

NBT newsletter

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION Rs 5.00; 50 paise per copy

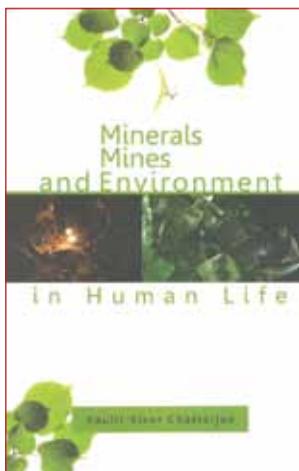


Volume 31 No. 4 • April 2013

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PICK OF THE MONTH



Minerals, Mines and Environment in Human Life

Kaulir Kisor Chatterjee

ISBN 978-81-237-6733-8; Rs 90

Minsk International Book Fair



The 20th Minsk International Book Fair, organized by the Ministry of Information, Republic of Belarus, was held from 6-10 February 2013 at the Bel expo-exhibition ground, Minsk. The fair was inaugurated on 6 February 2013 by Alexander Radkov, First Deputy Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus; Lilia Ananich, First Deputy Minister of Information of the Republic of Belarus, Nikolai Cherginets, Chairman of the public association Union of Writers of the Republic of Belarus, Vladimir Kozlov, Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications, Lidia Yermoshina, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus. Ambassadors of foreign countries, accredited in the Republic of Belarus, also participated in the inauguration.

Greeting the participants of the Book Fair, Mr. Alexander Lukashenko in his special message said, "This annual exhibition will review the year of the book campaign, the result of intensive efforts to promote reading, literature and

books in Belarus." The focus of this Fair was built around the theme, 'Discover Yourself Through Reading'. The 20 MIBF brought together some 120 publishers including 25 foreign participants. They included Armenia, Azerbaijan, Venezuela, Germany, India, Italy, Kazakhstan, China, Cuba, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, the United States, Finland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and France. For the first time the Fair also featured books from Palestine and Serbia.

India's participation, for the first time, proved to be a major attraction at the Fair. Visiting the NBT stall, Shri



Sanjay Vyas, the First Secretary, Embassy of India in Belarus, expressed his happiness at the participation of India at the Fair. He was of the view that such participation will help in understanding more about each other's culture and literature.

The National Book Trust was the sole publisher from India, with a display of over 200 books in English and Hindi, all brought out by NBT. There were a lot of enquiries for books on Indian culture, society, philosophy, children's books, and even on agriculture. Some of them showed keen interest in Hindi titles. Ms. Tatsiana Bialova, Director, Belarusian Encyclopedia also visited the NBT stall.

Russia was the Guest of Honour country at the Fair, with Iran as the 'centrepiece' of the programme. The Russian participation had over 200



publishing houses from Russia with their latest publications. The collective thematic exposition of the Russian presentation included The World of Slavonic Literature, publications for children and youth as well as the history, science and culture.

Other programmes included book presentations, meetings with authors, publishers, artists as well as seminars

and roundtable sessions. There was also a special exhibit of books called 'Mystery of Book Pages' showcasing award winning entries of the national contest held on Art of Book.

The participation of NBT at the MIBF was facilitated by a special invite from the Belarusian Encyclopedia, Republic of Belarus. Belarus offers a unique opportunity for Indian publishers to explore a market that is new. There is a lot of interest in Belarus for Indian publications and for copyright exchange. In order to make future participation meaningful and to strengthen book trade between the countries, NBT is inking an agreement with Belarus to encourage participation of the two countries in each other's book fairs and literary programmes.

Shri S.R. Veenesh, Asst. Director (Prod.), represented NBT at the Fair.

Jerusalem International Book Fair

The 26th Jerusalem International Book Fair (JIBF) 2013 was held from 10-15 February 2013 at the International Convention Center (ICC), Jerusalem. First held in 1963, this biennial event brings together writers, publishers, editors and literary agents from around the world in Jerusalem.

With more than 150 participants from over 30 countries, there was an impressive presence of French, German, Russian, Spanish, Polish, Austrian, Portuguese, Brazilian, Angolan and Ethiopian publishers.

Inaugurating the Fair, Nir Barkat, Mayor of Jerusalem, in the presence of Mr Simon Peres, President of Israel, said that the broad exchange of ideas that takes place at JIBF is a cherished tradition that adds to the flourishing and ever-increasing celebration of culture taking place in the city; in addition to being a pilgrimage destination for the three monotheistic religions, a treasure trove of historical



sites and archaeological artefacts, and an eclectic, modern capital energized by its incredible residents and sense of purpose.

