

NBT Newsletter

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PICK OF THE MONTH



Women of My Past Sheela Indra Translated by Abha Sah 978-81-2377407-7; Rs 295

NBT Celebrates Yoga Day



^{CC}Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day," said Shri Narender Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India while addressing the 193 members of UN General Assembly held on 14 September, 2014.

Shri Narendra Modi said, "Yoga is an invaluable gift of our ancient tradition. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

"Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well being. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us deal with climate change." he added.

Following Shri Modi's appeal, UN General Assembly held on 11 December 2014 passed a resolution to observe 21st June as International Yoga Day. Mr Álvaro Mendonca E Moura (Portugal), General Assembly Vice-President delivering a statement on behalf of General Assembly President Sam Kutesa (Uganda), noted the overwhelming support that the resolution on Yoga had received, with more than 170 co-sponsors.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, inaugurated the first International Yoga Day at Rajpath, New Delhi on 21 June 2015. Thirty-five thousand people including school children, bureaucrats and soldiers participated in the event and did Yoga with Shri Narendra Modi. The event set a record and has been included in Guinness Book of Record.



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Workshop on Yoga in NBT

National Book Trust, India organized a workshop on 'Developing Books on Yoga for Children and Young Readers' as a run up to the celebrations of the first International Day of Yoga on 21 June as declared by the UNO. The workshop was held at NBT Conference Hall, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi on 19 June 2015.

The august gathering was graced by Ms Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman, Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, as the Guest of Honour on the occasion. She said, "I am pleased to connect with health, peace and reading." Talking about the benefits of the Yoga, she added that, "Stress is chronic in this age. Physical inactivity leads to lifestyle diseases like cancer. Yoga helps in bringing peace of mind and health."

Ms Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman felt that books are powerful medium to make people aware about benefits of Yoga. She also delivered the message of the Mr Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, UNO on the occasion.

Prof. Ramesh Bijlani, eminent Yoga scholar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In his keynote address, he said, "Yoga has a set of techniques to give mental peace and health." He added that *asanas, pranayam* are the visible aspects of the Yoga but it has invisible aspects, too, which make us realize that we are not the doers but we are instrumental of spiritual guidance. He observed that combination of these aspects is necessary while writing for children.

Ms. Aparna Sharma, Registrar (Copyright) & Director (CR&BP), MHRD, lauded the initiative of NBT, and extended her support and encouragement



for tangible outcome of the workshop in the form of books.

Earlier, Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT India, in his welcome address to the guests said that he does Yoga in the morning as it is a stress-buster. He also informed that Yoga will be the theme of the upcoming New Delhi World Book Fair and there will be focus on children also.

The workshop brought together Yoga scholars, children authors, artists, child psychologists, editors and book production specialists for brain-storming sessions and suggested a road-map for publishing suitable illustrated books on the subject for the target age-group by the Trust.

Brief presentations were made by Dr. Avinash Kumar, a child psychologist, and eminent illustrators for children books like Shri Suddhasattwa Basu, Shri Subir Roy, Shri Soumitra Dasgupta and Ms. Suvidha Mistry. In their presentations, they stressed on how Yoga is a way of life, which can make a person rediscover his best in life, and how Yoga should be introduced to children of all ages in a creative way so that children will view it as an enjoyable activity and not as something that has been imposed to them. Dr Kumar also mentioned that Yoga for differently abled will help them develop positiveattitude towards life.

The presentations were followed by Q&A session among the participants. In this brain-storming and an interactive session, all the participants opined that Yoga for children is a must, and writers, artists, editors and publishers are responsible to bring out books that are interesting and attention drawing for the young readers.

Those who expressed their views and participated in the interactions included children's writers: Dr Satish Alok, Dr Gopal Chandra Mahakud, Dr Mahipal, Ms. Anupa Lal and Ms. Meenakshi Bharat, Yoga instructor: Ms. Preeti Bhardwaj and Ms. Madhumita Nayak Sahu, artists/illustrators: Shri Partha Sengupta and Shri Mohit Suneja, and Editors, Artists and Book Production Specialists from NBT.





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PM Narendra Modi meets Friends of India



As a part of his six-day, three-nation tour of China, Mongolia and South Korea, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, had an interaction with the 'Friends of India' association in Seoul, South Korea on 19 May 2015.

Emphasizing upon the need for more cultural exchange between the two countries, Shri Modi said, "I find that young generation of Korea is interested in Indian culture, arts and music. We need to find ways by which people working in arts and culture here can remain connected with the similar people in India."

