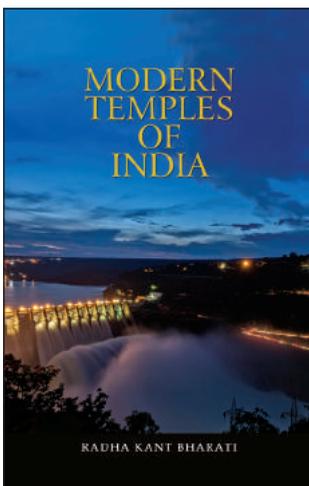


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PICK OF THE MONTH



Modern Temples of India
Radha Kant Bharti
978-81-237-9339-9
Rs 235

NBT Setting-up Panchayat Library Project in Haryana

“I would like to see Reading and Library Movement in the entire country. The movement should not be limited to make people literate. It should try to achieve the real goal of bringing social and economic change. The foundation of good knowledge should be followed by a super structure of a better society.”

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister (2017)



In a move towards carrying forward this Vision Statement of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education under the guidance of Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Minister of Education, has taken the first step in implementing a Knowledge Communication Centre (KCC) through its nodal agency National Book Trust, India by setting up a library in each Gram Panchayat across the country.

As a step forward towards this Reading and Library Movement for a knowledge driven society to bring socio-economic change, the setting up of Libraries in Gram Panchayats in State of Haryana has begun. On 23 November 2020, Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust, India presented the KCC Project and discussed it in detail, in a meeting chaired by Shri M.L. Khattar, Chief Minister of Haryana, at Chandigarh, which was also attended by a group of Secretaries from

School Education, Higher Education, Panchayat & Development Department, Govt. of Haryana.

The highlights of this project are:

- Setting up a Library in every Gram Panchayat in the form of a Knowledge Communication Centre with National Book Trust, India as the Implementing Nodal Agency and Knowledge Partner of the Project.
- The project will be completed in a phased manner as per available infrastructure at the Panchayat level after a detailed survey. New infrastructure will be created at the places where Panchayat Bhawan is not available.
- Optimum utilization of the existing budgetary provisions for books, infrastructure, computers, and other amenities.
- Special edition for rural set-up and

age-appropriate content in local languages and dialects – making this project one of its kind.

- Customization of content as per regional, culture sensitivity and local aspirations integrated with NEP 2020.
- Shape up the idea of India as a nation through classic collection of books in local languages and dialects.
- Inclusion of Gram Panchayat in mainstream knowledge share.
- Reader's Clubs shall be set up in each Gram Panchayat.
- Mentorship to the young budding authors by National Book Trust, India in order to enhance their reading, writing and oratory skills.
- Select writings will also be published by National Book Trust, India.
- Employment to at least one person from every village – creating employment opportunities.



National Book Trust, India through its content development team will interact with Gram Panchayats at these Knowledge

Communication Centres (KCC) and will compile the traditional knowledge from the Gram Panchayats and this will be shared with the world and the mainstream media in lines with the vision of NEP.

It is pertinent to mention that in tune with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the National Book Trust India organised the first-ever Gram Panchayat Pustak Mela and Sarpanch Seminar in Uttarakhand in 2018. In 2019, Panchayat Libraries were set-up in the Union Territory of Diu. And in 2020, the task of setting up the libraries across other States has taken an incline.

The project of KCC is set to be a milestone in shaping the young minds through a better creative engagement of the society in reading, and making the basic unit of Indian society – the Gram Panchayat as an important entity – as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi as a Mini Republic.

Webinar on Children's Publishing

National Book Trust, India organised a webinar on 'Designing, Layout and Pricing in Children's Publishing' on 8 December, 2020.

In his keynote address, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT, said that apart from the design, layout and price of a book, another extremely important aspect is the selection of content. Only such books should be produced which encourages thinking and curiosity in a child. Today, with nuclear families being the norm, it is important that children seek books as friends so that their time may not be monopolised by technology.

Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT, in his welcome address, spoke about the necessity of creating a culture of book-reading at affordable pricing so that accessibility of book pan-economic strata can be ensured. He emphasized upon the synergy between the text, illustrations and designing aspects of books to bring out a final product with good quality content. Speaking about NBT's mandate, he mentioned the efforts the Trust has been taking to reduce the cost of production without compromising on the quality of content. Also talking about the New



Education Policy, he explained that the introduction of linguistic adaptability and multiple learning outputs in the policy will solve the problem of capacity building that will bridge the gap between illustrators and content in regional languages.