The recipient of this year's prestigious Jerusalem Prize, the acclaimed Spanish author, Antonio Muñoz Molina, was the main speaker at the inauguration. The Jerusalem Prize is the cultural highlight of the Jerusalem International Book Fair. The prize is awarded to an author whose work best expresses and promotes the idea of "freedom of the individual in society."

Over one lakh books were on display at the Fair, in almost all languages and on every genre possible. This year's fair also

showcased art books, historic scrolls and archival posters. The Fair offers a fellowship for editors and literary agents from all over the world.

Celebrating its jubilee year, the JIBF also hosted many literary events. There were seminars on a variety of topics including selling books in the digital age, literary criticism, translation and blogging. There was a Literary Café, which offered open and engaging dialogue between Israeli and international writers in a setting designed as a coffee shop.

The Indian stall put up by the National Book Trust, India attracted interest from many international publishers, authors and visitors. Israeli interest in Indian books on traditional medicine, Indian spirituality, Buddha, Indian traditional knowledge, cooking, travels in India etc. was amazing to see. Israel is a country with great interest in India.

Shri Rubin DCruz, Malayalam editor, NBT represented the Trust at the Fair.

Promoting Children's Creativity

The National Centre for Children's Literature (NCCL), a wing of NBT, India organized a workshop on Creative Writing and Illustrations at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 8-9 January 2013. The workshop was organized on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Year of Vijayawada Book Festival.

The Vijayawada Book Festival, one of the biggest book fairs in Andhra Pradesh, was initiated by NBT in 1989 and later promoted by the Vijayawada Book Festival Society.

The two-day workshop was inaugurated by Dr. N. Mangadevi, eminent children's author and social activist. Lauding the efforts of NBT towards promoting reading habit among children, Dr. Mangadevi recalled how she grew up as an avid reader of NBT's books, especially those under the Nehru Bal Pustakalaya series. She emphasized on making interactive pleasure reading books available and accessible to the children of underprivileged sector.

Smt. Swati Shripada, eminent children's author in Telugu, Shri Siddharth Ramanuj, eminent illustrator from Gujarat, and Smt. M. Krishna Kumar,



eminent author and Station Director-in-Charge of AIR, Vijayawada also spoke on the occasion. Shri D. Ashok Kumar, Member of Telugu Advisory Panel of NBT and an eminent publisher, presided over



the inaugural function.

About fifty children from various schools of the region participated in this workshop. They learnt about the skills of writing and illustrating from the resource persons. The material developed in this workshop will be published in the form of a special issue of Readers' Club Bulletin, the bilingual children's monthly magazine brought out NCCL.

Shri Manas Ranjan Mahapatra, Editor (NCCL) and Dr. P. Mohan, Telugu editor, NBT, coordinated various sessions of the workshop.

A Book on Bastar Folktales

A book release and discussion function was organised by the National Book Trust, India in collaboration with Chhattisgarhi Hindi Sahitya Parishad, on 10 March 2013 at Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

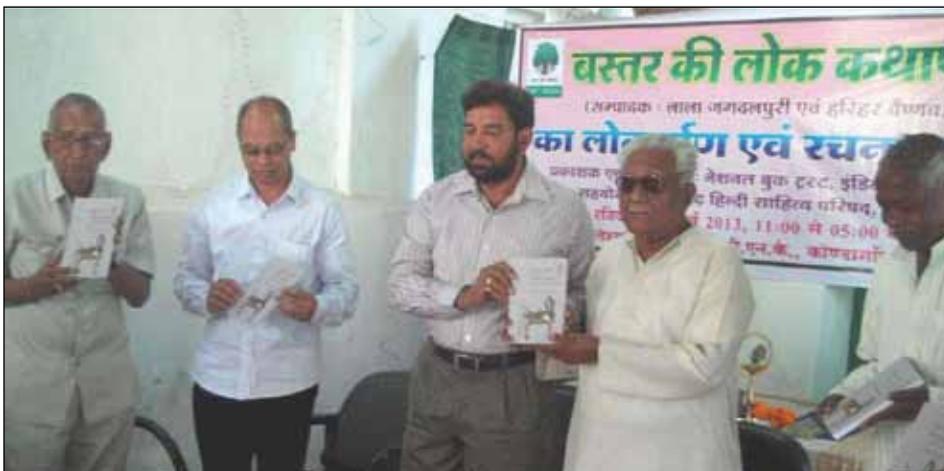
Titled Bastar ki Lok Kathayen, and

published by the NBT, India; the book was released by Shri Jaidev Baghel, internationally acclaimed sculptor and Chief Guest at the function; and Shri T.S. Thakur, senior educationist. The book skilfully brings together the anthropology

and history of the Bastar tribe. It exhaustively chronicles the story of Bastar from the time colonial administrative structures sought to impose 'order' and 'civilisation' on the tribal community. The book has been edited by Lala Jagdalpuri and Harihar Vaishnav.