"You know about the Bollywood...but you may not know about the regional films of India," said Shri Modi on the country's cultural diversity. He also urged the members of the association to participate



in the International Day of Yoga on 21 June.

The members of Institute of Indian Studies, Korea also had an interaction with Shri Modi during the programme and showed him the Korean translations of the two books titled *My Little India* and *Looking Back* published by the National Book Trust, India. Shri Modi showed keen interest in the books and called for more exchange between NBT and IISK so that more Indian books could be introduced in South Korea. NBT books in Korean have been published by IISK under NBT's Financial Assistance Programme (NBT-FAP).

NBT initiated this programme to promote and pursue translations of Indian books into foreign languages. The programme provides suitable incentive in the form of financial assistance to the foreign publishers for translation of original Indian writings published by Indian publishers in English, Hindi and other Indian languages into foreign languages.

Broad categories of fiction, nonfiction, science & technology, and books for children are published under the programme except dictionaries, magazines, journals, textbooks for schools/colleges and professional courses like medicine, engineering, pure & applied sciences, business administration. Writings in Indian languages where an English translation is not available, and accepted for translation into foreign languages, NBT facilitates its translation into English.

Online E-publishing Programme

National Book Trust, India in association with the Goethe Institute organised an online course on e-publishing of six months duration. Kicked-off on 15 April 2015 at its premises at Vasant

Kunj, New Delhi, a twoday introductory workshop was also organized for the participants on the occasion.

Dr M.A. Sikandar, Director, NBT, inaugurated the programme. He said that the Trust has been organizing the publishing courses across the country to cater to the needs of the publishing industry for skilled professionals. Besides giving an overview of the publishing scenario, the course content includes, commissioning, copyright, editing, production, design, sales and marketing. He added that this course has been initiated to help the participants to understand the latest trends associated with the e-publishing.

About 30 participants from various publishing houses from across the country

attended the programme. The participants were introduced with the basic features of the programme like different types of the devices available for e-publishing, promotion of e-books, marketing, influence of technology on publishing etc.

The workshop was conducted by Dr Harald Henzler and Mr Fabian Kern.



Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

The 25th anniversary edition of Abu Dhabi International Book Fair was held at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi from 7 to 13 May 2015. The Fair was inaugurated by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Foreign Minister.

Shri T.P. Seetharam, Ambassador of India to UAE inaugurated the NBT stall at the Fair. Apart from NBT, 21 publishers from India including Jiwan Books International, Jaico Books, CAPEXIL, Art Press, DC Books participated in the Fair.

Celebrating its Silver Jubilee edition, the Fair featured a series of panels and seminars under the theme 'Sheikh Zayed: Light Illuminates the Future' dedicated to the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, who was this year's focus personality. A dedicated exhibition charted his intellectual legacy based on his belief in education and culture as fundamental pillars for building a strong, modern state and developing international relations.

Republic of Iceland was the Guest of



Honour country. The Iceland Pavilion, displayed a selection of books and publications from the country's authors, covering poetry, drama, fiction, children's books, and illustrations.

This year's edition attracted a quality audience due to the increase in the number of exhibitors. A total of 600 authors and 1,181 publishers from 63 countries participated in the event. They displayed more than 500,000 titles in 30 languages. Artistic works related to book covers, book illustrations and animation among other genres were showcased at the Illustrator's Corner.

The Fair also featured several specialised platforms, including an extended e-zone service provider's area where leaders in digital publishing, new technology, digital content and publishing services tackled the opportunities and challenges facing the future of an evolving digital industry.

Shri Hemant Kumar Srivastav, Joint Director (Admin & Finance) and Shri Rajeev Chaudhry, Dy. Director (Exh.) represented NBT at the Fair.

Dharmapuri Book Fair

National Book Trust, India in association with District Administration, Dharmapuri organised a nine-day book fair at Vallalar grounds, Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu from 2 to 10 May 2015.

While inaugurating the Fair, Dr Vivekanandan, District Collector, Dharmapuri, said, "This event will be the beginning to bring books closer to the people. Healthy reading habit can help change the life of the younger generation."





Dr Vivekanandan urged students to develop reading habit and read books of different genres including literature, science & technology, history, geography, biography of eminent personalities belonging to different fields. He also thanked NBT for organizing the book fair in the city. After the inauguration, he visited NBT stall and browsed the books.

About hundred publishers and booksellers from the state and other parts of the country took part in the Fair. Books in both English and Tamil, educative materials like CDs and laboratory and scientific equipments for students were on display. Books for competitive exams attracted the students.

