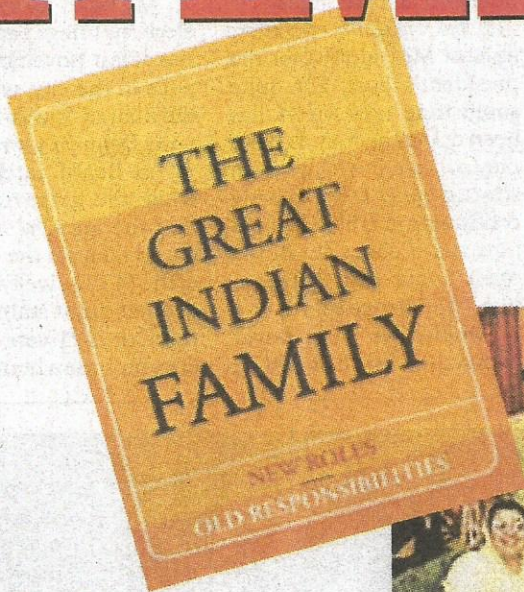


On FAMILIAR Turf

Gitanjali Prasad's book offers a refreshing perspective on how the Indian family has evolved over the ages



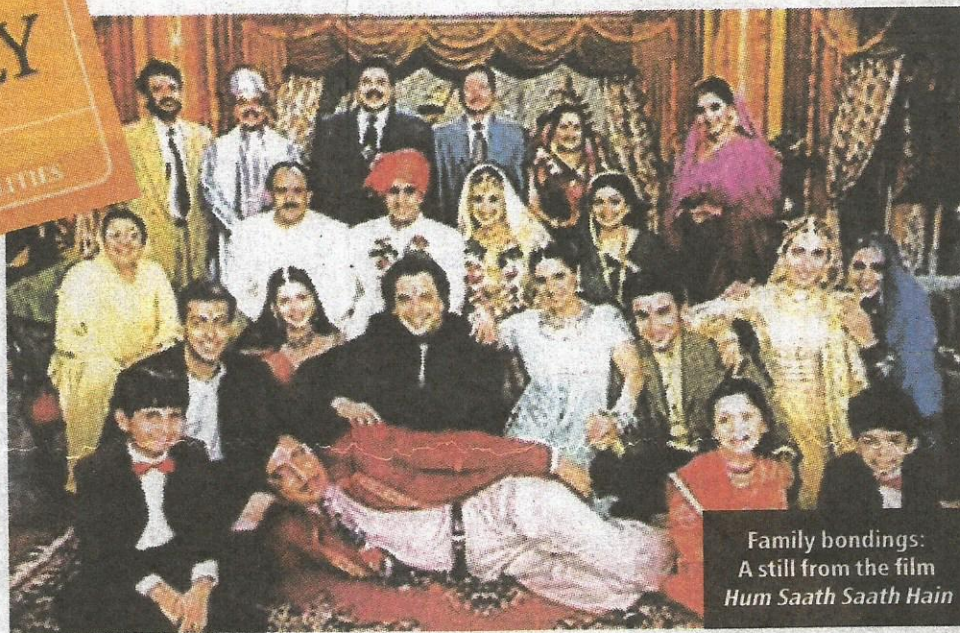
searching on the family as a Pre-Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge University. Prasad was supported in her endeavor by the Dorabji Tata Trust and says, she interviewed a cross section of people across the spectrum, to arrive at findings that were both unexpected and remarkable.

The book discusses the Indian family, its changing structures and the changing roles of the family members with a focus on women and the new age father. "Earlier a woman's identity was known through her family — a someone's wife or daughter. Now, she is also known through the job she does. Similarly the new father has a tough role to live up to—he is expected to perform as much within the family as he does at work," says Prasad on some of her findings.

The book also puts a lot of emphasis on the work sphere and Prasad says that she's tried to discuss the personal and professional

aspects of women with regard to the family. "There is constant debate and what emerges is that the Indian woman today has become far more ambitious while the man hasn't evolved enough to keep pace," she says.

The Great Indian Family is a ready in the top 10 best-seller list and Prasad who missed the million-dollar advance route by opting out of the tried and tested fiction route says that she's tried to give



Family bondings: A still from the film *Hum Saath Saath Hain*

NIBALI MITRA SAIGAL

WHEN journalist Gitanjali Prasad was researching for her book *The Great Indian Family*, she found that joint families were not the core of television programming but the heart of the Great Indian middle class too. She also discovered the new father who was deeply involved in his children's lives and the superwoman mom who had perfected the art of multitasking. "The book was a revelation through my research I managed to bust plenty of myths and come up with very interesting findings about the strongest and

most sustainable institution in the world—the family," she says.

The book was launched a couple of months back and Prasad who is currently on a promotion tour says, it took her almost five years to put together *The Great Indian Family*.

"Writing about different aspects of the family had always been a passion but over a period of time it became an obsession," she says. A journalist for over two decades, Prasad says she decided to convert her findings into a book while re-

every side of the picture but finally tries to track the trends. "The book is doing quite well and people from all walks of life are picking it up. The core of us lies the family and that's what the book touches upon," she says.