The book release was followed by a discussion session, where Dr Kaushlendra Mishra, popular writer and critic presented a detailed paper on the book. He said that folk literature is a symbol of folk awareness. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rajaram Tripathi informed the audience that Bastar is the richest place on earth in terms of herbs.

The evening session of the programme comprised a Poet's Meet where many popular poets rendered their poems to an eager audience.



Cuttack Book Fair

The nine-day Cuttack Book Fair was organized by National Book Trust, India in collaboration with the District Administration, Cuttack and Odisha Publishers & Booksellers Association at Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack from 15 to 23 December 2012.

Inaugurating the Fair, Dr. Jayanta Mahapatra, a poet of international repute, said that books are the present, that preserve the past and lead us to a brighter future. He expressed his dismay over gradual decline of the book trade in the culture-capital of Odisha and hoped this endeavour of NBT could make up the loss.

Prof. Dasarathi Das, noted critic of Odisha, addressed the gathering as the chief speaker. Expressing his optimism over books he said that there is no end to books, only something like book will replay book if at all it does. Presiding



coordinator of the Fair, introduced the guests. Shri Laxmidh Mohanty, Additional District Magistrate, Cuttack also spoke on the occasion. Shri Bhikari Charan Mahapatra, Vice-President, Odisha Publishers & Booksellers Association, offered the vote of thanks.

contextual importance of Laxmikant as a storyteller. Prof. Bijay Kumar Satpathy, a prominent critic and playwright, examined how Kantakabi's personal suffering has been transformed into impersonal testaments. Prof. Ratnakar Chain, President, Utkal Sahitya Samaj, presided over the meeting.

A Symposium on 'The Role of Literary Organisations in the Development of Odia Language & Literature' was organized on 18 December. Shri Annada Prasad Roy, former President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj presided over the meeting. Some eminent personalities in the field of literary organizations of the state like Shri Anadi Sahu, former President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Dr. Hussain Rabi Gandhi, former President of Odisha Sahitya Academy, Dr. Subodh Pattnaik, playwright and theatre activist, Shri Anna Panda, a noted journalist and literary & cultural organizer, Dr. Govind Chand, General Secretary, Utkal Sahitya Samaj, took part in the deliberations. All of them discussed the issue from different angles and admitted that the role of literary organization is indispensable for the development of the language and literature. They cited the examples of great authors as well as



over the inaugural ceremony, Mahapatra Nilamani Sahu, former President, Odisha Sahitya Akademi, urged upon publication of quality books and enhancement of readership. He observed that no civilization prospers without books, only good books will preserve humanism. All the speakers expressed their happiness over NBT's publication of a number of good Odia titles and organizing various literary activities throughout the state on a large scale.

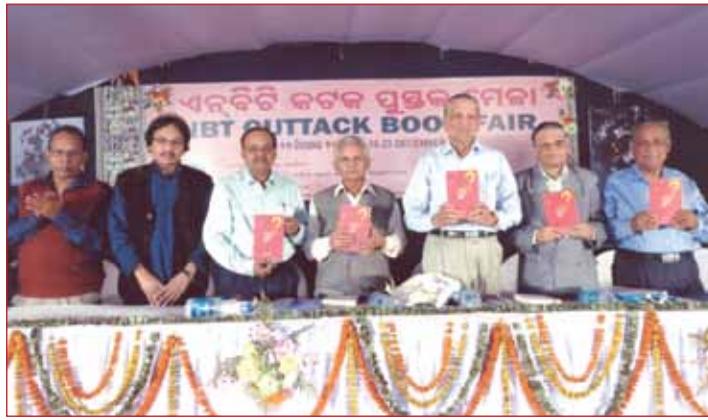
An anthology of literary essays in Odia entitled *Odia Sahityachinta*, recently published by NBT was released on the occasion. Dr. Bijayanand Singh, Member of Odia Advisory Panel who was the

Under the auspices of NBT and other local literary organizations, various literary programmes were held every evening at the Fair. A book release function was held on 17 December in which a compilation of selected short stories of Laxmikant Mahapatra, recently published by NBT was released by Prof. Sarat Chandra Pradha, a prominent poet and critic of Odisha. He pointed out the greatness of Laxmikant Mahapatra as a complete man of letters. Smt. Bijayinee Singh Deo, the compiler of the book spoke on the short stories of Laxmikant. Participating in the discussion, Shri Saroj Ranjan Mohanty, Editor, *Jhankar*, the most respectable Odia literary magazine, stressed on the



organisers from the history of Odisha.