Several literary and cultural events were also organized during the Fair in which eminent writers, poets, scholars, orators and eminent personalities participated. The fair attracted a large number of enthusiastic booklovers.

Shri Mathan Raj, Tamil editor, NBT India coordinated the Fair.



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NBT Publications of the Month

Acharya Kripalani: Memoirs of P.D. Tandon R.K. Tandon (Ed.) 978-81-237-7406-0; Rs 105



The book is based on the renowned journalist and freedom fighter, P.D. Tandon's interactions and experience with Jeewatram Bhagwandas (J.B.) Kripalani, popularly known as Acharya Kripalani. A Gandhian, Kripalani was a man of masses who was involved in the Non-Cooperation Movement and worked in Gandhi Ashram for the cause of social reform and education. He was the President of the Indian National Congress who later formed the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party which subsequently merged itself into the Praja Socialist Party. He was a powerful writer and an eloquent speaker, who contributed to Indian politics both in the pre and post Independence era.

The Strange World of Animals

G.S. Unnikrishnan Nair 978-81-237-7410-7; Rs 230

Exploding ants, parachuting Spiders, Butterfly's eau de cologne, boxing shrimps, inflating frogs, shape-shifting octopus, singing whales—the animal kingdom is full of wonders. Each animal is a genetic marvel. Nature has blessed them with many special capabilities that even humans have been trying to imitate since long. We have been exploring the animal world since ancient times and many secrets regarding the life of animals have been revealed. Recent explorations have



revealed some animals, which have been unknown to us until now. Many more are yet to be found out. In this interesting book, presented like a safari, the readers will travel around the animal world to see some of the curious creatures and their strange life.

G.S. Unnikrishnan Nair, a science communicator and popular science writer, has published over 2000 popular science articles, 37 books, and scripted & directed more than 100 TV documentaries. Presently working as Assistant Director of Agriculture in Department of Agriculture, Kerala, he has been honoured with many prestigeous awards.

Women of My Past

Sheela Indra 978-81-2377407-7; Rs 295 The book traces the lives and tribulations of three generations of women, born



between the years 1860 and 1930. Sheela Indra's women remain graceful fighters, passive or active. Written as a memoir in Hindi, and translated by Abha Sah into English, the book recreates the socio-economic conditions and the often suppressive environment of those days, and paints vibrantly the gradual change that preceded today's woman.

Sheela Indra (b. 1931) is a writer of Hindi short stories. A whole generation of children has grown up looking forward to her stories in *Parag*, a popular children's magazine. The Women of My Past was originally published in Hindi as *Kya Kahun Kya Na Kahun*.

How Do They Evolve? Karen Haydock 978-81-237-7371-1; Rs 130



Did you know that the kinds of vegetables and other crops we eat everyday did not always exist? Five or ten thousand years ago, there was no cabbage, cauliflower, or radish anywhere in the entire world! Where did these vegetables come from? And how do plants evolve? This book will not answer all questions about plant evolution. But it should help you start wondering, and asking questions... And maybe you will even get inspired to do some science to explore: How do they evolve?

Karen Haydock is an educationist, artist, teacher, and scientist. Her research includes developing materials and methods to help teachers and students learn about biology, agriculture, and evolution. Presently a faculty member at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (TIFR) in Mumbai, Karen Haydock's other books include *From Bone To Stone*, published by NBT.

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Excerpts

National Book Trust, India has published a title *Acharya Kripalani: Memoirs of P.D. Tandon,* edited by R.K. Tandon. Herein we reproduce an exerpt from the Chapter 'Gandhi's Most Devoted Follower'.

A charya Kripalani was one of the most devoted followers of Mahatma Gandhi whom he followed in word and deed. Many followers of Gandhiji despised him because of his caustic and casting remarks. Paying tributes to Gandhiji once Kripalani said, "To fight Gandhi is to fight in air."

He worshipped Mahatma Gandhi who had made a terrific impression on his living and working style. Although there was hardly any similarity between Gandhi and Kripalani, yet the latter had become a completely changed man with life's new understanding and was willing to convert to the philosophy of truth and non-violence of Gandhi. Bapu was also impressed by his brilliance, integrity and sincerity.

Kripalani was considered to be a 'blind' and most orthodox follower of Gandhi. Once speaking in a big gathering, the Acharya said, "I am accused in some quarters for being a blind follower of the Mahatma. I wish to assure you that I have tried my best to resist him but found him irresistible. I have questioned him on many occasions, argued with him several times, differed with him most violently, but I must confess that he was always proved right and I wrong. ... I know my old man better than others." No doubt, he did and Gandhiji, too, knew him well and greatly liked him.