In the first session on 'Harmonising Design and Content for Young Readers: Issues and Challenges', Ms Tanishka Kachru, Senior Faculty, NID, Ahmedabad talked about the importance of teaching children on gender equality at an early age. Shri Atanu Roy, noted illustrator said that a good illustrator should first become a child to see the world from a child's perspective. He also observed that illustrations are the



sole medium of storytelling.

The second session on 'Pricing Books for Young Readers: Market v/s Accessibility' saw Ms. Manisha Chaudhary, well-known writer and editor, sharing her views on designing and the requirements for keeping children engaged with books. Shri Pranav Singh, renowned publisher shared a presentation on some important aspects of the English language in children's literature and its challenges, while also throwing light on the similarities and distinctions between children's literature in English and other Indian languages.

The sessions ended with an interaction between the audience and the speakers



NBT as Knowledge Partner

@ International Adolescent Summit 2020

Acknowledging the power of the youth of the country, Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Hon'ble Minister of Education, said that the onus lies on the teachers, authors and educationists of the country to ensure that correct knowledge is disseminated to the youth in order to build Vishwa Nagriks. Dr Nishank was speaking at the inauguration of the virtual edition of 9th International Adolescent Summit 2020: Life Skills, Health, Safety & School Wellbeing on 18 December 2020. In his inaugural address, the Hon'ble Minister also said that the youth of the country is at a point in their lives where their thinking is their foundation for the rest of their lives. It is the belief of the youth that they will realise their potential.

On this occasion, Dr Nishank released a souvenir titled *Sandarshika* and the *Indian Journal of School Health and Well-Being*. He congratulated Expressions India as the organizer and National Book Trust, India as the Knowledge Partner for this visionary initiative.

In his keynote address, Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, NBT, observed that adolescence is a tender age when a person goes through self-realisation, and the person requires the right guidance and mentorship to build his life. He also talked about the importance of introducing the adolescents to the rich Indian culture and



history at this age so that they inculcate human values and ethos early on.

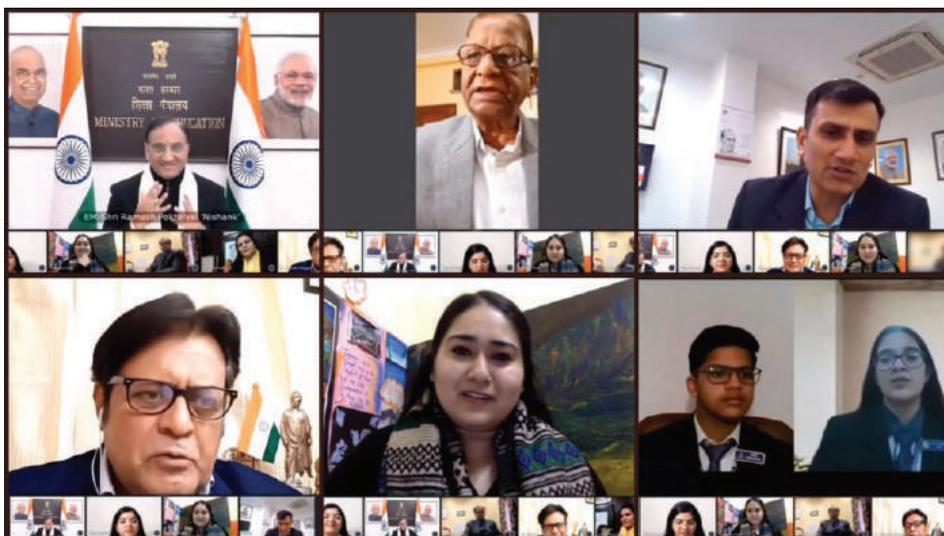
Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT spoke about the immense potential and the many dreams that the youth in the country has; and it is the collective responsibility of the nation to ensure that the youth is empowered with such life-skills that they can realise these dreams and unleash their true potential. He cited examples of Sachin Tendulkar, Arunima Sinha, Anne Frank and Hon'ble Minister of Education Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' on being youth icons for the hardships they overcame early on in their lives to achieve their goals.

Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, Programme Director, Expressions India in his introductory address spoke on the objective

to understand and review the concept, needs and trends of School Health and life skills, values education, in national and global perspectives and research, and how this summit will focus on ensuring integration of school safety, sanitation, nutrition, hygiene and health promotion program within the comprehensive school health education curriculum and life skills programming.

The International Adolescent Summit is being held from 18 December 2020 to 12 January 2021 on the virtual platform. With the participation of nearly 1200 schools from across the country with more than 16,000 students, the four-week event would give a chance to the students and teachers to interact with other schools from all over the country. During the course of the event, many Youth icons will also interact with the children.

During the Summit, several online programmes for all age groups will be held including a webinar on Decoding Adolescent Mental Health and Well-being; a quiz on National School Health & Wellness; Utopia: Thematic Painting; Sur Sangam; Solo Indian Classical Dance; workshops on Book Reading, Life Skill & Well-being and The Adolescent Leadership for Mental Health & Well-being; and National Youth Parliament on Health Safety. Besides, thematic short films, videos and podcasts will be part of the Summit.



Book Exhibition at New Delhi

Delhi Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee organised a book exhibition at Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi from 25 November to 7 December 2020.

National Book Trust, India also participated in the book exhibition. During the exhibition, NBT also presented a copy of its recently published book in Punjabi titled *Bol Mardanaya*, authored by Jasbir Mand to Shri Onkar Singh Raja, Member, Delhi Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Shri Harmeet Singh, Member, Gurdwara Rakab Ganj. Shri Raja appreciated the publications that NBT brings out.

Over 330 titles across genres in Punjabi, Hindi and English were displayed at the NBT stall. A large number of book lovers visited the stalls and showed keen interest in the books displayed.



Meeting Between NBT and CBSE



A meeting between National Book Trust, India and Central Board of Secondary Education was held in which Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT and Shri Manoj Ahuja, Chairman, CBSE discussed about exploring the possibility of bringing out books towards supplementing the reading material of CBSE syllabus for young readers. The meeting was also attended by the senior officers of both NBT and CBSE.

NBT Observes Constitution Day

National Book Trust, India observed Constitution Day at NBT Conference Room on 26 November 2020. On this occasion Shri Yuvraj Malik, Director, NBT joined by the employees of the Trust read the Preamble of Constitution of India.

In his address Shri Yuvraj Malik said that the very first word of the Preamble 'We' inspires us to unite and walk together. He added that the Preamble makes us realize our duties and responsibilities, which further helps us to take decisions.

On this occasion, one minute silence was also observed to pay homage to the brave martyrs of the 26/11 attack in Mumbai.

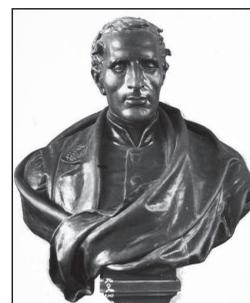
A quiz competition on the Constitution of India was also held for NBT employees on this occasion. Winners of the competition were awarded select books on constitution, parliament and federal system.

The 26th of November marks the adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on this day in 1949. It came into force on 26 January, 1950. From 2015, it is also celebrated as the Constitution Day to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of first Law Minister of Independent India, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, who played a pivotal role in the drafting of the document.



World Braille Day

National Book Trust, India in collaboration with All India Confederation of the Blind (AICB) have published a set of books in Braille for visually impaired readers. More than 300 books have been published in Hindi, English, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi and Tamil languages. Originally published by NBT, these Braille editions have been selected from various series under which NBT publishes books like Aadan Pradan, Classics, Creative Learning series, National Biography, Nehru Bal Pustakalaya, India-The Land and the People, Young India Library, Popular Science, Popular Social Science, among others. Some of the books published include *Kapishji*, *A Flat for Rent*, *Social Life of Animals*, *Kathabharti Gujarati Kahaniyan*, *Kannada Short Stories* and *Manitha Urimaigal*. Around 100 titles in Braille are likely to be published this year.



World Braille Day is celebrated on 4th January every year to mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, who invented the script based on 6-dots, popularly known as Braille for visually impaired.