The evening of the 19 December was devoted to a Meet the Author programme with Smt. Binapai Mohanty, the leading women writer on the dais. After a brief talk by her on 'My Life, My Literature', an interaction between the audience and her took place. Shri Amaresh Pattnaik, a prominent poet and translator, moderated the session.



Another Symposium on 'Science Writing in Odia: Limitations & Possibilities' was held on 21 December. The Odia translation of *When: Questions to 50 Interesting Answers*, published by NBT, was also released on the occasion. Prof. Debakant Mishra, noted science writer in Odia, presided over the meeting. Prof. Basudev Kar, President, Odisha Science Academy, Prof. Nityaran Swain, the translator, Prof. Guru Prasad Mohanty, President, Utkal Sammilani, and Dr. Pramod Kumar Mahapatra, science writer

and journalist, spoke on the contemporary development of scientific thought and the history of Odia science writing, its limitations and scope.

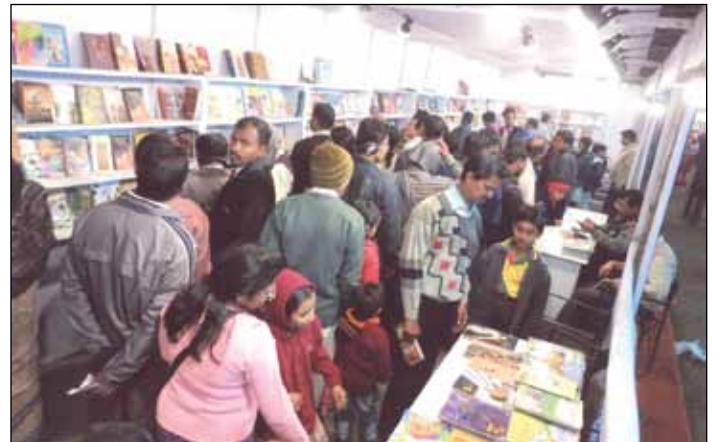
The eighth evening was devoted to a Symposium on 'Contemporary Odia Children's Literature: Problems & Solutions'. Prof. Maheshwar Mohanty presided over the meeting and prominent children's writers and researchers like Smt. Manorama Mahapatra, Shri Nadia Behari Mohanty, Prof. Dipti Ranjan Pattnaik and Shri Manas Ranjan Samal

spoke on the different aspects of Odia children's literature. They observed that the foundation of Odia children's literature is firm but the contemporary status of the genre is not satisfactory as it does not get the attention it deserves. Collective efforts for the improvement is necessary, they felt.

Besides, many book release functions and symposiums were organized by literary organizations like Anusrushti, Utkal Sammilani, Abhipsa. Cultural programmes presented some entertaining moments at the Fair.

About 80 publishers from different places of Odisha and outside participated in the Fair. All the local television channels including Doordarshan and leading newspapers of the state covered the Fair and its events extensively.

Dr. Pramod Sar, Odia editor at NBT, coordinated the the Fair and the literary programmes.



Advisory Panel Meeting

The Tamil Advisory Panel meeting of the Trust was held on 22 December 2012 at Chennai. Shri Sethumathavan, Chairman, NBT, presided over the meeting. The members who participated in the meeting included Shri S. Ramakrishnan, Shri Su. Venkatesan, Ms. Bama, Shri I. Muthiah, Dr. Thirumalai, Dr. A.R. Venkatachalapathy, Shri Era. Natarajan, Dr. Ayyamperumal, Shri Kurinjivelan, Dr. V. Irai Anbu IAS, Shri T. Udhaya Chandran IAS, Smt. Kavitha Muralidharan, Dr. Mariappan and Shri S.S. Shajahan. Shri M.A. Sikandar, Director and Shri Mathan Raj, Tamil editor were also present in the meeting.