Kripalani's interpretation of Gandhi and Gandhism was most original, refreshing and revolutionary. I do not think that many Leftists could take a more Leftist view on the needed occasions than Kripalani. He was not impatient to get power with many reservations and qualifications. He wanted to wrest it from the unwilling hands on the right occasion. A friend of Kripalani told me that during the Cabinet Mission negotiations, he often used to say, "We must not spoil our case



978-81-237-7406-0; Rs 105

with this Cabinet Mission. For impatience we shall have to pay heavily." In his tribute to Gandhi, Acharya had observed the following:

"Mahatmaji is no more with us in body. But if we will only follow him and work in the light by which he has illuminated our path, he shall be with us always in spirit.

His death only proves that the world is not yet ready for his doctrine of truth and ahimsa as applied by him to individual and group life. The way of truth and nonviolence is yet the way of martyrdom as it has been throughout history.

His faith in the moral law was most seriously tried by recent events; yet he stood the test. His faith did not falter in the darkest hour of his life. Whatever may happen to those who are considered his people there must be no retaliation. There must be no reprisals. There must not be even mental violence. Whatever may happen to Hindu and Sikh houses, no Muslim houses vacated through fear and violence must be occupied. Even vacated Muslim villages must remain unoccupied. Muslim women kidnapped from Pakistan must be returned in safety and honour even though Pakistan may not do, likewise in the case of Hindu and Sikh women.

Gandhiji always held that the rigour of the moral law required that one must magnify one's own faults and those of one's community and minimize the faults of others and of other communities. It is only thus that the moral law can be truly fulfilled, and when so fulfilled the results must be good. The man and the nation that works in the light of the moral law can never come to grief. Where there is dharma, ultimate victory is assured.

He showed the world that the love of one's people never can be inconsistent with the love of humanity. He made no distinction between a Hindu or a Muslim or a Sikh, or a member of any other community, or between an Indian and a non-Indian. For him there was only one humanity and one law and that the moral law by which the whole world is bound and united.

It was our great good fortune that such a high and noble personality was born in our midst even in our slavery and degradation. Today, it is our humiliation and shame that, he who was spared by his foreign opponents enemies he had none, was killed at the hands of one of our own people, the people whom he had served so wisely and well. The man who perpetrated this crime knew not what he was doing. It was not Gandhiji whom he killed. He struck at the Father of the Nation, its very soul.

With Mahatmaji's departure the country has been orphaned at a time when his wise and moral counsels were needed most. He was one man who made us respectable throughout the world even in our slavery. He cemented all our internal differences and divisions. To him we turned in all our difficulties, private and public. To him life and death were the same. He always said that he was in the hands of God. For him the body was nothing; the soul everything and his soul freed from the shackles of his body pervades the universe.

Today, before us, who called him our master and derived from him whatever little merit we possess, the task is to close our ranks and unite and work in his spirit and bring about the Swaraj of his dreams for which he had only time to lay the barest foundations. May his blessings be with us and may God give us strength and honesty of purpose to carry forward his mission which embraced in its wide scope, no particular creed, community or country but the whole of humanity."

Excerpts

The Trust has recently published a Popular Science book titled *The Strange World of Animals* by G.S. Unnikrishnan Nair. Herein we reproduce an exerpt from a chapter on insects titled 'Buzz... World'.

Good Shepherd

Many ants have their own cattle: Caterpillars, Aphids, or Tree bugs. They stroke these creatures, which then exude drops of tasty fluid. These 'dairy cattle' are guarded by the ants, which may herd them into special enclosures they have built for this purpose. Scientists have described how one ant species was observed building sheds for the enclosure of their cattle. When some fencing was damaged, and the cattle began escaping, four ants went after them, turned them around and got them back into the damaged shed. Then, while some guarded the opening, others repaired it. Other ants herd caterpillars into special reserves where they care for and milk them, and then drive them out to pasture every day so the 'cattle' can feed on plants.

Honey-storing Ant

In the Australian desert is a species of ant, which will, at random, select certain of its ants and use them as honey pots. Cells are built for them deep underground and there they live as the reservoirs of the ant hive. Each ant is pumped full of honey to the point that he is an almost transparent golden colour. The worker ants collect nectar from flowers during the short periods when they flower during rainy seasons, take it home and store it in their honey ants. Each storage ant holds as much fluid as you would find in a grape! When dry weather comes, the ants go to the honey ants and obtain their food. They would die without this storage facility.

