

## Press Release

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### Germany confers Order of Merit on author Sudhir Kakar

In a ceremony held at the German Embassy New Delhi today, Germany's acting Ambassador to India Mr. Cord Meier-Klodt handed over the prestigious *Bundesverdienstkreuz* (Germany's Order of Merit) to psychoanalyst and writer Sudhir Kakar.

Through this Order, Germany acknowledges the significant contribution of Mr. Kakar to the mutual friendship and respect between Indians and Germans, thus promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries.

In his speech on the occasion, Mr. Meier-Klodt said, "Since his years of training and teaching days in Mannheim, Hamburg and Frankfurt, Sudhir Kakar has remained closely attached to Germany. He possesses a unique gift to portray, compare and explain the customs and cultures of India and Germany. In his books and lectures he explains different perceptions on both



Germany's acting Ambassador to India Cord Meier-Klodt and author Sudhir Kakar during the ceremony / © German Embassy New Delhi

sides, creating an atmosphere for mutual understanding and building bridges between the two countries.”

Mr. Kakar has won several honours, including the Goethe medal for his contribution towards German language in India. The German weekly *Die Zeit* portrayed Sudhir Kakar as one of the 21 important thinkers for the 21st century. One of his best known books, '*Die Inder*', was first published in the German language.

Accepting the Order of Merit, Mr. Kakar said, “Germany has been crucial and transformative in my life. In my days, Germany was known as the land of technology and science and I discovered with great delight that it was also the land of humanities, philosophy and poetry.

Germany, not only gave me my professional life, it gave me my wife, my professional life and this great honour.”

The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany is awarded to German nationals and foreigners for an outstanding political, socio-economic or intellectual performance as well as for eminent social, charitable or humanitarian merits for Germany.

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