Workshop on Science Translation

National Book Trust, India organised a workshop “Disseminating Science: a workshop on science translation” in association with Assam Science Writers Association at North Lakhimpur, Assam from 9 to 11 November 2012, at Hotel Maple Leaf, North Lakhimpur.

The workshop, with around 40 budding science writers from all over Assam, was inaugurated by Dr Anwar Uddin Choudhury, IAS, Deputy Commissioner Lakhimpur district and an acclaimed ornithologist from North East India. While narrating his experience in attending several international science symposia elsewhere in the world, he said that we must not be apologetic over dominance of English language in science literature. But to ensure easy access to science literature we must translate those in regional language, he said. Saying that there is a difference between a book written



by an expert and that by an author, he urged science publishers, NBT included, to be extremely careful in selecting their authors.

Earlier, welcoming the two Resource Persons and the participants, Dr Amiya Rajbongshi former General Secretary of



All India Science Teachers Association, gave a brief account of the initiative taken by Assam Science Writers Association in enriching the Popular Science writings in Asamiya and inculcating scientific temper among the people in general and the youth in particular.

Renowned science fiction writer, translator and editor Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami was one of the Resource Persons of the workshop. Prof Kshiradhar Barua, former President of Assam Science Society and co-editor of science encyclopaedia in Asamiya was the other Resource Person.

The workshop discussed in detail the technical nuances of science translation. The workshop also witnessed lively sessions on Asamiya equivalents of scientific terminologies, importance of context and syntax in Asamiya language.

Shri Deep Saikia, Asamiya editor, NBT, coordinated the workshop.

National Book Week Exhibitions

As part of the National Book Week, book exhibitions were organised in about 20 schools in the National Capital Region of Delhi. Given below are the images from the exhibitions at Shaheed Captain Sumit Roy Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Palam Enclave, New Delhi; and Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi which were inaugurated by the Principals of the respective schools.



Recently NBT has initiated a series of welfare measures for its employees. Keeping in view the importance of fitness and to promote a healthy regimen among the employees, a recreation centre that includes a badminton court and indoor games facilities have been set up. A fitness centre is also to come up soon. As part of this effort, a trip to Agra was also organised for the employees of the Trust on 17 March 2013.



Recent Children's Books from NBT

A Helping Hand

Samaresh Chatterjee
978-81-237-6683-6
Rs 25.00

A touching tale which depicts a special bonding between an animal and a small girl and how the animal comes to the rescue of the girl at the time of need! A different story with gorgeous illustrations which may leave the reader spellbound.



A Tale of Tails

Ramendra Kumar
978-81-237-6712-3
Rs 45.00

This is an unusual tale which is actually a creation story which explains how the Mongoose and Snake became enemies.



Boond

Ramendra Kumar
978-81-237-6708-6
Rs 45.00

This story is about water and its importance. It tells us how due to our carelessness all water bodies are being polluted and unless we wake up to reality nothing will change.



Bukka Learns a Lesson

Dipenwita Roy
978-81-237-6749-9
Rs 45.00

A charming tale about a boisterous elephant calf that does not care for anyone and loves to create trouble. The elders keep warning him about the ill-effects of his behaviour but he does not care until one day . . . when he wakes up to find himself alone! Thereafter, the world changes and so does his perspective.



Chika-Chik-Chik

Jeyanthi Manokaran
978-81-237-6677-5
Rs 30.00

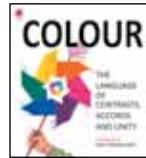
Shanti, a small girl who has been hospitalized and is sick of being sick! When her friend Raj gives her a kaleidoscope, her life changes. Every time she views herself in the kaleidoscope something goes wrong. The right thing that happens is that she recovers fast.



Colour

Ravi Paranjape
978-81-237-6714-7
Rs 45.00

A book that introduces basic colours and their special features to children who are interested in art. The book explains how the myriad hues of each colour can become spell binding when contrasted with another.



Flitter-Flutter

Jeyanthi Manokaran
978-81-237-6710-9
Rs 45.00

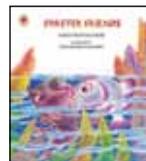
This is a pre-school picture book for children. Eloquent illustrations narrate the tale which is based on traditional Warli tribal paintings.



Forever Friends

Durlabh Bhattacharjee
978-81-237-6720-8
Rs 35.00

The frogs and the fish are born in the same pond and look similar. The frogs think they are smarter as they can live in water as well as on land. But dangers loom large . . . An interesting tale about the bonding that came to be between the frog and the fish.