NBT Books on Polity

The nation will celebrate its 72nd Republic Day on 26 January 2021. On that day, the nation gave itself a constitution that assured fundamental rights to its citizens and a federal structure for its multilingual and multicultural society. NBT India has brought out a number of books on Indian Constitution, Parliament, Judiciary, Democracy, Indian polity and important laws that shaped India. A few of the books are listed below:

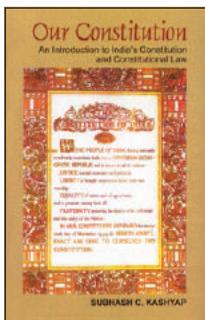
Our Constitution

Subhash C Kashyap

Rs 230.00 444 pp

Factual, objective and analytical, this highly readable book is a handy but authoritative study of our Constitution. It is useful not only for students and scholars of political science and constitutional law but also to lawyers, teachers and others wanting to understand the Constitution and the political system under which we live.

ISBN 978-81-237-0734-1



custodians and RTI appellate authorities. Through a question answer format it introduces the lay reader to the RTI ACT and its implementation, its use and function as well as details of how information can be accessed and appeals filed.

ISBN 978-81-237-5075-0

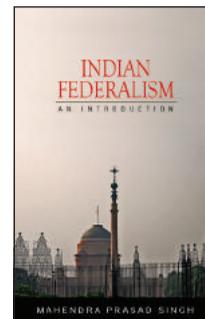
Indian Federalism

Mahendra Prasad Singh

192 pp Rs 115.00

The book attempts to introduce and analyse the federal structure as enunciated in Indian Constitution from the theoretical as well as practical perspectives and how it has been able to put in place and evolve mechanism to meet the various and varied aspirations of different regions, communities and classes.

ISBN 978-81-237-6187-9



Our Judiciary

B R Agarwala

Rs 85.00 204 pp

This book traces the development of the judiciary in India from ancient times to the present day and examines the different courts, commissions and tribunals in detail. A handy reference tool for the layman interested in our judicial system and the processes of the law.

ISBN 978-81-237-0635-1

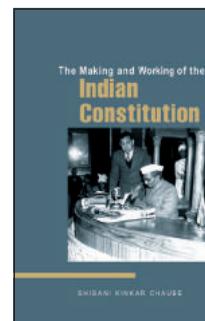
The Making and Working of the Indian Constitution

Shibani Kinkar Chaube

Rs 250.00 286 pp

A work written from the perspective of a political scientist, it integrally underlines the 'expectation of permanence' on which a constitution is based and in its analysis lays as much emphasis on the making of the invaluable document called Constitution of India as on its 'working'.

ISBN 978-81-237-5548-9



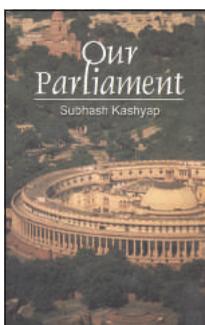
Our Parliament

Subhash C Kashyap

Rs 180.00 288 pp

A study of the Parliament in its proper historical perspective describing its multifarious activities, the working of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha, the role of the presiding officers, the Question Hour and other various procedural devices like the different types of motions, the budgetary committee and legislative processes, etc.

ISBN 978-81-237-0147-9



Democracy: An Analytical Survey

Jean Baechler

Rs 120.00 205 pp

The book analyses in depth the nature of democracy with its complex and multi-dimensional aspects and provides a solid theoretical background for contemporary discussion. A must for all those who believe in democracy, peace and justice.

ISBN 81-237-2389-X

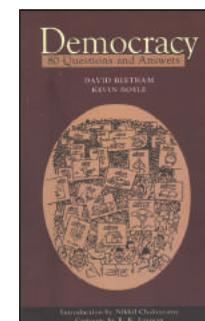
Democracy: 80 Questions and Answers

David Beetham & Kevin Boyle

Rs 65.00 118 pp

The book, commissioned by UNESCO, assembles together eighty of the most pressing questions about democracy in the world today, and provides clear and authoritative answers to them. A succinct exposition on the nature of democracy, its theory and practice.

ISBN 81-237-1771-7



Our Political System

Subhash C Kashyap

Rs 220.00 420 pp

The book, while tracing the political systems as existent in India in the ancient and medieval times, introduces the different components of modern Indian polity in terms of their structure and functions and how do they interact in making it citizen friendly.