Mourn the Dead

One variety of Assassin Bug sits at the entrance of a termite nest with dead termites attached to its back. Worker termites that come to investigate the bodies are impaled on the bug's sharp beak to be sucked dry and added to the lure.

Some female assassin bugs have a



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special way of protecting her eggs. She goes to the camphor plant and rubs the resin of it onto her belly. Then she lays her eggs, and carefully coats each egg with this resin. This coating acts like 'mothballs', and keeps ants from eating the eggs.

Legs of Steel

Scientists have studied the marvellous hind legs of the grasshopper. This little creature can leap about 10 times its body length in a vertical jump, or 20 times its length (almost one meter) horizontally. The grasshopper only weighs 30.8 g, and its leg muscle is only 1/25th of a gram, so it has a power to weight ratio of 20,000 to one. Its tiny hind leg muscle exerts power equivalent to 20,000 grams for each gram of its own body weight.

Ants can Count too

Can ants count? Ants are sent out from the nest to find food and bring it back. When they find a piece that is too large, they go back and get other ants to come back and help them. A scientist carefully cut a dead grasshopper into three pieces. The second was twice as large as the first, and the third twice as large as the second. Then the three pieces were placed in different places. When the scout ant found each piece, he looked it over for a moment, tried to lift it, and then rushed off for helpers. Twentyeight ants were brought back to work on the smallest; 44 on the one twice as large, and 89 on the third. The scout ants estimated it very well.

Web Spitter

The Spitting Spider is the only spider with silk glands in both its head and abdomen. This spider has a really interesting way of catching prey. The silk glands work in conjunction with its venom sacs to spray poisonous silk from its fangs. When it is ready to catch the prey it pushes its front and back body segments together and spits a poisonous silk at the insect, or whatever it has chosen for dinner that night, in a zigzag pattern, to stop the bug from struggling, and eats it.

Bee Dance

Worker bees have a special dance to tell the other workers how much food is available, which direction from the hive, and how far away. The entire dance is observed in the total darkness of the hive yet from it the other bees know exactly how much honey to tank up on to get to the flowers and back, where to go, and how much they will find there.

Killer Caterpillars

Certain tropical Inchworms are actually predatory, posing as a twig or leaf until another insect gets too close. They are the world's only known carnivorous caterpillars. Some Hawaiian caterpillars prey upon snails, wedging their silken casing under the victim's shell and tying it down with silk to feed at the insect's leisure.

Carpet of Death

Males of a certain predatory mite have giant, crushing mandibles while the females have rhinoceros-like 'horns'. The males use their jaws to herd dust mites to where the female can impale them. Another dust-mite hunter is a fat, barely mobile mite that hides itself in piles of rubbish; when another mite passes by; it spits out a long strand of sticky saliva, like the tongue of a chameleon, and reels in its prey.

Bullet Ant

Costa Rican bullet ant is known for its burning bite. Bite by the ubiquitous bullet ant could knock out a grown man for hours from the intense, burning pain.

A Request to Subscribers

Dear Subscriber,

We would like to thank you for your support and your long association with NBT as a subscriber of our *NBT Newsletter*.

We have been sending out our newsletter for years. As it happens, during all these years postal addresses of many of our subscribers may have changed. As a result, newsletters sent to them are being returned back to us for lack of proper / correct address. Therefore, we need to review and verify our postal address database.

In order that the exercise is fruitful, we request you to send us a letter mentioning your Name, Address, Contact No. and Email ID to the following address:

National Book Trust, India

Nehru Bhawan

5 Institutional Area, Phase-II,

Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.

OR you can send these detailsthrough email (<u>office.nbt@</u><u>nic.in</u>) latest by 31st July, 2015.

We appreciate your cooperation. This review of postal address database will ensure continuous dispatch of NBT newsletters to you without delay.

Further, we will also begin our service to send e-newsletters. If you wish to subscribe to the same by email, please send us an email with subject "NBT Newsletter e-Subscription". In this email, please mention your contact details as given below.

We are looking forward to receiving your latest contact details. A sample format is given below:

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Editorial Associate: Surekha Sachdeva Production Officer: Narender Kumar



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

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Obituary

Dr Syed Asad Ali passed away on 25 April 2015. He joined as an Editor at NBT, India on 10 August 1972 and was later appointed as Joint Director (Publishing) on 2 August 1982. He retired from the services on 30 January 1993. We at NBT offer our condolences to the bereaved family.



On India Government Service

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