. . . Indians First

Amitava Sengupta
978-81-237-6722-2
Rs 35.00

An interesting story which dwells on the common misunderstandings which we unknowingly pass on to our children; that of labeling people of a sect in a condescending manner. All this is brought out quite exquisitely in this book which teaches us to respect every Indian and thereby every individual.



Jiro Mithe

Anvita Abbi
978-81-237-6718-5
Rs 35.00

A popular tale from the Andaman Island which narrates an incident giving a lot of insight about the culture and beliefs of the tribal people of this region. Also informs why



the Andamanese revere birds and refrain from eating them.

Long and Short Big and Small

Pulak Biswas
978-81-237-6716-1
Rs 45.00

A picture book which tries to explain the opposites long and short; big and small through various features of animals. Marvellous illustrations simply make reading this book a pleasurable experience.



My First Aeroplane Journey

Pankaj Chaturvedi
978-81-237-6699-7
Rs 30.00

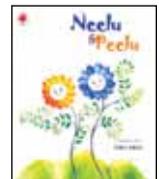
As the title indicates, this picture book divulges information about the journey through an aeroplane which is an intriguing affair for any child travelling for the first time.



Neelu & Peelu

Viky Arya
978-81-237-6681-2
Rs 25.00

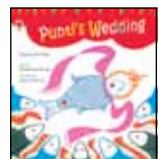
A story about two creeper flowers Neelu and Peelu. The difference in their attitude to each other as they grow up in life makes up this story. Finally leading to a healthy friendship.



Punti's Wedding

Dipenwita Roy
ISBN 978-81-237-6728-4
Rs 40.00

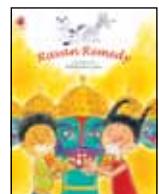
A sensitive tale about a pond and the marriage of two fishes and how the entire episode brings to life some existential issues which need to be addressed for a harmonious living.



Ravan Remedy

Suddhasattwa Basu
978-81-237-6751-2
Rs 50.00

An interesting tale about the character Ravan from the epic Ramayana. Ravan, whose effigy is burnt during the Dussehra festival is symbolic burning to ashes all that is evil, is given a humorous albeit ironical twist.



Adieu

Shri Surinder Singh, UDC, retired from service on 31 December 2012. He joined the Trust on 12 May 1980 as a peon and was promoted as LDC in 1991 and as UDC in 2011. During his service he has worked in various sections including Administration, Exhibition, Accounts, Editorial, Stores and Sales.



After serving for more than 40 years, Shri Anil Kumar Khanna, Asst. Director, retired from NBT, on 28 February 2013. He joined the Trust as Senior Stenographer on 6 October 1972 and rendered his service in Editorial, Sales, Information & Publicity and Exhibition sections.



We at NBT wish them a happy retired life.

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NBT Newsletter is the house magazine of the National Book Trust, India — an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India.

The views expressed in the signed articles do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Trust.

Editor: Binny Kurian

Editorial Associate: Kanchan Wanchoo Sharma

Production: Narender Kumar



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Vasant Kunj, Phase-II New Delhi-110 070
E-mail: office.nbt@nic.in

Website: www.nbtindia.gov.in

Readers are requested to write to the editor expressing their views about the NEWSLETTER.

Printed and published by Satish Kumar on behalf of National Book Trust, India and printed at Pushpak Press Pvt. Ltd., 203-204 DSIDC Shed, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110 020, and published at National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070. Editor: Binny Kurian.

Typeset and designed at Capital Creations, Subhram Complex, Munirka, New Delhi-110 067.

If undelivered please return to:

National Book Trust, India, Nehru Bhawan, 5 Institutional Area, Phase-II, New Delhi - 110 070

RNI-39456/82
Postal Regd. No. DL-SW-1-4076/12-14
Licenced to post without prepayment.
L.No. U(SW) 21/2012-2014
Mailing date: 5/6 Same Month
Date of Publication: 01/04/2013

Statement on Ownership of the Journal
NBT Newsletter

Form IV
(See Rule 8)

Place of Publication : New Delhi
Periodicity of Publication : Monthly
Printers Name : Satish Kumar
Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : Nehru Bhawan,
5 Institutional Area, Phase-II
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70

Editor's Name : Binny Kurian
Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : Nehru Bhawan,
5 Institutional Area, Phase-II
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 70

Names and addresses :
of individuals who own the
newspaper and partners or
shareholders of more than
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Dated 1-4-2013

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