ISBN 978-81-237-5251-8

Right to Information Act: A Primer

Suchi Pande & Shekhar Singh

Rs. 65.00; 80 pp

This Primer is designed to help seekers of information, its

Excerpts: Netaji in Perspective

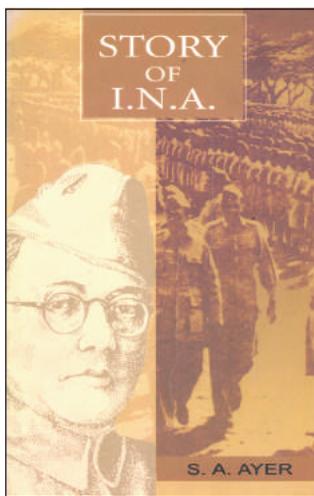
On 23 January the nation celebrates the 124th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, noted freedom fighter who played a significant role in shaping the Indian National Army. National Book Trust, India has published a book titled *Story of INA*, authored by S A Ayer. Herein we reproduce excerpts from the chapter 'Netaji in Perspective.'

The spiritual strain in Subhas Chandra Bose dominated his mind from early boyhood. Saint Ramakrishna Paramahansa and his spiritual heir, Swami Vivekananda, were the greatest influences on the life of Subhas. At fifteen he had read about their lives and teachings and they profoundly influenced him at the impressionable age.

Even from the age of five, he was seen to be shy, reserved and aloof, taking little interest in sports and games, unlike other, normal boys. As a teenager, he was more interested in social service and running after ash-laden sadhus who visited the countryside. Politics as such had no special attraction for him even after he entered college at Calcutta, and terrorists activities of the youth of those days attracted him still less. He was actively interested in constructive national service through education for which he and like-minded college boys began preparing blueprints.

After Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, the next great influence in the life of Subhas came in the shape of Chittaranjan Das (C. R. Das), prince among men, who gave up a fabulous legal practice and dedicated himself to the service of the nation. Subhas decided to follow Das to the last. It was the colossal sacrifice and utter selflessness of Chittaranjan that swept Subhas off his feet.

There is no doubt that from the age of twenty-three, Subhas found himself in the thick of stormy politics, but his inner spiritual storm never abated. He found his strength and solace in the *Bhagavad Gita* which he read every night before retiring and tried his best to practise at all hours of the day. Physically he was always in the middle of a crowd because of politics, but his soul yearned to be alone and to be in communion with God. On the public platform, he would make long speeches. Off the platform, he sought the earliest opportunity to be all by himself, not wanting to speak to anybody. In east Asia, after dinner if he was relaxing in the open and asked anyone to come and sit



Story of I.N.A.

S.A. Ayer

978-81-237-2122-4; Rs 95

with him, he would still hardly utter a few words in a whole hour. He needed silence more than company to meditate. Those were the hours during which he recharged his spiritual battery and reinforced his inner strength to wrestle with mundane problems. His greatest hour in the twenty-four hours of the day was when he went to bed at 2 or 3 a.m. and read his Gita, night after night, before going to sleep. The strength and serenity that his face radiated when he got up from bed was the result of his spiritual conclusion of the day's hectic activities.

At Singapore, it was a practice with him either to send his car to fetch the swami in charge of the Ramakrishna Ashram very late at night or to go there himself, change into a silk dhoti, bare above the waist, shut himself up in a room all by himself, meditate for some time and return to his residence for snatching brief sleep before starting the next day's rounds. His revolutionary activities and spiritual meditation went side by side, the one never interfering with the other. If there was any contradiction in this, it was more apparent than real. Basically, he was a karma yogi who put the teachings of the Gita into practice. And he merely happened to be

a politician to the outside world, but the core of him was a karma yogi. Karma yoga taught him to do his duty with the fullest in God, whatever the result.

His political differences with Gandhi were acute and uncompromising but he was second to none in his personal regard for the Mahatma. There was no mistaking the sincerity in his tone when he addressed Gandhi over the Rangoon Radio as the 'Father of our Nation' and sought his blessings. After the war ended in the defeat of the Axis powers and the victory for the Allies, Gandhi warned the Allies not to get swollen-headed over their victory. Subhas referred to this in the course of an intimate chat with his cabinet colleagues and said,

"There isn't another man in all India except Gandhiji who will have the courage to say this to the British on the morrow of their victory."

