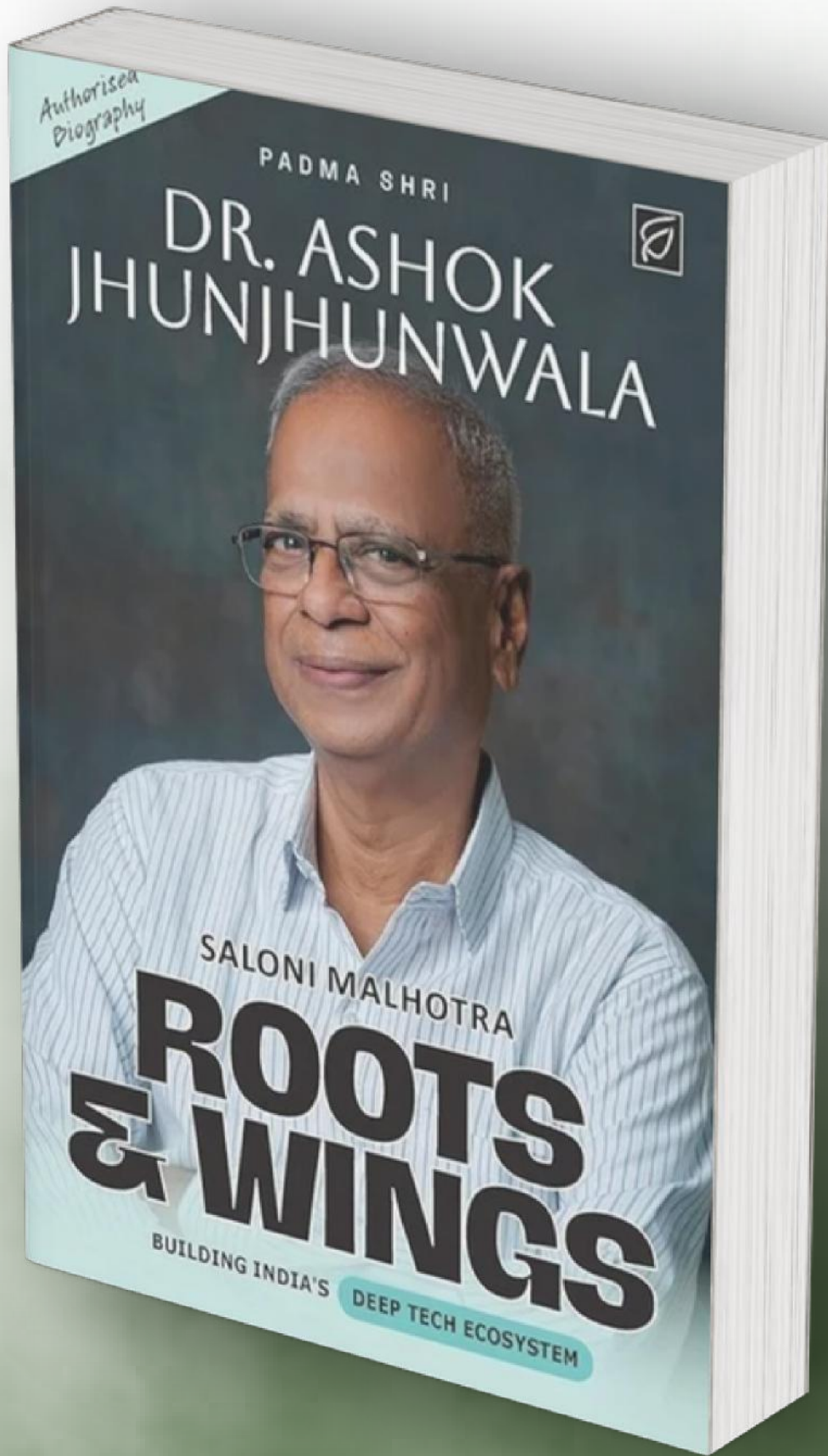


## *Invitation*



# LAUNCH & DISCUSSION ON THE BOOK

**JUN  
25  
2026**

**THURSDAY**

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

MMA Management Center



Dr Ashok Jhunjhunwala



M A Siddique, IAS



Arun Jain



B Santhanam



Saloni Malhotra

## SYNOPSIS

India is racing to become technologically sovereign. We need to pause and honour those who laid the foundation for this – who worked tirelessly, long before it became policy, to build the ground we now stand on.

In March 2024, Forbes India called Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala India's 'Doyen of Deep Tech.' But those who have worked with him knew this long before any label arrived.

Roots & Wings is the authorised biography of Padma Shri Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala – Institute Professor at IIT Madras and founding architect of India's Deep Tech ecosystem. It is the story of how one professor's relentless belief in India built the backbone of its technological future: from the corDECT wireless revolution that brought affordable telephony to rural India, to the IITM Research Park – India's largest industry-academia collaboration platform – to the incubation of 350+ startups including unicorns like Uniphore and category-defining companies like Ather Energy.

Written by Saloni Malhotra, who first met Dr. Jhunjhunwala in 2004 and worked with him for seven years building her start up, the book captures the ideas, the struggles, the institutions, and the people shaped by his mentorship – and how they continue to power India's Deep Tech revolution

# PROGRAMME

- 5:15 PM **Registration & High Tea**
- 6:00 PM **Welcome Address**  
**Mr K Mahalingam**  
Immediate Past President, MMA &  
Partner/Director, TSM Group of Companies  
**In Conversation**  
**Dr Ashok Jhunjunwala**  
Institute Professor, IIT Madras and  
Chairman, ITEL Foundation  
**Mr M A Siddique, IAS**  
Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department,  
Government of Tamil Nadu  
**Mr Arun Jain**  
Chairman and Managing Director  
Intellect Design Arena  
**Mr B Santhanam**  
Former CEO, Asia Pacific & India  
Chairman - Saint-Gobain, India  
**Ms Saloni Malhotra**  
Founder, DesiCrew and Author of Roots & Wings  
**Audience Interaction and Q&A**
- 7:10 PM **Formal Book Launch**
- 7:20 PM **Closing Remarks**  
**Ms Reema Saha**  
CEO, ITEL Foundation  
**Vote of Thanks**  
**Gp Capt R Vijayakumar (Retd), VSM**  
Executive Director, MMA
- 7:30 PM onwards **Book Signing**  
Media Interactions Welcome

## **DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS** (CLICK ON PHOTO TO VIEW THE PROFILE)



**Dr Ashok Jhunjunwala**

Institute Professor, IIT Madras and  
Chairman, ITEL Foundation



**Mr M A Siddique, IAS**

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance  
Department, Government of Tamil  
Nadu



**Mr Arun Jain**

Chairman and Managing Director  
Intellect Design Arena



**Mr B Santhanam**

Former CEO, Asia Pacific & India  
Chairman - Saint-Gobain, India



**Ms Saloni Malhotra**

Founder, DesiCrew and Author of  
Roots & Wings

## CONNECT WITH US



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