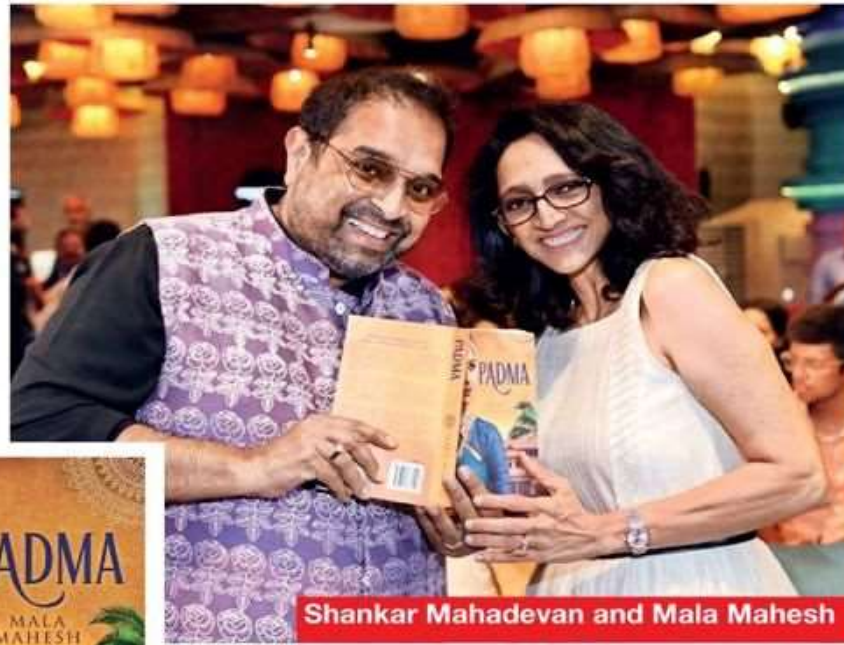
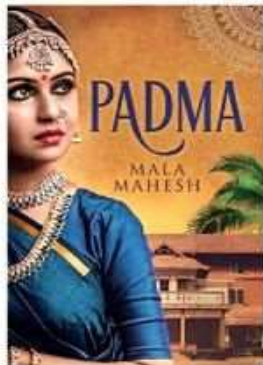


Shankar Mahadevan unveils book on infertility by debutant writer Mala Mahesh

Addressing infertility issues and the social stigma attached with women unable to carry children, Singapore-based author Mala Mahesh unveiled her latest fiction book titled *Padma* at an event in the city recently. For generations, the worth of a woman's life has often been equated to her reproductive abilities with little or no regard to the number of challenges faced in the process of childbirth. Rarely do we come across stories centred around difficult pregnancies, miscarriages and infertility as these conversations seldom make us comfortable. However, *Padma* takes an intriguing approach to the subject by offering a tale of two women across differ-



Shankar Mahadevan and Mala Mahesh

ent times struggling with the same issues. The story pans over a period of over 100 years with Padma living in a small village in Kerala in the early 1900s

and Naina who lives in the fast-paced Mumbai today.

The launch event was a light-hearted affair attended by media professionals as well as friends and family of Mala along with chief guest, musician and singer Shankar Mahadevan. After unveiling the cover, Mahadevan rendered one of his most beautiful songs, *Maa* from *Taare Zameen Pe*, which was one of the highlights of the evening. Sharing his thoughts on the book, he said, "While on one hand, we worship women goddesses and often refer to our own country as Bharat Maa, on the other, we hold women responsible and create a social stigma for something that is often beyond their control. I am glad the issue of infertility is being addressed through this book."

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