If he had to oppose Gandhiji in the open, he did it with the utmost regret and sensitiveness, but did it uncompromisingly as an inescapable duty. His convictions were deep; he had the courage of his convictions and was always ready to pay the price. He paid the price without flinching when he had to resign the Congress presidentship, and was later debarred from holding any elective office for three years.

He did not change his living habits even after he became head of state and prime minister of the provisional government of Azad Hind and Supreme Commander of the Azad Hind Fauj. His living habits were simple to the point of austerity. For himself he insisted on having only the same quality of rations as were supplied to the jawans. The jawans more or less knew that they were eating the same food as their Supreme Commander. The rations has necessarily to be different when he had to entertain top-ranking foreign guests.

He was convinced that nothing but the force of arms could dislodge British rule from India, and that the force of arms could be organised only outside India.

He, therefore, exiled himself in 1941 at great personal risk and suffering and exposed himself knowingly to the calumny of British propaganda that he was a stooge of the Axis powers. A patriot among patriots, he was dubbed as a 'quisling' by war-time enemy propaganda. He was not in the least perturbed, because his convictions were too deep to be disturbed by abuses or slander. He knew what he wanted and he was determined to get it – armed assistance from outside India to liberate the country.

But Netaji never had any exaggerated notions of his own humble contribution to the nation's freedom struggle. It had begun nearly one hundred and fifty years before he was born and had not ended when he boarded a bomber plane in August 1945 at Saigon on his last known flight. He, therefore, never tired of recalling the sacrifices of the revolutionaries who went to the gallows during the previous century and a half. Time and time again, he reminded the INA and the Indian civilians in east Asia of the unequal and unarmed fight against alien rule under Gandhi's leadership inside India since 1918, culminating in the 'Quit India' movement of 1942. Netaji told the INA and the Indian civilians in east Asia repeatedly and in plain language:

"Remember that we have opened only

a second front to supplement the main fight of the unarmed men, women and children inside India who face British bayonets. You are out of reach of those bayonets and you are lucky. You have also bayonets of your own with which to fight the enemy on the battle-field. Even if all of you, the three million Indians in east Asia, sacrifice all that you have in this world and also your very lives for the liberation of three hundred and eighty million of your countrymen at home, that is nothing. You have this privilege of your lifetime. Do not miss this golden opportunity. Let not posterity say that you failed your motherland at the most critical hour of her history."

Basically, he was a humanitarian, in the sense that he was prepared to sacrifice his own life in an attempt to liberate the people of India. He was compassionate to a fault. His heart would bleed at the sight of a soldier in agony in hospital. But he had no hesitation in calling upon hundreds of thousands of his countrymen to shed their blood as the price of freedom. He was sensitive to individual suffering but, at the same time, he deliberately called for suffering and sacrifice on a national scale. He would lead a revolutionary army on the blood-stained road to Delhi, but once the objective was achieved, he would be ready to withdraw himself to the Himalayas and to meditation – his first love.

It is too early even now, seventy-five years after his disappearance from east Asia, to see Subhas Chandra Bose in the correct perspective; the dust of controversy around his personality has not settled yet.

Did spiritualism or politics dominate the life of Subhas? Was he ambitious personally when he struck out on his own path and went into self-exile in war-time? Did he practise all that he preached? What was the real secret of his undoubted courage and bravery? Could he have prevented the Japanese from impinging on India's sovereignty if they had helped him to prevent such a contingency? Was he really and totally uncommitted to the Nazism of Hitler and militarism of Tojo when he solicited and accepted their aid for his cause?

At home, what was his real attitude towards Gandhi and Nehru? Did he consider himself a serious rival to them in the freedom struggle, and did he want to become a dictator if he found himself in free India? These are some of the questions asked by intellectuals who are not active political partisans but genuine students of public affairs who are anxious to have satisfactory answers.

In short, what is the true place of Subhas Chandra Bose in India's history?

Time alone will tell.

READING IS THE NEW NORMAL

WORLD NEW DELHI BOOK FAIR 2021 -Virtual Edition

FEBRUARY
2021

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*NBT India wishes its readers
a Happy New Year*

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