Poratam*

(2019/Telugu with English subtitles/52 min.)

Introduction by Director Aditi Maddali

Post-Screening Discussion: Madhumeeta Sinha
in conversation with Aditi Maddali

SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 28, 2026

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM:

Session V. The Readers Panel

Chair: Vasudha Nagaraj

1. Firdaus Soni
2. Nisha Kumari
3. Reading from *Bikhri Yaadein* (Jamalunnisa):
Mohammed Abdul Aleem
4. Reading from *Manaku Teliyani Mana Charithra*:
Peeta Srija and S. Saleema

2.00 PM - 4.00 PM:

Session VI. The Authors Panel

Chair: Janaki Nair

1. K. Lalita
2. Rama Melkote
3. Susie Tharu
4. Uma Maheshwari
5. Vasanth Kannabiran

4.30 PM – 6.30 PM:

Session VII. Film: *Wo Subah Hamin Se Aayegi*

(2025/Multiple languages with English Subtitles/77 min.)

Introduction by Director Uma Chakravarti

Post-Screening Discussion: Urvashi Butalia
in conversation with Uma Chakravarti

Conclusion and Thanks

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